

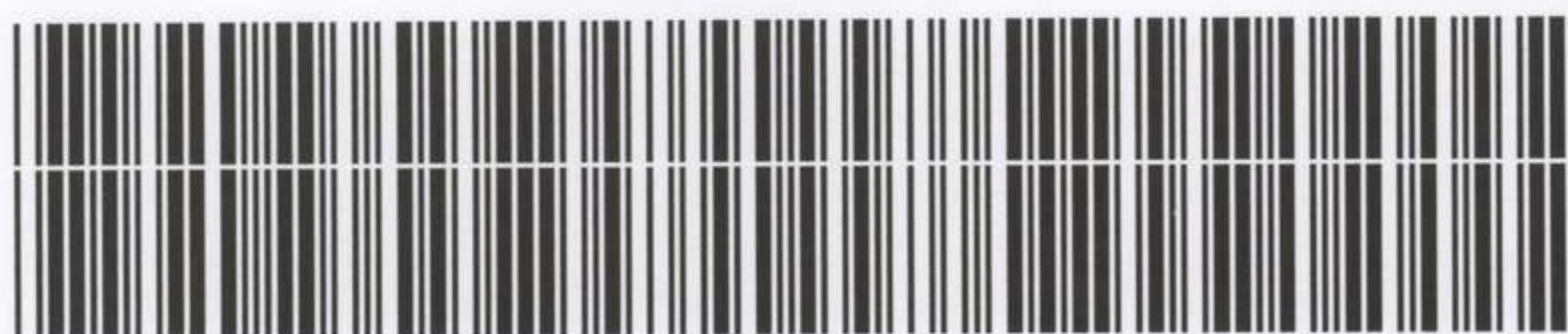
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/58/4 Part 2

Title: General Staff, Headquarters
Australian Mounted Division

October 1917



AWM4-1/58/4PART2

Australian Mtd Div

War Diary. ^{WP3}₂₀

October, 1917.

Appendices Nos.

1 - 43.

SECRET.

*War Diary
Appendix 2*



General Staff,

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

Herewith Operation Report for period September 18th 1917 to September 30th 1917, both dates inclusive.

It would appear that the strength of the enemy operating within the area has been 2 Squadrons supported by Machine Guns.

Night posts have never been approached.

There has been a marked decrease both of enemy numbers and activity within the area as compared with June last.

We may rest assured that we have established our moral superiority over the enemy cavalry.

Incidents such as those of the 22nd and 29th are bound to occur occasionally, and we cannot well prevent them.

It must be borne in mind that the enemy can, whenever he feels so disposed, occupy the high ground; that he does not do so oftener, and that he will not stand when attacked, conclusively shows, in my opinion, that he has not got the heart left in him to stand and meet us.

I would also point out that the enemy's line of retreat is very short, and in consequence there is no room for us to manoeuvre, and but little chance of employing enveloping or out-flanking movements against him.

Any movement against an isolated point has always resulted in the rapid evacuation of that point by the enemy long before we can get within striking distance of him.

It may be said that the supporting troops are slow in getting to the scene of action, but it must be remembered that camps are some little distance from the Wadi GHUZZE and necessarily somewhat scattered, so as to avoid aeroplane attack; further, it takes time to pass troops across and through the infantry wire.

H. W. Hodgson.

Major-General,

Commanding Australian Mounted Division.

1/10/17.

SECRET.

AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

Operation Report for period
18th September 1917 to 30th September 1917.

Reference 1/125,000 Map.

September 18th.

Division moved into forward area and took over outpost line from Yeomanry Mounted Division.

September 19th.

Outpost line inspected and some slight alterations made in dispositions, and the day outpost line strengthened by a subsection of M.Gs. at GOZ EL BASAL.

These new dispositions, which were as follows, came into force on September 20th.

(a) By day.

Posts of a strength of one troop at the following points :-

- No. 1 Post: Point 300, with observation post at Pt. 280 EAST on W. bank of Wadi.
- No. 2 Post: At tree 2 miles E. of EL DAMMATH.
- No. 3 Post: Point 510 ABU SHAWISH.
- No. 4 Post: Kh. KHASIF.

In addition two troops in reserve at GOZ EL BASAL.

- (b) A post of the strength of one company was found by the Battalion I.C. Brigade holding the GHABI works. This post was about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile N. of Z of GOZ LAKHLEILAT with advance patrols on the line 680 - BIR EL ESANI.

(c) By night.

Standing patrols of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men at the following points :-

- 1. Point 280.
- 2. N. of EL NAGILI.
- 3. D. of EL DAMMATH.
- 4. E. of EL IMARA.
- 5. $\frac{1}{4}$ mile N. of U of CULTIVATION.
- 6. $\frac{1}{8}$ mile S. of C of CULTIVATION.
- 7. First S of ABU SOSEIN.
- 8. In garden S.E. of Z work.
- 9. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S. of R of EL RUEIBIA.

Communications.

(a) By day.

- (1) A telephone line is laid from GOZ EL BASAL to Divisional Headquarters, and thence to Headquarters of the outpost Brigade.
- (2) From supporting troops at GOZ EL BASAL the communications are by visual and rider.
- (3) Communication from GOZ EL BASAL to the I.C. Brigade post at GOZ LAKHLEILAT are by visual.

Communications. (continued)

WP3
24

(b) By night.

- (1) The night standing patrols of the outpost Brigade are connected to each other by telephone and thence through Divisional Headquarters to the Headquarters of the outpost Brigade.
- (2) The night standing patrols of the I. C. Battalion are connected by telephone to the Headquarters of their Battalion.

The day past without incident and only small patrols of the enemy were seen within the area.

September 20th.

Without incident; the usual small enemy patrols seen who retired on our approach.

September 21st.

Situation normal.

September 22nd.

Night passed without incident.

0915. A patrol from the outposts occupied 720 and a Squadron of enemy observed on 630 GIRHEIR. Two troops of enemy cavalry from 630 occupied 720 on withdrawal of our patrol.

1230. Remainder of outpost Regiment with a sub-section of M.Gs. moved out in support of outposts.

Enemy had a machine gun in action at Pts. 630 and 720. At 1620 enemy retired and our troops occupied 630 and 720 without casualties.

September 23rd.

About one Squadron of enemy reported in area, and a sharp skirmish occurred with about 20 of the enemy at 630.

A patrol encounter resulted in one Turk being either killed or seriously wounded.

September 24th.

A reconnaissance of Officers of the XXth Corps and Staff Officers of Corps Headquarters to ASLUJ escorted by a light armoured motor battery, was covered by the Division on the following line, which was occupied by 1100.

GOZ EL GELEIB (4 miles S.E. of KHALASA) - IBN SAID - Pt. 970 - Pt. 840 - Pt. 720 - Pt. 630 - Pt. 510.

But little resistance was met during the forward movement, some shelling was reported in the vicinity of 510 and 630 GIRHEIR.

Line withdrew at 1530 without difficulty. The Wadi MIRTABA N.W. of Pt. 970 and point where ABU SHAWISH road crosses the Wadi SABA was shelled slightly by a long range gun of small calibre during the retirement, which was carried out without casualties.

/ September 25th.

September 25th.

Normal. About 2 Squadrons reported in the outpost area. Scouts of 3rd A.L.H. Brigade endeavoured to surprise enemy post at 720 but without success.

Outpost line taken over night 25th/26th by 7th Mounted Bde.

September 26th.

Normal. A slight reduction of patrols reported in the area.

September 27th.

Normal. One Turkish deserter gave himself up to No. 4 night standing patrol.

Reconnaissance of Corps Staff of area between 630 TEL ITWEIL to 2 miles S.E. of ESANI was covered by the 12th A.L.H. Regiment. Only small patrols of enemy seen, who retired on our approach.

September 28th.

Situation normal. Pt. 510 shelled for 3 or 4 minutes. Only small patrols of enemy reported in area.

September 29th.

About 2 Squadrons of the enemy were located between Pts. 630 and 720 during the forenoon.

0630. Patrol fired at from Pt. 510.

0800. Enemy in occupation of Pts. 550, 630 and 720.

0900. Pt. 510 was attacked by a dismounted Squadron from the direction of the Wadi IMLEIH.

0935. Two troops from BASAL reinforced 510, which was shelled by H.E.

1000. Enemy attacking 510 forced to withdraw to WADI IMLEIH.

1130. Reinforcements of 1½ Squadrons arrived at GOZ EL BASAL.

1145. Pt. 720 occupied without opposition.

1230. One Squadron attacked enemy on 630 mounted and drove them in a N.E. direction, enemy retiring precipitately at a gallop.

The whole area was now in our possession, and a battery of Artillery which was sent out to support the outpost line was not brought into action.

Estimated strength of enemy in area about one Cavalry Regiment; they were not seen close enough to distinguish more than the fact that they wore light coloured uniforms, and did not appear to have lances.

We suffered 3 casualties. 1 of these was admitted to hospital and 2 returned to duty.

September 30th.

Only small patrols seen within the area during the day.

A. W. Hodgson

Major-General,

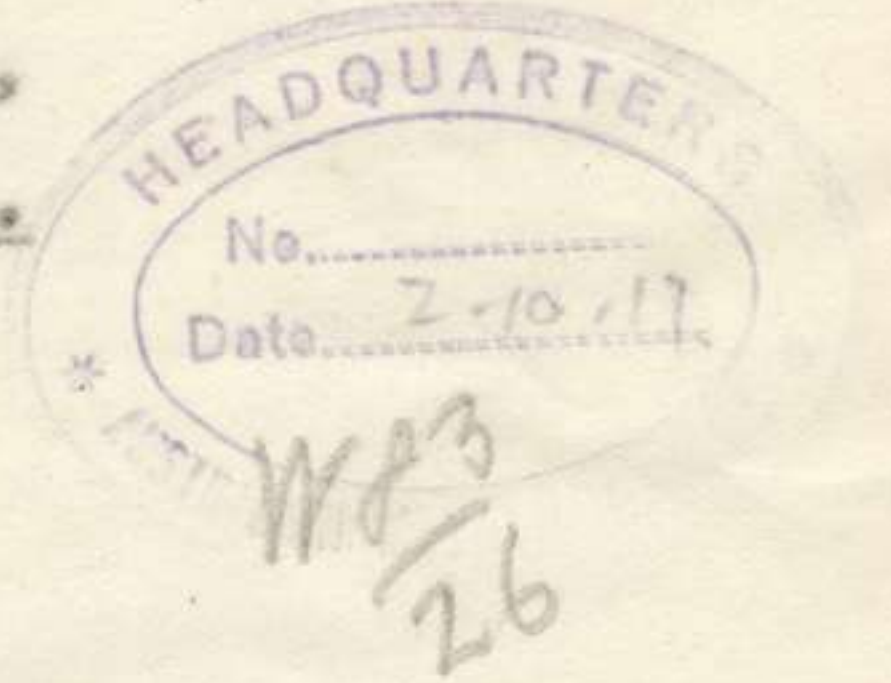
October 1st 1917.

Commanding Australian Mounted Division.

SECRET.

Wardrum
AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 13,
for 24 hours ending 0800, 2/10/17.



30th Sep./1st Oct.

1800. Night standing patrols in position.
All quiet during night.
0640. All day posts in position. Situation normal.
0720. Ft. 510 shelled from gun position on bearing 88° from centre of trees at No. 2 post, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile E. of Wadi.
0800. Patrol from KHASIF reported about 1 Squadron enemy astride KARM - BEERSHEBA road about Ft. 620 TOWEL EL HABARI, with observation post near cross roads 2 miles E. of EL BUGGAR.
0840. Patrol to 630 fired on by about 20 enemy.
1055. Ft. 510 shelled from same gun position as above.
1200. Ft. 630 occupied by our patrols who drove off about 10 enemy.
1600. Ft. 720 occupied - visibility very good and no enemy movement observed except small patrol (6 men) moving towards BEERSHEBA.
1610. Ft. 510 again shelled.
1640. Patrol withdrew from Ft. 630.
1700. Enemy patrol occupied Ft. 630.
1800. Outpost withdrew and night standing patrols in position.
All quiet during night.

2/10/17.

0630. Day posts in position and situation normal.

2/10/17.

M. H. Brown Cap
for Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

SECRET.

Copy No. 8

SR/42B.7



Reference 1/125,000 map.

1. The G.O.C. I.C. Brigade is relieving the 2nd Battalion, less 1 Company, in the GHABI works with the 4th Battalion on the 4th instant. The relief is to be completed by 0900.
2. The 265th M.G. Company are remaining in the works and come under the orders of G.O.C. 4th Battalion from time of relief.
3. G.O.C. 4th Battalion is relieving the Company of 2nd Battalion on patrol duty, bivouaced at FARA, on the afternoon of the 3rd instant.
4. G.O.C. 4th Battalion will, on arrival, please send in a certificate that he has taken over the trench stores in "X", "Y", and "Z" works to Headquarters Australian Mounted Division.

A. Karanah, Capt

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

3rd October 1917.

Copies to :-

1. 3rd A.L.H. Brigade.
2. 4th A.L.H. Brigade.
3. 5th Mtd Brigade.
4. 19th Brigade R.H.A.
5. Signal Squadron.
6. Field Squadron.
7. War Diary.
8. War Diary.
9. 2nd Battn. I.C. Bde.
- 10.) I.C. Bde. (1 copy for
- 11.) 4th Battn).
12. File.

SECRET.

*Ward copy
Append 5*

SR/405/1.



Amendments to Divisional Order No. 10
dated 20th Sept. 1917.

1. At end of para. 2. (a) ii. add -

"In addition to the posts, the following supports and reserves will be found by the Outpost Brigade :-

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Supports. | 2 Troops at COE EL BASAL. |
| | 2 Troops at COE EL QLEIB. |
| Reserve. | 1 Squadron. |
| | 2 Sub-sections I.C. Squadron. |
| | 1 Battery. |

*1183
28*

The Battery of the reserve will be camped as at present on the East bank of the Wadi. The Squadron and 2 Sub-sections I.C. Squadron of the reserve will move on to the East bank of the Wadi at the time when the day posts take over from the night patrols and will remain there during the day. A position for these will be selected by C.O.C. 4th A.L.B. Brigade. The whole of the reserve will be off-saddled; horses will be picketed, but the troops must be ready to turn out at a moment's notice. Not more than half the horses will be watered at once. Communication between the reserve and the report centre at COE EL BASAL will be by visual."

2. Cancel para. 2. (E) ii. and substitute -

"The following posts will be found by the Outpost Brigade:-

1. A troop of not less than 16 H.C.Os. 7 men at Pt. 280.
2. A troop of not less than 25 H.C.Os. 7 men at Cross roads between EL MAGILI & EL DALMATH.
3. A troop of not less than 25 H.C.Os. 7 men at On road 1/2 mile N. of U in CULTIVATION.
4. A troop of not less than 25 H.C.Os. 7 men at S of ABU BOSSEIN.

Patrols of 1 H.C.O. and 3 men will be sent every two hours commencing at 1800 towards the next post and will meet the patrol from that post half way between. In addition No. 4 post will send a patrol to the WADI GHUZZE opposite EL RUMELI.

-/ O.C. Signal

Ms 3

G.O. Signal Squadron will lay telephone wires connecting these posts with each other and No. 3 post with Divisional Headquarters. No. 3 Post will be the report centre of the night Outposts."

3. The above amendments will come into force forthwith.

P. H. H. H.

Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

3rd October 1917.

Copies to:-

- 3rd A.L.H. Brigade.
- 4th A.L.H. Brigade.
- 5th Mounted Brigade.
- 10th Brigade R.H.A.
- Field Squadron.
- Signal Squadron.
- A.D.C.S.
- A.D.V.S.
- A.P.M.
- "A".
- "Q".
- ~~Divisional Staff.~~
- War Diary.
- War Diary. ✓
- G.O.C.
- Desert Mounted Corps.
- Yeomanry Mounted Division.
- A. & K.Z. Mounted Division.
- 60th Division.
- 4th Battalion I.C. Brigade.
- 1/3rd County of London Yeomanry.
- No. 12 L.A.A. Battery.
- G.O.C. Composite Force.

SECRET.

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Append 6*



AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 14,
for 24 hours ending 0300, 3/10/17.

2/10/17.

Night Outposts report all quiet during night.

0600. Day Outposts in position - Situation normal.

1100. Day Outpost line withdrawn as 4th Brigade marched through to take up line 510 - 560 - 630 - 730 - 770 - 810 - 820 - 840 exclusive.

1200. D.H.Q. established at RASHID BEK with 7th Mounted Brigade in reserve. 19 enemy cavalry driven off Pt. 630. 15 enemy cavalry engaged at 720.

1355. Pt. 730 shelled by enemy.

1400. Line 510 - 630 - 730 - 770 - 810 - 820 - 840 - 970-980 - 940 - 910 60Z SHEIHILI taken up, the 3rd Brigade taking up the line from 840 inclusive to 60X SHEIHILI without opposition.

1510. Post on 970 observed ~~xxx~~ what appeared to be Artillery 4,000 yds. on bearing 40°.

Situation normal.

1530. 630 shelled from direction of HARSIRA.

1540. 1 Squadron enemy cavalry seen crossing Wadi at L of Wadi EL SUFI going in direction of IRGEG.

1555. 2 shells fired into W. HANAFISH West of Pt. 510.

1700. Situation normal: long range sniping in vicinity of 960.

1710. 6 shells fired at 510.

1730. 4th Brigade Scouts reconnoitred W. SUFI from KH. EL SUFI N. to a point opposite 660 where they report enemy strength $\frac{1}{2}$ 200 rifles, 3 M.G.'s and 2 small shrapnel guns opened fire at 900 yards range. No casualties.

2200. Withdrawal commenced to FARA.

Situation all quiet.

3/10/17.

0600. Day posts in position and situation normal.

3rd October 1917.

M.A. Brown Cap.
for Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

SECRET

War Diary

Append 7

WJ3
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General Staff,
DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

I beg to forward herewith the report on the reconnaissance which was carried out on October 2nd by the Australian Mounted Division (less 5th Mounted Brigade), but with 7th Mounted Bde. attached.

The following special reports are attached:

(1) Special reconnaissance of the WADI SUFI by Lieut. MANNING, Bde. Scout Officer, 4th L.H. Bde. and 13 other ranks.

(2) Report on wells and cisterns in the WADIS SUFI, HANAFISH and IMLEIH, by Brigade Scouts 4th L.H. Bde.

(3) Report on the crossings of the KHALASA - BEERSHEBA road over the WADIS MIREBARA and HALGON by Lieut. W.M. LYALL, 10th L.H. Regt.

(4) Short report on work done by aeroplane contact patrols.

I would bring to notice the good work done by Lieut. MANNING and his Brigade Scouts. A special report will be forwarded on the work of this officer in the course of the next few days.

Mr. Hodgson

Major-General,

4th October,
1917.

Commanding Australian Mounted Division.

SECRET.

REPORT ON OPERATIONS AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION. 1183
32

October 2nd 1917.

Reference 1/125,000 Map.

On the 2nd October the Australian Mounted Division (less 5th Mounted Brigade, but with the 7th Mounted Brigade attached) cleared the area East of the Wadi GHUZZE and occupied the following line by 1355 :-

3rd A.L.H. Brigade - 910 (GOZ SHEIHILI) - 940 - 960 - 970 - 840 (inclusive).

4th A.L.H. Brigade - 840 (exclusive) - 820 - 810 - 770 - 730 - 630 (EL GIRHEIR) - 550 - 510.

7th Mounted Brigade in reserve at RASHID BEK, where D.H.Q. was established by 1200.

ENEMY ACTION AND MOVEMENTS DURING THE ADVANCE.

Advance of the 3rd A.L.H. Brigade.

No difficulty was experienced by this Brigade in its advance. 10 enemy cavalry were driven from RASHID BEK and some 20 from Pt. 960.

Advance of the 4th A.L.H. Brigade.

This Brigade, which advanced on its line simultaneously with the forward movement of the 3rd A.L.H. Brigade, likewise experienced no resistance. A troop of enemy cavalry were driven off Pt. 630 and a troop off Pt. 720.

REPORT OF ENEMY MOVEMENTS DURING OCCUPATION OF LINE.

3rd A.L.H. Brigade.

At 1500 enemy shelled with light guns from the direction of Pt. 1070 our reconnoitring parties at the crossings of the KHALASA - BEERSHEBA road over the WADIS MIRTABA and HALGON.

This party also came under a heavy rifle and machine gun fire from advanced parties of the enemy, who appeared to be holding trenches commanding the head of the Wadi HALGON from the r of ridge (one mile South of the second A in AZAZIMER) to the R ~~in~~ in RUWEIHI. The bullets fell well within range.

Troops advancing to the attack of Pt. 1070 along the KHALASA - BEERSHEBA road may expect to come under heavy fire at the head of the Wadi HALGON.

A reconnoitring party sent towards KHALASA found that place all clear of the enemy. This flank was carefully patrolled throughout the day.

4th A.L.H. Brigade.

Pts. 510 and 630 were intermittently shelled throughout the day. Pt. 730 shelled by 2 guns from the direction of Kh ABU IRGEIG.. (See report on reconnaissance carried out by Brigade Scouts)

/ 1940.

4th A.L.H. Brigade (continued)

1940 some 12 enemy cavalry approached the line near BIR IMLEIH and on being fired on retired towards EL GIRHEIR, a red light was immediately sent up by the enemy from the direction of BIR IFTAIS. WAP 33

Movements of what was estimated to be about one regiment of enemy cavalry were seen on the BEERSHEBA - GAZA road.

WITHDRAWAL FROM LINE.

Withdrawal commenced at 2200 and was unmolested. No flares were sent up by the enemy, and the presumption is that the evacuation of the line was undetected, which reflects much credit on the G.O.s.C the 3rd and 4th L.H. Brigades. The distance at which columns of dust could be seen in the moonlight was particularly noticeable.

All troops reached their bivouac areas by 0400 on the 3rd October.

ARTILLERY.

No new enemy gun positions were located. See report by Brigade Scouts 4th L.H. Brigade.

ENTRENCHMENTS.

See report by Brigade Scouts 4th L.H. Brigade.

TOTAL CASUALTIES.

3rd L.H. Brigade: 2 horses - 1 killed at Pt. 960 (enemy action), one suffering from colic destroyed.

4th L.H. Brigade: Horses missing - 2 rides and 1 pack.

With reference to these missing horses it appears that 8 horses stampeded, a flight of birds having frightened them.

It is to be regretted that one of the missing horses was carrying a Hotchkiss Ammunition Pack with 1920 rounds of S.A.A.

Major-General,

Commanding Australian Mounted Division.

4th October, 1917.

SECRET.

RECONNAISSANCE OF THE WADI SUFI BY A SPECIAL PATROL
OF ONE OFFICER AND 13 OTHER RANKS FROM
BRIGADE SCOUTS, 4th A.L.H. BRIGADE, ON OCTOBER 2nd 1917.

WPB
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Reference 1/125,000 Map.

The route followed in this reconnaissance was from Pt. 820 - KH EL SUFI, thence down Wadi bed to a well 900 yards South of Pt. 650 (Sq. C.5.).

At KH EL SUFI a large cave cut into the limestone was discovered. This cave was some 35 feet square and used as a stable. It was capable of accommodating 50 horses and had recently been used.

The well was not seen, but as the floor of the cave was wet with water it is probable that the well marked on the map is still in use. A stone hut stands close by this cave or underground stable.

A REDOUBT was located about 500 yards N.W. of where black track - main GAZA - BEERSHEBA road and telegraph line meet. This redoubt is capable of accommodating about 300 rifles. It was manned when the patrol passed, and there was at least one machine gun in it.

A second REDOUBT was seen on Pt. 650 just South of I in BIR ABU IRGEIG capable of holding 350 men. About 100 men were in the redoubt and the open country near by, where they lay in wait for the patrol. There were 2 machine guns in this redoubt.

About 2½ Squadrons of Cavalry are bivouaced 2½ to 3 miles N.E. near hill 870.

The left bank of the Wadi SUFI S.W. of redoubt at 650 is loopholed, and was manned by about 50 men.

About 2 Squadrons of enemy cavalry moved from BEERSHEBA towards SUFI at 1500.

One Squadron came towards 650 from the direction of KH ABU IRGEIG.

The enemy took no action until the patrol was within 900 yards of 650 redoubt. Two Sergeants, although right in the open and exposed to fire, managed to measure the well. They had hardly succeeded in doing this when a barrage fire from machine guns and rifles was put right round the patrol, cutting off their line of retreat. The patrol galloped through this barrage, which followed them for about 1,000 yards. In all 3 machine guns and about 200 rifles opened fire. 2 small guns also opened fire from the N. and S. of ABU IRGEIG.

The patrol gained ~~the~~ the line with only a few grazes from bullets.

OTHER FEATURES OF INTEREST.

It was noticed that the redoubts reported were not wired.

There is a natural raised platform of earth about 1 mile S.E. of Pt. 650, upon which was mounted what looked to be a small anti-aircraft gun. It was, however, difficult to say what it was. A hut was standing close by with what looked like a man standing in the S.W. corner of the roof. This was believed to be a dummy observation post.

(Signed) A.W. Marning, Lieut.
11th Regt. O.C. Bde. Scouts.

Report on the crossing of the KHALASA - BEERSHEBA road
over the Wadis MIRTABA and HALGON, Oct. 2nd 1917.

WAB
35

(1) Crossings over MIRTABA WADI.

The width of the bed of the Wadi is 15 to 20 feet and the banks are 30 feet high.

The bed of the Wadi is rough and gravelly with scattered stones 6 inches in diameter.

But little work has been done on the crossing, the larger type of stones only have been cleared away.

The road over the Wadi at the crossing is 30 feet wide.

The Southern bank is higher than the Northern, but the grade is gentle.

It is considered that the crossing in dry weather is passable to wheels, and all arms.

The road has been broken away by rain at its exit to the Northern bank, and there are several holes requiring filling in. This crossing could be placed in a tolerable state of repair by one troop working for 1 hour.

(2) WADI HALGON (Southern Crossing)

At the crossing immediately South of the H in WADI HALGON the road runs over a watercourse 40 to 50 feet wide and with banks 3 feet high.

The bed of the watercourse consists of gravel.

WADI HALGON (Northern Crossing)

Bed of Wadi 30 feet wide with banks some 7 feet high.

Continuing North from the Northern exit the road passes through a narrow valley about 1 mile in width, the hills on either side being about 150 feet high.

It is considered that this Wadi is passable for vehicles, the bed is fairly hard, and the slopes in and out gentle.

2nd October 1917.

(sd) W.M. LYALL,
Lieutenant,
10th A.L.H. Regt.

Report on Co-operation with Aeroplane Contact Patrols.

October 2nd 1917.

W.F.B.
36

All Brigades and Regiments had the report centre signals and code calls. It was only found possible to provide 1 Regiment (8th L.H.) with the ground strips.

A proportion of flares were carried.

The following points ~~mentioned~~ were most noticeable and will be brought up at the forthcoming conference.

- (1) Streamer on plane might be lengthened with advantage - it was somewhat difficult to pick up.
- (2) KLAXON horn was found difficult to hear owing to the high wind, and if Artillery fire had been taking place, it was thought the signals would have been inaudible.
- (3) The flares apparently worked well, and the enclosed map gives an excellent and accurate idea of the position of our advanced troops.
- (4) The 8th L.H. Regiment endeavoured to communicate with the aeroplane by means of ground strips, but unfortunately the code was apparently not answered.
- (5) Several messages were dropped at D.H.Q., all of which were received, but I would beg to mention the great height at which these messages were dropped. It was thought that this was unavoidable owing to the strong wind; it entailed signallers going considerable distances to recover them, which might have been awkward if the signal station had been under fire.
- (6) Considering that this was the first occasion that any work of this description had been attempted, the result exceeded expectations.

Mr. Hodgson

Major-General,

4th October 1917.

Commanding Australian Mounted Division.

SECRET.

*Ward diary
- appen 8*

AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 15,
for 24 hours ending 0800, 4/10/17.



*W 85
37*

2nd/3rd October.

Night outposts report all quiet during the night.

- 0500. Day outposts moved out.
- 0540. Enemy patrol of 8 men rode away from the cistern just N. of RHASIF (where they had been watering) up the W. UM SIRR.
- 0550. Enemy patrols appeared on 630 and 720.
- 0610. All day outposts in position.
- 0840. An enemy patrol of 10 men rode out at the gallop from the Wadi N.E. of EL BUGGAR via SIRR towards 630.
- 0900. One troop and Machine Gun was sent against 630 but failed to push the enemy off. Two enemy patrols attempted to work forward from Pt. 720.
- 1020. 32 explosions heard in direction of BEERSHEBA.
- 1245. 3 troops and sub-section M.G. Squadron sent forward to 630 - making total of one Squadron and two Machine Guns.
- 1400. Enemy driven off 630 and 720 into Wadis IMLBIN and HANAFISH.
- 1515. 630 in occupation by one troop with a second troop in support and 1 Machine Gun $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S. of 630.
- 1600* 1800. *Two Turkish Infantry Headquarters captured by Camel Patrol in Wadi near ESAN*
Day outposts withdrew and night outposts in position.

3rd/4th October.

Night outposts report all quiet during the night.

4/10/17.

Almyant
Capl C/S
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

SECRET.

*W. J. 3
app. 9*

AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 16.

for 24 hours ending 0800, 5/10/17.



3rd/4th October.

Night standing patrols report all quiet during night. *31*

- 0620. Day posts in position and situation normal.
- 0700. Nine enemy seen on Pt. 630.
- 0730. Forward post at KHASIF reported all clear.
- 0900. 1 Squadron and 1 sub-section M.G. Squadron moved off from GOZ EL BASAL to make good Pts. 720 and 630. Reserve Squadron, less 1 troop, and 1 sub-section M.G. Sqn. moved up from UM URGAN to BASAL.
- 1105. Pt. 720 made good. Enemy patrol reported in vicinity of 810.
- 1100. ENEMY. 60 enemy, mounted on horses & camels, and on foot, were observed by advanced patrols from 720 withdrawing in N.E. direction about 2,500 yards distant. Enemy patrols were seen in vicinity of 810. On the Southern side of W. IMLEIN a section of men occupied a small trench near W. of WADI IMLEIN, and a mounted patrol of 8 men were seen near IFTHIS. Bombing practice was carried out about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile N.E. of Pt. 380 W. SHERIA.
- 1225. Pt. 630 made good.
- 1245. 1 Squadron withdrew from Pt. 630.
- 1330. 2 enemy troops occupied 630.
- 1430. 1 troop from BASAL occupied ~~630~~ 550.
- 1730. Troop withdrew from 550 to Centour 500 and thence to FARA. Enemy still occupied 630, and when troop withdrew from 550 a white flare was observed behind 630.
- 1800. Night standing patrols in position and day outposts withdrawn.
- 2030. 4th A.L.H. Brigade Scouts reconnoitred Pt. 630 and remained in observation until 2115. No enemy post on 630. They then returned via Pt. 550 and KARH. No enemy seen in KHASIF valley.

4th/5th October.

Night standing patrols report all quiet during the night.

- 1610. Day posts in position and situation normal.
- 0755. Enemy patrol 16 strong on Pt. 630 fired on our patrol and then withdrew towards Pt. 720.

5th October 1917.

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

SECRET.

*W. A. ...
after 10.*



AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 17,

for 24 hours ending 0800, 6/10/17.

*WP 3
39*

4th/5th October.

Night Outposts report all quiet during the night.

- 0600. Day posts in position and situation normal.
- 0645. Enemy shelled 510 from direction ~~of~~ N. of BIR IFTAIS.
- 0720. Enemy dropped 6 H.E. shells $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S.W. of 510 from direction of HAREIRA.
- 0730. Advanced patrol was fired on from Pt. 630, which was held by about 16 enemy cavalry.
- 0755. Pt. 630 occupied, enemy withdrawing towards 720.
- 1015. Our forward patrols from KHASIF were fired on from 720, and on reconnoitring reports ~~to~~ to be held with a M.G. and 50 rifles.
- 1100. 3 troops and one sub-section M.G.S. operated against enemy on Pt. 720. He withdrew without opposition towards 730.
- 1210. 15 H.E. shells were fired at 720 from direction N.N.E. of 720, falling approximately 1,000 yards short.
- 1510. Enemy shelled S.W. slopes of Pt. 510 (7 shells) from direction of BIR IFTAIS.
- 1620. 4 H.E. shells fell $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S.W. of Pt. 510 from direction of HAREIRA.
- 1800. Day outposts withdrew and night Outposts in position.

5th/6th October

Night Outposts report all quiet during the night.

- 2400. Scouts reconnoitred Pt. 630 and located enemy patrol of 6 men on Western slopes of 630 EL GIRHEIR. As the scouts moved back enemy patrol was again seen at IM SIRI.
- 0600. Day posts in position and situation normal.
- 0650. Pt. 630 occupied without opposition.

Ampfambull
to Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

6th October 1917.

SECRET.

War Diary

appan //



1783/40

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

1. The Corps Commander has sanctioned the carrying out of the following minor operation.

2. Detail of troops.

Commander, O.C. Outpost Regiment.

Outpost Regiment, plus 1 Squadron to be detailed by O.C.G. Outpost Brigade.

2 Subsections M.G. Squadron from Outpost Brigade.

3 Batteries Artillery, to be detailed by O.C. 19th Brigade R.H.A.

3. DISTRIBUTION - 1st PHASE.

At 0400 on October 9th troops will be in position as follows :-

- (a) Usual Day Outpost Line from 280 to 510.
- (b) At GOZ EL BASAL, one Squadron and one sub-section M.G. Squadron.
- (c) At Pt. 580 N. of F in KHASIF, 2 Batteries R.H.A., one Squadron, and one sub-section M.G. Sqdn. as escort.
- (d) At GOZ EL SALBIS, one Squadron.

At dawn all troops must be concealed so as to give the enemy the impression that only the usual day outpost line has been taken up.

4. DISTRIBUTION - 2nd PHASE.

(a) If, and when, the enemy shows on Points 630 and 720, Batteries will open rapid fire on these points under the direction of O.C. 19th Brigade R.H.A.

(b) As soon as the Batteries open fire the Squadrons at GOZ EL SALBIS and KHASIF will dash forward at the utmost speed, and seize Points 680 and 780 respectively.

This advance will be made in 3 lines as follows:-

1st Line - One troop extended at 4 yards.

2nd Line - One troop extended at 200 yards distance.

3rd Line - 3 troops in troop columns at 200 yards distance and 50 yards interval.

-/ Well.

W.A.S.
41

Well mounted scouts should be sent 200 to 300 yards ahead of these Squadrons. Every endeavour will be made to envelop the points attacked.

5. DISTRIBUTION - 3rd PHASE.

The Batteries as soon as they have fired their allotted rounds will retire at once to TEL EL PARA moving via ABU SOBWIN, and avoiding KARM and GOZ EL BASAL.

The Squadron and sub-section of M.S. AT GOZ EL BASAL will cover the retirement of these Batteries.

6. The Batteries will only carry the limber rounds with them, no other wheels will accompany them.

Squadrons will go out as light as possible.

7. The question may arise as to when the Artillery should open fire. This must be left to the discretion of the O.C. 19th Brigade R.M.A.

Possibly one of the objectives may be occupied only. In this case a reasonable time will be left for the enemy to occupy both points. However, if it should appear likely that the enemy is not going to occupy both points, in this case both Batteries will be turned on to the occupied point.

P. H. H. H.

Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

7th October 1917.

Copies to:-

4th Battalion I.C. Brigade.
H.Q., Desert Mounted Corps.

SECRET.

*W. Deard
app. 12*



AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 18,
for 24 hours ending 0800, 7/10/17.

*WA3
H2*

5th/6th October.

Night Outposts report all clear during night.

- 0600. Day outposts in position and situation normal.
- 0635. Pt. 630 held by 7 Turkish Cavalry who retired without firing on approach of our patrol. Observation post established 1,000 E. of Pt. 630 with a troop and sub-section H.C. Sqdn. in support.
- 0700. 8 shrapnel fired by enemy field gun on to Pt. 630 from a point 2,000 yards N.W. of the viaduct.

No. 3 Post sent a patrol to WADI IPTHIS. On reaching trench in Sq. J.36 central (SHERIA 1/40,000) and Infantry outpost was found leaving it and the patrol fired on them and withdrew. A Battery opened fire on the patrol from Pt. 530 N. of IPTHIS (SHERSHERA 1/125,000). 9 shots fired but no casualties. 5 more shots fired at Pt. 510.
- 0715. Field Gun that fired at Pt. 630 was seen being withdrawn by 6 horses towards SHERIA.
- 0830. Patrols sent to W. HANAFISH. All clear.
- 0840.
to
1000. 4 Squadrons enemy cavalry observed watering at BIR ABU IRBIC.
- 1100. Patrol sent towards BIR IPTHIS on reaching point 500 yds W. of K in KHIRBIT was fired at by troops in Wadi at junction of small Wadi 300 yds N. of K in KHIRBIT.

A convoy of about 900 camels was seen moving from HARRIRA towards KAUWUKAH.
- 1700. Engine and two trucks passed over viaduct in direction of SABA.
- 1800. Night standing patrols in position and day posts withdrawn.

7th October 1917.

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



Wd 3
43

SECRET.

*Ward diary
Appendix 14*

G.O.C., 3rd A.L.H. Brigade.
4th A.L.H. Brigade.
5th Mounted Brigade.
G.O., 18th Brigade R.H.A.
Signal Squadron.
Field Squadron.
A.D.M.S.
"A".
80th Division.
4th Battn. I.C. Brigade.
Composite Force.
H.Q., Desert Mounted Corps.



The 5th Mounted Brigade will take over the duties of Outpost Brigade from the 4th A.L.H. Brigade at 1800 on October 9th 1917.

P. R. Healy

Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

8th October 1917.

SECRET.

*Wadi
Appen B.*



AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 19,
for 24 hours ending 0800, 8/10/17.

*W 83
44*

6th/7th October.

Night Outposts report all quiet during night.

0610. Day Outposts in position and situation normal.

0630. Enemy observed in small numbers occupying 630 with small forward post on 550.

0700. Enemy machine gun practice was heard going on in Wadi, N. of 510. Numerous bodies of enemy cavalry were seen N. of 510 on N. bank of WADI IMLEIH. Enemy helio seen on 650. Enemy outpost observed opposite TWO TREE FARM, on bank of W. IMLEIH.

0830. Number 3 Post shelled with small H.E., several of these shells dropping amongst the horses on contour 500. Direction of fire N.E.

1015. Small enemy post on contour S. of H near EL BUGGAR.

1230. 2 suspected spies who were captured making from direction of TEL EL FARA towards the Turkish lines, arrested.

1650. Patrol report 2 10-pound H.E. shells fired from direction of 630. One fell within 200 yards of stone heap at IM SIRI, the other 1,200 yards from 550 near BEIT ABU TANA.

1800. Night standing patrols in position and Day posts withdrawn. Situation normal.

7th/8th October.

Night Outposts report all clear during the night.

0600. Day posts in position and situation normal.

8th October 1917.

Alan Parbett
Capt G.S.
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

S E C R E T.

G.O.C., 3rd A.L.H. Brigade.
5th Mounted Brigade.
O.C., 4th Battn..I.C. Bde.
Field Squadron.



Reference: 1/40,000 ESANI map.

1. In the event of a Mounted Division being camped at and about ESANI, one Brigade will be camped in the following area:-

Northern Boundary - The Southern bank of the Wadi IMALAGA.

Western Boundary - A line from Sq. C.13 central to C.7.d 4.6.

Eastern Boundary - A line from C.21. C.O.3 to C 15 d 6.4.

2. For this area the horse watering troughs will be in the Wadi IMALAGA at square C.8.C.9.2 and ~~C.7.a 8.2~~ ^{C.7.a.9.2}
3. The O.C. Field Squadron will arrange to reconnoitre the approaches to these troughs from the above area, on October 10th.

The report will state the amount of work (if any) which will be required to make the Southern bank of the IMALAGA possible for horses going to water.

There should be an exit and an entrance to watering troughs so as to avoid crowding, in view of possible aerial attack.

A surprint of the area under discussion can be seen in this office.

4. The G.O.C. 3rd A.L.H. Brigade will detail a Squadron to cover this reconnaissance.

The Squadron will leave B.H.Q. at 0800 and reach ESANI about 1200, returning on completion of the reconnaissance.

5. The report should reach this office by 1200 on 11th instant, and will be accompanied by a sketch showing crossings.

8th October 1917.

P. V. Heen
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

SECRET.

*to diary
Appendix No.*

AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 80,
for 24 hours ending 0800, 9/10/17.



*WAB
46*

7th/8th October.

Night outposts report all quiet throughout the night.

- 0600. Day posts in position and situation normal.
- 0630. Our forward patrol from Pt. 510 was fired on from 550 by about 12 rifles.
- 0700. Enemy shelled slopes of 510 from direction of BIR IFTEIS.
- 0845. Enemy aeroplane "Albatross Scout" was observed to be landing, after an air fight, near 602 EL BASAL. One reserve troop immediately mounted and galloped after the plane, which at this time was very low. Upon landing the pilot surrendered. He stated he intended to burn his machine on landing "but the cavalry came too quickly".
Machine was undamaged except for bullets in radiator and water tank.
The second reserve troop was sent towards Pt. 720 to make good the IM SIRI and 550 ridges to guard against any movement the enemy might make from that quarter, as 50 enemy appeared on 720 as the plane landed.
- 1100. Reserve troops withdrew to 602 EL BASAL.
- 1615. Situation normal.
- 1700. 10 enemy cavalry occupied 630. Pt. 720 all clear.
- 1830. Night standing patrols in position and day outposts withdrawn.

8th/9th October.

Night outposts report all quiet during the night.

A minor operation against Pts. 630 and 720 was carried out by 11th A.L.H. Regiment, one squadron 12th A.L.H. Regiment, and "A" Battery R.A.C. this morning at daybreak.

- 0545. Battery opened fire on enemy on 630 and 720, and Regiment advanced to occupy these points. Report not in by 0800.
- 0745. One Turk surrendered to post on 300.

9/10/17.

Amfarkett Capt. G.S.
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

SECRET.

*Boundary
Appendix 17*

AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 21

For 24 hours ending 0800, 10/10/17.



*W 83
47*

8th/9th October.

0400. Usual day outpost line taken up with "A" Battery H.A.C. at KHASIF, and one squadron 18th A.L.H. Regiment at SOZ EL GELIB.

0545. Battery opened fire on 630 and 720.

Post at 510 report that when first shell burst on Pt. 630 about 9 Turks jumped out of their trenches and hesitated about moving. When more shells came over they rushed to their horses and rode towards Wadi IMLEIN. Shells seemed to burst about 100 yards too far forward. In getting away the enemy appeared to come more under this fire, but there were no casualties, as a troop rushed the position a few minutes after fire ceased. A troop rushed Pt. 720 directly shelling ceased, but no enemy were found there.

0740. 25 cavalry observed on Pt. 820.

Enemy patrol of 14 took up position on hill 730 from 0730 - 1000.

About 2 Regiments enemy cavalry watered at BIR ABU IRGIB.

1600. Train observed, Engine and 2 trucks, proceeding to IRGIB.

1800. Night posts in position and day posts withdrawn.

9th/10th October.

Night outposts report all quiet during night.

Day outposts in position and situation normal.

10/10/17.

*Amfarkitt
Capt G.S.*
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

S E C R E T.

Wadi rary 18
AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 22,
for 24 hours ending 0800, 11/10~~th~~/17.

9th/10th October.

Night Outposts report all quiet throughout the night.

0600. Day posts in position.
0620. Troop of enemy cavalry, strength 20 men, moving on N. side Wadi IMLEIH from S. to N. in direction of SANA Redoubt.
0645. Patrols along EL BUGGAR Ridge to Pt. 720 found all clear.
0715. Patrol to Pt. 630 fired on ~~xxx~~ by about 15 enemy.
0900. Machine Gun practice to N. of Wadi IMLEIH.
1045. Patrol to Pt. 630 report all clear. We again occupied Pt. 630 at 1630.
1200. Patrol to EL BUGGAR got in touch with small enemy patrol which retired E. down FARA - SABA road.
1250. 1 Sqn enemy cavalry, strength 80, 2 miles beyond 630 working down Wadi HANAFISH to WADI IMLEIH from S. to N.
1530. Small party of enemy troops noticed ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ vicinity of KH. UM RIJL.
1645. About Squadron of enemy cavalry moved from vicinity of SANA redoubt in a South-Easterly direction.
1650. 1 Troop moved from SANA camp towards Wadi IMLEIH and halted about 1 mile from Wadi until our post withdrew.
1700. Very long column including wagons moving along road from SANA Redoubt in S.E. direction.
1800. Night Outposts in position and day posts withdrawn.

No shelling of posts or enemy gun fire observed during the day.

10th/11th October.

Night outposts report all quiet during night.

Day outposts in position and situation normal.

11th October 1917.

for *W. Brown* *Captn*
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

SECRET.



*War Diary
append 19*

SR/440.

11 OCT 1917

NR3

49

Reference Divisional Order 10.

1. On 12th October, the G.O.C. I.C. Brigade is relieving the 4th Battalion by the 3rd Battalion in the GHABI works.

The 265th Machine Gun Company is remaining in the works.

The relief will be complete by 0900.

2. Until further orders dawn will be at 0500 and dusk at 1730. The day posts will move through the wire at 0600. The all clear report will reach D.H.Q. by 0600.

P. L. Miller

Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,

11th October 1917.

Australian Mounted Division.

Copies to :-

- 3rd A.L.H. Brigade.
- 4th A.L.H. Brigade.
- 5th Mounted Brigade.
- 19th Brigade R.H.A.
- Signal Squadron.
- Desert Mounted Corps.
- 60th Division.
- 4th Batta. I.C. Bde.
- I.C. Brigade (1 copy for 3rd Battalion).

SECRET.

*War Diary
Appendix 20*



AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 23,

for 24 hours ending 0800, 12/10/17.

*WR 3
50*

10th/11th October.

0600. Situation normal.
0725. Patrols in position. 6 enemy holding 630.
0825. Patrol to 630 fired on. 1 Troop enemy holding 630
0925. Patrol reports trench at J.28.D (1/40,000 TEL. EL. SHERIA) occupied, 5 men seen.
0945. Train seen moving in N.W. direction on E. side of W. IMLIEN.
1000. Part of 40 horsemen seen entering Wadi E. of IPTBIS, returning shortly afterwards in a N.E. direction. Patrols encountered enemy cavalry patrol on contour line S. of E in EL. BUGGAR, 8 men counted 1 carrying a lance, dressed in dark clothes and riding similar stamp of horse to our own.
1028. Patrol to Hill 720 approached from W. to within 700 yards of house, saw 5 dismounted men, 2 camels and 1 horse 100 yards S. of house. Patrol fired on from house and withdrew.
1400. 22 enemy retired from 630 on seeing 2 troops and Sub-section Machine Guns approach from BASAL.
1515. Patrol entered W. IMLIEN $\frac{1}{2}$ mile W. of Pt. 310 and proceeded E. along Wadi bed for 1 mile - no enemy encountered.
1615. 15 enemy cavalry entered W. IMLIEN at 0 of Pt. 280 but withdrew about 10 minutes later. Pt. 630 re-occupied by 6 enemy. Enemy did not shell any of the outposts during day or fire on any posts when withdrawing at 1800.

11th/12th October.

Night Outposts report all quiet during night.

Day outposts in position and situation normal.

12th October 1917.

*Amfubett
for Capt G.S.*
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

SECRET.

AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 24
for 24 hours ending 0800, 13/10/17.



11th/12th October.

0600. Situation normal.
0630. Pts. 630 and 720 all clear.
0800. Two armoured cars went to a point 2 miles E. of cross roads at TAWELL EL HARARI and thence to Pt. 720. Only enemy seen - one sentry 1 mile E. of Pt. 630 and another 1 mile N.E. of 720. Cars fired on these sentries and they withdrew.
0830. A few shells fell on Pt. 510.
0845. 3 enemy troops 3 miles E. of Pt. 720.
0930. GOZ LAKHLEILAT post heard machine gun fire in direction of EL NASHIRA.
1145. Train of 20 trucks crossed Viaduct, going N.
1430. GOZ LAKHLEILAT post saw an enemy squadron on EL BUGGAR RIDGE, moving N.W.
1500. Enemy appeared on Pt. 630.
1515. Patrol to Pt. 630 fired on by about 40 - 50 Turks and M.G. Our supporting troops, with a M.G., went forward, and were engaged by fairly heavy rifle and M.G. fire (probably 2 guns), and drove enemy off by 1545.
1545. Patrol to EL BUGGAR reported all clear. Pt. 510 shelled with shrapnel. Gun estimated to be a 76 m.m. and position was located by flashes on E. bank of Wadi IMLEIN on a bearing of 63° from Pt. 510, just W. of a single tree.
1615. Train of 5 carriages crossed viaduct going S.
1730. Day outposts withdrew.

12th/13th October.

Night quiet.

0630. Situation normal. Thick fog.

ESANI cable patrol report a few Bedouins with 20 camels, 300 sheep, 1½ miles S.W. of TEL ITWEL during the day.

13th October 1917.

B. Karanogh Capt/ps
for Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

SECRET.

*War Diary
Appen. 24*



AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 25,

for 24 hours ending 0600, 14/10/17.

*11 A 3
52*

18th/15th October.

- 0600. All clear and situation normal.
- 0815. Patrol to Pt. 630 observed 1 troop enemy digging on Pt. 630, with a forward post of 7 men on Pt. 550; Two troops from support were sent up, and enemy retired.
There is a line of rifle pits across the ridge about 200 yards long, facing West, about 400 yards E. of summit. (Q 34 A 8.0 to 0.8, reference map SHERIA 1/40,000).
A length of about 100 yards zigzag trench (unfinished, 1 ft. deep) 500 yards W.S.W. of Pt. 551 (Q 33 B central).
- 1000. 25 enemy cavalry on EL BUGGAR ridge, and 12 on Pt. 630.
- 1200. 1 squadron enemy cavalry going South along BIR SABA road about Pt. 550.
- 1330. Patrol to EL BUGGAR fired on by enemy post of about 30, 1 mile N.E. of EL BUGGAR.
- 1600. One section "A" Battery H.A.C. brought up to a covered position at KHASIF and fired ranging shots on E. slope of Pt. 630 and crossing of Wadi HANAFISH.
- 1810. One section H.C. from S 4 0 8.8 (reference map SHERIA 1/40,000) ranged on trenches and rifle pits East and West of Pt. 630 at 1,700 yards.
- 1730. Night standing patrols in position and day posts withdrawn.

13th/14th October.

Night posts report all quiet during the night.

0600. Day posts report situation normal.

14/10/17.

Amfabbell
for Lt. Col.
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

SECRET.

AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 86,
for 24 hours ending 0600, 15/10/17.



13th/14th October.

0600. Situation normal.
0745. Posts in position.
0800. Two shells fell near Pt. 520; firing appeared to come from a point E. of Wadi, bearing 65° from Pt. 510.
0815. Patrol to EL BUGGAR heavily fired on from BUGGAR ridge.
0910. One man from patrol sent to Pt. 720 returned to KHASIF and reported 1 N.C.O. and 2 men of patrol captured by enemy. When patrol was approaching Pt. 720 a Bedouin was seen in hollow 1/2 mile S.E. of the hut, who, when patrol approached, fired his revolver at it. They endeavoured to capture Bedouin and then saw 2 troops of enemy galloping from direction of Pt. 720 and another troop from a Southerly direction. N.C.O. and two men were cut off. One troop in support sent immediately to Pt. 720 but found hill clear, enemy retiring East. Enemy were armed with lances, swords, and rifles; rode arab ponies, and wore blue and white tunics.
1100. 4 men seen digging on W. bank of Wadi SHERIA, bearing 50° from TWO TREE FARM.
1345. 20 enemy cavalry on Pt. 550 retired on being fired on from Pt. 510.
1430. 8 enemy cavalry left 550 in direction of Pt. 630.
1530. 2 Armoured Cars drove enemy off 630 and our patrol occupied hill. Trenches reported in yesterday's summary deepened to 3 feet.
1645. 6 enemy cavalry on Pt. 630 who remained till posts withdrew.
1730. Day posts withdrawn and night posts in position.
- Small bodies of enemy cavalry entered Wadi MELBIR between Pts. 410 and 520 at intervals during the morning.

15th October 1917.

W. Kelly
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

*W.D. Day
appx 24.*

SECRET.

AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 87,
for 24 hours ending 0800, 18/10/17.

*W.P.3
32*

14th/15th October.

0630. Day posts in position, visibility bad, very cloudy.
0715. Patrol to Pt. 630 fired on by about 10 enemy.
- 0815 to 0845. Pt. 510 shelled with shrapnel and H.E.
1115. Half squadron shelled whilst crossing 500 contour 1 mile S. of Pt. 510. One horse wounded.
1150. Pt. 630 occupied by half squadron. No fresh digging on trenches.
- 1200 to 1300. 50 enemy cavalry observed at RASHID BUK.
1210. Patrol towards IFTSIS observed 2 troops enemy coming from Wadi to Pt. 630, following our withdrawal from there.
1310. Train, 3 trucks full, passed over IRGIB viaduct going N.
1315. Enemy patrol Pt. 820 moving S.W.
1545. Train with 3 empty trucks passed IRGIB going S.
1600. Party proceeded to operate against Pt. 630 whilst 5 2 Armoured cars went round rear and succeeded in firing on 12 enemy retiring from hut at IMLEIH at 300 yds range but cars were then shelled and withdrew.
1610. 2 Armoured cars patrolled to Pt. 730 and found it all clear.
1730. Day posts withdrew and night standing **patrols** in position.

15th/16th October.

0515. All clear report received.
0600. Situation normal.

16th October 1917.

Almport Capt. R.S.
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

SECRET.

Copy No. 14

DIVISIONAL ORDER No. 14,

by
Major-General H.W. HODGSON, C.V.O., C.B.,
Commanding Australian Mounted Division.

16th October 1917.

1/125,000 map.

1. The Division, with 7th Mounted Brigade attached, will cover a reconnaissance by Officers of the XXth Corps on Thursday October 18th.

2. The following line will be made good by 1200 :-

Pt. 870 E. of KHALASA - IBN SAIID - Pts. 960 - 970 - 840 - 820 - 790 - 770 - 730 - 630 EL GIRHEIR - 550 - 510 - 300.

The Northern slopes of Pt. 630 EL GIRHEIR will be cleared as far as the WADI IMLEIH.

The withdrawal will commence at 1730, orders for which will be issued later.

3. MOVES.

(a) October 17th.

The 7th Mounted Brigade will move so as to arrive at ESANI by 1600, and will bivouac there for the night October 17/18th, finding its own protection.

October 18th.

(b) 7th Mounted Brigade will move from ESANI so as to make good the line Pt. 870 E. of KHALASA - Pt. 910 - IBN SAIID - Pts. 960 - 970 to 840 exclusive by 1200.
Brigade H.Q. will be at Pt. 860.

(c) 4th A.L.H. Brigade will move by the FARA North crossing, pass the wire at 0800 and make good the line Pts. 840 (inclusive) - 820 - 790 - 770 (inclusive) by 1200.
Brigade H.Q. will be half-mile N.E. of EL BUGGAR, V of CULTIVATION.

(d) 5th Mounted Brigade will move by the GAMLI crossing, pass the wire at 0900 and make good the line Pt. 770 (exclusive) - 730 - 630 EL GIRHEIR - 550 - 300 (inclusive) by 1200, and will ensure that the Northern slopes of Pt. 630 are cleared as far as the WADI IMLEIH.
Brigade H.Q. will be at Pt. 550, 1 mile N.W. of IM SIRI.

(e) 3rd A.L.H. Brigade will move by the FARA North crossing, pass the wire at 0930 and reach Pt. 680 KHOR EL AJRAM by 1200, where it will be in reserve.

(f) O.C. 19th Brigade R.H.A. will detail one Battery less B.A.C. to accompany the 4th and 5th Brigades. The Brigade less 2 Batteries and B.A.Cs. will follow the 3rd Brigade and reach Pt. 680 KHOR EL AJRAM by 1200.

(g) O.C. Field Squadron will detail one Troop to accompany the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Brigades.

(h) 12th L.A.M. Battery will move to 680 KHOR EL AJRAM by 1200.

W/3
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4. 5th Mounted Brigade will relieve the day outposts of 3rd A.L.H. Brigade by 0900. One of the Outpost Squadrons of the 3rd Brigade will, on relief, return to camp and provide the night post on October 18/19th.
5. Signal Squadron will arrange cable communication between D.H.Q. and 7th Brigade at ESANI from 1600 on October 17th, and between D.H.Q. and Brigade H.Q. on 18th.
6. Dressing station will be established at Pt. 680 KHOR EL AJRAM.
7. G.O.C. 7th Mounted Brigade will carry out the following reconnaissances on October 18th :-
 - (a) A route from IBN SAIID to G. ITWAIL EL SEMIN (to be reconnoitred in such a way as to attract as little attention as possible).
 - (b) Route F. from its junction with D.2 to its junction with K.
 - (c) Route H. Southwards from the WADI SABA.
 - (d) The water holes in the WADI MIRTABA between routes F. and H. (in order to know the way thither).
8. G.O.C. 5th Mounted Brigade will detail :-
 - (a) One Squadron to report to the G.O.C. 179th Infantry Brigade at RASHID BEK at 1030, and will be at his disposal for the whole day.
 - (b) One Squadron to report to G.O.C. 74th Division at a time and place to be notified later, and will be at his disposal for the remainder of the day.
9. Officers of XXth Corps will report to the H.Q. of the Brigade which is holding the part of the line they wish to reconnoitre, before proceeding to the advance points. They will then be sent forward in small parties with the necessary protection. These Officers must be within the line by 1730.
10.
 - (a) 7th Mounted Brigade will take rations and forage for up to and including the morning of October 19th.
 - (b) All other units will take rations and forage for October 18th.
 - (c) "B" Echelon will remain in camp.
11.
 - (a) The post at GOZ LAKHLEILAT found by the 3rd Battalion I.C. Brigade will be withdrawn from 1600 on October 17th to 0700 October 19th.
 - (b) O.C. 3rd Battalion I.C. Brigade will arrange to patrol the cable to ESANI on the nights of October 17/18th and 18/19th.

12. D.H.Q. will be established at Pt. 680 KHOR EL
AJRAM at 1200 on October 18th.

15. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Pr. H. Kelly

Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

Issued at 1330.

Copies to :-

- No. 1 3rd A.L.H. Brigade.
- 2 4th A.L.H. Brigade.
- 3 5th Mounted Brigade.
- 4 19th Brigade R.H.A.
- 5 Field Squadron.
- 6 Signal Squadron.
- 7 A.D.H.S.
- 8 A.D.V.S.
- 9 A.P.M.
- 10 "A".
- 11 "Q".
- 12 Camp Commandant.
- 13 War Diary.
- 14 War Diary.
- 15 G.O.C.
- 16 Desert Mounted Corps.
- 17 Yeomanry Mtd Division.
- 18 A. & N.Z. Mtd Division.
- 19 60th Division.
- 20 3rd Battn. I.C. Brigade.
- 21 7th Mounted Brigade.
- 22 Squadron, 1/2nd Co. of Ldn. Yeo.
- 23 No. 12 L.A.H. Battery.
- 24 74th Division.
- 25 Survey Section, P. Post.

SECRET.

*to W. D. ...
Appendix 16*

HEADQUARTERS
17 OCT 1917

AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 28,

for 24 hours ending 0800, 17/10/17.

15th/16th October.

An ambush was laid during the night of 15/16th inst. at the ruined house on Pt. 720. In order to effect this 2 Sqdns. Gloucester Yeomanry and 1 Section M.G. Sqn. left GAMLI at 2200 marching to KHASIF QUARRIES, arriving 0100. 1 Officer and 12 men then proceeded to house at Pt. 720 with 2 Hotchkiss rifles, 12 bombs, and sand-bags. Horses then withdrawn. 1 Officer and 20 men were left similarly at BEIT ABU TANA. On arrival, house at Pt. 720 was put in state of defence, a fire-stop being built all round the inside, and sand-bag emplacements for Hotchkiss rifles. Observation loop-holes were made in all 4 walls.

0530. Ambush party observed 10 Turkish cavalry on Pt. 810 who patrolled S. to 820 and then W. to V of CULTIVATION, remaining there until 0730, when 7 rode to Pt. 720.

0800. Outpost Regiment took up usual day outposts, with patrols sent forward to Pts. 630 and 720.

0750. 2 points sent out in advance of this patrol, the remainder some 500 yds behind. Pts. were shot at close range (1 man and 2 horses killed, 1 man seriously wounded). Remainder of patrol retired at a gallop but 1 horse was brought down, and the rider (Sergeant-Major) walked in to the post after a Hotchkiss barrage had been put between him and his line of retirement. On sound of firing about 100 men appeared on ridge between 770 and 810.

Enemy casualties - 1 man killed.
1 wounded and captured.
1 captured.
5 horses killed.

Our casualties - Nil.

Enemy armed with lances and rifles.

0900. Posts withdrew from 720 and BEIT ABU TANA. At same time 2 Armoured cars reconnoitred EL BUGGAR ridge finding it all clear. Outpost on Pt. 630 shelled and withdrew.

1400. 2 troops occupied 630 and working party commenced filling in trenches.

1420. 630 shelled and troops withdrew after heavy M.G. fire from ruins at KH. INLEIH.

1715. Day posts withdrew.

1730. Night posts in position and day posts withdrawn.

16th/17th October.

All quiet during the night and situation normal.

0625. Day posts in position.

17th October 1917.

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

SECRET.

*War Diary
Appendix 27*

AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 89,
for 24 hours ending 0800, 18/10/17.



16th/17th October.

0645. Day posts in position.
0730. Patrol leaving KHASIF were fired at by enemy cavalry from the neighbourhood of EL BUGGAR. Enemy party retired when our patrol was 3,000 yards from them.
0820. Pt. 720 occupied by a Post from the troop at KHASIF. 12 enemy cavalry retired before the advance of our patrol.
0830. Pt. 630 occupied by a Post from the troop at Pt. 510. No enemy patrols were encountered.
1020. Freight train of engine & 11 trucks crossed over the bridge N. of BIR INTAIS. Train was proceeding towards the North and it was heavily loaded.
1045. One squadron enemy cavalry moved from KH. EL SUFI South West towards Pt. 840.
1130. 13 shots fired at our post on Pt. 630 by snipers to the E. of BIR EL GIRHEIR.
1330. Posts on Pts. 720 & 630 withdrew to KHASIF and Pt. 550 (1 mile N.W. of IM SIRI) respectively.
- 1615 Enemy fired 40 shells with H.E. and shrapnel at Pt. 510.
to Shrapnel burst very low.
1645 Gun was observed from TWO TREES FARM to be on a bearing of 97°. Approximate location of gun Pt. 550, Square G.5. No casualties.
1730. Day outposts withdrawn
Night posts in position.

17th/18th October.

All quiet during night and situation normal.

0850. Day posts in position.

18th October 1917.

George Jackson
Capt
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

War Diary

Appendix 28.

SECRET.

13 AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

DAILY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY, No. 30,
for 24 hours ending 0800, 19/10/17.



18th October 1917.

0630. Day posts in position and situation normal.
0900. Day posts of 3rd Brigade relieved by 5th Mounted Brigade
1200. Line Pt. 870 E. of KHALABA - ILM SAID - 960 - 970 - 980 - 990 - 790 - 770 - 730 - 650 EL SIRHSIR - 650 - 610 - 500 made good without opposition. D.M.Q. established 660 KHA EL ABRAM.
1410. Enemy troops observed in redoubt at Pt. 650 ABU IRGIB.
One troop enemy cavalry seen in WADI IMMIN N. of Pt. 730.
1525. Hotts Battery in action behind Pt. 610. Opened fire on redoubt on Pt. 650. R.E. seen to fall in trenches.
1605. Battery shelled enemy troop and 2 bell tents at IRSSIG Railway station. Direct hit on station buildings.
1730. Withdrawal to camp commenced.
2200. All units in camp areas. 7th Mounted Brigade camped KSAHI for the night.

18th/19th October.

All quiet during night.

0630. Situation normal.

19th October 1917.

Quinfalett Capt R.S.
for Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

War Diary

Copy No. 21

SECRET

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DIVISIONAL ORDER No. 15,

by

Major-General E.W. HODGSON, C.V.O., C.E.,

Commanding Australian Mounted Division.

19th October 1917.

Reference: 1/125,000 map., & 1" map.

1. In order to protect water and supply arrangements and to effect a concentration Southwards, the Division will move in accordance with the attached table.
2. The date of Z day will be notified later.
3. A table showing the location of other units is attached.
3. COLLIER.

1200 Z-5 day.

Up to that hour G.O.C. Australian Mounted Division will command all troops South of the line GHABI - GOZ LAERUK - EL BUCCAR. From that hour G.O.C. A. & N.Z. Ltd Division assumes command of all troops South and G.O.C. 20th Corps of all troops North of that line.

At 1700 Z-5 day.

G.O.C. Australian Mounted Division assumes responsibility for the protection of KHALASA between the lines GOZ EL GELBIE - DIR IBN TURKIA exclusive and LAALAGA - ABUSHAR inclusive.

G.O.C. Moosanny Mounted Division takes over Mounted protective duties North of GHABI - GOZ LAERUK - EL BUCCAR line from G.O.C. Australian Mounted Division.

4. PROTECTION.

In order to protect the movement of troops, the following line of observation will be continuously maintained, being established gradually as the troops move Southwards.

Points about 3 miles S. - S. - E. of ASLUJ.
Points 1350 - 1240 - UM EL GERATHI - Hill 1000 due East of KHALASA - Points 910 - 860 - RASHID BEK - Point 680 GOZ LAHLEILAT - RE. KHASIF, thence as in present outposts.

When the Infantry begin to move forward and Railway construction commences, certain modifications will be required, for which orders are being issued separately.

-/ 5.

5. WATER SUPPLY and MARKING of TRACKS.

Separate instructions are being issued regarding the preparation of water supply, and the improvement and marking of tracks.

W 13
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6. ROADS.

The importance of mounted troops and transport keeping off the motor roads is again emphasized.

7. TIME of MARCH.

Where a march is ordered to take place at night, no troops will move before 1700.
Motors will move in daylight.

8. TRANSPORT.

The A.A. & Q.M.G. will issue all further orders up to Z-1 day re the movements of trains, camel convoys and "E" Echelon.

9. The following detachments and escorts will be detailed :-

Brigade	Duty.	Whom to report to	Day Time	Place.	Strength.
5th Bde	Corps Comdr's Escort.	A.D.C. Des. Corps.	Z-1 1200	ASLUJ.	1 Sqdn. less 1 troop.
5th Bde	Escort to Cable detachment	A.D.A.S. Des. Corps.	Z-1 1200	ASLUJ.	1 troop.
5th Bde	Escort to Camel water convoy.	Lt. Whitfield Div. Water Officer.	Z-2 1200	ESANI. (Sq. A.1.c)	1 troop.
5th Bde	Escort to "E" Echelon.	A.A. & Q.M.G.	Z-1 1200	KHALASA.	1 troop.
5th Bde	Escort to Camel convey for Sqdn going GHALYUN. "L" Co. C.T.C	D.A.Q.M.G. O.C. to report for orders.	Z-10 1000	D.H.Q.	1 Section.
4th Bde	Guides to convoys to ESANI.	S.S.O. Des. Corps.	Z-9 1600 Z-8	GAMLI Supply Depot.	10 men each night.
5th Bde	Escort to Camel convey FARA to ESANI. "H" Co. C.T.C.	DA.Q.M.G. O.C. to report for orders.	Z-5 1000	D.H.Q.	1/2 troop.
3rd Bde	Escort to 1000 camels "H" Co. C.T.C.	D.A.Q.M.G.	Z-3 -	D.H.Q. O.C. to report for orders 1600 Z-4.	1 troop.

WPA3
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10. All units will, in addition to their fighting rations, carry breakfast ration and one feed when finally leaving this area.

11. ACKNOWLEDGE.

P. V. Kelly

Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Australian Mounted Division.

Issued at. 1830.

Copies to :-

- No. 1 3rd A.L.H. Brigade.
- 2 4th A.L.H. Brigade.
- 3 5th Mounted Brigade.
- 4 19th Brigade R.H.A.
- 5 Field Squadron.
- 6 Signal Squadron.
- 7 A.D.H.S.
- 8 A.D.V.S.
- 9 A.P.H.
- 10 "A".
- 11)
- 12) "Q".
- 13 Divisional Train.
- 14 8th Sanitary Section.
- 15 Camp Commandant.
- 16 Divisional Water Officer.
- 17 S.S.O.
- 18 C.C., Details, A.M.D.
- 19 D.A.D.O.S.
- 20 War Diary.
- 21 War Diary.
- 22 G.O.C.
- 23 Desert Mounted Corps.
- 24 Yomanry Mounted Division.
- 25 A. & N.Z. Mounted Division.
- 26 60th Division.
- 27 3rd Battalion, I.C. Brigade.
- 28 No. 12 L.A.M. Battery.
- 29 XXth Corps.
- 30 5th Wing, R.F.C.
- 31 I.C. Brigade.
- 32 File.

TABLE of MOVES.

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Day.	Unit.	Move.
Z-10.	1 Squadron 5th Bde.	to ABU GHALYUN via GAMLI - route B - to junction of routes B.1 and A where it will come under orders of G.O.C., E.C.C. Brigade at 1945.
Night Z-10/ Z-9.	Field Squadron. (less 2 troops)	A portion of, to ESANI where it will come under orders of G.O.C. the Brigade A. & N.Z. Mounted Division which will be there.
Z-9.	1 Squadron. 5th Bde.	ABU GHALYUN to ESANI under orders of G.O.C. I.C.C. Brigade.
Z-6.		One Brigade of Yeomanry Mounted Division moves up to HISEIA and comes under tactical orders of G.O.C. Australian Mounted Division.
Night Z-4/ Z-3.	Field Squadron (less 2 troops)	ESANI - KHALASA with 5th Brigade.
Night Z-4/ Z-3.	5th Brigade (less 1 Sqn) with 1 Batty.	to KHALASA via routes C.1, D, E.2, E. The head to cross Wadi GHUZZE not before 1900 and to be clear of SHANAG by 2200. Bivouacs in No. 2 area of KHALASA and relieves I.C.C. Brigade by 0200 Z-3 day.
Night Z-3/ Z-2.	The Division less 1 Bde.	to KHALASA. Orders for march will be issued later.
Night Z-1/ Z.	1 Regt. 1 sub- section M.G. 3rd Brigade.	KHALASA to ASLUJ and comes under G.O.C. A. & N.Z. Mounted Division on reaching there.



LOCATION of OTHER UNITS.

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Day.	A. & N.Z. Div.	Yeodiv.	7th Mtd Bde.	I.C.C. Bde.	Infantry.
Z-10	ABASAN.	MARAKEB.	ABASAN	ABU AMR.	
Z-9	1 Bde. ESANI. <small>In order to maintain the order at the camp down in D.O. 20. The following</small>			GHALYUN.	1 Bde. 60th Divn. at ESANI. Sikh Pioneers at IMARA.
Z-8				KHALASA.	
Z-7					
Z-6	1 Bde. ASLUJ. 1 Bde. ESANI.				
Z-5		1 Bde. at HISEIA.			1 Bde. 53rd Div. at IMARA.
Z-4	Div. less 1 Bde. ESANI. 1 Bde. ASLUJ.				
Z-3		Div. less 1 Bde. at SHELLAL.	ESANI by 1700.	HISEIA.	1 Bde. 74th Div. at EL BUGGAR.
Z-2	Div. at ASLUJ.				60th Divn. less 2 Bdes ESANI. 1 Bde. 60th Div. RASHID BEK. 1 Bde. ABU CHALYUN.
Z-1		1 Bde. joins Div. at SHELLAL.			