

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/60/10

Title: General Staff, Headquarters ANZAC
Mounted Division

December 1916



AWM4-1/60/10

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

G Branch

A & N.Z. Mounted Division

Army Form C. 2118

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.

Vol III Page 9

1407

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BIREL MAZAR	1/12/16	1000	G.O.C. left on a visit to outpost line held by 42 nd Division	Vol III appen II
		1200	No 14 W. I.C.C. relieved No 7 Co. at GEFILA and No 7 W. marched to BIREL ABD where it came under orders of Desert Column.	
		1500	3 rd L.H. Bde report that patrol at GEBEL EL AMRAR has observed small parties of enemy in vicinity of UM MITMAM moving North East.	Vol III appen 10
		1725	2 nd L.H. Bde report that patrol to RIGAL EL KHALLA reports all clear	
		2100	A & N.Z. Mtd. Div. Order No 61 issued: Information re advance of MOHAMED ALI PASHA'S force on EL ARISH and move forward to MAZAR on 2 nd Div. of 52 nd Div. The W. I.C.C. at HILL 133 to act as escort to railway construction party. 1 st L.H. Bde. to move to GERERAT on December 4 th , while 2 regts. from N.Z. M.R. Bde. take over ARNUSSI and ZOABATIA.	Vol III appen 1A
	2/12/16	0830	G.O.C. left to reconnoitre HILL 133 and BIREL GERERAT	
			3 rd L.H. Bde report that patrol yesterday found pass 2 miles S.E. of LOIET EL LAGAMA held by enemy snipers. Shots were exchanged.	
		1000	H.Q. No 2 Battalion I.C.C. and No 15 Co. reached MAZAR and came under orders G.O.C. A & N.Z. Mtd. Div.	Vol III appen II
		1125	N.Z. M.R. Bde report that patrol to GEBEL UM MAFRUTH has returned, having exchanged shots with enemy who were holding Western of the two passes. The eastern pass was crossed.	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Vol III Page 10

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			and an open plain on which many camels were grazing was seen. Patrol to RISKAN ANEIZA has also returned, bringing with them seven beehive found there. Two armed men who resisted were killed.	Vol III Appen 10
	3/12/16	0905	Instructions given to C.R.A. to move AYRSHIRE BATTY. R.H.A. from BIR EL ABD to MAZAR, leaving ABD on 4 th instant.	
			No 2 Battr. Hqrs. and No 15 Co I.C.C. arrived at MUSTAGIDDIA where they relieved No 12 Co. who marched out to TILUL	Vol III Appen 11
		1200	Squad. N.Z.M.R. Bde. relieved Squadron 1 st L.H. Bde at ZORBATIA.	Vol III Appen 14
		1440	Hostile aeroplane flew over MAZAR dropping two bombs. One fell harmlessly 50 yards S. of D.H.Q. one fell on anti-aircraft gun 300 yards East of D.H.Q. killing one man and wounding six.	
	4/12/16	0930	Squadron from N.Z.M.R. Bde arrived at ARNUSSI to relieve 1 st L.H. Bde.	
		1215	1 st L.H. Brigade arrived GERERAT 1 st L.H. Regiment camped at well 3 miles on bearing 281° from GERERAT owing to limited yield of wells at this latter place.	
		1520	'B' battery H.A.C., affiliated with 5 th Mtd. Bde, having come under orders of A & N.Z. Mounted Div, instructed to be prepared to leave ROMANI for MAZAR on 6 th instant.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Wadi Si.	5/12/16	0845	Escort of 15 men from No 14 Co Imperial Camel Corps at GEFILLA detailed to protect survey party at MOSEIFIG.	Vol III Appen 15.
		1200	A & N. Z. Mtd. Div. Order No 62 issued; - Information re move of 127 th infantry Brigade to Railhead on December 5 th etc. No 3 Co. I.C.C. at point 133 will come under orders of B.C.C. this Brigade. B.C.C. N.Z.M.R and 1 st L.H. Bdes to consult with B.C.C. 127 th infantry Bde. as to plan of action in case of attack.	
		1215	1 st L.H. Bde. report hostile aeroplane dropped 3 bombs at GERERAT without doing any damage.	
		1640	1 st L.H. Bde. report that patrol to EL AABASH sighted enemy post or patrol of 12 armed men and 5 camels about WADI ZUGHALA.	
Wadi Si.	6/12/16	1500	Instructions issued as to responsibility for watching the front. 127 th Bde are watching from the sea to the southern road inclusive, and 1 st L.H. Bde from road exclusive, to the east and South east of GERERAT	Vol III Appen 16
		2000	1 st L.H. Brigade report that patrol to WADI EL ARISH reached EL RIA at 0430 and prospected for water without result. No enemy were seen. Patrol has now returned to camp.	
Wadi Si.	7/12/16	0940	Desert Column informed that patrol sent yesterday from GERERAT towards LAHFAN to find road for artillery reports route possible but heavy sand and very rough. Route taken by camel patrol south of EL AABASH to HILL 630 much better. No sign of water in route - 3 beduin and 6 young camels captured.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Vol III Page 12

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	7/12/16	1410	2 nd L.H. Bde. patrol reports GEBEL EL BARGA and WADI EL KHARIG as far as point 1201 all clear.	
	8/12/16	1245 1630	2 nd L.H. Bde. report one unarmed beduin surrendered at MAGEIBRA. 1 st L.H. Bde. report that tests have been made for water in country 2 1/2 miles East of GERERAT without success.	
	9/11/16	1130 1850	"B" battery H.A.C. arrived at MAZAR and joined Divisional Artillery. 1 st L.H. Bde report that 3 different points shown examined by ABU ARTAA patrol show signs of having been visited by enemy during the night. One post of 15 ^{Camel} men after firing a few shots retired from HILL 1/2 mile N. of last L in ABU FILEIFIL north of point 89. Another enemy post was sighted at UM ZUGHLA. Tests for water were made in the vicinity of EL MURRA without result, but several wells in wadi running N.W. from GERERAT are being developed.	
	10/11/16		All patrols report all clear. No movement of troops. Well developing in valley west of GERERAT and at BIR PARRAMATTA (name given to wells where 1 st L.H. Regiment are camped 3 miles on a bearing mag. 281° from GERERAT) is being continued with good results. 2100 MAZAR Mounted Troops order No 1 for a field day on 13 th to practice attack on Turkish position at MASAITD issued	

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appen
17

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
log	11/12/16	1230 2100	1 st L.H. Bde. report hostile aeroplane dropped 3 bombs without doing any damage. Wireless section at MASSANIVA ordered to join Signal Squadron at MAZAR.	
log	12/12/16	0945 1205	Desert Column instruct that scheme proposed for tomorrow is postponed 24 hours Hostile aeroplane reported by 3 rd L.H. Brigade to have dropped 4 bombs on MAHMA killing one horse.	Vol III Appen 17
log	13/12/16	0400 1810 2215	Major General Channel returned and reassumed command A&N.Z. Mtd. Div. 1 st L.H. Bde. report discovery of good supply of water suitable for horses at depth of 11 feet about 1/2 of GHURFAN EI GIMAL. A 2 nd Division reports enemy activity in vicinity of ABU FILEIFEL.	
	14/12/16	0515 1115 1507	G.O.C. and staff left MAZAR and proceeded to ARNUSSI. From here and later from GERERAT the operations as in "MAZAR mounted troops Order No 1" were conducted. Message to 1 st L.H. Bde. by pigeon service from their patrol in WADI EL ARISH north of LAHFAN, states that patrol have discovered 4 wells and taken two Turks prisoner. 1 st L.H. Bde. report that enemy dropped 6 bombs on waddy wells without doing any damage.	

1875. Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Wells	14 th Con. Coy	2020	1 st L.H. Brigade ordered to send 1 regiment forward to cover wells at I of GHURFAN el GEMAL (where 9 wells have been opened up) and to connect with right of Infantry Bde acting as construction escort.	
Wells	15/2/16	0750 1115 1330 1800	3 rd L.H. Brigade report hostile aeroplane flew SSW over MALHA. Approval received for wells 3 miles W of distant on bearing of 281° from BIREG GERERAT to be named BIR PARRAMATTA. Instructions received for No 5 Co I.C.C. after being relieved by No 16 Co I.C.C. to proceed to MAZAR Orders received for 1/2 No 6 Co I.C.C. at GABSS to move to ABD and rejoin No 1 Bde. on 17 th instant. General channel to day provided to AIF Hqs. Cairo. General Clayton remained in command during his absence.	
Wells	16/2/16	0955 1000 1015	Word received from Desert Column that pack wireless section at ABU ARUK is proceeding to MAGEIBRA. Orders received for 1/2 No 6 Co I.C.C. at GABSS to move to ABD today instead of tomorrow. A & N.Z. Mtd Div. Order No 63 issued. Information re move forward to railhead of Infantry Brigades. Right flank of new forward position to be covered by 1 st L.H. Regiment at GIMAL. 2 batteries from A & N.Z. Div. Art. to be placed temporarily at disposal of A2 nd Div. Special instructions to Bdes. in case of attacks also issued. Instructions received that No 16 Co I.C.C. is to relieve No 14 Co. at GEFILA. No 14 Co. will then proceed to MAZAR to join Camel Bde. MAGEIBRA will be held by Light Horse only.	Vol III Appen. 18.

WAR DIARY

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(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
		1800	Fresh instructions received from Desert Column in accordance with which paras 1 d e f and 2 k of A & N. Z. Mtd Div. order No 63 will not come into force until further orders. Turkish dipter passed through D. H. Q. He states Garrison of EL ARISH area consists of 2 nd and 3 rd Battalions of 80 th Regt. and 4 mountain guns.	Vol III Appen 18
	17/12/16	1500	Approval received for New wells at 1 of GHURFAN EL GIMAL to be called BIR GIMPIE.	
		1515	Hostile aeroplane reconnoitred MAZAR, dropping four bombs.	
	18/12/16	1110	N.Z.M.R. Bde report hostile aeroplane dropped two bombs on ZOABATIA without doing any damage.	
	19/12/16	0200	GOC returned from Cairo.	
		0745	2 hostile aeroplanes reconnoitred MUSTAGIDDA and MAZAR dropping about 12 bombs. 10 R. wounded at MUSTAGIDDA.	
		1050	Approval received for valley containing wells running N.W. from GERER-AT to be called "New Zealand Valley."	
		2300	A & N. Z. Mounted Div. order No 64 issued. Information re move forward to KIL 0 128 of Infantry divisions, instructions for move forward to KIL 0 128 area of Brigades of A & N. Z. Mounted Div: D. H. Q. etc. to KIL 0 128 on 20 th December, N.Z.M.R. Brigade from MUSTAGIDDA to N.Z. VALLEY on 20 th Decemb. 3 rd L. H. Bde from MALHA to BIR GYMPIE.	Vol III appen 19.
			The I.C.C. Bde. come under orders A & N. Z. Mtd Div. today.	
	20 th -24 th		Operations resulting in occupation of EL ARISH and destruction of Turkish force at MAGHDABA	Vol III appen 19.

1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	25 th	1230	I.C.C. Brigade ordered to send one company to hold LAHFAN to be in position by 1200 tomorrow.	
		1725	Arrangements made for escort ^{of I.C.C.} with survey party at K140128 to be relieved by detachment 5 th Mounted Brigade.	
	26 th	1000	G.O.C. met Desert Column commander. During the day an inspection of Divisional Artillery, 3 rd A.L.H. and 12 th A.L.H. Brigades was made.	
		2037	Orders issued to 3 rd L.H. Brigade to detail one regiment to escort prisoners to K140139 tomorrow.	
	27 th	0915	G.O.C. met General Dohell, commanding Eastern Force, at MASAI'ID.	
		1030	1 Company I.C.C. acting as screen to armoured cars, entered MAGHDABA and found all clear.	
		1110	N.Z.M.R. Brigade arrived from BIR MASMI at new camp site on west east of MASAI'ID, their outpost line being taken over by I.C.C. Brigade.	
	28 th	0730	G.O.C. left D.H.Q. to meet Desert Column commander. I.C.C. Brigade was then visited.	
		1810	Report received from 12 th L.H. Brigade of reconnaissance to EL BURJ. Telegraph line reported in good order, road suitable for guns or cars. At BIR EL BURJ one stone well 30 feet deep with min to eight feet of water. At EL GERADI stone well eight feet deep 2 feet of water.	
		2200	A. & N.Z. Md. Div. order No 67 issued. 12 th L.H. Bde to carry out a reconnaissance of SHEIK ZOWEID on 30 th and 31 st December.	

Vol III
Appen 22

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Vol III Page 17

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
W. J. G.	29 th	1000	G.O.C. met G.O.C. Desert Column and a visit was made to N.Z.M.R. Brigade.	
W. J. G.	30 th	0800 1410	<p>12th L.H. Bde left on reconnaissance of SHEIK ZOWAID.</p> <p>Report received that 12th L.H. Bde arrived at SHEIK ZOWAID at 1320. About 100 inhabitants found, who state that Turkish patrol was in town yesterday morning. Water plentiful, contained in 2 large stone wells and reservoirs immediately N.E. of town, also 12 palm logged wells north of SARKHET and 3/4 mile W. of town. From a point about one mile W. of town to the east telegraph line has been destroyed. Country round SHEIK ZOWAID was found to be gently undulating grass and cultivated land, with conspicuous range of sand hills along the coast. Good water was found in holes at BIR GABR AMEIR. Advanced party on 14th 18th observed enemy parties about EL MAGRUNTEIN.</p>	Vol III Appen 22
W. J. G.	31 st	1315 1400 2120	<p>12th L.H. Brigade, having bivouacked the night at SHEIK ZOWAID, reached their camp east of EL ARISH.</p> <p>G.O.C. visited 12th L.H. Brigade camp.</p> <p>In accordance with instructions from Desert Column, orders issued for N.Z.M.R. and 3rd A.L.M. Brigades to return to railhead at KIL0 139 tomorrow, in order to facilitate supply arrangements.</p> <p>Map showing dispositions A & N.Z. Mtd. Div. at 2400 on 31st attached.</p>	Vol III Appen 23 Vol III Appen 25

SECRET.

1st. L.H. Bde.
 3rd. L.H. Bde.
 N.Z.M.R. Bde.

GENERAL STAFF.
 No. G/70/32.
 ANZAC MOUNTED ~~REG~~ DIVN.

The following patrols are required to be carried out as soon as possible under Brigade arrangements.

N.Z.M.R. Brigade (Camel Patrols).

- (a) To RISAN ANEIZA, examining tracks in that vicinity shown on the map.
- (b) GEBEL UM MAFRUTH - UM MITMAM and the passes through the GEBEL EL MISTAN.

1st. L.H. Brigade.

RASABU DHIABA - EL AJEIRA - KATIB EL SHAWAIL - POINT 255.

3rd. L.H. Brigade.

GEBEL EL AMRAP - LOIET LAGAMA - BIR EL ROGHWI.

In the Wadi EL LAGAMA, seven water holes were seen by a former patrol. Each was about 18" square, and roughly timbered. There only shallow soaks in the bed of the Wadi with probably only a limited supply, but the water was fresh and of good quality.

BIR EL ROGHWI has not yet been visited.

28/11/16.

(Sgd) W. J. URQUHART. Capt.
 for Lieut-Colonel.
 General Staff.
 A. & M. Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.

Note by A.W.R.S.

(The original of above is ^{also} referred to in diary for November 1916, and is filed with volume for that month)

SECRET.

Copy No. 19.

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION.ORDER NO. 60.

By
 Brig-General E. W. C. CHAYTOR, C. B.,
 Commanding A & N. Z. Mounted Division.

Divisional Headquarters,
 29th November, 1916.

Ref: Map :-
 1:125,000 QATIA.
 1:125,000 SABKHET EL BARDAWIL.

1. INFORMATION.

No 14 Coy. I. C. C. arrives at BIR EL ABD on 30/11/16.
 H-Qrs. No. 2 Battalion and 15th Coy. I. C. C. arrives at MAZAR on
 2/12/16. On arrival at ABD and MAZAR respectively these units
 come under orders of A. & N. Z. Mounted Division.

2. DISTRIBUTION.

- (a) On 1st December No. 14 Coy. will relieve No. 7. Coy at GE'EILA
 taking over the posts at WILLEGHA and GEISI. Relief to be
 completed by 1200.
- (b) No. 7 Coy. I. C. C. after being relieved on 1st Decr. will
 march the same day to BIR EL ABD. On arrival at ABD they will
 report by wire to Divisional Headquarters, after which they will
 come under orders of Desert Column.
- (c) On 3rd Decr. H-Qrs No. 2 Battalion and No. 15 Coy. I. C. C. will
 march to MUSTAGIDIA where they will relieve H-Qrs. No. 1 Battalion
 and No. 12 Coy. I. C. C. and come under orders of B. G. C., N. Z. M. R. Bde.
 Move to be completed by 1000.
- (d) H-Qrs No. 1 Battalion and No. 12 Coy. I. C. C. after being relie-
 ved on 3rd Decr. will march the same day to TILLUL where they will
 bivouac for the night.
- (e) On 4th Decr. H-Qrs. No. 1 Battalion and No. 12 Coy. I. C. C. will
 march to ABD. They will report their arrival by wire to D. H. Q.
 and will then come under orders of Desert Column.

(Sgd). J. GILBERT BROWNE, Lieut.-Col.
 General Staff.

Issued at 1200
 Copy No.

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | 1st L. H. Bde. | 13. | No 1 Bn. I. C. C. |
| 2. | 2nd L. H. Bde. | 14. | Desert Column. |
| 3. | 3rd L. H. Bde. | 15. | 52nd Division. |
| 4. | N. Z. M. R. Bde. | 16. | 42nd Division. |
| 5. | 5th Mtd. Bde. | 17. | R. F. C. |
| 6. | Div'l Art. | 18. | File. |
| 7. | Field Sqdn. | 19. | War Diary. |
| 8. | Signal Sqdn. | 20. | W "A" Branch. |
| 9. | H-Qrs: A. S. C. | 21. | G. O. C. |
| 10. | Div. Camel Tspt. | 22. | G. S. O. 1 |
| 11. | A. D. M. S. | 23. | G. S. O. 11. |
| 12. | A. D. V. S. | 24. | G. S. O. 111. |
| | 25. | No. 2 Bn. I. C. C. | |
| | 26. | No. 14 Coy. I. C. C. | |

Note by AWRS.

(The original of above order is also referred to
 in diary for Nov. 1916 and is filed with volume for
 that month.)

SECRET

Copy No. . . . 19.

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION

ORDER No. 01

by
 Brig-General E.W.C. CHAYTOR C.B.,
 Commanding A & N.Z. Mounted Division.

Divisional Headquarters,
 1st December 1916.

ref. Map :-

1:125,000 SABKHEH EL BARDAWIL.
 1:125,000 EL ARISH.

INFORMATION.

(a) Agents report that the advanced guard of MOHAMED ALI PASHA'S army numbering about 2,000 reached MASAI'ID. on the 25th inst. It may be assumed that the remaining 3,000 troops under this Commander are in or close to MASAI'ID. by this date.

(b) The 52nd Division (less 1 Infantry Bde group) reaches MAZAH from SALMANA on 2nd December. On arrival it forms the General Reserve.

(c) The remaining Bde of the 52nd Division will find, until relieved by two Battalions 100th Bde, the garrison of ARD, and will also provide protection of the L. of C. posts at SALMANA and ABU TILIL.

(d) The G.O.C. 42nd Division will select a position to be held by one Division to cover the railway station at MAADAN.

ESCORT TO CONSTRUCTION PARTY.

The Coy I.G.C. at HILL 135 will act as a direct escort of the Railway Construction Party, acting as far as these duties are concerned under the orders of the O/C Infantry escort.

MOVES.

(a) December 3rd. 1 Squadron N.Z.M.R. Bde will relieve the Squadron 1st L.H. Bde at ZOABATIA by 1200.

(b) December 4th. 1st L.H. Bde will move to BIR EL GERERAT under Bde arrangements.

The N.Z.M.R. Bde will detail one Squadron to occupy ARNUSSI arriving before the departure of the 1st L.H. Bde.

SUPPLY.

From the afternoon of December 4th, the 1st L.H. Bde and the Coy I.G.C. on Construction Party escort will draw rations and baggage from the dump at KILLO 123 with their 1st line transport camels.

J. GILBERT BROWNE Lieut-Col.
 General Staff

Issued at 2100

Copy No	1	1st L.H. Bde	15	No 1 Bn I.G.C.
	2	2nd L.H. Bde	14	Desert Column
	3	3rd L.H. Bde	15	52nd Division
	4	N.Z.M.R. Bde	10	42nd Division
	5	5th Mtd Bde	17	R.F.C.
	6	Div'l Art	10	File
	7	Field Sqn	19	War Diary
	8	Signal Sqn	20	'A' Branch
	9	H.Qrs. A.S.C.	21	G.O.C.
	10	Div. Camel Tapt	22	G.S.O. 1
	11	A.D.M.S.	25	G.S.O. 11
	12	A.D.V.S.	24	G.S.O. 111
		25	No 2 Bn I.G.C.	...

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SECRET.

Copy No. 19

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION.

ORDER No. 62

by
Brig-General E.W.O. CHAYTOR C.B.,
Commanding A. & N.Z. Mounted Division.Divisional Headquarters,
5th December 1916.

Ref. Map :-

1:125,000 QATIA
1:125,000 SABIBET EL BARDANIL
1:125,000 EL ARISH

1. INFORMATION.
 - (a) On and after 1200 on 4th December 1916 the **NORTHERN CANAL SECTION** will be extended to include the area up to, but excluding, BIR EL ABD.
From this time and date the L. of C. Posts in this area will come under the G.O.C. Northern Canal Section, the Headquarters of which will be at MAHAIDIYA.
 - (b) The Section 15th Heavy Battery R.G.A. at KANTARA will move to BIR EL ABD.
 - (c) The 127th Infantry Brigade (less 2 Battalions), Detachment 3rd E. Lincs. Field Coy R.E. and Mobile section E. Lincs. Field Amb. will move to Railroad on Decr. 5th.
On arrival at Railhead Brig-Genl ORMSBY C.B., will assume command of the Railway Construction Party escort.
2. COMMAND.
The above extension of command of the G.O.C. Northern Canal Section will not apply to the 2nd Light Horse Brigade (except the troop at KHIRBA) and the 5th and 14th Coys I.C.C. who will remain under orders of the G.O.C. A & N.Z. Mounted Division.
3. CAMEL COMPANIES.
No 3 Coy. I.C.C. at HILL 133 will now come under the command of Brig-General ORMSBY C.B.
4. The B.G.C. 1st Light Horse Brigade and N.Z.M.R. Bde will consult with Brig-General ORMSBY C.B., as to their action in case the enemy attacks and will submit their plan of action to D.H.Q.

J. GILBERT BROWNE Lieut-Col
General StaffIssued at 1200

Copy No	1	1st L.H. Bde	13	No 2 Bn I.C.C.
	2	2nd L.H. Bde	14	Desert Column
	3	3rd L.H. Bde	15	52nd Division
	4	N.Z.M.R. Bde	16	42nd Division
	5	5th Mtd Bde	17	R.F.C.
	6	Div'l Art	18	File
	7	Field Sqdn	19	War Diary
	8	Signal Sqdn	20	'A' Branch
	9	H-Qrs A.S.O.	21	G.O.C.
	10	Div Camel Tspt	22	G.S.O. 1
	11	A.D.M.S.	23	G.S.O. 11
	12	A.D.V.S.	24	G.S.O. 111

Copy
415

War Diary

Appendix No. 16.

14

1st L.H. Bde.
2nd L.H. Bde.
3rd L.H. Bde.
N.Z.M.R. Bde.
No. 2 Bn. I.C.C.
42nd Division (for information)
Desert Column. "

Vol III Appen 16

G/70/29

1. Cancel paras 2 and 3 (except last two lines) of our G/70/29 of 23/11/16.
2. 127th Bde (42nd Div) are watching the country to the East of a line from the sea through MAADAN Station to the Southern road inclusive, and have a post of Imperial Camel Corps on the road North of EL of GHURFAN EL GAMAL.
3. 1st L.H. Bde will watch the country to the East and S.E. of GERERAT from the Southern road exclusive.
4. They will continue to send a patrol once a day and once by night to connect the post of I.C.C. on the road mentioned above. In addition they will send a patrol daily to POINT 255 to meet the patrol from Squadron, N.Z.M.R. Bde at ARNUSSI.

(sgd) W.J. URQUHART, Captain,
for Lieut.-Col.,
General Staff,

A. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.

6/12/16.

MAZAR MOUNTED TROOPS.

ORDER No. 1

by
 Brig-General E.W.C. CHAYTOR C.B.,
 Commanding MAZAR Mounted Troops.

MAZAR, 10th Dec 1916.

Ref. Map:-

1:125,000 SABKHET EL BARDAWIL
 1:125,000 EL ARISH.

INFORMATION.

- (a) The enemy is in position from POINT 100 $\frac{3}{4}$ mile South of the Southern MAZAR - EL ARISH road to the small salt pan $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles South of the S of EL SEBIKA and thence Northwards to EL SEBIKA.
 (b) Our troops are located as in present camps.

INTENTION.

The G.O.C. MAZAR FORCE intends to attack the position on the 13th instant, the Infantry Division pushing forward from position of assembly at 0730.

The following is the general scheme of attack :-

- (a) The MAZAR MOUNTED TROOPS to assemble at ARNUSSI at 0700 and move thence by BIR EL GERERAT and attack enemy's left flank at POINT 100 and cut his line of retreat, timing its advance by the 42nd Division.
 (b) The 42nd Division will assemble at a point 1 mile South West of MUSTAGIDDA at 0700 and will attack the part of the enemy's position facing SOUTH West, having its right directed on POINT 100 and left on the small salt pan, moving forward to the attack at 0730.
 (c) The 52nd Division will assemble at point M of MAMLET MEKHEIZIN by 0700 and will attack the hostile position from the small salt pan inclusive to EL SEBIKA, moving forward to the attack at 0730.
 (d) In reserve at TOMB ABU GILBAN one Brigade 52nd Division and 2 sections 60 pounders, to be at that place by 0700.
 (e) Light Car Patrol will operate on the Northern flank under orders of the 52nd Division.
 (f) During the attack H-Qrs MAZAR FORCE report centre will be near KII 116 North of the railway. A visual signal station will be established by DESERT COLUMN Signal Coy on the ridge immediately East of HILL 70 in the Southern MAZAR - EL ARISH road as soon as Advanced Guards pass this point.
 (g) No 14 Squadron R.F.C. will supply one Machine as contact patrol and one for Artillery observation.

POSITION OF ASSEMBLY:

B.Gs C. 3rd L.H.Bde and N.Z.M.R.Bde will have the Bdes (as in special instructions) assemble at ARNUSSI by 0650 and will report their arrival to Div H-Qrs. Each Bde will detail one orderly officer to report to D.H.Q. at 0645.

4. AMMUNITION SUPPLY.

The S.A.A. camels (imaginary) will be brought up to ARNUSSI with the Division. Further supplies of S?A.A. will be demanded from the 42nd Division Ammunition Column.

5. WATER FOR HORSES.

Horses will be watered at ARNUSSI before moving off, and later will water at the BIR PARRAMATTA wells.

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

The O/C Signal Squadron will ensure that arrangements are made for keeping in communication with the MAZAR FORCE Headquarters and 42nd Division Headquarters. He will also see that facilities for co-operation with aeroplanes are with the Division.

7. MEDICAL.

Reception stations for sick and wounded will be found by each Div. at TILLUL.

8. REPORT CENTRE.

D.H.Q. will be first of all at the Trig point on the high sand hill $\frac{3}{4}$ mile a little North of West of ARNUSSI.

Issued at 2100

Lieut Col
 General Staff

Issued at 2100.

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Copy No	11	1st L.H. Bde	2	3rd L.H. Bde.
	3	N.Z.M.R. Bde	4	C.R.A.
	5	Field Squadron	6	Signal Squadron
	7	MAZAR FORCE	8	Desert Column
	9	52nd Division	10	'G'
	11	War Diary	12	'A' . . .
	13	File	14	A.D.M.S.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PRACTICE ON THE ATTACK ON THE
 M A S A I D POSITION.

1. The troops of the A & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION taking part in the exercise will be :-

- Headquarters, A & N.Z. Mounted Division
- ('G' Branch
- 1 representative of 'Q'
- A.D.M.S. (or representative)
- C.R.A. and such Battery Commanders as can be spared.
- O/C Field Squadron
- Divisional Signal Squadron

- 3rd Light Horse Brigade.
- Headquarters
- Signal Troop
- 2 Regiments
- Machine Gun Squadron

(In all cases less those required for duty at MALHA and outlying ~~places~~ posts)

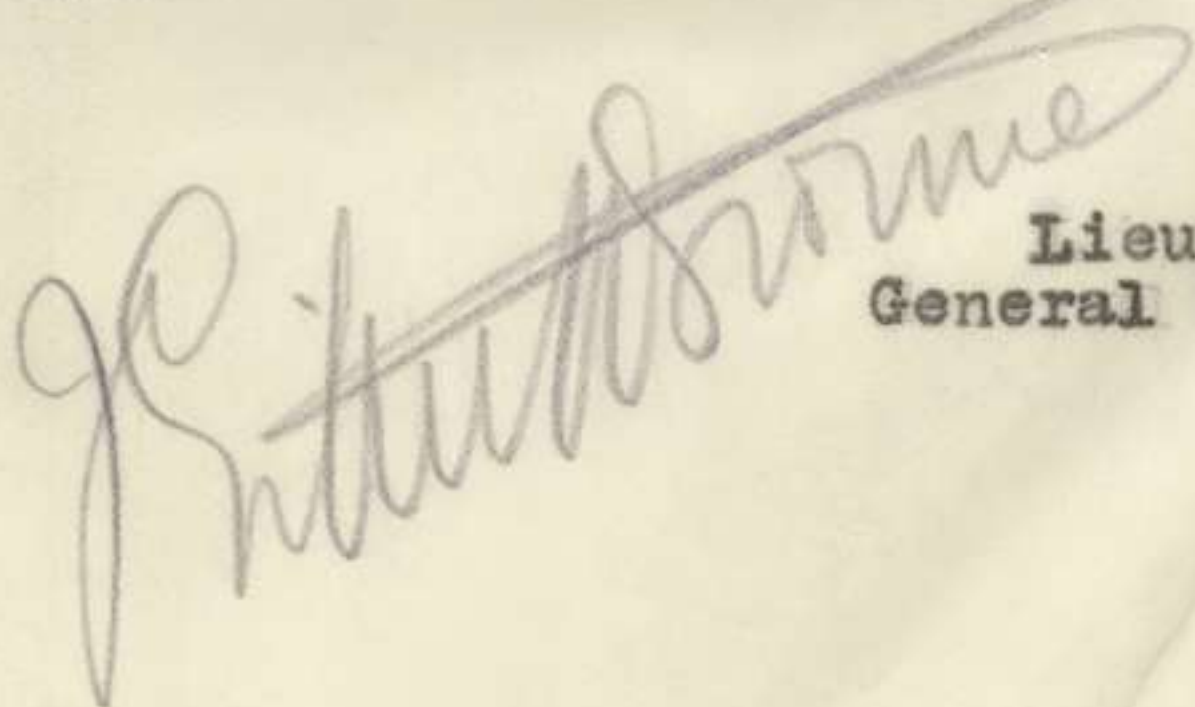
- N.Z.M.R. Bde.
- Headquarters
- Signal Troop
- 1 Regiment
- Machine Gun Squadron

(In all cases less those required for duty at MUSTAGIDDA and outlying posts)

If not engaged on work in front line B.G.C. 1st L.H. Bde and staff will attend. He will in any case send a representative.

2. The supply of ammunition will be carried out on paper, under arrangements made by the C.R.A.

3. Medical arrangements will be carried out only as a practice ~~of~~ under arrangements made by the A.D.M.S.



Lieut-Col
General Staff

MAZAR
11-12-16

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 GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRACTISING ATTACK ON THE M A S A I D
 POSITION ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13th.

- ENEMY POSITION. 1. A position has been selected resembling the Turkish position at MASAI D, and marked with flags.
 It is located as follows -
 From POINT 100, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile South of the Southern MAZAR - EL ARISH road, to the small salt pan $\frac{1}{2}$ miles South of S of EL SEBIKA, and thence Northwards to EL SEBIKA.
- RAILHEAD. 2. Railhead will be at KILO 108.
 TILLUL will represent MAADAN STATION.
- TROOPS. 3. The troops taking part in the practise will be -
 Hdqtrs, Desert Column (representatives).
 A. & N.Z. Mtd. Division, consisting of
 Div. Hdqtrs,
 One Mounted Brigade.
 42nd Division in three skeleton Brigades.
 52nd Division (less 1 Bde F.A.).
- SIGNALLING. 4. Signalling communication both laterally as well as from front to rear will be fully established by wireless, wire, and visual, except that 42nd Division will use visual only.
- AMMUNITION SUPPLY. 5. Ammunition supply will be practised.
- 1st LINE CAMELS. 6. 1st Line Camels will not be taken except those carrying water, ammunition, technical gear of signals, machine gun covers, Lewis Guns, R.E., and A.A.M.C.
- AMMUNITION, FEEDS, &C. 7. The usual ammunition, rations, and feeds for horses will be taken.
8. The Signal for the conclusion for the exercise - when troops will return to bivouac - will be the 'dismiss' sounded from Hdqtrs, MAZAR Force.
9. As soon as the practice is ended, Divisional Commanders will report to Hdqtrs, MAZAR Force, (42nd Div. Hdqtrs) -
 (a) How long it took their Division to form an assembly formation from column of route.
 (b) How long it took their Division to deploy into Artillery formation from assembly formation.
 (c) Remarks on ammunition supply and communications.
 (d) Infantry Division Commanders only will report the rate of movement of infantry deployed, before they begin to be checked by fire.
 (e) Mounted Division Commander will report the average rate of march of mounted troops making a flank movement.

Kittling

Lieut.-Colonel,
 General Staff,

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION.

11/12/16.

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION.

ORDER No. 65.

by Major-General H.G. CHAUVEL, C.B., C.M.G., Commanding A.S.N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.

Divisional Headquarters. 16th December, 1916.

Ref. Map:•

- 1,125,000 BARBUNT EL BARDAWIL. 1,125,000 EL ARISH.

1. INFORMATION.

- (a) The Station at Kilo 128 being now complete, the construction Eastwards will be resumed. (b) The 127th Infantry Brigade, now acting as escort to the Railway Construction Party will occupy a position further East. In the event of attack, this Brigade will now give battle in its position, other troops from MASAR being moved up in support if required. (c) One Brigade group 52nd Division will be moved up so as to reach KILO 128 on December 16th, and will come under other orders of Brig-General GIBNEY, Commandg 127th Infantry Brigade. (d) The 52nd Division, (less the aforesaid Brigade Group) will move from MASAR so as to reach KILO 128 on December 17th. (e) On December 18th the G.O.C., 52nd Division will become responsible for covering the Railway construction party, and will select a position to be occupied by his Division. In addition to his Division he will have the following troops under him:• 127th Infantry ^{Brigade} Group with ^{Artillery} Field ~~Artillery~~ Group attached. No 1 Armoured Train. No 7 Light Car Patrol. No 3 Company Imperial Camel Company.

(f) The G.O.C., 52nd Division will have his reserve at KILO 128.

2. INSTRUCTIONS.

- (a) The 1st A.S.N. Regiment now camped in the neighbourhood of the wells at GHURPAN EL GHAL will for the present cover the right flank of Brigade acting as escort to the Railway construction party. The G.S.A. will detail:• (b) Two H.A. Batteries which will be placed at the disposal of the G.O.C. 42nd Division to replace the F.A. Group of the 52nd Division now covering the ~~side~~ right of the Masar position.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

3. Special Instructions by the A. & N.Z. Mounted Division are attached

J. GILBERT BROWN Lieut. Colonel. General Staff.

Issued at 1000

- Copy No. 1. 1st. H.H. Bde 13. No 2 Batta. G.O.C. 2. 2nd L.N. Bde 14. Desert Column. 3. 3rd L.N. Bde. 15. 52nd Division 4. H.H.M.M. Bde 16. 42nd Division 5. 5th Mounted Bde 17. R.F.C. 6. Divisional Artillery 18. File 7. Field Squadron 19. Car Diary 8. Signal Squadron 20. "A" Branch 9. Hdqrs. A.S.N. 21 G.O.C. 11. Imperial Camel Transpt. 22. G.S.A. 1 23. G.S.A. 2 12. G.S.A. 3 24. G.S.A. 3

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SECRET

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Our G/66/23 of 8.12.16 is now cancelled and the following substituted.

1. If a hostile ^{advance} is now made the Infantry Brigade Group covering the Railway construction party has been ordered to give battle in its present position, the troops necessary to deal with the enemy being moved up from MAZAR.
2. The B.C.C. 1st L.H. Brigade will ~~now~~, as soon as the alarm takes place
 - (a) Turn out his Brigade.
 - (b) Get into communication with G.C.C. Force covering the Railway Construction Party and determine what action he is to take
 - (c) Push out reconnoitring parties and gain touch with the enemy.
 - (d) Inform the Anzac Mounted Division at once of his action and how the situation stands.
3. The B.C.C. N.Z.M.R. Brigade will immediately, on receipt of the news of the attack turn out his Brigade reporting to the Anzac Mounted Division directly he is ready. He will remain pending orders from D.H.Q. at MUSTAGIDDA.
4. The 3rd L.H. Brigade at BIR EL MALHA will be ready to deal with any enemy advance from the south.

(Signed) J. GILBERT BROWNE Lieut.Col.
General Staff

A. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.

SECRET

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Vol III Appen 19

Copy No. 19

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION

ORDER No. 64

by
Major General H. G. CHAUVEL, C.B., C.F.C.
Commanding A. & N. Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.

Divisional Headquarters
December 19th 1916.

Ref Map :-

1/125,000 SAKKET EL BARDAWIL
1/125,000 EL ARISH.

1. INFORMATION.

The following moves will take place on WEDNESDAY 20th DECEMBER.
52nd Division (Less 1 Brigade Group) from MAZAR to KILO 128 leaving MAZAR 0700.
42nd Division (Less 1 Brigade Group and 1 P.A. Group) from MAZAR to KILO 128 leaving MAZAR 1100.
Imperial Camel Corps Brigade from MAZAR to KILO 128 leaving MAZAR at an hour to be detailed by P.G.C.
ROUTE SOUTH OF CARAVAN ROUTE
5th Mounted Brigade from MAZAR to KILO 128 to be at destination before dusk
SOUTH NORTH OF CARAVAN ROUTE

2. INSTRUCTIONS.

- The Moves of the Anzac Mounted Division will be as follows
- (a) Divisional Headquarters, Signal Squadron, Field Squadron and Hdqrs, A. S. C. to KILO 128 to a site to be fixed by the Administrative Commandant.
Move to be completed by 5 p.m. on December 20th
 - (b) Divisional Artillery will move as follows under arrangements made by C. P. A.
INVERNESS BATTY. to join 3rd I. H. Brigade at BIR GYMPIE.
SOMERSET, & LEICESTER BATTY. to NEW ZEALAND VALLEY WELLS to camp with the N. Z. M. B. Brigade.
AYRSHIRE BATTY. will remain at MAZAR for the present.
"B" BATTY. H. A. C. to join 5th Mounted Brigade at KILO 128.
 - (c) N. Z. M. B. Brigade will move from EL MUSTAGIDDA and surrounding posts to NEW ZEALAND VALLEY WELLS to a site to be selected by the Brigadier. Hour and Route to be arranged by Brigadier. Move to be completed by 1630 on Dec. 20th.
 - (d) 3rd I. H. Brigade will move from BIR EL MAIHA and outlying posts to BIR GYMPIE WELLS (Close to the "I" of GHURBAN EL GIMAL) to a site selected by the Brigadier. Hour and route to be arranged by the Brigadier.
Move to be completed by 1630 on December 20th.
3. Troops will move on as broad a front as possible. All Units will be responsible for their own protection on the march. Brigades and Units must march so as not to interfere with march of Infantry Columns.
 4. No tents will be pitched. Every effort will be made to make bivouacs as inconspicuous as possible. For this reason it is desirable to picquet animals only on scrub covered hillsides while bare sand patches should be left alone.
 5. The P. G. C. 3rd I. H. Brigade will, on arrival at BIR GYMPIE place one Regiment under the orders of the G. O. C. 52nd Division. This Regiment will again come under orders of the P. G. C. 3rd I. H. Bde at 1430 on December 21st. An Officer from this Regiment will report to Brigadier General Hamilton-Moore, Commanding 157th Infantry Bde at Kilo 128 at 0800 on 20th December

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2

6. On arrival of 3rd I.H. Brigade at BIR GYMPIE the Regiment 1st I.H. Brigade now bivouacked there will rejoin ~~xxxx~~ its Brigade.
7. Supply and water arrangements for forthcoming operations are attached.
8. Mobile Section of 3rd I. F. F. A. and N. Z. M. F. A. will accompany Brigades.
9. Divisional Headquarters will close at MAZAR at 1700 and open at KHI 128 at the same hour.

(Signed) J. GILBERT BROOME, Lt. Col.
General Staff
A. & N. Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.

Issued at 2300

Copy No.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| 1. | 1st I.H. Bde. | 13. | No 2 Battalion I.C.C. |
| 2. | 2nd I.H. Bde. | 14. | Desert Column |
| 3. | 3rd I.H. Bde. | 15. | 42nd Division |
| 4. | N.Z. M.F. Bde. | 16. | 52nd Division. |
| 5. | 5th Mtd. Bde. | 17. | R. F. C. |
| 6. | Dir. Artillery. | 18. | File. |
| 7. | Field Squadron | 19. | War Diary. |
| 8. | Signal Squadron | 20. | "A" Branch |
| 9. | Hdqs. A.S.C. | 21. | G. O. C. |
| 10. | Dir. Camel Transport. | 22. | G.S.O. 1 |
| 11. | A.D.M.S. | 23. | G.S.OI 11 |
| 12. | A.E.V.S. | 24. | G.S.O. 1V |

Secret
AUSTRALIAN & ALLIED MOUNTED DIVISION.

O.T.D. No 65

by
 For General H.G. CHAUVELL, C.B., C.M.G.
 Commanding A. & M. M. MOUNTED DIVISION.

Divisional Headquarters
 December 20th 1916.

Ref. 1/125,000 SUBJECT LL BARDAIL
 1/125,000 LL BRISH.

1. INFORMATION.

(a) Information has been *from a confirmed spy* obtained that 5 Tabors of Turkish and Syrian Troops with 2 Austrian guns reached the region KILBI-ABU-SAGAL-LL-SAMIF on the 17th inst and camped there. Aeroplane observation has found no trace of these troops in the area indicated.

MOVES OF (b) The following are the moves of our troops for December 21st and 22nd.
 TROOPS OF
 DESERT COLUMN.
 for Dec 21st
 22nd.

5th Mounted Brigade

At 1400 on December 21st one Squadron will lightly pic net the line ABU FELLIFIL (North) to ABU FELLIFIL (South) and keep a *formed* body South east of the latter place as a protection to the Infantry. This Squadron will remain in position until the advanced guards of the 42nd and 52nd Divisions have passed through its line and will then concentrate at ABU FELLIFIL (North) and observe the left flank. On December 22nd the 5th Mounted Brigade will leave KILLO 128 at such an hour as to enable it to reach ABU FELLIFIL (South) at 0530, where the G.O.C. will place himself under the orders of G.O.C. 42nd Divn. 42nd & 52nd Divisions.

At 1630 on December 21st the 42nd and 52nd Division will move from KILLO 128 and march to BARDAIL. The 42nd Divn South of the telegraph line, and the 52nd North of it.

at 2030 December 21st HUSH will be reached, and Divns will pause there until Commanders have satisfied themselves that the line ABU FELLIFIL (North and South) is securely pic netted by our Cavalry.

As soon as the advanced guard have passed through the Cavalry screen the G.O.'s Divisions will be responsible for their own security. The BARDAIL line will be occupied by 2400 on December 21st/22nd.

At 0630 on December 22nd the Infantry Divisions will continue to move Eastwards, the 52nd North of the Telegraph Line, the 42nd South of it, and brush aside the outpost line at KILSM-CAFANEM.

This position should be occupied by 0800 and the advance continued on UJRAH EL ZOL at 0830.

During the Advance the G.O.C. 52nd Division will leave one Brigade on the Caravan route.

North of the A in ABU FELLIFIL (South) to be in General Reserve under Desert Column Commander.

The Infantry Divisions will continue their advance during the Naval Bombardment and occupy positions from which the attack will be developed.

The attack will be developed from the west by the two Divisions working abreast.

The attack will be pressed by both Divisions as long as organised resistance is met with. Where it ceases 42nd Division will remain in position in readiness to move on on receipt of orders.

52nd Divisions will make good MASAID wood and water supply in that area but will proceed no further east without orders.

Both Divisions will be ready to send forward their guns under sufficient escort should they be required to support the Cavalry.

No 7 Light Car Patrol is placed under the G.O.C. 52nd Division from 1330 on December 21st.

-2-

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The 2 Sections 60 pounders will be ~~formed into a group~~ of Corps Artillery under the B.G.R.A. Desert Column by 1500 on December 21st and will move in rear of the 42nd Division.

The Royal Navy will be registered on MASAIH BOOD on December 22nd and their fire will be lifted on the enemy's main position. The Bombardment will cease at 1100 on December 22nd.

MOV. 5 2. (a) The Camel Brigade will leave KILO 128 on December 21st and march to a point about UM UGHIA where they will remain hidden during daylight on 21st only keeping out such small posts as are necessary for their own local protection. The hour of start is left to the Brigadier but he must ensure that no one of his force is marching over ground which can be overlooked after daylight. Special precautions that his force is made as inconspicuous as possible during the whole operations. As soon as he reaches his position about UM UGHIA B.G.C. will send off all parties to occupy the points EL ARASH, EL UEDA, EL AHMER, and ABU IHLIMAN. They will withdraw at dusk on December 21st under Brigade arrangements. A guide to take the Camel Brigade to its position will be provided by 1st Light Horse Brigade.

On the night December 21st/22nd the Camel Brigade will leave its position about UM UGHIA and cross the WADI EL ARISH, and be in position at 0530

On December 22nd. East of EL ARISH from the seashore to the NW of QUITIYATICH (1 mile east of the NW of EL ARISH).

The B. G. C. Camel Brigade will be responsible for cutting the telegraph lines (a) from EL ARISH eastwards near the coast and (b) from EL ARISH to BIR LAHFAN.

The 1st Light Horse Brigade will leave GERARAT on the evening of December 21st at an hour to be arranged by the Brigadier and will march to a position from the left of the camel Brigade to a point on the west of the WADI EL ARISH site the "V" in LINES.

They will be in this position by 0530 on December 22nd. The Brigade will be responsible for keeping connection with the left of the Camel Brigade. He will also detail a detachment to patrol at the WADI towards BIR LAHFAN and keep a watch on the detachment there.

(b) Divisional Headquarters, The N.F.M.R. Brigade, the 3rd Light Horse Brigade and the Leicester, Somerset, and Inverness Batteries will march under instructions to be issued later so as to close all exits from the SOUTH. Divisional Headquarters will be at Hill 120.

(c) N.F.M.R. Brigade will be about 1½ miles north east of BIR EL MASMI and will be responsible for getting and keeping connection with the 1st Light Horse Brigade.

(d) The 3rd Light Horse Brigade will be in position between the N.F.M.R. Bde and the 5th Mtd. Bde. and will be responsible for getting connection with both Brigades.

All moves to be completed and Brigades in position by 0530 on Dec. 22nd.

A guide for the column will be provided by the 1st L.H. Bde.

3. The whole object of the Inzac Mounted Division and the Camel Brigade is to ensure that as soon after midnight as possible on the night Dec 21st/22nd all avenues of escape for the enemy from EL ARISH and MASAIH are closed to him. This will cause considerable dispersion of force but Brigades must ensure that they retain as much as possible concentrated to deal with the enemy should he attempt to break through the line. Should the enemy put up a fight on the MASAIH position, the G.O.C. Inzac Mounted Division will be prepared to move the whole force against his rear and left flank and assist the Infantry attack. If the enemy retired the G.O.C. Inzac Mounted Division will move the whole force into the Wadi to either capture or pursue the retiring troops.

4.

4/8

As soon as possible after dawn on December 22nd a landing ground will be selected in the Wadi south of EL ARISH at the North East corner of the cross roads just south of the "C" in CULTIVATION about 2 1/2 miles south of EL ARISH.

The O.C. SIGNAL SQUADRON will be responsible for the selection and placing of this mark.

5 WATER

Every effort will be made by brigades to develop water in the positions they take up on December 22nd. This should be put in hand directly Bde's arrive.

If operations are successful the following water area in EL ARISH is allotted to the A. & N. Mounted Division. All water East of a north and south line drawn through [5] MASA ID. The O.C. Field Squadron will be responsible for the development of water in this area.

6. ACTION
IF OPERATIONS
ARE SUCCESS-
FUL.

If operations prove successful a line of observation facing east and south will be put out.

7.

All civil inhabitants will be secured and held until Major BARLOW'S instructions regarding them are received. He will be with the Camel Brigade.

(Signed) J. GILBERT BROWN Lt. Col
General Staff
A. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.

Issued at 1200

of Camel Bde

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|-----|-------------------------------|
| Copy No. 1. | 1st L.H. Bde. | 13. | No. 2 Batta I.C.C. |
| 2. | 2nd L.H. Bde. | 14. | Desert Column. |
| 3. | 3rd L.H. Bde. | 15. | 42nd Division. |
| 4. | N.Z.M.R. Bde. | 16. | 52nd Division. |
| 5. | 5th Mtd Bde. | 17. | R.F.C., |
| 6. | Divl Arty. | 18. | Filo. |
| 7. | Field Sqn. | 19. | War Diary. |
| 8. | Signal Sqn. | 20. | 'A' Branch. |
| 9. | H.Q. A.S.C., | 21. | G.O.C., |
| 10. | Divl Camel Troop. | 22. | G.S.O. I. |
| 11. | A.D.M.S., | 23. | G.S.O. II. |
| 12. | A.D.V.S., | 24. | G.S.O. III. |

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION

Appendix No. 21

ORDER No 66

by

Major General H. G. CHAUVEL C.B., C.M.G.
Commanding A. & N. Z. MOUNTED DIVISIONDivisional Headquarters
December 20th 1916

Ref Map :-

1/125000 SABKHET EL BARDAWIL
1/125,000 EL ARISH

1. INFORMATION

It is reported that the enemy shows signs of having evacuated EL ARISH. Aeroplanes report heavy tracks leading south and increase in the Camps at RAFA and MAGDEBA.

2. MOVES.

The Anzac Mounted Division and Camel Brigade will leave their Bivouacs tonight so as to arrive East and South of EL ARISH at an early hour tomorrow and prevent the escape of any enemy/there.

who are

- (a) 1st Light Horse Brigade will leave GERERAT at an hour to be fixed by the ~~XXXXXX~~ Brigadier so as to arrive East of EL ARISH not later than 0530. His position will be, right on the Seashore, and left on the "W" of Cultivation. He will be responsible for cutting the telegraph lines leaving to the East and EL ARISH to LAHFAN.
- (b) The Camel Brigade will march under Brigade arrangements and will take up a position by 0530 on December 21st with right on the "W" of CULTIVATION and left on the west bank of WADI EL ARISH opposite the "V" in VINES. He will be responsible for keeping connection with the 1st Brigade. He will send a detachment down the WADI EL ARISH towards LAHFAN.
- (c) Divisional Headquarters, N. Z. M. R. Brigade, LEICESTER & SOMERSET Batteries will rendezvous at BIR GYMPIE not later than 1700. They will march to Hill 120 about 1 mile west of BIR MASMI under orders to be issued later.
- (d) 3rd Light Horse Brigade will, with the INVERNESS Battery leave BIR GYMPIE at an hour to be fixed by the B. G. C. and march to Hill 120 and report to G.O.C. Anzac Mounted Division not later than 0530 on December 21st.

3.

Divisional Headquarters will be at BIR GYMPIE at 1700

Signed) J. SILBERT BROWNE Lieut Col
General Staff
ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION.

Issued at 1330

Copy No 1	1st L H Bde	12 A. D. V. S.
2	2nd L H Bde	13 Desert Column.
3	3rd L.H.Bde	14 42nd Division
4	4 N. Z. M. R. Bde	15 52nd Division
5	5th Mtd Bde.	16 16 R. F. C.
6	Camel Brigade	17 File
7	"A" Branch	18 War Diary
8	Divsl Artillery	19 G. O. C.
9	Divsl Camel Trnspt	20 G.S.O. 1
10	A.D.M.S.	21 G.S.O. 11
11	Hdqs, A.S.C.	22 G.S.O. 111

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 AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION

Appendix No. 22

426 A
 ORDER No. 67

by

Major General H. G. CHAUVEL C.B., C.M.G.
 Commanding, A. & N. Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.

Divisional Headquarters
 December 28th 1916,

Ref Map.

1/125,000 EL ARISH
 1/125,000 BATA

INTENTION 1. The 1st L.H. Brigade will carry out a reconnaissance of EL BURJ and SHEIKH ZOWAID on 30th December and 31st December 1916 to obtain information regarding :-

- (a) ROADS - Coast Road and the other further South.- Suitability for Motor Transport - Rate of March of march for infantry on them etc.
- (b) WATER - On roads and at SHEIKH ZOWAID.
- (c) SHEIKH ZOWAID itself.

The Brigade will bivouac at SHEIKH ZOWAID on night 30th/31st December. Patrols will not go further than 5 miles east of SHEIKH ZOWAID.

SUPPLIES AND WATER 2. One and two third ration will be carried by each man. Two feeds for each horse will be carried in nose bags. One day's forage and water will be taken on first line camels. The Camels will follow the column under Brigade arrangements.

MEDICAL 3. The Mobile Section (complete) 1st L. H. Field Ambulance will accompany the Brigade.

COMMUNICATIONS. 4. The Signal Squadron will have communications established between Divisional Headquarters and the 1st L.H. Brigade.

OUTPOST LINE EL ARISH 5. The G.O.C. 1st Camel Brigade will take over the observation posts at Hills 100, 110, and 160 at 0800 on 30th December. The G.O.C. 1st L.H. Brigade will relieve the 1st Camel Brigade of these posts at 0800 on 1st January 1917

REPORTS 6. Reports will be sent to Divisional Headquarters every two hours.

(Signed) J. GILBERT BROOME.
 Lieut Colonel
 General Staff

Issued at 2200

Copy No	1	1st L.H. Bde	13	G.O.C. Camel Brigade
	2.	2nd L.H. Bde	14	Desert Column
	3.	3rd L.H. Bde.	15	42nd Division
	4.	N.Z.M.R. Bde	16	52nd Division
	5.	5th Mounted Bde	17	R. F. C.
	6.	Divsnl Artillery	18	File
	7.	Field Squadron	19	War Diary
	8	Signal Squadron	20	"A" Branch
	9	Hd rs. A.S.C.	21	G.O.C.
	10	Divsnl Camel Transport	22	G.S.C. I
	11	A.D.M.S.	23	G.S.C. II
	12	A.D.V.S.	24	G.S.C. III

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"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: 23	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.						Service.
<i>Vol III</i> Sent <i>23</i> At.....m. To..... By.....					(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	From.....
					By.....	By.....

TO 1st L.H. Bde. 2nd L.H. Brigade 3rd L.H. Bde. N.Z. Bde
 1st Camel Bde C.R.A. ~~Sydney~~ O.C. A.S.C.
 Sig Sqn "A" "Q" Field Sqn

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* G 241	31		

As all convoy Camels possible are required for next few days for accumulation of supplies at EL ARISH N.Z.M.R Bde and 3rd L.H. Bde and attached units less artillery will march to KILO 139 tomorrow morning 1st JANUARY under arrangements made between Brigadiers AAA No supplies will be drawn before marching AAA Each Bde will send representative to Administrative Commdt. KILO 139 to allot Camp site AAA Supplies will be drawn direct from KILO 139 and watering carried out from the train AAA Each Bde will leave portion of Field Troop at MASAID to continue developement of water AAA Small details will also be left to look after Camp site and Heavy Baggage AAA 1st Camel Bde will detail one Company per Battalioin to go to KILO 139 tomorrow for purpose of bringing in further supplies AAA One officer will be placed in charge of these 3 companies and will report to Administrative Commdt, KILO 139 on arrival AAA Acknowledge.

From ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION

Place

Time *2120*

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) *W. J. ...*

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

* This line should be erased if not required.

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AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION.

OPERATIONS December 20th to December 24th.

including

THE OCCUPATION OF EL ARISH

and

THE ATTACK AT BIR EL MAGHDABA.

On receipt of Operation Order No. 7 from Desert Column, the G.O.C., Anzac Mounted Division ordered a meeting of Brigadiers of the 1st and 3rd L.H. Brigades the N.Z.M.R. Brigade, the Camel Brigade and the C.R.A., to explain his instructions as to the carrying out of these orders.

* December 20th 1916.

1000 The meeting took place at D.H.Q., BIR EL MAZAR at 1000, and orders for the
advance on EL ARISH were read out. At 1045, however, General CHAUVEL was sud-
1045 ly called for by telephone to go and see the G.O.C., Desert Column. On arrival
at Desert Column Headquarters in the SABKHET EL MUSTABIG, he was told that the
enemy were reported to have evacuated EL ARISH. The former orders for an
advance were cancelled, and the Anzac Mounted Division were ordered to march
that evening and surround EL ARISH at dawn next day. The 5th Mounted Brigade
who were acting under orders of Desert Column were to march direct along the
telegraph line on EL BITTIA. The possibility of the news being false was con-
sidered, and in that case the former orders held good, and the feeding of the
Anzac Mounted Division was to take place through UM ZUGHLA.

1315 General CHAUVEL returned to Divisional Hdqtrs about 1315, and orders for the
operation were issued. The 1st L.H. Brigade were to be in position East of
EL ARISH from the sea to a point some 2½ miles South where the Camel Brigade
were to join with them, continuing the line S.E. of the town across the Wadi,
thus closing all exits East and S.E., by 0530 on December 21st. The N.Z.M.R.
Brigade and 3rd L.H. Brigade with D.H.Q. were to concentrate at BIR GYMPIE and
march, after supplies had been issued, to close the Southern exits from the tow
1430 D.H.Q. left the Camp at BIR EL MAZAR at 1430 and went, via Kilo 128, to BIR
GYMPIE, arriving about 1715.

1730 As it seemed almost certain that no enemy were in EL ARISH, and the going by
night, with no moon, was likely to be difficult, the C.R.A. suggested that the
guns should not accompany the Force, but should follow the road, and join the
Division next day. This was submitted for approval to Desert Column and
agreed to, and therefore orders were issued for the Leicester, Somerset and
Inverness Batteries to stay at BIR GYMPIE with an escort of one squadron, 3rd
L.H. Brigade, until dawn, 0630, on December 21st and then move along the main
Caravan Route direct on EL ARISH, but not to pass the 5th Mounted Brigade until
they received orders to do so.

2145 At 2145, the Column left BIR GYMPIE in the following order of march. One sqdn.
N.Z.M.R. BDE under Major WHITEHORN, A.M.R., advanced guard, Divn. Hdqtrs.,
N.Z.M.R. Brigade, 3rd L.H. Brigade. Lieut FINLAYSON of the Canterbury Regiment
N.Z.M.R. Brigade, was with the vanguard and acted as guide to the Column as he
had previously been over the ground by night on a patrol to HILL 120, one mile
West of BIR EL MASMI which was the objective of the march. To reach this,
the march had to be due East for 4 hours by which time UM ZUGHLA should be
reached. Then the direction was North East for one hour.

December 21st 1916.

The Occupation of EL ARISH.

[*
20th
1200 A & N.Z. Mtd Div. order No 65 issued, containing instructions for
march on EL ARISH on 21st and 22nd Dec. Vol III Appen 20
1330 A & N.Z. Mtd. Div. order No 66 issued, information having been
received that enemy was evacuating EL ARISH, attacks ordered
for dawn on 21st instead of 22nd as in order No 65 above. Vol III Appen 21]

0115

432

At 0115 the Column passed just north of the Camel Brigade, and the First line Camels of the 1st L.H. Brigade which were halted near UM ZUGHLA. The B. G. C. 1st L.H. Brigade, finding his camels were delaying him, had left them under an escort and pushed on with his Brigade. By 0200 The column was at UM ZUGHLA, and as it was not desired to be in position much before 0530, General CHAUVEL ordered a halt until 0330, when the march was continued.

0520

At 0505 the column was halted, the head of the column having reached the road which runs from UJRET EL ZOL past BIR EL MASMI to the Wadi.

0545

As it got lighter it was found that Hill 120, the objective, lay only 300 yards to the west of where Divisional Headquarters were, a testimony to the extremely good leading of Liut FINLAYSON.

0630

Directly the sun rose the Helios were got to work and communication was got with 52nd Division, and with Desert Column on Hill 133. A patrol of the 1st L. H. Brigade could be seen on the sandhill, south east of, but close to the town. No firing took place.

0710

At 0710 General CHAUVEL ordered patrols from the 3rd L. H. Brigade to EL BITTIA, UJRET EL ZOL, and MASSAID, and from the N. Z. M. R. Brigade to EL ARISH.

For the present D. H. Q. remained on Hill 120, Brigade Hdqrs, 3rd L.H. Brigade, close by. Brigade Headquarters of the N. Z. M. R. Brigade moved to BIR EL MASMI. The situation was sent in to Desert Column.

0720

At 0720 the 1st L. H. Brigade reported that they were in position East of EL ARISH. Communication was not obtained with the Imperial Camel Corps but these troops could be seen in the Wadi south of EL ARISH. Subsequent reports showed that the orders had been carried out and that a complete cordon had been in position at Dawn from the Sea east of EL ARISH to Hill 120 South of Massaaid, closing all exits from the Town and the enemy's late position at MASSAID.

0745

At 0745 General CHAUVEL sent Captain URQUHART into EL ARISH to see about the Civil population. Major Alexander and Colonel DOWNES also went into the Town to see about the water facilities.

0915

An aeroplane message was dropped on D. H. Q. at 0915 reporting LAHFAN and the surrounding country all clear.

General CHAUVEL sent orders to the Brigades to take up a line of observation posts to watch the country east and south of the place, strength of the posts, 1 Troop each, and to be there for 24 Hours, the 1st Bde. to have posts on Hills 110, 100, and 160, the Camel Brigade a section on Hills 220, and 320, and the N.Z.M.R. Brigade a troop on Hill 260. For the time being, also, a section from the N. Z. M. R. Brigade was put out on some high ground 2 miles south of Hill 120. Orders were also sent to the C. R. A. to bring the Batteries up the main Caravan route and come himself to EL ARISH.

0930

At 0930 the N. Z. M. R. Brigade Patrol reported EL ARISH Clear, The 1st L. H. Brigade also reported No Turks there at the same time. 1 Prisoner only was caught in the town. 0935

0935

The situation was given to Desert Column at 0935.

0945

At 0945 report was received that MASSAID was all clear also that the inhabitants of EL ARISH were secured. Picquets having been put round the town. A report on the water pronounced it good.

1000

The people of the place reported that the Turks had left 3 days ago. At 1000 the Desert Column was informed that EL ARISH was occupied. General CHAUVEL then ordered the 3rd L. H. Brigade to move forward and select a bivouac in BIR EL MASMI. Divisional Headquarters moved from Hill 120, leaving a helio Station there and rode on to EL ARISH. From information gathered in the town some 500 0 Turks were reported to have left there 3 days ago for MAGHABA. General CHAUVEL rode across the Wadi to see the 1st L. H. Brigade.

1330

The only casualties occurred about this hour, 1330, when two men of the 1st L. H. Brigade were blown up by a stranded mine on the beach. The 1st L. H. Brigade were on the Telegraph line East of El Arish but had already selected a bivouac close to the sea. They moved in to it keeping out the posts.

1600

General CHAUVEL returned to the Town and D. H. Q. were established on the Beach. The position of the Anzac Mounted Division at 1600 was :- D.H.Q. on the beach, One mile north of EL ARISH; 1st L.H. Brigade close to the beach about a mile east of the mouth of the Wadi with line of observation posts facing east on Hills 110, 100, and 160; The Camel Brigade at Hill 200 on the west bank of the Wadi with outpost line facing east and south through points 220 and 320 GOZ EL DHABAA, and 210; The N.Z.M.R. Brigade at BIR EL MASMI with line of observation posts to watch the country south from but excluding point 210 to Hill 120 1 mile west of BIR EL MASMI.

This situation was sent to Desert Column.

DECEMBER 22nd 1916

- 0643 A squadron of the N. Z. M. R. Brigade was ordered to BIR LAHFAN to report on the water and wells in the vicinity. As it was reported that the enemy had destroyed the wells they were ordered to water before going. They were to stay if water could be developed, and were to report if this were the case.
- 0830 At 0830 a Sergeant and 9 O/Ranks with Blasting equipment were captured by our outposts. They stated that MAGHARA and BIR HAMMA were evacuated 3 days ago; that all stores were destroyed at BIR HAMMA; that the Garrison at HASSANA were ready to go if attacked.
- 0910 Owing to yesterday's accident, a warning was sent out about the mines. All clear report was received from the Front line Brigades. In accordance with a message received the day before the Desert Column Commander, Lieut General SIR PHILIP CHETWODE, landed on the beach opposite D. H. Q. at 1000. On arrival he pointed out that it was most important to go after the enemy at once, who was reported to be still in the MAGDHABA, ABU AWEIGILA - or RAFA areas, and that with this in view he had arranged for a special convoy with rations and horse feed to arrive at EL ARISH at 1630 that Day. The three Brigades Anzac Mounted Division, and Camel Brigade (less one Battalion) were to march that evening as soon as they had drawn supplies and move via MAGDHABA on ABU AWEIGILA and RAFA with the object of capturing any enemy remaining there. The force to return as soon as its mission was accomplished. A convoy to be sent to meet it at LAHFAN. No wells were to be destroyed, communications to be established along the Turkish line or by visual if that could not be done. At the same time three companies I.C.C. were to go via SHEIKH ZOWAID on RAFA with the same object, to return on completion of mission. The same arrangements to be made about communication. One company I.C.C. was to remain at EL ARISH for protection and escort duty. These orders were handed to the Anzac Mounted Division.
- 1200 Brigadiers were summoned to meet General CHAUVEL at 1430. Meantime a point of concentration was fixed for the troops taking part in the expedition at the 26th telegraph pole on the EL ARISH - MAGDHABA telegraph wire by 1900 December 22nd. Here the convoys were to be brought and issues made to the troops direct.
- 1245 At 1245 a report on the watering arrangements was received. Those in the Wadi were completed. Owing, however, to the non arrival of camels the field troops had to do all the work.
- 1400 At 1400 the posts on Hill 220 reported armed enemy party 20 strong 2 miles east of post. Orders were sent to try and capture them. The party however made off at once in a south easterly direction as soon as they found they had been observed.
- 1430 At 1430 the conference of Brigadiers was held and orders were issued to each.
- 1630 At 1630 an aeroplane report was received which put a fairly strong force at MAGDHABA, with Machine Guns and Guns. On this being reported to Desert Column the G. O. C. directed that the RAFA enterprise should be abandoned and all the available troops of the Anzac Mounted Division to move on MAGDHABA. Aeroplanes were to reconnoitre the place at earliest opportunity and arrangements made to communicate with them from Divisional Headquarters. Some information was received from Major Barlow on MAGDHABA ~~XXXX~~ who accompanied the force and provided a guide.
- 1720 D. H. Q. left their bivouac at 1720 and marched to the concentration point. Considerable delay occurred owing to the Camel Convoy getting cut in two by that of 156th Infantry Brigade coming through it. The result was that the force was unable to leave the point of concentration until after midnight.

DECEMBER 23rd 1916

- 0045 The Force left the place of concentration at 0045 marching in the following order

Advance Guard

1st Squadron, 1st L. H. Brigade.
Divisional Headquarters
remainder 1st L. H. Brigade

434

0045
Contd.

Inverness Battery
Somerset Battery
N.Z.M.R. Brigade
3rd L. H. Brigade
Camel Brigade.

The going was very good and ~~xxxxxx~~ the march was timed as follows. Ride 40 minutes, lead 10 minutes, Halt 10 minutes. As the night was very cold the leading was a great benefit to all. The only bad places to cross were just where the road turns out of the wadi 2 miles from BIR LAHFAN and where the Wadi HARBID HIN crosses the road.

0350
0450

At 0350 the fires from MAGDHABA could be seen and at 0450 the force halted in an open plain some 4 miles from the place. The number of bivouac fires indicated a considerable force and the brightness of the lights caused the position to seem considerably nearer than it was. The troops were dismounted and the G.O.C. and Staff accompanied by Brigadiers and Major Barlow went forward on a personal reconnaissance. As dawn broke and it became lighter the bivouac fires disappeared and nothing could be seen for some time but a heavy layer of smoke covering the whole valley, so that the reconnaissance took considerably more time than was anticipated. However owing to the assistance of Major Barlow the Huts in the village were eventually located and buildings which afterwards proved to be the Hospital, and a plan of attack was determined on.

0630

Soon after 0630 our aeroplanes appeared and began to bomb the enemy. Some rifle and gun fire ensued.

0750

The first aeroplane report was received at 0750 which reported being fired on by a redoubt on the sand dunes north east of the Wadi, and also by party of men 50 in number in the wadi one mile west of the stone huts. Shrapnell was also fired. Another report on the road leading south and south east from MAGDHABA gave no enemy reinforcements for about 5 miles beyond RUAF. There was, however, some movement in RUAF camp.

0800

At 0800 a further report put 50 men in RUAF camp but no enemy reinforcements on the road.

0822

At 0822 General CHAUVEL issued orders for the attack. The N.Z.M.R. and 3rd L. H. Brigades under General Chaytor were to move north of MAGDHABA taking advantage of all cover to a point about one mile east and to attack the enemy's right and rear. The B.G.C. was, however, to safeguard his own left rear. The attack was to commence as soon as the Divisional Artillery opened and to be pressed home. The Camel Brigade were to move straight on MAGDHABA with centre on the telegraph line. The C.R.A. to select a position to open fire on the enemy's position. 1st L.H. Bde to be in reserve and to move south east along the telegraph line. The B. G. C. to make provision for his own protection. The position of D. H. Q. was, for the time being, on the telegraph line about 3 1/2 miles north west of MAGDHABA.

0830

At 0830 Aeroplane report was received of 200 men in the Wadi between ABU AWEIGILA and MAGDHABA.

0841

A message was sent to General CHAYTOR at 0841 to report the position of his Headquarters to D. H. Q. The 3rd L. H. Brigade at this time were on a ridge north, by a little east, of the stone houses of MAGDHABA, which by now were clearly in view.

0845

At 0845 an aeroplane reported road between ABU AWEIGILA and MAGDHABA clear. 50 horsemen were seen in the Wadi 1 mile west of RUAF. 100 transport Camels were seen moving west through RUAF. 20 men were seen round a bell tent one mile south east on the sand dune from MAGDHABA main camp. Horsemen were seen on roads opposite the white houses and some 50 horsemen galloping from the Sand dunes south of the camp into the Wadi. The Camel Brigade were, at this time, moving direct on MAGDHABA, the 3rd Battalion on foot in line and one Company in local reserve. The Hong Kong and Singapore Mountain Battery was in position on a ridge on the left of their line.

0849

The situation was reported to Desert Column at 0849. An aeroplane report handed to D. H. Q. by an airman who landed close beside them. This report stated that they had bombed the enemy's Dug-outs. A few Turks had gone East. There was very little movement in MAGDHABA. The strongest point held by the Turks seemed to be No 5. Redoubt. There were rifle pits around the redoubt at irregular intervals. They seemed to be strongly manned. There were no signs of where the artillery were exactly. There were no reinforcements coming up the road but there were scattered parties retreating east. The rifle pits around No 5 redoubt and No. 5 itself were being reinforced. The wagons were shown as in sketch. A rough sketch of the position was attached.

0910

At 0910 the N.Z.M.R. Brigade Headquarters moved forward to a point 1/2 mil

435

east of Divisional Headquarters and by 0925 were established 3 miles north of MAGDHABA.

0915 A further air report was received at 0915 gave no movement except some 20 men outside one redoubt. A few men were seen on the road towards AWEIGILA.

0925. A further report at 0925 gave a few men marching towards northern redoubt. Small scattered parties of horsemen and camels were seen leaving MAGDHABA and going East. Except for these the road was clear. Further report was received that rifle and machine gun fire had opened from the redoubts.

0930 At 0930 the 10th Light Horse and 2 Sections of the Machine Gun Squadron were detailed by General ROYSTON, acting under General CHAYTOR'S orders to move round, through AULAD ALI and Hill 345 and round the enemy's right.

0940 At 0940 General CHAYTOR reported the enemy retiring behind Hill 345 and said if the Camel Brigade would push on he would move on Hill 345.

0945. At 0945 an aeroplane reported party with loaded camels leaving MAGDHABA going South East.

0955 The advance of the Camel Brigade continued but they had a long way to go on foot and it was of a necessity slow. At 0955 General CHAYTOR directed the Canterbury Mounted Rifles on Hill 345, the Wellington Mounted Rifles on their right. Both regiments to move on MAGDHABA. The Canterbury Mounted Rifles to watch the left flank and rear.

The Inverness Battery came into action behind a ridge 3 miles due north of MAGDHABA against two enemy guns whose fire was indicated by the dust of discharge. They also fired on a ridge from which fire came which opposed the Camel Brigade.

The Somerset Battery were brought into action further east to deal with the enemy should the retreat materialize. For the present they fired on parties of the enemy, and the enemy guns which were forced to change positions. By General CHAYTOR'S orders the 3rd L. H. Brigade were moved to a point 1 1/2 miles South East of the N. Z. M. R. Brigade Headquarters with orders to support the attack on MAGDHABA and envelope the enemy's right.

1000 At 1000 an airman landed near Divisional Headquarters reported verbally to General Chauvel that the enemy were making off and that there was a possibility of their escaping General Chaytor's enveloping move. Thereupon General CHAUVEL sent orders to General COX, Commanding the 1st L.H. Brigade to move direct on MAGDHABA, passing the Camels on his way, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ leaving the remainder of the 1st Regt in Divisional Reserve. He was told the enemy were reported to be going. General Cox pushed on MAGDHABA at a trot, and then came under shrapnel fire. He changed direction to avoid the shells and increased the pace to a gallop. The enemy, who had so far held their fire, then opened a very heavy rifle and machine gun fire on the Brigade. General COX thereon swung his Brigade to the right and gained the Wadi where cover was got. He began a dismounted attack up the Wadi against the enemy's left, Brigade Hdqtrs being established N.W. of enemy redoubt No. 1. D.H.Q. moved forward to a point of the road 2 3/4 miles N.W. of the white huts at MAGHDABA from which the best view of the enemy's position was obtainable.

1030 At 1030 the attack of the 1st L.H. Brigade up the Wadi began. The 3rd L.H. Regiment and four machine guns moved forward. The Brigade reported that there were machine guns firing from the white huts and ridge to the right. They also located two mountain guns in or near the huts. Meanwhile the Camel attack, now that the Turkish plan was disclosed, was deflected half right. The Company in local reserve was brought up to the firing line and another Company was sent to extend to the left and gain contact with the N.Z.M.R. Brigade. The Hong Kong and Singapore Mountain Battery supported this attack.

1100 The Camel Brigade advanced over dead flat ground for 900 yards employing covering fire by sections. The right then became held up by fire from a redoubt. An aeroplane report was received that our flanking column was in contact with a hostile camel patrol, 15 strong, East of MAGHDABA. Our troops, advancing on MAGHDABA, were within 400 yards of the enemy. The artillery seemed to be well on the target. Progress on the left seemed to be going on. Dust prevented observation on N.W. of MAGHDABA but the attack appeared to be held up. General CHAYTOR gave a report of the situation that on the left our men were well forward endeavouring to hold the enemy. The 3rd L.H. Brigade (less 1 Regiment) and the Auckland Mounted Rifles (less 6 troops) were still in reserve. The guns were driving the enemy away from their Battery. At this hour the G.O.C. visited General CHAYTOR and instructed him verbally to push in the remainder of the 3rd L.H. Brigade.

- 1105 At 1105, an aeroplane reported 30 camels working up the Wadi from the East towards MAGHDABA. They also reported our shells were about 150 yards short.
- 1107 At 1107 orders were sent to the 1st L.H. Brigade to co-operate with the Camel Brigade which was moving on the redoubt.
- 1115 At 1115 the N.Z.M.R. Brigade reported that the enemy were retiring from the left. That they could not see the position of the 1st L.H. Brigade owing to dusk. The Hong Kong and Singapore Mountain Battery had moved into effective range of the enemy position, and had now moved across to the left of the 1st L.H. Brigade where General COX located the redoubt which was checking the advance. The Battery turned its fire on to the redoubt and the enemy position at 1950 yards.
A message was now sent to the C.R.A. to ask if more ammunition was required as the two B.A.Cs were at LAHFAN. One had already been called up.
- 1120 A message was received from the 1st L.H. Brigade to say that the range of our guns was correct, but that the fire should be swung to the right. This was forwarded to the C.R.A.
- 1135 At 1135 a further aeroplane report was received of numerous small parties of enemy leaving MAGHDABA. None were reported to be coming in.
- 1150 At 1150 the situation was reported to the Desert Column. It was as follows N.Z.M.R. Brigade (less Auckland Mounted Rifles) engaged with and partially enveloping the enemy's right. The 3rd L.H. Brigade and (less 10th L.H. Regt) and the Auckland Mounted Rifles in reserve.
The 10th L.H. Regiment, moving by a wide detour via AULAD ALI round the enemy left. Part of the Camel Brigade moving direct on the village, one Battn. still in reserve. 1st L.H. Brigade working up against the enemy's left by way of the Wadi. The 2nd L.H. Regiment had been sent by a detour to the South and was on some high ground overlooking the enemy's rear.
Our guns were in action against the enemy's redoubts but had great difficulty owing to mirage and indefinite targets and could not get better observation as ground ahead up to the enemy's position was dead flat. However, they got help from the R.F.C. particularly by means of a sketch.
The Hong Kong and Singapore Mountain Battery was firing on a redoubt on their left. The enemy mountain guns were in action and a heavy rifle and machine gun fire was opened on any favourable target. The shooting of the guns was good but ineffective, that of the rifles bad, as in spite of the target given by the 1st L.H. Brigade in their first move on the position they only had 8 horses hit and no men.
- 1200 At 1200 the 3rd L.H. Brigade (less 10th L.H. Regt) commenced to carry out a sweep round the enemy's flank.
- 1230 At 1230 an aeroplane reported 500 men and camels retreating down the Wadi, no reinforcements were seen. This news was forwarded to the Brigades. General CHAYTOR gave his own situation at this hour as Brigade Hdqtrs 3 miles from MAGHDABA on a bearing of 155 degrees from MAGHDABA. The Wellington Mounted Rifles were on the right of the line, with the Canterbury Mounted Rifles on their left, one Regiment of the 3rd L.H. Brigade supporting the left of the Canterbury Mounted Rifles. The 3rd L.H. Brigade (less 10th L.H. Regt) were working round the enemy's right.
- 1245 Situation again reported to Desert Column.
- 1300 At 1300 the 1st L.H. Brigade reported that the 3rd L.H. Regiment were in touch with the Camel Brigade's right. Their Hdqtrs were in the Wadi 1½ to 2 miles S.W. of D.H.Q. They were continuing to push round the right.
- 1305 Message from Captain LOVERIDGE at LAHFAN that the Field Troop left there had failed to get water. This produced the situation that unless MAGHDABA was taken the nearest water was at EL ARISH. None of the horses had had any water since the evening before.
- 1320 Meantime another aeroplane report was received that the enemy were retiring in small parties towards EL MOWEILLEN. Numerous enemy parties seen beyond ABU AWEIGILA moving S.E. down the Wadi, also camels with baggage, about one Company in the redoubt at MAGHDABA WHICH WAS MORE THICKLY HELD in the N.E. corner.
- 1330 By 1330 the Camel Brigade reached a broad shallow Wadi 1000 yards from the enemy's position but appeared to be unable to make further progress.
- 1350 A message was received from the 3rd L.H. Brigade asking for artillery support.
After discussing the situation with the Brigadiers of the N.Z.M.R. and the Camel Brigades, and in view of the fact that no progress was being made and horses had been a very long time without

- 1350 water and that the nearest water was at EL ARISH if MAGHDABA was not taken, which did not appear at all likely, the G.O.C. wired to Desert Column giving the situation and proposing to issue orders for withdrawal at a certain hour.
- 1355 At 1355 the situation began to improve. The 1st L.H. Brigade reported that they had got the 1st Bridge Head of the Wadi. They had taken about 100 prisoners and were pushing round to the right. This was circulated to Brigades.
- 1400 At 1400 the 8th and 9th L.H. Regiments pushed up within 200 yards of the white huts and had picked up with the Camel Brigade coming in from the West. The enemy were reported retiring behind the houses.
- 1415 At 1415 came the report that the 10th L.H. Regt. were making round the enemy's left.
- 1420 At 1420 came a wire from the Desert Column asking if it was not possible to concentrate Artillery on one redoubt and take with Bayonet after Dark. It was strongly urged that the fight should not be abandoned even at the cost of some horses.
- A telephone communication between General CHAUVEL and G. O. C. Desert Column followed and orders were immediately issued to continue the pressure and that a concerted effort would be made by all units at 1630. The G. O. C. Desert Column arranging that if possible horse water would be sent forward to meet the column on the return journey.
- 1430 A further wire, strongly urging the taking of MAGHDABA was received from Desert Column at 1430, but the situation had so completely changed at this hour, however that there was no further doubt as to the result, and the situation was communicated to Desert Column.
- On the right one Squadron 2nd L.H. Regiment was now sent to reinforce the line between the 3rd L.H. Regiment and the Squadron 2nd L.H. Regiment working round the enemy's left.
- 1450 At 1450 General CHAYTOR reported that the enemy were apparently retiring from the N.N.W. of the white buildings.
- The 3rd L. H. Brigade were now in touch with the N.Z.M.R. Brigade 600 yards from the enemy trenches but the advance was difficult owing to Machine Gun and Rifle fire, and more Machine guns had to be sent up. A further report came from the N.Z.M.R. Brigade that 50 enemy had retired from trench N.N.W. of MAGHDABA.
- 1455 At 1455 1st L.H. Brigade Headquarters was established at the Turkish trenches 350 degrees from N. E. position. The enemy still held on 800 yards south of the position. The Brigade continued to push round the right. The total taken in the first redoubt was 3 Officers 92 Other ranks, arms, ammunition, etc.
- The Camel Brigade were now within 500 yards of the enemy's position.
- 1500 A team with apparently a gun behind it moving in the enemy's position received a direct hit from the Inverness Battery at 1500 ~~XXXX~~
- 1510 At 1510 orders were sent back to LAHEAN for a water convey for the men to be sent along the telegraph line. One troops, 1st L.H. Regt. were to meet it.
- 1515 At 1515 an aeroplane report was received that some 500 mounted men were in the Wadi 1 mile north of MAGHDABA. 60 men were in the redoubt west of the buildings. Small party of Horsemen were 1000 yards south of MAGHDABA making for that place. 15 Camels 1 1/2 miles south of MAGHDABA also making for it. At ABU AWEIGILA and RUFAFA people were seen, but not one on the roads.
- 1520 At 1520 the 1st L.H. Brigade and the Camel Brigade attacked the enemy's second position. Our Batteries ceased fire at this time.
- 1530 Information was received that water convoys were on their way.
- 1540 The 1st L. H. Brigade forwarded list of prisoners. From information received from them 1 Battalion was south and one was north of the Hospital. KHADIR BEY was with the guns. Plenty of water was reported in the place. The Camel Brigade advanced to attack the trenches, one more company being thrown into the assault. The Hong Kong and Singapore Mountain Battery were in action close to the Wadi and gave effective support.
- 1600 At 1600 redoubt No 2 was carried by the 1st L.H. Brigade. 150 prisoners were taken including KHADIR BEY. The Camel Brigade advanced to the assault with the 3rd L. H. Regiment on their right and the N.Z.M.R. on their left. The 3rd L.H. Brigade were in close touch with the enemy, and the 10th L.H. Regiment, having outflanked the enemy, attacked him in rear.
- 1605 At 1605 General CHAYTOR reported that our troops held the buildings and redoubts on the left, part of the 10th L.H. Regiment charged mounted with fixed bayonets. The enemy held on until our men were within some 20 yards in most cases. Only their bad shooting prevented heavy casualties.
- 1630 By 1630 they were surrendering in small batches, though firing still continued from isolated parties until dark. Four Mountain Guns were captured in their emplacements, one smashed Machine Gun was found. All organised resistance was over by about 1640. General CHAUVEL rode down into MAGHDABA as soon as it was taken and gave orders for the clearing of the battlefield.

-8-

1630
Contd.

Lieut Colonel GRANVILLE was left to carry this out with part of his own Regiment, Two squadrons of the Auckland Mounted Rifles, and one Squadron from the 3rd L. H. Brigade. These were ordered to bivouac for the night at MAGDHABA and continue the search next morning. Convoys with supplies were ordered up for the troops remaining there. The remainder, many of whom had got water in MAGDHABA, were ordered to assemble at the telegraph line near D. H. Q. All prisoners and captured stock also to be brought up there.

The total of prisoners etc was found to be :-

Unwounded	1210	including	KHADIR BEY, Commdg.	80th Regt.
			IZZAT BEY, "	2/80th Battn
			RUSHTI BEY, "	3/80th "

Wounded	40
---------	----

A mixed party of 30 were brought in later.

With a few more brought in next day by Colonel Granville the Total came to

1282
97 Turks were buried at MAGDHABA.

There were also

4	Mountain Guns
1	Broken up Machine Gun.
1052	rifles (200 more were destroyed)
180	Bayonets
6	Boxes shell ammunition
100000	S. A. A.
1	Stretcher
	Component parts of an oil engine.
10	Fantassie.
	Telephone wire and equipment.
	Number of plans of reservoirs etc.
	Some Turkish orders and news.
40	Horses
51	Camels.

Our own casualties were

	Officers	O. Ranks
Killed	5	17
Wounded	7	117
Total	12	134

We had 59 casualties among the horses from wounds and other causes.
The Inverness Battery fired 498 rounds and
the Somerset Battery " 108

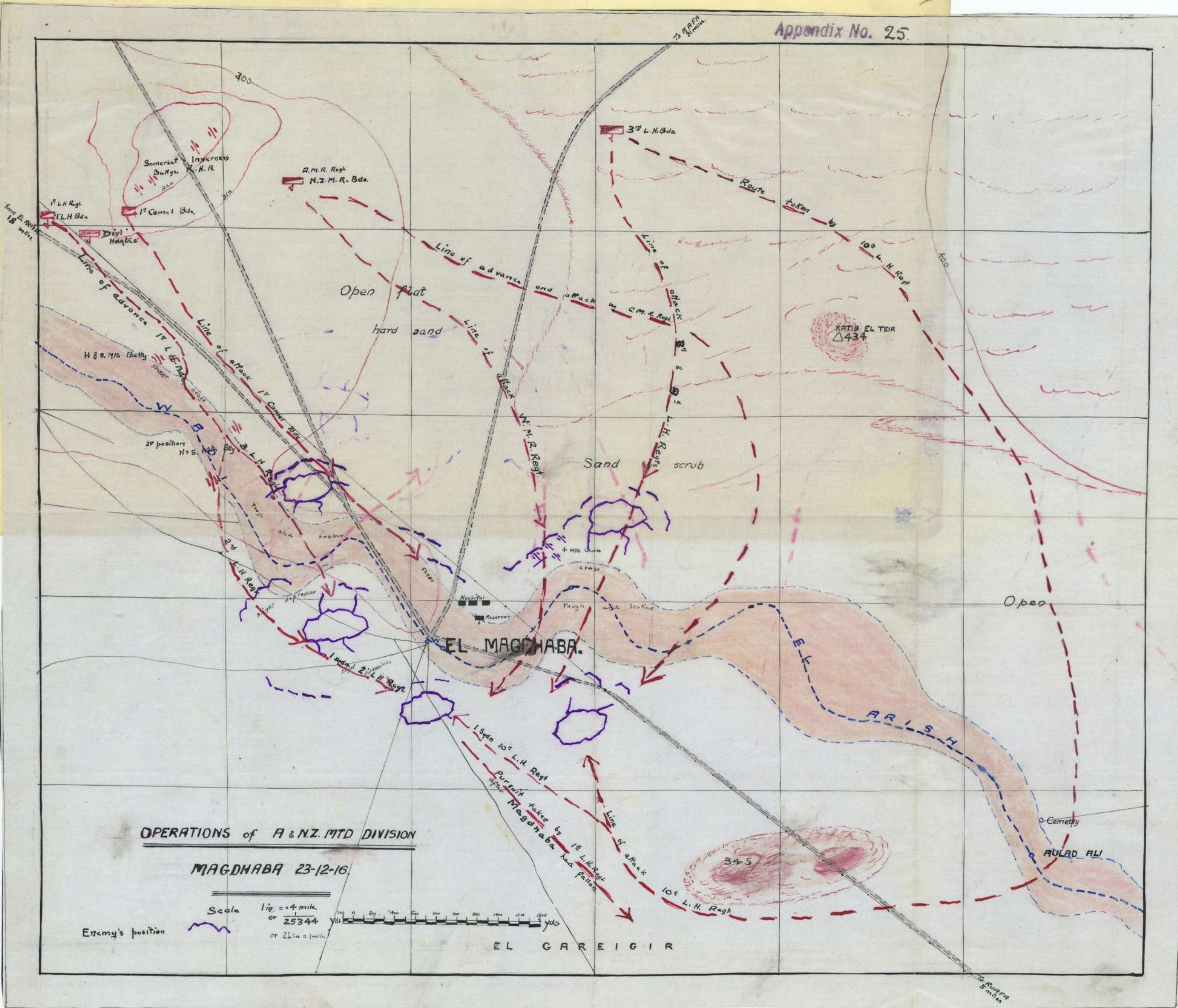
The Batteries marched straight back from MAGDHABA after the action, getting to camp about midnight.

D. H. Q. and escort left at 2330 and got in at 0410 on December 24th. The N.Z.M.R. Brigade and 3rd L. H. Brigade marched back in their own time, leaving MAGDHABA as soon as they had filled up from the water convoy which went to them there and drawn rations and forage at LAHFAN on the way back. Considerable assistance was rendered by the G. O. C. 52nd Division in the loan of Camels, Fantassies, Sand carts and Gun teams. This latter were sent forward on his own initiative to meet the guns on their return journey. The sending forward of horse water to LAHFAN by the Desert Column Staff saved the situation considerably.

I would like to be permitted to draw special attention to the excellent work of Q Branch and the A. S. C. which rendered this successful action possible.

Under separate cover I forward a list of Officers and Other ranks recommended for immediate reward.

Major General
Commanding
AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION



OPERATIONS of A & N.Z. MTD DIVISION

MAGDHABA 23-12-16.



Enemy's position

EL GAREIGIR

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

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

Prefix	Code	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.					Date
Sent		1		Service.	From
At.....m.				(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By
To					
By					

TO { 1st L.H. Brigade Camel Brigade.
3rd L.H. Brigade
N. Z. M. R. Brigade

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* G K 55	22		

Operations beginning	tonight	AAA	1st L.H. Bde	3rd L.H. Bde
N.Z.M.R. Bde (less one battery)	squadron	R.H.A.	at Camel	LAHFAN) Brigade
(less one assemble at	Battalion)	28th	Mountain telegraph	Battery pole
from the EL ARISH - RAFA	telegraph	junction	with line	the on
the telegraph about one mile	line	to	down	MAGDHABA
WADI from tonight	EL ARISH	by	here	1900
will march notified later	AAA From	at an hour	here	they
MAGDHABA Two companies	at	via LAHFAN	and	to be
march via RAFA	at	AWEIGILA	and	and
AAA with	at	I. C. C.	will	RUAFA AAA
	at	SHEIKH	ZOWAID	also
	at	the	objective	to
	at			of

From	
Place	
Time	

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121
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No. of Message.....

Prefix	Code	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.					Date
Sent		1		Service.	From
At.....m.				(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	By
To					
By					

TO { Sheet 2

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* G K 55			

capturing	any	of	the	enemy
remaining	in	these	places	AAA
force	will	return	as	soon
as	possible	after	completing	its
mission	and	a	convoy	will
sent	to	meet	it	at
LAHFAN	AAA	The	Camel	convoy
tonight	will	be	brought	to
the	point	of	concentration	of
the	force	and	supplies	issued
there	AAA	First	line	camels
of	the	units	will	be
taken	to	go	to	LAHFAN
to	meet	the	force	AAA
Camels	other	than	those	with
divisional	units	will	be	taken
AAA	O.C. Signal	Squadron	will	arrange

From	
Place	
Time	

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Appendix No. 24

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"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: 1	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent			Date
			At.....m.		From	
			To		By	
			By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	

TO { Sheet 3

Sender's Number. * G K 55	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
------------------------------	---------------	---------------------	-----

for	repair	of the	old	Turkish
line	to	communicate	with	Desert
Column	AAA The	signal	unit	accompanying
force	to RAFA	will	make	same
arrangements on	line	running	east AAA	
Visual	signalling	will	also	be
used	AAA Wireless	will	be	brought
as	far	as	MAGDHABA	AAA
Mobile	sections	of	1st L.H.F.A.	N.Z.M.F.A.
and	3rd L.H.F.A.	(less tent	Div) will	accompany
Brigades	AAA Mobile	Section	Welsh	ambulance
will	accompany	Camel	Brigade	AAA
two	sections	will	go	with
Camel	Companies	to	RAFA AAA	Tent
Division	N.Z.M.F.A.	will	remain	at
MAGDHABA	AAA Tent	Division	3rd L.H.F.A.	will
establish	near	beach	1/4 west mile	west

From			
Place			
Time			

"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: 1	Recd. at.....m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent			Date
			At.....m.		From	
			To		By	
			By		(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	

TO { sheet 4

Sender's Number. * G K 55	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
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of	A. S. C.	dump	AAA	evacuations
to	this	place	AAA	position
of	units	at	starting	point
all	facing	south	1st	Brigade
east	of	Telegraph	line	AAA
Battery	and	escort	immediately	west
of	telegraph	line	then	3rd
Brigade	then	N.Z.M.R. Bde	Camel Bde	AAA
Escort	of	two	troops	to
battery	will	be	detailed	by
the	3rd L.H. Bde	hour	of	assembly
at	at	starting	1900	B.G.C.
1st L.H. Bde	will	leave	its field	troop
at	BIR ABU	SINUN	to	develop
the	water	for	use	of
the	force	on	return.	

From	ANZAC	MOUNTED	DIVISION
Place			
Time		1515	

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Appendix No. 24

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