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Formation Headquarters

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AWM4-1/54/11PART3



SECRET.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT. No. 457. ISMAILIA. February 9th 1916

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

AGENT  
ISMAILIA

Agent left Ismailia on the 31st Jan.

HAWAWISH 31st Jan. Nothing to report.SOUTH OF BIR EL MAGRIBRA 1st Feb. He passed the fresh tracks of a patrol of 4 camelmenn and saw the old tracks of 80 camels and 13 horses coming from the south and going towards KATIA.BIR EL JAMEIL 2nd inst. 1. Old well; 1 new one.BIR EL KASSEIBA 3rd. Two new wells have been dug.BIR MOSEIFIC. 3 new wells.BIR EL GERERAT. 3 new wells.

Agent heard that :-

- (1) There were 3 new wells at Bir el Mazar.
- (2) According to contract the railway had to reach Auja by the 19th inst.
- (3) Kress Bey with several Germans and five Austrians on horses had made a tour of inspection from Hassana to Rodh Salem through Rigal el Khalla and Mageibra to Katia El Arish.  
(NOTE. the tracks seen by Agent at Mageibra were probably those of the above patrol. A.W.J.B.)

EL FAGIRA in wadi El Arish on the 4th. Agent saw 5 tents and 50 men, and one mule for fetching water.EL ARISH 4th inst. He saw 100 tents, very scattered, in hollows between the dunes south of the town and west of the wadi; many dug outs each capable of holding 4 or 5 men, but estimates the total garrison at only 800-900. There are 3 guns in emplacements west of the wadi opposite Nekhl Abu Sagal and near the palm grove. Also 4 guns in trenches south of the town, between the town and the troops.

He saw about 30 Mules; 40 horses; 70 transport and 30 riding camels in the camp.

While at Arish he saw 15 camels loaded with boxes and 30 with sacks arrive from Khan Yunis and unload in the camp. Agent spent the night at Bir el Masaid and returned via Bir El Jameil and Mageibra seeing nothing worth reporting.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 13.

I N T E L L I G E N C E     S U M M A R Y .

10th FEBRUARY, 1916.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,  
MEDITERRANEAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1.    M E S C P O T A N I A .

- (A)   Summary of Operations.
- (B)   Turkish Reinforcements.
- (C)   Tribal Situation on Euphrates.

2.    C A M E L   T R A D E   O F   A R A B I A .

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1. MESOPOTAMIA.

A. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

19th Jan. Prisoners captured at the battle of Wadi River on Jan.

13th state that the Turkish troops were worn out with fatigue and had suffered greatly from lack of supplies.

The Tigris had risen 2 feet 9 inches at AMARA since Jan. 1st.

20th Jan. According to Agents reports, considered reliable, the tail echelon of a Turkish Infantry Division reached Baghdad from Aleppo via Mosul on January 7th, and was moving through Ctesiphon on January 12th, thus indicating a reinforcement of the enemy forces round Kut ol Amara.

21st Jan. On the morning of 21st after artillery bombardment Gen. Aylmer launched an attack against his enemy's position at Um-Al-Hannah. The main attack was directed against the enemy's right and at 10.45 a.m. General Aylmer wired that the British left was progressing favourably, but that his right was being held up by superior enemy reinforcements. Three battalions from his reserve were sent to reinforce his right, but his whole line was held up between 100 and 200 yards from the enemy's line. After further bombardment his attack was renewed in the afternoon, but as it was unable to progress his troops were ordered to maintain their positions and the assault was to have been renewed on the 22nd after further intense artillery bombardment. Heavy rain fell and air reconnaissance was rendered impossible. General Townshend reported that owing to floods the Turks were evacuating their front line trenches. (E.W. of Kut ol Amara) and that he might have to do the same.

22nd Jan. General Aylmer reported that it was impossible to renew



the assault owing to the flooded nature of the country. The British first line was withdrawn to a position 1300 yards from the enemy's trenches. The weather continued atrocious with incessant rain, intense cold, and increasing floods.

25th Jan. During 48 hours the Tigris rose 7 feet at KUT EL AMARA. All moves of reinforcements by road were held up and the leading echelon 2 marches above Amara were surrounded by floods.

28th Jan. General Sir P. Lake proceeded up river to confer with General Aylmer on the situation. By 7th February it is hoped that large reinforcements will have been concentrated at Sheikh Saad. The floods at Amara have commenced to subside.

26th Jan. Air reconnaissance still impossible owing to bad weather. General Townshend reports that one enemy division is moving from the SHUMRAH bend (6 miles N.W. of KUT) towards KHAIRIJAH (on SHAH-AL-HAI, 6 miles S.E. of KUT) where a boat bridge is being constructed.

#### B2. TURKISH REINFORCEMENTS.

DELHI - 1st February 1916. BASRA reports 31st January:- Prisoners captured at UMM AL HANNAH on the Tigris, on 28th January, state that the force which now opposes General Aylmer was reinforced by the 51st Division, which came from Kut. The force is now composed, therefore, of three divisions, about 12,000 men and 26 guns. They also corroborate the reports by agents that the 2nd Division, about 7,500 men and some 12 guns, recently arrived. This division will proceed to join the 45th Division, strength about 4,000 to 5,000 men, at Kut, where



there are at present at the utmost 27 guns.

It is believed that one of these two divisions is on the way down the Tigris to reinforce the enemy opposite General Aylmer. About seven miles lower down the stream than KUT, at ES SINN, is a mounted brigade of 1,500 to 2,000 men occupying both banks of the Tigris.

#### C. TRIBAL SITUATION ON EUPHRATES.

On Euphrates line we have the tribal chief AJAIMI with a following of about 1,000 against us. He is the only big man unreservedly on the side of the Turks. The rest of the local tribes, however, are not likely to move against us unless KUT falls. Tribal policy remains constant, i.e. back no side except the winners and then loot the losers.

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#### 2. CAMEL TRADE OF ARABIA.

Extract from Cairo Bulletin 4/2/16.

The camel trade of Arabia centres in DAMASCUS, from which almost all the capital is supplied. The Bossam family, who were the merchant princes of Arabia, had the whole trade in their hands. They were a large family of brothers, belonging to the settled Beni Tomim tribe of the Kasim, who made money first from the Gulf trade, and then acquired a virtual monopoly of the export trade of the desert. They dissolved partnership some three years ago, and the camel trade has suffered in consequence.

Smaller men also Damascenes now have most of the trade, and there are two fairly large dealers in BAGDAD who buy from Irak tribes, and sell in DAMASCUS, which is the largest mart (mainly for the Egyptian trade). An appreciable number of camels is bought by the Hafidh family at ALEPPO for Anatolia.



The buyers, except for the single Marawi family, are now all Agyal. The Agyal are a kind of club, or trade union, recruited from the non-nomad tribesmen of Kasim (who have no tribal blood feuds) with a president always from BOREIDA, and headquarters in BAGDAD. The name is also given loosely by the Turkish Government to any Arab camel-riding mercenaries they employ, but these are not entitled to the benefits of the Society.

The Agyal go into the Southern desert to buy in the early summer, after harvest, and at the end of the summer when the Beduin want their winter clothes. In winter no camels can be bought, as the tribes are reserving their camels for breeding and for milk, and the herbage is then plentiful in the desert. The buyers drive their herds to the Kasim for the winter (they buy five year olds) and next spring they drive them N. over the Hamad, either by Jauf or by more direct roads, according to the season. The journey to DAMASCUS takes about two months, and the camels usually arrive in DAMASCUS in early summer. The Agyal then go out to the Anaze tribes of the North, and buy their camels, and bring them straight into DAMASCUS. The price of camels in the tents is now about £8 each. It would be very difficult for the Ottoman Government to alter the established course of the trade. To begin with, the Agyal must be used, since they only have the freedom of the desert, and know the camel-breeding ~~tribes~~ tribes. The Sheikhs too will only deal with the men they know. If Ibn Rashid bought camels for the Government, Ibn Shashan or Hachim would hold them up. If they were driven further north, to avoid the Anaze country, the difficulty of feeding such herds would be very great.



In 1914, the Ottoman Government struggled hard to get camels from the nomads, and persuaded Nuri to provide some for them, but his contribution, on arrival in DAMASCUS, proved to be composed of yearlings only. In consequence the canal expedition had to be done on the camels of the peasants of Eastern Syria. These beasts were accustomed to wet ground and daily drinks. In consequence they all got mangle, and very many died, and for lack of them, the distribution of food in Syria has been unequal throughout 1915. Corn has been cheaper than ever before in the interior and at famine prices on the coast and in big towns. This year the Turks have comparatively few camels; they have formed several battalions of camel-corps, riding camels are not rare, but their baggage camels are scarce, and they seem to be using ox-carts and motor lorries to fill the need. They have also been bringing down Anatolian and Kurdish camels; these will fail in the summer heat in Sinai, unless very carefully treated.

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SECRET.

CAIRO,

10th February, 1916.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

TURKEY.

Letters from Constantinople.

BALKAN PENINSULA.

Evacuation of Montenegrins and Serbs.

RED SEA.

Patrol Reports.

MESOPOTAMIA.

Extracts from I.E.F. "B" Bulletin.

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T U R K E Y .

Letters from CONSTANTINOPLE (reliability quite unknown).

Letter early in January:- (1) Yusuf Izzedin has roused himself, and is terrifying the greater part of the Government, as his party is very strong in CONSTANTINOPLE.

(2) Almost all Turks who are anti-Prussian are on the side of Prince Mohamed Mourad. He has been court-martialled, as he is supposed secretly to be arranging a separate Turkish peace with the Allies.

(3) For the last six days nothing has been seen or heard of Enver Pasha. No one seems to know where he is, but it is said that he has left secretly for Syria, where he will inspect the troops.

(4) The Liberal Party (Ahrar) have asked the Government how long the war is going to last, and what is the purpose of her withdrawing all her troops from CONSTANTINOPLE, and putting German troops in their places. Also what is the use of sending an Expeditionary Force against Egypt; what benefit will be derived therefrom, and, the strength of the expedition.

(5) Rahmi Bey, Vali of SMYRNA, has been transferred to Syria to take the place of Ahmed Riza Bey. This is owing to his protests against being under the German Crown, as he feared that Germany might remain in permanent possession of CONSTANTINOPLE.

(6) Many soldiers have left recently, together with 40 guns, 22 motor cars, and six aeroplanes. Eight aeroplanes of large size have also been despatched to the Egyptian boundaries.

Letters, 20th January:- (7) Djemal Pasha has been ordered by the War Office at CONSTANTINOPLE to find out exactly the cost of the expedition against Egypt.

(8) It is said that the Turkish Empire has ceded Syria to Germany.

(9) Germany has lent to the Turkish Government 30,000,000 marks; it is said that they cannot advance further sums, and the expedition against Egypt will therefore be postponed.

(10) The attack on Egypt is impossible in February, and many say it will not take place in March, and, perhaps, not even afterwards. They think now at the Sublime Porte that the Army is in bad condition, that England is making strong counter preparations, and that Turkey would require 400,000 soldiers. To transport this number, with munitions, would be difficult even in another six months. Tell the Staff that England may remain tranquil as regards Egypt, but not for Irak.

(11) The 1st Secretary of the Germany Embassy has left CONSTANTINOPLE for BERLIN, but we do not know his mission, and no one outside the Government knows of his absence.

(12) A Turkish boat has transported guns from the Dardanelles to SAMSUN. 4,000 soldiers, who were meant for Mesopotamia, have been sent to SAMSUN.

(13) Rahmi Bey has left SMYRNA, and is in disagreement with Talaat Bey.

(14) Hakkı Pasha will arrive at CONSTANTINOPLE in ten days (from BERLIN). He may enter the Government; but perhaps the present Government will fall, because the Crown Prince, Yusuf



Ed Din, went to see the Sultan on the 18th, and was with him 24 hours discussing the question of a change of Cabinet. He said to the Sultan that if there were not a change of Government, there would be a terrible revolution in CONSTANTINOPLE, for neither the Army nor the people were content at present. The Sultan replied, "Make your mind easy; your matter will be gone into this week".

(15) They say that Enver Pasha is going with von Sanders to visit Arabia and Palestine, and arrangements for the journey are now being made.

(16) Djemal Pasha sent a letter to the Minister of War, in which he asks for food for the soldiers, camels for transport, clothing, and more soldiers. "If the Germans do not send a complete force of 30/40,000 men, you must send another Commander, as I shall not remain any longer."

(17) The Rualla and Amur Arabs, who rebelled at HOMS, have escaped to TADMOR.

The Vali of Syria, Arif Bey, and the Mutessarif of HAMA have sent 400 soldiers in pursuit, but they returned without finding them. Some Beduin have entered MISDIN; others have taken the road to RAHKA.

(18) Selih Pasha is going to PARIS for the second time, to see whether anything can be done in France about peace. The first demand in his programme is that England should leave Arabia (i.e., Mesopotamia); secondly, should give up Egypt; thirdly, that France should not touch Syria; fourthly, France should lend Turkey one milliard of francs; and fifthly, Russia should not touch Armenia, but some rectification of frontier in Russia's benefit would be made, and concessions would be made to the Armenians.

CAIRO NOTE:- (1) There is no doubt but that Yusuf Izzeddin, who had the reputation of a half-wit, had pulled himself together lately, and made great efforts to find supporters for an anti-Enver programme.

(2) Prince Mourad was a nonentity, like most Turkish Princes in ordinary times. They are all probably anti-Enver, who is the son of a court-servant, taking too much upon himself, in their eyes.

(4) The Ahrar was so discredited five years ago, that its members allowed it to die a natural death. Unless it has been reconstituted by heavier men since war broke out, there is not much significance in what it thinks or says.

(5) Rahmi Bey is one of the few decent men in the Committee, and has always taken a bold line of his own in politics. They are afraid of him.

(6) The destination of these troops is probably Irak. The despatch of powerful aeroplanes to the Egyptian frontier has been several times hinted at.

(12) The Russian Black Sea Fleet has never been able to maintain a continuous blockade of the mouth of the BOSPHORUS.

(14) Yusuf Izzeddin's matter was gone into very shortly. It is not astonishing that he died. It is curious that he should have thought it worth while to disclose himself to the Sultan.

(17) This had not been reported previously. It was probably a dispute over camels.

(18) This probably represents fairly enough the judgement of CONSTANTINOPLE on the present situation of the Allies. The fact that the Turks have leisure for internal troubles shows how confident they are that the crisis of the war is passed. Russia is still, in their opinion, their most formidable enemy.



B A L K A N    P E N I N S U L A .  
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French G.H.Q. Information:- The Greek Government will be officially notified of the transport of the Montenegrin and Albanian contingents to CORFU.

The number of Serbo-Montenegrins evacuated amounted, on 8th February, to 112,000 men (90,000 of whom are at CORFU), with 12 guns and some machine guns.

R E D    S E A .  
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Northorn Red Sea Patrol reports:-

SHERM TEJ - 28-1-16:- Good number of people, but they took no particular notice of the near approach of our ship. No armed Turks or Beduin seen.

1st February, 1916:- The Reis of a dhow which was ~~captured~~ boarded said he sold 50 ardebs of dura for 180 p.t. the ardeb at DHABA, as they had no food there. There were about 400 inhabitants, 50 Camel Corps (Arabs), and a battalion of infantry 400 strong at DHABA, encamped behind a hill.

M E S O P O T A M I A .  
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Extracts from I.F.F. Summary - 20th January, 1916.

EUPHRATES LINE - Two more Sheikhs of Az Zafiyid (Beni Khaigan) have come in to General Gorringe. In this connection, an agent lately from SHATT AL HAI says that tribes who were all for the Turks after CTESIPHON are now beginning to veer round ~~again~~ again towards the British.

There are fresh reports that no enemy troops are coming down the EUPHRATES at present.

The Ulama Mission, lately reported as going to FUSHT I KUH were reported to be in BAGDAD on 29th December, and later news says that the NEJF Mujahiddin have returned to their homes, but the Ulemas are still in BAGDAD.

Ajaimi reported still at UM AL ROJ. On 13th January Sheikh of KHARSIEH reported that some of Ajaimi's men had raided the Dhafirs at SHAGRA. This is all to our advantage - the more bad blood there is between the Dhafirs (who are pro-British) and Ajaimi, the better.

KHA SIEH states that Ajaimi's following is rapidly diminishing owing to non-receipt of pay. He is now believed to have a quite insignificant force.

The 14th Division report on 13-1-16 that Khayun El Obeid is endeavouring to combine the Abdch and Khaffajh against us, and is spreading reports of a Turkish advance guard of two battalions and six guns at KARADI. This report lacks confirmation.



A reconnaissance from General Gorrings's ~~force~~ BUTANIYAH Column was determinedly attacked by a considerable number of Arabs from the neighbourhood of SUWAIJ on 14th January. There appears to be no doubt that this attack was at the instigation of Khayun El Obeid, and that the Khaffajah tribe were implicated as well as the Abudah. Several Khaffajah Sheikhs were with General Gorrings at the time and went off to quieten their men. The Amairich are not believed to have been implicated, though one of their Sheikhs (Muhammad el Falsiyah) was with the attackers. The enemy are estimated at 3,000 and their losses at 300. The names of 25 killed (including three minor Sheikhs) have come in, with more to follow. The remainder are reported on the 15th January to be still near SUWAIJ, much dispirited, and to have written to Mizher Bey to assist them quickly, as they cannot, single-handed, oppose us.

Khayun el Obeid has been a continual source of trouble in this district. The Turks sent expeditions against him in 1909-10 (3,000 men, with guns), in 1914 (six battalions with guns), and again in 1914 (700 Regulars plus 7,000 tribesmen). These expeditions were unsuccessful in the main, the second losing three guns. His fighting men number 3,000 (al Abudah alone) and he might of course be assisted by other tribes to the North. He is described as being a young man (under 30), underbred, no manners, a good fighting man, but no brains. The brains are supplied by his Fazir, Khadhim, a cunning Kurd.

TIGRIS LINE - General Aylmer's estimate of force opposing him before the Battle of SHEIKH SAAD was 15,000 regulars, and he estimates that this force lost 4,500 excluding desertions, which were numerous. This leaves 10/21,000 before the WADI battle (even this figure is considered somewhat liberal, for regulars). However, accepting that, and deducting a fair estimate of enemy casualties, it is difficult to see how the force now (15th January) opposing General Aylmer could be more than 8,000 regulars. Furthermore, General Townshend's observations at 5.0 p.m. on 14th January showed a Division, plus artillery retreating past him, and an hour previous to this he had observed a movement, Westward of SHUMRAN, of transport.

The General reported killed on 14th January appears to have been Bekir Sami Bey (52nd Division).

The enemy was observed to be bridging the HAI on 16th January, and this looks like preparing the way for a retirement along the right bank. Boats for this bridge must have been brought up the HAI, having probably lain on the mud at HAI, or in pools at SHATTRA since September last.

Examination of prisoners captured on 14th January:-  
Puts enemy strength at WADI battle at 11,000, and his casualties there 2,000.

At Battle of SHEIKH SAAD 40th and 105th Regiments were on right bank. Afterwards they crossed the river in guffahs, and kelleks, and at WADI battle all 18 battalions of regular infantry were on the left bank.

At WADI there were nine squadrons of cavalry (31st and 33rd Regiments) - say 1,000 sabres; two battalions camelry - say 1,000 men. Two squadrons cavalry and one battalion camelry were on right bank, all remainder being on left bank.

Akif Bey (formerly in command of troops on EUPHRATES) commands the Mounted Brigade. Sabri Bey is now O.C. Tribesmen.

105th lost all its officers except the C.O. (Mahmoud Bey). Enemy have suffered greatly from lack of supplies, lately (presumably XIII Corps is meant). Some prisoners have been without food for three days, and state troops are worn out.

General Townshend observed four C.F. and six "Mantel" guns retire past him on 14th January.

*For G.S.O. (I),*  
The Force in Egypt.



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M E S O P O T A M I A .  
-----From I.E.F. Bulletin - 20th January, 1916.

KARUN LINE - A PUSHT I KUH Agent (Political) reports that during November the Wali was approached by German envoys. They tried to get mules, and more especially coal (for river steamers). The Wali evaded them by telling them that the local coal was too light. This agent describes PUSHT I KUH as full of Turkish deserters, whom the Wali has refused to send back to the Turks.

The Bakhtiari Khans are not going to the Oil Fields till March, as their presence is required at BEHBEHAN, to assist the Kuhgulu tribe (to whom they are bound) against the Saulat, who is reported to have oppressed them. It is reported that Said Issa (a troublesome and anti-British priest) is endeavouring to stir up trouble in JARRAHI.

Wassmuss is reported to intend visiting BEHBEHAN shortly.

There is no report in SHUSHTER of any Turks coming towards the KARUN, via PUSHT I KUH.

PERSIA - Four Turkish regiments are reported at KHANIKIN - numbers, and name of O.C. not known.



SECRET.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT. No.458. ISMAILIA, February 10th 1916.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

INTELLIGENCE  
OFFICER  
KANTARA.  
9.2.16.

Agent having had instructions to report on Bir Saba reached there on the 26th ult and stayed 5 days in the town. He could not estimate the number of troops there but there must be about 4,000 tents.

The day after he arrived 2,000 Arabs of Azbain El Sherif came in from MECCA. Large number of mules were arriving every day also.

There had been a bad wash-out where the railway crossed Wadi SHERIA and now the trains do not come into Saba. Before arriving he had heard there were 5 aeroplanes at SABA, but he found that this was not true and that there was only one. This one he saw flying. It flew very badly and in landing pitched over on one side breaking its right wing.

He did not see them, but he heard there were stored in Saba four big guns - so large that a man might get into them. The projectile stood about one metre high on the ground.

He says that in one of the recent floods about 400 Turks were drowned in the wadi in one night.

He left Saba and reached EL SHELLAL on the 31st ult. Here he found that a pump had been put up, worked by an oil engine. Two reservoirs had been built each about 20 feet square and 9 10 ft. deep. They had largely been dug out of the rock, but the walls projecting above the ground were built of stone and mortar.

One reservoir had 8 pipes leading out of it each with a cock at the end so that the water could be turned on or off.

From Shellal he went to KHAN YUNIS 1st Feb. there he thought there were about 300 soldiers.

From there he went to EL Arish 3rd inst. where he stayed two days. The first day he was there 500 soldiers arrived, (Syrians) and each day 300 - 400 camels came in bringing pumps, barley, flour and food-stuffs generally.

From EL Arish he came into Kantara arriving 8th inst. On the way in he counted 8 wells at Bir el Mazar - 6 at Moseifig - 24 at Bir el Abd and a post of 52 men - 6 at Bir el Arish - 8 at El Kharbi. (Kharba?) The last post he passed was at Um Ugba where there were 50 men, some were camelmen, but their camels were in very bad condition. (This is an untried Agent and too clever perhaps for much reliance to be placed on his statement.W.F.S.)

NOTE. (The plane seen at Bir Saba is probably one of the French seaplanes which has been repaired. A.W.J.B.)

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CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 17.

I N T E L L I G E N C E   S U M M A R Y .

11th FEBRUARY 1916.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,  
MEDITERRANEAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1.    INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.
  - (a)   ALLIED COUNTRIES.
  - (b)   NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.
2.    WESTERN DESERT INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 3-8th Feb.
3.    TELEGRAMS FROM G. C. G. FRANCE.

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1. INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

(a) ALLIED COUNTRIES.

JAPAN. The War Minister has, in consultation with business firms, undertaken to supply Russia with increased munitions by the end of April.

MONTENEGRO. Montenegrin Ministers have come to terms with Austria. The lack of food and munitions seriously affected the moral of the army. Under those circumstances, in order to save the country further sacrifices, the Prime Minister and Government urged the King and Royal Family, together with the Allied Ministers, to leave at once for Scutari and Italy. Negotiations were begun with the Austrians but the terms were unacceptable. The enemy continued their advance, and the Montenegrin troops gradually laid down their arms and returned to their homes thoroughly weary of the war. The Montenegrin Government is now established at LYONS.

RUSSIA. The British Government are proposing to finance a scheme whereby munitions etc. can reach the Russian Armies via SKIBOTN provided that the route can be proved to pass only through Russian, not SWEDISH, territory. Sledges would be the actual means of transport.

SERBIA. The British Prime Minister in the name of the Government has telegraphed to M. PASHICH re-affirming the Allies' determination to assure Serbia's future. All the Entente Powers are agreed in principle and the question of the actual form of pledge to be given the Serbian Government is still under discussion. The Government and the General Staff will be established as soon as possible at CORFOU. Two British officers General Taylor and Commander Larking R.N. have been appointed in command of the Allied Adriatic Mission. Sufficient food and



clothing has now been distributed and the Serbian troops, together with Albanians and Montenegrins, are being rapidly evacuated.

## B. NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

CHINA. Serious anxiety has been caused in PEKIN by the discovery of a plot to assassinate the President YUAN-SHIH-KAI.

It has not yet been decided when the Monarchy is to be proclaimed; the attitude of the Japanese Government being still doubtful. The province of YUNNAN is still in revolt; and it is not yet known whether other provinces may not also become involved in the rebellion. Neither the Central Powers nor the Allies have yet informed the Chinese Ministry of their acceptance of the principle of re-establishing the monarchy. It is recognised that Chinese policy may be influenced by whichever group declares first.

HOLLAND. The Dutch authorities are endeavouring to salvo the British submarine "H.6." recently lost in Dutch waters. The Commander and eleven of the crew have been interned. The relief fund for the inhabitants of the flooded areas has been subscribed to by the British, French and Austrian Governments.

NORWAY. The inspired newspaper attack on Great Britain is weakening, and the Government feels able to control the Press in future. Public opinion is gradually realising the true facts of the British Blockade, which has been used by German agents as the best medium of creating hostility to Great Britain.

PERSIA. The Russian military successes in Persia have had a good popular effect. Large reinforcements have also arrived. The Government has now submitted proposals for an alliance with Great Britain and Russia. The Russian Minister has been instructed to accept them in principle. The details are to be



be agreed to after the war.

NIZAM-EL-SULTANEH has, in consideration for £80,000, gone over to the Turks. He is now half way between KERMANSHAH and KANGAVAR.

SWEDEN. The situation is regarded as somewhat serious since Swedish public opinion has been much concerned by the British Blockade policy. The "Stockholm", a large and one of the first ships of the new Swedish-American line, has been detained on account of her suspect cargo: copper, lard, oil etc; all of which articles it is thought may pass to Germany.

The King in opening Parliament stated that the rights of neutrals were being more and more infringed, and that adequate provision must be made to meet the possible future requirements of the country.

It is regarded as certain that Germany will do her utmost to force Sweden into the war in the spring. Already the Government threatens to prohibit the transit of goods consigned to Russia unless the British Government agree to modify the restrictions on Swedish commerce. This would enrage Russia and war might be the ultimate result.

THE UNITED STATES. Germany has a strong hold on American diplomacy and popular feeling, partly on account of the hostile American commercial attitude due to the British Blockade policy, but chiefly on account of the influence of the German vote in politics. The Presidential election takes place in November and the present party in power are growing afraid of the rivalry of Mr Bryan.

The publication of the VON PAPEN papers has had a good effect. It is, however, considered possible that Germany will allow an American diplomatic victory on the "Lusitania" case



provided the United States agree to restrict the output of Allied munitions from American factories. In this case Russia has agreed with Great Britain to impose an embargo on raw material.

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## 2. WESTERN DESERT INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY . 3-9th Feb.

There have been no events of importance during the last week. There seems to have been a general withdrawal by the enemy from the coast line between MATRUH and SOLLUM, doubtless owing to the ample water supply now to be found in the inland wells and cisterns since the heavy rain.

Aerial reconnaissances over BAHARIA round the FAYUM and for some distance west have failed to detect any movements of enemy forces.

The enemy have asked for reinforcements from CYRENAICA but the tribes there are not disposed to move eastwards. The sowing season and the failure of the Egyptian operations sufficiently account for this attitude.

Constant reports are being spread amongst the Senussi forces of the arrival or expected arrival of ships and submarines with reinforcements and supplies, but authentic eye-witnesses of these arrivals are rare, and beyond the existence of Russian rifles no direct evidence has been obtained.

Supplies are said to be short and the blockade of the North coast is beginning to have its effect in the interior of Cyrenaica as well as on the Senussi forces.

The Egyptian Beduin seem to have had the heavier losses in the two engagements. This added to shortness of food, ill-treatment of themselves and their families and, their natural antipathy to the Western Arab, has produced considerable discontent. Parties of these who have been fighting against us have come into MATRUH asking permission to proceed Eastwards.



Others are endeavouring to slip into the Delta unobserved. The camping grounds at HAMMAM, AMRIA and BEHIG allotted to Boduin who have not joined the enemy are filling up satisfactorily.

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3. TELEGRAMS FROM G. Q. G. FRANCE.

8. 2. 16. All Serbian troops will have left Durazzo by 9th February - there will remain only Italian troops in the town after that date. Up to 7th February 100,000 Serbian troops have been evacuated, of whom 85,000 are at Corfu. Montenegrin troops have also been evacuated under the same conditions as the Serbians.

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2168  
SECRET.

110  
Appendix No. *F 57*

CAIRO,

11th February, 1916.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.  
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TURKEY.

Smyrna Reports.  
Turkish Press Extracts.  
Germans in Gallipoli Peninsula.

BALKAN PENINSULA.

Bulgars for Rumanian Frontier.  
Greco-Bulgar Affray.  
Evacuation of Serbs and Montenegrins.

MESOPOTAMIA.

Extracts from I.E.F. Bulletins.  
Typhus among Turks at Kut.  
General Intelligence.

YEMEN.

General Intelligence.

SYRIA.

New Road.  
Information from Aleppo.

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## Appendix No. F67

1.

## TURKEY.

SMYRNA REPORT - 27th January, 1916.

ARMENIANS - Two battalions of infantry and one of artillery are quartered in the barracks outside the town. These troops are well dressed, but only half of them carry arms. Their morale is good, and they are convinced that the war is over, and that they will be disbanded in March.

AIYALI - A Christian, from a Labour Battalion, who arrived at SMYRNA on 25th January stated that there were very few troops in the town.

SCALA NOVA - A battalion of depot troops is quartered in the barracks outside, and to the South, of the town.

ATTACK ON SMYRNA - On 27th January great excitement was manifested in military circles, as a landing near SCALA NOVA was expected, at the moment. The Aidin Railway Co. received orders to have steam up on all locomotives, and to have all available coaches and trucks ready at the Point and Caravan Bridge stations.

PENINSULA EVACUATION - A report from CONSTANTINOPLE states, on very good authority, that about 70 senior Turkish and German officers were court-martialled for neglect of duty in failing to observe the British withdrawal from ANAFARTA.

ECONOMIC - 25th January: Great antagonism exists between Rahmi Bey and the General Commissariat at CONSTANTINOPLE. The latter refuses to allow the SMYRNA Vilayet to import cereals from the other vilayets (vide Bulletin of 4th Feb.), and have insinuated that the Vali's object is none other than to further his commercial transactions with his friends.

The Military Governor of the town, Djemal Pasha, is fully alive to the situation, and proposed, in case of great necessity, to supply the population with flour from the Army Stores; he even wrote to CONSTANTINOPLE on the subject, but, in reply, he was told that he would be held personally responsible if he distrained a single grain of wheat. Djemal Pasha has a very high opinion of Rahmi, and it is well known in military circles that a full understanding exists between the two.

From 24th January, the bread made by the town and village bakeries is to be constituted as follows:- 50% beans, 40% flour, and 10% Indian Corn.

The prices of all commodities are rising very rapidly, and stocks are exceedingly low. There is, consequently, great distress and misery, especially amongst the poor and lower classes, which the relief societies are doing their best to cope with.

MISCELLANEOUS - As the 500 Syrian recruits, who arrived on 18th January, were passing through the Arasta quarter of SMYRNA, they started raiding the shops. The officers could do nothing to control the men, and only ordered the shopkeepers to close their shops.

On 17th January, a number of Turkish women made a demonstration in front of the German Consulate. They clamoured for bread, money, and for the return of their men. The police soon dispersed them.



## Appendix No. 767

2.

REPORT ON SMYRNA DISTRICT - 31st January, 1916.TROOPS --

- SEVDIKTUI - Reported seven battalions.  
 MENEMEN - Three battalions.  
 Another informant, who passed through MENEMEN on 19th January saw about 2,000 troops, composed of men of the 18/19 and 48/49 year classes. These men were poorly armed.
- VOURLA - About 800 men, mostly Arabs.  
 KILISMAN - Reported about 800 men in district.  
 No movement of the 151st Regiment has been reported.
- KARABURNU PENINSULA - Informants state that troops have been seen moving on the North side of the Peninsula; numbers and classes not known.
- ORTAJA (Opposite LONG Island) - One informant reports about 150 men.
- MOSCO ISLAND - About 300 men, most of whom are convict volunteers. They have been issued with old pattern Mauser rifles, and soft-nosed bullets. There is also a labour battalion detachment of about 200 men. The men are quartered in guard houses on the island.
- AIVALI -- Mousse Bey, the Circassian Comitatji, is in command of about 800 men patrolling the district from the Aivali heights to GOMEJ. 40 men are stationed to the South of the town, near the (?) lights.

RECRUITS - The labour battalions are being trained for active service.

TURKISH PRESS EXTRACTS - 29th December to 11th January.

PROVISIONS. (5th Jan.). - The Municipality of CONSTANTINOPLE publishes regulations for distribution to the population of a stock of crushed corn; each house to have two oke (one oke - 2.82 lbs) per month at 4 piastres (8d) per oks. The municipality also promises to obtain further supplies. In several subsequent issues there is a paragraph headed "Corn is coming".

The "Imperative Needs Commission", on which sit the under Secretaries for Interior, Finance, War Office, met under Talat Bey's presidency 11th January, at the Ministry of Finance, and discusses the economic wants of the Capital. It is understood that the envoy sent by the Committee to Rumania has obtained grain, sugar, coffee, petroleum, etc., and that these commodities will soon arrive, and will be sold by grocers.

CONSTANTINOPLE - BERLIN TRAIN (31st Dec). - Trains between CONSTANTINOPLE and BERLIN will run twice a week. Application for tickets to be made eight or ten days in advance.

L.T. 20,000,000 LOAN (7th Jan). - The Government is authorised to conclude a contract for a loan of L.T. 20,000,000 from Germany. The money to be paid in German Treasury Bonds to the Ottoman Public Debt, and issued by the Ottoman Public Debt as Ottoman Paper Money.



VARIOUS PERSONAGES - Generals Enver Pasha, Mahmoud Ali Pasha, and Essad Pasha were at the Selamlık on 7th January. The Sultan received Baron Oppenheim on 10th January.

Marshal Fuad Pasha, Issa Pasha, and Sheikh Ismail left BERLIN for CONSTANTINOPLE on 10th January on the conclusion of their mission.

"Gazi" Mahmoud Muktar Pasha was received by the Sultan on 5th January.

ALEXANDRIA - 9th February, 1916. Report dated 7th February:- There is a German division of about 10,000 men in the GALLIOLI Peninsula.

ALEXANDRIA NOTE:- The above should be accepted with all reserve pending confirmation.

B A L K A N P E N I N S U L A .

Extracts from censored cables - 10th February.

"Al Ahram" - SALONICA reports on good authority that Bulgar officers on the frontier, in conversation with Greek officers there, state that the units to which they belong are being transferred to Rumanian Frontier.

"Mokattam" - From SOROS comes news of a fight between a strong band of Comitadjis and Greek troops, who dispersed the Bulgars, capturing many, including their leader. Essad Pasha is reported going to CORFU.

French G.H.Q. - 10/11th February:- By 10th February, 122,000 Serbs and Montenegrins had been taken off. Of these, 107,000 are at CORFU.

About 15,000 - 20,000 men are left. These are going to VALONA.

M E S O P O T A M I A .

Extracts from I.E.F. Bulletins.

10th January, 1916.

EWPHRATES LINE - Careful enquiries at SUK ESH SHEYUKH indicate that there was no truth in the statement that the enemy was buying camels and supplies in that district.

Five Dhafir Sheikhs, who were with Ajaimi, came into NASIRIYAH on 3rd January, also Azairieh Sheikhs. Ajaimi has now only one Dhafir, one Shammar, and three Azairieh Sheikhs with him, and the latter are expected to leave him.

WIGRIS LINE - A report regarding the three Rubiah Chiefs, states that (a) Yassin's attitude is undecided. (b) Amir is completely with the Turks and has men at BGHAILAH and SHEIKH SAAD. (c) Gussab is equally anti-British, and is the leader of the anti-British movement amongst the KUT Tribes.



According to a report from NASIRIYAH, on 4th January, Yassin visited the Turkish camp, and was detained as a hostage by Nur Ud Din.

It is estimated that the Turks lost 3,000 on the night of the 24th/25th December, and 700 in the attack on LIQUORICE Village.

15th January, 1916.

EUPHRATES LINE - A report from NASIRIYAH (31-12-15) says that Khayun El Ubeid has prohibited the export of food stuffs from SHATTRA to NASIRIYAH.

Ajaimi is reported still at UM EL ROJ, and is said to have received 25 tents from the Turks, and to have asked for 30 more. There appears to be no foundation for the reports that he had guns with him.

General Gorrings's move to BUTANIYAH has been well received by the local Sheikhs. The Khaffajah Sheikhs have come into BUTANIYAH, and other ~~Khaffajah~~ Gharaf tribes appear anxious to come in. These latter have not been approached by us before this, and their attitude has been non-committal; this latest news of them looks as though the reports of the TIGRIS fighting which have reached them have been in our favour.

General Gorrings wires that on 10th January, Arabs from BURANIYAH sent in 400 camels for him. These are in all probability either Khaffajah or Azairish property.

KUT - The containing force at KUT is now estimated at two Divisions (viz 45th and 51st) less one regiment reported to have been sent to KHANIKIN, thus leaving 15 battalions, which was probably the least force (it would be about 7,000 men and 17 guns) that Nur ud Din thought safe.

General Aylmer now estimates enemy's SHAIKH SAAD casualties at 4,500 (excluding desertions which he says were numerous).

General Townshend's wire of 11th January puts force containing him at 6,000. This appears just about right for the 45th and 51st Divisions, less one regiment sent to KHANIKIN. There is probably another Turkish division in BAGDAD, or pushed towards KHANIKIN (with an eye to Baratoff). In support of this is Turkish prisoners' under-estimate of our strength, viz 6,000 in KUT and 6/7,000 in TIGRIS Corps, and their belief that KUT is very short of food and ammunition.

Strength of a company of 104th (Turkish) regiment was 150. This puts battalion strength at 600, i.e., weak, as we reckoned.

Prisoners say some supplies for SHEIKH SAAD force were obtained from BEDRAI on donkeys. S.A. Ammunition plentiful (includes ammunition of German make).

Nur ud Din visited SHEIKH SAAD during the battle.

Turks have telephones, telegraphs, and helios, but no wireless (except the "Firefly's"). No aeroplanes, but are flying one captured from us.

All available pack transport (in KUT area ?-) has been hired.

BASRA - 9th February, 1916:- Typhus fever among the Turkish troops at KUT, which has probably been brought by recent drafts coming from ALEPPO, is reported by a prisoner taken recently on the TIGRIS. He also states that of the two battalions of camelry in the force opposing General Aylmer, one has recently changed its camels for horses.



5.

A Belgian Doctor, who recently arrived at BASRAH from KERMANSIAH, via PUSHT I KUH, reports that some of the members of the family of the Vali of PUSHT I KUH, and also some of his entourage, act as a check on him, and he will therefore not commit himself to hostile action against us.

Prince Henry of REUSS was in KERMANSIAH when informant left.

It is reported, on good authority, that the notorious Abudih Sheikh, Khalife Yunnan el Obeid, of SHATTRA EL MUNTAFIK, received a letter lately from Nur ud Din, who thanked the Sheikh for his help, and wished him farewell, as he himself had been transferred to ERZERUM.

# Y E M E N .

ALEXANDRIA - 9th February, 1916:- An agent in MOCHA states that the irregulars at MOCHA have been increased by 300 Arabs led by Abela Effendi, brother of Kaimakam of MOCHA, alias Osman. They were leaving for ZARANIK.

Turkish Commander Shankat Bey left SHEIKH SAID early December for LAHEJ. He was succeeded by Ismail Feidi Bey.

Ruffaat Bey Commanding MOCHA district ordered Chiefs Dufami, Hukami, Rushegi, to supply men; not being able to, they were fined.

Sheikh Ali (?) Mohammed, chief MOSSOMALEKA has supplied 150.

Two Turkish battalions arrived at SANAA, going towards LAHEJ.

# S Y R I A .

ALEXANDRIA - 9th February, 1916:- Letters from PALESTINE state that a new road is being made from JAFFA to RISHON. The Jews at the latter place were ordered to pay the sum of 50,000 Francs if they wished to avoid working on the road.

CAIRO NOTE:- RISHON is RISHON LE ZION, a Jewish colony near JAFFA.

ALEXANDRIA - 10th January, 1916:- Information from ALEPPO states:- Provisions are short. Germans state that 40 miles of the BAGDAD Railway have still to be laid. They also state that Egyptian Expedition consists of 150,000 men, who will perhaps be diverted towards AFGHANISTAN and India.

ALEXANDRIA NOTE:- The length of rail mentioned is the combined length of two unfinished sections, (a) KARAPUNAR to DORAK. (b) BAGSCHE Tunnel section, between MARMURIE and ISLAHIA. These will require more than a year to complete.

*M. M. M. M.*  
Captain,  
For G.S.O. (I),  
The Force in Egypt.



## Appendix No. FCII

SECRET.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT, No. 459, ISMAILIA, February 11th 1916.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

INTELLIGENCE  
OFFICE  
ISMAILIA  
11th Feb  
1916.

The following notes bring the information contained in Intelligence Report, No. 459, dated 22nd Jan, up to date.

NORTH ROAD

During the last month the following new wells have been dug:-

	HOD EL KHIRBA	8-2	wells
E3	BIR ABU AFEIN	6	wells
5 m W. of Bir el Sahm	BIR EL ABD	24	"
F4	BIR EL JAMEIL	1	"
G3	BIR EL MOSEIFIG	6	"
G4	BIR EL KASSIBA	2	"
H3	BIR EL MAZAR	6	"
I3	BIR EL GERERAT	3	"

CENTRAL ROAD

There has been very heavy rain on the northern slopes of Maghara<sup>NE</sup> and all wadis flowing north have come down in spate. All wadis to the north of Yolloq have also been in flood but not heavily.

Khabret Rodh Salom<sup>N</sup> had water in it for some days but is now reported to have dried up, but the water supply in the wells may be considered to be at least double.

Some damage was done to the metalled road but not to any serious extent. Work has stopped on the road owing to the workmen having been recalled east.

About 90,000 gallons of water are reported to have been held up from the recent rain in the Gobel Um Mukhsheib Massif.

SOUTH ROAD

Conditions on the south road have not altered materially although more rain has fallen.

Aeroplane reconnaissance reports a dam to have been built and water held up in Wadi el Arish 10 miles S.E. of Sekhl. This however, according to an agent, is only the usual earth embankment built by the Arabs across the wadi to hold up sufficient water to thoroughly soak the ground for cultivation and he now reports it to be dry.



CONFIDENTIAL.  
No. 18.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

1. 12th FEBRUARY, 1916.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,  
MEDITERRANEAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. The Internal situation in Turkey.
  - (a) Letters from Constantinople.
  - (b) Smyrna News.
2. German intrigues in Persia.

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1. THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN TURKEY.(a) Letters from Constantinople.

It is reported on very good authority that about 70 superior Turkish and German officers have been brought over from the Dardanelles Army and court-martialled for neglect of duty in not having observed the British withdrawal from Anafarta. Extracts from a private letter from Cons'ple, dated 12th January 1916. (The writer is personally known, and the following may be taken as a reliable account of the position at Constantinople).

The city is quiet but the prices of all necessities of life are rising daily; sugar is almost unobtainable and bread hard to get, but the greatest difficulty of all in obtaining supplies is caused by the fact that by the new through communication Germany is draining Turkey of all provisions and foodstuffs.

The poverty and distress are terrible and felt equally by all classes. Most distressing of all is the sight of thousands of refugees driven from their homes, almost naked and without a farthing, many of them people who have been fairly well off and who are now risking death from cold and starvation.

Fuel has risen to such a price that as a rule people do without fires; luckily after a sharp spell of frost which did not last long, the weather is not so cold and looks like improving. When the news of the evacuation of the Peninsula became known the whole town was decorated with red flags; numbers of wounded in a terrible condition, however, continue to arrive daily. Germans control everything as if the whole place belonged to them and they make their arrangements without any consideration for the feelings of others.



## Appendix No. 7A II

Page 104.

Of all the countries at war, Constantinople although farthest away, seems to be suffering the most.

The following <sup>is</sup> extracted from the Cairo Bulletin of Feb'y 10th.

Letters from Constantinople (reliability quite unknown)

Letter early in January:- (1) Yusuf Izzedin has roused himself, and is terrifying the greater part of the Government, and his party is very strong in Constantinople.

(2) Almost all Turks who are anti-Prussian are on the side of Prince Mohamed Mourad. He has been court-martialled, and he is supposed secretly to be arranging a separate Turkish peace with the Allies.

(3) For the last six days nothing has been seen or heard of Enver Pasha. No one seems to know where he is, but it is said that he has left secretly for Syria, where he will inspect the troops.

(4) The Liberal Party (Ahrar) have asked the Government how long the war is going to last, and what is the purpose of her withdrawing all her troops from Constantinople and putting German troops in their places. Also what is the use of sending an Expeditionary Force against Egypt; what benefit will be derived therefrom, and the strength of the expedition.

(5) Rahmi Bey, Vali of SMYRNA, has been transferred to Syria to take the place of Ahmed Riza Bey. This is owing to his protests against being under the German Crown, as he feared that Germany might remain in permanent possession of CONSTANTINOPLE.

(6) Many soldiers have left recently, together with 40 guns, 22 motor cars, and six aeroplanes. Eight aeroplanes of large size have also been despatched to Egyptian boundaries.

Letters, 20th January. (7) Djemal Pasha has been ordered by the War Office at CONSTANTINOPLE to find out exactly the cost of the expedition against Egypt.

(8) It is said that the Turkish Empire has ceded Syria to Germany.

(9) Germany has lent to the Turkish Government 30,000,000 marks; it is said that they cannot advance further sums, and the expedition against Egypt will therefore be postponed.

(10) The attack on Egypt is impossible in February, and many say it will not take place in March, and, perhaps, not even afterwards. They think now at the Sublime Porte that the Army is in a bad condition, that England is making strong counter preparations, and that Turkey would require 400,000 soldiers. To transport this number, with munitions, would be difficult even in another six months. Tell the Staff that England may remain tranquil as regards Egypt, but not for Iraq.

(11) The 1st Secretary of the German Embassy has left CONSTANTINOPLE for BERLIN, but we do not know his mission, and no one outside the Government knows of his absence.

(12) A Turkish boat has transported guns from the Dardanelles to SAMSUN. 4,000 soldiers, which were meant for Mesopotamia have been sent to SAMSUN.

(13) Rahmi Bey has left SMYRNA, and is in disagreement with Talat Bey.

(14) Hakkı Pasha will arrive at CONSTANTINOPLE in ten



days (from 17-3-11). He may enter the Government, but perhaps the present Government will fall, because the Crown Prince, Yusuf Ed Din, went to see the Sultan on the 18th, and was with him 2½ hours discussing the question of a change of Cabinet. He said to the Sultan that if there were not a change of Government, there would be a terrible revolution in CONSTANTINOPLE, for neither the Army nor the people were content at present. The Sultan replied, "Make your mind easy, your matter will be gone into this week".

(15) They say that Enver Pasha is going with von Sanders to visit Arabia and Palestine, and arrangements for the journey are now being made.

(16) Djemal Pasha sent a letter to the Minister of War, in which he asks for food for the soldiers, camels for transport, clothing, and more soldiers. "If the Germans do not send a complete force of 30/40,000 men, you must send another Commander, as I shall not remain any longer."

(17) The Rualla and Amur Arabs, who rebelled at HOMS, have escaped to TADMOR. The Vali of Syria, Arif Bey, and the Mutassarif of HAMA have sent 400 soldiers in pursuit, but they returned without finding them. Some Beduin have entered MISDIN; others have taken the road to RAKKA.

(18) Salih Pasha is going to PARIS for the second time to see whether anything can be done in France about peace. The first demand in his programme is that England should leave Arabia (i.e. Mesopotamia); secondly, should give up Egypt, thirdly that France should not touch Syria, fourthly France should lend Turkey one milliard of francs; and fifthly Russia should not touch Armenia, but some rectification of frontier in Russia's benefit would be made, and concessions would be made to the Armenians.

CAIRO NOTE:- (1) There is no doubt but that Yusuf Izzeddin, who had the reputation of a half-wit, had pulled himself together lately, and made great efforts to find supporters for an anti-Enver programme.

(2) Prince Mourad was a nonentity, like most Turkish Princes in ordinary times. They are all probably anti-Enver, who is the son of a court-servant, taking too much upon himself in their eyes.

(4) The Ahrar was so discredited five years ago, that its members allowed it to die a natural death. Unless it has been reconstituted by heavier men since war broke out, there is not much in what it thinks or says.

(5) Rahmi Bey is one of the few decent men in the Committee, and has always taken a bold line of his own in politics. They are afraid of him.

(6) The destination of these troops is probably Irak. The despatch of powerful aeroplanes to the Egyptian frontier has been several times hinted at.

(12) The Russian Black Sea Fleet has never been able to maintain a continuous blockade of the mouth of the BOSPHORUS.

(14) Yusuf Izzeddin's matter was gone into very shortly. It is not astonishing that he died. It is curious that he should have thought it worth while to disclose himself to the Sultan.

(17) This had not been reported previously. It was probably a dispute over camels.

(18) This probably represents fairly enough the judgement of CONSTANTINOPLE on the present situation of the Allies. The fact that the Turks have leisure for internal troubles shows how confident they are that the crisis of the war is passed.



Russia is still, in their opinion, their most formidable enemy.

(b). SMYRNA NEWS.

All indications point to the fact that the Turks believe an occupation of Smyrna is contemplated.

On Jan. 17th the Smyrna Authorities seized all rowing, sailing and fishing boats and anchored them across the entrance to the harbour. Four sentry boxes are being mounted on pontoons and together with half a dozen fishing smacks, are being moored across the harbour between the Sea Fort and the opposite coast in order to make it impossible for small craft to pass in and out.

On Jan. 27th great excitement was manifested in military circles as a landing near Scala Nova (near Smyrna) was expected at any moment. The AIDIN Rly Coy received orders to have steam up on all locomotives and to have all available coaches and trucks ready at two specified stations. (NOTE. A French Air Squadron bombed Smyrna on the 8th inst.)

On Jan. 17th a number of Turkish women made a demonstration in front of the German Consulate clamouring for the return of their men. The police dispersed them.

500 Syrian recruits who arrived in Smyrna on Jan. 18th proceeded at once to raid all the shops. The officers could do nothing to control the men and only ordered the shopkeepers to close their shops.

About a month ago the gunners of St George's Battery (Smyrna) were put on half rations for a week for having "uselessly wasted 36 shots against a small hostile man of war!"

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2. GERMAN INTRIGUES IN PERSIA.

On Jan. 18th our post at NEH (60 miles W. of border of



SEISTAN) got into touch with a hostile party of 2 Europeans and 16 natives and captured one of the former, who turned out to be a German officer, Lieut. Winckelmann. From an examination it appears that he was sent from Berlin to Constantinople and there placed under the orders of RAOUF Bey, who had an independent command, and whose idea was to take his troops to Afghanistan. Winckelmann was at first employed in propaganda among the Arab troops in Aleppo; later he proceeded to Baghdad with other German officers. They took much gold with them to Baghdad, and stored it in the German Consulate. From Baghdad he himself brought 8 boxes to KERMANSHAH. At Baghdad the German officers disagreed with Raouf Bey and since then have received no further orders from Berlin. But they had a clear idea of what was required of them. They, therefore, split up into 5 parties; the first to operate in Eastern Persia under leadership of Herr SEILER, (he reports that the Amir of Afghanistan is friendly to them) with H.Q. at KHABIS, (40 m. N.E. of KIRMAN) The 2nd went to Kirman under BOHNSTORFF; the 3rd was under the notorious WASSHUS; the 4th was working on the KARUN river; the 5th was destined for AZERBAIJAN. He stated that they had everywhere met with a good reception, but that the BAKHTIANS were not helping them. In each party were Germans and Austrians armed with latest pattern rifles and native levies who supplied their own arms.

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12th February, 1916.

Greek Press.  
Bulgarian Troops along Maritza.  
General Intelligence.

MESOPOTAMIA.



## T U R K E Y .

February,

ALEXANDRIA - 11th, 1916.

CONSTANTINOPLE Report - 31st January:-

GERMAN TROOPS - About 500 German troops arrive daily at CONSTANTINOPLE via RUSTCHUK.

SUPPLIES TO GERMANY - The Germans have purchased about 100,000 sheep in Turkey. These are slaughtered and salted at SAN STEFANO, and sent to Germany. Owing to the above purchase, the price of meat in CONSTANTINOPLE has risen from 8.5 piastres to 20 piastres.

A syndicate has been formed to purchase various goods throughout Turkey for export to Germany.

The impression gathered from Germans arriving at CONSTANTINOPLE is that Germany is becoming very short of certain foodstuffs.

LOAN FROM GERMANY - Germany has made further cash advances to Turkey, conditional on the latter providing an Army of 1,000,000 men. In order to do this the Germans are endeavouring to make the Turks call up all who have paid the exemption tax. The Chamber of Deputies is against this proposal, as most of the members' sons have paid the tax. It is, however, considered probable that when the Chamber is closed, a provisional law will enable the Government to carry out this order.

SALONICA reports, from persons (known to us) who arrived there from CONSTANTINOPLE, 9th February:- Germans are buying up large quantities of meat, fish, and wheat, and sending them to Germany. The resulting enormous increase in prices has further exasperated Turkey. Daily bread ration is now 2 oz. per head of population. The gas plant is closed down, and streets are no longer lighted. CONSTANTINOPLE is full of German officers and soldiers.

An N.C.O. who deserted from SMYRNA, towards the end of January, reports:- There is one battalion at AEDIN, whence troops have been sent to ALEPPO. At NAZLI there is one battalion. At DENIZLI are recruits in training. Near FOKIA there is one battalion of V Army Corps, natives of KASTAMUNI.

The plant from the munition factory at SMYRNA was sent to LSKI SHEHIR six weeks ago.

From "AL Ahram" cable - 11th February:- The "Corriere Della Sera" says that, according to the BERLIN press, 30,000 to 40,000 troops (German) destined for the invasion of Egypt are concentrated near SMYRNA, and will be placed under the orders of Prince Leopold of Bavaria,



## Appendix No. F68

2.

## BALKAN PENINSULA.

ALEXANDRIA - 11th February, 1916.

Following are extracts from the Greek Press, dated 10th February:- The "Nea Asty" and the "Chronos" state that the attitude of the Entente towards Greece has greatly modified. In public opinion this change has caused great relief, and is regarded as the beginning of the removal of all misunderstandings, and especially of the establishment of better relations.

Report, dated 10th February:- Bulgarian General Staff, on the pretext of guarding the railway in the Maritza valley, has begun to station troops along the line. The Turkish Government has protested against this isolation from Turkey of Turkish troops, about one Army Corps being at GUMULJINA, stating she would withdraw troops if they no longer served the purpose for which they were sent, namely for the protection of Bulgarian Thrace.

ALEXANDRIA NOTE: The above is subject to reserve.

Extracts from Censored Cables - 11th February.

"Al Ahram":- The Correspondent of the "Corriere Della Sera" in Macedonia reports that the DEMIR KAPU tunnel has been cleared, and that the line is now clear between VELES and STRUMNITZA.

The "Matin" reports that 134,000 Serbs have been landed at CORFU, with 35,000 animals.

"Journal du Caire":- Rumours of a Germano-Bulgar invasion are diminishing. Whispers of the probability of an Anglo-French attack being undertaken, are now beginning to be heard.

"Reuter":- The Italians are sending troops to SALONICA.

## MESOPOTAMIA.

Extracts from Censored Cables - 11th February.

"Al Ahram":- AMSTERDAM telegraphs that CONSTANTINOPLE reports that General Aylmer's relief column has attacked the Turks. Lively engagements have taken place.

"Reuter":- Turkish Communique reports two violent battles with General Aylmer on the right bank of the TIGRIS, but no change near KUT.

*Mr. S. Macdonald*

Captain,  
For G.S.O. (I),  
The Force in Egypt.



SECRET.

FC12<sup>126</sup>  
Appendix No. FC12

INTELLIGENCE REPORT. No. 480. ISMAILIA, February 12th 1916.

Source of  
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

Intelligence  
Officer  
Kantara  
10.2.16.

Agent sent to Bir Saba reached there on the 2nd inst, but returned with very little news worth reporting. Ibn<sup>4</sup> He reports very many Arabs there of the Rashid tribe. These men are all armed with single loading rifles. GAZA. He describes the Turks as digging many trenches facing the sea.

EL ARISH. He saw 10 German Officers; 150 riding camels and between 400 and 500 tents. Taufik Bey was still in the town.

Two Agents report separately that DJEMAL PASHA has arrived at El Arish, bringing with him two "taburs" neither agent saw any aeroplanes there.

The talk in El Arish is that the main Army for Egypt is still north of Jerusalem.

Posts along the northern road are now reported as follows:-

5m. W. of Bir Saba  
#3 BIR EL MAZAR. 50 men - store still empty.  
BIR EL ABD. 100 men. 30 new tents expected there on the 7th inst. 130 camels with loads arrived evening of 5th inst.

# HOL EL DABABIS (Lat 31. 0' Long 32.55') 10 men at Telegraph Station. 200 camelmen reported here. (This is not confirmed.. F.S.)

Agents agree that coal is being collected all along the coast in Neighbourhood of MAHENDIA. (Lat 31. 4' Long 32.41') and being sent to BIR SABA.

Agent who had been at Rodh Salom on the 5th inst reports that, though the Turkish Post is still there, the workmen on the road have all gone back to Kossaima and Auja to repair the wash-outs.

He reports a small quantity of water in a pool near Rodh Salom but not much, though water is standing in pools in all the wadis leading north from Gebel Hamaiyir<sup>4</sup> and Gebel Barga.<sup>4</sup>

Left Ismailia 1st February for rail-head.

GEHEL TACSA 1st inst. Nothing to report.

GEHEL GEDIRA 2nd inst. Fresh tracks of a patrol of 4 camelmen going south.

WADI KHARIG }  
H5 WADI LABAGID } 3rd inst. { Recent floods have now dried  
15 WADI EL FAT'H } up. Arabs busy cultivating in wadi beds.

4 ABU AWEIGILA 4th inst. The metalled road from Auja goes along the east bank of wadi El Arish towards El Arish. A Dam has been made half way across wadi El Arish and a bridge is being commenced across the rest of the wadi. A post of 4 tents, about 40 soldiers and 4 Arab guides with their camels were seen by Agent.

BIR SABA 5th inst evening. It was raining when Agent reached Saba, and the soldiers were wearing great-coats so that agent could not see the regimental numbers on their collars. He estimated the force at more than 15,000 men. There were many more tents there than when he last visited Saba: i.e. beginning of January. He saw 2,000 transport camels, 100 mules and 500 horses. All guns were under cover.

Ismailia  
2/2.16.



INST. INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO. 850. ISMAILIA. February 12th 1916. (PAGE 2)

He saw 3 aeroplane sheds north of the Government buildings, north of the town, and heard there were 5 aeroplanes there.

HE SAW 3 railway engines at Bir Saba, 2 alone and one with about 20 trucks.

The wash-out at Wadi ash Sheria has been mended. All the workmen had been sent from work on the embankment to do so.

Agent left Bir Saba on the evening of the 6th for Asluj. He states that both the main line rails and the Decauville have been laid as far as wadi Asluj, where the main line stops at the bridge, the Decauville is continued for 2 miles further south. The rails on the main line are to a great extent covered with ballast of small stones which has not yet been cleared away as all workmen were taken away to the wash-out. No engines or Trucks were seen on the main line south of wadi Saba. On the Decauville south of wadi Asluj, agent saw small trucks but no engines. No work is being done. There are heaps of rails and sleepers at rail-head.

On 6th inst. Half way between Saba and Asluj, Agent saw a monoplane flying very high. He could see no marks on it but was told that it was a Turkish plane flying to Auja.

From Asluj agent returned via wadi Azarig, Abu Aweigila and wadi el Fat'h to Gebel Hamaiyir. Here he was chased and caught by a fellow tribesman, Id Amer, in the employ of the Turks, who was accompanying a patrol of 9 soldiers. Luckily Id Amer was the only one, well mounted. They exchanged blows with their sticks, agent being cut over the eye, then as the patrol was closing up, agent slipped from off his camel and ran and hid in the rocks. They fired 5 shots at him but missed and though they searched for the best part of a day they failed to find him in the Gebel. As soon as they had gone, he came in on foot; they had driven off his camel. He was two days without food or water.

Left Ismailia on 3rd inst for Hassana & Kossaima.

Agent  
Ismailia  
12.2.16.

B6 KATAIB EL KHEIL 3rd inst. Nothing to report.

FY WADI EL SHELAH 4th inst. The day old tracks of a patrol of 4 camelmén.

GY BIR EL JIFJAF 5th. Agent saw 4 tents from a distance.

HY WADI ABU GURUN 5th. Nothing to report

JY HASSANA 6th. Agents description tallies with previous accounts. He states that the big cistern is 30 paces by 10 paces and 1½ metre high. It contains water. He did not dare approach too close, as there were two sentries on it, but he saw what he thinks was an entrance underneath it, and heard from Arabs that the Turks had built a Magazine under the cistern. An Anti-aircraft gun has been mounted E.S.E. of the cistern, and the 8 guns previously reported are still near the road. Not far from there some stone buildings are in process of construction. About 1/4 of a mile S. of the cistern is a black heap which agent was told was wood, but for what purpose he could not learn. He estimates the number of troops at 2,500 in 200 tents, well scattered.

I/Y Agent slept at wadi el Hamth (6th) There is a telephone line along the Hassana Kossaima road.



SECRET. INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO. 460. ISMAILIA, February 12th 1916. (PAGE 3 )

KOSSAIMA 7th. <sup>N2</sup> Agent saw 70 tents, 30 camels bringing stone for building, 350 mules approximately and 500 horses tied to a rope in one long line. 7 guns on wheels each about 1½ metres long and a guard of 10 men in 2 tents. He estimates the total number of troops at 2,000 men. He saw the pumping engine on the spring and the pipe line covered with sand, leading down the wadi.

He returned from Kossaima by the way he had come, keeping north of Hassana. Arabs told him that there were Turkish posts established at Gebel Godeira, and Zereim and a cordon of posts north to Katia.

Appendix No. 12



CONFIDENTIAL.  
No. 19.

I N T E L L I G E N C E   S U M M A R Y .

13th FEBRUARY, 1916.

1. BALKAN INTELLIGENCE.
2. BULGARIAN PUBLIC OPINION.
3. KING CONSTANTINE'S ADVICE TO SERBIA.
4. DEDUCTIONS ON AIR RECONNAISSANCE TO BIR SABA  
AND HASSANA.

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1. BALKAN INTELLIGENCE.

Military Authorities in Athens are of opinion that there are now 15 German Divisions in BULGARIA. Of these 15 Divisions, there are said to be in North Eastern Bulgaria 10,000 troops at ORU LA, 6,000 at RAZGRAD, 3,500 at RUSTCHUK and 3,500 at VARNA.

(G.H.C. NOTE. All the above places are on the railway within easy reach of the Roumanian frontier. German troops have been several times reported at VARNA, and this information tends to confirm the reports of a concentration by the Central Powers on the Roumanian Frontier in order to compel the Roumanian Government to conform to the policy of the German Staff, see G.H.C. Summary pp 47 and 61.)

From other sources it is stated that the future policy of Roumania is now causing the Germans considerable anxiety. This necessitates a large German Force being maintained on the DANUBE line, and ~~the~~ strategic points in the DOBRUDJA, or N.E. Province of Bulgaria (now the Roumanian frontier since the last Balkan war) are being strongly entrenched. The Roumanian Government is said to have called up the 1913 class, and ~~that~~ there are at present about 400,000 infantry under arms. Roumanian policy is being reinforced by a large concentration of Russian troops in BESSARABIA.

In the SALONIKA zone there is little to report. Various local troop movements are notified, and German units seem to be distributed throughout the enemy position. It is reported <sup>that</sup> the German General Headquarters have been moved back to SOFIA from KUSSEBIL.

The relations between Germany and Turkey are becoming more strained. <sup>& Bulgarian</sup> German troops are now reported on the



ARITSA, where there has been a large Turkish force assembled for some time. The Turks are anxious to use their forces either in the CAUCASUS, MESOPOTAMIA or for the expedition to EGYPT. The Germans are counting upon Turkish co-operation in Europe in the same manner that the Turks are relying on the promised German support in Asia and Syria. The attitude of Roumania, and the reluctance of the Bulgars to sacrifice their army in an actual attack upon the SALONIKA defences makes it difficult for the Germans to spare many troops for any new expedition. Austria is feeling the pressure of the Russian advance in Galicia and the Germans are well aware of the effect that would result from the capture by Russia of GERMONTZ.

## 2. BULGARIAN PUBLIC OPINION..

It is reported from SOFIA that the Government has received a written communication from the German Government granting BULGARIA the whole of SERBIAN MACEDONIA, including DOIRAN - GEVGELI - and MONASTIR. It is also stated that Austria having herself designs on MONASTIR is anxious to limit the hold of BULGARIA on that place. Considerable friction is said in consequence to exist between these two Governments.

It is now generally known in Bulgaria that the Entente Powers had themselves agreed to the cession by Serbia to Bulgaria of the MONASTIR - OHRIDA district of Macedonia. Many Bulgarians therefore, hold the view that by her armed occupation of "New Serbia", assisted as she has been by the Central Powers, Bulgaria has already gained her main objective, which the Entente Powers will also be willing to acknowledge. It is therefore better policy for Bulgaria to keep her army intact for the future rather than carry out a programme dictated by the Central Powers, involving as it does an attack on SALONIKA which cannot be undertaken without



very heavy loss. This, however, does not preclude the occupation of Greek Macedonian Territory.

There has always been an Anti-German party in Bulgaria, and the sympathies of the majority of the people have in the past been strongly pro-Russian and pro-British. King Ferdinand and his Ministry cannot be said to represent Bulgarian opinion so much as the views of the Central Powers in regard to Bulgaria. The war was at first most unpopular. The re-conquest of Macedonia has to a certain extent counter-acted this hostile feeling, but the poverty of the people and the heavy losses suffered by the army have caused great discontent lest the operations should be further unnecessarily extended. The behaviour of the German troops and the confiscation of food stuffs for the consumption of Germany and Austria have increased the discontent which in spite of severe censorship now and again manifests itself in the Press.

Generally speaking it may be said now that Bulgaria feels that her main object has been gained she is determined to have her army left as intact as possible for the ultimate stages of the war, when many conflicting claims must be decided.

### 3. KING CONSTANTINE'S ADVICE TO SERBIA.

From the Italian, CORRIERE DELLA SERA.

Reported reply from King Constantine to the Prince Regent of Serbia, who had asked whether Serbia could count upon Greek support when the recent enemy advance across the Danube began: "Because your telegram was couched in a friendly spirit, reply in as friendly and certain a manner that the true interest of Serbia lies in the direction of making peace with Austria and Germany. I am able to guarantee to you that Germany bears Serbia no ill-will and only demands the right of passage."



I am prepared to act as the intermediary between your Government and that of Germany. I know that should you adopt this course Germany will bring pressure on Austria to cede to Serbia a portion of Dalmatia".

DEDUCTIONS ON AIR RECONNAISSANCE TO BIR SABA AND HASSANA.

The following deductions are made by Cairo on the latest air service reconnaissance reports of Hassana and Bir Saba. Hassana.

The men were mostly workmen, many wheelbarrows, buckets and spades were lying about the Camp. About 40% of the men were wearing North Syrian cloaks which proves them, if not a local unit, at least one which had been some time in the country without being served out with regulation overcoats.

BIR SABA town is not much changed, one big tile-roofed stone building has been put on the hill top, W. of the old barracks. In front of the latter is a white building and S. of them a low compound. These are all the changes in the town; the shops and private houses remain as before. On the North and East, the railway has changed the look of things. Ten new buildings with pitched roofs have been put up. They are narrow, single-storied, with many windows. Along the main line there seem to be five of them in a straight row end to end; on the Eastern siding there seem to be three in a row, and between the main line and the mosque, two more in line. The tents are, for the most part, scattered about in loose groups and lines, but there are two or three clusters that appear regularly laid out. Most of them are canvas bell tents, but there are also some goat-hair tents.

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