

AWM4

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/60/11 Part 2

Title: General Staff, Headquarters ANZAC
Mounted Division

January 1917



AWM4-1/60/11PART2

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION.

Appendix No. 30

30

ORDER No. 70.

- by -

Major-General H.G. CHAUVEL, C.B., C.M.G.,
Commanding A. & N.Z. Mounted Division.

Reference : Map SINAI Peninsula.

Sheet North H - 36
J - 11Divisional Headquarters,
18th January 1917.

1. INFORMATION.

(a) System of Defence. EL ARISH will be defended by a First and Second Line of Defence supported by a line of strong posts running from the Sea on the East, South of the Town, and back to the Sea again on the West. This system will eventually be continued on the South side of the Caravan Route West towards MAGBASA.

(b) Sections of Defence. The Defences will be divided into two Sections :-
Right Section. Commander : G.O.C., 42nd Division.

42nd Division. From the Sea on the West to a North and South line through the East of EL ARISH.

Left Section. Commander : G.O.C., 52nd Division.

52nd Division. From a North and South Line through the East of EL ARISH to the Sea on the East.

(c) Construction of Trenches. The First and Second Lines, when finally selected by Section Commanders, will be constructed and wired. The line of strong posts in each Section will be dug and wired.

(d) Outpost Line. Until the 42nd Division is concentrated in EL ARISH and is ready to take over the right Section, G.O.C., 52nd Division will be responsible for the protection of the Town from the present advanced position, which has already been wired. This Line will be the Outpost Line.

(e) Administrative Areas. Administrative Areas are allotted as under -

(i) 52nd Division. From the Railway Supply Siding, exclusive, Eastwards, and including the Town of EL ARISH.

(ii) 42nd Division. From the Railway Supply Siding, inclusive, (including Railway Station, Ordnance, R.E., and Supply Depot), to the valley - inclusive - which runs in a S.E. direction from the water tanks on the Beach about Kilo 153.

(f) Wire Roads. A wire road exists along the Beach to about Kilo 154. A second wire road is to be constructed, under the direction of the Chief Engineer, from EL ARISH along the Caravan Route Westwards to MAGBASA.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE AREA.

Administrative Area allotted the A. & N.Z. Mounted Division is as follows -
From the valley - exclusive - which runs in a S.E. direction from the water tanks on the Beach about Kilo 153, Westwards.

A. & N.Z. Mounted Division will be responsible for the sanitation of, and the development of water in this area.

J. GILBERT BROWNE, Lieut.-Col.,
General Staff.

Issued at 2100.

| | | | |
|-----------|----------------------|----|----------------|
| Copy No 1 | 1st L.H. Brigade | 11 | A.D.V.S. |
| 2 | 2nd L.H. Brigade | 12 | Desert Column. |
| 3 | 3rd L.H. Brigade | 13 | File |
| 4 | N.Z.M.R. Brigade | 14 | War Diary |
| 5 | Divn. Artillery | 15 | "A" Branch. |
| 6 | Field Squadron | 16 | G.O.C. |
| 7 | Signal Squadron | 17 | G.S.O.I |
| 8 | Hdqtrs A.S.C. | 18 | G.S.O.II |
| 9 | Divn Camel Transport | 19 | G.S.O.III |
| 10 | A.D.M.S. | | |

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Appendix No. 31

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AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION.

Vol III
appen 31



Divisional Headquarters

January 19th 1917

To-
Headquarters

1st A. L. H. Brigade,

It is of the utmost importance that the water at BIR EL BURJ should be developed.

The G.O.C. Desert Column wishes a comprehensive and thorough reconnaissance in that region made.

- Search is to be made (i) on the beach
- (ii) in the Sandhills.
- (iii) In the cravan route and south of it.

Any water found to be developed to the greatest possible extent.

In addition to the search for water a practicable route between the sea and the cravan route is required.

A report is required as to the possibilities of making a road, which would enable animals to pass from the caravan route to the sea to water or to carry water from the sea to EL BURJ, information of the following points:-

- (i) Amount of material required.
- (ii) Time required in which such a road could be made.

Every precaution to ensure the safety of the detachment will be taken, and, outposts, both day and night will be pushed out well in the direction of SHEIKH ZOWAID.

The reconnaissance is required as early as possible.

J. G. [Signature]

Lieut. Colonel
General Staff.
A. & N.Z. Mounted Division.

Vol III
Appendix 32

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

TO { 1st L.H. Brigade.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----|
| Sender's Number. * G/80/43 | Day of Month. 23 | In reply to Number. | AAA |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----|

The G.O.C. wishes a reconnaissance to be carried out by the Regiment at EL BURJ of the area bounded on the North by the sea, on the East by a North and South line through the cross roads West of SHEIKH ZOWAID, on the South by the DARB EL GIDLA road and on the West by a North and South line through UJRET MASAUD.

The escort to the reconnaissance should be at least 1 sqdn owing to the presence of hostile, or presumably hostile, arabs in the country.

Points to be specially reported on - (i) Water possibilities. (ii) State of roads. Fit for wheels or pack and going across country. (iii) Observation Points, both enemy and ourselves and direction of view. (iv) Positions which may be taken up covering SHEIKH ZOWAID. (v) Firewood, or scrub suitable for it. (vi) Grazing for horses in area.

From A. & N.Z. Mounted Division.
Place
Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.
Censor. (Z) sgd A.C.L. TYRRELL, Major.
Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.

* This line should be erased if not required.
750,000. W 2183-M500. H. W. & V., Ltd. 6/16.

7734
New Zealand

SECRET.

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Appen 33



Appendix No. 23

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With reference to our Order No. 68, para 2.

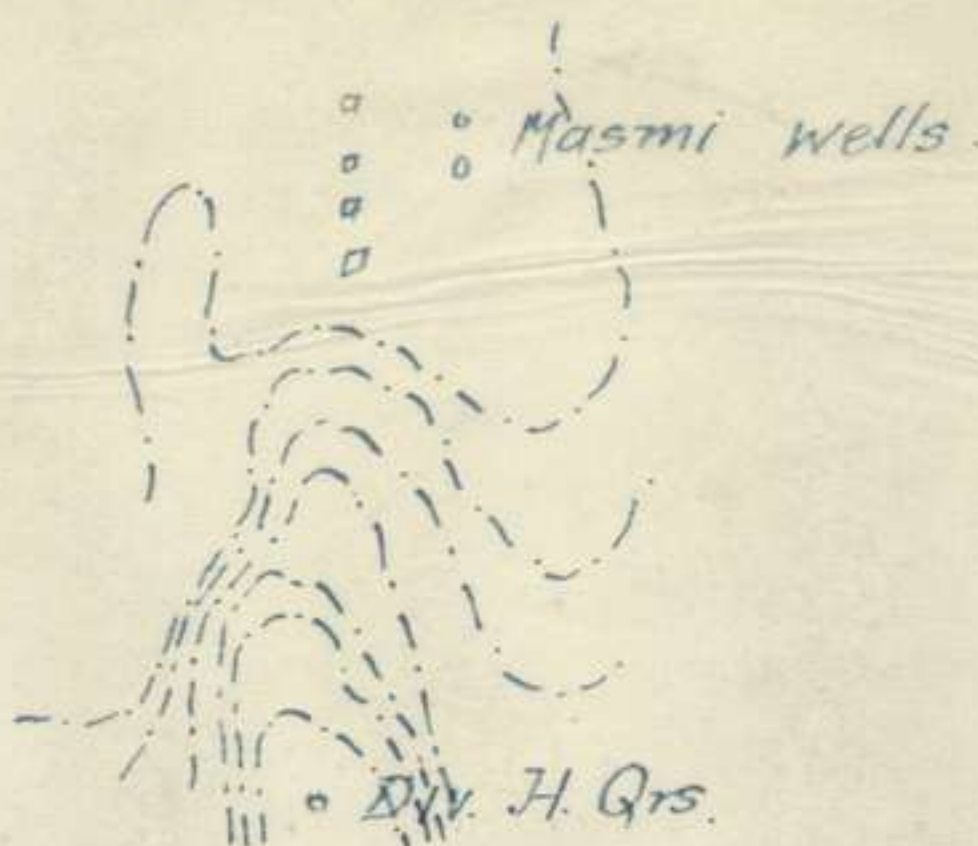
The point of concentration for the N.Z.M.R. Brigade and 3rd L.H. Brigade will be at BIR EL MASMI just North of the wells. Two routes to this point have just been marked by palm branches, the N.Z.M.R. Brigade will use the most Eastern and the 3rd L.H. Brigade the most Western of these routes to reach the place of concentration.

The Brigades will form up facing South, the N.Z.M.R. Brigade being on the East side. Units of the Brigade will be kept together and assembled in the hollows as near to each other as the ground will allow.

Divisional Hdqtrs position will be on Hill 110, which is about 400 yards West of the wells at BIR EL MASMI.

N.Z.M.R.
Bde.

3 L.H.
Bde.



Brigades will ensure that all ranks know this position and the way to it, by day and night.

The Artillery will turn out and remain ready at their present camps until orders are sent to them.

J.G. Little Browne

Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,

25/1/17.

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-----|-----------------------|
| Copy No. 1. | 1st L.H. Bde | 6. | Field Squadron |
| 2. | 2nd L.H. Bde | 7. | Signal Squadron |
| 3. | 3rd L.H. Bde | 8. | Hqrs A.S.C. Camel Bde |
| 4. | N.Z.M.R. Bde | 9. | A.D.M.S. |
| 5. | Divnl Artillery | 10. | "A" Branch |

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION

O R D E R

No 71

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

Divisional Headquarters

January 25th 1917

Reference Map
1:125,000 EL ARISH

1. INFORMATION

(a) On the 29th January 1917 the 5th Mounted Brigade (Less one Regiment) will relieve the 1st L.H. Regiment at BIR EL BURJ, and will remain at BIR EL BURJ to protect the water development in that area, and to enable the Field Company to withdraw and fall back on EL ARISH if attacked in force.

(b) Patrols will be carried out as follows:-

(i) Three times a week to SHEIKH ZOWAID.

Strength of Patrol at least one Squadron

(ii) Daily Patrols 5 miles East and South.

Strength of Patrol not less than one troop.

(c) Observation posts will be kept well out by day.

(d) Standing Patrols will be put out each night.

(e) No tents will be taken.

(f) Probably an Infantry Brigade Group with Brigade of Artillery will be sent forward to BIR EL BURJ during the first week in February.

2. INSTRUCTIONS.

The spear points laid down by the 1st A.L.H. Brigade will be left at BIR EL BURJ and the same number made over to them by 5th Mounted Brigade. This will be arranged direct between the 5th Mounted Brigade and 1st L.H. Brigade.

3.

Other details connected with the relief will be arranged direct between the 5th Mounted Brigade and the 1st A.L.H. Bde.

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

A. & N. Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.

Issued at 2000

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----|----------------|
| Copy No. 1. | 1st A.L.H. Brigade | 13. | Camel Brigade |
| 2. | 2nd A.L.H. Brigade. | 14. | Desert Column. |
| 3. | 3rd A.L.H. Brigade | 15. | 42nd Division |
| 4. | N.Z.M.R. Brigade | 16. | 52nd Division |
| 5. | 5th Mounted Brigade | 17. | R. F. C. |
| 6. | Divnl 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. | Divnl Camel Transport | 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 |

| Date | Branch | Section | Subsection | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------|---|---------|
| 9th January 1917 | | 9-1-17 | | | |
| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
| 1 | 0714 | G.K. 74 | Des Bole | <p>about 30 natives at KARM IBN MUSLEH no arms except swords & revolver, natives state the Turks are not in position to assemble ^{to assemble} 1500, this is a good place for the Division to assemble being covered from North</p> <p>thirty natives captured by N.Z.M.R Bde, natives armed with swords and one with revolver, One Arab Camelman and seven other natives also captured, D.H.Q. at present at KARM IBN MUSLEH, In less N.Z.M.R Bde assembled on South Side of KARM IBN MUSLEH, N.Z.M.R Bde are 1 1/2 miles East of KARM IBN MUSLEH and report that they can see Turkish position and men working about there, Camel Bde halted 1 1/2 miles West of KARM IBN MUSLEH.</p> | |
| 2 | 0750 | - | Col Brown | <p>Verbal message received that G.O.C. Des Bole wishes telegraph lines to East Cut as soon as possible, Prisoner has pointed out position of enemy position & parties can be observed cable now through to Des Bole, Aeroplane message which has been repeated to Bde. here with</p> | |

| Date | Branch | Section | Subsection | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------|--|---------|
| 9th January 1917 | | | 2 | | |
| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
| 3 | 0745 | O.E. 3 | Des Bole | <p>I estimate enemy strength as 500 to 800, as ground is very open conduct deliberate artillery preparation while your troops get into position to attack, Inform me which works you attack first & I will endeavour cross fire them with HACK Battery, You must insist on battery's supporting attack at effective range and concentrating on objective after another, acknowledge.</p> | |
| 4 | 0812 | G.K. 75 | Des Bole | <p>Reference your verbal message officer & party sent to Cut time about 0700, no report yet, many Turks seen in trenches & one party of about 200 in the open morning in the direction of KARM IBN MUSLEH from trench A, many Bedouins moving about on flat in front of D.H.Q.</p> | |
| 5 | 0805 | G.K. 75 | Cap Ungher | <p>One Arab Camelman captured this morning by Major Barlow for examination at Hill 350.</p> | |

| Date | Branch | Section | Subsection | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--|--|---------|
| 9th January 1917 | | 3 | | | |
| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
| 6 | 0820. | | P.T.C. | There are now 9 gun positions at Magoustein in position as marked on sketch plans. I believe 4 of these are occupied guns not fired at machine. | |
| 7 | 0832 | G.K. 76 | 1 st 3 rd Camel Coy W. 3 rd Coy Des Column. | There is no further information, G.O.B. Anzac Mounted Division intends to attack enemy position, W. 3 rd Coy will attack C4. + C5, the G.O.B. Coy will make provision for the protection of his own right flank near 1 st Coy will attack C3 C2 + C1, when these works are carried Bdes will rally + attack the redoubt. The Impulse Camel Corps will attack B.G. point of works commencing with Post, the CRA will select positions from which to support the assault concentrating his fire on C4 in the first place + following on to C5, C3 C2 + C1 the redoubt. If enemy opens artillery fire | |

| Date | Branch | Section | Subsection | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------|
| 9th January 1917 | | 4 | | | |
| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
| 7 | (Continued) | | | one battery will be detailed as Counter battery, Artillery preparation will commence at 0930, Attack will commence at 1000, 3 rd Coy P. Coy in Reserve D.T.A. will be at KARM IBN MUSLEH | |
| 8 | 0940 | G.K. 77 | 2 nd all Bde Coy | Aeroplane report trenches B1, B2, B3, B4 and C5 have more men in them than the others and A1 + A2 have only a few men and enemy's most West trench is 300 yds S. of R. of DARB OM A. MAD and it is about 30 yds long and has about 30 men in it and about 600 men seen in trenches altogether and all roads East of RAFA + KARM IBN MUSLEH are clear for 5 miles of enemy tracks and bedding are moving their stock towards KHAN YUNUS and 3 miles S of RAFAHOUSE are 30 camels going towards trenches not loaded | |
| 9 | | | | Aeroplane report trenches C4 C1 B1 + B2 appear to be strongly held and can see nothing in gun emplacements | |

Date 9th Jan 1917

Branch

Section

Subsection

5

| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--|---------|
| 10 | 0900 | DELT | From Des Col | Turks showing signs of unrest. GOC considers it of great importance you should push detachments towards RAFA at once in case they refuse ACP | |
| 11 | 0900 | | | Aeroplane report small parties of loaded camels going towards RAFA. Trenches at RAFA (100° SW of town) unoccupied. Roads E & SE of RAFA clear for a distance of 2 miles | |
| 12. | GK78 | 0915 | 20 Des Col | NZMR Bde moving into position NE of Hill 350 close to I of SHOKH EL SUFI to attack C Group of trenches and 1LHBde just moving up to position and 3LHBde now moving to position S of Hill 350 close to I of SHOKH EL SUFI to be in reserve, exact position DKO at point 350 close to I of SHOKH el SUFI to be in reserve, exact position DKO at point 350 close to I of SHOKH EL SUFI and is tanks a little N of E of trees at KARM IBN | |
| 12A | DES 1015 | | pro Des Col | MVSIEH Rate of artillery fire seems rather rapid would it not be better to fire slower until your attack is much nearer | |

Date 9th Jan 17

Branch

Section

Subsection

6

| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---|---------|
| 13 | 0920 | GK79 | 20 N2, Des Col | Warn detachments that have been pushed out towards RAFA that enemy may retire by sand dunes or beach road and you must have warning at once if this takes place & prevent it report Des Col | |
| 14 | 0925 | GK80 | 20 Des Col | DELT ACP | |
| 15 | 1030 | B76 | 20 N2 Bde | Enemy retiring and are pushing forward to cut him off West of BIG TREE | |
| 16 | 1035 | GK81 | 20 N2 Bde | Please give position on your front | |
| 17 | 1054 | GK82 | 20 4Bde CRA Bde | Enemy said to be retiring East and 5th Bde is attacking from the West and 3rd Bde will leave one Regt in Reserve to report to GOC. Amman and Gen Ruyton will move with the remainder to attack C4 + C3 on left of 1LHBde keeping touch with 1LHBde and GOC 1LHBde will reinforce his line and press home the attack on C4 + C3 keeping touch with N2MR Bde and the Camel Bde will press | |

| Date | Branch | Section | Subsection | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------|---|---------|
| 9th Jan 17 | | 7 | | | |
| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
| 17 | contd | | | on their attack against their original objective keeping touch with Gen Ruyton on their right and Gen Ruyton will make his attack at 1130 when all attacks will be pressed home ack | |
| 18 | 1400 | Bm 87 | Camel Bde | CBde HQ situated on wooded hill S of Gun position | |
| 19 | 1125 | Bm 8 | 3rd N2 Bde | RAFA 1 mile East my position high hills between W and sea and CMR captured between 40 + 50 men + some camels + amrup and very few escaped | |
| 20 | 1055 | Bm 4 | - N2 Bde | The dead ground between CMR + sea am endeavouring to secure command | |
| 21 | 1135 | Bm 89 | - JCO | 982 acks | |
| 22 | 1120 | Bm 873 | - 1 Bde | I am sending 2 LH Regt in between N2 Bde + 1 LH Regt + 3rd Regt is on left of 1 Regt and Bde HQ is moving up to position now occupied by Helton of 1 LH Regt | |

| Date | Branch | Section | Subsection | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|---|---------|
| 9th January 17 | | 8 | | | |
| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
| 23 | 1140 | Bm 874 | 1 LH Bde | Co 1 LH Regt reports line advancing up towards Lago Dree and rifle fire opened apparently little opposition Yms 902 ack | |
| 24 | 1200 | 983 | 3rd N2 + Camel | Wire presents situation thereafter send half hourly reports | |
| 25 | 1228 | Bm 91 | 3rd Camel Bde | Infantry advanced to within 700 yds of position unharmed and battery going up to support and 3rd ALH in touch my right and am putting reserve into left + centre and Bde HQ advancing 500 yds | |
| 26 | 1200 | - | R/TC | No sign of troops moving towards Rafa, some troops seen moving towards KHAR YUNIS at 1030 this morning, activity outside trenches at Rafa small groups of men seen standing outside trenches, about a total of 700 men counted in the various small groups. | |
| 27 | 1250 | Bm 2 | 3rd N2 Bde | Am in touch on the right + left. whole line advanced, | |

Date 9th January 1947

Branch

Section 9

Subsection

| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|---|--|-----------|
| 28. | 1215 | Bm14 | from WZ Bde | Message from aeroplane begins trench to be held strongly, Central redoubt not held in strength, can see no enemy posts in front of redoubt. | C4 appear |
| 29 | 1220 | 984 | to 1 st 3 rd Bde & Bde CORA | repeat 28. | |
| 30 | 1230 | 985 | WZ Bde | G.O.B. wishes to know if regiment is still watching your right & rear in direction of KHAN YUNIS Have you now a continuous line down to beach, what have you in reserve. | |
| - 31 | 1240 | 985 | from 3 rd Bde | Have ammunition limbers arrived, Required for M.G.s. | |
| 32 | 1245 | Bm14 | 3 rd Bde | Our advance line almost level with that of Camel N 1 st 2 nd Bde, left of latter appear to be too up from 10 th | |
| - 33 | 1240 | 987 | 3 rd Bde | Ammunition expected any time now & will be forwarded as soon as possible | |

Date 9th January 1947

Branch

Section 10

Subsection

| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|---|---------------|
| 34 | 1300 | Bm16 | from WZ Bde | Cerohlanie report as follows begins all clear as far as KHAN YUNIS trenches empty no troops seen down ends | Country empty |
| 35 | 1305 | 990 | 20 3 Bdes | Reply above | |
| 36 | 1310 | 991 | 4 Bdes | Any prisoners taken will be sent to D HQ at Hill 305 where they will be taken over by as sent from 8 LHR | |
| - 37 | 1300 | Bm19 | from WZ Bde | CMR took RAFA buildings & about 70 prisoners They are now advancing along bottom of valley & along sand hills to the east Please request Artillery not to fire into valley and east towards KHAN YUNIS reports all clear except for small sniping and ammunition is urgently reqd | |
| 38 | 1320 | 989 | 20 3 Bdes CORA | Reply above | |
| 39 | 1330 | Bm21 | from WZ Bde | Our right linked up with 5 th WZ Bde & pressing attack on rear of redoubt on green knoll | |
| 40 | 1340 | 990 | 20 Bdes CORA | Reply above | |

Date 9th January 1917 Branch Section 11 Subsection

| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------|--|---------|
| 41 | 1408 | BM24 | 7 th NZ Bde | CMR, WMR, + 5 th NZ Bde pushing up the spur on the seaward side of the redoubt | |
| 42 | 1408 | BM9 | 3 rd Bde | NZMR Bde on ridge behind trees | |
| 43 | 1350 | BM92 | 2 nd Bde | Present situation on left of my line has been reinforced & is advancing satisfactorily against enemy left position but enemy still holds this in faces and covering with Hougham Battery and direction of attack of ALH appears to have turned quarter right will be send me his objectives please and will report every half hour | |
| 44 | 1425 | 892 | 2 nd NZ Bde | Objective work C4 | BM92 |
| 45 | 1430 | BM884 | 7 th NZ Bde | CO-1 LH Regt advises having taken 24 prisoners | |
| 46 | 1340 | BM879 | 1 st NZ Bde | 2 nd Regt pushing attack in vicinity of Conspicuous Tree | |
| 47 | 1350 | BM. 6 | 3 rd NZ Bde | Enemy trenches on flat in front of large tree extending westwards about 500 yds strongly held these are first-line trenches, am asking for assistance from right flank, suggest range of artillery shotted on to these trenches | |

Date 9th Jan 1916 Branch Section 12 Subsection

| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------|--|---------|
| 48 | 1355 | BM880 | 1 st NZ Bde | Comd 1 st NZ Regt reports having taken two small trenches and about 20 prisoners, can fire be brought to bear at once on highest point of Hill 255. This will enable him to take another trench at present holding him up | |
| 49 | 1355 | BM73 | NZ Bde | Yes, in reserve two squadrons 70 or 80 prisoners taken, along row of trenches one half mile S of Police Barracks RFAA Captives, a steady combined pressure would soon finish the enemy | |
| 50 | 1450 | BM 8 | 3 rd NZ Bde | Last 3 questions in answer to BM876 & 877 from 1 st NZ Bde (985) | |
| see 45 | 1430 | BM 881 | 1 st NZ Bde | 10 th Signal attack held up heavy rifle & MG fire 1 st Bde on right unable to advance Bombardment seems have no effect advance means heavy casualties | |
| 51 | 1430 | BM 881 | 1 st NZ Bde | Go 1 st NZ Regt advises having taken 24 prisoners | |
| 52 | 1433 | BM 883 | 1 st NZ Bde | 9 th NZ Regt reports have pushed forward my right to ridge above Fig Tree, am in touch with 2 nd NZ Regt on my right - who are in touch with NZMR Bde | |

Date 9th Jan 1916 Branch _____ Section 13 Subsection _____

| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---|---------|
| 53 | 1433 | 9K 77 | to 1st Lt WJ bambode | The 9th desires a concentrated effort to be made against the Reduit and C groups of CRA works at 1530, Artillery will keep up an intense fire on these works before the operation until 1530 at direction of CRA 5th Mtd Bde have been asked to cooperate | |
| 54 | 1445 | 9K 93 | to Des Col | 1st Lt Regt advise having taken 24 prisoners from statements of prisoners who all belong to 2nd Regt Garrison of 2 factors each about 800 strong + 4 mountain guns | |
| 55 | 1510 | BM 88 | from 1st Bde | 9K 77 ack | |
| 56 | 1500 | BM 94 | 1 CC Bde | 2nd Lt Regt left of my line is still held up by enfilade fire have sent in another Coy to clear this up, Right of line is developing fire to help 1st Bde to whom Turks appear to be coming in could 5th Mtd Bde be asked to cooperate with my left | |

Date 9th Jan 1916 Branch _____ Section 14 Subsection _____

| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--|---------|
| 57 | 1500 | BM 11 | from 3rd Lt Bde | Position of 9th unchanged, the position of 10th swinging, Both regiments replenished with Ammunition | |
| 58 | 1500 | BM 76 | WJ Bde | Right attack making steady progress though slow, Australian attack on my left seems held up, when will ammunition arrive | |
| 59 | 1509 | DE 10 | Des Col | 5th Mtd Bde will cooperate with WJ Bde in attack on Reduit with 5th Squadrons B/HAC Battery has been ordered to cease fire on Reduit at 1535, you should cooperate with all available guns | |
| 60 | 1500 | BM 29 | WJ Bde | 9K 77 received | |
| 61 | 1540 | BM 13 | 8th Bde | " | |
| 61 | 1500 | BM 15 | 1 CC Bde | 2nd Lt Regt left of my line | |
| 62 | 1500 | BM 27 | WJ Bde | Message from W.M.R at Rafa barracks begins captures 1 Turkish MG Officer + 2 Germans on coast - 2 miles N.E. of Rafa | |

Date 9th Jan 1916 Branch

Section

Subsection

15

| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---|---------|
| 62 | (continued) | | | Police Barracks, Turkish Officer says one Regt Tanks left EISHALLI when the attack commenced this morning to relieve Rafa. He also states RAFA held by 3 Battns + 2 Coys. 6 MGs + 4 Cannons Am sending prisoners in under escort | |
| 63 | 1530 Bm 95 | 1 CC Bde | | Our left now joined up with 5 th Lt Bde and attack being pushed forward. Final assault on left position should take place shortly. | |
| 64 | 1530 Bm 28 | WZ Bde | | Our men cannot advance owing to own own shrapnel fire | |
| 65 | 1548 | 994 | 20 3rd NZ + 300 | What situation in your front at once and what hour could you make a final effort with all reserves | |
| 66 | 1610 | Bm 32 | 7th NZ Bde | 9K77 ack | |
| 67 | 1630 | Bm 97 | 2nd 300 Bde | 9K77 ack | |

Note

Inward messages from here onwards are timed in Register as when leaving Unit; time when message received at D.H.Q. not being written on message.

Date 9th Jan 1916 Branch _____ Section 16 Subsection _____

| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--|--|---------|
| 68. | 1515 | 9K77 | ^{to} 1 st 3 rd Div 1.c.c. + C.R.A. | repeat - 59. | |
| 69. | 1530 | CS3 | Com Regt | Our own shells are landing in front of my men, 1 man has just been wounded by our own shells & if this continues I will have to go back 200 yds. I have now 45 men of 8 th Sqdn & 10 th Sqdn, position is now unchanged. | |
| 70. | 1530 | BM96 | 1CC Bde | Left of my line reinforced by loanworks is progressing, Centre held up by trench facing them Mountain batteries gone forward to deal with this, Medical Officer reports 20 wounded 1.c.c. | |
| 71. | 1550 | BM33 | N3 Bde | ref report in my BM 27, by Turkish Officer there are men in scattered formation this side of ridge near SHELLA, estimates two Battalions | |
| 72. | 1610 | BM34 | W3 Bde | My night pressing on but repeatedly held up by our own artillery fire, | |

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| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---|---------|
| 72 (Continued) | | | | All my Bde in except one troop & 1 troop on observation KHAN YUNIS road, we are now doing all we can to press the attack | |
| 73. | 1610 | BM89 | 1 st Bde | Cp 2 nd Lt Regt reports left performing No men of 3 rd Bde as arranged by Gen Royston unable advance here awaiting orders, message ends. Further from 2 nd Lt Regt enemy MGs at least 3 in number still unsilenced impossible to advance further here, Casualties heavy, | |
| 74. | 1615 | - | OK KHAN YUNIS flank guard | A force approximately 2000 strong marching in direction of El Magroutis from the direction of KHAN YUNIS are now about 4 miles distant from redoubts, while working more troops are coming over the hill about 5 miles away, too far to estimate numbers, | |

Date

9th Jan 1916

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18

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| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------|---|---------|
| 75 | 1620 | Bm 99 | 1CC Bde | position in Aubie held up extreme right of Bde on night - apparently still retreating, have only one half company available to throw into that part of line without withdrawing company from attack on MG position in B works attack on the position is supported by Worcesters, and would take time to withdraw from, doubt if this can be carried on in daylight. | |
| 76 | 1620 | DE | Des Colm | Attack will be abandoned at 1700. Owing to strong enemy reinforcements arriving 5 th mtd Bde will escort HAC Batts to STEWIS towards Aubie + JCC Bde will return under orders of Gen Chauvel to same place Acknowledge. | |

Date

9th Jan 1916

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19

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| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--|---------|
| 77 | 1635 | Bm 35 | WZ Bde | 7 th Post - near 270. 2 1/2 miles NE from RAFA reports body 500 enemy advancing from the East - on his position, further bodies on ridge near STEILAL, the P's have been driven back, please say what is to be done, if necessary to retire I must do so. by S.E. coast - if possible | |
| 78 | 1635 | Bm 37 | WZ Bde | Have captured the redoubt on Green Hill | |
| 79 | 1640 | - | 1CC Bde | Jurks are making counter attack from redoubt. | |
| 80 | 1645 | Bm 38 | WZ Bde | Am moving to rear of Green Knoll to endeavour to finish off action | |
| 81 | 1645 | S. 1 | 3 rd Bde | Redoubt captured | |
| 82 | 1645 | 9182 | 4 Bde, CRA | Force of enemy 2000 strong marching on El Magramtain from direction of KHAN YUNIS, this seen in scattered - | |

(*)

Message on page (24) to be inserted here.

| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|--|---------|
| 82 | (Continued) | | | Information on page in direction of SHEIKH distance from redoubts about 4 miles at 1615, force will withdraw & assemble at point 250 on the KARM IBN MUSLEH - SHEIKH ZOWAND Road, Bdes will find their own rearguard, CRA will arrange for batteries to take up position to cover withdrawal of Bdes, 7 th & 8 th LHR Regts will form a rearguard to cover withdrawal of all parties & Camels, Ret your BM 35 if unable to withdraw so as to assemble at point 250, make your own way back to SHEIKH ZOWAND, send representative to see when you are clear | |
| 83 | 1650 | 9110 | to WZBae | | |
| 84 | 1705 | 9115 | Des Col for | 90C consider it desirable to water feed at SHEIKH ZOWAND only & to march for EL BURJ about midnight, | |

| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---|---------|
| 84 | (Continued) | | | Orders have been given to remove all impediments from SHEIKH ZOWAND at once leaving only necessaries for watering & feed of Ambulance Convoy | |
| 85 | 1715 | - | Genls Chayton & Ruyton | Gen Ruyton will form the rear guard to the Division Gen Chayton will clear all wounded from the battle field | |
| 86 | 2359 | 9102 | TO Myo. Parsons | (You will take your Squadron & lancers which will report to you to Rafa tomorrow, You will bring away all arms, ammunition mountain or M. Guns etc - as may be found, If the enemy is found in occupation you will not engage in action with him but will withdraw, If you are attacked when examining position you will withdraw & will not engage | |

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22

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| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|---|---------|
| 86 | (continued) | | | Enemy in a fight. Report on what you find will be sent by wire as soon as possible to DHO. | |
| 87 | 4150 | 9150 | 20 Bde, CRA 400, Col | At 0400 tomorrow Jan 10th one sqn 3rd LHBde under Maj Parsons will leave here under special instructions for RAFA. All limbers which have not been out today will parade at the same hour on main road along telegraph line immediately east of town and Ammunition will leave there forwarded for repairs at 0700 tomorrow Jan 10th starting point cross roads at E of DARB EL SULTANI and order of march Adv. guard 1sqn NZBde. DHO. Remainder NZBde, 3rd Bde, Troop Artillery, 1st Bde, 1st Camel Bde, 1st line transport of units in rear in same order of march. WMR will leave camp at 0600 & move to a | |

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| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------|--|---------|
| 87 | (Contd) | | | point one mile E ^W of Shauk towards where it will put out a line of observation post, and they will remain in this position to cover Rd Amb Co 2 at Shauk towards until such wounded as can be removed have started. | |
| 87A | 0610 (cont) | | from ADMS | Line sandbags have just come and left the Turkish Redoubt at 2.30 this morning. They saw no sign of any enemy. The camel company has just arrived 5.30 am | |
| 88 | 0733 | 9K79 | 20 52 Bde | 10th January 1917 Could you help us as you did going out by letting our horses water at your troughs from 1230 onwards and Bdes have had to leave troughs for use here & will be much delighted in watering and if so please allow troughs to Bdes. | |
| 89 | - | - | RFC | EL ZAHRIAT & EL KHUDRI apparently all clear and freshly dug system of trenches, & redoubts in course of construction between WELI SHEIKH NURAN & UM ADUA observed | |

Date 10th Jan 1917 Branch Section 24 Subsection

| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|---|---------|
| 89 | (contd) | | | nothing on roads adjacent | |
| 90 | 0900 | | RFC | Have reconnoitered the country SW S & SE of RAFA and did not observe any bodies of men, a few men on camels in pairs were seen here & there mostly moving in a S & SE direction | |
| 91 | 1114 | 4480 | from MD Alrish | 52 Bn place all troops near Wadi at your disposal from 1230 onwards under same arrangements as going out. | |
| 92 | (9th Jan) | 4480 | from Des Col. | If you decide to remain in the neighbourhood of SHEIKH ZAWAD tonight the Col. Lindv desires that you will assume the responsibility for protection with strong outposts during the night and also for the provision of a strong rearguard to be pushed out before daylight on the 10th Jan and please report time of starting and The Col. Lindv leaves to it you to decide whether you stay or push on tonight & desires you to inform | |

(Should be inserted on page 19)

Date 10th Jan 17. Branch Section 25 Subsection

| Sequence No. in Register. | Time of Receipt. Despatch. | Sender's Number. | From. To. | SUBJECT. | Action. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------|
| 92 | (contd) | | | him as to your decision as Col HQ will remain kindly inform Gen. ILC Bde that the Col Lindv has given up all idea of retaining 1 Bn 2 Co or BOK & that the ILC Bde complete will return to RL | |
| 93 | 0730 | | from RFC | Arish under your orders Roads 5 miles round RAFA clear of enemy troops except one or two patrols, RaFa about 500 men seen Machine received with heavy rifle fire & M.G. fire, (1 M Gun) from nearly every redoubt. | |
| 94 | 2110 | 4020 | from 5th Mt Bde from Des Colm | All fresh troops not engaged in today's action will be employed under Ar.N.Z. to Dwn to clear battlefields tomorrow, if your two troops, Convoy, escorts etc will get into communication with Ar.N.Z. to Dwn HQ at | |
| 95 | 2310 | DE 73 | from Des Colm | once receive orders, acknowledge, Your Dwn under divisional arrangements will return to Alrish leaving SHEIKH | |

Date

9th Jan 1907

Branch

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Sequence
No. in
Register.Time of
Receipt.
Despatch.Sender's
Number.From.
To.

SUBJECT.

Action.

95 (Continued)

LOWAND about 0700 on to Inst; you will be responsible for your own safety; A regiment will be left to cover field ambulances at SHEIKH LOWAND until such wounded as can be moved have started for EL ARISH. A telephone will be laid on to Hospital which can communicate with ARISH & the Column during its return.

8th Jan 1907

2550

9462

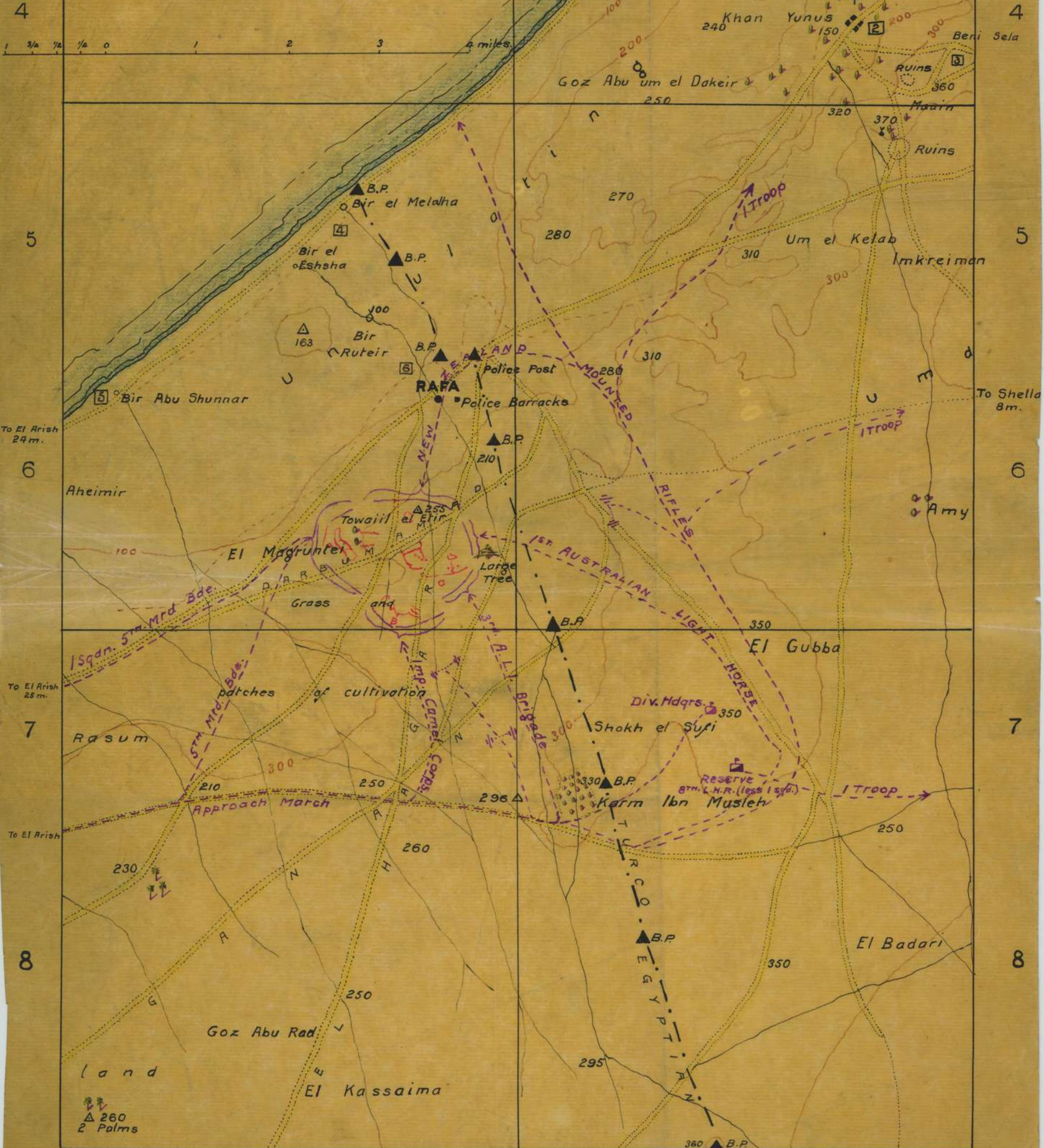
from
Ambul

Following message from Des Bohu begins when operations are over formation to which cable wagons of Column Sig Coy have been detached will be responsible for that protection is afforded to the wagons when pulling up wires ends.

RAFA

Squares: E.F.G.H. (4.5.6.7.8)

enlarged 1 in = 1.85 miles

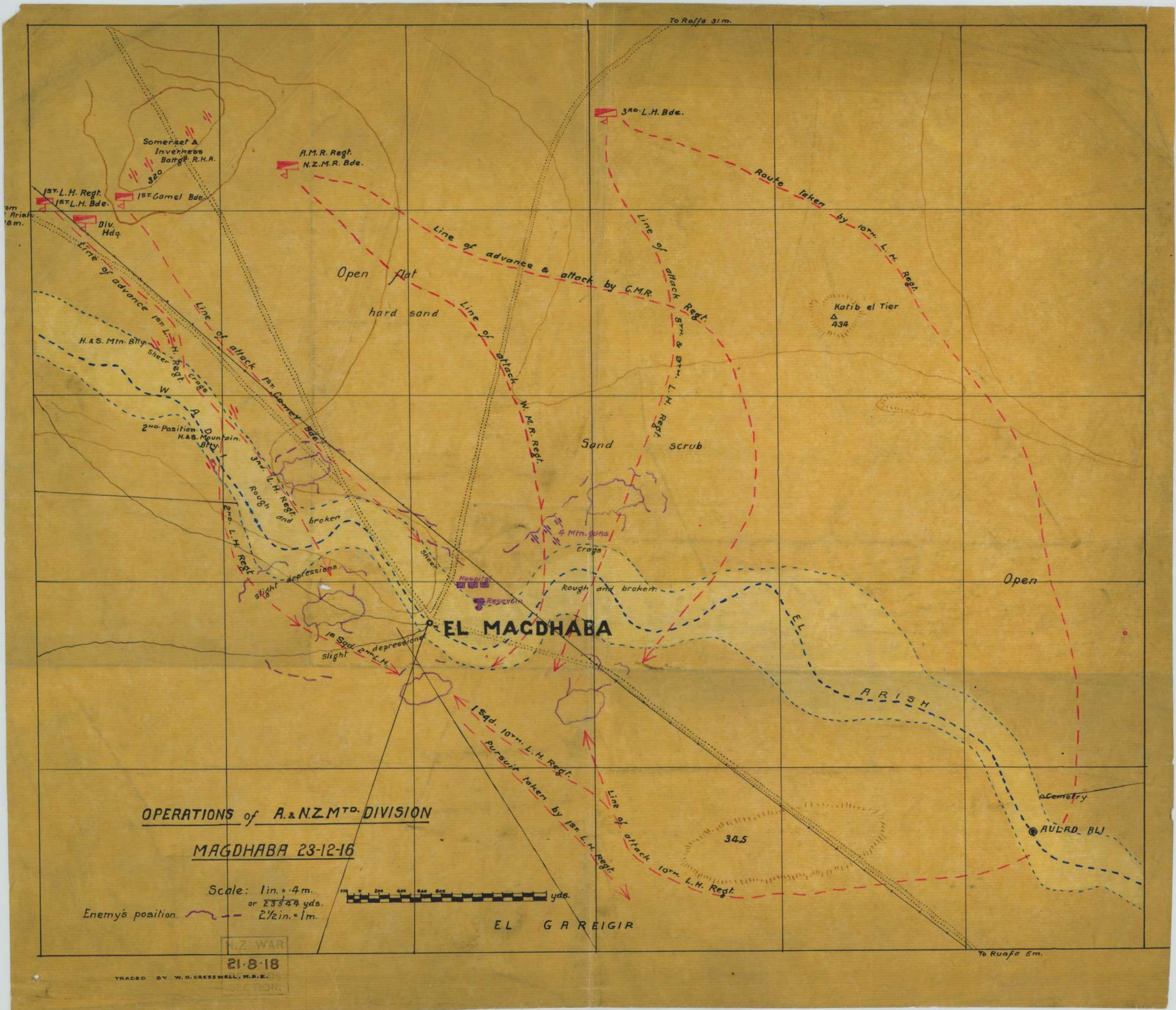


To Magdhaba 24 m.

To Magdhaba 24 m.

WAR RECORDS SECTION

TRACED BY W. D. CRESSWELL, N.Z.E.




OPERATIONS of A. & N.Z. M.T.D. DIVISION

MAGDHABA 23-12-16

Scale: 1 in. = 4 m.

or 23544 yds.

Enemy's position  2 1/2 in. = 1 m.



EL GARREIGIR

TRACED BY W.O. CRESSWELL, R.A.E.

N.Z. WAR
21-8-18
SECTION

