

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/4/4

Title: 4th Australian Light Horse
Brigade

April 1917

69

WAR DIARY

4th AUSTRALIAN Light Horse Brigade

Vol. I

Pages 4 to 14.

Date. 1st April — 30th April.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118

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

4th LH Bde

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RAFA	1/4/17	0730	Brigade marched to BIR EL ABD arriving 1630	
BIRELABD	2/4/17	0730	Brigade marched to TILUL arriving 1530	
TILUL	3/4/17	1000	Brigade marched to MAZAR arriving 1500. Instructions received to leave post INCO & 3 Sections at BARDAWIL to patrol the pipe line	
MAZAR	4/4/17	0800	Brigade marched to BARDAWIL distance 15 miles arriving 1630. Attacked by MG fire from hostile aeroplane. No casualties. Instructions received from OC Northern Section to send one Regiment less one Sqn to Hill 200 (3 miles SW of EL ARISH) and to LAHFAN to relieve detachment of 1 st LH Bde also to send Brigade less 3 Sections	
BARDAWIL	5/4/17		On arrival at EL ARISH 4 th LH Regt (less 1 Sqn) marched to Hill 200 and LAHFAN	
EL ARISH	6/4/17	0830	C Sqn 4 th LH Regt marched out with 1 st LH Bde en route for SHEIKH ZOWAID & RAFA	
"	7/4/17	1400	Instructions received from NORTHERN CANAL section for Bde less 4 th LH Regt to move to KHAN YUNUS there to come under orders of DESERT COLUMN.	
"	8/4/17	0900	Bde less 4 th LH marched to EL BURJ arriving 1345	
EL BURJ	9/4/17	0830	Bde marched to SHEIKH ZOWAID arriving 1200. One Troop 4 th LH left here by 1 st LH Bde on arrival at KHAN YUNUS 4 th LH Bde were to be part of DESERT COLUMN	
SHEIKH ZOWAID	10/4/17	0830	Bde marched to ^{RAFA} KHAN YUNUS arriving 1210. C Sqn 4 th LH less one Troop left here by 1 st LH Bde.	
RAFA	11/4/17	0830	Bde marched to KHAN YUNUS arriving 1100. Strength 70 officers 1401. OR 1754 animals	
KHAN YUNUS	12/4/17	1100 1545	GOC 119 th visited Bde GOC angac Mtd Divn visited Bde HQs.	

Lieut. Temp. Major
Brigade Major 4th LH Bde

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

4th Australian Light
Horse Bde

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
KHAN YUNUS	12-9-18		Dispositions on the line UM JERRAR - SHARTA - TEL EL JEMMI line received from I.M.D. Role of Mounted Troops on outposts on GOZ EL TAIRE	Appen 12 a
		1730	outpost orders received.	Appen 12 Sub B
"	13-9-18	1730	12 th LH Regt + 1 Sect MA Sqn in reserve to outpost line at 1 of GOZ EL TAIRE	
		1800	Telegraph line between DEIR EL BELAH patrolled.	Sub B Appen 13
	14-9-18	1530	Divisional operation order No 11 received	Appen 14
		1900	" " " NO 12 "	Appen 15
		1900	addition to Div operation order No 11	
		1900	outpost order received from I.M.D.	Appen 16
		2355	4 th LH Bde outpost order No 11 issued	Appen 17
			1 Sqn 11 th LH Regt reported to OC Defences KHAN YUNUS.	Sub B.
"	15-9-18	0700	1 Sqn 12 th LH Regt relieved Sqn 12 th LH for duty with OC Defences KHAN YUNUS	
		0940	Message received from DESERT COLUMN. MAJOR K.A. MCKENZIE DSO GSO3 Imperial Amdt Div to be Brigade Major 4 th LH Bde vice Capt E.J. NETTLEFOLD.	Appen 18
DEIR EL BELAH		1430	4 th LH Bde relieved Bde of ANZ DIV on outpost line ABASAN EL KEBIR - 310	Sub B.
		1700	conference at DESERT COL HQS of GOC'S DIV: & Bdes.	
"	16-9-18	0700	Major K.A. MCKENZIE DSO took over duties of Brigade Major. Capt NETTLEFOLD acted Bde gallopier attached to DIV HQS.	
"		0800	Code of Signals for VERY lights received	Appen 19
		0800	after order to Div orders 11 and 12 received	Appen 20
		0900	Brigade order No 12 issued	Appen 21

Robertson Major
4th LH Bde

WAR DIARY

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4th A.L.H. Bde

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DEIR EL BELAH	16/4/17	0930	4 th A.L.H. Bde After order to NO 12 issued.	Appen 22
		1530	4 th A.L.H. Bde relieved by 3 rd A.L.H. Bde and moved to water and rations at DEIR EL BELAH.	
TEL EL JEMMI	17/4/17	1815	moved off HQ outpost line 402 EL TAIRE clearing A22AC road by 1900	Appen 23 Appen 24 Appen 25 Appen 26
		1930	The 4 th A.L.H. Bde moved from the outpost line in rear of the 3 rd A.L.H. Bde to TEL EL JEMMI by the I.M.D track through EL IZRAIIN	
		2230	Arrived at TEL EL JEMMI	
		0400	Stand to and stood by ready to move	
EL MENJUR	17/4/17	0930	Brigade major reconnoitred crossings of wadi SIHAN and the ATAWINEH position with a view to attack. Report handed in to Divisional HQS	Appen 23 Appen 24 Appen 25 Appen 26
		1500	orders for outposts received from Imp Mtd Division	
		1700	4 th A.L.H. Bde moved from TEL EL JEMMI and relieved the 3 rd A.L.H. Bde on the outpost line ASEIFERIYEH to right of 54 th Division at DUMBELL HILL	
EL MENJUR	17/4/17	1700	Bde outpost orders issued	Appen 25
		1900	12 th L.H. Regt one Sqn 11 th L.H. Regt and 3 Sect MG Sqn in outpost line. Remainder in support at EL MENJUR. Role of Imperial Mtd Division for 2nd Day received	

Sgt Tenye Major
Brigade Major 4th A.L.H. Bde

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4th LH Bde

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL MENDUR	18/4/17	0430	4 th LH Bde remained on outpost line. all quiet during the night	
		0830	Reconnaissance and conference of staffs DESERT Coy I.M.D and Bde of enemy's position. Objectives and frontages allotted for pending attack.	
		1010	message received from I.M.D. Bdes on outposts would not be relieved	Appen 27
		1600	Bde outpost orders issued. 11 th LH Regt one Sqn 12 th LH and 3 Sect MG Sqn relieved 12 th LH Regt. Remainder in support at EL MENDUR	Appen 28
		1800	Divisional order No 13 received. orders for attack on ATRAWINEH	Appen 29
		2100	Bde order No 13 issued re orders for attack	Appen 30
	19/4/17	0100	Report on operations carried out by 4 th LH Bde on 19 th April	Appen 31
		0400	Remainder of 4 th LH Bde moved up in rear of outpost line The Bde deployed on a line from southern branch of SIHAN wadi ^{at ASEIFERIYEH} on the right, linking up with 3 rd LH Bde as a line drawn from ABU MAILEK to ^{at KH} SIHAN on the left linking up with the camel Bde. 2 Troops mounted were sent to the front to clear the country in the upper branches of Wadi SIHAN. The Bde deployed dismounted. Pack horses accompanied the Bde and were organised for the advance in the W. SIHAN. all ammunition ladders and water carts were parked at ASEIFERIYEH to follow the Bde after the advance began. all led horses were sent to the rear under the command of Major ALEXANDER to be placed under cover in W. SIHAN.	

Major
Brigade Major 4th LH Bde

WAR DIARY

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Hrd LH Bde

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Page 8 VOTI

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RSEIFERIYEH	19-4-17	0500	<p>at daylight the 12th LH Regt on the right were linked up with the 3rd LH Bde, the 11th LH Regt on the left were linked up with the Camel Bde. The inner flanks of each regiment rested on the Wadi SIHAN.</p> <p>The line advanced several hundred yards.</p> <p>0600 Message received from DIVISION ZERO HOUR 0530 advance to begin 0730.</p> <p>0730 Whole line advanced.</p> <p>0800 Line reached the branch wadi of SIHAN where it came under enfilade shrapnel fire from NW direction.</p> <p>1800 BHQ established at wadi junction. 2 Sgts and 3 MG Sections held at this point as Bde Reserve. Communications opened with DHQ and Regiments by cable.</p> <p>1930 The 11th LH Regt moved NE crossing to E side of W. SIHAN. The line moved rapidly forward to the ridge 600' N of branch wadi. The shell fire stopped during this advance owing to advance of camel Bde on our left.</p> <p>1000 The line advanced over the ridges N of branch wadi coming under heavy enfilade shell and MG fire from both flanks. The line was astride the track running NW & SE through KH-SIHAN and in close touch with enemy who were retiring rapidly to their entrenched positions on FTAVINEH.</p> <p>A gap occurred between the right of the Bde & the left of the 3rd LH Bde. + GOC of 3rd LH Bde was communicated with with a view to his closing over to the left. as the gap still occurred one squadron was sent up to fill the gap. The enemy suffered considerably during this retirement an enemy Bakery (2 guns) galloped out of action 1500 yards in front.</p>	

Sub Lt Major
Brigade Major
4th LH Bde

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4th LH Bde.

Page 9. Vol I

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ATAWINEH	19417	1030	The line ran through the A of SIHAN to the crest of ridge 1/2 mile SW of RISM EL ATAWINEH coming under heavy enfilade gun & MG fire. The position was very open with glacis slopes. The 12 th LH captured & held a small redoubt about 700' in front of the main line. BHQ was established in branch of wadi SIHAN having been shelled from hill to N of the branch.	
		1200	left flank 11 th LH exposed owing to camel Bde falling back. Camel Bde again came on & linked up.	
		1350	3 rd LH Bde heavily shelled were forced to retire leaving right flank of 12 th LH exposed. At this time a regular barrage of fire was directed in front & rear of the line. News was received from D HQ that the line in front was being heavily reinforced by the enemy. The reserve sqn and MG sections were sent up, two troops reinforcing 11 th LH Regt, two troops reinforcing gap which again occurred between 4 th & 3 rd Bdes & the 3 MG sections took up positions in rear to give overhead support.	
		1400.	The right flank of the Bde was still exposed & the Bde was ordered to fall back to a more commanding ridge about 600' in rear bringing the Bde again in line with the troops on the right and left. This retirement was supported by two batteries of branch wadi of SIHAN.	
			1 Regt DORSET YCs and 3 Machine guns reinforced the Bde. One sqn and the 3 MGS occupied a hill S of branch wadi to support the line. One sqn was sent to support the gap between 3 rd & 4 th Bdes. One sqn was held in reserve	Capt. J. J. Mayne Brigade Major 4 LH Bde

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4th LIT Bde

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ATAWINEH	19417	1800	Preparations were made for a withdrawal on receipt of a telephone message from D H Q	Appen 31
		1810	orders were received for the withdrawal to commence at 1945 GOCs 3 rd 4 th and 5 th Bdes held a conference on subject of withdrawal to the outpost line held on the night of 18 th /19 th .	Appen 32
		1830	Bde orders to in the event of a withdrawal issued DORSET YEO ordered to cover the withdrawal of 4 th LIT Bde to the line ASEIFER IYEH - DUMBELL HILL where the DORSET YEO would clear the front and report to its Bde.	Appen 33
		1945	Units notified that hour of withdrawal would be 19.45. Bde Dressing Station and all wounded sent back down the wadi.	
		2130.	SIHAM The withdrawal was commenced and continued to line of outposts The 4 th LIT Bde was in occupation of the line ASEIFER IYEH - DUMBELL HILL During the night the outpost line was entrenched.	
		2330	During the night the number of prisoners taken was 1 Officer and 60 OR. Route of Imperial Mtd Division for 20 th April received. Casualties for the 19 th April. 15 OR wounded 15 OR killed 103 OR wounded all quiet throughout the night 19 th /20 th .	Appen 34
ASEIFER IYEH	20/4/17	0500	GOC visited outpost line. Defensive line selected. Sectors allotted to 11 th and 12 th Regts and positions entrenched. 3 Prisoners brought in.	Lal Tengri Major Brigade Major 4 th LIT Bde

WAR DIARY

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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4th H. Bde.
Page 11 Vol I

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ASEI FERIEH	20/11/17	0730	Divisional order No 14 received.	Appen 35
		0800	line SHARTA - MENDUR reconnoitred with a view to defence if ordered to fall back.	
3 21 st		1700	Divisional order No 15 received. 4 th H. Bde to hold its outpost line.	Appen 36
		1925	message received Bde 74 th Div holding DUMBELL HILL to point 265 line 265 - JEMMI to be held by 4 th and 6 th Bdes with 4 th Bde on left if ordered to fall back.	
			Night of 20/21 all quiet on outpost line.	
		0900	GOC 4 th H. Bde visited GOC 231 st Bde and GOC camel Bde and decided on point where flanks of Bdes should rest. GOC 4 th Bde visited defensive line & met GOC IMD. 3 Prisoners brought in.	
		1400.	CO's and sgn leaders reconnoitred line point 265 - MENDUR and lines of retirement from front line.	
		1600	Divisional order No 16 received. Situation unchanged. 4 th H. Bde to hold its outpost line.	Appen 37

J. B. Payne Major
Brigade Major
4th H. Bde

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Hth Aust. LH Bde

Page 12. Vol 1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ASEIFERIYEH	22/4/17	1145	Message from Div. HQs received for withdrawal from the outpost line to ABASAN EL KEBIR	Appen 38
		1500	Detailed orders for the withdrawal received in Divisional Order No 17	Appen 39
		1630	Brigade Order No 14 issued	Appen 40
		1730	all led horses were in position behind the line. The outposts were withdrawn and the Brigade moved off via crossings at MENDUR and TEL EL JEMMI	
ABASAN EL KEBIR	23/4/17	0100	Arrived and bivouaced at ABASAN EL KEBIR.	
		0800	Orders received to detail one Regt to prepare defences on battle line WELI SHEIKH NURAN — TEL EL JEMMI	Appen 41
		1030	4 th LH Regt came under orders of GOC 4 th LH Bde.	Appen 42
		1500	4 th LH Regt marched in.	
	24/4/17	0700	11 th LH Regt moved to WELI SHEIKH NURAN to prepare defences. Horses watered at FARA & SHELLAL.	
		0900	4 th LH Regt covered a reconnaissance N of line RAFA — EL GUBBA. An enemy patrol of 5 horsemen encountered & driven off.	
		1600	4 th LH Regt returned to camp	
		0700 to 1800	12 th LH Regt proceeded to DEIR EL BELAH to bathe MB Syn.	Leah Tenye Major Brigade Major

Leah Tenye Major
Brigade Major
4th LH Bde

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4th LH Bde

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ADASAN EL KEBIR	25.4.17	0700	11 th LH Regt bathing at DEIR EL BELAH	
		0900-1500	4 th LH " prepared defences at WELI SHEIKH NURAN	
		1000	12 th LH Regt underwent gas Helmet Drill.	
	26.4.17	0900	Conference of Brigadiers at Desert Column HQS.	
		0700	12 th LH Regt preparing defences at WELI SHEIKH NURAN	
		0930	GOC Bde met GOC + Staff Imp mtd Divn on defensive line and reconnoitred position along commanding the water at TELELFARA and SHELLAL.	
	27.4.17	1800	GOC Desert Column inspected the Brigade	
		0900-1500	11 th LH Regt preparing defensive line on forward position. One old Turkish redoubt improved. Two new redoubts sited and commenced. CO's reconnoitred the line. Officers of Bde underwent gas Helmet drill.	Appen 43
				Orders received for the 1 st May. Overlooked defensive line
	28.4.17	0900-1500	4 th LH Regt preparing defences on forward line	
29.4.17	0900-1500	12 th LH Regt prepared defences on forward line		
	1900	Divisional Order No 18 received		
	2000	Bde Order No 15 issued and instructions for May the 1 st . Instructions re reconnaissance towards BIR ESANI received	Appen 44 Appen 45 Appen 46 Appen 47	
		4 th LH Regt detailed in instructions issued		

Col Tenye Major
Brigade Major 4th LH Bde

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4th ALH Bde

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ABASAN EL KEBIR	30/4/17	0130 0900 1500 1730	<p>4th ALH Regt moved off to carry out a reconnaissance and round up enemy patrols in the vicinity of BIR ESANI</p> <p>11th ALH Regt prepared the defences of the forward line</p> <p>4th ALH Regt returned. Hostile Bedouins opened fire wounding one man and killing one horse. 9 Bedouins captured one killed. Small Turkish patrol made off to E side of wadi. Good supply spring water found at BIR ESANI sufficient for one division. Turkish observation posts seen on hills to E of ESANI</p> <p>Instructions for the stand to at 0400 on May 1st issued</p>	<p>Appen 48</p>

Leadb Major Major
Brigade Major 4th ALH Bde

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APPENDICES

Nos 12 to 48.

WAR DIARY

VOL. I.

Pages 4 - to 14.

Date 1st APRIL - 30th APRIL.

1917

4th AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE

1917

SECRET.

Append 12



G.O.C. 3rd Australian L.H.Bde.
4th Australian L.H.Bde.
O.C. Signal Squadron.
A. & Q.

Reference 1/125,000 RAFA Sheet.

1. At 1430 April 13th - ⁶⁵3rd L.H.Bde will relieve the Brigade of A. & N.Z. Mounted Division in the Outpost Line.

2. The trenches begun by the 5th Brigade will be continued.

3. The line now runs from ABASAN EL KEBIR to Point 310 IN SEIRAT both exclusive and G.O.C. ⁶⁵3rd Brigade will ensure that his flanks join up with the I.C.C. on the right and 54th Division on the left.

4. By 1730, 1 Regiment and 1 Section M.G. Squadron of 4th Brigade will move up to support the line and will report to G.O.C. ⁶⁵3rd Australian L.H.Bde at that hour when they will come under his orders.

HAN YUNUS

As soon as the morning patrols report all clear, this regiment and section M.G. Squadron may return to DEIR EL BELAH AND ONE REGIMENT ⁶⁵3rd Aust. L.H.Bde may water at a time.

5. Headquarters ⁶⁵3rd Aust. L.H.Bde will be near the I of GOZ EL TAIRE.

6. In accordance with G.S.Z./74 of 9th April, 1917, one troop ⁶⁵3rd Aust. L.H.Bde, will be detailed to report to O.C., I.C.C. at TEL EL JEMMI for duty with the Company, I.C., Brigade holding that place.

If TEL EL JEMMI is attacked, O.C. Outpost will at once move to its assistance.

UM JERAR

No water will be drawn from the cisterns and tanks at TEL EL JEMMI, but horses of the OUTPOST troop may be watered at MENDUR.

O.C. I.C. Company will be in command at TEL EL JEMMI.

7. O.C. Signal Squadron will arrange communication between
(a) ⁶⁵3rd Bde Headquarters & D.H.Q. and
(b) O.C. I.C.C. at TEL EL JEMMI and H.Q. ⁶⁵3rd A.L.H.Bde.

8. The Battery, F.A., and Mobile Veterinary Section, and ration pack horses will remain at DEIR EL BELAH.

9. The ⁶⁵3rd Brigade will be relieved by A. & N.Z. Mtd Div. at 1430 April, 14th.

10. As soon as morning patrol reports are in, a report will be sent to Div. H.Q. stating whether "All clear" or not.

11. 4th Aust. L.H.Bde will arrange to patrol the telegraph line which runs on poles from DEIR EL BELAH to KHAN YUNUS from 1800 April 13th to 0600 April 14th.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

G. Kawana

Captain,
General Staff,
Imperial Mounted Division.

Issued at 1700.
12th April, 1917.

SECRET

Appen 12 a

652/74

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4th Australian Light Horse Brigade.

It is desired to accustom the enemy to the presence of our troops in the UM JERRAR - SHARTA - TEL EL JEMMI triangle, but there should be no indication of any intention to make special use of this area.

To carry out the above intention, the following dispositions will be made. One company, I.C.C. Brigade, will hold TEL EL JEMMI day and night together with one troop from the Mounted Division, furnishing the cavalry outpost line. This will commence at 0600 on 10th April. TEL EL JEMMI will be entrenched and strengthened by a proportion of Machine guns. By day, patrols will move continually throughout the area indicated, returning by daylight. By night standing patrols will be pushed out after dark to UM JERRAR, SHARTA, and MENDUR.

These standing patrols must remain saddled up. If TEL EL JEMMI is attacked, O.C. Outpost will at once move to its assistance.

No water will be drawn from the cisterns and tanks at TEL EL JEMMI, but horses of the outpost troop may be watered at MENDUR.

O.C., I.C. Company will be in command at TEL EL JEMMI.

(sgd) H. C. S. WARD,
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,

Imperial Mounted Division.

12th April 1917.

Certified true copy.

Leah's copy

Major. G.S., I.M.D.

SECRET

Append No 13 13

Reference map GAZA (X) 1/40,000.

Copy No. 2

DIVISIONAL ORDER No 11,

by
Major-General H. W. HODGSON, C.V.O., G.E.
Commanding Imperial Mounted Division.

1. In order to be in a position to carry out their role in the forthcoming operations, the following moves of the units of the Desert Column are to take place :-
2. On night 0/1st day.
 - (a) A. & N.Z. Mounted Division (less 1st L.H. Brigade) move from DEIR EL BELAH at 1900 via the Southern Level Crossing, - SHEIKH HAN UDA - ALASAN EL KEBIR so as to be concentrated at SHELLAL at 0430. The rear of this Division will be clear of the Southern Level Crossing at DEIR EL BELAH Station by 2230.
 - (b) The Imperial Mounted Division (less 3rd and 4th A.L.H. Brigades) will move from DEIR EL BELAH via the Desert Column Road and EL IZRAAIN to TEL EL JEMEI. WHERE it will be concentrated at dawn.
 - (c) Headquarters, Imperial Mounted Division will be established on the Outpost line after 1700, and will proceed at 1930 to TEL EL JEMEI where Headquarters will be located in the vicinity of the 2 huts 300 yards West of TEL EL JEMEI.
 - (d) The 3rd A.L.H. Brigade, who will be fixing the outpost line will move forward to TEL EL JEMEI at 1930, and will throw out an outpost line generally on the AEU FAIRA - 280 - EL BENDUR line.
 - (e) The 4th A.L.H. Brigade will move up in support of the 3rd A.L.H. Brigade at 1800, so as to clear the SHEIKH HANUDA track by 1900, and will follow that Brigade to TEL EL JEMEI, where the 4th Brigade will remain in support.
 - (f) The 5th Brigade will move from DEIR EL BELAH via the Desert Column route to TEL EL JEMEI, so that the head of the Brigade reaches the South Level Crossing at 2230.
 - (g) The 6th Brigade will follow the 5th Brigade.
3. Divouac sites will be allotted to Brigades at TEL EL JEMEI. Brigades should not remain too closely concentrated in case of aerial attack.
4. No fires or lights will be permitted at TEL EL JEMEI until after sunrise.

In the Field.
14th April 1917.

H. W. Hodgson
Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
Imperial Mounted Division.

Issued at 1500

Copies to:-

No. 1.	3rd Ede.	8.	A.D.H.S.
2.	4th Ede.	9.	A.D.V.S.
3.	5th Ede.	10.	A.A. & Q.I.C.
4.	6th Ede.	11.	A. & N.Z. Mtd Divn.
5.	C.R.A.	12.	Desert Column.
6.	O.C., Signal SQDN.	13.	G.O.C.
7.	G.C., Ed. Sqdn. R.E.		

1475

C R E T.

DIVISIONAL ORDER No. 12,

by

Major General H.W.HODGSON, C.V.O., C.B.,
Commanding Imperial Mounted Division.

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1. Enemy forces are estimated at about
1,500 - 2,000 Cavalry.
60 - 70 Guns
20,000 - 25,000 Infantry,
holding an extended line from SHERIA through HAREIRA to GAZA. A small reserve is in the AKRA area.
2. The G.O.C.EASTERN FORCE intends to occupy the MANSURA SHEIKH ABBAS ridge on the first day.
3. The role allotted to the Desert Column is :-
(a) to demonstrate against HAREIRA in such a manner as to prevent the enemy there from detaching troops towards GAZA on the first day.
(b) to protect the right flank of the 54th Division which will be attacking SHEIKH ABBAS.
4. To fulfil this role :-
(a) the A. & N.Z. Mounted Division is to move forward against HAREIRA from SHELLAL to threaten that place, to block the road from BIR SABA, and to cover the WADI GHUZZE from SHELLAL to KARIM ABU EL HISSEIA.
(b) the I.C. Brigade remain at ABASAN EL KEBIR.
- 5(a) The Imperial Mounted Division, less 5th Mounted Brigade, will concentrate about TEL EL JEMMI at 0430 on the 1st day.
(b) The Division will be ready to operate against the flank of any hostile movement from RESM EL ATAWINEH on SHEIKH ABBAS
(c) The 5th Mounted Brigade will cross the WADI GHUZZE at TEL EL JEMMI and will move up the WADI SHERIA in order to surprise and capture the enemy outpost at KH. ERK at daylight on the first day. The strength of this outpost is reported as one squadron.
At the same time the 5th Mounted Brigade will detach a special officers patrol supported by a squadron towards KH. ZUMMARAH, whence this officers patrol will move rapidly to the main GAZA-BIR SABA road and destroy as much of the telegraph line there as possible before daylight.
After the destruction of the KH. ERK outpost the 5th Brigade will occupy the general line KH. ERK-EL MUNKHEILEH-KH. EL ASEIFERIYEH with small posts, the remainder of the Brigade being employed in preparing as many crossing places for wheels as possible between KH. ERK and EL MENDUR over the WADI SHERIA.
(d) The C.R.A. Imperial Mounted Division will reconnoitre for gun positions for occupation if necessary against an enemy movement from ATAWINEH against the right flank of our Infantry about SHEIKH ABBAS.
- 6.(a) R.H.A. Batteries will proceed to TEL EL JEMMI direct under orders of the C.R.A. and will bivouac in the sites allotted.
(b) Notts Battery will hold itself ready to move in support of the Outpost Brigade if called on to do so.
(c) "B" Battery H.A.C. will remain ready on the first day to join the 5th Mounted Brigade when required by the G.O.C. Brigade.
(d) The wheeled echelon of the Divisional Ammunition Column will move and park about the I in GOZ EL TAIRE, where the Desert Column route enters the Hills, at 0615 on first day. A representative will remain at Divisional Headquarters day and night for orders.

This echelon will water its horses at DEIR EL BELAH under orders from the Division. Water for the personnel will be sent from DEIR EL BELAH.

(e) The camel echelon of the D.A.C. will remain at DEIR EL BELAH and will be moved forward to replenish as required.

(f) Ammunition can be drawn from any of the following dumps :-
SHEIKH NEBHAN, BIR ABU UM TEIBIG, DEIR EL BELAH.

7. On arrival at TEL EL JEMMI the Field Squadron will proceed to KARIM ABU EL HISSEIA where it will develop water for horses and erect troughs. These will be erected down stream of the drinking water supply of the A. & N.Z. Mtd. Division.

The horses of the Division will pass to water in rotation, as the situation admits, commencing with the 3rd. A.L.H. Bde.

The only horses which will be watered at TEL EL JEMMI will be those of the 5th. Mounted Brigade.

§ Cable communications are to be established between ABASAN and TEL EL JEMMI by Signals Desert Column.

Cable communication will be established by Imperial Mounted Division Signals between the D.A.C. at the I in GOZ EL TAIRE and Divisional Headquarters at JEMMI. Visual as well as cable communication will be established between Divisional and outpost Brigade Headquarters. The latter will be transferred to 5th. Brigade Headquarters as soon as their line from ERK to ASEIFERIYEE is in position.

8a. As long as the Division remains at TEL EL JEMMI W/T sets of Brigades will remain under orders of O.C. Signal Squadron and will only move by his orders at the request of G.Os C. Brigades.

9. Desert Column motor ambulances will be at ABASAN EL KEBIR early on the morning of the 1st. day so as to operate either to SHELLAL or JEMMI. Imperial Mounted Division motor ambulances will be at JEMMI early on morning of 1st. day and will be prepared to cross the WADI to assist the 5th. Brigade if required.

10. Brigades moving from TEL EL JEMMI may leave any wheeled vehicles such as Field Ambulance sand-carts, reserve S.A.A. wagons etc. which are not immediately required, at their bivouacs at JEMMI. Such vehicles will be pushed forward to join Brigades on receipt of a message to Divisional Headquarters. Should Divisional Headquarters move such vehicles will accompany it.

11. SUPPLIES. A. Supply convoys will arrive at JEMMI at 1200 daily so long as the Division is situated there.

Troops will march out with the days rations and forage intact which they have drawn from the supply depot that day.

B. The Divisional water officer will be at JEMMI, where he will superintend the distribution of drinking and horse's water.

12. STAFF. The D.A.Q.M.G. will move to Administrative Headquarters Desert Column at DEIR EL BELAH when the Division moves.

13. Troops moving to JEMMI on o/1st. night may cross the railway line anywhere, wheels are restricted to the Southern railway crossing.

14. No maps other than the following will be carried into action SYRIA JERUSALEM Sheet, 1/250,000. SINAI PENINSULA Map squared RAFA Sheet 1/125,000. GAZA squared map 1/40,000 and 1/15,000.

15. Desert Column Battle Headquarters will be established at JEMMI at 0500 on 1st. day.

Divisional Headquarters will be at JEMMI from 1900 on o/1st. night.

Issued at 1830. 14/4/17.

Copy No.1 3rd. Bde., No.2 4th. Bde.

No.3 5th. Bde. No.4 6th. Bde.

No.5 C.R.A.

H. C. Sand
Lieut. Colonel, Gen. Staff.
Imperial Mounted Divisn.

SECRET

Appendix 15



G.O.C., 3rd A.L.H. Brigade.
— 4th A.L.H. Brigade.
5th Mounted Brigade.
6th Mounted Brigade.

A.D.M.S.
A.D.V.S.
A.A. & Q.M.G.
A. & N.Z. MOUNTED Divn.
H.Q. Desert Column.

C.R.A.
O.C. Signal Squadron.
O.C. Field Squadron.

134

Reference Divisional Order No 11 of today's date.

All units will move as strong as possible with 5 days rations on pack or man, exclusive of current days and Iron rations and will be prepared to be absent for at least 5 days.

Brigades will be accompanied by the Field Troops, mobile part of Field Ambulances, and Mobile Veterinary Sections, all of which will be under orders of G.O.C. Brigades.

Reserve S.A.A. wagons will accompany units.

A. Kawana

Captain,
General Staff,
Imperial Mounted Division.

14th April 1917.

G.O.C., 4th A.L.H. Brigade.
6th ~~A.L.H.~~ Brigade.
3rd A.L.H. Brigade.
O.C., Signal Squadron.
A. & Q.

SECRET

133

Appendix 16



Reference 1/125,000 map RAFA Sheet.

- (1) At ¹⁴³⁰1330 on April 15th, the 4th A.L.H. Brigade will relieve the Brigade of the A. & N.Z. Mounted Division in the outpost line.
- (2) The line runs from ABASAN EL KEBIR to Point 310 IN SEIRAT both exclusive, and G.O.C., 4th Brigade will ensure that his flanks join up with the I.C.C. Brigade on the right, and 54th Division on the left.
- (3) At 1730, April 15th, 2 Regiments 6th Brigade will move up to the outpost line and will come under the orders of G.O.C. 4th Brigade at that hour. One Regiment will be used to take a part of the line, and one Regiment will be kept in support.
As soon as the morning patrols report all clear, one Regiment 6th Brigade will return to DEIR EL BELAH, and 4th Brigade with one Regiment 6th Brigade may water by Regiments at a time.
- (4) At 1530 April 16th, 3rd A.L.H. Brigade will relieve the 4th Brigade on the outpost line and one Regiment 6th Brigade will rejoin its Brigade at DEIR EL BELAH. 4th Brigade will then water at DEIR EL BELAH, and return to support the outpost line, moving so as to be clear of the level crossing by 1900.
- (5) G.O.C., Outposts will detail one troop to support the company I.C.C. at TEL EL JEMMI. The O.C. of this company will command at TEL EL JEMMI. G.O.C. will satisfy himself that the standing patrols found by this troop are not pushed too far forward.
(+ G.O.C. Outposts)
- (6) No water will be drawn from the wells, cisterns, or tanks at TEL EL JEMMI or SHEIKH NAKHRUR, and G.O.C. Outposts will post a small guard over the well and tanks at the latter place.
- (7) Headquarters of the Outposts will be at the I of GOZ EL TAIRE.
- (8) O.C., Signals will arrange communication between:-
(a) TEL EL JEMMI and H.Q. Outposts.
(b) H.Q. Outposts and D.H.Q.
- (9) 3rd and 4th Brigades will move complete with all units, but ration pack horses of 6th Brigade will remain at DEIR EL BELAH.
- (10) As soon as the morning reports are in, a report stating whether all clear or not will be sent to D.H.Q.

Acknowledge.

Issued at 1830.
14th April 1917.

A. Kavanagh
Captain,
General Staff,
Imperial Mounted Division.

Copy to I.C.C. Brigade.
A. & N.Z. Mtd Divn.

Ref 1/125,000 Map RAFA Sheet.

131 COPY NO. 1.

1. The Brigade will relieve the Outpost Line at 1430 tomorrow 15th instant. The 11th and 12th L.H. Regiments with one Section of the Machine Gun Squadron per regiment will march direct to their positions in the line. Order of march for remainder will be as follows
 - Brigade Headquarters,
 - Signal Troop,
 - Detachment Field Troop,
 - Machine Gun Squadron, less two Sections.
 - Field Ambulance,
 - Mobile Vet. Section.
 Regiments will be clear of the camp by 1215.
 Head of remainder of column will pass Field Troop camp by 1215.
2. The Outpost Line runs from ABASAN EL KEBIR to pt. 310 IN SEIRAT, both exclusive, units on right or S. flank being I.C.C., and on the left or N. flank 54th Div.. O.Cs. 11th and 12th Regiments will be responsible for connecting up with these units on their respective flanks. The line will be divided into the following sectors.
 - Sector 1. (12th L.H. less one squadron) ABASAN EL KEBIR exclusive to E in GOZ EL TAIRE inclusive.
 - Sector 2. E in GOZ EL TAIRE exclusive to pt. 330 1 mile S. of IN SEIRAT exclusive.
 - Sector 3. (11th L.H.) pt. 330 (incl.) to pt. 310 IN SEIRAT (excl.).
 From 1430 to 1730 No. 2 Sector will be held by the reserve units of the 11th and 12th Regiments.
 At 1730 the two regiments 6th Mounted Brigade will report to Outpost Headquarters. One of these regiments will take over No. 2 Sector, the other will form the Outpost Reserve at Headquarters. On the regiment 6th Mtd. Bde. taking over the No. 2 Sector, Officers Commanding 11th and 12th Regiments will place one squadron in support in their respective sectors.
3. O.C. 11th Light Horse Regiment will detail one troop to proceed to TEL EL JEMMI to support one company I.C.C., O.C. which company will command.
4. As soon as the daylight patrols report all clear the Regt. 6th Mtd. Bde. in reserve will rejoin its Bde., and 4th L.H. Bde. and remaining regiment 6th Mtd. Bde. will water by regiments.
5. The outpost will be relieved at 1530 16th April by 3rd A.L.H. Bde. and the Brigade with one regiment 6th Mtd. Bde. will proceed to DEIR EL BELAH, watering there and returning in support of Outpost Line moving so as to clear the level crossing by 1900.
6. No water will be drawn from the wells, cisterns or tanks at TEL EL JEMMI or SHEIK NAKHRUR. O.C. 11th L.H. Regiment will detail a guard of one N.C.O. and three men over wells etc. at each of above places.
7. Headquarters of Outpost Line will be at I in GOZ EL TAIRE.
8. O.C. Signal Troop will arrange communication between :-
 - (a) TEL EL JEMMI and Outpost Headquarters.
 - (b) Outpost Headquarters and Div. Headquarters.
9. Field Troop, less a watering detachment will join the Bde. on arrival at DEIR EL BELAH at 1600 16th April. The watering detachment will accompany the Brigade.

10. Unexpended ~~of~~ portion of the days rations will be taken, also a complete ration for 16th April. Same applies to forage. All Quartermasters, Transport, (except S.A.A. limbers) and ration and water parties detailed in letter P.1, issued 12th inst., will remain in present camp until 16th inst., under orders of Staff Captain.
11. Filled waterbottles will be taken and Brigade arrangements will be made for refilling them in Outpost Lines.
12. 200 rounds S.A.A. to be carried on man. One limber per regt. will be taken with 16,000 rounds for Hotchkiss reserve. Machine Gun Squadron will take 15,500 rounds per gun on pack horses and 9 limbers.
13. No lights or smoking will be allowed in the Outpost Line from sunset 15th April till further orders.

J. M. M. M.

Captain,
Brigade Major,
4th Aust. Light Horse Brigade.

Issued at 2355.

Copy Nos. 1-3	Brigade Headquarters.
" 4	War Diary.
" 5	11th L.H. Regt.
" 6	12th L.H. Regt.
" 7	Machine Gun Squadron.
" 8	Field Ambce.
" 9	Mob. Vet. Sect.
" 10	Signal Troop.
" 11	Field Troop.
" 12	Camp Commandant B.H.Q.
" 13	Imp. Mtd. Div.
" 14	6th Mtd. Bde.

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. (In books of 100.)

No. of Message.....

Prefix *M-99* Code *70* Words *70*

Received *Jan* Sent, or sent out *130* Office Stamp

From *Major* At.....m.

By *Major* To.....

By.....

Charges to collect

Service Instructions.

Handed in at *JYR* Office *0945* m. Received *1138* m.

TO *4th LH Bde Appen 18*

*Sender's Number *01957* Day of Month *15* In reply to Number *AAA*

Following received from desert Column
 begins appointments approved aaa
 Major MCKENZIE 9503 to be brigade
 Major 4th LH Bde vice
 NETTLEFOLD aaa Major ROBERTSON 10th
 LH regt to be 9503
 vice MCKENZIE aaa *nick* GARBETT
 will perform duties for Major
 ROBERTSON until he rejoins from
 hospital ends aaa Time major
 MCKENZIE will report will be
 notified later on arrival of
 new 9503

FROM *Moundiv 0940*

PLACE & TIME

APPENDIX 19.

G.O.C., 3rd Australian L.H. Brigade.
4th Australian L.H. Brigade.
5th Mounted Brigade.
6th Mounted Brigade.

C.R.A.

1. The following code of signals for Very Lights will be used by all formations when necessary:-

(a) Green Lights fired in pairs at half minute intervals till answered from Brigade Headquarters by a similar signal will denote-
Enemy attacking.

This signal will not be made by anyone below the rank of Squadron Commander.

(b) Red Lights fired in pairs at half minute intervals till answered from Brigade Headquarters by a similar signal will denote-
Call for artillery fire on pre-arranged night lines.

This signal will not be made by anyone below the rank of Regimental Commander and will not be used if telephone lines are in working order.

(c) Green and Red Lights fired in pairs at half minute intervals till answered from Brigade Headquarters by a similar signal will denote -

Artillery fire on pre-arranged night lines no longer required.

This signal will not be made by anyone below the rank of Regimental Commander and will not be used if telephone lines are in working order.

(d) White Lights will be used for illumination.

(e) No other signals may be used.

April 16th 1917. (Sgd) A.KAVANAGH, Gen.Staff, I.M.D.

SECRET

Appen 20

127

2

Reference 1/125,000 map RAFA and BEERSHEBA sheets. Copy No. _____

After Order to DIVISIONAL ORDERS Nos 11 & 12.
by
Major-General R. W. HODGSON, C.V.O., C.E.
Commanding Imperial Mounted Division.

1. Ref. para 6 (f) of Order No. 12.
BIR ABU UM TEIBIC dump contains shell only.
2. In consequence of the C.O.C. right infantry division feeling somewhat anxious regarding the safety of his right flank during his attack on SHEIKH ABAS in the early hours of 0/1st day, the following additional orders are issued:-
 - (a) Having established the outpost line detailed in Order No. 11 para 2 (d) the C.O.C. 3rd A.L.H. Brigade will send one Regiment via the crossing at the second E at EL MENDUR so as to arrive in the neighbourhood of KH. EL ASEIFERIYEH by 0415 on first day.
 - (b) The C.O.C. 3rd A.L.H. Brigade will be ready to operate with the remainder of the Brigade including Notts Battery R.H.A., towards ASEIFERIYEH to ensure protection to the right flank of the infantry during the attack on SHEIKH ABAS.
 - (c) As soon as the 5th Mounted Brigade has established the line detailed in order No. 12 para 5 (c) the 3rd A.L.H. Brigade, less one Regiment will concentrate at EL MENDUR in order to support the one Regiment at ASEIFERIYEH if necessary.
- (3) The Regiment at ASEIFERIYEH ~~if necessary~~ will send reconnaissances to work carefully forward towards RESH EL ATWINEH at daylight to report any hostile movements there and on the possibilities for the movement of Mounted Troops and guns against that place from ASEIFERIYEH.
- (4) Reports on hostile movement from the direction of RESH EL ATWINEH will be reported direct to the right infantry Brigade as well as to H.Q., Imperial Mounted Division.
- (5) Watering arrangements for 3rd Brigade:-
 - (a) The Regiment at ASEIFERIYEH.
As far as possible at that place. If the well is not sufficient, one 3rd at a time at EL MENDUR.
 - (b) Remainder of 3rd A.L.H. Brigade.
As far as possible at MENDUR, remainder if necessary at KARIM ABU EL HISEIA.
- (6) To enable watering to be carried out at EL MENDUR, the 3rd Brigade Field Troop will accompany its Brigade and not go to KARIM ABU EL HISEIA.
The 233rd F.A. Brigade will also water at EL MENDUR.
- (7) In consequence of this change the Notts Battery R.H.A. will move up to the 3rd Brigade H.Q. by 1900 on zero day and will come under the orders of C.O.C. 3rd Brigade from that hour.

Approved by G.O.C.

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

Issued at 0700.
16th April 1917.

Copies to:-

- | | | | |
|--------|----------------|---------|-------------------------|
| No. 1. | 3rd Brigade. | 9. | A.D.V.S. |
| 2. | 4th Brigade. | 10. | A. & Q. |
| 3. | 5th Brigade. | 11. | A. & N.Z. Ltd Divn. |
| 4. | 6th Brigade. | 12. | H.Q. Desert Column. |
| 5. | C.R.A. | 13. | C.O.C. |
| 6. | O.C. Sig Sqdn. | 14 & 15 | War Diary. |
| 7. | O.C. Fd. Sqdn. | 16. | File. |
| 8. | A.D.K.S. | 17. | Senior Liaison Officer. |
| | | 18. | 52nd Division. |
| | | 19. | 54th Division. |

SECRET

Appen 20

To

4th A.H. Bde 128

Copy No. 2

Reference Divisional Order No. 11, Zero day will be

April 16th 1917.

A. Ravanah

Captain,
General Staff,
Imperial Mounted Division.

16th April 1917.

Copy No. 1	3rd Bde.	9	A.D.V.S.	21
2	4th Bde.	10	O.C., A.S.G.	22
3	5th Bde.	11	A. & Q.	23
4	6th Bde.	12	G.O.C.	24
5	C.R.A.	13	File.	25
6	O.C., Fd. Sqdn.	14 & 15	War Diary.	
7	O.C., Sig. Sqdn.	16		
8	A.D.M.S.	17		
		18		
		19		
		20		

15.4.17. Ref. 1-125000 RAPA and BEERSHEBA. Sheets

Copy No. 4

124

1. Enemy Forces are estimated at about
 - 1500 to 2000 Cavalry.
 - 60 to 70 Guns.
 - 20000 to 25000 Infantry.
 holding an extended line from SHEHIA through HAKEIRA to GAZA
 a small reserve is in the area.
2. G.O.C. Eastern Force intends to Occupy the MANSURA -SHEIK ANBAS Ridge on the 1st day.
3. The role allotted to Desert Column is:-
 - (a) to demonstrate against HAKEIRA in such a manner as to prevent the enemy there from detaching troops towards GAZA.
 - (b) to protect the right flank of the 54th Division which will be attacking SHEIK ANBAS.
4. To fulfil this role:-
 - (a) A.S.N.Z. Mounted Division is to move forward against HAKEIRA from SHELLAL to threaten that place, to block the road from HIR SERA and to cover the WADI GHUZZE from SHELLAL to KARIM, ABU EL HISSIA.
 - (b) The I.C. Bgde remain at ABASAN EL KEHR.
5. (a) Imperial Mounted Division less 5th Mounted Brigade will concentrate about TEL EL JESSI at 0430 on first day
 (b) The Division will be ready to operate against the flank of any hostile movements from REEM EL ATAWINAH on SHEIK ANBAS.
 (c) 5th Mounted Brigade will cross the WADI GHUZZE at TEL EL JESSI and the ~~mountain~~ will move up the WADI SHEHIA, in order ~~to~~ to surprise and capture the enemy outpost at KH ERK on the 1st day. The strength of this outpost is reported at one squadron. At the same time 5th Mtd. Bgde will detach a special officers patrol, supported by a squadron towards SHEIK KH ZUHARAH when this officers patrol will move rapidly on main GAZA-HIR SERA Road and destroy as much of the telegraph line there as possible before daylight after the destruction of KH ERK-EL MURCHILEA- KH EL AGHIBIYKH with small posts, the remainder of the Bgde being employed in preparing as many crossing-places for wheel as possible between KH ERK and EL MOHDUR over WADI SHEIRA.
6. After watering at DEIR EL HELAH on relief from Outpost Line to-morrow (16th) 4th L.H. Bgde will move up and support the 3rd L.H. Bgde, who will be holding the line. 3rd L.H. Bgde will then proceed to TEL EL JESSI and will throw out an outpost-line ABU RAKRA -280-EL MURHAN. 4th L.H. Bgde will follow 3rd A.L.H. Bgde to TEL EL JESSI and bivouac there.

7. ORDER OF MARCH FROM DEIR EL HELAH

11th A.L.H. Regt.
 Bgde H.Q. and Signal Troop.
 4th Machine Gun Squadron.
 12th A.L.H. Regt.
 4th Field Troop.
 4th Field Ambulance.
 9th Mob. Vet. Section.

Bivouac Sites at Tel el JESSI will be allotted to units on arrival. Units should not be more concentrated than necessary in case of Aerial attack.

When Moving from DEIR EL HELAH wheels are restricted to the Southern Southern Railway Crossing S. of DEIR EL HELAH Sta. Troops may cross railway anywhere.

7. On arrival at TEL EL JESSI the Field Troop will come under the orders of O.C. Field Squadron re-joining the Bgde on completion of duty.
8. As long as the Division remains at TEL EL JESSI W/T. Section of Signal Troop will remain under the orders of O.C. Signal Squadron and will only move by his orders.

(2)

195

9 AMMUNITION. Can be drawn from any of the following dumps:-
SHEIK NEHMAN
HIR ABU UM TEINIG.
DEIR EL BELAH.

10. SUPPLIES Supply convoys will arrive at JEMMI at 1200 Daily so long as the Division is situated there. Troops will march out with the day's rations and forage intact which they have drawn from the Supply Depot that day.

11. Desert Column motor Ambulances will be at ANASAN EL ~~KEBIR~~ ^{KEBIR} early on the morning of the 1st day.

12. The following are the only maps which may be taken into the Field.

- | | | | |
|-----|----------|-------------------------|-------|
| (1) | 1-250000 | JERUSALEM | Sheet |
| (2) | 1-168960 | SOUTH PALESTINE | do |
| (3) | 1-125000 | RAFA and BEERSHEBA | do |
| (4) | 1-40000 | GAZA (x) dated 10.4.17. | do |
| (5) | 1-15000 | GAZA and HARBIRA | do |

13. Imperial Mounted Division H.Q. will be at JEMMI from 1900 on 0/1st night and will be located in the vicinity of 2 huts 300 yards West of TEL-EL-JEMMI Brigade Headquarters will be established on arrival in the bivouac area at TEL-EL-JEMMI.

Leah Lenzie Major

~~Captain~~

Rgde Major.

4th Aust Light Horse Brigade.

Issued at. 0900 16/4/17

- Copy Nos 1/3 Brigade Headquarters.
- 4 x War Diary
 - 5 x 11th L.H. Regt.
 - 6 x 12th L.H. Regt.
 - 7 x Machine Gun Squadron.
 - 8 x Field Ambulance
 - 9 - Mob Vet Section.
 - 10 Camp Commandant H.Q. Signal Troop.
 - 11 Right Troop. Commandant Brigade H.Q.
 - 12 Field Troop.
 - 13 Imperial Mounted Division.

(H) *Major* *Lenzie*

To all units

126

Ref. Brigade Order No 12 of 12/4/17

All units will move as strong as possible with 3 days rations on pack or man, exclusive of 'current days' and Iron rations and will be prepared to be absent for at least 5 days.

Brigades will be accompanied by the Field Troops, mobile part of Field Ambulances and Medical Veterinary sections, all of which will be under orders of G. O. C. Brigades.

Reserve S.A.A. wagons will accompany units

Bden major

H. L. H. S. de

SECRET.

Append 2

123

Copy No. 4

REFERENCE 1/125,000. RAFA-BEERSHEBA.

After ORDER TO BRIGADE ORDER N° 12,
by.

Brig Genl. J. B. MEREDITH, DSO.

Commanding 4th FLH Brigade.

1. BIR. ABU. UM. TIEBIG dump contains shells only.
2. In consequence of the G.O.C right Infantry DIVISION feeling somewhat anxious regarding the safety of his right flank during the attack on SHEIKH ABBAS in the early hours of 0/1st day the following additional orders are issued:—
 - a. Having established the outpost line ABU BAKRA - 280-MENDUR the G.O.C 3rd L.H Bde. will send one regiment via the crossing at the second E in EL MENDUR so as to arrive in the neighbourhood of KH. ASEIFERIYEH by 0415 on first day.
 - b. The G.O.C. 3rd L.H Bde will be ready to operate with the remainder of the Brigade including NOTT'S Battery towards ASEIFERIYEH to ensure protection on the right flank of the infantry during the attack on SHEIKH ABBAS.
 - c. As soon as the 5th Mtd Brigade has established the line ERK - MUNKHEILER - ASEIFERIYEH. the 3rd L.H Bde less one regiment will concentrate at EL MENDUR in order to support the one regiment at ASEIFERIYEH if necessary.
3. The Regiment at ASEIFERIYEH will send reconnaissance to work carefully towards RESM EL. ATAWINEH at daylight.
4. Reports on hostile movement from direction ATAWINEH will be reported direct to right Infantry Brigade as well as B.H.Q 4th L.H Bde.

Issued at 0930.

Copies to

- | | |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| No 1 | 11 th L.H Reg ^t |
| 2 | 12 th L.H Reg ^t |
| 3 | File |
| 4 | DIARY. |

J. B. Meredith
Major.
Brigade Major
4th L.H Bde

Reference GAZA X 1/40000 Appon 23

REPORT ON "Reconnaissance of
area EL ASEIFERIYEH.

170

General Idea of
Country

Moving N of W el SIHAN
from MENJUR to ASEIFERIYEH
wheels must keep good N of wadi
to avoid branch wadis running N thro
1 of BAIKET, from N of W SIHAN and
through letter Y. This would mean
moving along top of a ridge coming
into full view of enemy positions about
ATAWINEH. The wadi bed cannot be
used. The above route can cross
W SIHAN for a space of several hundred
yards just N of E in EL of EL ASEIFERIYEH
& is fit for wheels, crossing the
centre branch of W SIHAN in square
Y 17 & crossing southern branch
if ramped as the wadi is only about
4' wide in squares Y 22 & 23.

A wide valley with
little cover for horns about 1 mile
wide stretches from ASEIFERIYEH

(2)

to the ridge occupied by enemy. The flank N of SIHAN wadi affords better cover but is enfiladed by guns observed to be firing from a brown bluff 20° from point 700^x on a bearing 5° from ASEIFERIYEH.

The southern flank S of southern branch of wadi from ASEIFERIYEH affords the best cover and best approaches. There are no obstacles to wheels to this flank from the SHERIA crossings as far as could be seen.

2. Cover for Red Horses: only in branches of wadi at SIHAN. Practically all the intervening country is open to view from some point in the enemy's position.

3. Places for enfilade fire

No tactical features for this purpose could be decided on owing to extent of enemy's position and ^{to} lack of close observation.

(3)

12

Crossings over SIHAN between MENDUR
and ABEIFERIYEH

- (a) Track at A of W of SIHAN for single file only.
- (b) Crossing ABEIFERIYEH for single file only.
- (c) Crossing at K of MAILIK for single file only.

Wadi Thiri i of BAIKET passable for all arms

(4)

122

4 Positions for enfilade fire for MG.
 See remarks in 3.
 Cross fire could only be employed
 until in close contact.

J. J. [unclear] Major
Brigade [unclear]
4th [unclear]

1MΔW40

Appem 2H

118

To G. O. E. 4th A. L. H. Brigade.

17th April 1917

You will proceed with your Brigade to take over the line now held by the 3rd A. L. H. Brigade from EL KESWA connecting with the 6th Mounted Brigade on your right about MUNKHEILEH, for which they are responsible, to ASAFEREIYEH where you connect with the Infantry ^{5th Division} on your left, and on the North of that place about EL MESHEREFF.

You will be supported by one Regt of the 3rd A. L. H. Brigade till dusk, when one Regt ^{4th A. L. H. Brigade} will continue to hold the line and one Regt will remain in support.

The 6th Brigade will continue the line on

Your right during the night. 119

You will reconnoitre for a suitable line for your night outposts immediately on arrival at EL MENOUR, and will hold these in conjunction with 6th Brigade and 57th Division.

The line of the WADI SMERIA will be the line of resistance in case of serious attacks by a large force during the night.

As soon as dusk falls you will occupy your night outpost line and get into touch with the troops on your right & left

H. P. Sward Lt Col
General Staff.

All your Regiments will arrange to water at EL MENOUR. H. P. Sward Lt Col.

Outpost Orders

17th April 1917.

C/o 11th LH Regt

C/o 12th LH Regt

117

Append 25

The 12th LH Regt and 1 Sqn 11th LH Regt and 3 sections Machine Gun Squadron will take up and hold a night outpost line from MUNKHEILER (exclusive) to ASAFERIYEH (inclusive) joining up with the 6th Mtd Brigade on the right and the 54th Division Infantry on the left between ASEIFERIYEH and MESHREFE.

This line will be reconnoitred before dark and occupied after dusk. The 8th LH Regt at present holding the line will not withdraw from its present dispositions until relieved after dusk.

The 11th LH Regt, less 1 Sqn, and 3 sections Machine Gun Sqn will be in support at EL MENDUR.

B.H.Q. will be at EL MENDUR.

C/o 12th LH Regt will push standing patrols to the front to maintain touch with the enemy during the night. At dawn officer's patrols will be pushed forward to make certain the enemy is still in position.

12th LH Regt will also ensure that all approaches up the wadi's are watched.

The line of the WADI. SHERIA will be the line of resistance in case of a serious attack by a large force during the night.

No smoking or lights are to be allowed on the outpost line.

Reports on the situation will be sent to BHQ at intervals during the night.

A cable will be laid by the Signal Troop from BHQ to HQ 12th LH Regt.

At daylight the line will be pushed forward all available cover being utilized. Every effort will be made to see that communications both laterally and front to rear are maintained.

Outposts will stand to arms at 0400.

Col [Signature]

Major
Brigade Major 11th LH Regt

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

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

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

TO { ^{3rd}
4th
~~5th~~ Brigades

Sender's Number. * OA 136	Day of Month 17 15	In reply to Number.	AAA
------------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------	-----

Role	of IHP.	Mounted	Division	will
continue	the	same	as	for
1st	Day	on	2nd	Day
AAA	6th	Brigade	with	furnish
night	outposts	on	line	MUNKHELEM
through	ERK	to	hill	300 both
inclusive	AAA	ANZAC	are	continuing
line from hill		300	exclusive	through EL
DAMMATH	GOZ	EL	GELEIB	to
OL	RUEIBIA	AAA	Troops	now
in	advance	of	outpost	line
could	not	be	withdrawn	till
after	dusk	AAA	standing	patrols
to	maintain	close	touch	with
enemy	during	night	AAA	officers
patrols	push	forward	at	down
to	make	certain	the	enemy

From	
Place	
Time	

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z)

Censor.

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

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C.2121
(in pads of 100).

No. of Message.....

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

TO {

.....
.....

Sender's Number.

Day of Month.

In reply to Number.

AAA

is	still	in	position	AAA
4 th	Brigade	will	continue	left
of	6 th	Brigade	from	MUNKHEILEH
exclusive	through	ASEIFERIYEH	to	connect
with	right	of	infantry	AAA
Fois	may	be	lit	by
all	troops	except	those	on
outpost	line	AAA	1cc	Brigade
&	amm	cols	stay	in
present	positions	AAA	supplies	for
tomorrow	as	for	today	AAA
acknowledge	AAA	Copies	all	Brigades
&	divisional	units.		

From Moundiv

Place

Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z) H. E. Sandford

Censor.

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

Appendix 21

"C" Form (Duplicate).
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2123.
(In books of 50 in duplicate.)

No. of Message

114

Charges to Pay. £ s. d.	Office Stamp.

Handed in at Sydney Office 105 m. Received 1055 m.

TO 4th Bde

Sender's Number	Day of Month	In reply to Number	AAA
-----------------	--------------	--------------------	-----

00143 18th

Bdes and outpost will not be
 received today aaa Addressed
 4th Bde and 6th Bdes repeated
 Bde 5th

FROM	<u>Mandi</u>
PLACE & TIME	<u>1010</u>

OUTPOST ORDERS.

113

April. 18th 1917.C.O. 11th ALH Regt.
of 12th —

The 11th LH Regt and 3 Sections MG. Sqdn will take up and hold a night outpost line from MUNKHEILER (exclusive) to ASEIFERIEH (inclusive) joining with the Regt of the outpost Brigade at MUNKHEILER on the right and with 54th DIVISION on the left between ASEIFERIEH.

The 12th LH Regt now holding day outpost will not withdraw from the present position till after dusk, after being relieved the 12th LH Regt will return to EL MENDUR to draw rations and fodder & remain in support
BHQ will be at EL. MENDUR.

11th LH Regt will push standing patrols to the front to maintain touch with the enemy during the night. At dawn officer's patrols will be pushed forward to make certain the enemy is still in position.

Line of WADI. SHERIA will be the line of resistance.

The night outpost line will not be occupied till after dusk, but all dispositions should be made in daylight.

Ofc outposts will report to BHQ by wire when outposts are in position and will notify of 12th ALH Regt to enable him to withdraw.

Stand to 0400.

Issued at 1600.

Paul Keay

Major
Bde Major 4th LH Bde

Appendix 29.

Copy No. 2

Ref Map 1/125000

1/40000.

Divisional Order No 13

106

by
Major General H.W. HODGSON CVO CB
Commanding Imperial Mtd Division

1. Information

(a) The enemy appears to be concentrating on his right. aeroplane observers report great reduction in tents at HAREIRA + HUJ area.

Enemy's line extends along the GAZA - SABA road from GAZA through KH. SIHAN and RIJM EL ATAWINEH across the W. EL BAHA facing SW. He is entrenching the ridge on Southern side of WADI EL BAHA and is facing NW along that ridge. His position from this ridge apparently turns again along the black track from the B of BAHA to KH. UM ADRAH and HAREIRA.

(b) Our troops hold the line from the sea MONEY HILL, KURD HILL, MANSURA to SH. ABBAS' with the right flank thrown back to a point NW of DUMBELL HILL about 300

2
107
Square $\frac{1}{2}$ 40000 -

- 2(a) At 0 + 2 hours G.O.C. Eastern Force will attack the enemy's position from the sea to KH. SIHAN inclusive.
- 2(b) Desert Column (less Camel Brigade³/₂ which will be attached to 54th DIV.) will operate on right of 54 DIV.
- 2(c) The Imperial Mtd Division will act dismounted against ATAWINEH with a view to pinning the enemy to that place.
- 2(d) The ANZAC Mtd Division will safeguard the right flank of the Imp. Mtd Div. from attack from direction of HAREIRA.
3. The dividing line between 54 DIV. and Desert Column is a line through BAIKET ABU MAILIK to ~~S.W.~~ S.E. of KH. SIHAN inclusive to 54 DIV.
4. In order to carry out the above attack the IMPERIAL MTD DIV. will move as follows:-
 - (a) 2nd Brigade and B Battery H.A.C. via HILL 280 (WADI SHERIA) to a line running from the NE of MUNKHEILEH towards the R of RIJL
 - (b) 3rd LH Brigade via their own crossings over WADI SHERIA W. of HILL 280 on that WADI to a line running ~~from~~ through from 1st H of MUNKHEILEH

inclusive to the Southern branch
of the WADI SIHAN due S of the K
of KH EL ASEIFERIEH inclusive -

- (c) The 4th Brigade will continue to hold their present line of outposts till 0400 when they will deploy on a line from the Southern branch of the WADI SIHAN at EL ASEIFERIEH exclusive towards HILL 300 Sq. Y1, 2 - 1/40000 -

The fourth Brigade will not cross the boundary line between the Infantry and Desert Column.

- (d) The 6th Brigade will remain on their present line of outposts until the arrival of the attacking forces of the I.M. DIV. and will also continue to hold the right of their line through KH. ERK until the latter is taken over by A.F.N.2. Mtd Div.

A Staff Officer of 6th Brigade will report at KH. ERK to G.O.C. left Brigade of A.F.N.2 Mtd Div. and will hand over the right of the line to that Brigade, explaining fully enemy dispositions especially with regard to the ridge S of the
the

109

W. EL BAHHA and ⁴ towards BAIKET EL
SANA, when relieved by attacking
troops of A+ NZ Mtd Div. 6th Bde
will concentrate in the haunch of
the W. SIHAN SW. of EL MUNKHEILEH
Sqs Y20-26-27 1/40000.

(e) RHA. less B battery HAC. will
come under the orders of CRA, I.M.D.
at 1900 today and will move to
the positions selected by him via
EL MENDUR and the North of W. SIHAN

(f) 2d Sqn less 3rd Troop will
arrange for the watering of the Div.
at the troughs of TEL EL JEMMI. The
3rd Troop will develop water
for men and horses to as great a
degree as possible at EL MUNKHEILEH
Only 3rd, 4th & 5th Brigades will be permitted
to utilise this water

(g) Cpl Signal Squadron will arrange
for following cable and visual
communications:

(a) HQs and all Brigade HQs

(b) HQs and CRA IMD

(c) Cable + visual communications
to ANZAC Mtd Div.

Brigades are responsible for
maintaining lateral communications
to their left - 4th Bde will maintain
communications with right Infantry Bde

- 5 110
- (b) For this operation 3d Ambulances will be Divisional Troops. The Div. collecting station will be at TEL EL JEMMI. Div. Dressing Station will be established at a point $\frac{1}{2}$ mile W of ASEIPERIYEH.
- (i) The Divisional Veterinary Clearing Station will be at TEL EL JEMMI & will be established by 9th M.V.S.

5. The Division will carry out a dismounted attack upon the system of trenches at RIJM EL ATAWINEH - Brigades will be in position to commence this attack at 0412 on the 19th instant.

6. Troops now at TEL EL JEMMI will move as follows:-
- (1) 5th Brigade
 - (2) 3rd Brigade who should be concentrated North of TEL EL JEMMI HILL 280 track and the crossing of the W. GHUZZE by 2000 today
 - (3) R.H.A. Batteries in rear of 3rd Brigade to cross the W. SHERIA at EL MENDUR
7. DFC both echelons will be at TEL EL JEMMI on 18th

8(a) Tomorrow's water ration will be issued this evening, all water bottles must be filled and all water carts left full. Water carts will be brigaded & the issue of water will be directly under control of Brigade Headquarters. This does not include water carts of 2d. Ambulances, 6th Brigade will detail a guard of one officer and 10 OR. over the water at MUNKHEILEH who will act directly under the instructions of O.C. 3rd 2d Troop

(b) Troops operating dismounted will carry current days ration & the brown ration

9(a) In GOC's Brigades will pay special attention to the supply of ammunition in the field - 250 rounds per rifle will be carried taken in action

(b) Entrenching tool packs horses will be taken up as far as opportunity permits - After this point tools must be carried by the men themselves

(c) Position of led horses must be selected with the greatest care -

especially with a view to protection from
1 bombardment from the air or heavy
artillery.

10. Divisional Headquarters will
be established ~~on the ridge due~~
at ~~N of BAIKET ABU MAILIK and the~~
~~SS of CHARING CROSS square~~ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{40000}$
at 0400 on 19th.

Acknowledge

H. P. Sward

Lt. Col
General Staff

IMPERIAL MED DIVISION.

Copies issued at: - 1740

No 1	to GOC 3rd Bde	10	FR
2	" 4 "	11	OC. A.S.C.
3	" 5 "	12	GOC.
4	" 6 "	13	File
5	CRA	14	War Diary
6	OC 3rd Sqdn	15	
7	OC Sig Sqdn	16	Desert Column
8	ADMS	17	A+V2 Div
9	ADVS	18	54 Div

Ref. 1/125,000
1/40,000.

BRIGADE ORDER. No 13.

99 Copy No 4

by
Brig Genl. J. B. MEREDITH, D.S.O.
Commanding 4th ALHBde

APPEN 30

- 1 Information. (a) Enemy appears to be concentrating on his right, aeroplane observers report great reduction in tents at HAREIRA and HUT area. Enemy's line extends along the GAZA - SABA road from GAZA through KH-SIHAN and RIJMEH ATAWIYEH across the WADI EL BAHHA facing S.W. He is entrenching the ridge on S. side of WADI BAHHA & is facing NW along the ridge. His position from the ridge apparently turns again along black track from B of BAHHA to KHUM-ADRAH and HAREIRA.
- (b) Our troops hold line from SEA MUNEY HILL KHURD HILL, MANSURA to SHEIKH ABBAS with right flank thrown back to a point NW of DUMBELL HILL contour 300 Square Y2 1/40000.
- 2 (a) At 0+2 hours G.O.C. EASTERN FORCES will attack enemy's position from sea to KH-SIHAN inclusive
- (b) DESERT COLUMN (less Camel Bde which will be attached to 54th DIVISION) will operate on right of 54th DIVISION.
- (c) The IMPERIAL MOUNTED DIVISION will act dismounted against ATAWIYEH with a view to pinning the enemy to that place.
- (d) The A & NZ DIVISION will safeguard the right flank of the IMPERIAL M^{td} DIVISION from attack from the direction of HAREIRA.
- 3 The dividing line between 54th DIVISION and DESERT COLUMN is line thro' BAIKET ABU MAILIK to S.E. of KH. SIHAN inclusive to 54th DIVISION.
- 4 (a) 5th Brigade & "B" Batty HAC. will move via HILL 280 (WADI SHERIA) to line running from first H in MUNKHEILER towards R of RITL.
- (b) 3rd ALHBde will deploy on line from first H in MUNKHEILER inclusive to southern branch of Wadi SIHAN due S of K in KH EL ASEIFERIYEH inclusive.
- (c) 4th LH Bde will continue to hold their present line of outposts till 0400 when they will deploy on line from southern branch of Wadi SIHAN at ASEIFERIYEH exclusive towards HILL 300 Square Y1-2 1/40,000. The 4th LH Bde will not cross the boundary line between the infantry and DESERT Column.
- Deployment. At 0400 the 11th LH Regt and one section M.B. Squadron will be deployed dismounted on a line

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line from huts at EL ASEIFERIYEH exclusive along a line in direction of HILL 300 to line of division between 54th DIVISION and DESERT COLUMN.

The 12th LH Regt and 1 Section MG Sqdn will be deployed at 0400 with its right on S branch of WADI SIHAN between E and I of ASEIFERIYEH and its left on buildings ASEIFERIYEH inclusive joining up with the 11th LH Regt at that point. The Regiment will be deployed dismounted.

When the order to move from this line is given the right of the 12th LH Regt will march on the trees in Square Y 5 keeping touch with 3rd LH Bde on the right. The 11th LH Regt will march with its left on the line of division following the WADI SIHAN. The inner flanks of each Regiment will keep in touch.

Machine Gun Packs, Hotchkiss Gun packs and tool pack horses will move forward with units. All other horses will be left under cover in the WADI SIHAN under command of MAJOR ALEXANDER. Led horses of Regiments will be under an officer. An NCO will be left with other units.

One Squadron from each Regt and 2 Sections MG Sqdn will report to BHD at junction of WADIS in Square Y 4.

The 11th LH Regt will send out two troops mounted in front of line of Brigade deployment to clear up country in vicinity of clump of trees and WADI junction. When the Brigade advance reaches trees these two troops will dismount and send led horses back with exception of packs.

Pack horses will probably not be able to advance further than wadi at clump of trees and wadi SIHAN in Square W 34. Men will be sent forward with shovels taken from the packs.

Ammunition Supply.

Horse bandoliers will be carried by the men when dismounted on line of deployment. Reserve will be established at Trees from DAC at TEL. EL. JEMMI.

All ammunition on limbers will concentrate at ASAFERIYEH under command of MAJOR ALEXANDER who will send them in rear of the advance up the WADI SIHAN to junction of wadi's Square Y 4.

Water. Pack horses will water at pools in WADI SIHAN. Remainder under orders of MAJOR ALEXANDER. Water carts except that of Field Ambulance will be sent to ASAFERIYEH with the ammunition limbers & will be under Brigade orders.

Dressing Stations. Casualties will be cleared by Field Ambulance from branch Wadi Y4 to Divisional Clearing Station in Square Y15. Rifle with fixed bayonet stuck in ground will denote wounded man.

Veterinary Clearing Station. DIVISIONAL. Vet. Clearing Station will be at JEMMI.

RATIONS. Current day's and iron Ration will be carried.

B.H.Q. Whilst troops are on line of deployment, at Hut 500' N of A in W. SIHAY ^{1/40,000}, after advanced beyond trees, at branch of Wadi's. Square Y4.

2 sections M.G. Sqdn will be left in hands of the M.G. Sqdn to support the advance of the Brigade with overhead covering fire if possible.

All Brigade units at MENDUR will be ready to move to ASEIFERIYEH by 0100 19th inst.

- Copies to
- (1) 11th ALH Regt
 - (2) 12th -
 - (3) M.G. Sqdn
 - (4) File.

John Temple

Major

Brigade Major 4th LH Bde

(3) On
from the
Hill MA.
right flank
NW of DVI

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message *110*

Prefix <i>7B</i>	Code <i>7B</i>	Words <i>14</i>	Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp
Charges to collect			From <i>1810</i>	At <i>98</i> m.	<i>APP</i> <i>19/4/45</i>
Service Instructions <i>Priority</i>			By <i>Palca</i>	To	
Handed in at <i>940</i>			Office <i>1813</i> m.		Received <i>1815</i> m.
TO			<i>Appen 31</i>		
*Sender's Number <i>Ca 162</i>	Day of Month <i>19</i>	In reply to Number		AAA	

Begin to withdraw at 1945

aaa Acknowledge

FROM	<i>Moundiv 1810</i>
PLACE & TIME	

* This line should be erased if not required.
Wt. 432 - M497 500,000 Pads. H W V 5 16 Forms C.2123

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message.....

Prefix	Code	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of:	Recd. at	m.	
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.				Sent		Appen 82 Service.	Date	
				At	m.		From	
				To			By	
				By	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")		By	

TO	3 rd Bde	6 th Bde	G. O.C.
	4 th Bde	C.R.A.	O.C. Signal Squadron
	5 th Bde	O.C. Field Squadron	ADMS

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* OA 160.			

Ref 1/40000 GAZA (X) and 1/125000
 The Division will withdraw under cover of darkness as follows AAA. 4th Bde to link up with infantry from night of SHEIK ARBAS through MESHREFE - square W33 - to KH EL ASSEFEIRIYEN exclusive AAA. 3rd Bde KH EL ASSEFEIRIYEN inclusive to EL MUNKHEILEH inclusive AAA. 6th Bde from EL MUNKHEILEH exclusive to hill 310 on WADI SHARIA to connect with ANZAC DIVISION AAA. 5th Bde will be in Divisional reserve SE of EL MENDUR with horses west of WADI SHARIA AAA Div Headquarters will be at Square T 23A near EL MENDUR AAA. The line will be well dug in and will consist of a series of strong points and machine gun posts ~~emplacements~~ with local reserves AAA. All horses will be west of WADI SHARIA AAA. The RHA batteries will be drawn back and then night lines set up for night firing AAA. The time for the line to be taken

From	up will be notified later.
Place	
Time	

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.
 (Z) Sgt A. Karanagh Capt J. [Signature]

Censor. Signature of Addressor or person authorised to telegraph in his name.
 * This line should be erased if not required.
 225,000. W 14042-M 44. H. W & V., Ltd. 12/15.
 issued at 19/4/17

11th LH Regt
12th —
MG Coy
~~APC~~

DORSET YEO.

19th April

Appendix 33

In the event of a withdrawal
to the line ^{DUMBELL HILL (300)} MESHREFE — ASEIFERIYEH
The DORSET YEO will cover the withdrawal
assisted by 3 machine guns attached
to that Regt and will take up a position
^{at dusk} along the ridges just N of wadi running
through the garden at BHQ.

The 11th LH & 12th LH will
withdraw through the DORSET YEO
and continue the withdrawal to the
line above. The time for the withdrawal
will be given by BHQ and it will be
after dark.

all arrangements will
be made by unit so as not to delay
the withdrawal.

After the 11 and 12 Regts
have passed through the DORSET YEO
this regiment will carry out a withdrawal
taking into consideration that the
Regiments it is covering are dismounted.

AS

On reaching the line
ASEIFERIYEH (exclusive) TO ~~MESHREFE~~ DUMBELL HILL
exclusive the 11th LH Regt and one Sqn
12th Regt + 3 Sect MG Sqn will hold
above line as night outposts linking
up with the 3rd LH Bde on the night
at ASEIFERIYEH and with the infantry
on the left at MESHREFE DUMBELL HILL

2 Sgns 12th LH Regt and
3 Sect MG Sqn will be in support at
garden N of WADI SIMAN between
ASEIFERIYEH and BAIKET ABU MAILIK
BHQ will be at garden
near supports.

A Batt H.A.C will accompany
the Bde & will be under orders of GOC
4th LH Bde. This battery will select gun
positions on the outpost line and lay
out night lines.

The outpost line must
be strongly entrenched.

All horses except packs
will be sent back behind ~~MESHREFE~~
SHERIA

96

under command of MAJDA ALEXANDER
Rations and fodder
will be dumped at BHQ and issued
under orders of staff capt ~~to~~ issued
later.

Stand to 0400.

On the 11th & 12th LH Regts reaching the
outpost line the DORSET YEO will clear
the front and will rejoin its Bde reporting
first to 4th LH Bde that all the Regt is
in and all wounded evacuated.

19.4.17.

D. W. Henry Major
BM 4th LH Bde

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message.....

Prefix <i>Am</i>	Code <i>AmB</i>	Words <i>186</i>	Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp
Charges to collect			From <i>9410</i>	At <i>92</i> m.	<i>AmB 19/4/17</i>
Service Instructions.			By <i>WGS</i>	To <i>92</i>	
Handed in at <i>9410</i>			Office	m.	Received <i>0320</i> m.

TO

4th Bde

Appen 34

*Sender's Number <i>9410 148</i>	Day of Month <i>19th</i>	In reply to Number	AAA
-------------------------------------	--	--------------------	------------

The roll of the division for the 20th will be mainly defensive and the division will hold the present right out post line tomorrow and the line of strong posts will be strongly dug in with additional trenches prepared for occupation by reinforcements and five gun positions for the defence of the line will be selected and prepared and Brigades will push out patrols as early as possible to gain touch with the enemy and the line of right outposts will be the line of resistance and held at all costs and water carts of 3rd and 6th Bdes may be filled at MUNKHEILEH and all horses without exception will be watered at TELELT FMMIAC

FROM

PLACE & TIME

* This line should be erased if not required.

Wt. 432 - M437 500,000 Pads. H W V 5 16 Forms C.2123.

MESSAGE

Prefix.....	Code.....	Words.....	Received.....
		£ s. d.	From.....
Charges to collect			At.....
Service Instructions.			To.....
			By.....

Handed in at..... Office..... m. Received..... m.

TO

②

*Sender's Number	Day of Month	In reply to Number	AAA
------------------	--------------	--------------------	-----

not more than the horses of one
 Regt per brigade to proceed to water
 at the same time and if so desired
 4th Bde may water one Regt at
 NISSEIA by arrangement with a
 division direct and Field Squadron
 will repair crossings over WADI
 SHARIS and acknowledge no alteration
 in position of brigades till further
 orders.

FROM Inoudiv
 PLACE & TIME 2330

* This line should be erased if not required.
 Wt. 432 - M437 500,000 Pads. H W V 5 16 Forms C.2123.

Appendix 35

Secret

Divisional order N° 14
by

Copy N° 4

Major General H.W. Hodgson CVO, CB.
Commanding Imperial MTD Division

1. Intercepted wireless indicates the possibility of the enemy developing an attack against our Infantry combined with wide turning movement round our right towards SHELLAL
2. Should enemy advance the Div. will hold a line from SHARTA to MENDUR up to TELEL JEMMI with 4th + 5th Bdes., remainder of the Div. to operate towards WELI SHEIKH NURAN + SHELLAL in conjunction with ANZAC DIV.
3. Should the above line be taken up all wheeled transport will be sent back direct to JEMMI 3rd + 6th Bdes. withdrawing directly towards JEMMI but keeping their present extension in order to draw the enemy across the front of our outpost line.
4. At least 2 Batteries (A + B Batteries H.A.C.) will remain in support of the SHARTA - TELEL JEMMI line.
5. Brig. Gen. Fitzgerald will be in command of the troops holding the SHARTA - TELEL JEMMI line.
6. Should orders be issued to take up this line Div. H.Q. will move to JEMMI + troops will occupy the line forthwith. ~~3~~
3rd + 6th Bdes. will be notified when to withdraw.

ACKNOWLEDGE

20.4.17

Lt. Col. Gen Staff
Imp. MTD Div

Issued at 0715

Copies to

N° 1 GOC 5th Bde

2 " 6th

3 " 5th L.H. Bde

4 " 4th L.H. Bde

5 " C.R.A.

6 G.C.P.E.

7 G.O.C. Sig. Bde

8 Desert Column

ref.

1/40000 map

Div. order No 15

Appendix 36

Copy No 2

by

Major Gen H. W. Hodgson, C.O. C.B.

Com. Imp Intd Div

1. The enemy is holding strongly the line of the GAZA - SABA road on the same situation as he was on the morning of the 19th.
2. The Division will continue to hold the line it is at present holding.
3. This line will be held as at present except that the 5th Bde will relieve the 6th Bde on the line from EL MUNKHEILEH exclusive to hill 310 exclusive. The 6th Bde will be located in the vicinity of EL MENDUR, Square T. 24 x 30 as local reserve. The position of the RHA. will be as at present. Night lines will be set up and all preparations made for resisting a counter attack.
4. The Division will water on the 21st at TEL EL JEMMI and SHEIKH NAKHRUR, one third at a time commencing 0800 under arrangements to be made by the Div. water officer to whom all watering parties will report.
Drinking water for men will be drawn from SHEIKH NAKHRUR.
5. The Division will be saddled up at dawn. If the morning patrols report that the situation is unchanged, horses may be off saddled.

6. The relief of the outposts will take place 2
at 1830.

Acknowledged.

87

Issued at 1700
Apr. 20. 1917

Alkavama, Capt
H.

- | | | |
|-----------|----|----------------|
| Copy No 1 | to | 3rd Bde |
| 2 | | 4 Bde |
| 3 | | 5 Bde |
| 4 | | 6 Bde |
| 5 | | CRA |
| 6 | | OC Fd Sqdn |
| 7 | | OC Signal Sqdn |
| 8 | | Adms |
| 9 | | Adv S |
| 10 | | AQ |
| 11 | | Desert Column |
| 12 | | File - |

Prefix <i>Sh</i> Code <i>4772</i> Words <i>72</i>	Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp.
Charges to collect	From <i>WPS</i>	At <i>89</i> m.	<i>avo</i> <i>20/4/17</i>
Service Instructions <i>2/10</i>	By <i>WPS</i>	To	
Handed in at <i>4/12/17</i>		Office <i>1930</i> m.	Received <i>1950</i> m.

TO *4/12/17*

*Sender's Number <i>00105</i>	Day of Month <i>20</i>	In reply to Number	AAA
----------------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------	------------

one Brigade of 74 div has been ordered to immediately take up line hill 300 square of 1 or PHARTA to point 265 a a a in the event of present line held by this div being driven back brigades will take up the line from point 265 to TEL EL JEMMI in the same order as they now hold the present line a a a Ref 1/40000 map

L. White

FROM	<i>Moundiv</i>
PLACE & TIME	<i>1925</i>

* This line should be erased if not required.
Wt. 432—M437 500,000 Pads. H W V 5 16 Forms C.2123.

No. of Message.....

Received	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp.
From	At.....m.	20/4/17
By <i>WWS</i>	To 90	aps
	By	

Office 2105 m. Received 2112 m.
4th Bde

*Sender's Number	Day of Month	In reply to Number	AAA
09168	20		

Ref my 09165 231st Bde
 are in communication with
 Div HQ by Lamp and
 have been informed that you
 will send officer to their
 left on Hill 300 square
 Y1 to get into touch and
 show them your line and
 acknowledge and please comply

FROM	<i>Mauricio Leath</i>
PLACE & TIME	2100

*This line should be erased if not required.
 Wt. 492-M497 500,000 Pads. H W V 6 16 Forms C.2123.

"C" Form (Original).
 MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. (To be used for messages and signals.)

Prefix <i>PM</i>	Code <i>2500</i>	Words <i>20</i>	Received <i>270</i>	Sent, or sent out	Office Stamp. <i>AWO 27/4/19</i>
Charges to collect			From <i>W91</i>	At <i>91</i> m.	
Service Instructions <i>270</i>			By <i>W91</i>	To	
Handed in at			Office <i>270</i> m.	Received <i>2740</i> m.	

TO *4300*

Sender's Number <i>0 A 169</i>	Day of Month <i>20</i>	In reply to Number	AAA
--------------------------------	------------------------	--------------------	------------

Ref Div order 14 in event of necessary of occupation of SHARATA TEL EL JEMMI line 4th and 6th Bdeys will continue from hill of 231st Bde through MENDVR to TEL EL JEMMI and 3rd and 5th Bde will act at 6th Bdes ordered for 3rd and 6th Bdes in para 3 of this order no 14 and also previous telegram 0 A 165 on this subject.

pubb

FROM	<i>Mounsb</i>
PLACE & TIME	<i>2720</i>

* This line should be erased if not required.
 Wt. 492-M437 500,000 Pads. H W V 5 16 Forms C.2123.

R 1 - 1/40000 map
+ 1/125000 "

Appendix 37.

Copy No 2

Div order No 16

by
Major Gen H.W. HODGSON CVO.CB.
Com. Imp Intd Div.

21/4/17

1. The situation remains unchanged.
2. A brigade of 74 Div. has entrenched and is holding the line Hill 300 - square Y1 through S of SHARATA to point 265 square T. 17. B.
3. The Division will continue to hold the present line.
4. 6th Mounted Bde will relieve 3. AL. H Bde in the centre section from ASSEFIYEH inclusive to EL MUNKHEILEH. inclusive at 1730 today. The 3rd ALH Bde will, on relief, will take over the bivouac area of 6th mtd Bde. South of EL MENDUR. Square T24.
5. Tomorrow the 3rd Bde will continue the trenches begun by 5 Bde on the line, point 265 square T. 17. B to TEL EL JEMMI.
6. Watering tomorrow will be the same as today
7. The refilling point for supplies is East of EL MENDUR, square Y. 19. a

~~But the Division will be relieved by 10th Div tomorrow~~

copy no - 1. Soc 3 Bde no 9 to - AQ.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---------------|---------------|
| 2 | " | 4 " | 10. Deut Col. |
| 3 | " | 5 " | 11. File |
| 4 | " | 6 " | |
| 5 | | CRA | |
| 6 | | OC FA Sqn | |
| 7 | | OC Signal Sqn | |
| 8 | | ADM S | |

G. Kavanagh Capt
G.S.

Imp Intd Div

"C" Form (Original). Army Form C. 2123.
(In books of 50's in duplicate.)
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message 37

Prefix <u> </u>	Code <u> </u>	Words <u>86</u>	Received <u> </u>	Sent, or sent out <u> </u>	Office Stamp <u> </u>
Charges to collect			From <u> </u>	At <u> </u> m.	<u>CPD</u> <u>22/4/17</u>
Service Instructions			By <u> </u>	To <u>84</u>	
Handed in at <u> </u>			Office <u>1115</u> m.		Received <u>1145</u> m.

TO 4th Bde

*Sender's Number <u>00180</u>	Day of Month <u>22nd</u>	In reply to Number <u> </u>	AAA
----------------------------------	--	---------------------------------	------------

The division will be relieved from the line tonight
 and the present outpost line will not be
 handed over and Bdes will move direct by
 their outpost line, to ABASAN ER KEBIR
 at 1920 and 5th Bde will cross GUZEE
 at abubakra remainder at JEMMI and
 Routes will be reconnoitred by daylight
 and Representatives will meet Div Staff
 officers at ABASAN at 1500 to be shown
 through and Bdes will bivouac
 with their Brigades and Details orders
 follow

FROM <u> </u>	<u>Moundw</u>
PLACE & TIME	<u>1115</u>

* This line should be erased if not required.
 Wt. 482-3437 500,000 Pads. H W V 5 16 Forms C. 2123.

Appendix 39.

SECRET

Divisional order No 17

83 Copy No 2

by
Major General H.W. Hodgson CVO. CB.
Commanding Imperial Mt Division

Ref: 1/125,000 Map

1. The Division will be relieved from duty on the outpost line tonight - & will be withdrawn to bivouac about ABASAN EL KEBIR.
2. The outpost line will not be handed over & Bdes. will remain in their present positions until the hour of withdrawal at 1930. All wheeled vehicles should be sent back from the outpost line via crossings 6 + 7 & the new I.M.D road along the W. bank of the W. GHUZZE towards the TELEL JEMMI - ABASAN EL KEBIR road to ABASAN EL KEBIR at 1800.
3. The Division will withdraw from its present positions as follows:-
 - (a) RHA Batteries on the SHARTA ridge will move at 1830 via the I.M.D crossings 6 + 7 & the route detailed above to ABASAN EL KEBIR where they will bivouac with their Bde. Routes to the ABASAN - JEMMI road from present battery positions should be previously reconnoitred.
 - (b) 'B' Battery H.A.C. will move under orders of GOC 5th Mt Bde.
 - (c) 6th Mt Bde. via the crossings at + N. of the NEJILE - ABU MAILIK route & between the former crossing & MENDOUR exclusive ~~to~~ over the W. SHARIA to the southern crossing of the W. GHUZZE at JEMMI to ABASAN EL KEBIR moving S. of the ABASAN - JEMMI road.
 - (d) 3rd ALH Bde via the ATNZ crossing of the GHUZZE N. of the JEMMI - ABASAN road to ABASAN EL KEBIR.
 - (e) 4th ALH Bde. via BAIKET ABU MAILIK & MENDOUR on to the Amgar crossing at JEMMI. This Bde will move in rear of the 3rd Bde.
 - (f) 5th Bde via their own crossings over the GHUZZE near ABU BAKHRA to ABASAN EL KEBIR.
 - (g) Usual Signal Sqdn. will move via crossings 6 + 7 & thence to ABASAN EL KEBIR in order to establish S.W. Hd Qrs at ABASAN EL KEBIR by 1900.
 - (h) Field Squadron will move directly from JEMMI to ABASAN EL KEBIR.
4. No units will water on the 23rd until orders have been issued.
5. While in bivouac at ABASAN EL KEBIR in addition to usual protective measures by Machine Guns against hostile aircraft one Squadron per Bde. will be detailed ^{held} in readiness to use independent rifle fire against hostile aircraft. This Squadron will only fire under the direction of an officer. Hostile aircraft have been very active in bombing the camps at ABASAN EL KEBIR & every precaution in siting bivouacs & distribution of men & horses in them should be taken.
6. S.W. HQs will close at KUTSHAN at 1830 & will reopen ^{in vicinity of} ABASAN EL KEBIR at the same hour. Exact site will be notified later.

H. C. S. Gard
Lt Col. Gen Staff
Imp. Mt Div

22/4/17 Issued at 1430
Copy No 1 3rd Bde
2 4
3 5
4 6
5 CRA
6 CRE
No 7 G.C. Ligs
8 A.M.S.
9 Docent Col.

Secret

Appendix 40 of
Brigade Order No 14

by

copy No 1

Brig Gen J B MEREDITH DSO

Reference 1/125000

1. The Bde will be relieved from duty on the outpost line tonight and will be withdrawn to Bivouac about ABASAN EL KEBIR
2. The outpost line will not be handed over and the units will remain in their present positions until the hour of withdrawal at 1030.
3. All wheeled vehicles will be concentrated at MENDUR and will move from there under orders of ^{acting} Transport Sgt ^{at 1800} via crossings 6 and 7 and the new I.M.D road along W bank of W. GHUZZE towards TELEL JEMMI - ABASAN EL KEBIR road to ABASAN EL KEBIR
4. The 4th LH Bde will move via BAIKET ABU MAILIK - MENDUR onto JEMMI crossing in rear of 3rd LH Bde.
5. No units with water ~~at~~ on the 23rd until orders have been issued.
6. Led horses of 12th LH will be W of BITQ at 1900
Led horses of 11th LH will be in low ground N of BITQ in rear of this unit's position at 1900.
Horses will be formed up in column of troops

with A Sqn in front facing W. 82

7 at ABASAN EL KEBIR The 11th LH Regt will sell off one Sqn to be held in readiness to use independent rifle fire against hostile aircraft. This Sqn will only fire under direction of an officer.

8 order of march B.H.Q.
Signal Troop
12th LH Regt
MG Sqn ← 11th LH Regt (less one Sqn)
Field Troop
Mobile Vet Sect
Field ambulance
One Sqn 11th LH Regt (rear party)

One Sqn 11th LH as rear party will be sold off before moving from present B.H.Q.

9. No lights will be allowed and no noise during withdrawal.

10 QMs and an orderly will report to B.H.Q. at 1900.

copies to
1 File
2 11th LH Regt
3 12th LH Regt
4 MG Sqn
Issued at 1630

J. C. Stanger
Brigade Major

MESSAGES AND SIGNEES.

No. of message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	m.	Words	Charge	This message is on a/c of: <i>Appendix H</i> Service.	Recd. at.....	m.
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.			Sent			Date.....	
			At.....	m.	(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	From.....	<i>79</i>
			To.....			By.....	
			By.....				

TO	<i>3 Bdes</i>	<i>6 Bdes</i>	
	<i>4 "</i>	<i>1cc Bde</i>	
	<i>5 "</i>		

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
* <i>02 188</i>	<i>22</i>		

Ref	<i>1/125000</i>	<i>map</i>	<i>aaa</i>	<i>The</i>
Imp	<i>hnd</i>	<i>dis</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>1cc</i>
P de	<i>wide</i>	<i>be</i>	<i>employed</i>	<i>in</i>
digging	<i>the</i>	<i>trenches</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>the</i>
battle	<i>line</i>	<i>running</i>	<i>from</i>	<i>WELI</i>
<i>SHEIKH</i>	<i>MURAN</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>TEL</i>	<i>EL</i>
<i>TEMMI</i>	<i>aaa</i>	<i>each</i>	<i>brigade</i>	<i>will</i>
detail	<i>one</i>	<i>Regiment</i>	<i>daily</i>	<i>for</i>
<i>the</i>	<i>duty</i>	<i>aaa</i>	<i>positions</i>	<i>at</i>
<i>dig</i>	<i>the</i>	<i>following</i>	<i>posts</i>	<i>1cc</i>
<i>Bde</i>	<i>Hill</i>	<i>300 410</i>	<i>WELI</i>	<i>SHEIKH</i>
<i>MURAN</i>	<i>aaa</i>	<i>6th</i>	<i>Bde</i>	<i>Posts</i>
<i>near</i>	<i>the</i>	<i>EL</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>902</i>
<i>EL</i>	<i>SLEIB</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>Hill</i>	<i>330</i>
<i>aaa</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>Bde</i>	<i>KARIM</i>	<i>ABU</i>
<i>EL</i>	<i>MISEIR</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>Hill</i>	<i>310</i>
<i>aaa</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>Bde</i>	<i>spur</i>	<i>northwest</i>

From	
Place	
Time	

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

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

* This line should be erased if not required.
225,000. W 14042-M 44. H. W. & V., Ltd. 12/15.

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

No. of Message.....

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

TO {

	2	
--	---	--

Sender's Number.	Day of Month.	In reply to Number.	AAA
------------------	---------------	---------------------	-----

of	Hik	3IC	and	2
half	Squadron	posts	at	BIR
ASU	BAKRA	aaa	3rd	Bde
Hik	360	and	Contour	200
one	East	of	IZRAHIN	South
of	Tal	EL	JEMMI	aaa
HORSES	of	working	parties	may
water	in	the	wadi	GUZZEE
aaa	Outline	of	posts	were
Commenced	today	by	3rd	Bde
who	wik	send	representatives	to
all	Bdes	to	show	trace
of	selected	work	aaa	addressed
3rd	4th	5th	6th	Bdes
ICC	Bde			

From *Maoundis*

Place *2330*

Time

The above may be forwarded as now corrected.

(Z) *Alavanagh Capt GS.*

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

* This line should be erased if not required.

295,000. W 14042-M 44. H. W & V., Ltd. 12/15.

SECRET.

GSZ/121
Appen 43

G.O.C.

3rd Australian L.H. Brigade.
4th Australian L.H. Brigade.
5th Mounted Brigade.
6th Mounted Brigade.

77

An enemy attack is expected on the right of our line on the 1st May.

Should the Division still be in reserve as at present, the following movements will take place :-

4th A.L.H. Brigade)

6th Mounted Brigade) with their batteries, and field troops will stand to arms at 0400. Horses will be saddled up as soon as it is light and Brigades will wait orders at their bivouacs.

3rd Brigade will leave camp (TEL EL MARAKEB) at 0400 and will rendezvous in the open ground S.W. of Divisional Headquarters as early as possible after that hour where they will be joined by their battery.

Brigade gallopers will report at Divisional Headquarters at 0430.

Brigades will preserve an open formation and be ready to open fire against aircraft attacks.

Working parties will not go out until the "all clear" report has been received from the R.F.C. through the Desert Column.

A. Ravana, Capt

Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,

Imperial Mounted Division.

Copy
27th April, 1917.

DIVISIONAL ORDER No. 18

By

Major-General H.W.Hodgson, C.V.O., C.B.,

Commanding Imperial Mounted Division.

29th April, 1917.

Reference Maps. 1/125,000

Trench Map WELI SHEIKH NURAN Scale 1/15,000

Battle line

1. The Battle Line as now selected runs from the right of the Infantry, about 1 mile S.E. of TEL EL JEMMI, through Points 510 and 530, to Work P, and so down the Turkish reserve line of trenches to Work No. 8 inclusive.

Alteration in present Disposition.

2 (a) 74th Division and attached troops.

(i) From noon tomorrow the responsibility for holding the Battle Line will devolve upon the Brigade, 74th Division, and attached Indian Brigade, the I.C. Brigade, and No. 17 M.M.G. Battery.

(ii) In addition to holding this line G.O.C. 74th Division will also occupy strong posts by 2 Companies, on the West bank of the Wadi, at each of the crossings at HISEIA, SHELLAL and FARA.

(iii) The I.C. Brigade will continue to hold its present outpost line on the West Bank of the Wadi from HISEIA North-west to the right of the Infantry.

(iv) A proportion of Infantry will be kept in General Reserve about WELI SHEIKH NURAN.

(v) Two Regiments, Anzac Mounted Division, will be attached to the 74th Division from noon tomorrow to link up the strong posts mentioned in para. 2 (a) (ii) above.

(b) Anzac Mounted Division (less 2 Regiments).

(i) The Anzac Mounted Division will continue to hold the Bridgeheads at HISEIA, SHELLAL and FARA.

(ii) It will also be responsible for the provision of a strong outpost line East of the Wadi with the left resting on the I.C. Brigade outpost line North of HISEIA and the right in touch with the Imperial Mounted Divisional Outpost in front of EL GALLI.

(iii) It will push out patrols by day and standing patrols by night well in advance so that early information of hostile movement may be given.

(iv) The Division (less the troops mentioned above) will concentrate in the area SHELLAL and FARA as soon as relieved by the 74th Division and will be prepared to cross the WADI and engage the enemy immediately information of a hostile advance is received.

(c) Imperial Mounted Division and Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade (less 2 Regiments).

(i) 5th Mounted Brigade and 1 regiment 3rd Brigade, with a Section of M.C. Squadron and Field Troop under the orders G.O.C. 5th Mounted Brigade will hold the works on the 500 Contour together with Nos. 9, 10 and 11 on the TURKISH reserve line.

(ii) This Brigade will also hold a strong Bridgehead at EL GALLI and will continue the Outpost Line from the right of the Anzac Mounted Division Southwards and thence across the WADI to the West.

(iii) Patrols will be pushed out well in advance by day and standing patrols by night to give timely warning of an enemy advance from the East or South.

(iv) The Division (less the above troops) will be in General Reserve about ALABAN EL SHEIKH and EL EL PARAKEB.

Water.

Copy

SECRET.

Append 45

148 COPY NO. 1

75

4TH A.L.H. BRIGADE ORDER NO. 15.
by
Brigadier General J.B. MEREDITH, D.S.O.
commanding 4th A.L.H. Brigade.

29th April 1917.

1. BATTLE LINE. The battle line as now selected runs from the right of the infantry about 1 mile SE. of TEL EL JEMMI through points 310 and 330 to Work P and so down the Turkish reserve line of trenches to Work No. 8 inclusive.
2. (a). From noon tomorrow the responsibility for holding the battle line will devolve upon the Brigade of 74th Division and attached Indian Brigade, the I.C. Brigade and No. 17 M.M.G. Battery.
(b). The ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION will continue to hold the Bridgeheads at HISEIA, SHELLAL and FARA.
3. The IMPERIAL MOUNTED DIVISION (less 5th Mounted Brigade and one Regiment 3rd Brigade) will be in General Reserve about ABASAN EL KEBIR and TEL EL MARAKEB.
4. (a). Reserve horse water for mounted troops is being collected in the cisterns about ABU SITTA cross roads.
(b). Without the express permission from DESERT COLUMN HEAD-QUARTERS no water will be taken from either of these reserves. The present arrangements for water for Imperial Mounted Division hold good.
5. An ammunition dump will be formed at WELI SHEIKH NURAN.

W.B. Kemp

Issued at 1930.

29/4

Major,
Brigade Major,
4th Aust. Light Horse Brigade.

Copy No. 1 File.

- " " 2 War Diary.
- " " 3 War Diary.
- " " 4 4th L.H. Regiment.
- " " 5 11th L.H. Regiment.
- " " 6 12th L.H. Regiment.
- " " 7 M.G. Squadron.
- " " 8 "A" Battery H.A.C.

SECRET.

146

Appen 45

75A

COPY NO. 1

On 1st May the Brigade will stand to arms at 0400 on its present bivouac. Horses will be saddled up as soon as it is light and units will await orders.

Units will preserve an open formation and be ready to open fire against aircraft attacks.

Veterinary
Mobile ~~Veterinary~~ Section and Field Ambulance will be ready to move and will send an orderly to B.H.Q. at 0400.

4th L.H. Regiment will detail an officer to act as Brigade Galloper to report to Divisional Headquarters at 0430 on 1st May. Name of officer will be submitted to B.H.Q. by 0800 tomorrow the 30th April.

Orderlies from each unit should report at 0400.

Issued at 1900
29th April 1917.

Major,
Brigade Major,
4th Aust. Light Horse Brigade.

- Copy No. 1 File. (War Diary).
- " " 2 War Diary.
- " " 3 4th L.H. Regiment.
- " " 4 11th L.H. Regiment.
- " " 5 12th L.H. Regiment.
- " " 6 M.G. Squadron.
- " " 7 Field Ambulance.
- " " 8 Mobile Veterinary Section.
- " " 9 Signal Troop.
- " " 10 B.H.Q.
- " " 11 "A" BATTERY - H.A.C.
- " " 12 FIELD TROOP. A.E.

GOC. 4th A.L.H. Bde

GS2/128.

Appen 46 73

1) From information obtained by a Reconnaissance carried out by a G.S.O and 6th Mtd Bde it appears that a force of Turkish Cavalry and camelry about 200 strong is based on BIR EL ESANI. Their patrols are operating in the direction of BEIT CHAZALI - GERALIN - point 530 and thence towards EL RUEIBIA. Their main observation post appears to be point 680 - GOZ LAKHLEILAT.

2) WATER. The wadi SHANAG was re-surveyed and no water was found south of EL GAMLA except 2 small water holes of bad water in the wadi at SHANAG, and indications that by digging there sweet water may be found. There is every reason to suppose that there is water at BIR EL ESANI, but the reconnaissance did not get quite as far.

3) The GOC desires you to send one Regiment to operate against this enemy force at BIR EL ESANI tomorrow and to round up their patrols if possible.

4) This Regiment should move from ABASAM via EL MELEK - UM AJVA towards point 530 and thence towards ESANI.

copy

5. The Regiment will move so as to reach the ⁷⁴ line of the road running from the K of KHIBU - to the E of EL GAML. by dawn.

6. The Regiment will avoid becoming seriously engaged with any strong forces of the enemy. but will operate vigorously against small detachments.

7. ~~The Regiment will have water at EL GAML~~ ~~on their way back~~ There is sufficient water at EL GAML for the Regiment if required.

8. This operation depends for success on rapidity of movement in the early hours and if no immediate success is met with pursuit of the enemy will not be continued. East of the Wadi EL ESANI.

9. The 5th Ind Bde have 2 visual stations at Q02 MABRUK and point 515 EL GHABI.

10. The Regiment will march as light as possible.

11. Acknowledges.

Copy to JOC 5th Ind Bde

Ap. 29th 1917.

A Kawana, Capt
C.S.

Imp Ind Dir

APPEN 47

Report - WITTS - WIERNSHEDT 1/125000

CO 4th LH Regt.

29-4-17.

1 From information obtained by a reconnaissance carried out by a SSO and 6th Mtd Bde it appears that a force of Turkish cavalry and camelry about 700 strong is based on BIR EL ESANI. Their patrols are operating in the direction of BEIT GHAZALI - GERAKIN - Point 530 and thence towards EL RUEIBIA. Their main observation post appears to be point 680 - 602 LAKHLEILAT.

2 Water The wadi SHANAB was reconnoitred but no water was found south of ELGAMU except two small water holes of bad water in the wadi at SHANAB and indications that by digging there sweet water may be found. There is every reason to suppose that there is water at BIR EL ESANI but the reconnaissance did not get quite so far.

3 The 4th LH Regt will operate against this enemy force at BIR EL ESANI tomorrow and will endeavour to round up their patrols if possible.

4 The 4th LH Regt should move from ABITSAN via ED MELEK - UM RAJVA towards point 530 and thence towards ESANI

- 72
- 5 The Regiment will move so as to ~~reach~~ reach the line of the road running from the N of KHIOU to the E of EL GAMLII by dawn.
 - 6 The Regiment will avoid becoming seriously engaged with any strong forces of the enemy but will operate vigorously against small detachments.
 - 7 There is sufficient water at EL GAMLII for this Regiment if required.
 - 8 The operation depends for success on rapidity of movement in the early hours and if no immediate success is met with, pursuit of the enemy will not be continued east of the Wadi ESANI.
 - 9 The 5th MTD Bde have visual stations at GOZ MABRUK and point 515 EL GHABI.
 - 10 The Regiment will march as light as possible.
 - 11 A Sand Cart can be procured from 5th MTD Bde by communication.

Bill Temple Major
Brigade Major 1st MTD Bde

SECRET.

Appendix 8.

No. 1

70

Reference the stand to at 0400 tomorrow.

All units will be ready to move off at a moments notice from now on. All saddles will be packed and water bottles filled. Units will be prepared to move out complete leaving nothing on their present bivouacs.

Units will select an assembly post.

The Brigade assembly post will be N. of WELI SHEIKH NURAN road S.E. of village of ABASAN EL KEBIR.

In case of a turnout the Brigade will be formed up as a Brigade in line of troop column in the following order from the right -

4th L.H. Regiment.
11th L.H. Regiment.
12th L.H. Regiment.
M.G. Squadron.
"A" Battery H.A.C.
B.H.Q. and Signal Troop will be in front.
Field Ambulance in rear.

4th L.H. Field Ambulance will move to the 4th Brigade bivouac by 0400 tomorrow.

The daily routine will not be commenced until the all clear report has been given by Brigade Headquarters.

30th April 1917.

Beak Kemp

Major,
Brigade Major,
4th Aust. Light Horse Brigade.