

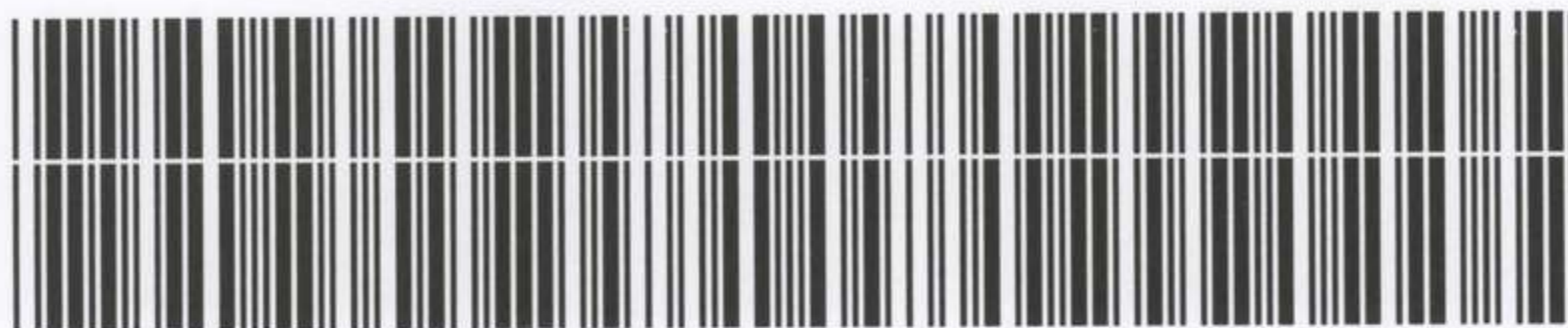
AWM4
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/62/9 Part 3

Title: General Staff, Headquarters Desert
Mounted Corps

December 1918



AWM4-1/62/9PART3

89

To:- Ausdiv, Fourcav, Fivecav, DA&QMG.

GA 439

15/12

Reference this Office GA 433 dtd 14/12
aaa Substitute following aaa Ref early
demobilisation of teachers aaa Extra duty
pay will be given to Officers and N.C.Os
employed under army Educational scheme
aaa Therefore teachers so employed and
teachers who will be prepared to accept
such employment should be recommended to
wait till announcement of terms before
claiming release aaa Then read as in
GA 433

From:- Descorps
1058

(sd) A.Campbell Ross
Major GS

88

To:- DAAG (MG) HQ

GA 437

15/12

Is the correct title of Armoured
Cars Light Armoured Motor Battery
or Light Armoured Car Battery aaa
11th & 19th always described as
Light Armoured Motor Battery aaa
and as Light Armoured Car Battery
aaa latter request their designa-
-tions be altered to No 2 Light
Armoured Motor Battery.

From:- Descorps
1057

(sd) A.Campbell Ross
Major GS

To:- Descorps

91

GA 929 15

Refce CHQ DAM 927 aaa Can you say
if road JISR AYASH HOMS passable for
lorries to take 2/107 Pioneers heavy
baggage aaa Would you be prepared
to supply lorries for move as done in
case of 51 Sikhs as burs are all
BEIRUT aaa Added Descorps reptd #
7 Div and Q

From:- 21st Corps
1200

To:- Descorps

90

GA 928 15 CAM 418

2/107 Pioneers are being ordered to
join Descorps and bear impossible
maintain Tripoli Homs road now heavy
rains set in unless lorry traffic
very greatly reduced aaa Am sending
2/32 Pioneers up to Tripoli to work on
above road in place of 2/108 Pioneers
aaa Am enquiring from Descorps whether
eastern portion of Tripoli
Homs road will allow of passage of
lorries with 2/107 Pioneers heavy
baggage aaa Added CHQ reptd Descorps
and 7th Div.

From:- 21st Corps

93
To:- Descorps

CA 554 15

Reports of possible disturbances
impending between Armenians and
Mohammedans received from AINTAB aaa
Have sent Col Sir Mark Sykes and
2 LAMBS there to ascertain truth of
reports aaa Consider presence of
LAMBS will have good effect and
prevent disturbances aaa Weather here
steady downpour.

From:- Fivecav
1420

92
To :- Descorps

OAM 525 15

Refce OAM ~~525~~ 518 of 14th aaa It is
hoped that the Rayak Aleppo Railway
will be complete in 10 days time with
exception of 4 miles gap at River
ORONTES aaa In view of above and owing
to difficulty of supply it is hoped
that the 2nd Pioneers Bn will not be
required.

From:- CHQ
1315

95

To:- Descorps

GT 410 15

American college BEIRUT promises accommodation and much assistance in Divisional education scheme. Number of instructors in Edes limited. Divisionalisation considered necessary. Approximately 200 from 11th Cav Bde wish to attend. Is movement this number British for attachment to Edes here sanctioned.

From:- Fourcav
1830

94

To:- Descorps

OAM 527 15

Lt Col Bird RE with 3 RE Officers one Coy Sappers and Miners and 30 Signal personnel reaches Mersina in Thesous tomorrow. This party is proceeding to TAURUS tunnel. Please instruct Major Alexander to get in touch with Col Bird and inform him what railway facilities there are.

From:- CHQ
1500

To:- Descorps 97

OAM 529

15

GA 428

51st Sikhs will garrison main points along railway as far as MISIBIN and Occupation of these posts should take place by stages and Places West of Euphrates which it is necessary to occupy will be decided by you after reconnaissance and then occupied and Reconnaissance will then be made East of Euphrates and occupation effected when arrangements can be made for move of troops and supplies by rail and Object of posts is to guard main stations and prevent their being destroyed by tribesmen and Posts East of Euphrates should not be less than two platoons in strength and posts will not have to find guards on trains.

From:- GHQ 1955

To:- XXIst Corps, DA&QMG ADST CRE 96

GA 451

15/12

GA 929

Lorries for heavy baggage of 2/107 Pioneers can be made available and Eastern portion of road at present passable for lorries.

From:- Descorps
1910

(sd) A. Campbell Ross
Major GS

99

To:- DQMG, CHQ, GS, CRE.

FX 2135

16

Present transport situation is as follows
aaa Parts of road between HOMS and HAMA
impassable and will continue to be as
long as wet weather lasts aaa CRE reports
Bridge at Kilo 154 will not be fit to
carry trains before 1st Feb by aaa Propose
dealing with situation as follows aaa
There are three trucks in section between
Kilo 154 and Orontes bridge aaa Work
trucks by means of converted lorries in
this section aaa Run trains to South side
of kilo 154 here camels to take supplies
across river at 154 and transport them by
trucks drawn by lorries to HAMA station
aaa Requirements are triangle North side
of stream at kilo 154 and three converted
lorries aaa Have one experimental convert-
ed lorry available at present which can
be moved into the section aaa Can get other
converted lorries into the section aaa
Triangle can be made by the A.T. Coy now
with this Corps aaa Added DQMG CHQ, reptd
CS, CRE.

From Descorps

(sd) R.F. Trew Brig Gen
DA&QMG

98

To:- GS Descorps

P 12/33

15

Inspected Bridge Kilo 154 with O.C. 571
A.T. Coy R E this morning aaa Centring
not yet completed and gap remains at
least 40 feet of arching not yet
commenced aaa As fair quantity stone
cement sand etc has been collected and
arch still seems quickest method of
bridging aaa Am putting on 50 Sappers
of 571 Coy tomorrow but with their help
estimate 1st February as earliest
date bridge will be fit carry trains aaa
Road situation extremely serious roads
being quite impassable during rains and
Aleppo supplies prejudiced aaa It is
proposed use converted lorries to pull
trucks between broken bridges aaa Triang-
le will be required North of Bridge Kilo
154 and propose take such points required
from sidings not in use aaa We will do all
possible but would like all further sapper
help and if possible personal inspection
by you aaa Added Lt Col Lord reptd E in C
and GS Descorps

From:- CRE Descorps

(sd) Hugh D Pearson
Lt Col

To:-
Descamps

101

GA 936 16 GA 451

Many thanks aaa Suggest 2/107
Pioneers come under your orders on
arrival FOMS aaa May 7 Div arrange
details of march with you direct.

From:- 21st Corps

To:- Descorps

100

GA 560 16

Turkish Commander complains that 400
Armenian Deserters in French uniform
crossed agreed frontier line and reach-
-ed Durtzol where they broke into and
robbed houses and dismissed local
gendarmerie aaa This contrary
protocol of 9/11/18 aaa Requests these
troops may be withdrawn aaa Full text
by DRLS.

From:- Fivecav
0810.

102
To:- Descorps

OAM 535 16

Following moves will take place as soon as Yarmuk valley bridges are repaired or sooner if supply situation allows aaa Descorps HQ to Aleppo aaa Fivecav to Killis Aintab and Moslimie Junction aaa Fourcav (less Hde at Damascus) Peirut to Aleppo aaa Pde at Damascus (less one regt) Baalbek-Homs area in relief of HdeAusdiv aaa Ausdiv complete to concentrate at Peirut aaa Fourcav will ~~empty~~ only take such RHA as is considered necessary by Descorps Added Descorps reptd 21 Corps.

From:- GHQ
1220

107a
To:- 21st Corps

GA 458 16/12 GA 936

Yes certainly.

From:- Descorps
1040

(sd) A. Campbell Ross
Major G.S.

To:- Descorps

104

GT 4 16 GA 459

C.O.London Yeo 6 Bo 84 or 21 MGs or 31
Hants Btty 2 Bo 16 Or CPA 1 Or MVS 2 Or
sig troop 13 OR Field troop 2 or aaa
Educational Scheme depends on whether
above personnel 11 Cav Pde come BEIRUT
aaa Every accommodation at American
College aaa Reply to your GA 368 of 9th
sent you under YC 37 dated 13th inst.

From:- Fourcay
1810.

To:- Descorps

103

GA 940 16

Reference this Office GA 927 of the
15th aaa Order 2/107 pioneers to
move to HOMB where they will come
under Descorps for Orders aaa
Arrange details direct with Descorps
repeating to us aaa Added 7th Divn
to acknowledge reptd Descorps

From:- 21st Corps

106

To:- Descorps

GA 566

17

Report on road reconnaissance SEJERAZ
 KILLIS AINTAB aaa Road SEJERAZ KILLIS
 generally fair and fit for lorries
 except for two miles between TIBIL and
 BELIK EUYUK which is impassable for
 lorries and requires remaking no
 metal beside road for repairs aaa Road
 Killis Aintab generally fair and partial-
 -ly metalled fit for lorry traffic except
 for three quarters a mile near ANAZ which
 requires repair aaa Approaches to all
 bridges require making up metal for repairs
 available at side of road but local labour
 scarce except at Killis and Aintab.

From:- Fivesav

105

To:- Descorps

IA/3/74

16

Information regarding demobilisation
 aaa Turkish War Office state 116500
 men reported discharged up to 8th Decr
 aaa These figures analysed show over
 100000 from Turkey in Europe namely
 labourers bodies of workers men on
 leave etc plus some discharges from
 European Corps aaa Nothing really
 known of state of demobilisation in
 Caucasus and Asia Minor

From:- Intelligence CHQ.

To:- Fivecav 108

GA 480

18/12

Reference GA 465 aaa You will move
one brigade group to KILLIS as
early as possible aaa Employing the
railway and lorries for supplies
supplemented by horse transport
where the roads unsuitable for
lorries aaa Please report early which
brigade group you intend to move and
date they will proceed aaa
Addsd Fivecav reptd DA&QMG APM ADST
ADAS DADAPS CRE

From:- Descorps

(sd) A. Campbell Ross
Major G.3

To:- Descorps 109

GA 849

17

Reference Descorps GA 463 of 16th aaa
Following received from DFPS begins aaa
As already reported to you in my
8226/3 of 15th the 1st En Legion d'
Orient was to have been disposed of on 16
December as follows aaa DEURTYOL one
Coy and one MG Coy TOPRAK KALE one Coy
ISLAHIE one Coy aaa Appears probable
that the 400 Armenians in uniform of
whom Turkish Commander complains are
not deserters but troops of occupation
aaa Am calling on Alexandretta for full
report on excesses which appear to have
been committed by these troops aaa Ends
aaa Full details will be sent you when
known aaa Addsd GHQ reptd Descorps

From 21st Corps.

110

To:- DA&QMG.

GA 485

18/12

Fivecay wire GA 575 dated 18/12 in reply to our GA 480 begins a Brigade Group cannot move until 10 days supplies available fuel supply assured there being none within carting distance of KILLIS and railway communication possible a Railway North of ALEPPO has no fuel and contract for supply does not come into working order for at least a week a Ede Group to move 13th Cav Bde a Erds a Is the railway in working order to carry supplies from ALEPPO to railhead for KILLIS a If not when can it be expected to be in working order.

From:- Degcorps
1930

(sd) A. Campbell Ross
Major C.S.

109

To:- Descorps

GA 575

18/12

GA 480

Brigade Group cannot move until 10 days supplies available fuel supply assured there being none within carting distance of KILLIS and railway communication possible a Railway North of ALEPPO has no fuel and contract for supply does not come into working order for at least a week a Ede Group to move 13th Cav Bde a

From:- Fivecay
1550

112

To:- Descorps

GA 580 19 GA 452

Following posts and garrison W of Euphrates are suggested aaaa Akhterin one platoon Chobanbeg Oneplatoon Akche Keui Oneplatoon and one company H.Q. Hulmen one platoon Jerablus 2 Platoons and Coy H.Q. aaaa Reconnaissance E of Euphrates will be made when fuel for train available aaaa Presume Pon is up to strength and will bring one month's groceries aaaa Does En bring any transport for collection of supplies.

From:- Fivecav
1035.

111

To:- Descorps

G 858 18

2/107 Pioneers commence march to HOMS on 21st inst arriving on 23rd inst aaaa Added Descorps and 2/107 Pioneers reptd 21st Corps.

From:- 7th Ind Div
2155

114

To:- O.C. 51st Sikhs

GA 464 19/12

ADAS Desert Mounted Corps reports that a pole of the telegraph line between HOMS and TRIPOLI 10 miles from HOMS and ~~was~~ was chopped down and removed by Indian Troops on 17th Decr ~~and~~ Will you please report if the damage was ~~done~~ caused by men of the regiment under your command

From:- Descorps
1205

(sd) A. Campbell Ross
Major G.S.

113

No 2 L.A.M. Battery
c/o Fivecav

GA 466 19/12 R 14

Correct designation is as shown in order of battle namely 2nd 11th and 12th Batteries L.A.C. Brigade ~~and~~ Designations of 2nd Battery should be same as 11th and 12th

From:- Descorps
1200

(sd) A. Campbell Ross
Major G.S.

116

To:- Desert Corps

OAM 551 19

Many Merchants here who have goods
in CONSTANTINOPLE and wish to
proceed there to obtain them and
look after their businesses aaa
Propose sending them as trains
available

From:- Fivecav

115

To:- Descorps

GST 574 19

M esopotamia asks for our opinion
as to organisation of Hotchkiss Guns
in Cavalry Squadrons aaa Do you con-
-cur in view that these should be
troop weapons.

From:- G.H.Q.
1830

To:- Descorps

118

GA 586

18

Fuel Contractor sent by Major Alexander to ISLAHIE reports that after 2 days work he was stopped by Turkish Officers who had received instructions from ADANA that no wood was to be cut and have wire Turkish Command of TAURUS that this obstruction is to cease at once and strongly urge removal of Genl NIHAD Command Turkey South of TAURUS Added Descorps retd Major Alexander.

From:- Fivecav
1600

To:- Descorps

119

GA 585

19

Propose to move one regt 13th Cav Bde to KILLIS starting 21st inst arriving KILLIS 24th inst and then to move this regt less one Sdn which will remain at KILLIS to AINTAB and Armoured Car Btys and LCP which escorted Col Sykes to AINTAB will remain there until Regt arrives

From:- Fivecav
1600

more ornaments than protestants presented more opportunity for devastation ^{aaa} Altar smashed and undermined ^{aaa} Priests tombstones smashed and apparently graves rifled ^{aaa} No effort made since armistice to remedy these actions ^{aaa} Armenian population effect of advent of patrol gave great relief to survivors who number about 5000 out of original population 25000 ^{aaa} About 4 hours after patrol left ~~weeks~~ Turks began to show signs of restlessness and Armenians were alarmed ^{aaa} American Missionaries who gave most sober estimates of situation consider return of patrol by early morning prevented critical situation arising ^{aaa} Local authorities show great chagrin at patrol return ^{aaa} Armenians much relieved ^{aaa} Turkish population ^{aaa} Infer that Agitators of population not object presence patrol ^{aaa} Turks only fear advent of Comitangi Bands of Armenians bent on vengeance owing to Turkish Agitators propaganda ^{aaa} Upper classes putturbed at presence of patrol ^{aaa} Turkish Authorities ^{aaa} Quite unrepentant at past policy ^{aaa} Make futile excuses but take no steps to prevent destruction of houses or to clean churches ^{aaa} Completion of allowed Arab raids in JERABLUS area and

119

To:- Descorra

1002 19

Following ^{for} Prodrome London if C in C approves begins ^{aaa} From Sykes No 50 ^{aaa} Accompanied Armoured Car Patrol to AINTAB Dec 15th Returned with patrol Dec 16th ^{aaa} Reported to GOC Fivecay ^{aaa} Accompanied Patrol back same night ^{aaa} Introduced Maj MILLS 18th Lora O.C. Patrol to local authorities and returned ALBPEO 18th after making full survey of situation ^{aaa} Situation at AINTAB as follows ^{aaa} Houses ^{aaa} Made full inspection Armenian houses with Major MILLS ^{aaa} Majority deliberately destroyed even garden trees cut and marble pavements removed ^{aaa} Destruction continues ^{aaa} Home Streets resemble Pompeii ^{aaa} On 17th house was being destroyed after dark British NCO was witness ^{aaa} Churches ^{aaa} French Convent Franciscan Convent, Gregorian Church damaged but slightly and making allowance for four years in hands of authorities no grounds for complaint ^{aaa} Two Protestant Armenian Churches foully used as latrines All ornaments smashed and woodwork destroyed ^{aaa} One Church blasphemous and filthy pencil on walls ^{aaa} One Armenian Catholic Church foully used as latrine and containing

120

To:- Fivecav

GA 505 20/12 GA 586

Has Alexander reported the wood situation direct to DQMC aaa Please direct him to repeat his wires here aaa No progress report of Turks withdrawal received since 13th Decr aaa Was Regt despatched to EL HAMMAN and what is situation there now

From:- Descorps
1005

(ad) A. Campbell Ross
Major G3

1002 (Contd)

- 3 -

speak of using Gendarmerie aaa Turkish agitators aaa Agitators very active frightening Turkish population about Arab and Armenian vengeance aaa Stirring up dissention and suggesting plans and organization of massacres and self defence aaa No effort made by authorities to check such propaganda aaa Issue of arms aaa Moslems state that 4 to 5000 rifles have been distributed within the last week to Villagers aaa A reliable Armenian witness saw 20 rifles issued between 14th and 17th aaa Reasons given are for protection from Arab raids but arms are going to all districts aaa Ends aaa Added CG3, GHQ reptd Descorps.

From:- Fivecav.
1920

112
To :- Fivecav
DA&QMG

GA 509 20/12 GA 580

51st Sikhs start their transport off tomorrow by road aaa The Regt will rail from HAMA and will be timed to reach ALEPPO same date as transport about 30th inst aaa Detailed orders follow aaa

Added Fivecav reptd DA&QMG.

From:- Descorps
1200

(sd) A. Campbell Ross
Major for
BCCS

121
To:- Descorps

GA 588 20

Ref your GA 465 and in continuation my GA 585 of 19th aaa Following are my proposals for future moves aaa 13th Cav Bde aaa One Regt to AINTAB on 21st dropping Sqn at KILLIS aaa One Regt to AINTAB when transport which moved with first Regt return similarly rest of Bde to AINTAB on return transport aaa One Regt of this Bde will then move to MARASH where supplies of all kinds reported very plentiful aaa Consider ISLAMIYEH line suitable for 15 Cav Bde and now having it reconnoitred aaa 14th Cav Bde remains at MUSLIMIE sending one Sqn to relieve Sqn 13th Cav Bde at KILLIS aaa Divnl HQ will move to AINTAB as transport available aaa Repair to following roads very urgent ALEPPO KATMA aaa KATMA KILLIS and small portion of KILLIS AINTAB aaa Trust CRE Corps will take this matter up at once aaa Essential that large reserves for Divn groceries petrol grain and fodder should be sent up as in wet weather the little obtainable at places other than MARASH cannot be transported.

From:- Fivecav
1130

124

To:- Descorps

AF 77

20

Brigadier General BYRON from Mesopotamia probably visiting HOMS next week. I would be glad if you would show him attention and assist him proceed to ALEPPO and visit Ausdiv. I will advise you probable date of arrival HOMS.

From:- General Chauvel, CAIRO.

123

To:- Descorps

CA 589

20

CA 505

In reply to enquiry from DQMG as to date railway would be able to supply Brigade KILLIS Alexander replied contractors sent out fuel should be available in about a week. I am Alexander still away fetching bridge. No report regarding obstruction by Turks to fuel contractor have been sent to DQMG direct. No further progress return of withdrawal received from Turks. Staff Officer left for ADANA this morning to get report from NIHAD. Regt was not sent EL HAMMAN no further reports of disturbances in that area have been received.

From:- Fivesav

126

To:- G.F.O.

945/13

20

The view that Hotchkiss guns should be troop weapons is not concurred in. Experience has proved the Hotchkiss guns of a Squadron are better concentrated in a separate troop under an Officer.

From:- Descorps.
1935

(sd) G.A. Colwin
RCCB

125

To:- CRE, ADST, DA&QMG.

GA 512

20/12

2/107th Pioneers on arrival at HOMS where they come under orders of Descorps will proceed to work on HAMA-HOMS road under arrangements to be made by CRE direct with DA&QMG.

From:- Descorps.

(sd) A. Campbell Ross
Major GS

128
To:- Descorps

GA 973 21 G/881

of 20th aaa Owing heavy traffic on
roads round BEIRUT during recent heavy
rains impossible spare 2/32 Pioneers
for work on TRIFOLI-HOMS road aaa
Arrange therefore employ one Inf Bn
under RE supervision to replace 2/107
Pioneers aaa Report due course in
selected aaa Added 7 Div reptd GHQ
Descorps CE Q

From:- 21 Corps

127
To:- Fivecav

GA 518 20/12 GA 588&599

Your proposals agreed to in principle
aaa Send LCP reconnaissance to SL
HAMMAN to report on situation before
definitely deciding not to send a Rept
aaa Special R E Officers now en route
to undertake repair KATMA-KILLIS road

From:- Descorps
2220

(sd) A Campbell Ross
Major GS

To:- Fivecav

130

GA 541 22/12 GA 596

Inform ALI ISHAN that no movement of Turkish troops Westwards will be permitted until further orders aaa Your recommendations forwarded to GHQ aaa Has the NISIBIN Bridge been brought in yet.

From:- Descorps

(sd) A.Campbell Ross.
Major G.S.

To:- Descorps

129

GA 596 21

Alexander just received returned from NISIBIN reports that ALY ISHAN Commanding 6 Turk Army states that he has 16000 troops which he proposes to evacuate from Mesopotamia to Jerablus at the rate of 10 trains a week each of 2000 men aaa From Jerablus he expects Alexander to rail them to TAURUS aaa There is no possibility of our being able to do this aaa All rolling stock of TAURUS and fuel will be required for Allied Armies aaa What orders are to be issued to ALY ISHAN aaa ALY ISHAN is still obstructive and arrogant, suggest his removal.

From:- Fivecav
1440

132
To:- GHQ, DA&QMG

CA 556 22/12

Following received from Staff Officer
Fivecay who arrived at ADANA aaabegina.
aaa NIHAD Pasha left ADANA for KONIA
13th inst aaa All Turkish Troops
except post guarding railway now West
of DORAK aaa French Armenian troops
occupy MERSINA ADANA TOPRAK KALE and
ISLAFIE aaa Situation quiet aaa Ends
aaa Added GHQ reptd DA&QMG.

From:- Descorps
2115

(sd) A. Campbell Ross
Major GS

131
To:- Descorps

CA 606 22 CA 548

18th Lers aaa March table to KILLIS
as follows aaa 22nd inst KEFR ANTUN
23rd inst TIBIL 24th inst KILLIS aaa
March table KILLIS-AINTAB 3 days march
will be forwarded when reconnaissance c.
completed.

From:- Fivecay
1920

134

To:- Descorps

GA 614

23

Following precis of Report received from O.C. AINTAB in answer to instructions from me that he was to prevent Turks removing Government grain aaa begins aaa Orders from Constantinople to MUTESSARIF are to effect that Government grain is to be used as payment to various individuals who are owed money for grain horses etc aaa Turkish Government Commission now in AINTAB settling up accounts aaa Commission moves MARASH for same purpose when finished at AINTAB aaa Have made verbal agreement with Mutessarif for the Government grain not to be issued in liquidation of Govt debts before Decr 28th By which time hope to receive ruling from you aaa Ends aaa Wire action to be taken aaa Grain will be required by us in Government granaries hundred thousand kilos each of barley and wheat aaa Suggest orders be sent Mutessarif through Constantinople as he states he gets orders direct from Minister of War.

From:- Fivecav
1100

133

To:- Descorps

GA 610

22

Following from SYKES ADANA of todays date begins aaa Following for CGS GHQ General HANSELS arrived here yesterday accorded most enthusiastic reception aaa General HANSELS proceeds ALEXANDRETTA tonight via rail and road aaa Picot expected here today aaa Hope leave ADANA with Picot and Turner tonight for ALEPPO Repeat Descorps aaa Ends aaa Added CGS GHQ, reptd Descorps

From:- Fivecav
2140

136

To:- Descorps

G 624

24th

GA 566

Only communication with ALY ISHAN from here is by train for which at present we have no fuel. Instructions given in your GA 541 of 22nd were sent by wireless through HAIFA and message has been returned undelivered MOSUL having no communication with NISIBIN. Will send Officer to ALY ISHAN to get information required and give orders re move of troops when fuel for train available.

From:- Fivecav
1130

135

To:- Fivecav

GA 566

23/12

Continuation of this Office GA 541 of 22nd. Find out from ALY ISHAN what troops these are. It is understood that HQ 6th Turkish Army was to move to MARDIN and Divn to JEIZRI 5th Divn to NISIBIN. Therefore the 16000 troops should be demobilised and are proceeding to their homes in ANATOLIA and should not be in units or be armed. In any case ALY ISHAN must understand that he is not to despatch troops till Commander in Chief's sanction is obtained.

From:- Descorps
2230

(sd) A. Campbell Ross
Major C S

1 138
To:- Descorps

GA 631

24

18th Lers at KILLIS tonight aaa
Ref your GA 564 of yesterday LCP at
AINTAB is No 7 not No 8.

From:- Fivecav
1750

137
To:- Descorps

GA 687

24

Owing to difficulty of transport and
supply one Sqn 18th Lancers only will
proceed to AINTAB remainder of Regt
remaining at KILLIS until further
orders aaaSqn proceeding AINTAB will
take sufficient transport to take its
own tentage and kits aaa Rations to
go forward from Regt with this Sqn
will be rations and forage for march
plus six days groceries aaa Added
18th Cav Bde who will acknowledge
reptd Maj MILLS Aintab Adms Q & Descorps

From:- Fivecav
1830

140

TO:- CCB, CHQ

GA 5 80

24

Owing to the great length of road this Corps is responsible for and the work which is in progress now at various parts of same. Also the bad state of roads and constant breakages. Also constant loan of cars to Arab army and conveyance of all many visitors on duty who have to be conveyed from HAMA to HAMA by 8 Ford Box cars be supplied for use at Corps HQs and with Fivecav at ALEPPO.

From:- Descorps
1820

(ed) F.A. Mc Kenzie
Major

139

C.S., W.C.O.

PP 4

23

Am inspecting site Bridge Northern ORONTES tomorrow and propose arrange for ramp and temporary bridge immediately as ample timber available locally. Also probably from present information double decauville line will be best method of transport across gap. Could enquiries be made if decauville track and trucks available please.

From:- CRE HAMA
1447

142

To:- Descorps

GA 9

25

Following telegram received today from General HAMELIN from SYLICIA begins as follows
 Disembarked Friday 20th December at MERSINA The disembarkation of the LO commenced on the 19th and should be terminated on the 20th as At MERSINA population calm but (word undecipherable) very reserved as I went on Saturday 21st to TAURUS then to ADANA where I was received by the Wali and with ovations from the population amongst whom were Turks as At this date (21st December) the distribution of the French Troops was as follows viz:- 1 Coy of rifles and 2 of Machine guns at MERSINA 2 Coys at TAURUS 1 Coy at ADANA 2 Coys at TOPRAK KALN 1 Coy at ISLAMI 1 Coy at DEURTYOL all the railway stations of the BAGDAD rly were held and under surveillance as a Liaison Officer of the 2nd Turkish Army left at ADANA submitted to me on the 21st the protestation of Genl NIHAD Pasha Commander of the 2nd Turkish Army at KONIA protesting against the occupation of SYLICIA by French Troops as contrary to the armistice and conversation which he has said with the C in C of the English Forces of Syria and asks urgently that the troops do not pass to the North of the line ADANA

141

To:- General Barrow
GOC Desert Mtd Corps.

513

25

I present to you my heartiest congratulations for a Merry Xmas and hope you are in the best of health Many happy returns of the day to all victorious British

From:- General Military Governor of Syria

their Petitions to the Allied Command under pain of arrest and so to put an end to the calumnious accusations which are recognised to be without foundation aaa There as in all CILICIA the Turkish Military authorities and ADM are engaged in organising a Gendarmerie recruited from demobilised troops and armed secretly from the depots left by the Turkish army aaa After the evacuation of CILICIA this Gendarmerie appears to be organised by NIBAD Pasha aaa The Turkish Liaison Officer states that this Gendarmerie has already attained a strength of 3800 men for CILICIA aaa It is aitable danger aaa For the safety of the Country I have forbidden the arming of any more Gendarmes in the GAZA of ISLAHIE from the general impressions which I have gathered at MERBINA TAURUS ADANA TOPRAK KALE & ISLAHIE it is obvious that by the arrival of numerous deserters and demobilised soldiers and above all of numerous Turkish gendarmes more or less authentic in the villages of CILICIA invites grave disorders which might provoke massacres of Armenians in the Districts of ADANA AMANUS AINTAB & MARASH aaa I conferred today on this matter with the GOC 5th Cav Div aaa Turkish Commandant has left by arrangement with Col Newcombe on the Baghdad line in CILICIA firstly troops to guard the railway Secondly Railway engineers for

TAURUS before the 27th the date fixed I will bring you the text of this document about the 27th I have therefore given up the idea of occupying the TAURUS before the 26th but on 22nd I went to BOZANTI with Col Newcombe all the Turkish Troops are already beyond BOZANTI but numerous baggage and supply columns are blocked between DOURAK and BOZANTI aaa That Turkish Inspector General of Communications prayed urgently not to occupy BOZANTI the armistice only foreshadowing the occupation of the tunnel whose outlet is North East of KARA BUNAR aaa He asked me besides for a delay of 10 days on account of the bad weather aaa insisted however and stated that I would occupy BOZANTI on 26th and would confiscate on this day all war material found there and also disarm all stragglers aaa I pointed out on the ground the line beyond which all Turkish troops must be by the 28th aaa On 23rd I visited detachments at TOPRAK KALE and ISLAHIE aaa Numerous Turkish convoys from AMANUS towards TAURUS and from TAURUS towards AMANUS aaa The Turkish Commandant L of G and KAIMAKAN of ISLAHIE raised numerous difficulties to the French Lieutenant at ISLAHIE who was employed in disarming troops (words undecipherable) I urged them strongly to refer

To:- Descorps

143

GA 10

25

My CA 9 of today after second aaa Read
as follows aaa At MERSINA population
calm but MUTESSARIF very reserved
aaa After word disarming read as
follows aaa Troops and stragglers and
collecting war material Added GHQ rept
to Descorps and Lt Gen Bulfin c/o
Milgov Jerusalem.

From:- 21st Corps

CA 9 (Contd)

- 2 -

general supervising aaa The Concession
might give them an excuse to maintain
numerous armed troops in CILICIA aaa
I only agree to it under the following
conditions Firstly the troops guarding
the railway should be disarmed after
the 26th Decr unless they have written
authority to the contrary from Colonel
Commanding our troops in CILICIA
Secondly all railway engineers should
be disarmed aaa Ends aaa All words
undecipherable are being repeated by
signals and will be telegraphed later
addressed to GHQ reptd Descorps Lt
General Bulfin c/o Milgov Jerusalem.

From:- 21st Corps.

145-

To:- Descorps.

OAM 594

26

NIHAD Fasha has wired through CONSTANTIN-
-OPLE that his troops are unable to
carry out withdrawal North of TAURUS
according to our programme and suggest
following aas Extension of date for
withdrawal aas Withdrawal only as far as
KARA POUNAR full withdrawal to be carried
out later aas Withdrawal of troops only
to POZANTI ammunition to be replaced in
depots ultimate disposal to be settled
later aas Reply has been despatched to
effect that none of these proposals can be
accepted Added 21st Corps reptd Descorps.

From:- G.H.Q.
1930

144

To:- Descorps.

OAM 592

26

Following for Chief Administrator
begins aas Report has been received
that party of Arab Troops proceeded to
Jerablus and occupied hospital and
military buildings making prisoner
Commandant Gendarmerie and another
Officer also that Mudia of NIZIB
ordered to evacuate Town as Arabs were
to occupy it aas Is there any truth
in this report aas Ejerablus and Nizib
are outside Caza of MEMBIJ and troops
or Officials are not to be sent there
aas Ends aas Added Briton Damascus
reptd Descorps

From:- GHQ 1545.

147

To:- Descorps

GA 31

27

Reference your OAM 411 of 28/11 Gen Hamelin returned this morning and he reports great quantity Turkish transport and stores remained N & S of BOZANTI at midnight 28/07 Decr and he ordered French Commander to seize all such transport and military stores but on the representation of the Turkish Commandant L of C he relaxed above orders in case of food and clothing which was to be allowed to pass to the West of BOZANTI and do you concur and Re your I/7810/B Gen Hamelin's views will be wired tonight and Added GHQ reptd Descorps

From:- 21st Corps

146

To:- Descorps

GA 20

26

In continuation of GA 9 of 25th Further communication received from General HAMELIN as follows and I travelled today in the District between ALEPPO and ALEXANDRETTA Kercke Khan is occupied by a detachment of Sherifian troops several Sherifian flags are flying in the village contrary to the C in Cs orders and ANTIOCH is still occupied by 400 Sherifian troops but the French Garrison has so far succeeded in avoiding all trouble and Ibrahim Panous Bey representative of the Chief is staying at Antioch under pretence of holding an inspection on the place and has stated his intention of coming to Alexandretta for the same purpose which will most certainly give rise to incidents to be regretted later and Chukri Pasha still continues to send instructions to officials at Alexandretta in spite of the fact that this Town is under OETA North and I have an excellent impression of the way in which Maglineud Governor of Sandjak Alexandretta and Commandant Capdejille Military Governor of Alexandretta are carrying out their respective duties and Ends.

From:- 21st Corps

149
To:- Desert Mtd Corps

C/519 28

Wire locations of Corps HQ with dates
August 1917 to Novr 1918 for EEF
record.

From:- Medinews

148
To:- Escort Sqn Rayak

CA 616 28/12

Escort Sqn 2nd LH Regt will proceed
by rail from HOMS at 0700 on 28th inst
to rejoin their regiment at JERUSALEM
arriving RAYAK 1300 28th DAMASCUS 0403
29th HAMME 0830 30th aaa Squadron
comes under Comms on arrival at
DAMASCUS aaa Sqn horses will be left
at HOMS under arrangements to be made
by DA&QMG aaa O.C.Sqn will wire
progress to Descorps repeating Comms
and GHQ aaa
Added Escort Sqn reptd GHQ Comms
Anzac DA&QMG 2nd L.H.Regt

From:- Descorps

(sd) K.A.Mc Kenzie
Major G S

151
To:- Descorps

GA 46

29

Following received from Col BIRD dated 28th Begins aaa There are 6 small completed tunnels between DORAK and HADTRERE aaa Between HADTRERI Kilo 306 and SILIKIDIK Kilo 292 there are 12 tunnels lettered A to M aaa Lengths in metres are a/1728 b/711 c/603 d/37 e/539 f/237 g/135 h/1220 j/534 k/3794 l/165 m/2093 of which total of 9893 metres is finished aaa Between kilo 306 and 292 are 11 bridges practically complete aaa length nearly between 20 metres and 30 aaa Cuttings vary in height between 20 & 25 metres embankments between 10 and 30 aaa both latter incomplete and will break down after very heavy rains until completed aaa Danger of tunnels breaking line small provided they are watched and loose rocks detached aaa Added GHQ reptd Descorps and Q aaa

From:- 21st Corps

150
To Descorps

GA 44

29

Commander in Chief concurs in the action taken by Gen Hamelin with regard to seizing all Turkish transport south and east of Izanti except food and clothing which may pass west aaa Added DIPS reptd Descorps reference by GA 31 of 27th

From 21st Corps

To:- Descorps

153

QKT 1528 29

The G in C and staff of four will leave RAYAK at 0800 on 3rd reach Kilo 154 at 1300 leave Kilo 154 by rail motor lorries at 1400 arrive HAMA 1600 and proceed Kilo 194 which he will leave at 0100 on 4th arriving ALEPPO 0700 aaa Probably on the 5th the G in C will proceed by rail to JERABLUS and thence proceed ADANA and possibly Mersina returning Aleppo aaa The actual dates and timings of rail hourneys on BAGHDAD railway will be communicated to Major Alexander when party arrives at ALEPPO aaa Added Descorps' reptd ADLR Kus and Controloff Aleppo aaa Acknowledge.

From:- DQMG, CHQ.

To:- Descorps

152

GA 48 29

CE 21st Corps after recent inspection TRIPOLI HOMS road reports as follows
aaa Road now passable with extreme difficulty for lorries aaa During recent rains entire labour force on road employed extricating lorries stuck in mud aaa Any stonesput on road disappear at once aaa During next rains consider road will become quite impassable for lorries though efforts will be made to dig out lorries as they stick aaa With present resources only drainage can be undertaken aaa Would it be possible now to supply troops North of RAYAK by train leaving TRIPOLI HOMS road unused until the dry weather
aaa Estimated a minimum of four miles of road requires entire reconstruction
aaa To undertake this a further 1200 E.L.C. and 40 lorries would be required
aaa In addition to above another four miles only just passable and after next rains would probably require same treatment aaa Added GHQ reptd Descorps

From:- 21st Corps.

153
To:- CGS, ~~133~~ GHQ.

GA 642 29

Reference QKT 1526 The Corps
Commander proposes to meet the C
in C at HONS on his way through and
then proceed to ALEPPO in time to
meet him on his return from ADANA ~~to~~
and MERSINA aaa Is this approved.

From:- Descorps
1900

(sd) K.A.Mc Kenzie
Major
for BGG3.

154
To Descorps

QX 1896 29th GA 658

At AINTAB during this week highest
price for wheat 5000 piastres per
1000 kilcs lowest 4000 aaa Barley
4062 highest 2500 lowest aaa Price
fluctuates day by day according to
weather and supplies available aaa
Gold turkish lira equals 182½
piastres local medjide equals 23
piastres 1 pound note turkish paper
equals 30 piastres aaa All references
are to turkish coinage

From FIVECAV

157
To:- G.S.Descorps

GA 655

30

On visiting AINTAB yestedday find only method of obtaining supplies locally is by paying in Turkish Gold aaa To do this it is necessary to change Egyptian notes into Turkish notes here at local rate of Exchange and then to buy Turkish Gold in KILLIS and AINTAB at local rate aaa I have sanctioned this course aaa Available Turkish notes very limited here can you arrange for supply of them or preferably Turkish Gold aaa This method will have to be adopted N of ALEPPO.

From:- Fivescav
0940

156
To:- Fivescav

GA 645

30

C in C wth Staff of 4 will probably arrive in ALEPPO 0700 on 4th inst aaa He will proceed probably 5th to JERABLUS and ADANA aaa Corps Commander will proceed ALEPPO in time to meet the Chief on his re- turn from ADANA aaa Furtherinforma- tion will be forwarded later.

From:- Descorps
0850

(sd) K.A.Mc Kenzie
Major.

159

To:- Descorps

GA 656 30

Following moves will take place 31st
inst aaa HQ and 2 Sqdns 18th Lcrs
from KILLIS to ATINTAB aaa Length of
marches at discretion of OC aaa 9th
HH to KILLIS aaa Marches to be arranged
by GOC 23th Bde aaa Added 13th Cav
Bde 18th Lcrs repta Q Signals Descorps

From:- Fivecav
1045

158

To:- Descorps

GA 59 30

Constant and serious complaints
received from Armenian refugees
arriving Alexandretta from KATMA
that they have been robbed and
compelled to pay toll by Kurds who
are under the protection of Sherifian
Troops aaa I propose to occupy KIRIK
KHAN and EL HAMMAM by troops of 20
aaa Fivecav have sent detachment to
KATMA aaa It is noted EL HAMMAM is
on border of OETA North Territory
aaa Do you agree aaa Added CHQ
repta Descorps.

From:- 21st Corps

To:- Descorps

167

GA 61 30

Re report of General HAMELIN sent today by DRLS aaa In annex Nov it will be seen former gave permission to Turkish L of C Commander BOZANTI to retain ~~his~~ his HQ supply depot and hospitals at BOZANTI till 1st Feb aaa Do you agree aaa Added GHQ reptd Descorps and DFPS

From:- 21st Corps.

To:- Descorps

160

GA 659 30

Greek railway employes arrived here from Jerablus yesterday by trolley and reports as follows aaa On 26th inst train arrived from NISIBIN with 150 armed Turks under a Major with 4 MGs aaa Party remained E of River but the MG detachments occupied the Station and prevented railway authorities from working aaa All engines and rolling stock were seized and taken to SIFTEK aaa On 28th Turks sent one truck with three Officers and 25 O.R. one MG to AKCHEKEUI and seized six trucks of grain which they then removed.

From:- Fivecav
1445

To:- Descorps

163

GA 67 30

re Situation CILICIA aaa Understand
continual flow from ISLAHIE to
BOZANTU and vice versa of firstly
armed Turkish Soldiers Secondly un-
-armed ditto Thirdly demobilised
Turk soldiers Fourthly deserters
Very numerous filthy unarmed Turk
Gendarmerie sixthly armenians and
other refugees men women and children
trying return homes aaa Request your
sanctioning my taking following
measures viz Firstly all above except
refugees to be stopped and disarmed,
at ISLAHIE and ADANA and sent to
camps at Alexandretta and MERSINA aaa
Secondly refugees especially women and
children to be fed from existing
Turkish supplies where possible and
forwarded to homes aaa Thirdly all
arms ammunition etc found on railway
or hidden stores in country and
those taken from Turks as stated above
to be collected and sent to MERSINA
whence they could be shipped aaa
inhabitants to remain with their arms
till Gendarmerie organized to protect
against Brigands aaa Fourthly all
loaded railway wagons to be unloaded
and food and war material in them
used by allies if required aaa Arms
equipment ammunition etc being sent
MERSINA aaa Fifthly Commandant LO

To:- Descorps

162

GA 62 30

Owing to robbing of armenian
refugees between KATMA and Alexan-
-dretta DFPS will occupy KIRIK KHAN
with one Coy Infantry soon as
possible with detachment at EL
HAMMAN aaa Strength of this detach-
-ment will be decided by DFPS aaa
DFPS will report when these places
have been occupied aaa Added DFPS
reptd Descorps and OETA North.

From:- 21st Corps.

To:- Fivacav

GA 658

31

Following from 21st Corps begins aaaa
Owing to robbing of armenian refugees
between KATMA and ALEXANDRETTA DFPS
will occupy KIRIK KHAN with one Coy
Infy soon as possible with detachment
at EL HAMNAM aaaa Strength of this
detachment will be decided by DFPS aaaa
DFPS will report when these places have
been occupied aaaa Added DFPS reptd
Descorps and OETA North aaaa Ends

From:- Descorps
0950

(sd) K.A.Mc Kenzie
Major GS

GA 67 (contd)

- 2 -

to commence at once nominal rolls
of Turkish gendars who acted as such
before 1st Decr aaaa Ditto as regards
all camouflaged gendarmerie raised
by NIHAD Pasha since that date
latter to be sent to Camp MERSINA or
Alexandretta above aaaa Nominal Rolls
also to be made of all Turkish Railway
guards aaaa Sixtly coloural to have
authority to enlist 500 workmen or
ex-Turkish soldiers to load trucks and
help Sappers maintain line between DORa
- AK and BOZANTI as herequests
possibly larger numbers required
later to cut wood for railway aaaa
Added GHQ reptd Descorps.

From:- 21st Corps

To:- Descorps

1022

31

Following for Prodrone if C in C approves begins from SYKES No 62 accompanied GOC 5th Cav Div and MY PIVOT to AINTAB aaa Towh quieter but CUP still active aaa GOC warned MUTESARIF and notables of their personal responsibility in event any disorder and in their presence spoke severely to three leading members CUP who have been particularly obnoxious aaa Since occupation AINTAB CUP have started newspapers both AINTAB and MARASH containing matter calculated to inflame Turkish element attacking Arabs Armenians and Entente aaa CUP propaganda now based on following points One aaa Allies will soon quarrel among themselves Two aaa Moslems duty is to arm and organize and take first opportunity attacking armenians aaa I believe that KURDISH elements if judiciously handled in AINTAB MARASH area would refuse to co-operate with CUP aaa Present system of occupation and surveillance by Entente troops under Military authorities here while administration is run by CONSTANTINOPLE gives Turks and CUP full opportunities of obstruction intrigue and preparation which will inevitably lead to trouble aaa Until civil administration is

To:- Fivecav

GA 659

31

G 341

No action can be taken quicker than await C in Cs arrival aaa He will see situation at JERABLUS aaa Ref My GA 566 of 23rd and your para 3 aaa Has communication been established yet by rail and when can information as to be expected

From:- Descorps

1025

(sd) K.A. Mc Kenzie
Major G S

167
To:- Descorps.

OAM 636 31

Reference your letter G 1101 of 23rd
aaa What number of cyprits are
involved aaa Can you ascertain if
they are likely to be of value for
railway labour.

From:- GHQ
1330

1022 (Contd) -2-

divorced from CONSTANTINOPLE and put
under Entente authority in all areas
where Entente Forces are in occupat+
-ion CUP will continue to have
strong influence aaa I submit that
persons who perpetrated massacres will
stick at nothing and early action to
forestall outbreak should be taken aaa
Up to date CUP boast that they will
win out yet aaa Authorities quite un-
-impressed by idea that entente mean
business aaa Added GHQ reptd Descorps

From :- SYKES ALEPPO

To:- Descorps

169

AF 113

31

Have postponed leave to England indefinitely and am returning to Corps
Tour as follows
aaa Leave Cairo 2nd
Arrive Semakh 3rd
aaa Inspect 5th L.H. Regt 4th
aaa Anzacs advised
aaa Arrive DAMASCUS 5th
aaa If convenient will inspect 12th Cav Bde in lines on 6th
aaa Please advise Bde and ask GOC to arrange accommodation DAMASCUS
aaa Leave Damascus 7th and arrive Baalbek
aaa If convenient will inspect units 5th L.H. Bde in lines
aaa Please advise Bde and ask GOC to arrange accommodation BAALBEK
aaa Leave Baalbek for HOMS by train 8th or 9th as convenient
aaa ADC will accompany me
aaa Train arrangements will be made en route
aaa AAC AIF and Office will follow

From:- General Chauvel.

To:- Descorps

168

B 3

31

C in C arrives HAMA 1600 on 3rd inst
aaa If transport is needed to convey party and luggage to kilo 104 could you please arrange for same for 5 Officers 7 O.Rs and baggage.

ADC to C in C.

111
To: General Commandant DFRS

GA 664 31

Your kind wishes heartily reciprocated

From:- Descorps
1835

(sd) F.A.Mc.Kenzie
Major

170
To:- Descorps

GA 665 31

Situation aaa Headquarters and 2
Sqdns 18th Lancers en route AINTAB aaa
One Sqn 18th Lers remains KILLIS aaa
9th Hodsons Horse arrived KHAIAN area
en route KILLIS where they are due to
arrive on Jany 3rd 1919 aaa Otherwise
no change aaa No rains since 1000 this
morning

From:- Wivecav
1800

To:- Descorps

1)3

GA 84

31

GHQ sanctions all Turkish Military food supplies on the railway or in military food depots in CILICIA being used for rationing late Turkish Soldiers or for refugees returning their homes or for Turkish Railway guards or for Turkish Gendarmerie aaa GHQ also sanctions all such Turkish food supplies and depots being taken over by allied control officers who should be warned to stop any selling of such supplies by Turkish subordinates aaa Take steps to carry above policy into effect at once aaa Acknowledge aaa Addd DFPS Col Bird Descorps Base Comdts Mersina and Alexandretta.

From:- 21st Corps

To:- General Chauvel STRALIS

1)2

GA 667

31/12

AF 113

C in C will arrive ALEPPO on 4th inst en route for ADANA MERSINA etc GHQ agreed that Corps Commander should meet Chief at ALEPPO on his return from ADANA about 7th inst aaa Consequent on your return General Barrow proposes to proceed home immediately aaa Can you arrange to come back direct in order to meet Chief at ALEPPO on 7th If not I suggest that I should proceed and take notes of Chief's views and orders.

From:- BGCS Descorps
1840

(sd) K.A. Mc Kenzie Major
for BGCS.