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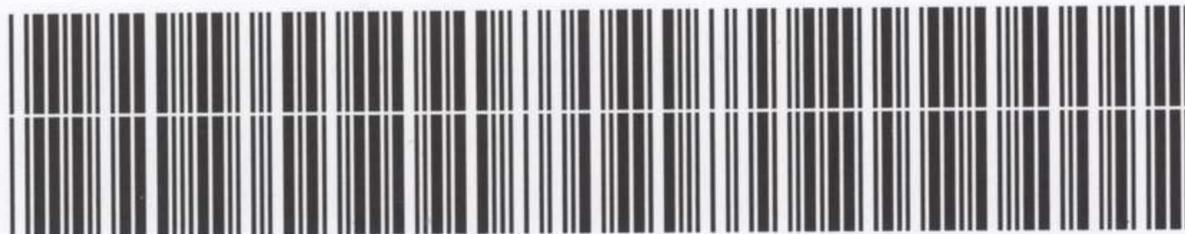
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/25/1 Part 2

Title: Assistant Director of Medical
Services, Imperial Mounted Division

February-May 1917 Duplicate



AWM4-26/25/1PART2

DIARY.

Imperial MOUNTED DIVISION

1914-15
M.M.

DIARY OF COLONEL R. H. LUCE, C.B., A.D.M.S.,
IMPERIAL MOUNTED DIVISION - From February,
18th, 1917, to May 1st, 1917.

FERRY POST.

Feb. 18th.

Divisional Headquarters assembled at FERRY POST, (East) ISMAILIA.

Major-General H. W. HODGSON, in command.

G.S.O.1 - Lt.Col. H.C.S.WARD. A.D.C.1 - Capt.F.H.MUSKER.
G.S.O.2 - Captain A.J.CAVANAGH. A.D.C.2 - Lt. E.H.BUXTON.
G.S.O.3 - Captain - URGUHART.

A.A.& Q.M.G., Lt.Col. ROBINSON, A.C.
D.A.Q.M.G., Captain THOMPSON, W.H.J.
D.A.A.& Q.M.G., Captain BUTCHARD, H.J.

A.D.M.S., Colonel LUCE, R.H.
D.A.D.M.S., Captain MATHIESON, W.
A.P.M., Captain ARMITAGE, W.P.
O.C., A.S.C., Lt.Col. MACKINTOSH, J.K.
A.D.V.S., Major MURRAY JONES.
D.A.D.O.S., Captain HEWSON. K.M.

Units comprising the Division:-

5th Mounted Brigade - Brig-General WIGGIN, -
6th Mounted Brigade - Brig-General PITT, -
3rd A.L.H. Brigade - Brig-General ROYSTON, -
4th A.L.H. Brigade - Brig-General MERIDITH, -
Signal Squadron - Major, HILL, -
31st Sanitary Sec. - Captain, WYNNE, F.E.

5th M.B.Fld.Amb., Lt.Col. T.H.FORRESE, R.A.M.C.(T).
6th M.B.Fld.Amb., Lt.Col. A.W.MOORE, R.A.M.C.(T).
3rd A.L.H.F.Amb., Lt.Col. W.A.FRASER, A.A.M.C.
4th A.L.H.F.Amb., Major, R.FOWLER, A.A.M.C.

Notts Battery R.H.A., Major, G.CHUMLEIGH.
Berks Battery R.H.A., Major, - MAYALL.
"A" Battery, H.A.C., Major, O.L.EUGSTER.
"B" Battery, H.A.C., Major, - PRESTON.

Authority for appointment and transfer of COLONEL, R.H.LUCE.

Appointment - D.A.G., G.H.Q., E.E.F., No.A.A.1693, 8/2/17.
Transfer from Western Force - Eastern Force No. D.A.Q.T.
1962, 14/2/17.

Feb. 19th.

Rode out with G.O.C. to visit camps of "A" Battery, H.A.C. and 4th A.L.H., saw the respective Medical Officers, Captain GIBSON and Captain CHURNSIDE.

Visited D.D.M.S. to get instructions re returns, indents and Establishments. He is moving with H.Q., Eastern Force to EL ARISH tomorrow.

Saw Major FOWLER, O.C., 4th A.L.H.Fld.Amb., whose personnel to form one Section are assembling. Instructed him to submit indent for Horses, Ordnance and Medical Stores at once.

Advance Party of Dorset Yeomanry arrived.
Captain MATHIESON arranging sanitation of camps for 6th Bde.

- Feb. 19th Attended Staff Conference.
Submitted application for special scale sanitary equipment for Mobile Units. 13
- 20th Dorset Yeomanry marched in, M.O., Capt. DEMPSEY.
Issued instructions to units in accordance with those received from A.D.M.S., Southern Section as to disposal of latrine refuse and manure.
Difficulty about obtaining native labour for latrines.
Saw Major RUTHERFORD, A.D.M.S., Southern Section,
- 21st Rode round camps. Saw M.O., Dorset Yeomanry, Capt. DEMPSEY and M.O., 4th L.Horse, Capt. CHIRNSIDE.
- 22nd Visited Australian Base, MOASCAR, saw Major FOWLER and Capt. STAFFORD and ASPINALL 4th Light Horse Field Ambulance.
- 24th Lt.Colonel MOORE, 6th Mtd.Bde.Fld.Amb. came from PORT TEWFIK, his Unit started for ISMAILIA.
Made sanitary inspection of all the camps at FERRY POST.
Received sanitary instructions from D.D.M.S., DESERT COLUMN, and particulars of returns from D.D.M.S., EASTERN FORCE.
- 25th Captain MATHIESON went to KANTARA to enquire about issue of special sanitary equipment for units of the Division. 250 buckets on order for the Division not yet ready. Urine funnels and incinerators, R.E. Park, FERRY POST, responsible.
- 26th 4th Light Horse Fld.Amb. moved over to FERRY POST complete in personnel and officers except one officer and 7 other ranks. No equipment yet received except camp equipment.
List of officers:-
- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Lt.Colonel FOWLER. | Captain YUILLE. |
| Captain PARRY | Captain STAFFORD. |
| Captain ASPINALL. | - |
- Captain RAINFORTH called with reference to carriage of his medical equipment with new establishment of R.H.A. Battery. Referred to C.R.A. for necessary provision.
Captain PARRY, 4th L.H.Fld.Amb. reported on joining from leave.
- 27th Parade of Headquarters Unit and inspection by G.O.C.
Visited camps of H.A.C., "A" Battery, Dorset Yeomanry, Berks Yeomanry, 11th, 12th, and 4th Light Horse, R.E. Fld.Squadron, and manure dump, with Major RUTHERFORD and D.A.Q.M.G., Southern Section.
6th Mounted Bde.Fld.Amb. marched in.
List of officers:-
- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lt.Colonel A. W. MOORE. | Captain H. F. HUMPHREYS. |
| Captain W.E.H. BULL. | Captain C. JENNER. |
| Cap ain J.R.K. THOMPSON. | |
| Lieut. H.M.CRAWFORD. | |
- Saw Lieut SHANNON, R.A.M.C. Berks Yeomanry, Capt. VERNON, 11th Light Horse, Capt. CHIRNSIDE, 4th Light Horse.
- 28th Visited camp of 6th Mtd.Bde.Fld.Amb.
H.Q. closed 7.0p.m. and opened EL ARISH.
Berks R.H.A. and "A" Battery, H.A.C. marched to KANTARA, a sandcart detailed by 6th Mtd.Bde.Fld.Amb. to accompany.
- Mch. 1st H.Q. left FERRY POST en route for EL ARISH via KANTARA.
Visited ORDNANCE Stores re buckets, and Advanced Depot Medical Stores at KANTARA.
- 2nd Arrived EL ARISH. Camp 1 mile E. of Wadi on the coast.
Reported arrival at D.D.M.S. office, EASTERN FORCE.
IMM.D. still remains directly under Eastern Force.
Visited Notts R.H.A. encamped 1 mile S.E. of Headquarters, saw M.O., Capt. ROBINSON.

copy of Medical Operation Orders for 1st Battle of Gaza

A.M.C. Operation Order No 3

by Col R.H.Luce A.D.M.S. IMP Mtd Div

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Ref Sinai 1
Jerusalem 250,000 Map

(1) The 3 Field Ambulances will take part in a Divisional Operation on Mar 26th

(2) The 53rd Division is attacking the GAZA position from the S.W.

(3) The Imperial Mounted Division is detailed to occupy the line from HUI exclusive to a point on the GAZA-BEERSHEBA road near SIHAN, with the object of preventing retreat from GAZA across that line or the approach of reinforcements

(4) The 3 Field Ambulances will leave DEIR EL BELAH in rear of the Divl R.H.A. in the following order

5th M.B. Fd Amb, 6th M.B.Fd Amb, 3rd A.L.H. Fd Amb.

The leading Fd Amb will pass the single Tree EL DEMEITA at 05,00

(5) A Divisional Dressing Station will be established at a point N. of the GAZA - BIR SABA road close to where the Division crosses it: formed by the Immobile Tent Divisions of the 5th and 6th M.B.Fd Ambs

(6) Casualties will be retained in the Dressing Station until after the fall of GAZA when they will be evacuated under arrangement by D.D.M.S. Desert Column by motor ambulance via GAZA to 54th C.C.S. KHAN YUNUS

(7) Divisional H.Q. will be at KHIRBET EL RESEIM (not on the map but about 1 mile N. of SIHAN

DEIR EL BELAH
Mar 25 20,00

Copies to
3rd L.H. Fd Amb
5th M.B. Fd Amb
6th M.B. Fd Amb

signed R.H. Luce Col

A.D.M.S. I.M.Div.

Copy of draft for Divisional ~~Medical~~ Orders for
2nd Battle of Gaza

Imperial M^{td} Div

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(1) For the operation, Field Ambulances will be
Divisional Troops

(2) The Divisional Collecting Station will remain
on the West side of the TEL EL JEMMI crossing where the
Divisional Motor Ambulances will be stationed

(3) Divisional Dressing Stations will be formed at
a point $\frac{1}{2}$ mile W. of ASEIFERIYEH by the 3rd Light Horse and the
5th M.B. Fd Ambulances

(4) The 3rd and 4th L.H. and the 5th M.B. Fd Ambulances
will collect wounded from their respective Brigades

(5) The 6th M.B. Fd Ambulance will be in reserve at
the Divisional Dressing Station W. of ASEIFERIYEH

18 4 17

R.H.Luce Col

A.D.M.S.I.M.Div

Mch. 3rd

Visited 3rd L.H.Fld.Amb. 4 miles W. of EL ARISH. Saw Lt.Colonel W.A.FRASER, also saw Brig-General ROYSTON, Commanding 3rd L.H.Brigade.

List of Officers:-

Lt.Colonel	W. A. FRASER.	Major	M. W. CAVE.
Captain	W. EVANS.	Capt.	H. G. LEAHY.

Letter from D.M.S. appointing Major M.W.CAVE, D.A.D.M.S. I.M.D. in place of Capt. MATHIESON who is to remain attached pending formation of 74th Division.

4th

Captain MATHIESON, D.A.D.M.S., admitted to 54th C.C.S. suffering from Bronchial Asthma.

Major CAVE reported for duty to join to-morrow.

Visited D.D.M.S., Eastforce, re establishment.

Informed Captain O'Brien detailed as M.O., Field Squadron R.E.

5th

Visited Headquarters, Eastforce, saw D.D.M.S. re establishment. Also saw D.D.M.S., Desert Column, re sanitation.

Water development to rest with A.D.'s M.S. Divisions, but will be inspected by Specialist.

Visited well being developed for Divisional Water Supply at THAMILA near HOD 600 yards E. of H.Q. camp. Two 2,300 canvas tanks erected.

6th

Rode over to EL BURJ to inspect camps of 5th Mtd.Bde. Saw G.O.C. and all C.O's and M.O's. Impressed importance of incinerating human excreta. Portable incinerators not yet issued but they have nearly all their buckets. Ample water supply. Flies rather prevalent.

7th

Applied to D.D.M.S. as to detailing of native labour for sanitary purposes, whether any authority for on establishment.

8th

Communicated with D.D.M.S., Desert Column, now moved to SHEIKH EL ZOWAID, re Disinfecting Train to "delouse" 3rd Light Horse. Case of Relapsing Fever reported in 9th Light Horse. Train will be available of the 11th.

9th

H.Q. moved over by route march from EL ARISH to EL BURJ. 3rd L.H.Bde. moved from MASAIID to EL ARISH with Fld.Amb. whose Reception Station however remained at EL ARISH.

Saw O.C., 5th Mtd.Bde.Fld.Amb. about water arrangements for camp and about his establishment.

10th

5th Mtd.Bde.Fld.Amb. moved with 5th Mtd.Bde. from EL BURJ to SHEIKH EL ZOWAID.

31st Sanitary Section joined Division from MAZAR, 1 Officer, 23 B.R. camped near Station.

3rd L.H.Bde. "deloused" by Train, about 1100 passed through. Coal and steam then run out.

11th

Capt. WYNNE, O.C., 31st Sanitary Section, reported. Severe sand storm with some light rain.

12th

A.D.M.S. proceeded to CAIRO to lecture of Medical Organization in the Field at Staff College, MENA.

H.Q., I.M.D., moved by route march from EL BURJ to SHEIKH ZOWAID, camped on the shore at ABU HAMTHALA.

3rd L.H.Fld.Amb. moved with its Bde. from EL BURJ to RAFA and camped on the beach.

13th

Dental Section of 3rd L.H.Fld.Amb. attached to 2nd Aust. Stationary Hospital, EL ARISH.

A.D.M.S. visited Yeomanry Base at KANTARA re medical arrangements and saw O.C. 229th (Lowland) Mtd.Bde.Fld.Amb.

14th

A.D.M.S. lecture in CAIRO.

15th

Letter from D.D.M.S., Desert Column. Communications now to go through him as I.M.D. part of Desert Column.

- 19 4.
- Mar. 16th A.D.M.S. returned.
5th Mtd.Bde.Fld.Amb. to open for evacuation of sick to station.
Rode to H.Q., Desert Column, to see D.D.M.S. about natives for
Divisional Sanitary work.
Instructions received re Modified Cholera Outfit.
- 17th Visited 5th and 6th Mounted Brigades re sanitation with
D.A.D.M.S.
Attended Conference re transport.
Lt.Colonel FORREST and O.C., Sanitary Section called.
Instructed Sanitary Section to detail 2 Inspectors to each
Bde. and 1 Water Specialist to 5th Bde.
- 18th Visited all four Batteries with D.A.D.M.S. re sanitation.
Saw M.O. of "B" Battery H.A.C. and also M.O., Berks R.H.A.
Colonel DOWNES, A.D.M.S., Anzac Mtd.Divn. called.
Visited Colonel FORREST re "delousing" 5th Bde.
Capt. ROBINSON detailed as S.M.O., R.H.A. temporarily.
- 19th Visited D.D.M.S. re Hospital Train proceeding to RAFA and
arrangements of Field Ambulances in case full supply of camels
not forthcoming.
600 odd men of 5th Mtd.Bde. "deloused" partly by train,
partly by THRESH Disinfector.
54th Divisional Train placed under Medical charge of M.O., "B"
Battery.
Saw Capt. ROBINSON Notts R.H.A. and Capt. RAINFORTH re
sanitation.
- 20th H.Q., I.M.D., moved to RAFA and camped below 1st A of Police
Barracks on grassy down land.
Saw O.C., 31st Sanitary Section and O.C., 54th Divisional
Train.
- 21st 5th and 6th Mtd.Bdes. moving with their Field Ambulances from
SHEIKH ZOWAID to RAFA, also 4 Batteries.
3rd L.H.Bde. and Field Ambulance moving from RAFA to TEL EL
MARAKEB on the beach.
H.Q. Desert Column opened at RAFA.
Conference with 3 O's C. Field Ambulances re equalising units
for service (to be completed to-day).
Each Unit to have 1 Tent Division Immobilised as regards
riding personnel.
Sick transport. Ten sandcarts, 2 Cycle-wheel stretchers,
11 Sitting cacolets, 7 Lying cacolets. Sledges to be left
behind.
Three Immobile Sections to be collected at Railway Station,
RAFA, N.Side.
Visited D.D.M.S., Desert Column Headquarters, and attended
conference with A.D.M.S., Anzac Mounted Division and D.D.M.S.
re scheme.
3 Motor Ambulances allotted to Division, attached to "B"
Tent Division, 3rd L.H.Fld.Amb. at Station.
RAFA races.
H.Q., Eastforce moving into RAFA.
- 22nd Visited 5th and 6th Mtd.Bde.Fld.Amb.
Issued Medical Orders for reconnaissance for 23rd.
- 23rd Divisional Reconnaissance to WADI ~~KXXXXX~~ GHUZEE and towards
GAZA.
Left camp with pack equipment and rations for three days.
H.Q. established at point 310, 1½ miles S. of EL BREIJ, 1½
miles N.E. of point 320 INSEIRAT originally intended and
mentioned in orders.
Reconnaissance of Turkish position across WADI GHUZEE by
3rd L.H. and 5th Mtd.Bde. and by R.E. for water in WADI. Very
little success as regards water. 6th Bde. in reserve at
INSEIRAT.
Troops withdrawn at 1500 and returned to camp at RAFA.

- Mar. 24th Capt. VERNON, M.O., 11th L.H. went sick. Capt. ASPINALL
4th L.H.Fld.Amb. detailed for medical charge.
Visited D.D.M.S. re move.
O.C., 31st Sanitary Section and 2 O.R. moved to RAFA.
Advice that 25 natives for special sanitary duty to arrive
at RAFA. 16 only actually arrived.
Issued march orders for Fld.Ambs. to proceed to DEIR EL
BELAH 25th.
5th and 6th Fld.Ambs. moved from RAFA to KHAN YUNIS with
R.H.A. to bivouac there.
Immobile Tent Division of 3rd L.H.Fld.Amb. remained at RAFA
Station.
- 25th Division, less troops already moved, proceeded from RAFA to
KHAN YUNIS picking up 3rd L.H.Bde. at MARAKEB en route, moving by
coast road. Division marched on light mobile scale.
H.Q. arrived at DEIR EL BELAH about 1700, established in orchard
near letter R of ruins and Pumping Station.
Issued Medical Operation Order No.3 based on Divisional Operation
Order No.10.
- 26th Division moved out for operation against GAZA.
All 3 Fld.Ambs. took part except Tent Division of 3rd left at
RAFA.
3 Mobile Tent Divisions, 2 Immobile, i.e., with personnel
marching.
Duty of Division. To move round enemy's left flank and with
Anzac Mounted Division, which we followed, to form a cordon round
GAZA position so as to hold off Turkish reinforcements from W. and
N.W. during attack on position by 53rd Division.
Route. Moved via Single Tree, EL DEMEIDA, across the WADI
GHUZZEE S. of SHEIKH NUBHAN thence by Southern Spurs of SHEIKH
ABBAS past EL MENDUR via KHURBET SIHON to KHURBET EL RESEIN.
Station. I.M.D. to watch enemy advance on line from HUI to
SIHON on GAZA - BIR SABA road.
Anzac Mounted Division were to watch from HUI to the sea N.E. of
GAZA. H.Q. at BEIT DURDIS.
The I.C.C. Bde. to watch from the S.W. between GAZA - BIR SABA
road.
A Dressing Station to be formed on GAZA - BIR SABA road at point
of crossing by the two Immobile Tent Divisions of 5th and 6th Mtd.
Bde.Fld.Ambs.
The 3 Field Ambulances moved out in succession to one another
in rear of R.H.A. and not with their Brigades.
The WADI GHUZZEE was crossed by the Division at dawn and it
moved slowly forward and crossed GAZA - BIR SABA road about 1000
and patrols were thrown out to right flank. These were shelled on
from direction of BIR SABA.
The attack by the 53rd Division which should have occurred at
dawn did not develop till noon. It continued all the afternoon.
About 3.0p.m. Imperial Mounted Division moved on to take the
place of the Anzac Mounted Division who were to attack GAZA from
the N., the I.C.C. moving up to take our place.
A few casualties had occurred during this period in Warwick
Yeomanry on right flank in direction of BIR SABA and were taken to
Dressing Station.
News received that enemy reinforcements were coming up from HUI
and the N.W.
3rd L.H. and 6th Bde sent out N. and N.W. to meet these.
Bearer Divisions of Field Ambulances accompanied 3rd L.H., but 6th
was sent back and had to be called up again when casualties began
to occur.
The advance of enemy's reinforcements was checked and held off.
Two R.H.A. Batteries were moved up and gave great help.
At dusk it became obvious that the infantry attack had failed,
and though the Anzac Mounted Division had got into the town of GAZA
the main position at MANSURA had not been taken, and a general
retirement across the WADI GHUZZEE.
The 3rd L.H. and 6th Mtd.Bdes. acted as rearguard and did not
re-cross until dawn of 27th.
H.Q. retired to the WADI about 8.0p.m. and bivouacked for the
night about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile on N.E. Side near the crossing.

Mar. 27th

At dawn, the whole Division having retired across the WADI, it was ordered to assemble at Single Tree, EL DEMEITA at noon and rested for afternoon.

All casualties were brought back by the Field Ambulances. The numbers brought in by the Field Amb. were:-

3rd L.H.Bde.	Officers - NIL	O.R.	1	Serious,	4	Slight.
5th Mtd.Bde.	"	"	2	"	6	"
6th Mtd.Bde.	"	1	O.R.	-	9	"

(2 R.F.C.Officers).

Total of Division 1 Officer, 22 O.R.

All cases were evacuated to 1st Welsh Field Ambulance whence they were sent by motor ambulance to 54th C.C.S., KHAN YUNIS, on GAZA - RAFA Southern Road near point 110.

Visited all 3 Fld.Ambs. in their old positions before the assembly. They did not assemble at Single Tree Hill until 1600.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Visited D.D.M.S., Desert Column and reported and arranged evacuation and disposition of Field Ambs.

Division having assembled 1200 moved out to take up line of outposts. Field Ambulances moved with Bdes. except the two Immobile Tent Divisions which were established and opened on RAFA - GAZA road near L of WADI EL SELMA. H.Q. established on crest of hills S.W. of DEIR EL BELAH between Z and E of GOZ EL TAIR at point 320 in the centre of the line.

28th

Saddled at dawn, but did not move. Division remained on outpost.

Division moved back to old position at DEIR EL BELAH at 1630.

29th

Reported at D.D.M.S. office. He was not in.

Visited Tent Divisions GAZA - RAFA road. Found them open and receiving sick from Division.

At 1700 attended Conference with D.D.M.S. and A.D.M.S., Anzac Mounted Division, re medical arrangements for next move of Divn. All camels to be handed in except riding and 14 others.

Sent in return of casualties for 26-27.

No camels to actually accompany Mounted Troops. No wheeled transport other than sandcarts and 54 cacolet camels available.

30th

Visited all Field Ambulances re sanitation. Saw D.D.M.S. re immobility of Fld.Ambs. on new scale and also re scale of transport of medical equipment of units, camels having been withdrawn.

Divisional H.Q. trying to arrange pack horse for this.

31st

Issued provisional medical instructions in case of move. Saw all 3 O's C. re this and to handing in of camels.

Conference with D.D.M.S. and A.D.M.S., Anzac at Desert Fld.H.Q. at 1400.

Apl. 1st

Rode round water supply of Division with G.O.C. and sanitation of extra Divisional Units in area. Visited Tent Divisions re load of cars (light FORD) and also O.C., 6th Fld.Amb. re camels for Medical Convoy under proposed scheme.

2nd

Visited all outposts occupied by 3rd L.H. on crest S.W. of DEIR EL BELAH re sanitation of posts.

Office equipment brought up from Rafa.

All sanitary equipment being brought up also.

Visited O.C., 1st Welsh Fld.Amb. & Motor Amb. Depot. Also O.C., 6th Mtd.Bde.Fld.Amb.

3rd

Visited D.D.M.S., Desert Column, re division of camp into Divisional Areas.

With O.C., 5th M.B.Fld.Amb. inspected camps of 5th Mtd.Bde. Saw Capt. Forster and Teichman. Condition good.

Visited camp of Wireless Signals. Not good. Saw O.C.

Visited Immobile Dressing Stations. That of 5th not very clean.

4th

With S.M.O., 6th Mtd.Bde., inspected lines of Brigade on outpost this day. Condition of camp not good.

Inspected watering area on beach. Much fouling of the gullies leading to the beach.

- Apl. 4th. Arrangements for issue of water (drinking) to 3rd A.L.H. not satisfactory.
 Visited brick well. Equilibrium between supply and issue not properly established, so that water has still to be chlorinated in the well. Sanitation of area round the well not good.
 G.O.C., I.M.D., inspected the Immobile Tent Divisions, 5th and 6th, open for reception of sick.
 Visited D.D.M.S., Desert Column, re Medical Camel Convoy.
 Sent in report of Sanitary Inspection.
- 5th. Rode round the camps of 6th Brigade, and Batteries of Berks and Notts.
 Visited brick well.
- 6th. 31st Sanitary Section rejoined Division from Rafa, El Burj, and Sheikh Zowaid. Camped close to 6th Fld. Amb. Brought 16 natives.
 Visited Immobile Tent Divisions, brick well, and "A" Battery H.A.C.
 Applications for transfer from Capts. Rainforth and Gibson forwarded to D.D.M.S.
- 7th. Visited Immobile Tent Divisions.
- 8th. Saw O.C., 6th M.E.Fld.Amb., and O.C., Berks Yeo., re change of M.O's, Capt. Gibson, "A" Battery H.A.C., with Lt. Shannon, Berks Yeo. Application from Capt. Gibson for transfer out of Division returned.
 Conference with D.D.M.S. and Acting A.D.M.S., Anzac Mtd. Divn.
 Lt.Col.Dixon and Lt.Col.Dawson temp.Commanding 1st L.H.Fld.Amb. called.
- 9th. Visited Notts.R.H.A., D.A.C., Water Supply on beach, 54th Divl. Train, and A.S.C. dump and quarters. Sent in Sanitary report.
- 10th. Visited Notts.R.H.A. and "B" Battery H.A.C. Saw Capts. Robinson and Berry.
 Interviewed C.R.A. re organization of D.A.C. for sanitary purposes.
 Conference with Capt. Wynne re sanitation of camp.
 Conference with 3 C.O's, Fld. Ambs., re (1) Scheme, (2), Sanitation, and (3) Medical Returns and Sick Rates.
 Received sanitary report from O.C., 3rd L.H.Fld.Amb., and letter from Capt. Davidson, 10th L.H.Regt., asking to be removed owing to difficulty with his O.C. Forwarding this to G.O.C. with letter recommending enquiry.
- 11th. Visited O.C's 53rd and 54th C.C.S's. The former reported now open, latter not yet ready.
 Visited the two Immobile Sections and arranged their evacuation to 53rd C.C.S.
 Interviewed Lt. Shannon, O.C. "A" Battery H.A.C., and 2nd in command Berks Yeo., re change of M.O's. Inserted change in Orders
 Lt. Col. Fowler, O.C. 4th L.H.Fld.Amb., reported on arrival at Khan Yunis.
 Immobile Section, 3rd L.H.Fld.Amb., moved from Rafa to Deir-el-Belah and opened close to the two other Immobile Sections.
- 12th. Inspected the lines of 5th Mtd.Bde., then on outposts, accompanied by Capt. Torrance.
- 13th. Staff Conference re impending operations.
 Issued amended instructions re motor ambulances and camel medical convoy.
 Saw O.C., 6th M.E.Fld.Amb., about collection of 10 cacolets from 4th L.H.Fld.Amb., and fetching up remainder of his personnel and stores from Rafa.
- 14th. Applied for M.O. for 54th Divisional Train.
 Disinfection of wells equipment (very incomplete) distributed to Units.

- Apl. 16th. Divl. H.Q. left Deir-el-Belah and moved to Tel-el-Jemmi with whole Division. Camped 500 yards W. of Jemmi.
- 17th. Got into touch with all Brigades. Remained quiet all day.
- 18th. With Lt. Col. Moore selected position for Dressing Station for Immobile Section of 6th Fld.Amb. moved up with 14 riding and 14 baggage camels, W. side of Jemmi where road branches to Nakrur Well.
 Capt. Alcock made reconnaissance of crossings of Waddis Ghuzzee and Sharia for motor ambulance, without much success.
 Rode out with Major Cave to meet Lt. Cols. Forrest and Fraser at Aseiferiyeh to select post for Advances Dressing Station for Division. Lt.Col. Fraser did not get message, but met Lt.Col. Forrest and chose site.
 Received operation orders and issued A.M.C. orders at 2130.
- 19th. H.Q. started from Jemmi, proceeded through Mendur towards Aseiferiyeh, and established Divl.H.Q. near Baiket-el-Mavdik, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Mendur.
 Division made a dismounted attack on position Kh.Sihan - Atawineh, practically on Gaza-Beerseba Road. 5th, 3rd, and 4th Brigades in front line from R. to L. 6th Bde. in reserve.

Medical Disposition and Arrangements.

- (1). Divisional Dressing Station formed by Immobile Section, 6th M.B.Fld.Amb., with Camel Transport, at Jemmi.
- (2). Advanced Divisional Dressing Station formed by 3rd L.H.Fld. Amb. at Aseiferiyeh.
- (3). 5th and 4th Fld.Amb. established Brigade Dressing Stations. 6th Fld. Amb. in reserve at Mendur.
- (4). Half the sandcarts of each Fld.Amb., 3rd, 4th, & 5th, employed in collecting from Aid Posts to Divisional Dressing Station at Aseiferiyeh. The other half between Aseiferiyeh - Dressing Station, Jemmi, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles.
- (5). The 6 motor ambulances were stationed at Jemmi with a view to evacuating from there to C.C.S., Deir-el-Belah. Later it was found possible to get these cars across the Wadi Ghuzzee at Jemmi, after which they were used between Aseiferiyeh and Jemmi, all evacuations from Jemmi to C.C.S. being then undertaken by D.D.M.S's convoy of cars and one journey of camel cacolet convoy of 60 under Major Whitford.
- (6). Lightly wounded were sent to ride back on horseback. For this purpose 60 led horses were brought up to Aseiferiyeh and later another 30.

6th Fld.Amb. sent up 8 sandcarts to Aseiferiyeh to assist evacuation from there.

About 6.0pm it became obvious there might have to be a withdrawal of Aseiferiyeh Dressing Station.

The Dressing Station party of 6th Fld.Amb. were therefore directed to open intermediate Dressing Station at Mendur, and the evacuation from Aseiferiyeh was thenceforth to Mendur only until front was cleared. This was finished by 2000. After that all transport directed to clearing Mendur.

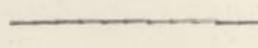
With exception of 15 cases serious, not fit to move till daylight, all cases were cleared to Jemmi by 0200 on 20th.

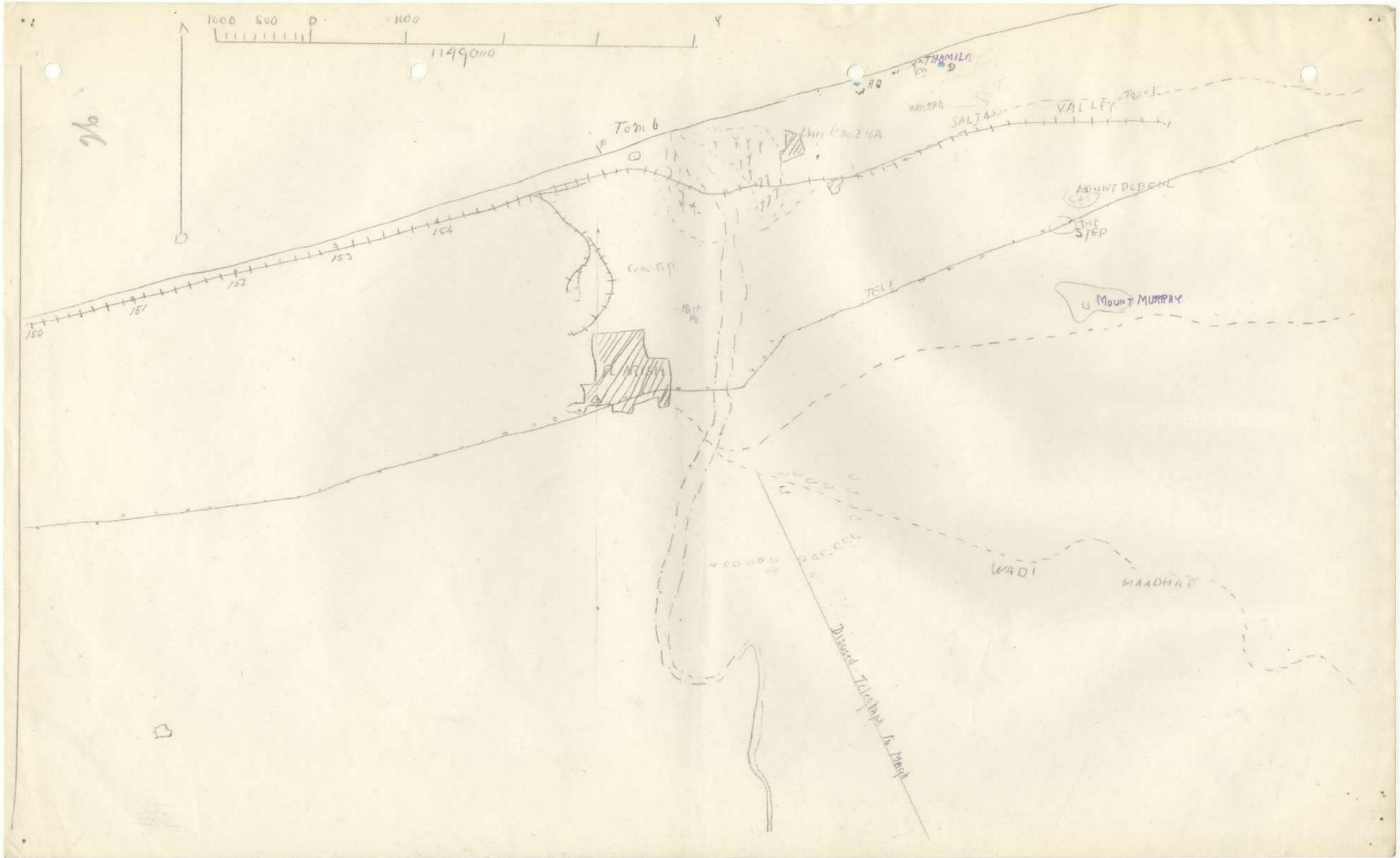
At 1930 H.Q. moved from Baiket-Abu-Mailik to point 600 yards S. of El-Kotshan.

A.D.M.S. visited Jemmi at 2300 and returned for night to Dressing Station at Mendur at 0130.

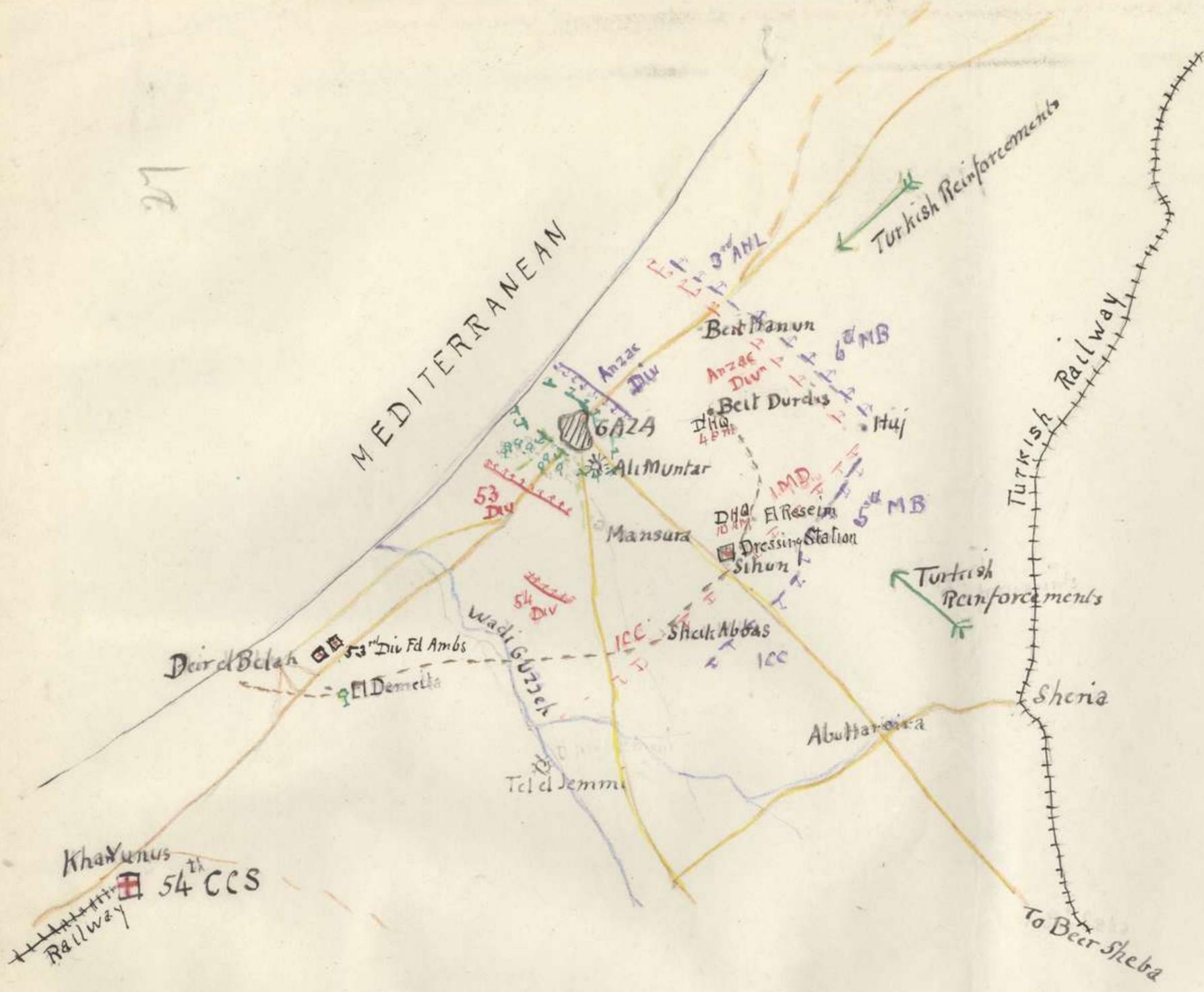
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- Apl. 19th All 4 Field Ambulances except 4 sandcarts with each Brigade were concentrated for night at MENDUR. Captain C.M. MITCHELL, R.A.M.C.(T) joined and attached tempy. to 6th Mtd. Bde. Fld. Amb. for Berks Yeomanry to relieve Capt. GIBSON.
- 20th Line of outposts taken up by 5th, 3rd, and 4th Bdes. right to left MUNKHEILEH - ASEIFERIYEH - SHARTA.
Field Ambulances back with their Brigades, but all except 3rd sent by G.O.C. back to JEMMI.
JEMMI cleared of wounded at 0330. Total passed through Wounded 47 Officers, 715 Other Ranks, of these I.M.D. 32 Officers, 382 Other Ranks. Deaths at JEMMI 1 Officer, 4 Other Ranks.
Personnel Captain JENNER, Captain THOMPSON and 13 O.R.
JEMMI Dressing Station prepared for removal, but not moved. Opened a tempy. Dressing Station $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles back on Desert Column road to DEIR EL BELAH to save fresh admissions to JEMMI.
- 21st Visited JEMMI Dressing Station and MENDUR.
Subsidiary Dressing Station on DEIR EL BELAH road returned to JEMMI.
JEMMI open again for evacuation of sick and wounded.
Field Ambulances moved up to their Brigades at nightfall.
- 22nd Division moved back after dark from O.P. line to ABASAN EL KEBIR area.
Captain HOLDER joined 3rd L.H. Fld. Amb. Capt. PARRY rejoined 3rd L.H. Fld. Amb.
Divisional H.Q. at BENI SELA.
- 23rd Immobile Section, 6th Fld. Amb. moved from JEMMI to BENI SELA and opened as Divisional Receiving Station.
A.D.M.S. visited Divisional Receiving Station.
Wired D.D.M.S. whereabouts. Saw Major LELEAN, A.D.M.S., Desert Column.
Clerks and office rejoined.
Capt. GIBSON ordered to report A.D.M.S., Delta and Western Force.
- 24th Visited D.D.M.S., DEIR EL BELAH. Saw 3rd and 5th Immobile Sections there. Saw Captain HOLDER new officer to replace Capt. BASSETT.
Sent in report on transport of Field Ambulances, and forwarded report re native drivers of Lt. Colonel MOORE.
Capt. WYNNE and 31st Sanitary Section with sanitary equipment rejoined Division from DEIR EL BELAH.
KHAM SIN blowing.
47 of Division evacuated through Receiving Station.
Capt. GIBSON left for CAIRO replaced by Capt. MITCHELL, Berks Yeomanry.
- 25th Khamsin continued all day, great heat.
Water supply at KHAN YUNIS failing. Horses could only be watered once. Shortage also of drinking water.
Visited 6th and 3rd Fld. Amb. and H.Q., 4th Bde. re water.
Capt. WYNNE reported his arrival and work.
Capt. RAINFORTH came and expressed wish to accept post offered in C.C.S.
D.D.M.S. order one N.C.O. and two O.R. Sanitary Section to KHAN YUNIS to superintend sanitation there.
- 26th 5th Mounted Brigade moved from BENI SELA to EL SHA'UTH unaccompanied by Fld. Amb.
3rd L.H. Bde. moved from BENI SELA to MARAKEB (old camp) accompanied by Field Ambulance. Arranged for evacuation of sick.
Large number of dead camels reported. Arranged with Major LELEAN and Capt. WYNNE re disposal.
Still Khamsin.
- 27th Major LELEAN, A.D.M.S., Desert Column, inspected bivouacks of 5th Mtd. Bde.
Arranged for preparation of camels for burial. 8 N.C.O., 6 O.R. of Sanitary Section, with 1 riding and 3 baggage camels of Immobile Section.
Visited watering place KHAN YUNIS. Also 5th Mtd. Bde. Fld. Amb. BENI SELA.
Much cooler. Some rain at times during the day.

- Apl. 28th Visited D.D.M.S., Desert Column, re establishment of Field Ambulance transport etc.
 Visited Immobile Section, 5th Mtd.Bde.Fld.Amb.
 Inspected site and approved of move of Immobile Section, 5th and 3rd to site W. side of O.C.S.
 Visited 4th L.H.Fld.Amb. Camp near station KHAN YUNIS. Saw O.C.
 Arranged with O.C., Sanitary Section re treatment of dead camels in area.
 5th Mtd.Bde.Fld.Amb. moved out to SHA'UTH to join their Brigade on detached duty there.
- 29th Visited 5th Bde. and Fld.Amb. near SHA'UTH 8 miles from H.Q.
 Camped on old Turkish position.
 Visited 6th Mtd.Bde.Fld.Amb., Receiving Station, BENI SELA.
 Saw Lt.Colonel MOORE.
 Major RUTHERFORD, 124th Indian Fld.Amb. with mysore horse reported on the Indian Imperial Service Bde. joining Imperial Mounted Division.
- 30th Visited 124th Imperial Service Fld.Amb. and lines of Mysore Lancers.
 With Lt.Colonel FOWLER inspected lines of 4th L.H.Ede. less 4th regiment.
 Two extra motor ambulances attached to Division making 8 in all.
 O.C., 5th Mtd.Bde.Fld.Amb. directed to detail an M.O. to take medical charge Detail Camps of 5th and 6th Mtd.Bdes. Lt.WILLIAMS detailed. Arranged for light sick to be sent to Details Camp, particularly sores and heat exhaustion.
 Two regiments 6th Mtd.Bde. and Fld.Amb. "deloused", 570 in all.
- May 1st Reconnaissance in force across WADI GHUZZEE beyond GAMLU by 6th Mtd.Bde. and 2 regiments of 4th L.H.Ede. Major CHEVE, D.A.D.M.S. went with Divisional Headquarters.
- 2nd Received telegram No.HA.3824 Desert Column, notifying appointment of Colonel R.H.LUCE to be D.D.M.S., Eastern Force.
- 3rd Left for H.Q., Eastern Force, on relief by Lt.Col.RICHARDSON.





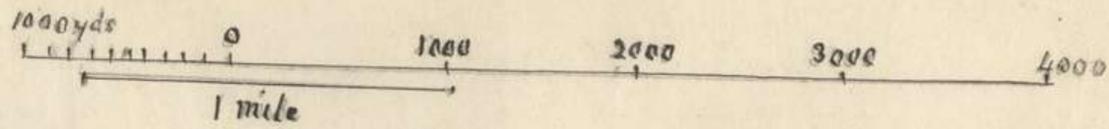
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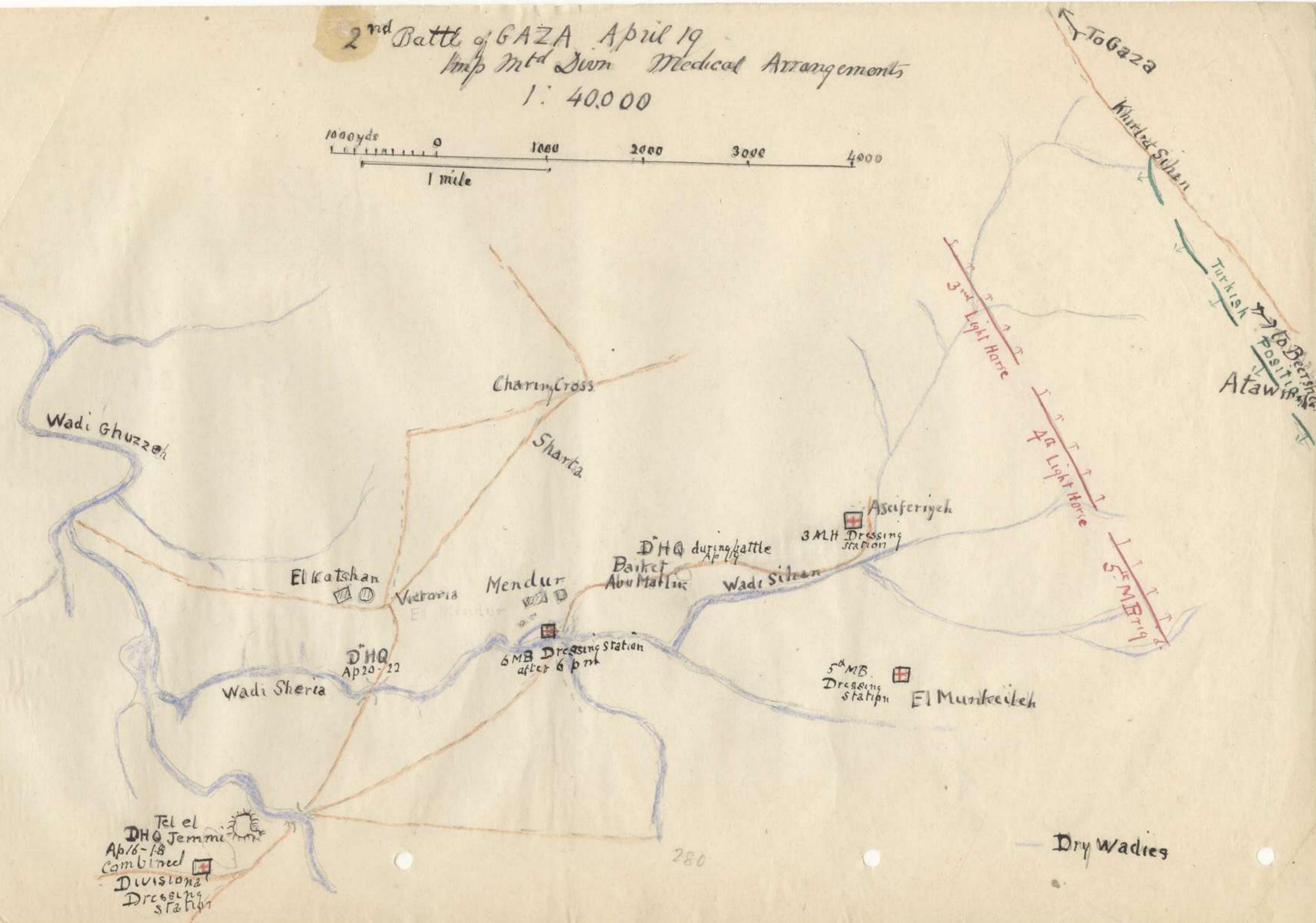
1st Battle of Gaza
Mar 26th 1917

1. M. Divⁿ
- First Stage
 - Second Stage after 4. pm
 - - - Track of Divⁿ HQ / IM Dⁿ outwards.
 - Turkish defences & reinforcements
 - Roads

2nd Battle of GAZA April 19
Imp Mt'd Divn Medical Arrangements
1: 40.000



28



Tel el
D'HQ Jemmi
Apr 16-18
Combined
Divisional
Dressing
station

Dry Wadies