

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/16/4

Title: Headquarters, Imperial Mounted
Divisional Artillery

May 1917



AWM4-13/16/4

H 11

H R

Volume No. 4

Appendices 638

EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

WAR DIARY.

Unit C.R.A. Imperial Mto. Div.

From 1 5 17 To 31 5 17

MAY 1917

Shots 14

1st May 1917.

639

P111

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.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required.)

Royal Artillery
Hd. Qrs. Imperial Mtd Division
MAY 1917

Army Form C. 2118

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ABASAN EL KEBIR	1/5/17		Reconnaissance of line GOZ LAKHZEILAT - Pt 680 - KH KHASIF - IM SIRI → A/BATT HAC and BERKS RHA with the 4th 16" MTD BDES Reference map RAFA 1:125,000	see appendix no I H.M.P.
"	4 5/17		Carried out reconnaissance with B.G.R.A. DESERT COLUMN ground near ESANI reference map 1:125,000 RAFA. LIEUT J.S. CASWELL joined NOTTS. BATT. RHA. for duty.	H.M.P.
"			Location of units A/HAC at EL SHAUTH B/HAC at ABASAN-EL-KEBIR NOTTS RHA at ABASAN-EL-KEBIR BERKS RHA at DEIR-EL-BELAH DAC at BENI SELA	H.M.P.
"	5		visited A/Battery HAC at EL SHAUTH.	H.M.P.
"	6		visited D.A.C. and B/BATTERY HAC.	H.M.P.
"	7		Reconnaissance of IM SIRI - KH KHASIF -	H.M.P.
"	8		Inspection of B/HAC, Notts BATTERY, and D.A.C. by B.G.R.A. DESERT. COL	H.M.P.
"	9		Gas demonstration before all units of I.M.D. RA.	H.M.P.

May 1917

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required.)

Royal Artillery
Head Quarters
Imperial Mounted Division.
Army Form C. 2118
MAY 1917

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ABASAN EL KEBIR	10/5/17		visited A/HAC at EL SHAUTH ... EAST FORCE BELAH	(HWP)
"	12/5/17		A/HAC from EL SHAUTH to ABASAN-EL-KEBIR BERKS RHA to EL SHAUTH DAC to ABASAN EL KEBIR	(HWP)
"	13/5/17		visited B/HAC and NOTTS RHA & A/HAC.	(HWP)
"	14/5/17		Reconnaissance with GSO I IMD EL SHAUTH - GAMLI Location of units B/HAC Notts BATTERY and DAC at ABASAN-EL-KEBIR	(HWP)
"	15		A/HAC at KHAN YUNUS BERKS BATTERY RHA. at EL SHAUTH.	(HWP)
"	"		Signallers of DA. tested by Signals RE DHQIMD. DAC. carrying 942000 Rds S.A.A. 1216 Rds 18 PDR 25% HE	(HWP)
"	16		Gas demonstration by DGO at EL FUKHARI to DA. IMD.	(HWP)

May 17

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WAR DIARY
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Royal Artillery
Head Quarters

Imperial Mounted Division

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Army Form C. 2118.

MAY 1917

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ABASAN EL	17/5/17		BERK BATTERY from EL SHAUTH to ABASAN	(HMP)
KEBIR	18/5/17		B/HAC to 74 th DIV K 31 C ref MAP. 1:40,000 SHELALZ	(HMP)
	19/5/17		BERKS BATTERY RHA to relieve B/HAC	(HMP)
	"		B/HAC to ABASAN.	(HMP)
	20 th /5/17.		LIEUT J HARTNEZZ (died of enteric fever at KANTARA) BERKS BATT	(HMP)
21 st	20 th /5/17.		Ten pairs of lead kams with dividers and harness loaned to ANZAC MTD	(HMP)
	22 nd /5/17		DIVISION from D.A.C. I.M.D. for operations in heavy sand	(HMP)
	22 nd /5/17		A/BATTERY HAC. moved to ABASAN EL-KEBIR from beach	(HMP)
			KHAN YUNUS	
			Operations against Turkish pos by I.MTD DIV. in co operation	
			with ANZAC MTD DIV with view to destroying the TURKISH railway	
			between ASLUT and AUJA. B/BATT HAC Brigaded with	See Appendix
			6 th MTD BDE. A/BATT HAC Brigaded with 4 th AUSTRALIAN HORSE	II
			BDE. NOTTS BATT. RHA Brigaded with 3 rd A.L.H. Bde	(HMP)

May 1917.

Royal Artillery

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MAY 1917

WAR DIARY

Head Quarters

Army Form C. 2118.

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Imperial Mounted Division

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ABASAN EL KEBIR	22 nd /5/17		<p>BERKS BATT RHA with 263rd BDE RFA 74th DIVISION and not taking part in operations.</p> <p>CAPT CL HARRIS temporarily in command of BERKS RHA.</p> <p>TENTH HEAVY BATTY RGA attached for operations</p> <p>CAPT CLARKSON RGA. Commanding</p>	<p>(H.M.P.)</p> <p>(H.M.P.)</p> <p>(H.M.P.)</p>
	23 rd /5/17		<p>Roll of officers serving with this DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY</p> <p>Strength of this DA officers and other ranks 980</p> <p>Strength of Horses 894 Mules 172</p> <p>Battle Hd Qrs at PT 680 NE of I in LAKHLEILAT. Ref MAP BEERSHEBA 1:125000</p> <p>Our troops reached line BIR IMZEIH 71810 820 N of FARA BIR EL SABA RD</p> <p>R.H.A. did not open fire</p> <p>Tenth Heavy Battery came into action just S of second B in BEIT ABU TAHA.</p> <p>Fired 25 Rounds at the Rly viaduct Ref MAP BEERSHEBA 1:125,000 →</p>	<p>(H.M.P.) See APPENDIX III</p> <p>(H.M.P.) See APPENDIX IV</p>

May 1917

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Royal Artillery

Head Quarters

Imperial Mounted

Army Form C. 2118.

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MAY 1917

Division

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	23/5/17.		Batteries and JAC remain at TEL-EL-FARA on WADI GHUZZE for the night. The Division having carried out its role in protecting the left and attracting the attention of the enemy at BEERSHEBA retired according to plan. HQRA (IMD) reached ABASAN at 2000.	(Imp.)
ABASAN EL KEBIR	24/5/17.		BATTERIES and JAC to ABASAN-EL-KEBIR (less BERKS BATT still with 74 th DIVISION) A/BATT. HAC to MARAKEB (V 9 5.3 GAZA X 1:40000 refmap)	(Imp.)
	25/5/17.		Information received from that railway viaduct was damaged by the TENTH HEAVY BATTERY on 23 rd	(Imp.)
	26/5/17.		Rode out to TEL-EL-FARA with GOC IMD choose camp. I.M. DIVISION ordered to relieve ANZAC. MTD. DIV. on WADI GHUZZE	APPENDIX V (Imp.)
	27/5/17		D.A.C. to G 3 6 (SHELLAL 1:40000 refmap) War establishment of RHA + MTD Bde AMM COL increased by 3 G.S. wagons 9 drivers and 18 Horses per Battery. (Authority GRO 2436 dated 7 th May 1917) JAC. relieved 3 G.S. wagons to the 5 th MTD Bde.	(Imp.)
G 4 0 7 refmap	28 5/17.		HQRA ^s IMD. established 1000. NETTS A + B BATTERIES HAC with their BDES in area FARA-SHELLAL SNAUTH.	(Imp.)

May 1917.

WAR DIARY

Head Quarters

Army Form C. 2118

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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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Royal Artillery

244 -
MAY 1917

(Erase heading not required.)

Imperial Mounted Divisions.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
G 4 0.7 Ref map.	2000	N.N.W. OF EL SHAUTH.	Area bombed from the air.	(Hw 8)
GAZA - SHEELAZ	28/5/17.		Reconnaissance with BG RA DESERT COLUMN of the country lying NE	(Hw 8)
1:40000	29/5/17.		- EAST and SOUTH EAST from Hill 630 EL GIR HEIR. Ref map BEERSHEBA	(Hw 8)
			Area bombed from the air.	(Hw 8)
	30/5/17.		visited BERKS R.H.A.	(Hw 8)
	31/5/17.		G.O.C DESERT COLUMN inspected A + B / H.A.C. BATTERIES	(Hw 8)

Eaton C. R. A.
IMPERIAL MOUNTED DIVISION

APPENDIX I

645

12/11/17

SECRET.

Copy No.

MAY 1917

DIVISIONAL ORDER No 19 by

MAJOR GEN. H.W.HODGSON, C.V.O., C.B.

Commanding Imperial Mounted Division.

Reference Map: 1/125,000

1. Enemy forces of all arms are reported to be entrenching along the 600 foot contour from GOZ LAKHLEILAT - Point 680 KH.KHASIF - IM.SIRI.
2. Desert Column is to reconnoitre this line tomorrow 1st May 1917.
(a) One Brigade A.& N.Z. Mtd. Division is to make good GOZ EL BASAL and the KARM area at 0800.
3. The Imperial Mtd. Division will reconnoitre the line GOZ LAKHLEILAT to Point 680.
4. 6th Mtd. Bde. will leave ABASAN EL KEBIR at 0430 and will move via UMAJUA - Point 530 and Point 630 (TEL ITWEIL) on BIR EL ESANI and from thence will reconnoitre the GOZ LAKHLEILAT Pt 680 position.
(a) I.S. Cav. Brigade will move in support of the right of the 6th Brigade and will make good the line Point 530 GERALIN - BEIT GHAZALI - TEL ITWEIL by 0830.
(b) 4 A.L.H. Brigade less 4 A.L.H. Regiment will move in support of 6th Bde. and will be at GOZ MABRUK at 0830.
This Brigade will push patrols East of WADI SHANAG through EL GAA and SHANAG.
5. This operations is a reconnaissance and Brigades will not become seriously involved with strong enemy forces. Should enemy mounted troops be encountered they should be dealt with as boldly as possible.
6. Plentiful water supply is known to exist at ESANI.
7. On conclusion of reconnaissance 6th Bde will withdraw at GOZ MABRUK when orders will be issued for the return to bivouac.
8. R.H.A. Batteries and F.A. Sandcarts will accompany Bdes. Field Troops and M.V.S. will remain in bivouac.
9. Bdes. will move as light as possible Mobile Scale of rations S.A.A. limbered wagons will not be taken.
10. 3 L.H.Bde & 4 L.H. Regt will remain saddled up until further orders.
11. Having made good its area I.S. Cav. Bde. will water by squadrons at the pool $\frac{1}{2}$ mile N. of GOZ MABRUK - 4 Bde will water at GAMLI.
12. Div. H.Qs. will be established at EL SHAUTH at 0700. Advanced Head Quarters will move to GOZ MABRUK at 0830 at which hour visual station will be established there.
13. Acknowledge.

(sgd) H.C.WARD Lt.Col.,
GENERAL STAFF
IMP. MTD. DIVISION.

30/4/17.

APPENDIX I

SECRET

Copy No. 7/11/8
646

DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER NO.3
BY

COLONEL THE MARQUESS OF REINETER COMMANDING R.A. IMPERIAL MTD DIV.

In the Field,
29 30/4/17.

MAY 1917

Reference Maps 1/155000

Trench Map WELI SHEIKH NURAN Scale 1/15000

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 310 and 330, to Work P, and so down the Turkish reserve line of trenches to Work No. 8 inclusive.

ALTERATIONS
IN PRESENT
DISPOSITION

(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.S. Brigade, and No. 17 M.A.S. Battery.
(ii) In addition to holding this line M.A.S. 74th Division will also occupy strong posts by 2 Companies, on the West bank of the Wadi, at each of the crossings at HIBBIA SHELLAL and FARA.
(iii) The I.S. Brigade will continue to hold its present outpost line on the West bank of the Wadi from HIBBIA 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 HIBBIA, 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.S. Brigade outpost line North of HIBBIA and the right in touch with the Imperial Mounted Divisional Outpost in front of EL GAMLI.
(iii) It will push out patrols by day and standing patrols by night well in advance so that early information of a 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.S. Squadron and Field Troop under the orders of M.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 GAMLI 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 ABASAN EL KEIR and TEL EL MARAKES.

3. (a) Reserve Horse Water for Mounted Troops is being collected in the cisterns about ABUSITTA cross roads.
(b) Without the express permission of DESERT COLUMN Headquarters no water will be taken from either of these reserves.
(c) Men and Animals of the Brigade and Regiment of the Imperial Mounted Division mentioned in para. 2 (c) (i) above will water in WADI SUZZER.
(d) Present arrangements for water for Imperial Mounted Division hold good.

4. An Ammunition dump will be formed at WELI SHEIKH NURAN.
5. Acknowledge.

Henry Davenport Staff Captain R.A.
Imperial Mounted Division

A P P E N D I X I

Copy No. 1

DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER NO. 3

BY
GENERAL THE MARSHAL OF THE IMPERIAL ARMY

in the field

Copy No. 1 A/A 1 on copy

Reference Maps 1/125000

Trench map with scale 1/125000

1. The battle line as now selected runs from the right of the Infantry, about 1 mile S.E. of the H. Hill, through Points 310 and 320, to work P, and so down the Turkish defensive line of trenches to work No. 8 inclusive.

(a) 7th Division and attached troops will be held in readiness for tomorrow the responsibility for holding the battle line will devolve upon the brigade, 7th Division, and attached Turkish brigades, the I.C. Brigade, and the I.C. Battery.

(ii) In addition to holding this line the 7th Division will also occupy strong posts by 2 Companies, on the West bank of the head, at each of the crossings at HIRIA, SHALAL and YARA.

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

(iv) A proportion of Infantry will be kept in General Reserve about WELL BURN BURN.

(v) Two Regiments, Annex Mounted Division, will be attached to the 7th Division from tomorrow to take up the strong posts mentioned in para. 2 (a) (ii) above.

(i) Annex Mounted Division (less 2 Regiments) will continue to hold the bridgeheads at HIRIA, SHALAL and YARA.

(ii) It will also be responsible for the provision of a strong outpost line east of the head with the left resting on the I.C. Brigade outpost line North of HIRIA and the right in touch with the Imperial Mounted Divisional Outpost in front of H. HILL.

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

(iv) The Division (less the troops mentioned above) will concentrate in the area SHALAL and YARA as soon as relieved by the 7th Division and will be prepared to cross the head and engage the enemy immediately information of a hostile advance is received.

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

(i) 5th Mounted Brigade and 1 Regiment 5th Brigade, with a section of 20 Squadron and Field Troop under the orders of C.O. 5th Mounted Brigade will hold the works on the 500 contour together with 20, 10 and 11 on the TURKISH reserve line.

(ii) This brigade will also hold a strong bridgehead at HIRIA and will continue the outpost line from the right of the Annex Mounted Division southwards and thence across the head 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 West or South.

(iv) The Division (less the above troops) will be in general reserve about ANNAH, EL KHIR and EL ANASSER.

(a) Reserve horse water for mounted troops is being collected in the districts about ANNAH, EL KHIR and EL ANASSER.

(b) Without the express permission of the General Headquarters no water will be taken from either of these reserves.

(c) Men and animals of the brigade and Regiment of the Imperial Mounted Division mentioned in para. 2 (c) (i) above will water in WELL BURN BURN.

(d) Present arrangements for water for Imperial Mounted Division held good.

(e) An ammunition dump will be formed at WELL BURN BURN.

f. Acknowledged.

Staff Captain R.A. [Signature]

Imperial Mounted Division

MAY 1917

Reference 1/185000 Map.

1. The Turkish railway between ASLUJ and AUJA is to be destroyed. So far as is known at present there are no enemy troops south of BIR SABA. The enemy holds the line IMLIEN, 730,770,810,820, as a line of observation.
2. The destruction of the railway line is being carried out by:-
 - (a) The Camel Brigade escorted by one squadron Imp Mtd Div from AUJA to 8 miles North of that place.
 - (b) The Field Squadrons of both Mounted Divisions from ASLUJ up to 12 miles South of that place.
3. The I.C.C. Brigade with an escort of one Squadron Imp Mtd Div move via RAFA on AUJA, to arrive at the latter place on Z day. The A & N.E. Division with both Field Squadrons move as follows:- 1 Brigade and demolition squadrons to ASLUJ by 0400 on Z day. The rest of the Division via ESANI on KHALABA by 0400 on Z day whence it will throw out a protective line GOZ SHEINILI - EN AUJA to watch the approaches from BIR SABA.
4. The role of the Imperial Mounted Division is to attract the attention of the enemy at BIR SABA from the raid on the railway line.
5. (a) One Squadron 4th A.L.H. Brigade will proceed to RAFA on X day and will join the I.C.C. Brigade at a point called EL HASS, on the TURCO-Egyptian boundary, 2 miles South of EL DESSA on Y day, in time to leave that place at 1800 with the I.C.C. Brigade, to whom they will act as escort.
 - (b) One Squadron 4th A.L.H. Brigade will move to EL SAMLI on Y day and will take over the KHASI-SAMLI Outpost line from A & N.E. Division by 1800 on Y day.
 - (c) One Squadron 4th A.L.H. Brigade will report to G.O.C. Infantry Div at 1800 on Y day and will carry out the usual patrolling in conjunction with the Divisional Squadron from Point 810' ABU SHAWISH to SAUSAGE RIDGE on Z day.
 - (d) The Field Squadron will report to G.O.C. ANNE Division at 1800 on X day, and will be prepared to accompany that Division and to be absent for 3 days.
6. To carry out its mission, the Division less one regiment 4th Sde will advance against BIR SABA and will move at 1800 on Y day as follows:-
 - (a) Divisional Headquarters will be established at Hill 630 GOZ LAKHLEILAT at 0400 on Z day.
 - (b) 6th Brigade via TEL EL FARA to make good the line 580', 2 miles East of GOZ EL BASAL, through IMSIRI to BEIT ABU TARA, East of KH KHASIF by 0800 on Z day.
 - (c) 4th Brigade less one regiment via SAMLI to make good the line BEIT ABU TARA exclusive - EL BUNJAR - Hill 630' near "u" of cultivation exclusive by 0400 on Z day.
 - (d) 3rd Brigade via GOZ MABRUK to make good the line Hill 630' (above to RASHID BEK both inclusive by 0400 on Z day.
 - (e) 5th Brigade will move via EL SAMLI to the O of OPEN one mile South of KH. KHASIF reaching that point at 0430 on Z day and will remain in reserve. Batteries will accompany their Brigades. 10th Heavy Battery R.A. will be attached to the Division and will proceed via the TEL EL FARA - KARM Road to KARM at 0430 from FARA on Z day, and will act under instructions from C.R.A. Imp Mtd Divan.
7. At 0415 the Division will advance against the line IMLIEN, 730-770-810-820 EL HANIRA, ABU YAHIA. 6th and 4th Brigades North of FARA-SABA Road. 3rd Brigade South of that Road.
 - (a) G.O.C. 6th Sde will detail special patrols to reconnoitre EL DIRHIR, Hill 630 and vicinity which is reported occupied by the enemy.
 - (b) Brigades will operate as boldly as possible and every opportunity of utilizing their batteries should be made use of.
 - (c) Targets for the heavy battery should be communicated to the C.R.A. Imperial Mounted Division without delay.

MAY 1917

- (d) when this line has been made good, Brigades will halt and report their positions, special attention will be paid to the protection of the left flank and the maintenance of touch between Brigades. Orders for further advance will be issued by Divisional Headquarters.
8. The Division will be prepared to be absent from bivouacs for 48 hours.
 9. The D.A.C. will move to PABA by 0800 on Z day and from thence, if necessary, will move to KARM under orders of G.R.A.
 10. Visual communication will be established as early as possible between Brigades and Divisional Headquarters, also between (a) 5th Brigade and the daily Outpost Line to ASU SHAWISH and (b) the 3rd Brigade and the left of the AANZ Division about UM ASUA. Divisional Headquarters will endeavour to get visual communication with AANZ Division Headquarters near Hill 380, 8 miles South West of ASU CHALKEN. Desert Column is establishing cable and visual communication with Divisional Headquarters at 680 near T of SOZ LAKHEILAT. Headquarters R.A. I.M.D. will be established at Divisional H.Q. at 0400 on Z day. 10th Heavy Battery R.G.A. will supply a mounted orderly to report to Staff Captain R.A. I.M.D. at H.Q.R.A. at 0400. Headquarters R.A. I.M.D. will be responsible for the telephone communication between H.Q.R.A. and 10th Heavy Battery R.G.A. the latter will supply operator at the Battery. D.A.C. will establish communication by holic with H.Q.R.A. at earliest opportunity.
 11. A Dressing Station will be established at GANLI at 0500 on Z day. Mobile portions of Field Ambulances will accompany their Brigades.
 12. Supplies will be required by the Squadron 4th A.L.H. Brigade acting as escort to I.C.G. Brigade at PABA for Y day and Z day. One days food for horse and man will be taken by the Division. One days supplies will be dumped at GANLI for the Division on its return.
 13. Water will be arranged for for the Division at GANLI on Z day. Brigades must endeavour to make full use of any water discovered during the operations.
 14. As soon as the demolition of the railway has been completed the Division will cover the withdrawal of the raiding parties and the AANZ Division. Should the operation be successful the Division may be able to withdraw about the evening of Z day on GANLI. On receipt of orders to withdraw the Division will retire on GANLI where it will remain for the night Z/21.
 15. Brigades will report their positions at 0400 and thereafter hourly throughout the day.

Staff Captain R.A. I.M.D.
 Capt. R.A.
 Staff Captain R.A. I.M.D.

19th May 1917.
 Issued at 173.

- Copy No. 1 to A Battery R.A.C.
 2 Kotts Battery R.A.A.
 3 Berke Battery R.A.A.
 4 D.A.C.
 5 10th Heavy Battery R.G.A.
 6)
 7) War Diary
 8 File

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A11/10

MAY 1917

APPENDIX III

NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS OF I.M.D. ARTILLERY. 22/5/17

H.Q.R.A. I.M.D.
 Colonel The Marquess of Exeter. C.R.A.
 Capt H. Mc D. Pollock. Staff Captain R.A.
 Lieut J.N. Cowley. Orderly Officer.
A Battery H.A.C.
 Major O.L. Eugster
 Capt C.L. Harris
 Lieut J.R. Stonard
 Lieut D.J. Mac Andrew
 Lieut C.B. Broome
 2/Lieut G.V.H. Mansell
 2/Lieut J.C.L. Barnes
B Battery H.A.C.
 Major the Honble R.M.P. Preston
 Capt J. Bamford Smith
 Lieut K.F. Hawkings
 Lieut C.J. Rushbrooke
 Lieut E.W. Barney
 2/Lieut A.C. Phillips
 2/Lieut R.C. Durward
Berks Battery R.H.A.
 Major C.G. Mayall (In hospital)
 Eapt H.V. Landsberg
 Lieut E.J. Wheen
 Lieut B.N. Fraser
 2/Lieut C.A. Morell Miller
 2/Lieut S.P. Tindle
 2/Lieut J.H.R. Thomson
 Lieut S.S. Ansbacher
Notts Battery R.H.A.
 Major St J.M. Lambert
 Capt H.E.T. Hodgson
 Lieut F. Mills
 3/Lieut O.E. Barnett
 2/Lieut R.S. Mackinder
 2/Lieut J.S. Caswell

STRENGTH OF I.M.D. ARTILLERY.

<u>H.Q.R.A. I.M.D.</u>	Officers	3	Other Ranks	11	Horses	17
A. Battery H.A.C.	6		212		260	
B. Battery H.A.C.	8		264		188	Mules 67
Berks Battery R.H.A.	8		237		227	41
Notts Battery R.H.A.	6		225		202	64
	<u>31</u>		<u>949</u>		<u>894</u>	<u>172</u>
	=====		=====		=====	=====

COPY,

APPENDIX IV

650

P11/11

MAY 1917

SECRET.

Co-operation between 60 pdr and Aeroplane.

Imperial Mtd Division.

Reference your G.S.Z/204 dated 24/5/17.

Observer went up early on the 23rd and returned about 0700 reporting that there was no target within range in the direction of BEERSHEBA and observation was difficult. He went up again at 0820 and was heavily fired from West of the BEERSHEBA defences, he again reported no targets. I then decided to let the first observer go home as he was short of oil, and have the relief out, also to move the Battery to a position just South of the ABU in BIET ABU TAHA and engage the viaduct N.W. of KH ABU IRGEIG. Fire was opened about 1120 and 25 rounds were fired.

Plan of the fall of shot is attached.

The Observer reported to me that when fire was opened working parties on the new construction work beat a hasty retreat.

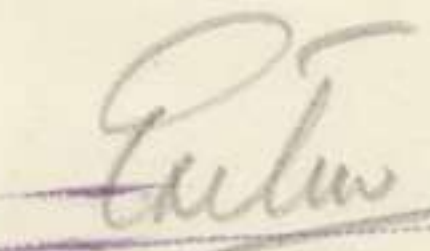
The structure of the viaduct is strong and will take a good deal of demolishing.

I ordered the Battery back to KARM about 1330.

Fire ceased owing to Observer running short of oil. I do not consider much would have been gained by a further expenditure of ammunition owing to the strength of the structure and the long range (10,200 yds.).

No enemy planes were seen and I understand the day was very bad for flying.

The going was very heavy when on the cultivation, and the road BEERSHEBA-FARA much cut up by heavy traffic. The teams consisted of 14 in the guns and 8 in the wagons, they appeared to have all they could do.


E. R. A.
IMPERIAL MOUNTED DIVISION

P11/12

MAY 1918

651

Shooting of 10th Heavy Battery Rlyd.

armed with 60pdr guns

With Aeroplane Observation on 23rd May 17.

at

BEIT ABU TAHA

Reference Map BEERSHEBA 1:125000

Commanding Officer
Capt Clarkson Rlyd.

SECRET.

Imaginary concentric rings at radial distances of 50, 100, 200, 300, 400 yds from the target are lettered A B C D E respectively.

Y circle is 10 yds from the target
Z " is 25 yds from the target.

Target is centre of circle Y.

No of Rds fired 25

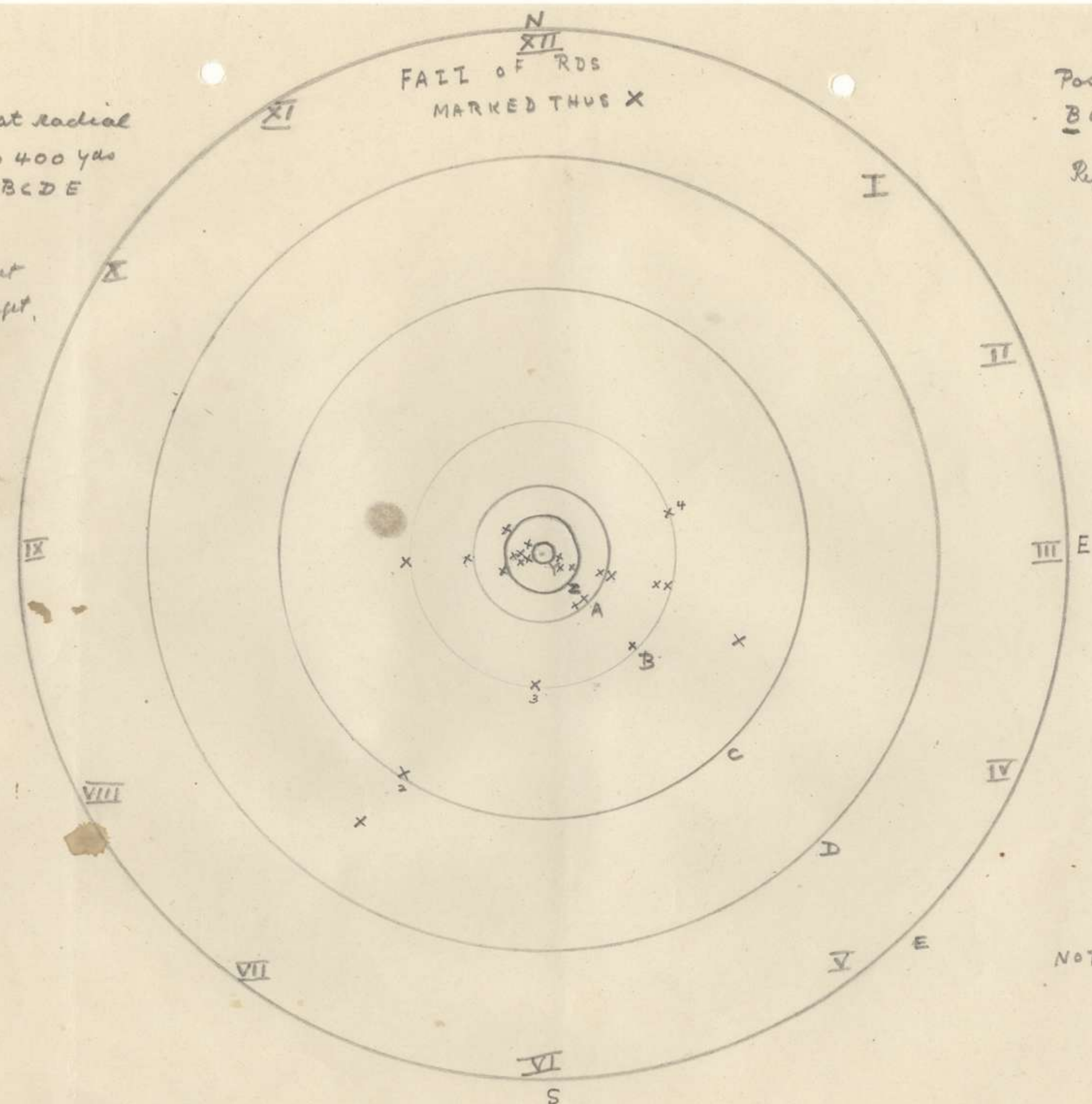
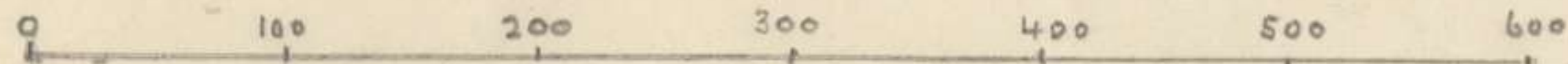
Range found to be

10,200 yds.

DIRECTION OF FIRE
BEARING 600

SCALE

YDS



21/13
Position of Battery Just S. of second
B in BEIT ABU TAHA. 652

Ref. MAP BEERSHEBA.

1:125,000

TARGET.

Railway Culvert

Just NW of KHABU IRGEIB

X
1st RD.

APPENDIX
IV

MAY 1917

NOTE The first four rds are numbered.

Secret

APPENDIX V

17/1/14
Copy No 6
MAY 1917

DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY ORDER NO.5
by
COLONEL THE MARQUESS OF EXETER COMMANDING R.A.
IMPERIAL MOUNTED DIVISION.

Reference 1/125000 Map &
1/40000 EL SHELLAL Sheet.

1. The Division will relieve the A & N.Z. Mounted Division on the outpost line on May 28th.
The A. & N.Z. Mounted Division are moving to ABASAN EL KEBIR and TEL EL MARAKEB to take over the bivouac areas of this Division on that date.
2. To carry out the above relief the Division will move as follows:-
(a) The 4th A.L.H. Brigade will move to TEL EL FARA, so as to reach that place at 1000 and will take over the duty of patrolling in front of the Infantry line and to the South, from the N.Z.M.R. Brigade, by 1300 on the 28th May.
(b) One Regiment 5th Brigade will take over the EL GHABI work and works W, X, and Y, by 0900 from the 2nd L.H. Brigade.
(c) The 5th Brigade, less 1 Regiment, will move to the vicinity of TEL EL FARA so as to arrive there at 1130.
(d) The 3rd and 6th Brigades will move to the vicinity of SHELLAL so as to arrive at 1300 and 1500 respectively.
(e) Divisional Headquarters and Headquarters units will move to the vicinity of TEL EL FARA so as to arrive by 1200.
Batteries will accompany their Brigades.
3. Bivouac areas at the above mentioned places will be shown to representatives of Brigades on 27th May. The time and rendezvous will be notified direct to Brigades by the A.A. & Q.M.G.
4. The hours mentioned in para 2. will be strictly adhered to.
5. Divisional Headquarters, 4th and 5th Brigades (less 1 Regiment 5th Brigade) will water at FARA.
The Regiment 5th Brigade, on the defence works, will water at GAMLI
3rd and 6th Brigades will water at SHELLAL.
6. Supplies on May 28th will be delivered to the new bivouac areas.
7. Present bivouac sites will be left clean and ready for immediate re-occupation. G.O.'s.O Brigades will pay personal attention to this matter.
8. Divisional and Artillery Headquarters will close at ABASAN EL KEBIR at 1000 and will re-open near TEL EL FARA at the same hour.
9. D.A.C. will move tomorrow 27th to square G.3 b SHELLAL 1/40000 map after the supplies have been issued and will bivouac there. A certain number of wagons to be notified later will be offloaded there and will return to ABASAN to be used as transport on 28th.
D.A.C. will water at FARA.

WATERING

J. H. Carley
for Capt. R.A.
I.M.D.

Issued at 1530
26th May 1917.

Staff Captain R.A. I.M.D.

- Copy No. 1 to
- A Battery H.A.C.
 - 2 B Battery H.A.C.
 - 3 Notts Battery R.H.A.
 - 4 D.A.C. I.M.D.
 - 5 File
 - 6)
 - 7) War Diary
 - 8 Berks Battery R.H.A.