

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

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/60/1

Title: General Staff, Headquarters ANZAC
Mounted Division

March 1916



AWM4-1/60/1

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

Vol I Page 1

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------|----------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| SERAPEUM. | 15/March | | Major General H. G. CHAUVEL, C.B., C.M.G., Commanding ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION, a.d.c. to the General, Lt. Col J. G. BROWNE, 14 th Hussars, G.S.O. 1, and Major W. P. FARR, 3 rd A.L.H. Bde, D.A.A & Q.M.G. all arrived at SERAPEUM. | |
| SERAPEUM. | 16/Mar. | | The office of the Anzac Mounted Division opened at SERAPEUM, on the West side of the Canal at 1500 today. Major W. J. FOSTER, 2 nd A.L.H. Bde, G.S.O. 2, reported his arrival. Captain V. T. WHEELAN, D.A.D.O.S. reported his arrival. On orders from 1 st Anzac, the 1/1 Ayrshire R.H.A. Batty were ordered to move to railhead and take in hand the completion of the gun Emplacements in this Subsection (Subsection A of No II Section - Canal Defences. | Appendix 1. |
| SERAPEUM | 17/Mar | | On orders from 1 st Anzac, the 2 nd L.H. Bde were ordered to take over the Posts on the Canal and the Inner Line, "A" Subsection from 1200 on the 18 th instant. | |
| SERAPEUM | 18/Mar | | Major J. P. L. Mc CALL reported his arrival and took over command of the 1 st Signal Squadron. | |

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION

Vol I Page 2.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------|---------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| SERAPEUM. | 19/Mar. | | <p>"A" Subsection - No II Section - CANAL DEFENCES, taken over from 1st AUSTRALIAN DIVISION by the ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION, H.R.H. The Prince of Wales inspected the 2nd L.I. Bde at 1115. LIEUT W.J. URQUHART, G.S.O.³ reported his arrival. 3rd A.L.H. Bde ordered to make a reconnaissance of the WADI UM MUKHSHEIB on the 21st and 22nd March. (Reference 100,000 Map-LITTLE BITTER LAKE).</p> | Appendix 2. |
| SERAPEUM | 20/Mar | | <p>The 1st R.A.N. BRIDGING TRAIN attached to Anzac Mounted Division for administration from 18/3/16. Major C.I. POWLES, N.Z.M.R. Bde, A.A & Q.M.G reported for duty. 2nd L.I. Bde instructed to be ready to move to No III Section at short notice.</p> | Appendix 3. |
| SERAPEUM | 21/Mar | | <p>Captain N.B. LOVERIDGE, 1st Aust Div Train, D.A.Q.M.G, reported for duty. Reconnaissance Party, 3rd L.I. Bde, left railhead as follows - Camels and escort 1145; remainder party 1300.</p> | |
| SERAPEUM | 22/Mar | | <p>Lieut-Colonel R.M. DOWNES, 3rd L.H.F.A, A.D.M.S (temp) reported for duty. Operation Report for 21/3/16. Lieut. J.R.C. DAVIES, 12th L.I., A.D.C reported for duty.</p> | appendix 4. |

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION.

(Erase heading not required.)

Vol 2.

Page 3

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|----------|--------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| SERAPEUM | Mar/23 | | Reconnaissance party, 3 rd L. Lt. Bde, returned to railhead at 0400. Specine report attached - report on Camels - 3 rd L Lt Bde Order NO . | Appendix 6. |
| | | 1030 | 16 th Battalion, 4 th Aust Division arrived and were camped at the Staging Camp - instructions issued for this Battalion to take over the posts at DEVERSOIR, SERAPEUM and TOUSOON from the 2 nd L. Lt Bde at 1100 on Saturday, March 25 th . | |
| | | 1330 | Somerset Battery, R. H.A., arrived and went into Camp at SERAPEUM WEST. Operation Report for 23/3/16. | Appendix 5. |
| | Mar/24 | | Captain (Temp Major) J. Kendall, A.D.V.S., reported for duty. Captain (Temp Major) W. Stansfield, 5 th A.S.C., Commander Hoqhs, Anzac Mtld Division A.S.C., reported for duty. | |
| | Mar/25 | 1100 | 16 th Battalion took over all posts inner line - Subsection A - No 2 Section from 2 nd L Lt Bde. Lt-General W. R. BIRDWOOD, K. C. S. I. etc., inspected the front line held by the 3 rd L Lt Bde and later inspected the 2 nd L Lt Bde at SERAPEUM WEST. | |

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION.

Vol I Page 4.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------|---------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| SERAPEUM. | Mar/26 | | ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION ORDER, No 1. issued at 2100. | Appendix 7. |
| | Mar/27 | | — | |
| SERAPEUM | Mar/28. | | Major General Sir H.V. Cox, K. C.M.G. etc, Commanding 4 th Australian Division arrived at SERAPEUM. 4 th Infantry Brigade, 4 th Aust Div marched in and went into camp at the Staging Camp. | |
| SERAPEUM | Mar/29 | | Major General Sir H.V. Cox, K.C.M.G., Commanding 4 th Aust Div, assumed Command of "A" subsection, No 2 Section, Canal Defences, from 6 pm, 29/3/16. 3 rd A.L.H Bde and 1/1 Ayrshire Battery, R.H.A, remain in "A" Subsection. Instructions received from 2 nd ANZAC that the N.Z.M.R. Bde less 1 Regt and such details of Signal Troop as were required to maintain communication till relieved by 5 th Divn Signal Coy, would move by route march from "B" Subsection to SERAPEUM INEST on 1 st April. | Appendix 8. |
| | | | Map showing distribution of troops on 29/3/16 attached. | Appendix 9. |

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.

~~OF~~
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION

(Erase heading not required.)

Vol I

Page 5.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|----------|---------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| SERAPEUM | 30/3/16 | | Instructions received from 2 nd Anzac, that the 2 nd L.H. Bde would now be moving to SALHIA at an early date. | |
| SERAPEUM | 31/3/16 | | Move of Anzac Mounted Division less 2 Brigades to Salhia approved. 2 Bdes referred to are 1 st & 3 rd Light Horse Bdes. Date on which move to take place not yet notified. Remaining Re | |

[Handwritten signature]

"A" Form.
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

Army Form C. 2121.
No. of Message.....

APPENDIX I

| | | | |
|----------|--------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Words. | Charge | This message is on a/ of | Reed. at..... |
| actions. | | | Date..... |
| Sent | | Service. | From..... |
| At..... | m. | | By..... |
| To..... | | (Signature of "Franking Officer.") | |
| By..... | | | |

TO: A. N. 3 Jones

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----|
| * Sender's Number. | Day of Month. | In reply to Number | AAA |
| E 3 | 17 | | |

General Channel assumed
 Command of the ANZAC Mounted
 Division from the
 sixteenth at 1500 hours
 A. N. 3 Jones repeated 1st ANZAC

14/15

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| From | ANZAC Mtd Division |
| Place | SERAPHEUM |
| Time | 1110 |

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) *[Signature]*

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

P. 210/9.13. - C. 9258.

* This line should be erased if not required.

ROUTINE ORDER No. 4.

APPENDIX 2

by
Major-General H. G. CHAUVEL C.B., C.M.G.,
Commanding ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION.

SERAPEUM, 20th March 1916.

GENERAL STAFF BRANCH

DEFENCES.

1. Major-General H.G. CHAUVEL C.B., C.M.G., assumed command of "A" Subsection No. 2 Section Canal Defences from 19/3/1916.
All reports in this area to be sent to Headquarters, Anzac Mounted Division.

J.G. Browne Lieut-Colonel,
General Staff.

ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S BRANCH.

ATTACHED.

13. - The 1st R.A.N. BRIDGING TRAIN is attached to Anzac Mounted Division for administration from 18/3/1916.

STAFF.

14. - Major C.G. POWLES, A.A. & Q.M.G. reported for duty on 20/3/16.
Lieut. W.J. URQUHART, G.S.O. 3, reported for duty on 19/3/16.

ORDERS.

15. - G.R.O.s. dated 17/3/16. have been issued to all Divisional Units.

EXTRACTS

FROM G.R.O.s.

16. - G.R.O. 986. - POSTAL.

All ranks are notified that when it is necessary to give instructions for the re-direction of correspondence from a Civil Post Office Civil Agency, or Private address to a Unit, the re-direction must not include a "place" name. The name of the Unit is sufficient for delivery purposes.

Correspondence so re-directed will be forwarded from the Civil Post Office to the Army Post Office for delivery.

G.R.O. 987. - MUSLIN, for COVERING FOOD ISSUE.

The issue to all Units of muslin for covering food for protection against contamination by flies is approved, on the scale of 5 yds per 100 men.

Orders should be submitted to the Army Ordnance Department in the usual manner.

C.G. POWLES, Major.
A.A. & Q.M.G.

Secret

Appendix No. 3
Copy.

8

1st AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.

No. 4. ^G ~~1(a)~~.

Headquarters,
ANZAC Mounted
1st Australian Division.

Reconnaissance of WADI UM MUKHSHEIB.

1. Please arrange to carry out a reconnaissance of the WADI UM MUKHSHEIB. *on 21st + 22nd Inst*
2. Reconnaissance should take place before *24th Inst.*
This Office and adjoining divisions will be notified by you of the time of departure, route, time of return and composition of party.

The party should not start if weather conditions are unfavourable.

Arrangements will be made from this Office to secure cooperation by air service when your programme is received.

3. Points on which information is required are:-
 - (a) Condition of water supply at MOYA BARAB and EL KASSIF (2½ miles due south of MOYA BARAB)
 - (b) Nature of enemy work reported to have been seen by Captain Meligan at point 1370'(417) in square F.5 on 10th instant, vide your report of 12/3/16.
 - (c) Tracks of enemy patrols.
 - (d) Extent to which country is being used for grazing by friendly Bedouin.
 - (e) Miscellaneous.
4. Strength of party will be sufficient to find one or two officers patrols and one supporting party of not less than 50 rifles.

Notes:- It is considered that the reconnaissance should in the main be treated as an exercise for Light Horse but Bikanir Camel Corps may be also employed as you think desirable.

The arrangements should be such as will be provided data as to the range of action of Light Horse reconnoitring parties provided with a limited amount of camel transport. Camels sufficient to carry one day's rations for men and horses, including water at 1 gallon per man and 5 gallons per horse may be taken from Camel Transport working under your orders.

5. Loose camels which appear to belong to friendly natives should not be interfered with. Natives met with should be

- 2 -

kept in custody till reconnaissance is withdrawn when, if not of suspicious character, they can be liberated at a distance from our lines. Suspicious characters brought in must be blindfolded.

* rations & guide

6. Lieutenant Macaulay, G.S.O.3, 1st ANZAC will accompany the party ^{from} and can act as Arabic interpreter.

7. Suitable medical arrangements should be made.

8. 2 Officers Royal Flying Corps + 2 men with W.T. equipment will accompany reconnaissance. Provision should be made for 4 riders + 2 transport camels for them also rations + water.

C. D. Lyman
Brig.-General,
General Staff,
1st A. & N. Z. Army Corps.

ISMAILIA,

16 .3.1916.

Acknowledge.

2 Copies *Anglo Hill Down*
Cop

1 copy *Dile*1 copy *Capt Macaulay*1 copy *No 14 Sq R.F.C.*

ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION

ORDER FOR RECONNAISSANCE OF WADI UM MUKHSHEIB

Divisional Head Quarters,
SERAPHEUM,
19th March 1916.

8
References 1 100000 map.

- 1. - A reconnaissance has been ordered of the WADI UM MUKHSHEIB.
- 2. - It will take place on the 21st and 22nd March.
- 3. - The object is to get information on the following points :-
 - (a) Condition of water supply at MOIYA HARAB and EL KASSIF, (2 1/2 miles due south of MOIYA HARAB).
 - (b) Nature of enemy works reported to have been seen by Capt. Melligan at point 1370 (417) in square F5, on the 10th March.
 - (c) Tracks of enemy patrols.
 - (d) Extent to which country is being used for grazing by friendly Bedouins.
 - (e) miscellaneous.

- 4. - G.O.C. 3rd. Light Horse Brigade will detail the party to carry out this reconnaissance, and appoint its commander. Strength of the party will be as follows:-

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------------|-----------------|
| For Officers' Patrols | - | 3 Officers, | 18 Other Ranks. |
| For supporting party | - | 5 " " | 47 " " " |

- 5. - In addition to the above there will be :-
 - Medical Officer and Orderly, who will be detailed by 3rd. Light Horse Field Ambulance. Two camels carrying panniers for possible casualties must be taken and march with the rest of the camels.
 - Captain McCaulay, 1st A. & N.Z. A. C. General Staff, and 2 Bedouin guides.
 - 2 Officers and 2 Other Ranks Royal Flying Corps.

- 6. - ~~The 2 officers and 2 other ranks Royal Flying Corps will be mounted on camels provided by the Bikanir Camel Corps. The G.O.C. 3rd. Light Horse Brigade will detail horses for Captain McCaulay and 2 guides, also 4 camels from the Bikanir Camel Corps for the 2 officers and 2 other ranks Royal Flying Corps, and an N.C.O., and 2 men of the Bikanir Camel Corps in charge of these.~~

the G.O.C. 3rd. LH Bde will provide 4 horses. 2 W/O's & 2 other ranks R.F.C.

- 7. - The whole party will assemble at Railhead not later than 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21st.
- 8. - For feeding and watering, the G.O.C. Camel Transport Corps has been asked to provide camels to carry food and water for the party. These camels will be divided into two parties, the first party to provide food and water for Tuesday night and Wednesday morning; the second party to provide food and water for the reconnoitring Party before the return journey begins. An escort of one N.C.O. and 9 rank and file will be required for each of the two parties. This will make two N.C.O.'s, and 18 men additional to the reconnoitring party. They will be detailed by the G.O.C. 3rd. Light Horse Brigade.

9

- 2 -

9. - All the camels with food and water, those carrying the two Officers and two rank and file Royal Flying Corps, together with the escorts will leave Railhead at 2 p.m. on Tuesday 21st march, and march to EL TRILA. The reconnoitring party will leave Railhead at 3 p.m. and march to EL TRILA where they will pick up the camels and escorts and march to camp in the WADI UM MUKHSHEIB. The O.C. party will decide on the position for this camp remembering that a reconnaissance of the ground to the front has to be carried out next day, and a long march back to Railhead.
10. - The O.C. Camel Transport Corps will detail such extra camels as are required to carry food for camels and taking out food and water for the party, and food and water for their drivers. These should accompany the camels and escorts which leave Railhead at 2 p.m.
11. - On Wednesday, march 22nd, the following moves take place :-
 - (a) The water and food carried by the first party of camels will be used up. They will march straight to Railhead with their escort.
 - (b) The second party of camels with water and forage to be used by the party after completing their reconnaissance and before their march home, will be left with their escort at some place to be chosen by the O.C. reconnoitring party.
 - (c) The reconnoitring party will carry out the reconnaissance required. On completion, the party will be collected and the food and water used up, and, after a short halt, the whole party will march straight back to Railhead.
12. - 150 rounds S.A.A. will be carried per man.
13. - The O.C. party should furnish a report on all points which have come to his notice, as to how the arrangements for food and water worked, condition of horses, etc.
14. *The O.C. Camel Transport corps will provide 2 camels to take wireless apparatus accompanying the Officers & other ranks. R.F.C.*

J. R. Pitt-Rivers
 Lieut.-Colonel,
 General Staff,
 ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION.

Copies to:

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| G.O.C. 3rd L.M.Bde. | 1. |
| O.C. Party | 1. |
| Capt. MacGulay | 1. |
| Office. | 3. |
| O.C. Camel T. Corps. | 1. |
| H.Q. 1st ANZAC. | 1. |

ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION.ORDER FOR RECONNAISSANCE OF WADI UM BUKHSHEIB.INSTRUCTIONS TO THE G.C. Patrol.

Divisional Head Quarters,
SERAPHEUM,
19th. March 1916.

1. - Loose camels which appear to belong to friendly natives should not be interfered with.
2. - Natives met with should be kept in custody till reconnaissance is withdrawn when, if not of a suspicious character, they can be liberated at a distance from our lines.
3. - suspicious characters must be blindfolded.
4. - Lieut. Macaulay, G.S.O. 3, 1st. A. & N. 2. A. C., can act as Arabic interpreter.

Lieut.colonel
General Staff,
ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION.

AND SIGNALS. No. of Message

Appendix 4

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

See

At

To

By

(Signature of Stationing Officer)

TO

1ST ANZAC

ISMAILIA

Sender's Number.

Day of Month.

In reply to Number.

*

4.17

27

AAA

Operation report
 aaa Reconnaissance
 party left as follows
 aaa Camels and cart at
 1145 remainder party
 1300 aaa Work done in
 front line 456 yards of
 entanglement completed
 at 1183 post remainder
 of line work of repair
 and construction of benches
 aa

K/13

From

Anzac Mt Division

Place

Scrapum

Time

0730

The above may be forwarded as now corrected

(Z)

Censor.

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

* This line should be erased if not required.

Sch. 4a. Appendix No. 5 "A" Form.

C.M. Form A. 39. Army Form C. 2121. No. of Message

MESSAGES AND SIGNALS.

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

Handwritten circled number 154

TO 1st Anzac Ismailia

Sender's Number. * 154 Day of Month. 23 In reply to Number AAA

Morning operation report aas
 Good progress made
 with trenches. work aas
 reconnaissance returned
 early this morning aas

From Anzac M. D.
 Place 0 Serapeum.
 Time 0810
 The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z) H-Cd

Handwritten signature

14
SECRET.

ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION.

APPENDIX 1B
6

Divisional Headquarters,
SERAPEUM,
24th. March 1916.

R E P O R T.

on

A RECONNAISSANCE OF THE WADI UM MUKHSHEIB WITH THE OBJECT OF OBTAINING INFORMATION
ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

- (a) Condition of Water Supply at MOIYA HARAB.
 - (b) Nature of enemy works reported to have been seen by Captain Nelligan at point 1370 (417) in square F5, on March 10th.
 - (c) Tracks of enemy patrols.
 - (d) Extent to which country is being used for grazing by friendly Bedouins.
 - (e) Miscellaneous.
-

15

ROUTE.

Leaving Rail-head, crossed the Front Line about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile South of 'C' Sqdn., -No.3 Post - 10th Light Horse, thence East to point 580, A3, where the three Brigade signallers established a post until 2100. Turning slightly to the South of East continued as a general direction to point 600 (183 B4., where the party went into camp (Camp No.1), avoiding high ground and sand drifts necessitated here and elsewhere throughout the reconnaissance frequent deviations from the general course too numerous to follow in detail. (These deviations made the actual course travelled approximately 10% greater than the distance shown on the map between the specific points. From point 600 the route was south-East, past point 680 (207) C4., thence more to the East. Point 810 (247) D4., lay half-mile N.E. at the nearest point, and point 850 (259) D4., about half-mile to the S.E., when the party made a temporary halt owing to the camels being too fatigued to continue. Leaving the halting ground, the party proceeded slightly South of East until the WADI UM MUKHSHEIB was reached at the nearest trees. There Camp 2 was formed. The camels and supports remained there until the patrols had done their work. The patrols followed the WADI to within two miles of the main range. No. 1 patrol then struck E.N.E. to 1370 (417) F5., and after its reconnaissance turned nearly West and entered the WADI at the bend four miles from 1370, E5. It then followed the WADI to Camp No 2. Patrol No 2 continued along the WADI until it reached the well called by the guide "HAGHASSAN", where it halted. Captain Macaulay and two troopers continued on for another $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles until they reached a second well. They then rejoined their patrol and returned to camp 2 along the WADI. From Camp 2 the outgoing tracks were followed all the way except for a slight deviation near point 810, D4., which lay 200 yards to the right of the route at the nearest point. The old tracks were regained two miles further along, and were followed to Hill 600, B4. There communication was established with the Brigade signallers on point 580, A3. From Hill 600 (camp 1) the party followed the old tracks back to Rail-head.

ACCOUNT OF THE RECONNAISSANCE.

No. 1 patrol searched the vicinity of 1370, F5., very carefully beginning with point 383. The ground rises considerably as the main range is approached and every little knoll and headland has a small defensive position built with stones - (these are old, having been built perhaps a year ago). These would accommodate from two to eight men. In the heads of the WADI several old rifle pits are to be seen, suitable for outposts of from 20-30 men. All these defence works are old. There are no signs of recent construction or use. There are many old camel pads in this locality passing in all directions and camel manure lies thickly on the ground in some places. No tracks of enemy patrols were visible, throughout the whole march. No.2 Patrol found the MOIYA HARAB well. It is situated in one of the heads of the WADI UM MUKHSHEIB. It is 32' x 20' and contains 12' of water; total depth of well, 17'. Five old cisterns were visited by Captain Macaulay $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles North-East of MOIYA HARAB. Two of these contained a little water; three were dry. The water appeared to be of excellent quality and to be derived from soakage from the hills

OBSERVATIONS.

After passing Hill 580, A3., the country becomes much more level and carries a good deal of small stunted scrub on which camels graze. The hills shown on the map, as far as could be seen, were all clean sand dunes until we reached the WADI. The trees shown on the maps are very similar to the Australian Oak, and grow to about 15' - 20' high. With the exception of the fourteen and one camels (grazing) seen at our two

16

main halting places respectively, the party saw no camels. The tracks of one camel (about an hour old) were seen travelling in a northerly direction about two miles West at point 1370, F5. Near the same spot the patrols saw, while going out, the tracks of two natives bearing South, and while returning No. 2 Patrol saw a native about a mile to the South evidently watching No. 1 Patrol which ~~which~~ was in the Wadi some two miles ahead. The country all the way from point 580, A3., to the main range provides rough grazing for camels. Several gazelle and hares of a small variety were seen. The camel-herd, taken at 600 B4., Camp No. 1, who appeared to be unusually dense and stupid, was terrified when taken into camp, but kindly treatment somewhat dispelled his fears. He ate biscuits given to him by the troopers to an extent very far beyond the capacity of ordinary mankind, and eagerly accepted a parcel of extra biscuits contributed by the troopers. The Herd stated that he had been in that locality in charge of the 14 camels for two months; he had subsisted entirely on camels milk and had seen no one but peaceful Bedouins of friendly tribes. Numerous heaps of old kerosene tins, cast-off Turkish clothing and old boots, pieces of tents and canvas, and at one spot three large milk-cans, capacity about 15 gallons are strewn in heaps in the WADI in square E4. On approaching the main range, numerous small iron stones cover the surface of the ground. In the foothills there is a strata of lime stone, but the main ranges are largely iron stone with what appears to be diorite seams running through and curious honey-combed patches. There is no timber in or on the ranges. Considerable soakage appears to come from these ranges. Nearly all the little gulleys leading into the main WADI show damp patches in which green scrub and grass are to be seen. An old graveyard, not recently used for burial, rows of stones across comparatively fertile patches of loamy sand, some old dams and one apparently constructed or renovated within the last few years, tell of habitation now ceased. Near the ranges numerous camel pads are to be seen, but none of these have been used since the rainfall last Saturday. No sign of water was to be seen between Rail-head and the iron-stone ranges.

The camels and escorts left Rail-head at 1130, 21/3/1916. Two R.F.C. Officers, escorted by Lieut. Watt and 6 men, left Rail-head at 1330. The main party left Rail-head at 1415; after three hours march the main body overtook the camels. Lieut. Watt's party had overtaken the camels half an hour earlier. An aeroplane had dropped a report of its reconnaissance saying that all was clear ahead of the party, and after seeing that the Escort to the camels had secured the message, passed over the main body near Hill 580. This aeroplane gave further reports on next morning and evening and enabled the party to minimise the work of the horses in scouting. On arrival at the halting place at 2 a.m. the wireless operators endeavoured to report to Brigade Headquarters, but one of the cylinders had been injured in transit and the message could not be completed. Repair were effected later. Outposts were maintained at every camp. A report was made at camp No. 1 by Lieut. Macpherson that a party with camels could be seen in the fading light three miles Northward, travelling west. There appeared to be about 20 camels.

STRENGTH.

| <u>DUTY.</u> | <u>PERSONNEL</u> | | <u>UNIT.</u> |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| | <u>OFFICERS</u> | <u>O.R.</u> | |
| C.O. | 1 | - | 8th Light Horse, 3rd Brigade. |
| Patrols | 3 | 18 | |
| Supporting Party. | 3 | 47 | |
| Escorts to Camels. | - | 20 | |
| Intelligence | 1 | 2 | Div. Staff. |
| Medical | 1 | 1 | Div. Staff. |
| Observation | 2 | - | Royal Flying Corps. |
| Wireless | 2 | 2 | staff. |
| Transport | 2 | 2 | Staff. |
| Interpreters | - | 2 | Bikanir Camel Corps. |
| | 15. | 94 | = 109 |

Included in the above were :-

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Signallers, | 3 |
| Shoeing Smiths, | 1 |

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| <u>Horses.</u> | |
| Riding | 109 |
| Spare | 2 |
| | <u>111</u> |

CAMELS.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| For reconnoitring party - water, first day, | 19. |
| " " second " | 28. |
| Forage - | 10. |
| Rations - | 2. |
| | <u>59</u> |
| For wireless - | 13. |
| " Camel Corps | 17. |
| | <u>30</u> |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>89</u> |

REPORT OF O.C. CAMEL TRANSPORT .

Reconnaissance to MOIYA HARAB 21 - 22/3/1916.

To Brigade Major,
3rd L.H. Brigade. 23/3/16

Mr Elworth mentioned to me that you would like a report on this. I only called at Rail-head at 4 a.m. to change horses to-day and came practically straight on here; but will call on you the next time I go out in a day or two. Mr Silley was in charge of the camels, but I think I had better say a word about the itinerary. This was :-

| | | | |
|----------|---------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 21/3/16. | Started | 11.15 a.m. approx.) | } Marching time 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours, during which they did not halt for more than $\frac{1}{2}$ h |
| | Stopped | 18.00 " | |
| | Started | 20.30 " | } Marching time 5 hours, no halts. |
| | Stopped | 1.30 " | |
| 22/3/16. | Started | 5.30 " | } About one hour. I can't be positive about times. |
| | Stopped | 6.30 " | |
| 1st Det. | Started | 9.30/10.10 ϕ | } These times I can't vouch for as I did not see them start or stop. |
| | Stopped | 17.00 ϕ | |
| | Started | 21.00 | } 7 hours or rather under. I saw these start but not stop. |
| | Stopped | 4.30 23/3/16 ϕ | |
| 2nd Det. | Started | 15.30 22/3/16. | } 5 hours. |
| | Stopped | 20.30 | |
| | Started | 23.00 | } 6 hours. |
| | Stopped | 5.00 23/3/16. ϕ (I believe) | |

ϕ - These times are what I was told, as, for various reasons, I did not see them start or stop. - Principally because I could not be in two places at the same time.

What I wish to emphasize is that these hours of march are too long. Of course the reconnaissance could not have been made in the time without pushing the camels, and accordingly we pushed them; but, as a general rule, camels should not march for more than four hours at a stretch, after which strictly speaking they should have the loads off. This last was done in the case of most animals, as of course the loads were required for the use of men and horses at each halt. It must also be remembered that the drivers have to walk. Again, 15 Miles perday (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.p.h.) is a good average march and also during the 4 hours, $\frac{1}{4}$ hour or $\frac{1}{2}$ hour should be allowed for rest. A camel is a very slow and generally uneconomical animal and I suggest that allowance should be made for this fact in the timing of future reconnaissances. The camels used for this reconnaissance were picked animals and apart from considerable signs of fatigue on the night march of 21/3/16, when one had to be left behind, he was picked up all right next day, came home all right. If an average lot from the company had gone out, they would certainly have given considerable trouble on account of exhaustion.

(signed) P.W.Surri Major.

H.Q.M.D.

I am informed by the O.C. Reconnaissance that the camels felt the march very much and got back very done up: but the itinerary was fixed by higher authority and had to be adhered to so far as possible. As it was the camels could not be got to ET TEILA by the time fixed, by 5 miles, (the first days march) I am of the opinion that the views expressed above are sound.

(signed) W. Antill, Brig-General.
G.O.C. 3rd L.H. Brigade

23/3/1916.

19
From Headquarters,
3rd A.L.H. Brigade,
Rail-Head.

To Headquarters,
Anzac Mounted Division.

Herewith report on reconnaissance of WADI UM
MUKHSHEIB ordered by 1st A. & N.Z. Army Corps, dated 19th March.

- indices
- A. ~~Appendices~~ Operation Orders No. 3 and 4, by G. O. C., 3rd Light Horse Brigade.
 - B. Report of the Officer Commanding Reconnoitring party, Captain A.E. Wearne, 8th L.H. Regiment.
 - C. Report by O.C., Camel Corps.
 - D. Map showing route (reference Map C.19, 1/100,000.)

1. In forwarding this Report I desire to point out that the distance traversed was roughly about 80 miles, and the time of absence of the Column, including halts, 37 hours, which may be considered, I think, as a very excellent performance by all concerned.
2. It was not until 1100 on the 22nd inst. that Wireless connection was established, owing to a defect in the Condenser Tube of the Wireless carried on transport. From thence out connection was maintained.
3. From the Report itself, and from conversation with Captain Wearne, it would appear that there has been of late neither reconnaissance or occupation of the vicinity about GEBEL UMM MUKHSHEIB, nor were any traces of the enemy to be found indicating his occupancy of positions thereabout. The defensive positions, Rifle Pits etc., referred to were evidently constructed a very considerable time ago, and have not of late been used or improved, and it is Captain Wearne's opinion that this locality has been abandoned, if it was ever occupied.

He informs me that the Work reported by Captain Nelligan was apparently remains, or walls, of an old building, and that no traces could be found of anything else in the way of Works.

4. Attention is invited to the report of the Officer commanding Camels ~~s~~ marked "C", and it would appear that too much was expected of these animals which came in very fatigued and knocked out.

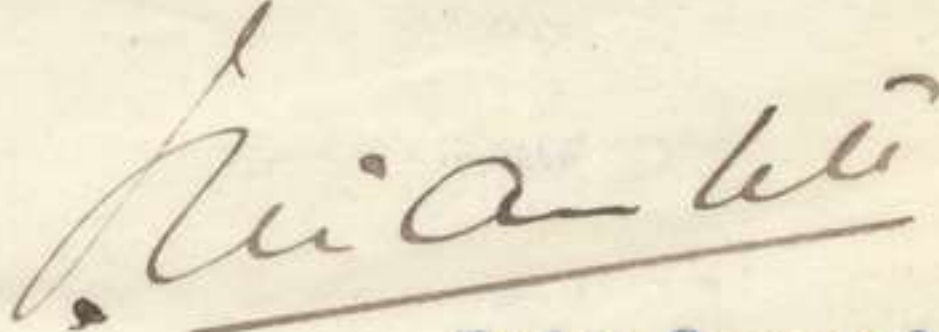
5. I personally inspected the detachment on its return to Rail-Head. There were no casualties, man or horse. The men themselves took great interest in the task allotted to them, and were not unduly fatigued. The horses were bright and fresh and did their work well., evidencing good horse-mastership

On the whole I think it may be considered that the officer in command of the reconnoitring party, and other ranks, carried out their duties carefully and thoroughly.

Captain Wearne has been known to me for many years, and served under my command in South Africa through the War, being often employed in a similar duty. I have every confidence in his judgment.

The report has been rather hurriedly prepared owing to natural fatigue and undue strain placed upon him, but in the main it appears to embrace all the information which he was required to collect.

Rail-Head.
23.3.16.


Brig-General.
G.O.C., 3rd A.L.H. Brigade.

OPERATION ORDER NO. 3.

By
Brigadier-General J.M. Antill, C.B.,
G. O. C., 3rd A. L. H. Brigade.

RAIL-HEAD.
20th March '16

Reference Map C 19, 1/100,000.

INTENTION. 1. A reconnaissance of the WADI UM MUKHSEIB is to be carried out on the 21st and 22nd of March, with the object of obtaining information on the following points :-

- (a) Condition of water supply at MOIYA HARAB and EL KASIF 2½ miles due South of MOIYA HARAB.
- (b) Nature of enemy works reported to have been seen by Captain Nelligan at point 1370 (417) in Square F5 on the 10th March.
- (c) Tracks of enemy patrols.
- (d) Extent to which country is being used for grazing by friendly Bedouins.
- (e) Miscellaneous.

DETAIL OF TROOPS.

- 2. A. C.O. 8th Light Horse Regiment will detail :-
 - (1) The party to carry out this reconnaissance. Strength of party will be as follows :-
 - For officers patrols - 3 officers, 18 other ranks.
 - For supporting party - 3 " 47 " "
 Captain A.E. Wearne will command the party.
One Farrier is to be included in the above.
 - (2) Two escorts for Camel Transport Parties each consisting of one N.C.O. and 9 other ranks.
One of the above N.C.O.'s will be a Quartermaster Sergeant who will be responsible for the issuing of supplies.
- B. C.O. 3rd L.H. Field Ambulance will detail :-
One Medical Officer and Orderly to accompany the party.
- C. In addition to the above there will be :-
 - (1) Captain MacCaulay, 1st A. & N.Z. A.C. General Staff and 2 Bedouin Guides.
 - (2) 2 Officers and 2 other ranks Royal Flying Corps.
O.C. 8th L.H. Regt. will detail 4 horses for their use.

*one Bedouin
to be included
by 3rd L.H. Bde.*

DETAIL OF TRANSPORT.

- 3. C.O. Camel Transport will provide :-
 - (1) Camels to carry food and water for the reconnoitring party. These camels will be divided into two parties. The first party to provide forage, food and water, for Tuesday night and Wednesday morning; the second party to provide forage, food and water, for the reconnoitring party before the return journey begins.
 - (2) Such extra camels as are required to carry forage for camels, and take out food and water for the party, and food and water for their drivers.
 - (3) 2 Camels to carry cacolets in case of casualties. These will be in charge of the Medical Officer.

STARTING POINT.

- 4. 3rd A.L.H. Brigade Headquarters.

MOVEMENT OF TROOPS.

1st Day
21.3.16.

Party will assemble at Starting Point at 1345.
All camels with their escorts, also Medical Officer and Orderly, will leave Starting Point at 1400 on March 21st. and march to ET TEILA.

1045

1100

arranged today 2 for writers.

The reconnoitring party will leave Starting Point at 1500 and march to ET TEILA, picking up camels and escorts on the way, and the whole will then proceed to WADI UM MUKHSHEEB, where they will bivouack for the night.

BIVOUCAC 6. WADI UM MUKHSHEEB. The O.C. party will decide on the position for this Camp, remembering that a reconnaissance of the ground to the front has to be carried out next day, and a long march back to RAIL-HEAD.

MOVEMENT OF TROOPS 7. The following moves take place :-
2nd Day
22.3.16.

(1) The water and food carried by the first party of camels will be used up. They will then march straight to Rail-Head with escort.

(2) The second party of camels with water and forage to be used by the party after completing their reconnaissance, and before their march home, will be left with their escort at some place to be chosen by the O.C. reconnoitring party.

(3) The reconnoitring party will carry out the reconnaissance required. On completion it will be concentrated, the food and water used up, and after a short halt the whole party will march straight back to Rail-Head, or if O.C. deems desirable may halt on front line, communicating with B.H.Q.

SUPPLIES. 8. O.C. Supply Depot, Rail-Head, will arrange for the following supplies to be carried on the camels :-

(1) Rations, forage, and water for three meals, for men, horses and camels.

(2) All ranks will carry one emergency ration, and waterbottles will be filled.

(3) One feed will be carried on the horse.

DRESS. 9 Marching Order less blankets. Officers will carry good glasses, and as many prismatic compasses as possible. An empty sandbag will be carried instead of picketing gear.

AMMUNITION. 10. 150 rounds S.A.A. will be carried per man.

COMMUNICATIONS. 11. 3 Signallers carrying Helios, Lamps, and Flags, will be included in the supporting party.
C.O. Signals will endeavour to establish communications with reconnoitring party during the night of Wednesday March 22nd.
On getting into touch he will at once report the same to Brigade Headquarters.

REPORTS. 12. The O.C. party will furnish a report on all points which come to his notice, as to how the arrangements for food and water worked, condition of the horses, and in regard to the object for which he was sent out, and any other points which may come under his notice.

(sgd) C.C. Dangar, Captain.
Brigade Major,
3rd A.L.H. Brigade.

Copy No. 1. Office.
2 Anzac Mtd. Division.
3. 8th L.H. Regt.
4 9th L.H. Regt.
5 10th L.H. Regt.
6 Captain Wearne.
7. O.C. Camel Trans. Corps.

8. O.C. Supply Depot.
9. O.C. Field Ambulance.

THIRD LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE.

Copy No.....

OPERATION ORDER NO. 4

By

Brigadier-General J.M. Antill, C.B.,
G. O. C., 3rd A. L. H. Brigade.RAIL-HEAD.
20th March '16.

In continuation of Operation Order No 3 :-

- ATTENTION. 1. Reference Para 1, subsection a, EL KASIF is expunged.
- DETAIL OF TROOPS. 2. O.C., 8th L.H. Regiment will detail one horse for use of a Sheik Interpreter. One Bikanir Camel man who is acquainted with the BIR EL MURRA MOIYA HARAB ROAD, with Interpreter also mounted on a Bikanir Camel, will accompany the Camel Train and escort, reporting to 3rd L.H. Brigade Headquarters at 1030.
- DETAIL OF TRANSPORT. 3. O.C. Camel Transport will provide 2 camels for use of Wireless, to be ready to load off Motor Lorry at 1030.
- MOVEMENT OF TROOPS. 4. Reference para 5, Operation Order No. 3. The hours therein mentioned are cancelled, and the following substituted:-
Assemble at Starting Point at 1045.
Leave Starting Point at 1100.
The reconnoitring party will leave Starting Point at 1400.
Forward Party (Camels and escort) to stop at 1700 unless picked up by the reconnoitring party.
- SUPPLIES. 5. O.C. Supply Depot will make provision for the extra personnel mentioned.

(sgd) C.C. Dangar, Captain.
Brigade Major, 3rd A.L.H. Brigade.

- Copy No. 1. Office.
2 Anzac Mounted Div.
3. 8th L.H. Regt.
4. 9th L.H. Regt.
5 10th L.H. Regt.
6 Captain Wearne.
7. O.C. Camel Transport.
8. O.C. Supply Depot.
9. O.C. Field Ambulance.

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APPENDIX 7

Copy No. 12 25

ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION, ORDER No. 1.

- by -

Major-General H. G. CHAUVEL, C.B., C.M.G.,
Commanding ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION.

Divisional Headquarters,
SERAPEUM.
26th March 1916.

MOVES.

1. - The 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION will move to the Canal, and will occupy "A" SUBSECTION.
First Troops due 28th March; last on 3rd April, 1916.
2. - Troops on arrival will be accommodated in the staging Camp at SERAPEUM.
3. - The Artillery personnel, (less one Brigade), will be moved at a later date by rail to SERAPEUM.
4. - On arrival, G.O.C., 4th Division will assume command of "A" Subsection.

J.G. BROWNE, Lieutenant-Colonel,
General Staff,
ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION.

| <u>Copy No.</u> | <u>Issued to.</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | File |
| 2 | A. |
| 3 | G. |
| 4 | 1st L.H.Bde. |
| 5 | 2nd " |
| 6 | 3rd " |
| 7 | N.Z.M.R.Bde. |
| 8 | 1/1 Ayrshire Battery. |
| 9 | 1/1 Somerset " |
| 10 | 14th A.T.Co., R.E. |
| 11 | Det. 1st R.A.M.B.Train. |
| 12 | War Diary. |

Issued at 2100, 26.3.1916.

W.P.S.

75
ROUTINE ORDER No. 14.

by

Major-General H. G. CHAUVEL, C.B., C.M.G.
Commanding ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION.

Serapeum,
30th March 1916.

GENERAL STAFF BRANCH.

- DEFENCES. 4. Major-General Sir H.V. COX, K.C.M.G., Commanding 4th Australian Division, assumed command of "A" Subsection, No.2 Section, Canal Defences, from 6 p.m. on the 29/3/1916.
All reports etc., affecting area will be sent in future to Headquarters, 4th Australian Division, SERAPEUM.

J.G. BROWNE, Lieut-Colonel
General Staff.

ADJUTANT AND QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S BRANCH.

- REVERSION. 56. No.4, Corporal R.H. Carroll reverts to the ranks at his own request from 15/3/1916.

- TRANSFERS. 57. The following transfers (provisional) have been made to Headquarters ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION. from 30/3/1916. :-
No. 672 L/Sergt. H.D. Parry-Okeden, from 2nd L.H. Brigade.
No. 923 L/Cpl. H. Hardley, from 3rd L.H. Brigade Train.
No. 866 Pte. H.D. Davies, from 3rd L.H. Brigade Amb.
No. 6462 Pte. G.C.S. Grant, from 3rd L.H. Brigade Amb.

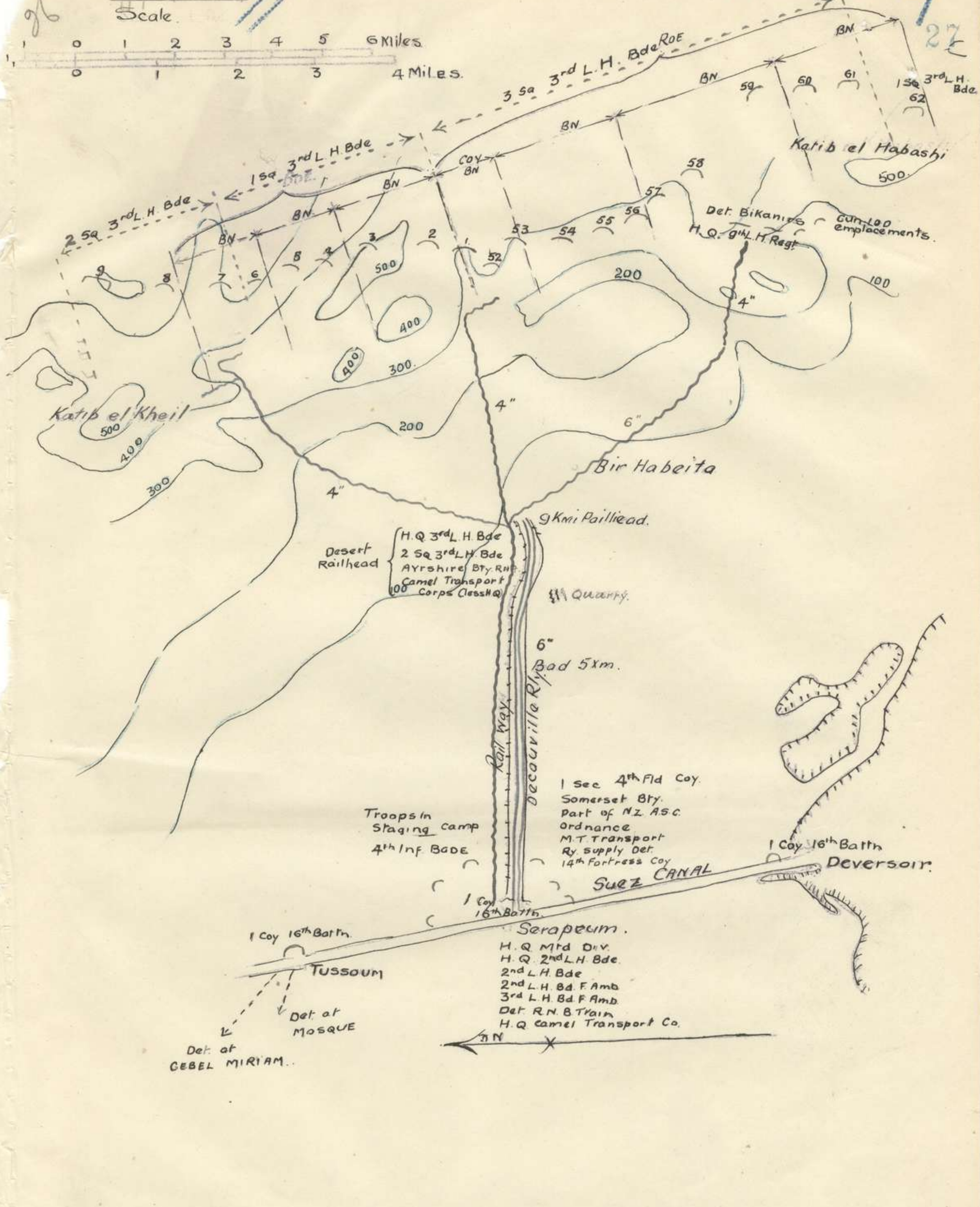
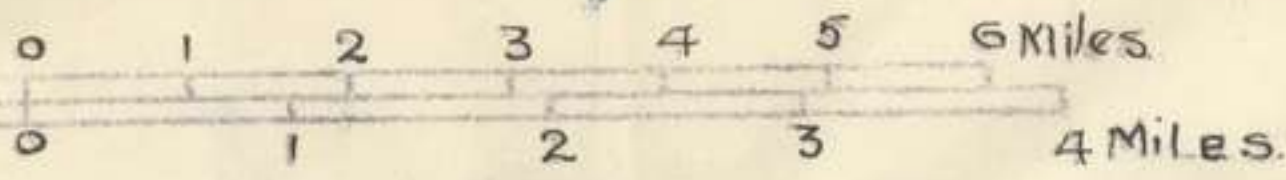
- ORDERS. 58. G.R.O. dated 27th and 28th March 1916, and A.I.F. Orders dated 25/3/1916, with list 45, Appointments, etc., have been issued to Divisional Units.

- INDENTS FOR S.A.A. 59. Indents for S.A.A. (ball .303) for Mark VI rifle, to complete establishment, should be submitted to D.A.D.O.S. at once, supplies now being available.

G.G. POWLES, Lieut-Colonel,
A.A. & Q.M.G.

Appendix 26
8

Scale.



← N.Z.M.R. In B Section.

SKETCH MAP
SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF TROOPS.
ANZAC MTD DIVN