

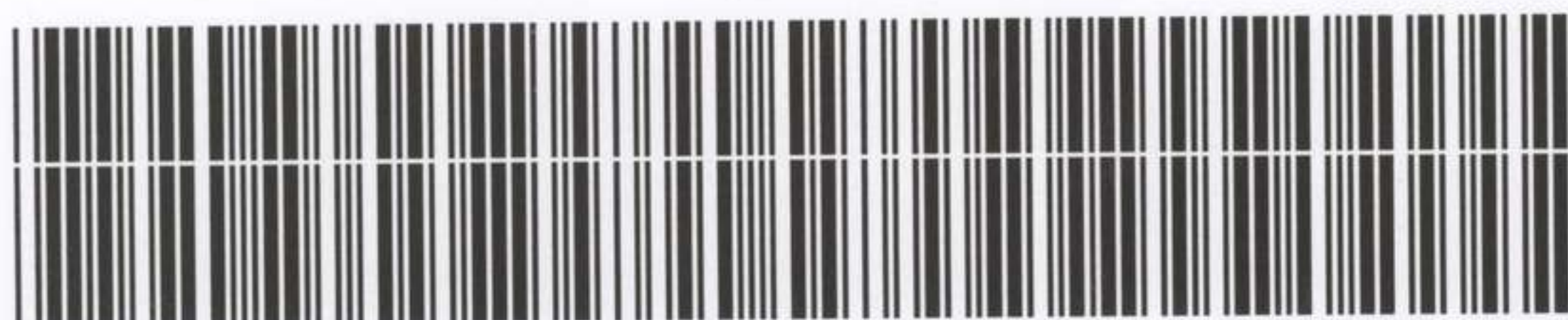
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Formation Headquarters

Item number: 1/54/11 Part 1

Title: Intelligence, Headquarters New
Zealand and Australian Division

February 1916



AWM4-1/54/11PART1

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.

(Erase heading not required).

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
Tues. 1 st Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary of 1 st Feb. received Ig Report No 443 ISMAILIA of 1 st Feb received	Fa 1 Fc 1
Wed 2 nd Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary of 2 nd Feb. received Ig Report No 450 ISMAILIA of 2 nd Feb received.	Fa 2 Fc 2
Thurs 3 rd Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary of 3 rd Feb. received Ig Report No 451 ISMAILIA of 3 rd Feb received	Fa 3 Fc 3
Fri. 4 th Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary of 4 th Feb. received Ig Report No 452 ISMAILIA of 4 th Feb received	Fa 4 Fc 4
Sat 5 th Feb. 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary of 5 th Feb received Ig Report No 453 ISMAILIA of 5 th Feb received CAIRO Ig Summary of 5 th Feb received	Fa 5 Fc 5 Fb 1
SUN 6 th Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary of 6 th Feb received CAIRO - - - sketch Map of South MAUDSDIA Ig Report No 454 of 6 th Feb received	Fa 6 Fa 7 Fb 2 Fc 6
MON 7 th Feb 1916	CAIRO Ig Summary of 7 th Feb received Ig Report No 455 ISMAILIA of 7 th Feb received	Fb 3 Fc 7
TUES 8 th Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary of 8th Feb received CAIRO Ig Report No 456 of 8 th Feb received	Fa 7 Fc 4

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OF
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
 (Erase heading not required).

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
Wed. 9 th Feb. 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary of 9 th Feb. received CAIRO — — — — — Ig Report No 457 ISMAILIA received	Fa 8 Fl 5 FC 9
THURS 10 th Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary of 10 th Feb. received CAIRO — — — — — Ig Report No 458 ISMAILIA of 10 th Feb received	Fa 9 Fl 6 FC 10
FRI. 11 th Feb. 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary of 11 th Feb. received CAIRO — — — — — Ig Report No 459 ISMAILIA of 11 th Feb. received	Fa 10 Fl 7 FC 11
SAT. 12 th Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary of 12 th Feb. received CAIRO — — — — — Ig Report No 460 ISMAILIA of 12 th Feb. received	Fa 11 Fl 8 FC 12
SUN. 13 th Feb. 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary of 13 th Feb. received CAIRO — — — — — Ig Report No 461 ISMAILIA of 13 th Feb. received	Fa 12 Fl 9 FC 13
MON. 14 th Feb 1916	CAIRO Ig Summary of 14 th Feb. received Ig Report No 462 ISMAILIA of 14 th Feb. received	Fa 13 Fl 10 FC 14
TUES. 15 th Feb. 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary of 15 th Feb. received CAIRO Ig Report No 463 ISMAILIA of 15 th Feb. received	Fa 14 Fl 10 FC 15

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WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.

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Gen. Staff
N.2. A Division

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
Wed 16 th Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary d/16 th Feb. received CAIRO — — — — — Ig Report NO 464 ISMAILIA received d/ 16 th Feb	Fa 15 Fb 11 Fc 16
THURS. 17 th Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary d/17 th Feb received CAIRO — — — — — Ig Report NO 465 ISMAILIA d/17 th Feb received	Fa 16 Fb 12 Fc 17
FRI. 18 th Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary d/18 th Feb. received CAIRO — — — — — Ig Report NO 466 ISMAILIA d/18 th Feb. received	Fa 17 Fb 13 Fc 18
SAT. 19 th Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary d/19 th Feb received CAIRO — — — — — Ig Report NO 467 ISMAILIA d/ 19 th Feb. received	Fa 18 Fb 14 Fc 19
SUN. 20 th Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary d/20 th Feb. received CAIRO — — — — — Ig Report NO 468 ISMAILIA d/20 th Feb received	Fa 19 Fb 15 Fc 20
MON 21 st Feb 1916	CAIRO Ig Summary d/21 st Feb received Ig Report NO 469 ISMAILIA d/21 st Feb received	Fa 20 Fb 16 Fc 21

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will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

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Gen. Staff
N2 A Division

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
TUES. 22 nd Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary d/22 nd Feb received CAIRO — — — — — Ig Report No 470 ISMAILIA d/22 nd Feb received	FA 20 FG 17 FC 22
WED. 23 rd Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary d/23 rd Feb received CAIRO — — — — — Ig Report No 471 ISMAILIA d/23 rd Feb received	FA 21 FG 18 FC 23
THURS 24 th Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary d/24 th Feb. received CAIRO — — — — — Ig Report No 472 ISMAILIA d/24 th Feb received	FA 22 FG 19 FC 24
FR. 25 th Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary d/25 th Feb. received CAIRO — — — — — Ig Report No 473 ISMAILIA d/25 th Feb received	FA 23 FG 20 FC 25
SAT 26 th Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary d/26 th Feb. received CAIRO — — — — — Ig Report No 474 ISMAILIA d/26 th Feb received	FA 24 FG 21 FC 26
SUN 27 th Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary d/27 th Feb received CAIRO — — — — — Ig Report No 475 ISMAILIA d/27th Feb received	FA 25 FG 22
MON. 28 th Feb 1916	CAIRO Ig Summary d/28 th Feb. received Ig Report No 475 d/28 th Feb ISMAILIA	FA 23 FC 27
TUES 29 th Feb 1916	G.H.Q. Ig Summary d/29 th Feb received CAIRO Ig Report No 476 d/29 th Feb ISMAILIA	FA 26 FG 24 FC 28

W.H. Hastings Captain
Gen. Staff
N.2. Div

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CONFIDENTIAL.No. 8.I N T E L L I G E N C E S U M M A R Y .1st February 1916.

1. SITUATION IN MACEDONIA.
2. NARATIVE OF OPERATIONS IN WESTERN DESERT,
 22nd - 25th Jany.
3. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE REPORT OF ROAD
 GAZA - BIR SABA.
4. WEATHER REPORT FOR DECEMBER IN THE AEGEAN.

Attached. ISMAILIA INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

AWR

1. SITUATION IN MACEDONIA.

Reports that the enemy's advance on SALONIKA will shortly take place have been more persistent during the last three days. The King of Greece is said to have informed the newly appointed Italian Naval Attache at ATHENS that the enemy would attack with sufficient force to ensure success. His Majesty confirmed positively that the Greeks would remain spectators, since formal guarantees had been given by the Central Powers that, at the completion of the operations, the Bulgarians would withdraw behind their own frontier. Should they not do so however, the mobilized Greek Army "would do its duty with enthusiasm".

From other reliable sources it is learnt that once again strong resentment has been manifested by the Greek Troops at DRAMA who view with great distrust the entrance of Bulgarian Troops into Greek territory. The Greek General Staff has also become alarmed; and it is proposed to withdraw the Greek Troops at, and west of SALONIKA to LARISSA, leaving only a small representative force in SALONIKA to await events.

The shortage of fuel on the MONASTIR line is stated to be the cause of this step. The Greek 5th Corps, lying to the N.E. of the Allied position, has also been ordered to be held in readiness to move.

The energetic action of the Allies in seizing, without warning, the Greek fort of KARA BURNU, about six kilometres S. of SALONIKA has caused a considerable amount of discussion but nothing more. The Greek Government has entered a protest, being powerless in this, as in other matters, to take any action. There is considerable speculation as to whether the Greeks will evacuate KAVALLA if so ordered by the

enemy; or whether the troops from DRAMA & SERRES will be withdrawn for its defence, being possibly reinforced by the 5th Corps mentioned above. Whatever action the Greeks decide on will probably not cause any dislocation of the enemy's operations.

The 2nd, 5th, 7th, 11th, and part of the 3rd Bulgarian Divisions remain concentrated in the centre, about GEVGELI - DOIRAN. The 8th and part of the 3rd, together with a number of second line troops, are at MONASTIR and in south ALBANIA. The 10th Bulgarian Division is on the N.E. Greek Frontier. The 1st, 6th and 9th Divisions, all of which suffered severe losses during the enemy's advance, either remain higher up the VARDAR, or partly withdrawn to refit and re-organize in Bulgaria. The German Divisions are concentrated, as far as is known, where last reported: two on the enemy right centre, and four in the Vardar Valley with detachments at STRUMNITZA & XANHI.

There is no further news of the Turkish Troops on the MARITZA.

Snow has fallen during the last week, and the difficulties of transport have thereby been increased.

Three days ago, thirteen French aeroplanes carried out a successful raid on a German - Bulgarian Camp N.W. of DOIRAN causing a panic and doing considerable damage. All the machines returned safely to SALONIKA.

2. NARRATIVE OF OPERATIONS IN WESTERN DESERT 22ND - 25TH JAN. 1916.

After the action of December 25th, the enemy's troops engaged retired west to the camp of SIDI AHMED, the Senussi Chief, where reinforcements and supplies were being collected for an intended attack on Egypt.

On January 19th our Air Service located this camp 23 miles west of MERJID, and reported it to contain some 300 European and Arab tents. Four gun emplacements were also observed.

The G.O.C. decided to attack this force as soon as possible in order to prevent further concentration, and, by striking a decisive blow, to discourage any wavering Arabs from joining the Senussi cause.

Our force left MERSA MATHUH on January 22nd and came into touch with the enemy 8 miles west of BIR SHOLA at eight a.m. on 23rd inst.

The enemy who were placed for the defence of this camp numbered some 4500 of whom about 2500 were trained and disciplined troops under Turkish Officers. They had four guns and several machine guns. NURI BEY, brother of ENVER PASHA was with them.

Our troops, operating in two columns, immediately attacked and drove back the enemy's centre, but in spite of our infantry advancing, continued attempts to drive in both our flanks were made. These were frustrated by our mounted troops, vigorously assisted by guns and reserve infantry.

The enemy losses are given by prisoners as considerably more than at MERJID, and were not less than 200 killed and 450 wounded, - our own casualties were about 31 killed and 255 wounded.

The prisoners also stated that SIDI AHMED, the Grand Senussi, being unaware of our presence, had decided to move south to SIWA, a base for the projected attack on Egypt, on the night of the 23rd. Consequently when we attacked the greater part of the baggage and tents were already packed for transport.

News of our advance was only received on the morning of the 23rd after sunrise, and SIDI AHMED fled westward with all his baggage and a small escort as soon as the first shot was fired, leaving his trained troops and a large number of Bedouins to cover his retreat.

Our operations were entirely successful in spite of the difficulties and hardships which had to be endured on account of weather conditions. In addition to actual losses, the enemy's moral suffered severely, and prisoners state that during the action hundreds of eastern Bedouins fled, deserting the Senussi cause altogether, having lost faith in his powers and being disgusted at the treatment they received from his Turkish Officers.

3. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, REPORT OF ROAD GAZA - BIR SABA.

The following report dated 30/1/16 has been received from H.M.S. BEN MY OHREE.

Reconnaissance BIR SABA completed. Road GAZA - BIR SABA extensive entrenching, 100 tents, several sheds and buildings 3 miles N.E. of TEL EL SHARIA bridge, very considerable encampments BIR SABA on all sides. Probably at least a Division in tents alone. Railway ends at BIR SABA;

ombankment continues towards ANJA; bridge over WADI SABA not completed.

200 camels leaving BIR SABA towards KHALASA. Railway Bridge N. of BIR SABA at ABU IRGEIG broken, apparently by floods, trains standing. Photos taken and detailed reports on return. Flying delayed on account of low clouds; propose to carry out remainder reconnaissance to-morrow. 2030.

4. WEATHER REPORT FOR DECEMBER IN THE AEGEAN.

During December pressure was much higher than usual over the Aegean, and the weather was mainly settled and fine, being only affected by one depression of any depth. This developed in the Western Mediterranean on 20th December and caused strong Southerly winds on the 21st.

A small depression also developed over the Aegean on the 26th, causing strong southerly winds on that date.

Strong northerly winds occurred on the 15th and 24th. On the former date winds were due to an anticyclone over Russia, and on the latter date to a depression which moved across the South of the Aegean.

PRESSURE.

The mean pressure of the month (30.12 ins) was well above the average (30.02 in). The absolute values recorded were:-

<u>HIGHEST.</u>		<u>LOWEST.</u>	
Value.	Date.	Value.	Date.
30.38 inches.	15th.	29.80 ins.	21st.

TEMPERATURE.

The mean temperature for the month (51.5°F) was above the normal (say 48.5°F).

The absolute values recorded were as follows:-

Value	<u>HIGHEST.</u>	Date.	Value.	<u>LOWEST.</u>	Date.
63.3		17th.	28.5		1st.

The minimum temperature of 28.5 occurred during the end of the storm which commenced towards the end of November otherwise the minimum temperature recorded was 41 F and occurred on the 25th.

The maximum diurnal range was 17.5 and occurred on the 2nd of December.

WIND.

Wind force 6 (& over) Beaufort scale occurred on 4 days during the month. On 2 days the strong winds were northerly and on 2 days southerly.

No winds of long duration and gale force (8) were experienced. The maximum velocity reached by southerly winds was 55 miles per hour on the 21st and by northerly winds 36 miles per hour on the 15th.

RAINFALL.

The rainfall during the month was 1.20 ins and of this P.83. fell in about 30 minutes during the storm of the 21st. The rain-squall was accompanied by a sharp rise in the barometric pressure and by a change in the direction of the wind from S.W. to W. On the cessation of the rain the wind again became S. Westerly, and pressure again began to fall.

The mean rainfall for December at Kavalla is 3.23 ins, at Salonica 1.27 ins, and at Athens 2.44 ins, so that probably the rainfall experienced is below the normal.

During the first 20 days of the month no rainfall was recorded. The number of rain days was only 2.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 449. ISMAILIA,

February 1st 1916.

Source of Intelligence.	INTELLIGENCE	REMARKS.
AGENT ISMAILIA 1.2.16.	Left Ismailia on 23rd inst for rail-head.	
	KATIB EL HENU 24th.	Nothing to report.
	GEBEL EL BARGA 24th.	From Gebel Hamaiyir, east very heavy rain. All wadis coming down in heavy spate.
	WADI KHARIG 25th.	
	" MASAGID "	
	" EL FAT'H "	
	Very much more rain has fallen north of Gebel Maghara than last year.	
	ES SIRR 25th. Heavy rain.	
	EL MAGDHABA 26th. Agent saw 40 tents from a distance. There was a little water running in wadi el Arish.	
	AUJA 26th. There was very heavy rain and nearly everyone was under shelter. Agent estimates the number of tents as something under 1,000. They are full of soldiers but he could not estimate their numbers.	
	RAIL-HEAD 27th. Rails are laid 4 paces south of the bridge over wadi Asluj. There are 2 lines of rails, the large gauge is on the embankment and measures nearly 92 centimetres between rails. Agent did not measure the gauge of the smaller line, which runs alongside the embankment to the east.	
	A motor road runs on the west of the embankment. All 3 cross wadi Asluj on one bridge which has two arches.	
	There is a heap of rails about 4ft 6 inches high by 7 metres by 3½, approximately and also a small heap of sleepers.	
	Agent did not see an engine or trucks on either line of rails. Men are working in a very half hearted way on the embankment in the heavy rain.	
	South of Auja 28th nothing but heavy rain.	
	Agent joined the motor road west of Auja and followed followed it to ABU AWEIGILA. Motor cars are using the road as far as ABU AWEIGILA. From there the road divides, one branch going north towards Magdhaba west bank of wadi El Arish and the other branch which Agent followed continues west as far as El Afeira.	
	It is said by Arabs that it is being made to Gebel Libni.	
	Wadi El Arish when Agent crossed it on 29th was in heavy flood. No attempt has been made to bridge the wadi.	
	Agent returned by the road he went out by.	
	Heavy rain was falling and all the wadis north of Gebel Maghara were in flood as far as Gebel Barga when the rain stopped.	
	NOTE.....Agent has hitherto proved reliable. A.W.J.B.	
AGENT ISMAILIA 1.2.16.	Agent employed as watchman at Bir El Giddi and Gebel Mukhaheib reports that no Turks have been there during the past month.	
	There has been much rain in the hills but very little water has come down in the wadis.	
	On the 26th January 3 Loheiwat Arabs came from the east to inspect the water supply.	
	Agent reports all the Khabrot dry in Wadi Mukhaheib (See Intelligence report 419, dated Jan 2nd) and wadi Giddi on the 30th ult. In wadi el Haj he heard that there was a pool 35 ft by 10 ft and 1 foot deep somewhere north of the "stone pillar" on the darb El Haj.	

C O R R E S T. INTELLIGENCE REPORT. No. 449. ISMAILIA, Feb 1st 1916. (PAGE 2.)

but he cannot define exact locality. As regards Gebel Mukhsheib (See Int. Report No. 421 dated Jan 4th) he reports as follows:-

There is about 2ft of water in three of the rock cisterns at Moliya Harab 30.1.16.

HARABA HASSAN MERSIN. Holds no water.

HARABA GUMA SALAAMA ABUULLA. Has a little water but not much.

EL NASIF. No water.

MISIC EL HUSAN. is full. 29.1.16.

HARABA UM MUKHSEIB. is full. 29.1.16.

MUAR. Three cisterns all full. 29.1.16.

BIRKET KERRIZA. A little water.

WADI DHALMA. A little water in the rocks up the wadi but none lower down.

UM HAMETA. A wadi north of Misic el Husan holds a quantity of water in the rock.
Size of pool, 15'x10'x 4'deep.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 9.

I N T E L L I G E N C E S U M M A R Y .

2nd FEBRUARY 1916.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
MEDITERRANEAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. SITUATION IN TURKEY & SYRIA.
2. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE REPORT OF S. PALESTINE RLY.
3. NEWS FROM SALONICA.

Attached ISMAILIA INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

1. THE SITUATION IN TURKEY & SYRIA.

(a) No further information is to hand which will enable us to locate definitely Divisions other than those mentioned in the Summary of January 29th.

Confirmation has been received of the formation of 4 new Divisions in the Constantinople area, though they are this time reported as being 12 Infantry Regiments.

The Gallipoli Army continues to disperse. In some cases it is reported as moving to Asia Minor, but there is evidence to show that some of its Divisions certainly have moved to CONSTANTINOPLE & THRACE (as stated in the Summary of Jan. 29th).

Anti-German sentiment is on the increase, although no-one dare make expression of it. The Turks are demanding large German forces to assist them in the invasion of Egypt - failing the provision of which, they insist that no German troops at all shall come into Turkey. It is possibly on this account that 5,000 Germans who arrived at Constantinople have, it is reported, been refused entry.

(b) Apparently all passenger traffic has been stopped on the Syrian railways in order to allow of "important troop movements southwards". The effect of this is not yet apparent on the S. border of Syria. Aerial reconnaissances place the enemy's forces in BIR SABA at a Division "in tents alone", but this has been established and the local garrison estimated at 13,000 for some time past. (A Turkish Division is approximately only some 8,000 strong).

There are no observed increases in the S. garrisons nor is there much activity being shown towards the formation of any big supply depots necessary for the prosecution of a successful attack on the Canal. Certain improvements in well digging are noted but nothing of great importance.

The Railway which has been reported by agents to be nearing ASLUJ is stated by the Royal Flying Corps to be in statu quo at BIR SABA and the bridge over the WADI SABA at that place is not yet completed. On the other hand, the embankment, without rails, is complete from BIR SABA to EL AUJA, so that it would not take very long to transfer railhead from BIR SABA to EL AUJA once work is commenced.

Possibly it is for this work that all road construction has been stopped in SINAI and all workmen concentrated at BIR SABA. On the other hand many washouts have occurred during the recent heavy rains and labour is equally necessary for repair work.

Great activity is being shown on the sea shores of S. Palestine, along the various better roads, along the railway, and at HAIFA and Mount CARMEL in the construction of defence works and entrenchments by the enemy.

At TEL KERAM (30 miles S. of HAIFA) this is notably so, so that it appears possible that, at present, the enemy's dispositions are those of a defensive nature adopted to repel a landing in Syria and that his movements southwards, as reported, are conforming to this attitude.

2. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE REPORT OF S. PALESTINE RAILWAY.

Following report has been received from H.M.S. "Ben-my-Uhree"
31.1.16:-

Reconnaissance of railway TUL KERAM completed. Only one train seen moving S. between 2 & 4 p.m. TUL KERAM strongly entrenched, stores and packs (parks?) of vehicles seen here. Principal camp RAMLEH.

NEWS FROM SALONICA.

The following extracts from a report are published for information. They deal with the general attitude of the Greek people with regard to recent firm measures adopted by the Allies:-

In some circles the arrests of the Consuls of the Central Powers have created an atmosphere of doubt and ill feeling. Generally speaking however the effect has been all that could be desired and the firm action, after a period of "laissez faire" (which was generally interpreted as weakness) has enhanced British and French prestige to a great degree.

The Greek army is showing signs of discontent and were the powerlessness of Germany to help it still more clearly emphasized and the starvation process more vigorously adopted, it is probable that the mutinous feeling would be materially encouraged.

In some of the islands there are manifestations of incipient revolt in the form of open demands for British occupation.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 450. ISMAILIA, February 2nd 1916.

Source of
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

AGENT
ISMAILIA
2.2.16.

Left Ismailia on 24th January for EL ARISH and RAFA.

WASET 25th Jan. Some Egeil Arabs told agent that on the 18th Von Kress Boy and "Tawfik", escorted by 100 soldiers on Camels and 12 horsemen, arrived at WASET from MAGEIBRA. They took shelter from the rain in the Egeil camp and later pushed on to KATIA. They were inspecting the water supply and the new wells.

BIR ABU AFEIN 25th. No Post. 4 new wells have been dug, water brackish. Agent heard that six new wells had been dug at Hod el Khibra.

BIR EL ABD 26th. 1 tent; 20 Syrian soldiers. 6 new wells, water more brackish than at Abu El Afein. Agent heard that there was a Post of 25 soldiers at Hod El Godaidia.

BIR EL MOSEIFIG 26th. 6 new wells, but very bitter water.

BIR EL MELHA 26th. No new wells. Old well has been cleared out.

BIR EL MAZAR 27th. 1 tent; 15 soldiers; 30 Arab well diggers. 3 new wells $1\frac{1}{2}$ metres deep, water bitter. Old well gives good water and is 5 metres deep.

BIR EL GERERAT 27th. No new wells, no Post.

On 28th Agent crossed wadi El Arish. It was in flood and the water was a half metre deep.

RAFA 28th. 30 tents and shelters. About 200 soldiers. 200 transport camels and 20 mules.

There is a continual movement of small parties of troops to and fro between Arish and Khan Yunis.

Agent saw from a distance a long trench dug on the sand dunes facing the sea. He saw 20 men near this trench.

Sawarka Arabs guard the coast which they patrol all night between posts about 5 miles apart.

On the way to El Arish on the 29th, agent met 25 soldiers escorting 6 mules loaded with ammunition cases, and going towards Khan Yunis.

EL ARISH 29th. West of wadi El Arish and south of the town in the sand dunes are 150 tents and at some distance away 12 big tents with 3 poles.

He estimates the Garrison at 900 to 1,000 Syrian soldiers. He saw 300 transport camels and 40 mules.

East of the Fort and west of the wadi is an enclosure of wood and mud, roofed in with wood covered with cement against rain. This is said to be full of stores. It measures about 100 feet by 50 feet.

Agent saw 4 guns in a trench south of the town, and a red flag on a pole over the old Fort.

West of the Fort, near a well, on which the Turks had erected a pumping engine which no longer works, were 3 tents and 10 soldiers.

Agent did not go near the sea.

AT MES HI 29th night. Agent was told by Sawarka Arabs who are doing post orderly work for the Turks that:-

- (1) A big flood in wadi esh Sheria has destroyed the bridge and washed out the embankment.
- (2) A telegram had been received in El Arish that 72,000 troops are now in Northern Syria on their way south

From Bir Masmi agent returned by the same way as he had gone out, seeing nothing worth reporting.

NOTE.....Colonel Kress Von Kressenstein: born about 1870. He is a Major of the General Staff Bavarian Army. He is an Artillery Officer; was a member of the 1914 German Military mission to Turkey and was at the Artillery Training School in Constantinople. He was Chief of Staff of the 8th Army Corps in 1914, and supervised the Canal attack last year. He returned to Germany and came out again about October 1915.

"Tawfik" is reported to be a German who has lived long among the Beduins and consequently speaks Arabic well. He has been the moving spirit in most of the attempts to place mines in the Canal. A.W.J.B.

2nd AGENT
ISMAILIA
2.2.16.

Another, not very reliable agent visited Arish on the 24th Jan: and Khan Yunis on the 26th and reports as follows:-

At El Arish he saw 270 tents and only 200 soldiers but there were others inside the tents.

South of the Fort he saw 4 guns; 3 tents and 5 soldiers in a trench.

On the Minaret of the Mosque there is a red flag and a look-out man with a telescope. He saw 40 soldiers mounted on fast camels arrive from Khan Yunis; also 30 transport camels each carrying two sacks.

There is water in pools in wadi El Arish.

At Khan Yunis he saw 200 tents and 4 soldiers, but he heard that there are about 1,700: also 30 horses; 30 mules and 50 transport camels.

In a trench dug between the town and the sea he saw 8 guns and 3 tents.

The minaret of the Mosque has been pulled down by the Turks as it afforded a good ranging mark for ship's guns.

3rd AGENT
ISMAILIA
2.2.16.

Left Ismailia on the 19th January.

ARAMM	19th	{	Nothing to report.
EGEID UM NASR	20th		
KATIB EL HENU	"		
RIGAL EL KHALLA	"		
LAGAMA	21st		
HABAL EL MASKAR	on the 22nd		

water/

He crossed wadi El Arish on the 23rd: the wadi had been in flood but was not running when he passed. He followed wadi Azarig to El Khabra. The wadi had been in flood but was then dry. He crossed wadi Khalasa north of Khalasa on the 24th where there was heavy rain.

BIR SABA 25th. He saw about 3,000 tents altogether, all to the east of the railway and the majority of them south of the wadi Saba. He estimates number of men at 10,000 Syrians and Turks. He saw the numbers 4 and 7 on the collars of some of the soldiers. 600 Transport camels and 250 horses.

South of the town there were some guns covered with tarpaulins, but he could not give the number.

North of the town at the end of the principal street were all the public buildings.

Agent remained at Saba on the 26th and saw one train arrive with 8 trucks full of mules.

GAZA 27th. He saw 200 tents about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S.W. of the town; about 1,000 men, many camels; 90 mules and 70 horses; 3 mountain guns covered with tarpaulins, north of the town.

He heard that there were guns along the sea shore but he did not go near them.

He heard while at GAZA that a telegram had arrived stating that 72,000 soldiers were leaving Syria for the south and that a wire had been sent back ordering them not to continue their journey south for the moment as the roads were bad with heavy rain.

Left GAZA on 28th.

Passed	ABASAN EL KEBIR	28th	{ Heavy rain.
	EL GURA	28th	
	EL SHIHA	29th	

At El Shiha he passed the telephone line from AUJA to El Arish.

Wadi El Arish was in flood when he crossed on the 29th.

RISAN ANEIZA	29th	{ Nothing to report.
ABU EL HAIYAIA	30th	
GEBEL EL RISHA	31st	
EL UGDI	31st	

At Rigal El Khalla on the 1st Feb he saw the tracks of about 100 camelmenn coming from the south towards Magebba.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 10.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

3rd FEBRUARY. 1916.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
MEDITERRANEAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. SITUATION IN MACEDONIA.
2. MESOPOTAMIA (with sketch attached).
3. TURKISH FINANCE.

ATTACHED ISMAILIA INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

1. SITUATION IN MACEDONIA.

A Zeppelin appeared over SALONIKA at 3 a.m. on the 1st of February. Incendiary bombs were dropped on the harbour and western side of the town. An ammunition ship was hit but did not blow up. Considerable damage was done to the docks and fires were started at certain points. The number of Greeks killed and wounded is at present unknown. The Allied casualties were one conductor killed and one officer wounded.

An intercepted wireless signal from the Vice-Admiral, Eastern Mediterranean Squadron, reports a Zeppelin H.V. of SALONIKA at 10.50 p.m. last night, 1st February; so far nothing further has been reported.

(G.H.Q. NOTE.- From time to time reports have been received stating that an enlarged airship shed was being built on the SOFIA aviation ground. The Zeppelin reported above probably came from the interior of Bulgaria. The mountainous character of the Balkans renders aerial navigation very difficult unless the weather is calm. There is a Zeppelin depot station at TRESVAR in S.E. Hungary; and sheds have been reported as under construction at XANTHI and CONSTANTINOPLE. A shed to contain a Zeppelin takes several weeks to construct, and it is doubtful whether any sheds can now be ready except that at SOFIA). The French at SALONIKA on the same afternoon as the Zeppelin attack brought down a hostile aeroplane west of the VARDAR. The pilot and observer were taken prisoners.

There has been no news of any alteration in the enemy's dispositions. But from Roumanian intelligence it is clear that the General Staff at BUCHAREST anticipate an early concentration of troops on the Danube to be completed about the end of February. Well informed military authorities in Roumania estimate the present German-Bulgarian strength on the Danube at 120,000 men. At present it is difficult to account for these number. 25,000 German troops have been reported at VARNA, and the Roumanian General Staff, early in January, placed

two other German and two Bulgarian Divisions at various points along the line of the Danube. Identification of the German Divisions has not yet been received. Of the two Bulgarian Divisions it is known that the 4th Division has been withdrawn to the MELNIK area, and its place may have been taken by a new Bulgarian Division formed since the war. The other Bulgarian Division would probably be the 12th, another new formation. The withdrawal of the 1st, 6th, and 9th Bulgarian Divisions (see G.H.Q. Intelligence Summary page 52) may indicate that the detached Brigades of these Divisions, which remain located on the enemy right flank, may be now made up to Divisional strength by new formations and given new numbers. If so the remainder of 1st, 6th and 9th Bulgarian Divisions may be also completed to strength in the interior and sent to the Danube. The Roumanian General Staff are of opinion that Bulgaria is in a position to send three, if not four, Divisions north at once. The 108,000 Bulgarian troops in the centre of the enemy's line are probably the maximum number that can well be supplied in that area at present.

There is an unconfirmed report that the 103rd and 105th German Divisions have moved to the enemy right flank from USKUB, and that the 101st has moved to the VARDAR at VELES. This is quite possible as German Infantry units have recently been notified at PERLEPE marching to VELES.

2. MESOPOTAMIA.

It is reported from BASRA that prisoners captured at UMM AL HANNAN on the Tigris state that the 51st Division from KUT has reinforced the enemy opposing our advance, and that the 2nd Division with about 12 guns has lately arrived in this theatre of operations. Halil Bey is said to have relieved Mir ed Din in command of the Turkish forces in Irak.

(G.H.Q. NOTE.- The 2nd Division is part of the I Army Corps, which was reported as leaving Constantinople in December for Mesopotamia.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS FROM 12th JAN. to 18th JAN. 1916.

- Jan. 12. Air reconnaissance reported enemy estimated at 1,100 entrenching astride Tigris at points in Orah ruins.,
- Jan. 13. General Aylmer reported close and continuous fighting till nightfall when General Kumball and reserve brigade established battle outposts along east bank of Wadi Nullah - enemy commenced retiring during night and General Aylmer was organising pursuit.
- Jan. 15. General Aylmer reported that whole of enemy's position on Wadi had been captured, but rearguard estimated at over 4,000 strong was holding its position on left bank at mouth of defile between marsh and river and about 5 miles up stream of Wadi.
- 16/17 Jan. General Townshend from Kut-el-Amara shelled enemy attempting to construct bridge on Shatt-al-Hai.
- Jan. 18. Operations were hampered by bad weather and accident to bridge which delayed transfer of troops to right bank.
- Jan. 18. Weather conditions still atrocious - bridge over Wadi not yet completed.
Enemy have withdrawn one heavy gun up stream.

3. TURKISH FINANCE.

The conditions of public finance in Turkey are causing a good deal of anxiety although energetic steps are taken to hide the true position from the public. For the year 1916 it is estimated that the revenue will be £T23,000,000, as against an estimated expenditure of £T37,000,000, thus allowing for a deficit of £T14,000,000. Of this however nearly £T9,000,000 are attributed to the year 1915, the true deficit for 1916 being estimated at £T5,000,000. It is however more than doubtful whether the estimated revenue of £T23,000,000 will ever find its way into the Public Treasury. In ordinary circumstances the revenue should amount to between £T26,000,000 and £T27,000,000, so that only a falling off of between 3 and 4 millions has been allowed for in respect of the war. Considering however that 7 out of the 22 Vilayets of which Turkey is composed will admittedly contribute nothing during the current year, while the finances of at least 6 or 7 other Vilayets have been seriously affected, it is difficult to see from where the Government hopes to obtain any substantial revenue at all. Moreover, according to information received from

the Agricultural Department, it is estimated that barely 10% of the average acreage will be sown this year, a fact which of course must add seriously to the financial difficulties of the country.

It appears that so far the Central Powers have advanced Turkey by way of loan £T14½ millions, and that against these loans the Government has issued paper money for £T11 millions. This paper money is however extremely unpopular and in the interior of the country many of the merchants and inhabitants refuse to accept it, while in the towns legislation has had to be resorted to, inflicting penalties on those who refuse to accept the notes at their face value.

As a consequence of these and other similar measures there is a shortage of ready money at Constantinople in spite of the fact that the Government has seized all cash deposits of subjects of the Allied States lying in the banks, and apparently have laid hands on deposits belonging to certain other people also. Valuable house property in Constantinople is also said to be changing hands at very low prices, buyers being principally Jews. (NOTE.- The Turkish pound is worth a little more than 18/- of our money).



C R E T.

FC 3

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 451. ISMAILIA, February 3rd 1916. Appendix No FC3

Source of
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

G. S. O.
INTELLIGENCE
S U B Z
2.3.16.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT FROM O.C. T O R . 30.1.16.

Agent reports that on the 4th January one train load of troops from the Garrison of Maan left for the north. About 50 horses (or mules) and 50 camels left by the same train.

The troops remaining at MAAN number about 150 with 20 mules and 20 horses. It is stated that these are shortly to proceed to Akaba. The troops who left by train were much better disciplined than those remaining.

AKABA. No increase or decrease in Garrison. The Officer commanding at Akaba recently took away the arms from the Arabs of the Leheiwat, Huitat and Amran Tribes. These rifles were on loan from the Turks.

W. GINEH. Agent reports that on the 24th Jan, 5 camel loads of rifles were sent from W. Gineh to Nekhl. These rifles were previously stored at Gineh ostensibly for arming friendly Arabs.

All reports go to show that no offensive action is to be expected from W. Gineh and it has been rumoured that the post may return to Nekhl. Arabs coming from W. Gineh stated that Arabs previously friendly to the Turks round Gineh (Walad Said and Gararsha) are now very dissatisfied as the promises of the Officer of the Post to feed them have not been fulfilled.

REPORT FROM O.C. T O R 31.1.16.

AIN SUDR. Reliable Agent who was at Ain Sudr on the 20th Jan, states he saw:-

- 8 Bell tents. 4 Arab tents.
- 30 soldiers, Syrians, mixed.
- 1 Turkish Officer.
- 50 Armed Arabs from Oshigat and Terrabin
- Sheikhs Zeidan Hamid, Salem Abu Khudir and
- Suliman El Karabiti.

Food was, barley from Nekhl, and not plentiful. Hamla-15 camels. ("Hamla" = Transport).

There is a telephone to Nekhl.

Patrols go to wadi Lahita.

Reports state that the railway has reached wadi Khalassa.

Work on road for motor cars has been completed about 6 miles west of Hassana.

AGENT
ISMAILIA
3.2.16.

Left Ismailia on the 24th instant for HASSANA, with instructions to find out all details re the reservoir there.

KATAIB EL KHEIL 24th { Nothing to report.
NORTH OF EL ASHUBI 25th {

WADI EL HEGAIIB 26th. A patrol of 4 camelmen passed him going south. Heavy rain.

MENEIDRET ABU GURUN 27th. Nothing to report except heavy rain.

WADI EL LETHEILI 28th. Wadi contained many pools of water. Work was proceeding on the road.

HASSANA 29th. Agent saw 150 tents scattered, most of them east of the wadi. Garrison about 2,000 men approximately.

SECRET, INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO. 431. ISMAILIA. FEB 3rd 1916. (PAGE 2.)

He saw 80-90 horses, 50-60 mules, and about 160 camels. Also 8 guns covered with tarpaulins between the road and the wadi.

Some building with limestone is going on east of the guns.

The pumping engine is on the east bank of the wadi, and from it lead pipes into 2 small stone cisterns and 1 zinc tank to the south, and one stone and three zinc to the north. These are used for watering men and animals.

Immediately east of the pumping engine is a reservoir about 36 metres long by 15 metres wide.

The stone wall of the cistern is one metre above ground, and water reaches to within $\frac{1}{2}$ metre of the top.

There is a sentry between the pumping engine and the Reservoir and agent could not approach close, but he saw 2 men disappear into the ground past the sentry. He asked some Arabs, whom he was with, as to where they had gone and they told him that for fear of aeroplane attack the Turks had built their ammunition magazine under the reservoir as bombs might be dropped on tents and buildings but not on the water.

About 50 yards east of the reservoir is a large heap covered with black blankets, agent does not know what it contains.

On the east bank of the wadi, south of the pump, are 4 sheds. These contain stores as agent saw 30 camels unload grain and boxes of provisions which were put in these sheds.

WADI EL KHAMARA 29th. Agent saw 50 labourers road making. There was heavy rain.

Gebel El KHATMIA 30th. (Nothing to report except the
GEBEL EL GEDEIRA 31st. (tracks of a patrol of 3 camelmen
going east.

KATIB EL SABHA 2st Feb. Nothing to report.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 11.

I N T E L L I G E N C E S U M M A R Y .

4th FEBRUARY 1916.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.

MEDITERRANEAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. GREECE AND THE SITUATION.
2. TELEGRAMS FROM FRENCH G. Q. C.
 - (a) GREECE.
 - (b) ROMANIAN POLICY.
 - (c) AERIAL FIGHTS IN FRANCE.

3. INTERCEPTED GERMAN MESSAGE.

4. INTERCEPTED RUSSIAN MESSAGE.

ATTACHED ISMAILIA INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

1. GREECE & THE SITUATION.

Reports from VODENA state that both Germans and Bulgarians are endeavouring to secure the active support of Greek Moslems. Many Moslems in the district between VODENA and the VARAR are of Turkish origin. 3,000 rifles are said to have been sent to the frontier villages in Bulgarian occupation, and disguised 'comitadjs' are at work across the frontier preparing for the future co-operation of these Moslem bands with the German-Bulgarian forces.

There is further evidence that the Greek General Staff are becoming increasingly anxious in regard to the general situation. There is an obvious division of military opinion. Every endeavour is being made to impress upon the Allies the importance of KAVALLA. The Greek General Staff point out the great strategic value of this port as threatening the enemy's left flank in his advance on Salonika. This view is possibly not altogether disinterested, because it is clear to many Greek officers that the present condition of the Greek army does not warrant any attempt without Allied support of preventing the enemy occupation of KAVALLA. Should the views of that section of the Greek Staff who urge that Greek troops should concentrate for the defence of KAVALLA prevail, it is clear that all supplies will have to come by sea and under the protection of the Allied Fleet. Should it not be possible to enter into some form of agreement with the Allies it is probable that all the Greek troops will be withdrawn to ATTICA. The King of Greece himself stated not long ago that Greek co-operation and action would depend upon the future success of the Allied operations. It is possible that a similar statement has been made to the Central Powers. The fact is that Greece now finds herself, as a result of her weak policy, in a most difficult position.

2. TELEGRAMS FROM FRENCH G. Q. G.

The following telegram has been received from the French G. Q. G. dated 31st January:-

(a) The establishment of the Serbian Army at CORFOU is being rapidly carried out. The sanitary condition of the troops is on the whole satisfactory. The total number of Serbian troops evacuated up to the end of January, and including the SALONIKA detachment, is about 30,000. The daily rate of evacuation is now 5,000, and will shortly amount to 7,000.

(G.H.Q. NOTE.- The French landed at CORFOU 1500 Alpine troops from four cruisers, 5 destroyers and 5 mine sweepers at one in the morning of the 11th of January. This move was quite a surprise to the Greek officials, who were considerably alarmed. The French troops at once moved off in detachments to the German Emperor's villa 'ACHILLEION' (recently suspected as being used by enemy submarines for replenishing), to the W/T station at SIDARI, and to other strategic points. A larger detachment marched to the citadel but did not enter it. The commander on being interviewed by French officers stated that neither he nor the Prefect had received any instructions from the Greek Government, and that he must refuse entrance to the Fortrees until he had been in telegraphic communication with Athens. Later in the day permission was given by the Greek Government. In the meantime the enemy consuls had been "put under restraint" and the French ships had begun a careful search of the coast. The hands of the Greek Government were thus forced. The French and Allied Ministers at Athens pointed out to the Greek Ministry that this course was rendered necessary to the Allies in order to give adequate aid to Serbia - Greece's own ally. The Greeks in CORFOU are naturally still somewhat disturbed. The Greek officers and a considerable majority of the civil population are undoubtedly strongly pro-German, but feel that under

present circumstances no action is open to them. The pro-Entente Greeks, on the other hand, being unaware how long the French will remain in occupation, are careful to control their feelings for fear of future consequences).

French G. Q. G. telegram continued:

(b) The Roumanian Prime Minister strongly supported by the King, (whose determination appears to increase under the German menace) has declared to the Ministers of the Entente Powers that if the storm bursts he will hold his own against it. So far, however, the German complaints have been couched in moderate language.

(G.H.Q. NOTE.- The German-Bulgarian concentration is not yet completed - see G.H.Q. Intelligence Summary pp. 61 and 62).

(c) As a result of negotiations carried out between the French and Bulgarian Governments the Staff of the Bulgarian Consulate at Salonika will be conveyed to the Swiss frontier. The official in charge of the Bulgarian archives in Paris will be reinstated simultaneously with similar British and French officials at SOFIA.

(c) The following telegram from the same source has also been received:-

In their official communique of January 28th the Germans give their losses and those of the Allies in air combats from October 10th up to date as follows:-

Aircraft brought down in air combats:-

German 7. Allies 41.

Aircraft brought down by gun fire:-

German 8. v Allies 11.

Missing or forced down in enemy's lines:-

German 1. Allies 11.

Total:- German 16. Allies 63.

As usual the Germans double the number of our losses and halve their own. The following are the exact figures as shown by the

British and French statistics:-

Allied losses - 30 - 13 being British.

The French losses are made up as follows:-

Brought down in air combat.....	4
" " by gun fire.....	2
Forced descent, engine trouble etc.....	3
Missing when on distant reconnaissances..	8
Total....	<u>17</u>

German losses - 31 - 11 being on the British Front.

Of the 20 on the French front:-

- 4 brought down in French lines.
- 2 forced descent, engine trouble etc.
- 14 brought down in German lines.

3. GERMAN WIRELESS INTERCEPTED 1.30 a.m. 2/2/16.

Grt. Gen. Hd. Qrs. 1/2/16. Western Theatre:-

On the night of the 30/31st January English detachments attempted a coup de main on our position west of Lessines. They were all repulsed, after having succeeded at one place in penetrating for a time into our trench. At Fricourt (east of Albert) our fire prevented the enemy from occupying a crater caused by one of his explosions. To the North of this place German patrols penetrated into the English position and returned with some prisoners, without suffering any casualties. To the South of the Somme, the French lost more ground in grenade fighting.

Eastern Theatre. Nothing of importance.

Balkan Theatre. One of our airships attacked ships and depots of the Entente in the harbour of Saloniki, good results observed.

Supreme Army Command.

In discussing the bombardment of Paris carried out by Zeppelins on two successive nights, the French Press completely forgets the previous French attacks on open German towns of Karlsruhe and (Freiburg ?) outside the zone of hostilities, where

German citizens were killed and no military establishments were bombarded. The French Press (ignores ?) the German statement that the German attacks as a reprisal for these breaches of international law were directed against fortresses.

The Montenegrin Ministers Radulovic, Popovic and General Vesovic, now at Cetinje, declare that the conclusion of peace is constitutional, since they took over the Government with the consent of the King, and in conformity with the provisions of the constitution. King Nicholas fled from Montenegro on the advice of his Ministers, when Austria refused the first Montenegrin request for an armistice. The King was thereby exposed to the danger of capture in the event of a further Austrian advance. The Montenegrin Prince Mirko is residing at the country seat of Knisevac near Podgoritzza; Austrian troops are furnishing the guard. A large number of Balkan leaders are assembled at Cetinje among them the former Albanian Minister of Interior Akif Pasha and the Turkish General Said Pasha.

4. INTERCEPTED RUSSIAN WIRELESS.

From an intercepted Russian wireless message it is understood that our Allies have successfully driven the Turks out of SULTANABAD, west of HAMADAN, and are continuing their captures on the Caucasus front.

SECRET.

Appendix No

34
FC4

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 452. ISMAILIA. FEB 4th 1916.

Source of
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

AGENT
ISMAILIA
4.3.16.

Left Ismailia on 26th for Bir el Giddi, Bir el Themada and Hassana.

36 KATAIB EL KHEIL { Heavy rain, nothing else to report.
DEB WADI EL GIDDI

Khabret Hamma in wadi el Giddi have not held up any water.

BIR EL GIDDI 28th. The water supply in the wells has improved a little, but there has not been a flood in the wadi.

A patrol of 3 Leheiwat Arabs patrol Bir el Giddi seven times a week remaining there a day or more on each visit.

WADI EL BRUK 28th. The wadi had been in flood, six small pools of water were left in the bed.

BIR EL THEMADA 29th. Agent saw one tent, 10 soldiers under an N.C.O. at the well: 5 armed Arabs and their camels. Cultivation is being carried on in the vicinity.

No road has been made from Hassana and agent could not hear of any motor car having reached there.

HASSANA 30th. Agent saw an engine on the east bank of the wadi and water troughs, as previously described (See Int. Report 451. FEB 3rd) The zinc tanks are easily removable.

He reports the large reservoir about 3 metres east of the engine. It is 30 metres long by 12 metres wide and about 1 metre above ground.

There is a sentry on it and there appear to be stores built in the ground under it, as there is a door under the tank, reached by a ladder.

An anti-aircraft gun covered with a tarpaulin has been erected E.S.E. of the reservoir.

North east of the reservoir, the walls of houses for the Officers are being built. There are 4 stores for provisions etc south of the engine.

8 guns under tarpaulins are near the Kossaima road.

Agent counted 250 tents and dug outs.

These dug outs are holes dug in banks and covered with branches and earth.

He estimates the Garrison at 2,300 but men are continually coming and going. He saw 400 to 500 being drilled. 50 mules; 40 horses and 200 camels.

These later left for Auja while he was at Hassana.

WADI EL LETHEILI 31st. The road from Hassana to the head of Letheili is finished. West of this a lot of work is still required, but all the workmen have been sent else where. 3 piles of spades etc, with a guard of 2 men are near wadi Abu Gurun.

KHABRET RODH SALEM 31st. No water in the pool.

20 tents; 50 soldiers; 2 riding camels.

All three wells have hand pumps fixed on them.

The flood in wadi Rodh Salem has been a poor one.

BIR EL MAGHARA 1st Feb. 5 tents, 20 men under Fur Eff.

Wadi Maghara has come down in spate.

WADI EL KHARIS 1st Feb. Heavy flood, everyone cultivating. Agent met a Terrebain Arab who was employed taking water from Hassana to a German Officer on Gebel Hamaiyir.

This German spent his days on Gebel Hamaiyir with a table, a telescope and various instruments and maps, and an escort of 4 men. Gebel Hamaiyir is the highest spot in the neighbourhood. 3 days ago the German had been summoned to El Arish by Von Kress Bey. Agent returned via Katib el Hara, seeing nothing worth reporting.

Agent followed the track to Hassana. There were no wheel tracks on it but the recent rain may have eliminated them

N5-6

I6

About H.T.

H5

G5

SECRET. INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 452. ISMAILIA Feb 4th 1916. (PART 2.)

INTELLIGENCE
OFFICER
KANTARA
4.2.16.

Agent left WASET 24th ult, and went to EL ARISH arriving 25th. He saw there a large convoy of camels about 300 bringing stores from Khan Yunis. Saw very few soldiers, perhaps 50 in the Fort and 75 outside.

The wadi was in spate. Arrived at Khan Yunis the evening of the 26th ult. Saw 50 tents in the woods there. Reached GAZA on the 29th ult. Where he counted 200 soldiers and saw between 300 and 400 camels bringing stores from LIDD. He reached BIR SABA on the 29th and says that he saw 3,000 ~~TENTS~~ tents, about half of which were of goats hair. He reports that there are approximately 300 armed Arabs of the Ibn Rashid Tribe in SABA. On the railway saw 3 Trucks each loaded with 2 guns. Guns appeared to be about 9 ft. long. Near the railway are large stocks of camel fodder. The actual rails are laid for about 3 miles out of SABA.

On his way back he heard that 16 Turkish soldiers had been drowned by the flood in Wadi El Arish.

He reports that 10 new wells have been dug at BIR EL ABD- 6 new wells at MOSEIFIG and 4 new wells at Abu El Afein.

He met at Bir el Abd on the 1st Feb, the Turkish patrol who had been at Um Ugba and Afein.

One of our agents under suspicion by the Turks sent in his son to report that:- Kress Bey was with the last patrol who inspected MEHEMDIA - TEL EL FARAMA - TEL EL HEIR with a view to mounting guns at these places. That the wells previously reported along the EL ARISH road, have now been completed and covered with wood and sand.

That the underground store at Katia is now completed.

INTELLIGENCE
OFFICER
ISMAILIA
4.2.16.

Among documents picked up by an Agent at Hassana on the 1st Feb, some prove to belong to a Private of the 3rd Battalion, 80th Regt, 27th Division, 8th Army Corps: some to a private of the 25th Division of the 8th Army Corps, and others to a private of an Engineer Battalion of the 5th Army Corps.

As the latest date on these documents is January 1915, they may have been left behind in the retreat of last year.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 12.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

5th FEBRUARY 1916.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
MEDITERRANEAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

1. SITUATION IN MACEDONIA.
2. SITUATION IN ABYSSINIA.
3. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCES.
 - (a) ASIA MINOR.
 - (b) SIWAH.

MPH en 30/

1. SITUATION IN MACEDONIA.

It is reported, on usually reliable authority, that the enemy's forces in the GEVCELI-DOIRAN section are 60,000, and difficulties in victualling have recently been very great. All supplies for this force have to be brought by one road.

It is now established that four large military stores were destroyed at GEVCELI and that there were many enemy casualties as a result of the French airplane raid on the 30th.

There are renewed reports that the attack on Salonika is delayed in consequence of differences between the Bulgarians and Germans. Bulgaria is said to demand as a condition of her participation the definite cession of KAVALLA and SALONIKA. To reduce these demands Germany, about three weeks ago, resumed negotiations with Turkey to procure her participation in the Salonika operations. Turkey, it is said, has at last consented after much hesitation, and one Turkish Army Corps of 25,000 or 30,000 men is stated to have crossed the MARITSA river, and to be now in the GUMULJINA district. This will probably have the desired effect on Bulgaria and tend to induce her to modify her original demands.

(G.H.Q. NOTE., There have been two recent reports notifying the arrival of Turkish troops at GUMULJINA, see G.H.Q. Summary for Jan, 26th 1916).

The German Staff is reported to consider successful operations both in Albania and against Salonika as indispensable during the next two months, and before any major operations take place in the main theatres, since it is the German intention to obtain absolute predominance in the BALKANS.

2. SITUATION IN ABYSSINIA.

The Germans are endeavouring to incite the Abyssinians to seize the Italian Colony of ERITREA, urging immediate offensive action. Failing immediate action the Hogue has been given to understand that Eritrea will pass eventually under German control.

As ERITREA is to the Abyssinians what the Trentino is to Italy, any prospects of recovering the colony would be received with enthusiasm by the Abyssinian people.

(G.H.Q. NOTE., No apprehensions need be entertained regarding this intrigue unless the Turks succeed in blocking the Suez Canal, and then the effect will at once be felt in Abyssinia).

3. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCES.

The following aerial reconnaissances are reported :-

(a) By H.M.S. "AME" (seaplane carrier) off Turkish coast in neighbourhood of Alexandretta.

MISSIS, ADANA, and Baghdad Railway above OSMANIEH.

No traffic on roads, hardly any on rivers ,,,, 2 guns, 2 trenches, 2 gun emplacements BITTERN POINT dropped bombs on BITTERN trenches, took photographs.

On February 1st.

ADANA - DORAK - TARSUS and Baghdad Railway.

6 engines, 33 trucks on railway, nothing on DORAK line. One tug TARSUS, one tug and 30 small boats TARSUS CHAI. Factories previously reported are in full work. Plant under shellfire ADANA and from machine gun GULEK. Piles of stores seen at ADANA and GULEK. Bombed a camp at YENIE effectively.

(b) In the course of a 4 hour flight carried out by 14 Squadron Royal Flying Corps during morning of February 4th, the enemy's camps at JIFJAF and HASSANA were thoroughly reconnoitred with a

view to clearing up some points on which doubts existed.

Descending at BASSANA to 500 feet the aeroplane came under close rifle fire from the enemy whom it engaged effectively in a fire-fight, inflicting two observed casualties.

The number of the enemy in camp were estimated at 1,500, detailed reports on the road surface, wells, reservoir, trenches, etc. being also given.

SECRET.

Appendix No. FC5

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 453. ISMAILIA, February 5th 1916.

Source of
Intelligence.

INTELLIGENCE.

REMARKS.

G.S. FROM ARAB SOURCES.

INTELLIGENCE

S U B Z .
4.2.16.

On 29th at point 1954 between Um Mitla and wadi El HAJ, all clear. Agent learnt here that Arab patrols composed of about 15 men visit Giddi periodically. These patrols come from Rodh Salem.

On 30th at Gabel El RABBA, 2 tents, 3 Arab shelters and some Arabs were seen. It is reported that this post is eventually going to repair the Government well at wadi Seila El Churza, (where wadi El Ghydry crosses the Darb el Haj.)

AIN ABU REGUM 31st. 1 tent, 2 horses, 3 camels, and post of 5 to 9 Arabs. 1 Officer seen. Plenty of water reported in wadi SUDR.

AIN EL DEASA 1st inst. All clear. Agent heard here Post at Ain Sudr as previously reported - no reinforcement, with exception of 1 German who arrived about 29th Jan with four mines. He is stated to have come from the direction of Nekhl.

Also rumoured that many reinforcements have recently arrived At SABA.

SILN BISHAR, UM GURF 2nd inst. All clear.

BIR ABU GARAD Agent returned via SUDR. No tracks seen and eventually got on telegraph line reaching Ayun Musa 3rd inst.

REMARKS. From above there is no increase of enemy posts. Several patrols chiefly composed of Arabs appear to reconnoitre the Raha Hills and adjacent wadis.

The arrival of a German at Ain Sudr with mines should be noted.

Water still appears plentiful in all wadis adjoining the Raha.

Reinforcements at SABA are rumoured.

Ref. Intelligence Report 449 dated 1st inst.

Cavalry reconnoitred from stone pillar on Darb el Haj to trigonometrical point 888 and from there west to 440. No trace of water pool was found.

Reconnaissance Mitla Pass returned. No enemy seen nor any signs of his having been there recently.

Left Ismailia on 26th January for BIR SABA.

AGENT
ISMAILIA
5.2.16.

KATIB EL HEMU 27th (Nothing to report, all wadis
GEBEL EL BARGA " (had been in flood.
WADIS MASAGID & EL FATH 28th (

Agent crossed wadi El Arish north of Magdhaba. The wadi had pools in all low lying spots.

GEBEL GARN 29th (nothing to report.
RAHLEIBA "

BIR ES SABA 30th. Agent saw very many soldiers and tents: about 2,000 transport camels; 100 mules and 500 horses. On the collars of some soldiers, he saw the numbers 39 and on others 51 or 15, uncertain which.

He heard from local Arabs that:-

(1) The first and second "taburs" were at SABA (tabur" to an Arab means any force from a company to an Army Corps. A. J. B.)

(2) The total number there now were 15,000 men, Syrians and Turks; some of the former with long beards.

(3) Five aeroplanes have reached BIR SABA one of which had flown to AUJA and Back. They were housed in 3 wooden buildings with cemented roofs.

(4) 25,000 troops have reached Jerusalem.

(5) There has been a wash out at wadi esh Sheria, and trains have to unload north of the wadi, goods are brought thence on camel back. One big gun has arrived at wadi Esh Sharia, it took 4 camels to transport it to Bir es Saba. Its barrel unscrewed into 3 bits.

Agent followed the railway line from Saba to Auja via Asluj. He insists that rail-head has reached ~~xxx~~ wadi Asluj. Both lines are laid as far as there, the main line and the Decauville. There was no traffic on either on the day he was there possibly owing to the wash-out in wadi esh Sharia.

Men are working at clearing the ballast from the rails of the main line. It has been dumped down by camels and in many places covers the rails.

Wadi Asluj is crossed by a bridge with two openings. There are heaps of rails for the main line and sleepers there.

There are no wash-outs between SABA and AUJA. Very few men are working between Saba and Asluj but a big number between Asluj and Auja.

All the wadis have been in flood but they all have been bridged.

Agent slept the night of 31st at GOZ SABUN. He did not visit Auja but was at wadi el Amr night of 1st FEB.

He followed the new motor road past Aweigila to El Afeira and then left it. A branch road on east bank of wadi el Arish from Abu Aweigila, leads towards El Arish. Wadi el Arish has not been bridged.

Agent returned via wadi el Fat'h, Masagid and Gebel el Barga. All the wadis were in flood but otherwise he saw nothing worth reporting.

AGENT
ISMAILIA
5.2.16.

An Agent who was at Hassana on Feb 2nd reports that ^{there} he saw 150 tents; 2,000 soldiers; 30-40 mules; 70-80 horses and 300 camels.

The rest of his statement agrees with Int. report 451 dated 3rd FEB. He gives the size of the reservoir under which there is a magazine as 34 ft by 13 ft.

He states an anti-aircraft gun is mounted to the S.E. of the reservoir. 3 ovens have been built south of the reservoir.

Agent heard while at Hassana that 5 aeroplanes have reached Bir Saba and that one had flown over Hassana and Auja and returned safely to Saba.

All the wadis between Rodh Salem and Hassana have come down in spate.

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SECRET.

Appendix No. Fb 11

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,

CAIRO,

5th February, 1916.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

BALKAN PENINSULA.

French Official - 4th February, 1916:- The Italian Government has expressed its desire to co-operate in the work of the Allies at CORFU. The French Government has replied that it will be happy to receive a small body of Italian troops there.

Essad Pasha has asked the Serbian Government to arrange for his removal to CORFU with his troops, when he can no longer hold out in Albania. The French Government has declared its readiness to help and protect Essad Pasha as it has helped the Serbian and Montenegrin Armies.

CILICIA.

PORT SAID. Aeroplane reconnaissance over ADANA & DORAK - TARSUS, on 1st February:- Six engines, 63 trucks on railway. Nothing on DORAK LINE. One tug at TARSUS, and one tug on TARSUS CHAI. Also 30 small boats on latter.

The factories previously reported were in full work.

The plane was under shell fire at ADANA, and machine gun fire at GULEK.

300 tents altogether.

Piles of stores ADANA and GULEK.

Bombed camp at YENIDJE effectively.

TE Lawrence
27/1

Captain,
For G.S.O. (I),
The Force in Egypt.