

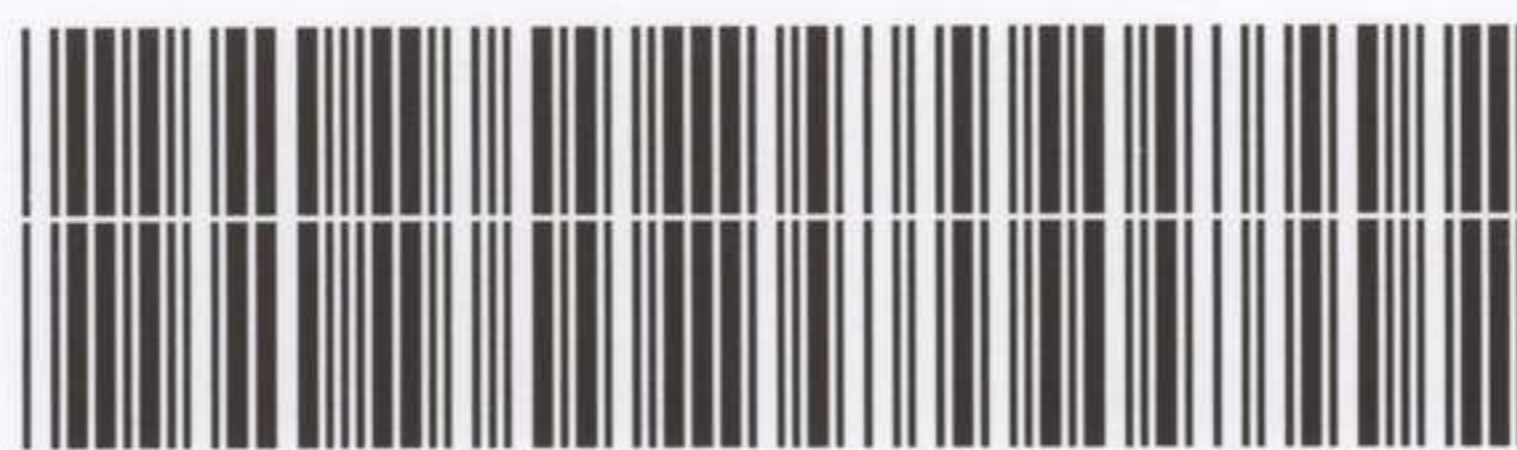
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Title: Intelligence Reports, Ismailia,
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Expeditionary Force

June 1916



AWM4-1/12/5

SECRET

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 556. ISMAILIA. 1st JUNE 1916.

Source of

INTELLIGENCE.

I.O.
KANTARA
31/5/16.

Report by honest but stupid Agent.
Left Our lines..... 12th May 1916
At Hod Abu DHAHAB from.....14th to 17th
By ZAGADAN, EL KHARIG & SHEIKH HEMEID
to BIR EL MAGHARA ARRIVING AT
BIR EL MAGHARA.....20th
returned at once to El Kharig, stayed there 2 days, then to
BIR EL MAZAR VIA BIR EL MALHA: at BIR EL MAZAR on...25th
returned at once via Bir el Kassaiba and Bir el Geisi,
passing north of HOD EL BAYUD, to HOD ABU DHAHAB which
he reached on ...27th. Stayed there a couple of days before
coming in.
REPORT:- Saw telegraph(or telephone) line from Bir el Abd
to HOD EL BAYUD where it stops.
At Zagadan road is visible, but only made of sand: road is
properly made from Bir el Maghara to Kharig (Ras el Kharig,
or where the road crosses wadi el Kharig).
Telegraph (single line on posts) runs N.W. from Bir el
Maghara along the east of the road, and some distance from
it to a point about 8 kilos from Bir el Maghara; party of
about 10 (in local native dress) working at extension of
this line.
At Maghara saw tents and men; troops all Turks; many
were wearing Enveria helmets; pump (horizontal beam, hand
worked) being made at well; number of tents at wadi and at
well about 100. (Agent very vague about numbers, but estimated
size of a local camp here well when given time). (Note
aeroplane report Maghara 16th May 10 boll tents: 22nd May
12 boll tents. J.B.).
At Bir el Mazar, tents, straw shelters and baggage
camels; number of troops approximately same as at Bir el
Maghara, Saw an aeroplane returning from the direction of
El Arish, passing overhead at 5 p.m. Met an Arab (formerly
ghaffir on telegraph line at Bir el Abd) about 1/2 mile from
well and was warned by him not to approach post without a
pass.
At BIR EL KASSAIBA. No troops.
At BIR EL GEISI. No troops.
North of Bir el Geisi Agent met a native of El Arish who in
conversation told him that Jemal Pasha, Kress Pasha, and
Nimsu(?) Pasha had arrived at El Arish about the 25th.,
that many troops were arriving down coast (Khan Yunis said
to be full of them), and that Senior Officers from Bir el
Maxar etc., were going to El Arish to meet these Commanders.
(NOTE Agent understood Nimsu to be the surname of a General
it might be Nim-Sawi - Austrian)

but possibly
Agent
Ismailia
1/6/16.

A reliable Agent left Ismailia on the 23rd for Auja.
ABU WAGFA 23rd (Nothing.
GEBEL GEDEIRA 24th (Fresh tracks of a patrol of 5 camelmen
going north towards Rigal el Khalla.
GEBEL LIBNI 25th Nothing except the tracks of small patrols.
ABU AWEIGILA 26th. Agent saw 6 tents, 2 Arab shelters,
and 15 soldiers. There is a motor road to El Arish which
shows signs of a lot of traffic recently, troops marching to
El Arish from Auja.
There is a road south through the gorge between Gebels
Helal and Dhalfa, but it is only fit for camels and horses
and not for carts.
Agent followed the motor road to Auja, several hundred
men with carts etc had evidently marched west along it recently.

Agent met a patrol of 6 armed Arabs on the road, they did not interfere with him.

AUJA. 27th. Agent saw west of the town a line of entrenchment in which are 4 guns, 2 big, and 2 mountain guns. Round the town there are about 300 tents, 18 shelters, 4 stables for horses, and 2 big store sheds. He estimates the garrison as 3,500 men composed as under.

- 600 Germans or Austrians
- 1,500 Turks
- 200 Irregulars, Anize Arabs
- 1,200 Syrians.

The Commandant is said to be Bahgat Bey and with him is an Egyptian called Ismail Boy el Masri.

Agent saw about 100 riding camels, 200 transport camels and 200 horses. East of the wadi are 2 big ~~xxxx~~ tents for aeroplanes. Agent saw an aeroplane fly overhead going from Saba towards El Arish. It had a big cross on its wings.

The pumping station is east of the town.

Agent heard that:-

- (1) 2 "taburs" of Germans and Austrians had left Auja for El Arish about the 24th or 25th.
- (2) An aeroplane flying from Jerusalem south, fell at Hobron. The six bombs in it burst, killing a very senior Officer who was a passenger and the pilot, another Officer.

The railway station is south of the town it has 3 sidings. Agent saw at the station 2 trains, one of 6 trucks loaded with grain, the 2nd of 9 trucks loaded with sleepers, rails etc.

Agent slept night of 27th at Birain.

The railway does not go to Birain but branches off west about 4 miles to the north of it.

Rail-head is some six miles north of Kossaima and embankment head is between 2 and 2 1/2 north.

The railway will eventually ^{not} go to Kossaima but pass between Kossaima and Moweilleh.

Agent returned via Abragoin 28th wadi Lethelli 29th (where he saw a small patrol going to Bir Hamma) wadi Rodh Salem 29th Gebel Um Mukhasa 30th, seeing nothing of importance.

SECRET.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT. No. 557. ISMAILIA. 2nd JUNE 1916.

Source of

INTELLIGENCE.

Agent
Ismailia
2/3/16.

A now but fairly reliable Agent left Ismailia on 25th ~~xxxx~~MAY for Kossaima and Hassana. He reports:-

DALEG 25th (Nothing to report.

GEBEL EL URF 26th (

On 24th May Agent crossed the road from Maghara to Gebel el Urf. This he reports to be metalled where necessary.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ ER RAKIB 27th May. Nothing except the tracks of numerous patrols.

On 28th he crossed the road from Hassana to Maghara, this is well metalled.

EL ABRAGEIN 28th. Nothing.

In wadi el Arish on 28th, Agent saw a patrol of 15 Arabs riding N.E. towards Auja.

KOSSAIMA 29th. Agent saw 5 tents only, 6 stone houses (original buildings of post) and 2 wooden stores which are said to be full of stores. Agent saw no soldiers, and only some 25 to 30 workmen peasants from Gaza who are employed.

There are 2 cisterns 4 by 5 by 1½ metres deep, which are kept full of water from the spring. A pumping engine draws water from them.

The railway embankment now has passed Kossaima, keeping somewhat to the north. There are no rails on it.

Agent followed this embankment back towards Hassana. It crosses wadi el Arish a little to the north of the motor road and embankment head is now some 6 kilos west of wadi el Arish. There are 170 Syrians working there, under 2 Germans and 4 Turkish engineers.

There are 6 huts and 1 shelter at embankment head, On the motor road close by 2 empty motor cars were standing.

The proposed line of the embankment is marked out by wooden pegs with little red and green flags; at every 6th peg there is an iron post.

Hassana 30th. Agent saw about 200 tents, huts, shelters etc scattered all over the place. There are only some 400 Turkish and Syrian soldiers, and 30 Eastern Arabs.

There are 2 houses near the reservoir, they are about 20 metres long by 12 wide by 5 high. One is practically finished. There are 6 wooden stores where food is sold. 100 transport camels, 50 horses and 240 mules.

Agent saw no aeroplanes there.

Agent saw 5 big guns east of the post and 1 anti-aircraft gun in the middle of the camp.

Agent returned via El Nehadein, 30th.

On 31st east of Gedeira agent saw a patrol of 15 camelmen going towards Um Mukhsheib. Nothing further of interest was seen.

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S E C R E T.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT. No. 558. ISMAILIA. 3rd JUNE 1916.

Source of

INTELLIGENCE.

I.O.
Kantara
2/6/16.

Examination of Turkish Prisoner captured at Hod Salmana on 31st May 1916.

Before daylight on the 31st a Beduin spy brought news of the approach of 2 - 3,000 mounted enemy. 40 of the Garrison rode away on camels towards Bir el Mazar; 10 were left behind without camels. These hid themselves in the bushes; 4 of them opened fire on our approach; prisoner did not fire but gave up his gun and was captured. Of these 10, four were killed, prisoner was captured, and 5 others escaped temporarily.

At Hod Salmana on the 30th May there were 40 riflemen mounted on camels (Syrian Camel Corps) 15 baggage camels kept them supplied with rations, and 10 camelmen looking after those. There was another post at Bir Salmana. At Hod el Bayud there were 50 Beduins and a Turkish Officer, named Mustafa Effendi, and also at Bir el Ganadil there were 50 Beduins. The Officer in charge of the post at Hod Salmana was a Turkish Sergeant (Bili Suliman).

One "Tabur" (equal to 10 companies, each company 150 men) was sent from El Arish to Bir el Mazar for 10 days and returned to El Arish. Beduins from Bir el Bayud do whole day patrols towards our rail-head, going as unarmed spies. Their duty is to observe and gather information. The Turkish garrisons do the night patrols, simply guarding their front.

Commander in Chief of the expedition is Jamal Pasha; Prisoner's Regiment: Regimental Commander, Sami Bey; prisoner's Company commander Abdelaziz. Commander at Bir Saba Bahgat Bey. All above are Turks. The Commander at El Arish Von Kress Pasha.

Enemy transport camels 50,000 ? between Bir Saba and El Arish.

Prisoner was at Bir Saba 2 months ago; when there very large sickness from 100 to 200 dying daily.

Beduin women approach British front and return with information to enemy.

At El Arish on 25th May, prisoner saw 4 machine guns mounted to fire at aeroplanes. These guns were mounted in pairs.

- 3 Taburs" (4,000 men) at El Arish with 3 German Officers
- At Bir Saba 2 aeroplanes which use El Arish as temporary base.
- Aeroplane landing at a place one hour south of El Arish.

Neither Bir el Mazar or Hod Salmana are strongly fortified.

Rumour states that the British are building a railway to El Arish and that the Turks will fight to stop it. That many guns are being brought to El Arish and also many troops, and that after Ramadan the main body will advance to Katia, while other columns will proceed against Ismailia and Suez.

Information
From
Arab Market.
3/6/16.

Information from the Arabs at the Market is never very trustworthy. To day's report appears to be most unreliable.

- (1) An Ayayda Arab states that Khabret Zohra in wadi Mukhshoib is 2/3 full of water.
- 4 cisterns at Haraba Mubashia are 1/2 full of water.
- Haraba Hassan Mohsin is 2/3 full of water.

A Turkish Patrol of one Officer and 9 camelmen visited Haraba el Mubashia on the 22nd and returned to Rodh Salem.

BIR EL JIFJAFI 27th May. No post.

RODH SALEM 28th. 10 tents, 200 Turkish soldiers, 25 workmen 30 armed Arabs, and 2 German Officers. There are 2 mountain guns and 20 transport camels. There are 16 wells altogether, all about 2 metres deep, and 6 hand pumps on different wells.

The motor road and telegraph has reached Rodh Salem.

MAGHARA 30th. About 100 tents; 1,300 soldiers of whom 500 are Germans; 2 German and 1 Turkish Officer; 3 horses; 40 riding and 50 transport camels. 3 wells and a tank 8 metres by 3 and 1 metre deep.

The road between Maghara and Rodh Salem is not metalled only cleared of sand. There is a daily patrol between the 2 places.

- (2) Another Ayayda Arab visited, El Arish on the 25th. About 200 tents, 1,000 soldiers of whom about 100 are Germans; 140 camels; 50 horses and 60 mules.

Between Fagira and the camp are 4 big tents in which 4 aeroplanes are kept. The Arab saw one aeroplane fly to the west, it had a black cross on its wing.

Between the town and the camp there is a line of entrenchment in which are 4 guns and west of the town are 8 guns. 5 soldiers and 6 camels were killed in the recent bombardment of El Arish.

He saw 15 camels laden with supplies arrive at El Arish from Rafa.

Between the camp and the line of entrenchment are 3 big white tents in which the ammunition is kept, it has a guard of 30 soldiers who live in 5 small tents close at hand.

BIR EL MAZAR 26th. About 100 German and Turkish soldiers 30 Arabs, 40 riding camels and 10 horses.

North of the well are 4 mountain, and 3 machine guns.

BIR EL MELHA 27th. A patrol of 30 camelmen from Lagama were watering at the well.

Agent
Ismailia
3/6/16. A Trustworthy Agent who left Ismailia on the 26th May for Bir Mazar and El Arish, reports :-

BIR MADKUR 26th. Well filled in, no water.

HOD EL MUHAMMAM 27th. Tracks of many cavalry patrols.

BIR EL MAZAR 28th. Agent saw 1,000 regular soldiers and 500 armed Arab camelmen (Sawarka and Ferrabin) 500 of the regulars are Germans and the remainder Turks. Hussein Eff is Commandant. There are 6 guns, about 12 cms in diameter and 2 metres long, on the high ground north west of the well. Between the guns and the well is a house in which rations are stored. The telegraph Office is in a wooden kiosk a little N of the house.

Agent saw 800 riding and 500 transport camels at the post.

EL ARISH 29th. Agent saw about 2,400 soldiers at El Arish of whom 400 were Germans, 1,800 Turks and 200 Syrians. The majority of the troops were drilling or doing musketry.

South of the town and west of the wadi Agent saw 500 tents, only 200 of which were erected. The remainder which are more or less sand coloured, are stretched flat on the ground over dug out holes where the men live. An opening is left for ventilation.

The hospital is east of the camp and consists of 20 tents over which flies a plain yellow flag. S,W, of the town near the telegraph line to Mazar are 7 guns under tarpaulins. Agent saw no guns in the line of entrenchments south of the town.

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Agent saw ~~the~~ houses in the town which had been hit during the bombardment. He heard that 2 Officers, 3 soldiers, 5 camels and 2 horses were killed.

He was told that seaplanes helped the battleships in their range finding.

After sunset on the 29th Agent saw some one arrive from Magdhaba in a carriage drawn by 4 horses. He could not see who was inside because of a red silk covering. He was told that it was Taj Bey, a Muslim of evident importance as a guard of honour was turned out to receive him.

About 1 hour later a bugle was sounded and it was announced that reinforcements were expected from Tafa.

Agent left El Arish on the morning of the 30th; Abu Libd night of 30th; El Ugdi 31st. Egeidet Um Nasr 1st June ~~AM~~ and then in, seeing nothing worth reporting.

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SECRET.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.No.559.ISMAILIA. 5th JUNE 1916.

Source of

INTELLIGENCE.

I.O. Examination of wounded Punjabi Mohammedan prisoner captured
Kantara from the enemy at Hod Salmana on 31st May 1916
3/6/16.

Prisoner was at Hod Salmana with 60 Turks mounted on Camels, and 10 Indian Mohammedans dismounted, all belonging to the same regiment.

Beduin Spies brought in news very early on 31st. ult., that British Troops were approaching. The mounted Turks departed east, and the 10 Indians were left, of them 7 were killed.

Beduin Spies and Beduin women with flocks watch British movements and bring in news.

At Ganadil a post of 50 Beduins on camels, and at Bayud a post of 60 Beduins on camels; all in native dress, not uniform.

At Mazar two infantry regiments and one camel regiment, each regiment 1,500 men. One infantry regiment is 10 Companies; each company has a Turkish Sergeant Major. Prisoner saw one of these Europeans at Mazar.

Turks send out patrols at night and early morning, half a dozen men each on their front and flanks.

Prisoner knew the name of Sami Bey as being a big Commander at Bir Saba.

15,000 camels came lately from Bir Saba to El Arish unladen.

A Convoy of 1,000 camels brings food and water from El Arish to Mazar every 10 days. Water bad at Salmana.

Prisoner volunteered information that 18 Indians, who deserted last Autumn from Indian troops on the Canal were all sent to Constantinople, and are still there.

The 10 Indians with whom he was were Baluchis, Pathans, and Hazanas.

Agent
Ismailia
4/6/16

A very reliable Agent left Ismailia on the 27th for Maghara Hamma and Rodh Salem, and reports:-

Da'eg 27th { Nothing to report.
GEBEL GEDEIRA 28th {

The road between Gebel el Urf and Bir el Melhi is not metalled it is a good road but not for wheeled traffic.

BIR EL MELHI 29th. No post. Workmen have deepened the well and increased the water supply, but the water is still very brackish.

A trough has been made and the Arabs have been told that a pump is going to be erected. The workmen have gone and there is no one there but Arabs with their flocks.

MAGHARA 29th. Agent saw 20 tents, 7 Arab shelters, 20 soldiers 40 armed Arabs and 40 workmen. Commandant Nur Eff.

There are 2 tanks about 30 metres by 2, also several long wooden drinking troughs. A pumping engine fills these. A third tank is in course of construction.

Agent saw 2 small mountain guns; and 150 camels of whom 70 were carrying telephone poles.

2 Turkish engineers visited Maghara recently and climbed the 2 tallest hills in the neighbourhood, with a view to placing anti-aircraft guns in position.

BIR UM WERIB 30th. Agent heard firing at Maghara.

The well has been cleared and a pipe brings water down hill to a tank 20 metres by 2. Close to the tank is a tent containing 4 soldiers. The bare space reported by aeroplane was cleared for a camp.

BIR EL HAMMA 31st. Agent saw 16 tents, 3 Arab shelters; 40 soldiers; no workmen; 50 camels. There is a tank 20 metres by 3 and also long wooden drinking troughs and a fair sized

P.T.O.

building containing stores.

RODH SALEM 1st June. Agent saw 35 tents, 6 Arab shelters and 80 soldiers; no workmen.

A patrol of 150 camolmon who used Rodh Salem as their base have been recalled by Bahgat Boy to Saba.

Agent did not approach the wells nor tank.

He saw 2 mountain guns and 50 camels.

He was told by Arabs that:-

(1) Two "taburs" had been sent from Shellal to El Arish.

They were "Aghwan" (Afghan?) who had served in the British Army.

(2) Buildings are being erected at Hassana for aeroplanes.

Agent passed Jifjafa on 1st June. The wells are deserted.

Um Merjam, Katib es Sabha 2nd, and Tassa 3rd.

Nothing further to report.

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S E C R E T.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.No.562.ISMAILIA. 8th JUNE 1916.

Source of INTELLIGENCE.

Intelligence Office Ismailia. 8/6/16. An Arab who has been allowed to cross the Canal and who it was arranged should first visit Rodh Salem reports:-
WADI UM MUKHSHEIB 5-6-16. Muiya Um Mukhsheib full of water enough to supply 100 camels with water a day.
KHABRET ZOHRA full of water, enough to supply 500 - 600 camels with water in a day.
KHABRA HABBAL $\frac{1}{2}$ full of water: water enough to supply 70 - 80 camels in a day.
Seven Harabas of Haraba el Mebashia. full of water.
ROHD SALEM. Arab states that he was at Rodh Salem from mid-day to sunset on 6th inst, and reports 30 tents; 100 camel Corps with their camels and 50 infantry, all these troops TURKS.

NOTE... His story is untrue and it is incredible that he was at Rodh Salem on 6th. Flying report morning of 6th, gives 7 tents, no men nor camels to be seen.

SECRET.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.No.563.ISMAILIA. 9th JUNE. 1916.

Source of INTELLIGENCE.

Telegraph Office SUEZ 9/6/16. Telograph communication between TOR & ABU ZENIMA interrupted since this morning.

Agent Ismailia 9/6/16. A trustworthy Agent left Ismailia 2nd June for Nekhl on foot. He passed south of El Tassa where he heard firing and heard on his return that 3 camels had been killed and one wounded, all the property of the Ayaida. He met a brother at Zoghalm (N.W. of Gebel Um Makhassa) and told him to go to Rodh Salem (Note. see report No.562 of yesterday) He proceeded via Shelail 3rd June and south of Themada 4th June. East of Themada he saw tracks of a camel patrol of six men going from Nekhl to Themada and returning on 3rd or 4th.

NEKHL Evening of 5th. He slept in a tent north of the town with Arabs. (Tosha and Torabin) in Turkish employ.

TROOPS AT NEKHL. About 350. Mostly Turks, but some Syrians
2 German Officers
Commandant is a Turk
50 riding camels including camels of Arab guides.
20 horses
10 mules.

The large tank is full of water.

Men are posted on high ground to give warning of aeroplanes so that Garrison can get to their dug-outs.

8 mountain guns near the town, 4 to the S.W. and 4 to N.E.

Tents 50,- 15 S.W. of town: 35 N.E. of town.

He heard:-

- (1) That a patrol of 20 Arabs left Nekhl evening of 4th for Ain Sudr to be stationed there.
- (2) That some time previously a bomb had killed a man (Mohammed Agha) his wife and his daughter in law. Another bomb killing a Turkish Officer and 2 men.

NOTE. (Presumably bombs dropped on 13th May)

- (3) That about 20 families of Hultat Arabs from near Dhaba (Hejaz Coast) have moved to near Ain Sudr on account of lack of food in their own country.
- (4) That the ammunition at Nekhl is buried a short distance east of the detached buildings N.E. of the town, and roofed over and covered with sand.

On morning of 6th Agent saw 30 camels carrying stores arrive by the Kossaima road. Twenty camel drivers Arab and Syrian with them.

Agent left on morning of 6th passing north of Giddi where he saw 4 Arabs watering camels.

Morning of 8th at Ashubi he saw one of our aeroplanes going towards W. Um Mukhsheib - Another which came from north seemed to be firing over Makhazin.

ABU ZENIMA INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

May 31st. An Agent reported that the Turkish Officer at wadi Gineh had given orders that Arabs were not to take charcoal to Abu Zenima and had posted Arab picquets to enforce his orders. Arabs were directed to take their charcoal to W. Gineh or Nekhl where they were to receive a bushel of grain for a sack of charcoal. NOTE by Abu Zenima:- A bad bargain for the Arabs.

JUNE 2nd. An Agent reported that Sheikh Mossir had been ordered by the Turkish Officer at W. Gineh to collect all water tanks from the mines at Um Bogma. Arrangements were made from Abu Zenima to meet such a party, but they did not appear. The tanks have been brought in to Abd Zenima.

SECRET.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No.564.ISMAILIA. 10th JUNE 1916.

Source of

INTELLIGENCE.

I.O.
Ismailia
10/6/16. An Agent who proceeded yesterday to warn Arabs that market would no longer be held outside our lines heard that a hostile aeroplane had four days previously dropped bombs in the Katia area.

The death is reported at Um Mukhsheib about 40 days ago of Amer Ayad, a Sheikh of the Ayaida, at the age of 70. This person was the hereditary holder of the post of "Mubashaa" over a district extending as far as Hebron, it being recognised among the Arabs as within his powers to test persons accused of crimes with the ordeal by fire.

He possessed a great reputation. His death is attributed to the discourtesy shown him by the Commander at Nekhl which so chagrined him that he took to his bed and never recovered.

I.O.
SUEZ.
10/6/16.

Agent met an Arab as pre-arranged who told him the following:-
(1) He had been to Bir Maghara on 3rd June. He saw a dead camel at the well said to have been killed by a bomb from an aeroplane. The Maghara post is small in numbers.
(2) He heard at Maghara that an enemy patrol under an Officer named Masri had left Hassana for Rodh Salem and was making for Moiya Harab. The Arab left Maghara for Moiya Harab and found the tracks of the patrol (strength 30) in the wadi Shelail on the 4th inst. This patrol was seen by him at Moiya Harab on evening of the 5th and left on the 6th for Rodh Salem and Hassana. It is said to have been sent to try and capture the Shallufa patrol on its way to wadi Um Mukhsheib & Giddi. An Arab called Id Amer was guide to the Turkish patrol and was left at Moiya Harab to get information of our patrols. He has orders to report such news immediately to Rodh Salem where there are now 6 tents.

The Arab who gave the above information recommends that our patrols should keep a sharp look-out when near Giddi and Um Mukhsheib.

S E C R E T.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.No.565.ISMAILIA.12th JUNE 1916.

Source of INTELLIGENCE.

SUEZ TELEGRAPH OFFICE 11/6/16. TOR telegraph communication restored this morning at 0800.

I.O. SUEZ 10/6/16. CONTINUATION OF SUEZ AGENT'S REPORT contained in Report No.564.

Agent heard that a German named Frank accompanied by a guide named Suleiman Foreig (Lehaiwat tribe) recently went to Bir el Abd where they saw a British patrol. Frank wished to fire on it but the Arab stopped him, being afraid. An altercation ensued. Frank got on his camel and returned to El Arish and reported the Arab who followed him to El Arish. Frank is said to have been fined 70 Napoleons and sent to Bir El Saba and the Arab imprisoned at El Arish.

On 7th June. Agent visited Giddi - All clear - Plenty of water in the Giddi water holes as also in the Um Mukhsheib cisterns.

8th June. Towal - All clear - Little water.

Gobab - All clear - Little water.

9th June. Early morning. Wadi El Haj. All clear.

Agent heard that the Garrisons at Hassana and Nekhl have been very considerably reduced recently.

No signs of any hostile movement.

Telephone lines between BIR MAGHARA and BIR BAYUD and between GEBEL HISN and RAS EL GINDI are said to have been completed.

NOTE.. This is correct as regards the latter but the MAGHARA - BIR BAYUD line does not appear to have got very far on its way.

Agent Ismailia 11/6/16. A very trustworthy Agent proceeded on 4-6-16 to Bir el MAZAR and EL ARISH.

EL HAWAWISH 4-6-16 (Nothing.

S.of HOD EL BAYUD.5-6-16 (

BIR EL MAZAR 6-6-16. Agent saw about 50 tents, 60 Shelters from the sun made of waterproof sheets with a stick in the middle and the four corners roped to pegs.

Troops consisted of about 800 Turks, 500 Germans, 200 Syrians and 100 Arabs - the Turks wearing on their heads black caps, the Germans smallish Khaki ~~caps~~ Hats, and the Syrians and Arabs kerchiefs and head-ropes. (The Arabs were from Arabia.)

Animals - about 900 transport camels, 70 riding camels 50 horses and 15 mules.

To the west of Woli's tomb is a work with six guns, each about 1½ metres long and covered with tarpaulins.

In the afternoon (6-6-16) Agent saw a hostile aeroplane flying high from the direction of El Arish. It turned over MAZAR and went back.

Agent slept east of BIR EL MAZAR and arrived EL ARISH noon 7-6-16 - S.E. of the Fort about 90 tents; 25 shelters; Troops 1,000 Turks, 700 Germans, 300 Syrians and 50 Arabs (of Arabia) 1,000 transport camels, 80 riding camels and 70 horses. To the west of the graveyard (west of the fort) is a small work with 4 big guns covered with tarpaulins. The guns about 2 metres long.

On high ground directly south of BIR ATWAN is another small work with 2 similar guns.

South of the tents is a trench about 40 metres long by 3 metres broad, parts of it covered with tarpaulins. Many soldiers were moving in and out of it.

North of EL FAGIRA are 2 wooden Hangars each about 25 metres long by 10 metres broad by 4 metres high.

The Commandant EL ARISH is said to be Mumtaz Bey.

In the afternoon of the 7-6-16 Agent saw a Turkish aeroplane land near these Hangars and saw it taken inside one of them.

Agent left El Arish in the afternoon 7-6-16 and slept ~~xxx~~ west of El Masmi. The next night he slept north of BAYUD having travelled south of MAZAR.

South of KATIB EL JEFER 9-6-16. Nothing.

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SECRET.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 566. ISMAILIA. 13th JUNE 1916.

Source of INTELLIGENCE.

AGENT Left Ismailia on 6-6-16 for Molhi, Maghara, Um Werib, Hamma
Ismailia and Rodh Salem.
13/6/16. D'EEG 6th. Nothing.
N. of WEDEIRA 7th. 30 camels grazing.
EL MELHI 8th. No post. A little to the N. of the Bir
a small wooden trough was constructed for camels to water
from. Agent heard while he was at Bir El Melhi that there
were tents to the E. of EL Kerimia and workmen clearing the
sand, which the wind continually covers the road with, from
off the surface of the road. Agent reports that the road
passes from the E of the Bir el Melhi to Gebel El Urf passing
by the east of Kerimia and that although it is not metalled
it is for motor cars to travel.
EL MAGHARA 9th. Agent saw 16 tents; 5 shelters; 60 Syrian
soldiers and workmen; 7 German Engineers who are responsible
for the construction of water pipes, basins and reservoirs;
also 5 Arabs from the Terrabin tribe mounted on camels
2 horses one of which was brought from the neighbourhood
of Katia by one Arab of the Messaid tribe who sold it to the
Commandant of Maghara post, named Nur Eff, for L.T. 7.
This Massoudi whose name is Hussein Egeil did sell another
British horse for L.T. 6 at Hamma.
There is a basin built with stones and cement about 7
metres long by 1½ metres broad and a wooden trough constructed
north of the big well "El Haiira". Both the basin and the
trough receive water through pipes from the engine working on
the said Bir. There is also another wooden trough near
Bir "El Emara" which is fed the same way.
A breastwork of stones was seen a little to the north
of the wells which Agent learnt to be a line of defence.
No guns were seen at Maghara.
15 camels were seen loaded with wooden poles and
proceeding in a northerly direction towards a place called
Nagb el Sheikh (Sheikh Hemeid).
Agent heard while he was at Maghara that 5 British
aeroplanes visited there on Friday (2-6-16) and dropped
more than 30 bombs, burning one tent and all its contents
which were 2 boxes of ammunition, 6 rifles and a fowel
coop, and broke one of the water pipes which was afterwards
repaired.
UM WERIB 9-6-16. Agent saw 2 tents, 2 German Engineers
and 9 Syrian workmen. Water is lifted from Bir Um Werib
by means of a hand pump.
EL HAMMA 10-6-16. Agent saw 15 tents, 3 shelters, 40 Syrian
armed soldiers and workmen.
There are 5 wells all full of water at El Hamma. On the middle
well a hand pump has been erected which feeds a pipe to
a long wooden drinking trough.
15 camels loaded with rations arrived at Hamma on
9-6-16, the day before the Agent was there.
Rodh Salem evening of 10-6-16. Agent saw 9 tents; 2 shelters;
30 Syrians, half of whom were armed, and the other half were
only workmen; one wooden store where rations are kept.
There are 3 wells all full of water at Rodh Salem.
On the middle well there is a pump which feeds a long wooden
drinking trough close by.
N.W. of the tents there is a trench about 9 metres long
No guns seen at Rodh Salem.
Agent return via Gebel el Urf and Aarid.

A.T.O.

Agent Ismailia 13-6-16. A fairly reliable Agent left Ismailia 4-6-16 for Melhi Maghara, Es SIRR, Hamma, Rodh Salom. This Agents report confirms most of the statements made by previous agent on Page 1 of this report.

ABU WAGIF 5-6-16. Nothing.

GEDEIRA 6-6-16 . Nothing

Near Bir el Melhi Agent saw the tracks of 3 riding camels going from Gebel Hamaiyir to Jifjafa. West of Melhi there are 2 piles of timber which a work party of one German engineer and 9 Syrian workmen are laying across the road.

The well at Bir el Melhi has been lined with concrete The water is rather bitter. There were no signs of this place having been occupied recently, nor were there any signs of patrols.

Maghara 7-6-16. Confirms previous Agent's report.

Agent reports that he heard from A Leheiwat Arab that a patrol of 20 Syrian Camelmen had left the night previously for Bayud. The Arab stated that all patrols were very busy at nights, and that provisions were constantly being brought from Hassana.

Maghara is connected up ~~wire~~ by telephone with BAYUD and HAMMA from an instrument in Nur EffVs tent.

ES SIRR. 8-6-16. No post. The ovens previously reported here have all been removed.

HAMMA 9-6-16. Near Hamma in the wadi there are 3 large shelters and 15 tents. There is very little water in the 5 wells.

The post here consists of One Turkish Officer and 40 soldiers Syrians and Turks(Agent does not know the name of the Officer) One wooden hut used as an Office contains the telephone instrument. Another wooden hut contains stores(quantity unknown)

RODH SALEM 10-6-16. Confirms previous report. Page 1.

Agent also states that the tents at Maghara are protected from observation from above by branches of trees.

Agent heard from an Arab that there were a number of cases of Cholera at El Auja and Saba.

Agent left Rodh Salem evening of 10th and slept the night near Jifjafa . On morning of 11th he saw a patrol of Arab camelmen(4) proceeding from Mukhsheib to Hamaiyir. In the afternoon of the same day he saw a sand coloured aeroplane with two black spots underneath the main body of the plane.

Agent returned to Ismailia via Katib el Sabha, S. of Tassi and N. of Katib el Kheil.

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S E C R E T.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.No.567.ISMAILIA 14th JUNE 1916.

Source of

INTELLIGENCE.

I.O.
KANTARA
13-6-16. Examination of 2 wounded prisoners taken between HOD EL DEBABIS and BIR EL ABD on 11th inst. Both prisoners are Syrians and belong to 2nd Company Syrian Camel Corps.

Operations previous to Capture.

Their unit (? Company) was operating from Bir El Mazar it numbered about 100 strong with Zia Bey, a Turkish Officer in Command, and was accompanied by 300 Arabs - infantry (?).

The other Company Officers were Ibrahim Eff, (an Arab), Amin Bey, Mazmi Bey, and Sarwat Bey, (three Turks): of the 100 men, 60 were left at Bir El Mazar, and 40 came to Hod el Salmana; from this 40 a patrol of 8 were west of Bir el Abd, when surprised by our advance; the two prisoners were leading the patrol, and were hit, while the other six retired at first alarm.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Prisoners had been serving about a year with the Syrian Camel Corps: for the first six months they were in Syria, then came to Bir El Saba, and then came to Mazar via El Arish a fortnight ago.

The Commander at El Arish is German. Prisoners knew name of Von Kress as German Commander inspecting various posts from his base at Bir El Saba.

There are 10 or 12 German Officers at Bir el Mazar. At Hod El Bayud there are about 100 Arabs, with one Turkish Officer and one Arab Officer.

There are no posts at Bir El Abd or Debabis, but daily patrols go out from Hod El Salmana.

Patrols also go from Hod El Bayud and Bir El Abd, and a Salmana - Bayud patrol meets a Bayud - Salmana patrol at Half way between these posts.

The wandering Arabs between the lines convey information of our movements to the enemy, but in the last 10 days a lot have migrated East.

Prisoners estimates of numbers of troops at El Arish were very vague, varying from 4,000 to 20,000, but as reason of this they said that the Camp at El Arish was so scattered that it was hard to estimate: prisoners knew nothing of aeroplanes at or near El Arish, but said common rumour had it that there were 36 German machines at Bir El Saba (Note by I.O.Kantara. This seems rather ridiculous).

RATIONS:- 250 dirhems bread, and 150 dirhoms vegetables daily; meat twice a week: pay 5 piasters monthly, duly paid. (NOTE:- 400 dirhems is about 2 lbs.weight.)

Amongst the English prisoners captured by enemy in Katia operations in April, the prisoners heard of 17 Officers who had been sent to Constantinople.

The 1st Battalion of the 32nd Regiment is supposed to be coming to El Arish.

Prisoners had no news of collection of baggage camels at El Arish - in general rationing seemed to be done by small and frequent conveys.

The prisoners had little connected information to give, and had very scanty ideas as to numbers, positions of troops, future plans etc.,.

Any further information obtained later will be circulated in due course.

NOTE...by I.O. Ismailia. Report is very unsatisfactory, but perhaps may be attributed to their wounds. They are both probably to undergo operations for amputation. When sufficiently well they will be interrogated again.