

(b) Until hostilities break out on Northern Front the boundary will be:—

(Ninth Army incl.) the political boundary between Persia and Iraq south to Abu Kemal—Qasr Muhaiwir—then a line due south to frontier of Saudi Arabia.

10. It is essential to avoid disclosing our weakness or our intentions to the enemy, to Turkey, or to the local populations, because by so doing we may encourage the enemy to attack, drive Turkey into submission, and bring about a serious internal security situation. My policy, therefore, is:—

(a) To continue the despatch of stores to Turkey in accordance with the programme now in operation.

(b) To maintain garrisons in forward areas, as nearly as possible on the same scale as in the past.

(c) To continue slowly with the construction of roads already started in the forward areas.

(d) *Tenth Army*.—To complete work on defences already in preparation in Mosul area. To prepare positions for occupation by two divisions in area Basra—Shaiba to cover base and port installations.

Ninth Army.—To complete work on Southern Syria and Lebanon defences for occupation by five divisions.

(e) To prepare, without delay, defended bases of supply to enable mobile striking forces to operate from (a) Haffa (b) Amman.

The projected base at Palmyra will not be formed at present, but plans will be made to form it at short notice, or to destroy the facilities already existing there.

(f) To complete the following bridges:—

Raqqa—(To avoid disclosing a change in policy) (Heaviest loads).

Haffa—Cl. 24.

Fatha—Cl. 40.

Approaches to the bridge at Deir ez Zor will be completed, but the bridge will not be built. Similarly work started on the Khabur bridges will be completed, but no new work started.

(g) To prepare defended staging posts at Rutba and Tel Ghosain.

11. The policy for garrisoning and stocking the bases of supply and the staging posts is given in Appendix "C" and annexure thereto.*

C. J. Auchinleck, General,
C-in-C., M.E.F.

APPENDIX "A" to G.H.Q., M.E.F. OPERATION INSTRUCTION No. 117.

Forces Likely to be Available in Middle East (referred to in para. 2).

| Ready now. | Ready 1st June. | Ready 1st July. | Ready 1st August or later. | Possibly due from overseas and ready 1st August or later. (Not to be relied on). |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 1 Armd Div. | 3 Ind Motor † | 31 Ind Armd Div.† | 10 Armd Div.† | 8 Armd Div.† |
| 7 Armd Div. | Bde Gp. | 1 Armd Bde Gp.† | 9 Armd Bde Gp.† | Two Ind Divs.† |
| 1 Army Tank Bde. | 2 F. F. Bde Gp.† | | Polish Div.† | 251 Ind Armd Bde.† |
| 22 Armd Bde Gp. | Sudanese Bde Gp.† | | Greek Bde Gp.† | |
| 50 Div. | 32 Army Tank Bde.† | | | |
| 9 Aust. Div.† | | | | |
| N.Z. Div.† | | | | |
| 1 S.A. Div.† | | | | |
| 2 S.A. Div. | | | | |
| 4 Ind Div.† | | | | |
| 5 Ind Div.† | | | | |
| 6 Ind Div.† | | | | |
| 8 Ind Div.† | | | | |
| 10 Ind Div.† | | | | |
| 1 F.F. Bde. | | | | |
| Desert Bde.† | | | | |

† Short of certain equipment and transport.

† Dates of readiness depend on arrival of equipment and transport and priorities of issue.

APPENDIX "B" to G.H.Q., M.E.F. OPERATION INSTRUCTION No. 117.

Probable Forces available—Ninth and Tenth Armies and G.H.Q. Reserve (referred to in para. 4).

Ninth Army.

Desert Bde.
N.Z. Div.
9 Aust. Div.
Greek Bde. Gp.

Tenth Army.

10 Armd. Div.
3 Indian Motor Bde. Gp.
31 Indian Armd. Div.
6 Indian Div.
8 Indian Div.
10 Indian Div.

G.H.Q. Reserve.

7 Armd. Div.
1 Armd. Bde. Gp.
32 Army Tank Bde. (Two Bns.).
5 Ind. Div.

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G.H.Q., M.E.F. Operation Instruction No. 118.

Operations in Persia.

19th May, 1942.

Commander, Tenth Army.

Introduction.

1. This instruction covers the action to be taken by Middle East Forces in the event of an enemy attack through Persia from the Caucasus, and assumes no immediate threat to Northern Iraq and Syria from Anatolia.

2. We shall be on the defensive in the Western Desert.

Object.

3. My object is to ensure the security of our bases, ports, oil supplies and refineries in Iraq and Persia.

Forces available.

4. Forces likely to be available in this Command during the next four months are given in Appendix "A".

* Not reproduced.