5/5/13/16

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS
OPEN

OCTOBER TO
NOVEMBER 1943

ORIGINAL

HEADQUARTERS R.A.E.
9 DIVISION

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
AWM2020.71.1541

DEC 8 1948

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ RAE 9 AUST DIV Date and Time.—From 1 Oct 43 To 31 Oct 43.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TICKERENG	1 ~~0830~~x	0830	Maj Callister visited HQ RAE.	
		1000	Maj Moodie (OC 2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE) and Capt BRENNAN (2 i/c) visited HQ RAE.	
		1230	CRE to 2/13 Fd Coy. Returned 1600 hrs and went to confer with G1 (Lt-Col BARHAM)	
			HQ RAE now has line comn with 2/7 Fd Coy, 2/13 Fd Coy and 2/24 Fd Park Coy.	
	2	0600	Lieut BURKITT (2/13 Fd Coy) and a party including Spr McGILLIVRAY of HQ RAE left by sea for DREGER HARBOUR. as part of Div Recce Party for lying up areas there.	
		1100	Brig MAINE (CE NGF) and Brig TORR (CE 1 Aust Corps) visited HQ RAE and conferred with CRE.	
		1300	News reached HQ RAE that FINSCHHAFEN fell to 2/17 Bn at 1130 hrs. Following changes in postings were made on this day:- Lieut A WATSON from OC Bridging Pl 2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy RAE to Fd Engr 2/13 Fd Coy. Lieut H BURKITT from Fd Engr 2/13 Fd Coy to I O R E. Lieut H GEHRMANN from I O R E to OC Bridging Platoon 2/24 Fd Park Coy RAE. Lieut L T IZARD (reinft Offr) to Fd Engr 2/24 Fd Park Coy RAE.	
	3	1230	CRE and RSM left HQ RAE and proceeded via BUSU NORTH and LAE to NADZAB. RSM then returned to HQ RAE. CRE continued on up MARKHAM VALLEY to visit 7 AUST DIV.	
			On this day Bridging Pl of Fd Park Coy finished removal of all equipment bridging from all tide jeep track BUREP - BUSU SOUTH, and replacement of these bridges by timber jeep bridges. Bridging Pl then moved from ~~BUSU~~ BUREP RIVER to join HQ 2/24 Fd Park Coy at mouth of BUNGA RIVER.	

Govt. Printer, Brisbane

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ RAE 9 Aust Div *Date and Time.—From* 1 Oct 43 *To* 31 Oct 43.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TICKERENG	4		Lieut BURKITT reported on road recce DREGER HARBOUR and Lieut ROBERTSON reported on possible Div Maintenance area DREGER HARBOUR. 2/7 Fd Coy came under command 5 Aust Div. 2/3 Fd Coy signalled report on progress of tracks and roads in FINSCHHAFEN. CRE arrived back from visit to 7 Aust Div at NADZAB. Lieuts ROBERTSON AND BURKITT report to CRE on results of recce of DREGER BAY.	
	5	0700	Party from 2/13 Fd Coy under Maj MOODIE left "G" Beach in LCV(p) with jeep to recce for possible road from here to LANGEMAK BAY to move Div transport by land to FINSCHHAFEN . He was accompanied by Lieut REDMOND and Lieut DODS.	
	6		Staff tables prepared for anticipated move of 9 Aust Div HQ to FINSCHHAFEN. Coys commenced overhauling of stores, equipment and MTX.	
	7	2100	2/13 Fd Coy recce party under command Maj MOODIE return from Rd Recce BUREP ti LANGEMAK BAY. Verbal report/difficult to /stated construct rd. One Fd Coy 6-8 weeks.	
	8	1500	Wet. 2/3 Fd Coy report construction 3 ton FBE ferry across mouth of MAPE River. Moved dozer to S of LANGEMAK BAY to construct jeep track to DREGER HARBOUR. Report jeep track only FINSCHHAFEN to Ferry. No 1 Pl 2/13 Fd Coy in support 2/43 Bn operating on road HELDSBACH Plantation. towards SATELBERG.	
		1600	2/3 Fd Coy report start upon construction 2-way 3-ton Rd south from FINSCHHAFEN to MAPE RIVER. Have started SBG bridge over BUMI River. 4 dozers casualties from enemy bombing.	

Govt. Printer, Brisbane

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

WAR DIARY ~~OF INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ RAE 9x AUST DIV Date and Time.—From 1 Oct 43 To 31 Oct 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TICKERENG	9		Maj MOODIE reports on proposed road BUREP to LANGEMAK Bay - not feasible in time at disposal. Report by I.O. ~~completed~~ compiled from I information and air photos on Rd FINSCHHAFEN - SIO 8070 man days 217 dozer days.	
	10		CRE, Adjt, Fd Engr, I.O. and ORS. RAE HQ left "G" Beach for FINSCHHAFEN by LCM taking 1 jeep and WE. Arrived FINSCHHAFEN 2330 hrs. Moved to temporary damp Div HQ area.	
	11		Remainder RAE HQ under RSM left "G" Beach 1400 hrs and arrived FINSCHHAFEN 0400 hrs 12 Oct. Located RAE HQ camp site. Erected Camp.	
FINSCHAFFEN			CRE recced FINSCHHAFEN area with Maj MOULDS. Fd Engrs & IO recced area with view to preliminary proposals to development of FINSCHHAFEN as a base.	
	12	1000	CRE called in by GOC. Further recce area.	
		1700	Capt STEVENSON returned to HQ RAE. from SCARLET BEACH where he was A/MLO during operation and resumed duties as Fd Engr.	
	13		Capt STEVENSON recced permanent main road route FINSCHHAFEN to SONG River.	LANGEMAK BAY 1:25000
			Lieut BURKITT continued recce of area for suitable installations and camp areas.	SATELBERG 1:25000
	14		As for 13th for Capt STEVENSON. Lieut BURKITT on same work south of LANGEMAK BAY.	
	15		Capt STEVENSON guided Col ROBINSON and Maj THEA. US Engr Corps, around FINSCHHAFEN area, Inspection for major BASE area.	LANGEMAK BAY 1:25000
	16		CRE camped night at 9 Div Tac HQ established in preparation for anticipated ehemy counter attack pn SCARLET BEACH.	

Govt. Printer, Brisbane

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit: HQ RAE 9 Aust Div | Date and Time.—From: 1 Oct 43 | To: 31 Oct 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
FINSCHHAFEN	16		Lieut BURKITT guided Maj THEA around area South LANGEMAK BAY. Captured enemy Operation Order gave dispositions and time of attack on SCARLET BEACH by sea. General stand to in area FINSCHHAFEN. Some little enemy light bombing. 4 Jap LCVs landed approx 100 enemy on SCARLET BEACH. Attack most unsuccessful.	
	17		Lieut BURKITT guided Col ROBINSON and Maj THEA around area South LANGEMAK BAY.	
	18		Japanese attack by land on SCARLET BEACH. Perimeter formed around beach includes 1 pl 2/13 Fd Coy, part of 2/1 M E Coy.	SATELBERG
		1600	Main party, 2/13 Fd Coy arrived KEDAM Pt-FINSCHHAFEN by LCV from LAE. 2/3 Fd Coy temporarily withdrawn from 627627 to BUMI River.	1:25000
			Japanese hold positions around SCARLET BEACH. All available engineer forces engaged on road and bridge construction between MAPE RIVER and HELDSBACH Plantation and movement of supplies to 20 Bde. Rain at night.	
	19	0130	One squadron of Matilda tanks landed south side LANGEMAK Bay. by LST and 26 Bde landed by LCI.	LANGEMAK BAY 1:25000
			Lieut K RABLING, Reinft Officer arrived and is temporarily attached to HQ RAE.	
	20		Weather fine. Draft of 2/13 Fd Coy including Maj MOODIE arrived FINSCHHAFEN by LCV from LAE. 2/13 Fd Coy at 632637. Unable to work owing to complete lack of tools. CRE inspected road.	
			2/13 Fd Coy returned to 627627.	SATELBERG 1:25000
	21		Weather fine. Work shop section 2/2 Fd Park arrived FINSCHHAFEN from "G" Beach. Road opened for traffic to SCARLETT Beach where force holding perimeter have been relieved. 2/13 Fd Coy tools and RE Stores arrive.	

Govt. Printer, Brisbane

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ RAE 9 Aust Div Date and Time.—From 1 Oct 43 To 31 Oct 43.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
FINSCHHAFEN	22		Weather fine. Capt HASTINGS, USN. visited CRE and inspected South LANGEMAK BAY. CRE accompanied GOC on inspection South of LANGEMAK BAY.	
	23		Weather fine. CRE accompanied GOC on inspection north of Divisional HQ. 2/13 Fd Coy commence work in FINSCHHAFEN area on bridges, main road and water point for CCS at SIMBANG.	
	24		Weather fine. US. Col SVERJUP arrived from GHQ, camped with RAE HQ.	
	25		Weather fine. Div HQ bombed at 0600, several casualties including CRA. Brig GOODWIN killed. Col SVERJUP left after completing preliminary survey of area.	
	26		Weather fine. 2/13 Fd Coy. lay booby trap minefields on 24 Bde fronts. 808 US Aviation Engineers commenced work on AIR STRIP South of LANGEMAK BAY.	
	27		Weather fine. Maj CALLISTER. OC2/24 Fd Park Coy arrived from LAE with Lieut ROBERTSON and small party of Fd Park Personnel.	
	28		Weather fine. A & C Coys 2/3 Pnr B n come under command CRE for works. Original of Sep War Diary and all appendices including "Report on Operation "POSTERN" completed and sent on. "Lessons from recent Operations".	Appendix Appx "A"

Govt. Printer, Brisbane

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

Unit HQ RAE 9 Aust Div Date and Time.—From 1 Oct 43 To 31 Oct 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
FINISCHHAFEN	29		Heavy showers rain. Lieut BURKITT sustained injuries to face and eyes as the result of a premature explosion of Japanese detonators whilst delousing enemy mine. Evacuated to CCS. Report on Operation "DIMINISH" completed and 1 copy each forwarded to 9 Div HQ and CE Branch 2 Aust Corps --	Appendix "B"
	30		Heavy rain. CRE issued instructions that all vehicles heavier than jeeps be taken off roads which were cutting up badly. Provosts to be posted at all road junstions to police traffic. CRE and Fd Engr inspected progress on main North - South Road. Work progressing satisfactorily, but more mechanical equipment would be of great assistance. A & C Coy Pnrs under command RAE commenced work on culverts and bridges on N - S Road. 2/24 Fd Park Coy instructed to send detachment to unload and guard RE stores arriving LANGEMAK BAY tonight. Intelligence summary forwarded to 2 Aust Corps.	Appendix "C"
	31		Rain continues. All traffic except jeeps still grounded. Several tracks go out even under jeeps. Stores from LANGEMAK BAY despatched by sea via LAUNCH JETTY to Fd Park Dump. Demand for 500 tons RE Stores required for development of FINSCHHAFEN as a base, submitted to 2 Aust Corps. Urgent demand for 20 tons for immediate requirements also forwarded. CRE and Adjt visited 808 US Engrs at DREGER Harbour. Airstrip now cleared over whole area and surfacing commenced. Rd LANGEMAK BAY DREGER HARBOUR COMPLETELY UNPASSABLE? ONLY CONNECTION BY SEA per landing craft.	

Govt. Printer, Brisbane

D.O. Muller Lt Col.

CRE 9 Aust Div.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

'A' Appendix

HQ RAE 9 Aust Div
E/34/101
26 Oct 43

To:
CE 2 Aust Corps.

ENGINEER LESSONS FROM OPERATIONS

1. Ref copy of EC 1070 of 30 Sep 43 forwarded to this HQ.

2. Detailed information concerning the amphibious operations which began at LAE on 4 Sep 43 are contained in the RAE 9 Aust Div Report on Operation "POSTMAN" and in the RAE 9 Aust Div Report on Operation "MILLIONAIRE".

3. Information has been sought on the performance of certain items of engineer equipment in these operations. Particulars further to those in the above reports are given herewith:

4. Inverkip Sledges:- 25 sledges were taken in at LAE, 13 by 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE and 12 by 2/7 Aust Fd Coy RAE. These sledges were constructed to standard design. Some 16 were supplied from the mainland and the remainder constructed at MILNE BAY by 5 Aust Army Tps Coy. The loads carried were engineer tools, sandbags, arc mesh, 25 pdr and 40 mm ammunition. Sledges were drawn by crawler tractors or 3-ton trucks.
During training exercises it was found difficult to keep the load securely on the sledge. Tools and sandbags were satisfactory. When ARC Mesh was carried it had to be laid on the sides, runners being too wide. This made the load top heavy and sheets of mesh tended to slide to one side and skew the load. Similarly the ammunition cases moved about on the sledges as it came down any slope such as a landing craft ramp despite the endeavours made to lash the cases to the side rails and to one another.
Sub para 3 (d) of RAE 9 Aust Div Report on Operation POSTMAN refers to a suggested solution for the problem of sledge loading and where practised this method has proved satisfactory.
It had been thought that these sledges would prove valuable for the carriage of supplies over boggy areas when drawn by a crawler tractor. In practice it was found easier and more economical to use the tractor to tow a jeep and/or its trailer through these bad patches.
2 Pl 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE used two sledges for some time to transport their tools when on the move. They were towed

lash

behind the units of mechanical equipment working with them but difficulty in firmly fixing the load was always found. The remainder were left at the Engineer Stores Dump near the landing beach and no use made of them after the initial landing.
No sledges were taken in as Engr Stores for "DIMINISH" Operation as first available craft for RAE Stores were in Wave 6 and these were LST in which all RAE Stores were vehicle loaded.

5. ARC MESH:- 100 tons of ARC mesh was taken into the LAE Operation for the purpose of trackway. It was carried on 3-ton trucks and Inverkip Sledges. It did not prove suitable in the country encountered.
It was laid along the black, sandy beach as a track, sheets being clipped together and the sides staked at intervals. Traffic movement loosened the fastenings and there formed a series of longitudinal waves in the trackway which would break the clips and twist the mesh.
By keeping close to the water's edge where the sand was firmer traffic could move along the beach without trouble and climb up over the dunes at hard patches. As a result all the mesh was ultimately picked up and placed clear of the beach. Had the only traffic over it been jeeps and trailers it is considered that it would have stood up satisfactorily.
Over soft ground even when backed with light corduroy and brush it did not succeed in distributing the wheel loads but was pressed down and the edges of the sheets bent up sow as to foul the undercarriage of vehicles.
Sheets of arc mesh single or doubled proved very satisfactory as decking forxjeep bridges whether laid on coconut logs and nailed to them or wired on to the RSJ's of Mk V Pontoon Superstructure.
For the "DIMINISH" Operation 80 tons of ARC MESH were bulk loaded into LSTs at BUNA. It was intended to load this onto vehicles at LAE but no time was available for this to be done. Time was again short at SCARLET BEACH for the unloading of bulk stores so that little more than 5 tons of this amount was unloaded on the far shore. 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE also brought in 6-tons loaded on their own 3-ton vehicles. This proved more than sufficient for operational requirements as little use was made of the mesh on the firm going of the beach. It formed a good surface on which to roll heavy 44 gal fuel drums being unloaded and as an entrance to some dispersal bays to assist jeeps.
When the supply of stretchers became very short, 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE constructed over 100 improvised stretchers by cutting the sheets of arc mesh and fixing it to two bush poles. Covered with kunai grass this proved effective for minor casualties.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

Reference to ARC Mesh also is made in sub-para 35 (b) of HAE 9 Aust Div Report on Operation "POSTMAN".

6. The following items are all discussed in the two HAE 9 Aust Div reports:

(a) Tractors and other road making equipment.
(b) Bridging Equipment
(c) Engineer Stores generally
(d) Landing Craft.

No assault demolition charges were used although 1000 Blast Bombs were taken into LAE. No water purifying sets were taken into either operation.

No comment is offered on the subject of quick airfield construction as units have had no experience in this regards.

J.B. Mullen
Lt Col.
CRE 9 Aust Div.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

Appendix.

HQ RAE 9 Aust Div
E/97/80
28 Oct 43.

To:
2 Aust Corps
CE Branch.

RAE 9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY TO 28 Oct 43

1. Ref CE NGF Technical Instruction No 65.

2. PART I. -- WORKS PROGRESS REPORT.

Ref Maps SATELBERG 1:25000
LANGEMAK BAY 1:25000

(a)Troops available:
2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE
2/13 " " " "
Det 2/1 Aust Mech Equipt Coy (approx 20)
2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy RAE Workshops Section.

(b) Works in progress showing priorities:

Priority A. Maintenance Existing North-South Artery.

(i) Extent - SONO RIVER -- MAPE RIVER.
(ii) Condition at 28 Oct:
Dry weather 3-ton truck passable jeeps only wet weather. Will go out under heavy rain with present engineer resources.

Plant Operating:
Building up single lane road over worst swamp patches.
9 Tip trucks
1 Quickway shovel
1 Dozer

Personnel: - one platoon 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE.

Work is limited by capacity of tip trucks.
Up to 29 Oct 2000 lin yds of pavement built.
Work still in progress.
Improvements to fords by culverts and bridges.
9 culverts and 12 Bridges have been built 8' wide to take 3-ton traffic.

Time of completion -- continuous job.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

Priority B. Construction of 2 way 3 ton road with 20' wide pavement.
SONG RIVER -- MAPE RIVER.
5000 yds of clearing 30 yards wide has been completed.
4 culverts completed and one bridge under construction over QUOJA River.
Estimated time of completion with present resources -- 4 months.
Plant Operating -- one dozer.
Personnel -- approx 1 Fd Coy strength mainly on bridge and culvert construction -- only as released from operational requirements.

Priority C. Jeep Track - SONG RIVER -- BONGA.
Personnel -- 1 platoon 2/13 Aust Fd Coy.
Plant -- 1 dozer.
When tactical position permits construction of one additional culvert this track will be complete for dry weather jeep traffic.
No work in progress owing to enemy action.
Estimated time of completion - 1 platoon -- 1 day.

Priority D. Construction jeep tracks TIMBULUM Plantation to TIMBULUM Saw Mill. -- Completed
Construction jeep tracks Plantation - DREGHE HARBOUR
Completed half by 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE and half by 808 US Aviation Engineers.

Priority E. Construction of jeep supply line to 2/13 Bn.
Plant -- 1 Dozer
Maintenance of supply line only - no future development.
Personnel -- one section of a platoon 2/3 Fd Coy RAE.

Priority F. Construction of KINGCHAFEN Airstrip.
Plant -- 1 dozer tractor and 1 tractor drawn grader.
Personnel -- Plant operators.
To be constructed 2200 feet X 150 feet.
Completed -- 27 Oct.

(c) Work not responsibility CRE

Construction of Airstrip 6000 ft by 150 ft south of LANGEMAK BAY by 808 US Aviation Engineers.
Work started 26 Oct.
Estimated time completion -- 30 days after arrival of additional US Engineers.

(d) NOTE:- As surveys and plans have not been completed graphical reports and estimates of time on structures cannot be given - all works are of an operational nature rather than base development nature.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

3. PART II -- ENGINEER STORES RESERVE.

(a) The present stores position in the FINSCHHAFEN area is far from satisfactory. Since the commencement of the LAE Operations no further supplies of RE Stores and Equipment have been received. Difficulty is being experienced in bringing up such stores as do remain in the LAE area, due to craft for resupply missions being limited in number and the higher priorities existing for food & ammunition supplies.

(b) Requests have been made to Division to place at disposal of CRE, 5 LCMs to bring up RE Stores and Equipment at present in LAE. Staff Tables and priorities for RAE requirements have been prepared in anticipation of these craft being made available. The major items listed include in order of priority:-

1. Compressors and 40 tons of WE and RE Stores.
2. ("R" Loading 3 ton vehicle
   ("T" Loading 3 ton vehicle and 9 tons Bulkloaded RE Stores.
3. Tractor drawn grader
4. No 12 3 ton tip trucks loaded with RE stores.
5. 60 tons bridging equipment, SBG Bridging, LL Bays, CBG Bridging, FBE and MkV Pontoon superstructure.
6. Miscellaneous items Mech Equipment.
7. No 10 3-ton tip trucks.

(c) As stated above no additional RE Stores or Mechanical Eqpt have been received since the commencement of Operation POSTERN. The items held at that date are listed in Appendix "F" of RAE 9 Aust Div Report on Operation POSTERN.
The wastage in certain items including that during Operation "DIMINISH" has been considerable and in the main consists of :-

(i) ARC Mesh
(ii) Axes felling
(iii) Cordage
(iv) Dogs, drifts and nails.
(v) Hooks reaping
(vi) Machettes
(vii) S Tanks
(viii) Sandbags
(ix) SWR
(x) Wire plain
(xi) SBG and Mk V Pontoon decking
(xii) Folding Boats
(xiii) 2 D/S Dozers (damaged by E A)
~~2 D8 Tractor~~ " " "
1 D2 Tractor " " "
1 D2 Tractor (lost in surf)

(d) A plan for the development of FINSCHHAFEN is now under consideration and upon finalisation, details of anticipated requirments will be forwarded through the usual channels.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

2.(e) Regarding suggestions as to special stores or equipment which would be useful in future operations, this has been dealt with in Lessons from Operations POSTERN & DIMINISH and our B/34/101 dated 28 Oct 44

4. PART III -- INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(a) See RAE 9 Aust Div Reports on "POSTERN" & DIMINISH" Operations.

(b) During period 17 to 22 Oct, 2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE laid booby trap minefields on SONG RIVER front using 3" mortar bombs primed with grenades. A hole was bored in base plug of grenade through which detonators and fuse of grenade is led into the CE primers of bomb. Pin of grenade is ~~supplied~~ replaced by a sig wire lead to trip wire.

(c) Location of engineer units:-

FINSCHHAFEN

RAE 9 Aust Div HQ
2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE
2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE
Workshop Section 2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy RAE
One section 2/1 Aust Mech Equipt Coy RAE
2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy RAE less workshop section expected in FINSCHHAFEN at early date.
2/7 Aust Fd Coy RAE under command 5 Aust Div.

(d) Attached as Appendix "A" is Terrain Report on Coastal Area FINSCHHAFEN District.

D Sheller Lt Col
C.R.E. 9 Aust Div

HAD 9 AUST DIV

REPORT

ON

OPERATION "DIMINISH"

26 OCT 43

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPX NO	REFERENCE	REP PAGE
"A"	Staff Tables RAE	4
"B"	Report on Landing by RAE Observer -- Lieut D ROBERTSON	4
"C"	Report on "DIMINISH" Operation by A/HLO -- Capt A J G STEVENSON	6, 12
"D"	Maps 1:25000 STIRLING & LANGEMAK BAY Showing Details of Roads, Bridges and Culverts	8
"E"	Casualty List	17

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

DIV

RAE 9 AUST REPORT

- OPERATION DIMINISH -

INTRODUCTION

Ref Maps : SATELBERG 1:25000
LANGEMAK BAY 1:25000

This report deals briefly with the activities of the 2/3 Aust Fd Coy under command 20 Aust Inf Bde, during Operation DIMINISH, 22 Sep to 11 Oct 43.

It is proposed to divide the operation into the following phases:-

(1) Introduction
(2) Object of Operation
(3) Planning
(4) Embarkation and Voyage
(5) Landing
(6) Developement and Maintenance of Beach-head.
(7) Engineer Activities during Land Operation.
(i) Supply Routes
(ii) Reconditioning of Airstrip
(iii) Assistance to Other Arms
(iv) Miscellaneous
(8) Lessons from Operation
(9) Conclusion

The Operation - DIMINISH - was similar in many respects to the Operation - POSTERN - but on a reduced scale - a Brigade Group only taking part. It is not, therefore, proposed to deal at length with the phases covering the Planning and Embarkation Stages. Many of the lessons learned during POSTERN Operation were put into practice but owing to the short period which elapsed between the two operations it was impossible to put some of them into effect.

The Report covers the period from 19 Sep 43 until the 11 Oct 43 on which date HQ 9 Aust Div and 24 Aust Inf Bde commenced concentrating in the DIMINISH area.

2. OBJECT OF OPERATION.

Extracts from 20 Aust Inf Bde Gp O.O. No. 6:-

"(1) INTENTION. 20 Aust Inf Bde Gp will land on SCARLET beach with a view to the capture of the area FINSCHHAF N - LANGEMAK Bay.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

(ii) METHOD. The Bde Gp will land with two Bns fwd on SCARLET Beach with:-

RIGHT : 2/17 Aust Inf Bn
LEFT : 2/13 Aust Inf Bn
RESERVE : 2/15 Aust Inf Bn.

the general plan consisting of five stages:

(a) Landing and immediate capture of the Beach.
(b) Capture of line of first objective - Area of Beach-head.
(c) Capture of line of second objective - a line running NW from TAREKO to SATELBERG track.
(d) Capture of line BUMI River.
(e) Capture of final objective - Area FINSCHHAFEN - LANGEMAK BAY.

(iii) SUPPORT OF OTHER ARMS.

RAE. (a) Comd 2/3 Aust Fd Coy is comd all RAE sub-units and, for work on the Beach-head, all engineer sub-units of 532 ESB.

(b) Tasks include a crossing over the SONG River to maintain fwd detachments, the construction of tracks and brisges in support and maintenance of the operation and the bridging of the MAPE River.

E PNRS. "C" Coy under command 2/3 Aust Fd Coy .

(iv) BEACH ORGANISATION.

(a) Command of all troops within the Beach-head area both for operational and administration purposes will be exercised by:-

MLO - Maj J R BROADBENT, 2/17 Aust Inf Bn, assisted by A/MLO - Capt A J G STEVENSON, HQ RAE 9 Aust Div, whose duties will include the responsibility for landing of all stores and equipment and its removal to dumps, in conjunction with OC 532 ESB."

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

3. PLANNING.

Following upon the capture of LAE 9 Aust Div issued on 19 Sep instructions to 20 Aust Inf Bde to prepare plans for Operation "DIMINISH", D Day being set for the 22 Sep 43. The 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE, which had been in support of 20 Bde during Operation "POSTERN", was to come under command of 20 Bde for this operation. The proposed staff tables prepared by 1 Aust Corps showed only one Fd Coy to support 20 Aust Inf Bde and as one Fd Coy was operationally required in LAE and it was felt that another Fd Coy should be prepared to move with another Bde Group if so required then the RAE allocation to 20 Aust Inf Bde should not involve splitting up other Fd Coys but rather it should be augmented by placing a Coy of 2/3 Pnr Bn under command and further augmenting with detachments of 2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy RAE and No 3 Operating Section 2/1 Aust Mech Eqpt Coy RAE.
On 19 Sep, a planning group consisting of CRE, OC 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE, Capt A J G STEVENSON, HQ RAE 9 Aust Div and representatives of 532 ESB, was set up at HQ RAE 9 Aust Div. An immediate start was made in general planning involving:

(a) study of maps and aerial photographs to determine the engineer plan.
(b) Assessment of engineer stores and equipment required.
(c) Collection of such stores and equipment in area.
(d) Preparation of Staff Tables.

The study of aerial photographs again proved most valuable and after the formation of the general plan, all coys were detailed to assist the 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE in the collection of engineer stores and equipment.

On the morning of 19 Sep, HQ 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE was established on the BUNGA River with platoons operating in the areas: (i) the LAE Airstrip, (ii) the west bank of the BUSU River and (iii) the upper reaches of the BUNGA River. Orders were issued on the morning 19 Sep to concentrate the company in the vicinity of Coy HQ on the BUNGA River. Before the concentration of the Coy was completed another day elapsed. Meanwhile the stores and mechanical equipment which had been distributed amongst the Coys for the POSTERN Operation, were scattered between RED Beach and the BUSU River.
Engineer stores carried by 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE were on the same scale as those carried during Operation POSTERN with additional axes and machettes. Bridging stores were allotted on the requirements estimated for the operation and consisted in the main: of:

1 Set SBG
2 sets LLB
Mk V Pontoon Superstructure - 4 sets
FBE - Three tracked raft units and two trestle units.
Material for improvised bridging and flying foxes as previously carried in Operation POSTERN.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

The 2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy RAE was ordered to collect all stores required to tactically load all vehicles according to requirements of 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE for the coming operation.
As mechanical equipment proved so valuable in the previous operation, it was decided that all equipment that was in running order and that which could be repaired in time, would be taken into DIMINISH. The section of the 2/1 Aust Mech Eqpt Coy was to be responsible for the overhaul and loading of all this equipment. See Staff Tables for details of loading - Appx. "A"
From a study of the aerial photographs and the experience gained during Operation POSTERN it was decided that two Carryall Scoops one 4 cu yd and the other 6 cu yd, should be taken in the initial phases. These were asked for from BUNA (LOB and Reserves stores of 9 Aust Div).
The scoops were sent up as requested but were ordered specifically by 1 Aust Corps NOT to go to DIMINISH. Consequently these scoops were left at "G" Beach and there they remain at the time of writing, without tractors to haul them whilst vital work in the FINSCHHAFEN area to support operations cannot be carried out.
An immediate start was then made on the overhauling of equipment and the tactical loading of stores upon vehicles drawn from the engineer pool. Due to scarcity of water craft some of the mechanical equipment and bridging stores was not brought round from D Beach, the west bank of the BUSU River, until Day D-1 thus causing a slight upsetting of the loading programme. The planning and preparation due to the short period of time available necessitated the working of all personnel including that of 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE long hours, the result being that this Coy had little or no time to rest and prepare itself for the coming operation.
In an endeavour to have the complete picture of the early stages of the operation, CRE detailed two RAE Officers, Lieut A F SPRY, 2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE and Lieut D ROBERTSON, 2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy RAE to accompany 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE as observers. These officers were to return with the second flight of LSTs on Day D plus 1.
See Appx "B" for report.

4. EMBARKATION AND VOYAGE.

On Day D-1, the Brigade Group assembled in the vicinity "G" Beach, mouth of BUREP River, and loading of stores was commenced. This was accomplished in a smooth manner with the exception that some of the engineer equipment which arrived late from "D" Beach and was not loaded in the tactival order laid down.
To alleviate the strain imposed on the 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE in preparation for the operation, the 2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy RAE carried out the entire loading of all vehicles and stores onto the LSTs.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

The embarkation of personnel took place after last light and slight confusion was caused when one LCI beached with the wrong wave. Enemy aircraft bombed craft forming up at sea but no damage or casualties were reported.
The voyage was uneventful although the convoy was sought during the latter stages by enemy aircraft dropping flares. No meals or hot drinks were provided on the craft and resulted in troops being sent into battle without food or drink for some twelve hours.

5. LANDING.

The landing as in the previous operation was made to a definite timetable, the first wave beaching at 0445 hrs. The third wave was the first to land on the correct beach, the first two waves landing at separate points in small coves south of SCARLET Beach. Opposition was met at all landing points and this meant that troops on the third wave had to perform the initial assault, engineer personnel taking part. A number of LCIs failed to beach properly and as a result disembarking troops were dropped in 8'0" of water in face of S A Fire suffering casualties including some by drowning.
All subsequent waves beached on the correct beach, but LSTs, reason unknown, arrived an hour late but the unloading of these craft was accomplished in less the time allotted and the craft retracted only 20 minutes behind schedule.
The beach was ideal and consisted of a mixture of coral and black sand, affording good going for all vehicles and ARC mesh was not used and all LSTs beached with a dry ramp.

During the fighting on the beach AA weapons on the LCIs were brought into action but this was of doubtful value as it endangered our own troops already ashore.
Bofors guns landed from LCMs with caterpillar tractors as prime movers were in position and in avtion as early as 0645 hrs after beaching at 0615 hrs.
The beach defences were found to be of recent construction and consisted of pillboxes, approximately every 10 yards along the beach, which, due to bad siting, had only a limited field of fire and that frontally. No mortars were in the rear and no wire was encountered. A rumour of booby-trapped Japanese helmets proved to be groundless and no such anti-personnel devices were found during the operation.
Signal communications were immediately set up after the landing the 208 Wireless sets, in use within the coy and a No 300 set obtained from the ESB as a link ~~from~~ between A/MLO and 2/3 Aust Fd Coy were of undoubted value, although the range of the latter set was very limited in the thick scrub country.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

The communications with HQ RAE, No 11 Wireless set, proved very satisfactory and were maintained during all phases of the operation. This enabled stores required urgently to be forwarded with resupply missions and also provided an emergency link to Division.

6. DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF BEACHHEAD.

The layout of the track and dump system was planned in the early stages and the subsequent development was carried out according to plan with the exception that the dump sites were altered as shown in Appx "C"
This was due to the limited number of troops available for defence and the necessity of shortening the perimeter. The areas bordering the more westerly kunai patch were under SAA fire during the first day.
Between the beach and the kunai patches was a bank some 15 feet in height and this was cut through with dozers to form beach exits. The bays to take bulk loaded stores were constructed by the time the LSTs beached.
The exits and tracks from the beach were allotted as follows:-

No 1 - Jeeps
2 - Three tonners
3&4 - RAA and other heavy vehicles.

Initial recces were rather limited in the early stages due to rather limited advance by the infantry. The track shown on the map as running North and South parallel to the beach did not exist and difficulty was experienced in finding a southern exit from the kunai patch.
An arrangement was made during the planning that in the initial stages, the RAA would recce to find an exit south from the beach to their proposed gun positions. When the result of this recce was reported, No 1 Platoon with bulldozer constructed the track and guns were in position at 639677 and in action by 1300 hrs on D Day. The RAA provided the covering party whilst this platoon was at work and also constructed its own gun emplacement upon reaching suitable sites.
By last light the beach was cleared of all stores and equipment enabling the bulk loaded stores arriving night D/D plus 1 to be unloaded into the existing bays. Vehicles from this flight of LSTs were met by unit guides and taken to their respective areas.
For further details and subsequent work in the maintenance of Beachhead area see Report by Capt A J G STEVENSON, attached as Appx C

7. ENGINEER ACTIVITIES DURING LAND OPERATIONS.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

(1) Supply Routes: The main supply line developed to the south was along an existing track which ran from the north end of HELDSBACH Plantation, through FINSCHHAFEN to SIMBANG at mouth of MAPE River. This track from its northern point to LAUNCH JETTY, had previously been constructed by the missionaries as an MT Route. This also applied to the track from the BUMI River to approx 639577, together with several other tracks in the SALANKAUA Plantation area. The remaining portions of this route were improved by widening, construction of culverts, fords and bridges. The boggy sections were developed with the use of a Quickway Shovel, tipp trucks and a TD9 Dozer spreading a limestone pavement.
From this main supply line and as operations demanded, tracks were cut and maintained for the supply of forward troops. It was not possible at the time to develop these secondary routes into wet weather tracks and after heavy rain these became impassable to jeeps.
When the 2/13 Inf Bn forced a crossing of the BUMI River and attacked from the hills towards KAKAGOO, it was found that it would be a major engineering task to form a track in this precipitous country and supplies had to be carried.
No 2 Platoon moved to the area south of LANGEMANK BAY after its occupation by the 2/15 Bn to construct a jeep track from SAWMILL 609547 to DREGER Harbour for maintenance of that area.
When the 2/43 Aust Inf Bn arrived to strengthen 20 Aust Inf Bde in the DUMPISH area, a platoon of the 2/13 Aust Fd Coy accompanied it and was started upon developing a supply line from the SONG River, north to BONGA and west 1000 yards from this point.
Considerable difficulty was experienced in supplying the forces which moved west into the high ground approaching SATELBERG. The tracks leading west from 639672 and 638662 were on very steep grades being jeepable in dry weather only. Advantage was taken of the spells of dry weather to build up supplies to these forces to tide them over wet spells.
The weather in the early stages was very favourable to our operations enabling heavy vehicles and gun tractors to be positioned in dry weather. Fd Arty also built up ammunition supplies near their guns in the dry weather. The only traffic moving after rain wasthe jeeps and trailers. Rain was usually followed by rapid drying weather and little difficulty was experienced along the whole route south from SCARLET BEACH except at QUOJA RIVER ford and a section of road extending 2000 yards south of this ford on which tractors gave assistance when necessary.
A track was constructed from 631641 through KASEWA 606634 to KUMAWA 568644. Jeep head was initially at NEW KASEWA 599630 but during wet weather caterpillar tractors were used to tow jeeps and trailers to this point. Rain in sufficient amount ultimately succeeded in stopping all movement except on foot owing to steep grades and greasy nature of the soil.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

To construct a 3-ton all weather road west from the coastal track would be a major engineering work in any location south of SONG River.
Mechanical equipment as available was employed on opening up the main coastal track particularly between QUOJA RIVER and BUMI RIVER with a view to development of a 3-ton road between SONG River and MAPE River.
Crossing of BUMI River gave some trouble as the most suitable place for rapid bridging was at the mouth and the channel there changed with tides and rain. A submerged corduroy mat of coconut logs was found to be the most satisfactory method of crossing. Tractors were used to tow vehicles through stream at high tide and during any rebuilding periods.

For further details of roads, bridges and culverts etc. see Appx "D"

(ii) Reconditioning of Airstrip: The existing airstrip at FINSCHHAFEN, which had been constructed by missionaries, was found to be overgrown by light scrub and kunai grass. The strip was cleared and the surface proved to be comparatively even though studded with bomb craters.
These were filled in and the tall timber at either end of the strip was felled. The surface was then graded with an improvised planer - a hornbeam section of an SBG drawn by Caterpillar Tractor. The strip is now 2300 feet long by 150 feet wide and upon inspection by an RAAF Officer was pronounced as suitable for Wirraways and Douglas Transports.

(iii) Assistance to Other Arms: During the operation the usual engineer assistance was given to other arms. A water point was estsblished at the CCS and as the 2/8 Aust Fd Ambulance had not brought in a lighting set an improvised one was installed with the beach searchlight equipment carried by the engineers. This set is still in operation. Further assistance was given this unit in improvising stretchers for the MDS, constructed out of ARC mesh and light bush timber.
The RAA in several positions found it impossible to dig in in the limestone country and a compressor unit carried out this work. When Bofors were moved it was always under engineer supervision and by the aid of caterpillar tractors.
During the wet spells most of the tracks cut during the operation became impassable to jeeps and stores had to be carried forward.
The platoon of the 2/13 Aust Fd Coy which moved to DIMINISH during the operation, with the 2/43 Aust Inf Bn was engaged for three days carrying supplies from the SONG River towards BONGA.
When the 2/13 Aust Inf Bn attacked KAKAGOG from the high ground in the rear and it was found impossible to construct jeep tracks through the precipitous country, No 3 Platoon carried supplies from the jeep head for several days .

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

No 1 Platoon also maintained a water supply line with captured boat and outboard motor, to two forward coys of 2/13 Inf Bn, up the Mape River.

(iv) Miscellaneous: During the operation very little enemy equipment of value was found and all serviceable equipment was collected into a dump at 637604. Some enemy propulsion units were found and after being repaired were put into operation with Japanese folding boats. Medical supplies salvaged were handed over to the CCS. A number of assault landing barges were located but these were taken over by 532 ESB. Approximately five UXBs reported during the operation were destroyed. One of these UXBs proved to be an Allied one and was located at the south end of the Airstrip.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

R A E 9 AUST DIV

8 LESSONS FROM OPERATION "DIMINISH".

GENERAL

The lessons from the operation are considered with reference to the phases as listed below and summarised as a conclusion. Many of the lessons are identical with those learnt in Operation "POSTERN". References to RAE 9 Aust Div Report on Operation "POSTERN" will thus be made in the text where applicable.

Phases: (i) Planning
(ii) Embarkation
(iii) Landing
(iv) Beach Organisation
(v) Engineer Stores
(vi) Bridging Equipment and Improvised Bridging
(vii) Field Coy Water Equipment.
(viii) Transport
(ix) Roads and Tracks
(x) Communications
(xi) Use of PIONEER BN TROOPS
(xii) Summary

8(i) PLANNING.

(a) Difficulties in this respect were due to the fact that only a short time was available for both general and detailed planning but with the example of the POSTERN Operation fresh in everone's minds matters were simplified.

(b) Only one set of vertical photographs was available and it was greatly in demand by all arms, allowing for insufficient time to study them. This did not allow for a correct interpretation of the steepness of faces of coral terraces.

(c) Fortunately, the operation involved only a Bde Group and planning was greatly assisted by the fact that personalities needed no introduction to each other, enabling matters to be arranged without large conferences.

(d) It was again shown that in this type of operation the major works to be considered are:-

(i) Beach and Maintenance Area development.
(ii) Supply routes on Line of Advance.
(iii) Bridging requirements on these supply routes.
(iv) Assistance to other arms.
(v) Works for other services.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

(e) Recces for gun sites and approaches to them can well be carried out by the Arty Recce parties and if Mech Eqpt is available it is worth the extra trouble in making the access requested than to choose a site with a more suitable approach from an Engr view point.

(f) The development of the plan proved satisfactory in practice despite the enemy resistance to its progress on the first day.

(g) A Fd Coy per Bde Group is considered insufficient even including as it did a detachment of the 2/1 Aust Mech Eqpt Coy Operating Section to meet all engineer requirements in an operation such as this.

(h) One lesson learnt from POSTERN Operation which was given partial effect was the substituting of 10 x 6 GMC Trucks for Arty Tractors. The better performance of the former vehicle was again borne out despite the condition of the GMC trucks.

(i) Mech Eqpt and stores for the operation had to be provided from those in the Postern Operation and as these were widely scattered some could not be given necessary maintenance before use.

8(ii) EMBARKATION

(a) This took place from "G" Beach at LAE at the mouth of the BUREP R. This river bed gave a good hard standing and track for vehicles and stores. The delta at the river mouth was also sufficiently solid to permit the free movement of all vehicles. Personnel dispersal areas were not satisfactory being too narrow as the swamp area came down close behind the dune line. Had the enemy aircraft bombed this area instead of the vessels at sea, heavy casualties could not have been avoided.

8(iii) LANDING.

(a) As the actual assault landing met with quite a measure of opposition the difficulties of a landing on a timed basis were accentuated. This was further caused by the landing of the first two waves south of the correct beach. This latter fact may however have caused some of the enemy to leave their positions on SCARLET BEACH as the fire here was not really what would be expected from the number of prepared positions.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

It was shown that it would be useless to land large quantities of vehicles and stores on a beach over which the enemy had some command as could have been obtained from a force on NORTH HILL. Enemy opposition must be eliminated from points of direct observation on the beach before unloading of main bulk of stores and vehicles commences. It is again stressed that the committal of preactically the entire force in a timed programme is fundamentally wrong.

8(iv) BEACH ORGANISATION.

(a) Main engineering lessons from the landing and subsequent development of beach area are to be seen in "Report on Operatic 'DIMINISH'" by Capt A J G STEVENSON of HQ RAE 9 Aust Div, who was A/MLO on SCARLET BEACH.
A copy of this report is to be seen in Appx "C"

8(v) ENGINEER STORES.

(a) The requirements in engineer stores were based chiefly on the experiences in Operation "POSTERN". It was planned to bring in sufficient stores for the operation without re-supply and apart from a few small items proved satisfactory. Planning on this basis is recommended for any future operations The absence of paint which was unobtainable at LAE was one serious deficiency. Some extra sandbags would have been of use for ration carriage rather than defences.
On this occasion "C" Coy 2/3 Aust Bnr Bn which was under command 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE was outfitted with the tools required on the near shore and arrived on the landing beach as a self contained unit with its own transport. They were thus able to operate on engineer tasks without drawing on the Field Coy.

(b) The information contained in sub paras 36 (b),(c) and (d) of report on "POSTERN" Operation is again fully proven in this operation.

8(vi) BRIDGING EQUIOMENT and IMPROVISED BRIDGING.

(a) Use was made of standard bridging on a limited scale. The set of SBG taken was not used but the Mk V Pontoon Superstructure proved most valuable to provide a rapid crossing of small creeks when laid as a single span. The need for spanning such creeks was usually to prevent water being carried up the steep banks by vehicles fording the streams and the approaches then cutting up under traffic.

No CBG was taken on this operation.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

(b) Rapid improvised bridges from coconut palms proved most satisfactory. Spans of up to 45 feet width with 4 stringers and decking of 2 thicknesses of ARC mesh were quite satisfactory for jeeps and at times were also unwittingly and trustfully traversed by loaded 3 tonners. Decking of split coconuts was suitable for heavier traffic. The rough outer surface of the logs should not be broken in the girders and when used as decking place the curved surface uppermost. 6" nails proved the most effective deck spike and decking was wired to outside girders of kerbs.
Use was also made of some local timbers but no data is to hand yet of how they perform as bridging timber.

(c) It was found generally easier to break down the banks of creeks and provide fords and or low level bridges than to build high level structures at bank level. This was because of the structure of the country in this coastal strip.
The series of coral terraces leading back from the shore are due to a series of sharp uplifts of the land. The catchments of the strams are small and the watershed only miles from the stream mouths. This has caused the streams to be very narrow but between very deep banks, of soft material.

MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT.

(a) Performance of mechanical equipment was uniformly good. Plant was initially in insufficient quantity but a number of units were put out of action by enemy bombing for various periods. The absence of a workshops unit and spare parts to assist in heavy repairs was felt keenly. The lack of time for maintenance between the two operations counted against the effectiveness of the machines.
It is not possible to state which items of equipment will have to be written off completely until a fuller examination has been made with the aid of a Workshops Section.

(b) Light servicing vehicles were again a success enabling maintenance of equipment on the job site and no lost travelling time.

(c) Some exchanges of parts between damaged machines enabled more units to be kept in action and this uneconomical practice enabled more work to be performed.

(d) The use was made of crawler tractors for the hauling of field and AA guns. This reduced delay in moving guns, caused less damage to the tracks and allowed of easier manoeuvring than if arty tractors were used.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

(e) There were many occasions when the use of bulldozers to break down the steep banks of creeks of faces of terraces was shown. As the only altern tive was handwork the time saved was very large.

(f) Quickway shovel gave good service in loading coral limestone for surfacing of tracks. Large bomb craters proved an excellent starting point.

(g) Although some items of mechanical equipment were lost in this operation it is considered that boldness in the use of such plant is justified in order to maintain the impetus of the attack and that mechanical equipment should be regarded as a vital operational supply rather than supply for development of base areas. The preventing of Scoops Carryall from being taken into the operation so impeded work that when rapid movement of troops was operationally required MT could not be used because work on surfacing the main NORTH-SOUTH had not advanced sufficiently.

8 (vii) FIELD COY WAR EQUIPMENT.

(a) Limitations of space, weight and transport impose a corresponding reduction on the WE to be carried. The items taken proved to be sufficient in the operational stages but hopelessly deficient in developmental stages if any construction or repairs are needed. High priority is thus necessary for the early forward movement of additional items of Engr WE stores.
The spare pumping set and lighting set met urgent needs of the Medical Services while the single compressor proved ample for the work required.

8 (viii) TRANSPORT.

(a) American 10 x 6 GMC trucks though in poor condition proved greatly superior to any 4 x 4 vehicle used.

(b) Jeeps and trailers were of ~~xxx~~ inestimable use in all conditions as the all purpose vehicle.

(c) Water transport was little used in the early stages due to the good tracks, fine weather and absence of suitable beaches.

8 (ix) ROADS AND TRACKS.

(a) It was planned to make the maximum use of existing roads and tracks as prior information indicated these to be excellent going . This proved to be quite correct. The mission roads where developed of coral limestone though narrow would stand up to heavy traffic in all weathers.
Only short connecting links had to be opened up. By making these wide they dried out quickly assisted by the shallow depth of black clay above the coral limestone which was very pervious

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

enabling good drainage throughout.
Direct routes were again the best. Little detour was necessary as practically no swamps were met and creek crossings and fords with the steep banks were the greatest obstacle.
No gravel was available in the area, coral limestone of varying hardness being the only roadmaking material. Contiuál replacement to keep up the thickness of this soft material is necessary with attention to drainage of surface though the porous material rapidly achieves a surface crust with a drying wind.
Lack of sufficient personnel and suitable equipment was the only obstacle to the immediate development of the southern track to 3-ton standard. The speed of the advance in the early stage was also a big factor. The strip of good track through HELDSBACH PLANTATION was invaluable in enabling us to keep up with the early advance.

8(x) COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) 208 Wireless sets within the company were an unqualified success.

(b) 300 Wireless set link between Fd Coy HQ and A/MLO on the beach did not work satisfactorily. Little practice may have been a ~~xxxxix~~ contributing factor but the presence of belts of jungle between sets at short range seems to have had great effects on these sets.

(c) The No 11 Set link with HQ RAE 9 Aust Div was of exceptional value. All Engr matters thus passed on a separate channel which was available to other arms in the event of a breakdown of their channel. Stores urgently required could be called forward much more easily and reports of Engr activities given in greater detail to the interested people.

8(xi) USE OF PIONEER BN TROOPS.

"C" Coy 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn commanded by Maj P SIEKMANN was under Fd Coy command and were allotted tasks in the initiál phase as shown in Appx C to this report.
Due to the comparative ease with which tracks went forward in the early stages it was possible to release this company for infantry duties after the early developement of the beach area.
Being supplied with their own allotment of tools and transport the unit was self sufficient and able to carry out its engineer tasks rapidly and efficiently

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

8 (xii) SUMMARY.

(a) The subdivision of engineer tasks and allocation to sub-units for this operation worked satisfactorily and smoothly.

(b) Although the engineers available were able to cope with all tasks necessary to the conduct of this operation it is felt that in any ~~xxxxx~~ future operation consideration must be given to any greater difficulties in terrain which may be expected and would therefore increase engineer requirements and this required additional sapper resources.

(c) It is again stressed that committal of the force on a timed programme is fundamentally wrong and that craftmust beach on call from the shore, which will depend on, firstly operational success and secondly, on overcoming engineering difficulties on shore.

(d) It is considered engineers in an operation such as this should be given heavier plant as much more work could have been done in the period under review of this operation both to assit operations and also to speed up development of any base installations.

(e) In conclusion it is further stressed that mechanical equipment, considerd as an operational supply, was and will be in future operations, the keynote of success.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

9. CONCLUSION.

This report would be incomplete without mention being made of the co-operation given to the Field Coy by other arms at all times. Especially during wet weather when it was policy to ground the heavier vehicles to enable the supply routes to be jeepable at all times.
In bringing this report to a conclusion it is regretted to report that during an air raid on Artillery positions on the 24 Sep 43, 14 members of the 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE were killed and 18 wounded. This is the heaviest blow that has ever befallen this unit and the ~~xxxx~~ loss of so many and valuable members is keenly felt. See Appx "E"

The above report covers the engineer activities up to 11 Oct 43, and does not include the operations which have taken place since that time and the lessons which have been drawn all refer to the actual landing and capture of the area FINSCHHAFEN - LANGEMAK BAY.

D.D. Muller Lt.Col.
C.R.E. 9 Aust Div.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

REFERRED TO IN REPORT ON OPERATION - DIMINISH Appx "A"

MOST SECRET.
COPY NO

Appx "B" to 9 Aust Div OO No 15.
Appx "D" to 20 Aust Inf Bde OO No 6.

LANDING PLANS

Wave	Time	13	17	Craft
1	H Navy No	APD 13	APD 11 APD 12 APD 10	16 barges from 4 APDs
2	H plus 20	13	17	3 Bofors 8 LCIs 4 LCMs
3	H plus 35	Bde HQ & 15 Bn		7 LCIs
4	H plus 40			6 LCM 4 LCV ESB
5	H plus 60			11 LCV
6	H plus 80			3 LST
7	2230 hrs D Day			3 LST

Wave 1: 2 Coys each from 2/17 & 2/13 Aust Inf Bns.

2: 20 mm guns on flanks.
Balance 2/17, 2/13 Aust Inf Bns.
Adv details of Sp Arms etc.

3: 2/15 Aust Inf Bn
Bde HQ - HQ Sp Arms.

4)
5) ESB.

6 Eqpt, Stores etc.
Personnel

7 " " " "

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

REFERRED TO IN REPORT ON OPERATION "DIMINISH". Appx "A"

R A E STAFF TABLES

(a) Wave No	(b) Est time of landing	(c) Craft	(d) Personnel	(e) Mech Equipt	(f) 3-ton trucks	(g) 4x4 tippers	(h) Jeeps	(i) Remarks
2	Minutes H plus 20	LCI No 26	1 offr 1 OR 1 " 3 1 33					HQ RAE 9 Aust Div A/MLO 2/1 Aust M E Coy RAE No 3 Pl. 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE
2	H plus 20	LCI No 27	3 38					HQ & No 1 Pl 2/3 Aust Fd Coy
3	H plus 35	LCI No 31	1 43 2					No 2 pl 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE 2/1 Aust M E Coy RAE
3	H plus 35	LCI No 32	1 15 1 1					Coy HQ 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE HQ RAE 9 Aust Div - RMO
6	H plus 80	LST No 61	1 1 4 9 10	2/D6 Dozers D6 Tractor D2 " D2 "	2	1	1+trailer	Observer 2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE " 2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy 2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy RAE 2/1 Aust M E Coy 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)
	Minutes		Offrs 2Ors	1/D6 Dozer				2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy RAE
6	H plus 80	LST No 62	— 83"	1/D6 Tractor				2/1 Aust M E Coy RAE
				1/D2 "				
			— 18"		2	2	5+3 Tlrs	2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE
6	H plus 80	LST No 63	— 2"	1/D6 Tractor				2/1 Aust M E Coy RAE
			— 16"	2/D2 "	1	2		2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE
			— 2"	1/D6 Dozer				532 E S B Attached
7	2230 hrs	LST No 73	— 4"	2/D4 Dozers				2/1 Aust ME Coy RAE
	Day D		— 2"	2/D6 Tractors				2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy RAE
			— 32"		6	5	3+3 tlrs	2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE
			— 2"	Quickway Shovel				Americans.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

Referred to in Report on Operation - DIMINISH. Appx 'B'

COPY.

SECRET

Date: 27 Sep 43.

REPORT ON OBSERVATIONS ON OPERATIONS AT FINSCHHAFEN ON 22 SEP 43

~~Ref: [illegible]~~

By Lieut D ROBERTSON, 2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy RAE.

---

1. In accordance with instructions, I accompanied the sixth wave of the landing at FINSCHHAFEN in LST 61, leaving from "G" BEACH at the mouth of the BUREP RIVER (ref Map LAE 1:25000. 426783). The three LSTs forming the sixth wave were convoyed by air and sea, beaching at 0620 hrs instead of 0605 hrs as planned.

2. The LST was loaded in the following order - AA Guns, Stores, Mech Equipment: unloading in reverse order. All transport was unloaded and clear of the beach within 45 minutes.

Bulldozers were used immediately to push tracks from the beach through the bush to the sites for stores areas.

In effect, the procedure was for the bulldozer to push straight into the bush ~~[illegible]~~ with the transport consigned to the track following. In places where the progress was slow, transport has t be dispersed off the track already dozed, to continue as the work made it possible.

Bridging equipment was carried by 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE but none was used, except one bay of FBE superstructure , as a crossing over a creek at 637677.

I submit the following suggestions for future operations:-

3. a. TRACKS - All tracks to be taped for their full length, and that the tapes marked with colours at intervals, each to be known as RED TRACK, BLUE TRACK and so on.

b. UNIT SIGNS - Unit signs should be placed at the beach entrance to all tracks, thus helping to clear the beach. Each driver on seeing the sign to which he is consigned, making straight for it. Traffic control would thus become less of a problem.

c. All officers appointed as observers should "be put into the picture" before the operation, by a copy of all or part of that operational order for the service they represent.

4. During the time I was on the beach I inspected the site of operations of other arms:-
a. One battery of 25 Pdrs had established, by noon, on 22 Sep a

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

troop at 633673 and another at 638676, following the road b
bullt by RAE from the BEACH. AA was sited along the beach.

b. Time did not permit for inspecting the NORTHERN SECTOR, but I did have a look at the advance towards the south. Opposition, after the initial resistance on the beach, appeared slight.

5. a. The Japanese appear keen on shallow continuous crawl trenches, with no head cover and with more or less elaborately covered LMG or MMG posts at intervals. Their idea on the use of MG does not seem to include enfilade fire, most guns being sited to fire frontally.

b. All defences along the beach were new; and I estimate that the work was not above 24 hours old. MG posts were complete, but I am undecided as to whether or not the remainder was completed, or in the first stages. A lack of tools on the job suggests that work had finished.

6. That an attack was NOT expected is obvious by the signs of normal camp duties in the billets behind the beach; e.g. food prepared for cooking and the apparent signs of haste in leavin the billets, when the stand to was ordered.

For your information, the following is a timetable of my own movements since leaving the Coy on 21 Sep:-

21 Sep	1500 hrs	RV with Lieut Spry of 2/13 Aust Fd Coy at BUREP River.
	1600 hrs	Embarked on LST 61 at "G" Beach
	1800	Left "G" Beach
22 Sep	0620	Landed at beach, ref map MASAWENG RIVER 1:63,360 . 640685
	1800	Reported to MLO at beach
23 Sep	0200	Left for BUNA
	1800	Arrived at BUNA and staged with LOB 9 AUST DIV.
25 Sep	0800	Left DOBODURA AIRFIELD in troop carrier.
	0920	Arrived NADZAB AIRSTRIP, staged with HQ RAE 7 Aust Div
26 Sep	0900	Left NADZAB for LAE via KAIBAT
	1130	Arrived LAE.

Sgd D Robertson Lieut
RAE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

Referred to in Report on Operation - DIMINISH Appendix "C"

MOST SECRET

8 Oct 43

To: CRE 9 AUST DIV

From: Capt A J G STEVENSON

Ref Maps 1/25000 series SATELBERG and LANGEMAK BAY.

REPORT ON "DIMINISH" OPERATIONS.

1. APPROACH VOYAGE.

No standard arrangements exist for giving troops on LCIs a hot meal or hot tea before disembarking. This appears to depend on the co-operation of the craft commander.
No hostile action was taken against the convoy though flares were dropped by aircraft at about 0345 hrs.

2. BEACHING.

Craft from APD landed to South at approx 650677.
Wave 2 of LCIs beached or finished offshore in cove at 644682.
Men landed from these craft up to their armpits and some were killed or wounded on their decks and some drowned.
Wave 3 and subsequent waves beached on the correct beach.

3. ENEMY BEACH DEFENCES.

These were very extensive and of very recent construction. There were one man pillboxes at about 20 yds spacing with overhead cover. Fortunately only a limited field of fire could be had and that frontally. No weapons were sited to enfilade beach or mortars placed in rear. No wire encountered.

4. BEACH.

The main beach SCARLET BEACH was about 400 yds in length, 10 yds wide above HWM and 20 yds above LWM. At low tide a small bar was some days found about 50 ft out from LWM and made it difficult for LCMs and LCVs unless they beached at a good speed.
Texture was of black sand overlying white coral pebbles and offered little obstacle to any vehicle except where black sand was deep and arc mesh effectively dealt with these patches.
A long spit ran across the mouth of the SONG R from the south bank and mouth was about 20 ft wide and 4 feet deep running rapidly but fordable a little further out to sea. A coconut and arc mesh bridge to carry jeeps was later put in by ESB at this point. This was washed out on 8 Oct by heavy rain.

5. INITIAL RECCES.

These were difficult because of proximity of enemy and support arms were rather crowded on to beach fringe by limited infantry advance. No 300 set link would not work satisfactorily with any jungle between sets.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

6. BEACH EXITS.

Generally the country behind the beach consisted of a series of raised coral terraces with a light overlay of black humus soil and growth being very much the same as in BINOCULAR area.
50 yds in from the fringe of trees on the beach an abrupt terrace 15 ft in height was met but was easily broken down by bulldozers and a lead made into the kunai patches behind beach where easy dispersal was obtained.
The creek along line of approx 684 northing carried little water but was narrow and with banks up to 30 ft high and was a serious obstacle to making a track from kunai to south.
Early arty recce found a possible track and gun area at xxx southern end of beach past the creek mouth 684646 and a bulldozer developed this and it ultimately became the main southern outlet and the only southern outlet from SCARLET BEACH.

7. BOFORS GUNS.

The BOFORS GUNS loaded on LCMs with a CATERPILLAR TRACTOR as prime mover were quickly unloaded and in action as early as 0645 hrs.

8. LSTs

There were unfortunately two organisations on the beach to bring in these craft, one ESB and the other RAN. This caused a little confusion. No one seemed to know of RAN party until they hit the beach. LSTs were late in beaching, causes unknown, approx beaching time 0700 hrs instead of 0600 hrs approx. LSTs left at about 0920 hrs instead of 0900 hrs which allowed us the extra time to completely unload. The 200 men per craft were a suitable force to unload but one craft had only 120 men aboard and BDE LOB personnel supplemented their numbers.
No great difficulties showed up in the unloading except these minor points which however become of greater importance at night.

(a) 00 troops of one craft permitted a big pile of personal gear such as packs and bedrolls to be put centrally in front of ship all of which had to be cleared before a single vehicle could move.

(b) All bulk loaded stores should be in units of not greater than 1 cwt which is a fair two man load for consistent unloading. Unavoidable exceptions are 40 mm. shells in cases of 155 lbs and such items as spare 40 mm. barrels. Many cases of ordnance stores were much heavier such as boots and clothing and could have easily been broken down. Some medical stores are in the same category. Fuel in 44 gal drums in LSTs or LCTs causes an enormous slowing down of unloading as only about 40 men can work at a time. It is OK in LCMs or LCVs.
Bulk loading of arc mesh is hopeless.

(c) All LST beachings were with a dry ramp or nearly so.

(d) To complete the day unloading, stores for last ¾ hr were dumped on open beach and taken under cover later to speed turn around instead of taking direct under cover. All stores were under cover off beach except some arc mesh at 1045 hrs. This applies to vehicles also/

(e) 40 mm. guns continue to be difficult to unload. This was partially

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

due to some guns having no prime mover and the Regt having no plan to move them but waiting until a chance gun tractor or crawler tractor arrived. This caused quite a bit of trouble during the night unloading one gun tractor parking near the front of an LST to load amn during the middle of unloading. A bulldozer was used to tow a gun into a narrow track where the dozer had to bash its own exit. Some thought or practice would improve these. Also difficult to pull light 25 pdrs off LST with jeep.

9. STORES ACCOUNTING.

A loading list of bulk stores on each craft would be very valuable to AASC and quite within their power to provide. The request for 9 mm. amn to be dropped on the first day was due to such a lack of this amn disappeared below a pile of other stuff in the beach dumps and could not be found when required.

10. AERIAL ACTIVITY.

Due to absence of enemy aircraft in early days the beach clearance was greatly simplified. This was no doubt due to our own air cover.
After the first couple of enemy raids they flew above 40 mm range except at night so much so that the 40 mm became rather an ornament. The tight formations of 9 bombers would have been disturbed by a 3.7 inch.
The area behind the beach was pretty restricted and was well bombed. Only loss up to 8 Oct was a dump of ESB amn stores.
Casualties were pretty high for the area up to 100 approx at 8 Oct. AP bombs bursting on hitting tree branches caused some injuries although men were in slit trenches.
Dumps were generally pretty well dispersed except all the fuel got into one bunch in the early days. AASC did not seem to disperse stuff automatically as they should in early days but later improved greatly.
Due to the possibility of infiltration from the west of the two kunai patches behind the beach they cramped their dumps a bit too mush into the area between the two patches instead of arpund the second patch as intended.

11. AERIAL DROPPING.
From B25's by parachute and direct dropping into upper kunai patch behing beach. Generally OK. The 9 mm. dropped at dusk was difficult to locate. MLO staff lacked a set of aircraft marking strips.

12. COMMAND.

The need for a senior naval officer of craft coming into beach to be on beach is still apparent.
A senior military officer, say a Major, needed on each LST to control all unloading under directions from MLO with whom he should be in communication by other means than orderly.
A walkie-talkie at each craft in communication with MLO would be ideal.

13. SIG WIRES.

A reduction in the number of sig wires broken by Mech Equipt was noted.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

14. POINTS FOR NIGHT UNLOADING.

(a) Shore units to provide a guide per two vehs.

(b) Vehs of one unit in one craft to be in a position to be unloaded one after the other.

(c) Veh movement on beach or in beach area at night to be only under MLO direction through the guides. Fd Arty were very good this time at night but AA Arty had many flaps.

(d) Scheme of having unloading party separate from any troops disembarking on far shore saves a lot of time xxx and trouble assisting dispersion of both personnel and stores. Also reduces pilfering.

(e) On night D - D plus 1 the 3 LSTs were over an hour to 1½ hrs late and blamed the shore end for not having range lights up an hour before ETA. This was due to some of LST escort fighting a war with enemy barges off shore and we had no means of identifying who was doing what and to whom.

(f) Personnel at night or in subsequent waves of craft should be disembarked by officer i/c in subunit lots. Consider this practicable on LSTs.

(g) To revert to a point missed in (e), Due to the late arrival of LSTs on thid night, the trouble in unloading 40 mm guns, the large quantity of fuel in 44 gal drums to be unloaded and the decision to depart at 0300 hrs regardless, a certain quantity of stores were left aboard. This would amount to approx 12 tons stores and 20 tons fuel. Stores consisted of 25 pdr amn, some ordnance and canteen stores and also some 3" mortar amn, ships tanks and arc mesh.

A lso times on night D - D plus 1,

Shore	Lights on	2300 hrs
	1st LST in	2345 hrs
	2nd LST in	0010 hrs
	3rd LST in	0030 hrs
	LSTs out	~~0200~~ 0200 hrs

15. STORES FOR MLO GROUP.

Paint and brush for signs are essential.

16. TROOPS UNDER MLO CONTROL.

It is felt that the ideal is two separate groups:

(a) Defence Group.
(b) Working Party Group.

These may be interchangeable or (b) may be used to supplement (a) but not vice versa as the need for (a) is constant.
If a special infantry unit is assigned to (a) as at RED BEACH no force is required under MLO control but as at SCARLET BEACH where forward requirements necessitated MLO drawing on (b) to supply (a) it became very arduous on the available personnel.
Personnel available for (b) consisted of:

20 Bde LOB personnel	100	
ESB never more than	60	at one time.
C Coy 2/3 Pnr Bn never more	30	at one time.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

this only because Engr tasks simplified.
C Coy 2/2 MG Bn engaged on defence nil
Total 130

These men unloaded incoming craft, carried rations to fwd tps where necessary, carried out patrols both recce and fighting, carried back wounded to points where jeep could be used, provided local protection to sections of beach head and acted as blood donors. This last work should be allowed for in any estimates of personnel for beachhead area and has not previously been considered as far as I can see.
Although the work was done and done well in this instance I do not consider that it reflects on a correct estimation of labour needs for a beach head.
The men were very exhausted at times and if in the early stages there had been resupply they could not have carried on even if other pepsonnel unloaded craft as the stores have still to be loaded onto vehs for dispersion.
With a carry of 50 yds approx 30-40 men are needed to unload an LCM. Time if fully loaded 1 hour. LCV 15 men will unload in ¼ hr with same carry if fully loaded.
A torch if safe to use shone on cases which are being taken out speeds up the work.
ASC personnel did a good job guiding different supplies into right dumps.
ESB Groups at SCARLET BEACH was approx 550 of whom 150 are in Boat Coy. The remainder were too specialised to provide both groups (a) and (b) if they were to control beachhead area. Their tenet that they must receive their pioneer assistance from infantry on the beach is very obviously correct and it would require a unit near the beach continually to provide this for them.
Another work for which MLO had to provide labour was digging in MDS and gravedigging.

17. MOVEMENT OF SURFACE CRAFT.

MLO Group should receive correct information from base of the movement of any surface craft in the area. This applies to naval craft especially. As long as people are prepared to give and reply to the challenge signal all is well. MLO is responsible for beach defence from seaward side so that this information is essential.

18. ESB CRAFT.

There was unfortunately little use for these craft until DIMINISH area itself was occupied due to lack of beaches. Dispersion was good but coast was coral rock throughout and boats lost were unlucky. On the only occasion the craft assembled in a bunch in daylight they were bombed with no damage but good future dispersion.
Boat control at night leaves much to be desired. It is thought that it would not be difficult to achieve some co-ordination but no steps have been taken as yet. A standard drill for beaching would suffice. Suggested each boat at near shore be given serial no 1 - n. Shore party erects one range light at set time before ETA. Mission leader craft only beaches on these lights for any special information from shore and is told no of sets of range lights which will be put up on shore and tells shore how many craft have arrived and if some missing, which numbers.
If three ranges are then put up crafts 1, 2, 3. beach on them from right to left. Then subsequent numbers beach similarly 4, 5, 6. after 1, 2, 3. have drawn off and shore party signals in each with number of dots, dashes or letters corresponding to craft number.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

BCS should keep lookout all night every night. When craft are expected practice is to erect light and go to sleep. Light can only be seen at short range and on limited arc from sea with result that craft may be looking for light for some time and can be heard on shore. If challenge were flashed then it speeds up guiding into beach.

19. APPENDICES.

Two sketches are attached as appendices.
One is Appx A to 20 Aust Inf Bde Admn Instn No 4 showing the proposed beach set up with some annotations.

The other is a diagrammatic sketch showing the final layout and the areas initially occupied by formations.

Neither sketch is to an accurate scale or alignment but is diagrammatic.

.....Capt
A J G STEVENSON

9/10/43

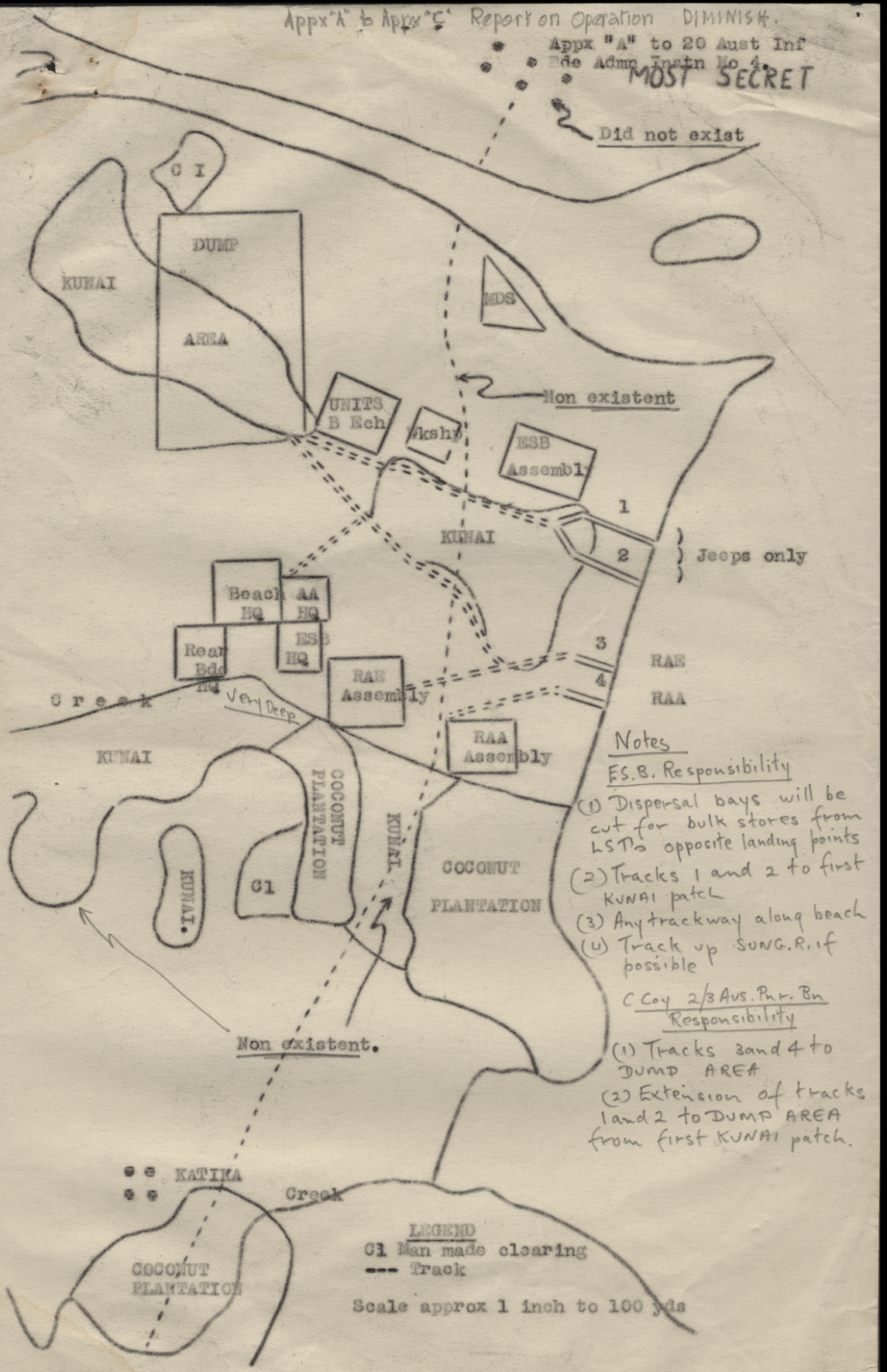
1200 hrs.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

Appx "A" to Appx "C" Report on Operation DIMINISH.

Appx "A" to 20 Aust Inf Bde Admn Instn No 4.

MOST SECRET



Notes

E.S.B. Responsibility

(1) Dispersal bays will be cut for bulk stores from LSTs opposite landing points

(2) Tracks 1 and 2 to first KUNAI patch

(3) Any trackway along beach

(4) Track up SUNG. R. if possible

C Coy 2/3 Aus. Pnr. Bn Responsibility

(1) Tracks 3 and 4 to DUMP AREA

(2) Extension of tracks 1 and 2 to DUMP AREA from first KUNAI patch.

LEGEND

C1 Man made clearing

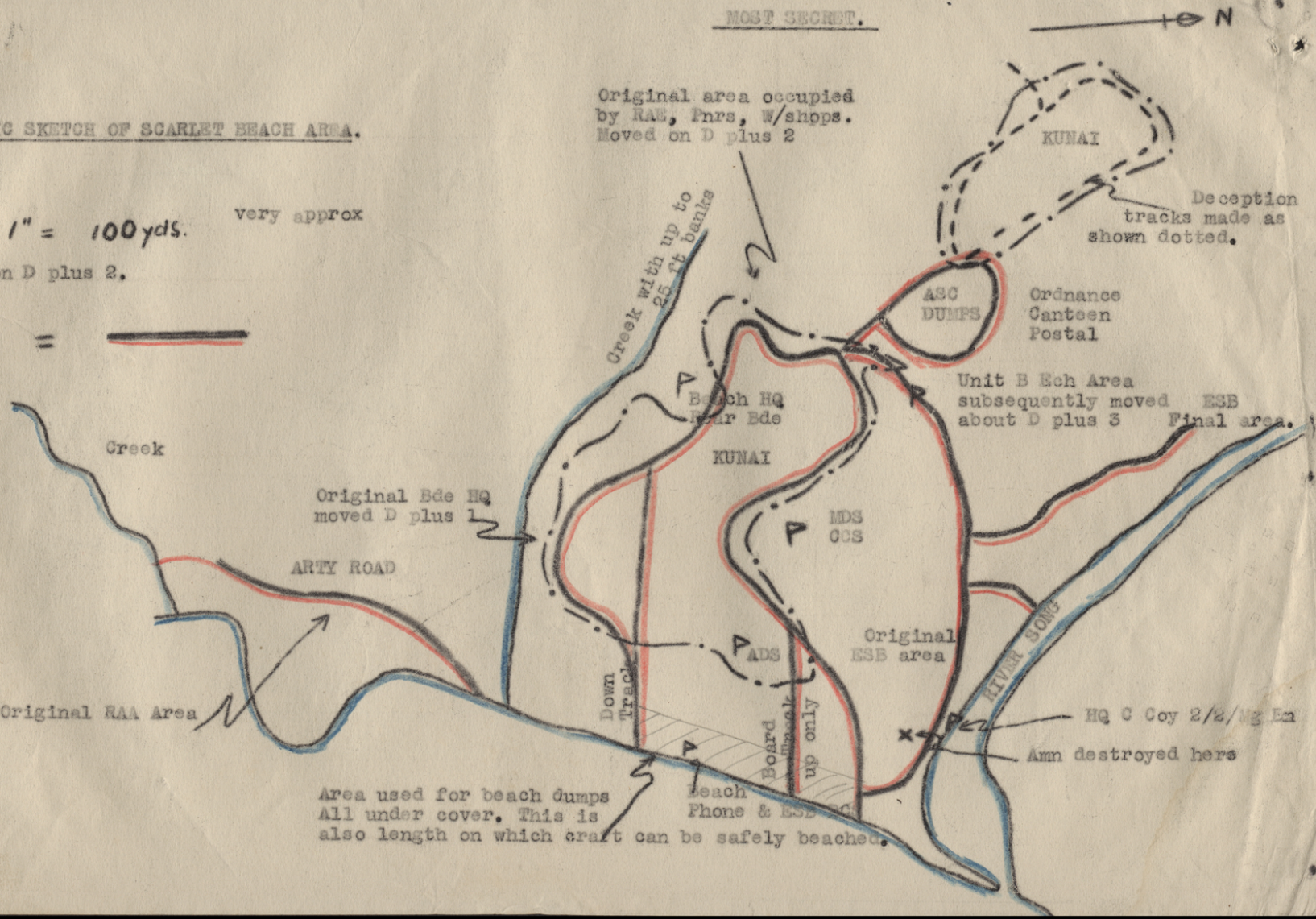
--- Track

Scale approx 1 inch to 100 yds

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

Appx "B" to Appx "C" to RAE 9 Aust Div Report on operation DIMINISH

MOST SECRET.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

RAE 9 AUST DIV

Appendix "E"

REFERRED TO IN REPORT ON OPERATION - "DOMINION"

Serial No	AIF No	NAME	RANK	COY	DATE	REMARKS
1	QX 1524	HALLORAN L M	Spr	2/3 Aust Fd Coy	24 Sep 43	Died of Wounds
2	VX 35589	GALLOWAY J	"	"	"	Killed in Action
3	SX 246	CROSSMAN F G	"	"	"	" " "
4	SX 148	DONLAN L A	"	"	"	" " "
5	VX 3645	MUNN J M	"	"	"	" " "
6	SX 870	CROWTHER L J	"	"	"	" " "
7	VX 42533	PARR G C	"	"	"	" " "
8	SX 3483	LIGHT F	"	"	"	" " "
9	VX 57573	SAVERY G L	"	"	"	" " "
10	VX 8949	ARNOLD A	"	"	"	" " "
11	NX 11661	FINLEY R K	"	"	"	" " "
12	SX 344	ROWE L J E	"	"	"	" " "
13	NX 903082	CLARK P J	"	"	"	" " "
14	TX 777	WOODHAM G P	Sjt	"	"	Died of Wounds
15	NX 11154	PEARSON W W	Spr	"	"	Missing believed killed
16	WX 70376	CHARLTON P N	Lieut	"	"	Wounded in action
17	SX 253	SIMONDS R P	L/Sjt	"	"	" " "
18	VX 59794	CHAKIN C H	L/Cpl	"	"	" " "
19	QX 3902	MADAMS W	Spr	"	"	" " "
20	SX 1304	JOHNSTON H P	"	"	"	" " "
21	SX 13564	TITLEY E C	"	"	"	" " "
22	WX 1215	LILLIE M	"	"	"	" " "
23	NX 36978	NICHOLLS H	"	"	"	" " "
24	NX 69999	CRUICKSHANK J	"	"	"	" " "

...../2

Appx "E"

Serial No	AIF Number	NAME	RANK	COY	DATE	REMARKS
25	VX 84101	WHITE K F	Spr	2/3 Aust Fd Coy	24 Sep 43	Wounded in Action
26	VX 59196	ELLIOTT J	"	"	"	" " "
27	VX 36731	ELLIOTT A V	"	"	"	" " "
28	SX 195	IRVINE F R	"	"	"	" " "
29	VX 71587	BOASE A McL	"	"	"	" " "
30	SX 1095	MASON C R G	"	"	"	" " "
31	VX 8855	COAD C J	"	"	"	" " "
32	VX 60296	GALLAGHER L S	"	"	"	" " "
33	NX123487	OLIVE C H	"	"	"	" " "

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

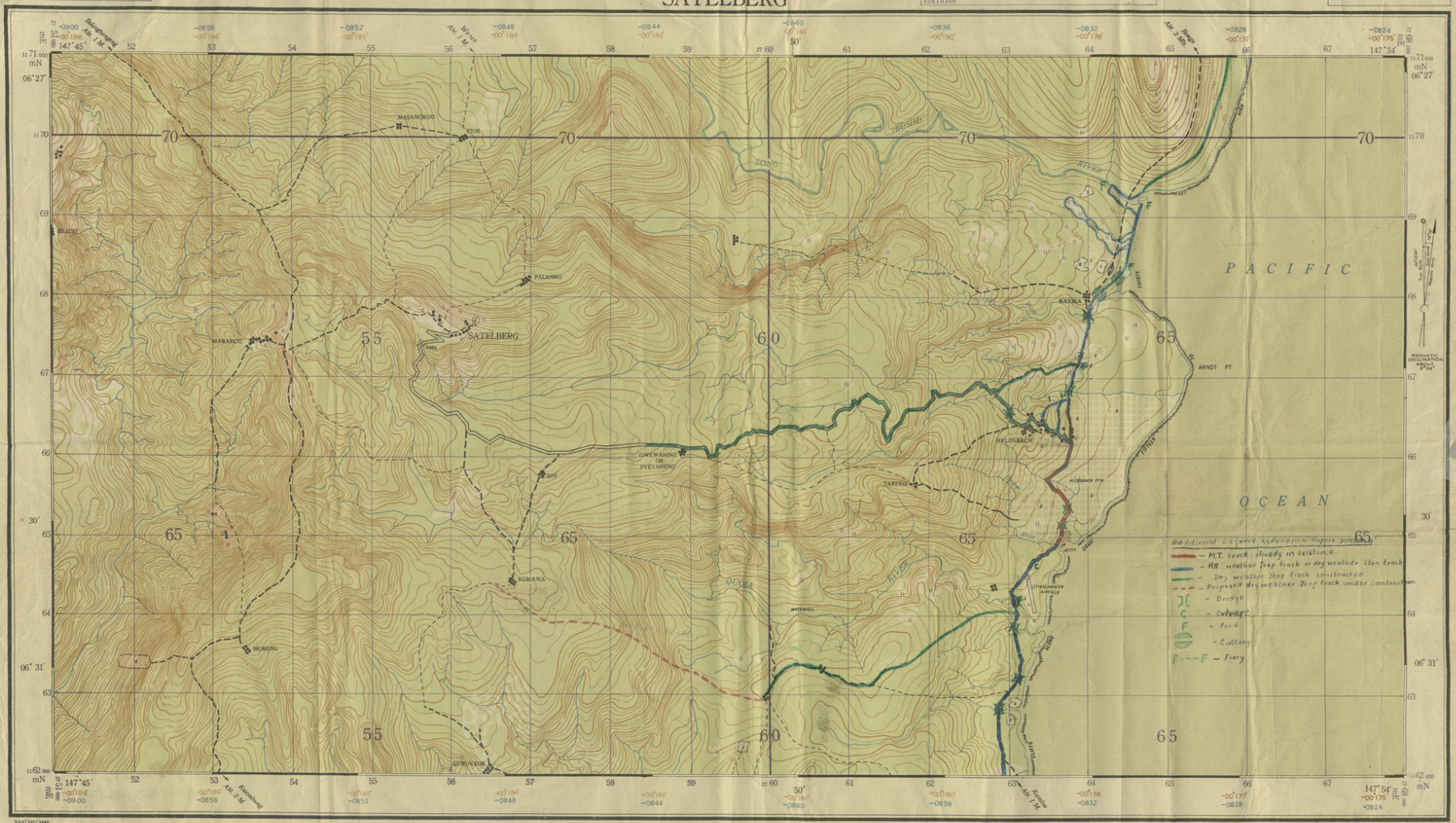
"D"
Appendix Report DIMINISH

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES GRID
SOUTHERN NEW GUINEA ZONE

NEW GUINEA
SATELBERG

WARNING
GRID ON THIS MAP DOES NOT AGREE WITH GRID SHOWN ON FINSCHHAFEN & MASAWENG RIVER 1 INCH TO 1 MILE PROVISIONAL EDITIONS

REFER TO THIS MAP AS SATELBERG 3560 1: 25,000 SERIES



Bridge
Motor Road
Jeep Track
Foot Track
Reported Track
Telegraph Line
Airfield
Sea Plane Base
Cemetery
Mission Station
Spot Height
Grasslands

CONTROL: Astronomical value for Salankaua
Light taken from Admiralty Charts.
Lat. 06°33'5"
Long. 147°52'10"

PROJECTION: Lambert Conical Orthomorphic
AIR PHOTOGRAPHY: 8th. Photo Squadron Fifth Air Force.
194 X, 101 Z.
MISSION: 8 Aust. Fd. Svy. Sec. A.I.F.
COMPILATION: 2/1 Aust. Army Topo Svy. Coy.
REPRODUCTION:

LOCALITY DIAGRAM
KULUNG-TUFU
MASAWENG RIVER
MONGI RIVER
FINSCHHAFEN

SCALE 1 25,000
FORM LINE INTERVAL 50 FEET ABOVE 200 FEET SCALE IN METRES 50 FEET BELOW 200 FEET
1 MILE = 1·40 KILOM 1 KILOM = 0·62 MILES

The figures within the borders of this map are for artillery purposes. The brown figures denote convergence and the blue figures denote corrections in minutes and seconds of mean time.

Officers using this map are requested to make any necessary additions or amendments on the map itself and forward to A.D. Survey H.Q. NGF

NOTE. Form Lines are intended to indicate shape of hill features and should not be taken as contours. Heights are only approximate.

TO GIVE A GRID REFERENCE ON THIS SHEET
PAY NO ATTENTION TO THE SMALLER FIGURES OF THE GUIDE AND IN MARGINS THEY ARE USED FURTHER FULL EXPLANATION
PAY ATTENTION TO LARGER MARGINAL FIGURES AND TO THOSE PRINTED ON FACE OF THE MAP
POINT SATELBERG (CHURCH)
EAST
Take west edge of square in which point lies and read the figures on the grid line to the east or west margin or on the line itself or the line of the next Grid line eastward
55
NORTH
Take next edge of square in which point lies and read the figures on the grid line to the east or west margin or on the line itself or the line of the next Grid line northward
67
55.9 67.1
REFERENCE 559 671
GIVE METRES INCLUDE ANY DISTANCE TO NEAREST NEAREST SHOWN REFERENCE DISTANT 500 KILOMETRES

Reef
Trig. Stations and altitudes — First Class 905' / Second 652' / Third 525' / Fourth 205'
Astronomical Station
Native Garden
Native Village
Undetailed Native Village
Buildings
River or perennial Stream
Non perennial Stream
Fathom Line

Swamp
Spring Well, Waterhole
Mangroves
Dense Jungle Forest
Forest
Scattered Timber
Plantation
Secondary Growth
Contours-Form Lines
Ridges
Cliffs

MAGNETIC DECLINATION ABOUT 8°54' E

REPT. 1943

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

- REFERRED TO IN REPORT ON OPERATION "DIMINISH" - APPX. "D"



Officers using this map are requested to make any necessary additions or amendments on the map itself and forward to A.D. Survey H.Q. NGF

WARNING
GRID ON THIS MAP DOES NOT AGREE WITH GRID SHOWN ON FINSCHHAFEN 1 INCH TO 1 MILE PROVISIONAL EDITION

The figures within the borders of this map are for artillery purposes. The brown figures denote convergence and the blue figures denote corrections in minutes and seconds of mean time.

NOTE Form Lines are intended to indicate shape of hill features and should not be taken as contours. Heights are only approximate.

CONTROL: Astronomical value for Salanka -ua Light taken from Admiralty Charts.
Lat. 06° 33' 5"
Long. 147° 52' 10"

PROJECTION: Lambert Conical Orthomorphic

AIR PHOTOGRAPHY: 8 th. Photo Squadron Fifth Air Force.

MISSION: 194 X X. Sch. 97 C., 138 Y Y.

COMPILATION: 2/1 Aust. Army Topo Svy. Coy.

REPRODUCTION: 2/1 Aust. Army Topo Svy. Coy.

TO GIVE A GRID REFERENCE ON THIS SHEET.
PAY NO ATTENTION TO THE SMALLEY OR MONEY FIGURES AT THE CORNERS AND IN MARGINS THEY ARE FOR FINDING FILL OR INTERESTS
PAY ATTENTION TO LARGER MARGINAL FIGURES AND TO GRID INTERSECTIONS NEAREST OF THE MAP

POINT	EASTING	NORTHING
This west edge of square in which point lies and read the figures printed opposite this line to north or south margin or on the line itself if on the map. Call these EASTING.	63	This south edge of square in which point lies and read the figures printed opposite this line to east or west margin or on the line itself if on the map. Call these NORTHING.
	8	
	00	

REFERENCE: 638 586
UNIT METRE SQUARE 1000 REFERENCE TO NEAREST 100
NEAREST SIMILAR REFERENCE DISTANT 100 KILOMETRES

Appendix B Report DIMINISH

Bridge
Motor Road
Jeep Track
Foot Track
Reported Track
Telegraph Line
Airfield
Sea Plane Base
Cemetery
Mission Station
Spot Height
Grasslands

Additional Legend Reference Report "Diminish"
- Jeep track through native gardens
- All weather Jeep track
- Dry weather Jeep track constructed
- Proposed dry weather Jeep track under construction
- Bridge
- Culvert
- Ford
- Cutting
- Ferry

River
Trig. Stations and altitude: First Class, Second, Third, Fourth
Astronomical Station
Native Garden
Native Village
Uninhabited Native Village
Building
River or perennial Stream
Non perennial Stream
Fathom Line

Swamp
Spring Well, Waterhole
Mangroves
Dense Jungle Forest
Forest
Scattered Timber
Plantations
Secondary Growth
Contours - Form Lines
Ridges
Cliffs

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

COPY No 4
WAD DIARY

RAE 9 AUST DIV
—REPORT—
—ON—
OPERATION - DIMINISH

2/3 Aust Fd Coy Report DIMINISH

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
AWM2020.71.1541

HQ RAE 9 AUST DIV

Appendix to War Diary for Oct 43.

W3008's and W3009's.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

Army Form W.3009 (*Adapted*)
(Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

13/NE (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 23/10/1943. HQ. RAE 9 Aust Div (Unit)

W.E. 11/4/3. OFFRS. 5 O.R's. 26 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 3 ATT. BY W.E.

Part A. Posted Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements Required.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Reinfts. Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Reinfts. Required.
			1	W.Os. Class I.					
				W.Os. Class II.					
				Squadron or Company Quartermaster Sgts.					
				Staff Sergeants	AAMC	2			
NR	1		1	Sergeants	AAPC	1			
		2	4	Corporals					
			18	Troopers, Privates, etc.					
				Civilians counting as O.R.					
NR*	1	2	24*	Totals of cols. marked * should agree with details shown in Part E on Page 2.		3 *			*

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 7 of instructions for compilation of this return will complete analysis of Part B(1) and B(2).

* * Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces, 10 N.Z. Forces.

Detail		A.I.F.	C.M.F. Under 19 Years.	C.M.F. 19 Years and over.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	* *	TOTAL.
A		27						[redacted]	[redacted]		27.
B(1)											
B(2)							[redacted]				

Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong
10R.	2/13 Fd Coy.		

Part C. Other Ranks Included in Part A Detached to Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.
1	RAD Warwick		
1	2/3 Fd Coy		
9	LOB.		

Part D. Description of Other Ranks Whose Return To.....(Unit) is Particularly Requested. ...../...../194.....

Army No	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

Hq. HAE. 9. Aust Div
Unit

Army Form W.3009
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

13/ [illegible] Serial No.

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 23/10/1943.

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Ammunition Examiners			
Armament Artificer Fitter			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)			
Armament Artificer Instrument			
Armament Artificer Radio			
Armament Artificer Signals			
Armament Artificer Wireless			
Artificer, Artillery			
Artificer, Engine			
Blacksmiths			
Bricklayers			
Computors			
Cooks, Hospital			
Coppersmiths			
Dispensers			
Draughtsmen			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)	1	-	1
Draughtsmen (Engineering)			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)	1	1	-
Electricians			
Electricians (M.V.)			
Electricians (Signals)			
Fitters			
Fitters (Cycle)			
Fitters (Electrical)			
Fitters (Gun)			
Fitters (Instrument)			
Fitters (M.V.)			
Fitters, Railway Signal			
Fitters, Signals			
Grinder, Precision			
Mechanics, Instrument			
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)			
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)			
Mechanics, Radio			
Mechanics, Typewriter			
Mechanics, Wireless			
Millwrights			
Operators, Excavator			
Pattern Maker			
Pharmacist			
Photographer, Wet Plate			
Photowriter			
Plumber			
Saw Doctors			
Surveyors			
CARRIED FORWARD	2	1	1

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Surveyors, Engineering			
Surveyors, R.A.A.			
Surveyors, Topographical			
Surveyors, Trigonometrical			
Toolmakers			
Turners			
Watchmakers			
Welders			
GROUP II.			
Armourers			
Axemen			
Bakers			
Bty. Comd's. Asst.			
Boilermakers			
Carpenters			
Carpenters and Joiners			
Cooks	2	2	-
Dental Mechanics			
Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)	1	1	-
Driver-Operator			
Drainers			
Electricians			
Electricians (Engineers)			
Fire Control Operators			
Gun Operator			
Hatchman			
Height Taker			
Helio Operator			
Instrument Operator			
Intelligence Duties			
Joiners			
Lineman			
Lineman, Signals			
Lithographers			
Machinists, Metal			
Machinists, Wood			
Masons			
Masseurs			
Mechanics, M.T.			
Miners			
Moulders			
Nurses, Trained			
Observation Post Assts.			
CARRIED FORWARD	5	4	1

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Operating Room Assts.			
Operator, Keyboard			
Operator, Line			
Operator, Signal			
Operator, Switchboard			
Operator, Wireless			
Opticians			
Painters			
Panel Beaters			
Photographer, Dry Plate			
Predictor Numbers			
Printers			
Radiographers			
Riggers			
Sawyers			
Signallers			
Signwriters			
Telescope Identfn. Numbers			
Well Borers			
Wheelers			
Winchman			
Wireman			
Woodturners			
GROUP III.			
Battery Surveyors			
Butchers			
Clerks	4	2	2
Clerks, Supply			
Clerks, Technical			
Coach Trimmers			
Concretors			
Cooks			
Dental Clerk Orderlies			
Despatch Riders			
Draughtsmen, Signals			
Drivers, H.T.			
Driver Mechanics			
Driver Tptn. Plant			
Engine Hands, I.C.			
Equipment Repairers			
Farriers			
Fitters' Mates			
Gun Layers			
CARRIED FORWARD	9	6	3

DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
RSM	1	1	
TPT CPL	1	1	
YMCA CPL	-	1	
M/C. ORDS	2	3	
DVRS MT.	7	6	NR
BATMEN.	6	6	
ATTACHED BY W.E.			
AAMC.	2	2	
AAPC	1	1	
Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	30	27	3.

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.
(c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.
(d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."
(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

23.10.43.
Date of Despatch

P.T.O.

Signature of Commander
Asst DAAG 9 Aust Div

a.w. 6m bks 3/43

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

SURPLUS NCO

1 YMCA CPL

1 CPL CLERK

DEFICIENT

1 SJT CLERK — NOT REQUIRED

1 DRAFTSMAN (ARCH)

2 TYPISTS CLERKS

For Gods sake send a typist for which I have been asking for three months. If nothing else available send an AWAS Ref draughtsman (architectural) — apparently they are unprocurable so please send a draughtsman of any breed

Wyndhurst Capt

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

11/116 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 16/10/1943. HQ Pat 9 Aust Div (Unit)

W.E. 11/4/3. OFFRS. 5 O.R's. 26 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 3 ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Rein'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required.
				*					
				*					
			1	Lieut.-Colonels					
				Majors					
			3	Captains	AAMC	1			
			1	Lieutenants					
				Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
			5			1			

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

DETAIL		A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	* *	TOTAL.
A.		6									6
E.(1)											
E.(2)											

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
* * Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces.

PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO ..... (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. ...../...../194.....

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

H.Q. RAE 9 Aust Div Unit

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

11/MC (Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 16/10/1943 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
MAJ	VX243	MULLER	DO	CRE	YES		
T/LT COL							
CAPT	VX3996	BROADHURST	F	ADJT	YES		
T/CAPT LIEUT	QX19122	STEVENSON	HJG	[illegible]	YES		
T/CAPT LIEUT	QX9157	BLACKBURNE ~~[illegible]~~	GA	[illegible]	YES		
LIEUT	VX62114	BURKITT	H.	I.O. ~~[illegible]~~	YES		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
CAPT	NX 20483	GRANT LIH	AAMC	17 SEP 43	KMC

16-10-43
Date of Despatch

[illegible] Capt
Signature of Commander
Adjt

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

Army Form W.3009 (*Adapted*)
(Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

11 / NG (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 16 / 10 / 1943. [illegible] (Unit)

W.E. 11 / 4 / 3. OFFRS. 5 O.R's. 26 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 3 ATT. BY W.E.

Part A. Posted Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements Required.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Reinfts. Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Reinfts. Required.
			1	W.Os. Class I.					
				W.Os. Class II.					
				Squadron or Company Quartermaster Sgts.					
				Staff Sergeants	AAMC	2			
NR	1		1	Sergeants	AAPC	1			
		2	4	Corporals					
			19	Troopers, Privates, etc.					
				Civilians counting as O.R.					
NR *	1	2	25 *	Totals of cols. marked * should agree with details shown in Part E on Page 2.		3 *			*

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 7 of instructions for compilation of this return will complete analysis of Part B(1) and B(2).

* * Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces, 10 N.Z. Forces.

Detail		A.I.F.	C.M.F. Under 19 Years.	C.M.F. 19 Years and over.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	* *	TOTAL.
A		28						[redacted]	[redacted]		28
B(1)											
B(2)							[redacted]				

Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong
1 OR.	2/13 Fd Coy		
1 OR	2/24 Fd PK		

Part C. Other Ranks Included in Part A Detached to Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.
1 SGT	DR.O. WARWICK		
1 OR.	2/3 Fd Coy		

Part D. Description of Other Ranks Whose Return To ..... (Unit) is Particularly Requested. ..../..../194....

Army No	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

16 Mtr Trans Coy ..... Unit

Army Form W.3009
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

11/-16 Serial No.

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 16/10/1943.

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangetakers			
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Rivetters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths								Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevedores			
Computors								Riggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical			
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers				Tailors			
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)	1	—	1	Bty. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters				Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)	1	1	—	Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks	2	2	—	Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)	1	1	—								
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators				GROUP III.				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				Battery Surveyors				RSM	1	1	—
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Butchers				TPT OFF	1	1	—
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Clerks	4	2	2	QMS A. OFF	—	1	—
Grinder, Precision				Helio Operator				Clerks, Supply				SPR CPLS	2	3	—
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Technical				MPS. MT	7	7	—
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties				Coach Trimmers				DRIVERS	5	6	—
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Concretors							
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Cooks							
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Dental Clerk Orderlies							
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Despatch Riders				ATTACHED BY W.E.			
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals							
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Drivers, H.T.				HAME	2	2	—
Pattern Maker				Masons				Driver Mechanics				HAPC	1	1	—
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Driver Tptn. Plant							
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.				Engine Hands, I.C.							
Photowriter				Miners				Equipment Repairers							
Plumber				Moulders				Farriers							
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Fitters' Mates							
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Gun Layers							
CARRIED FORWARD	2	1	1	CARRIED FORWARD	5	4	1	CARRIED FORWARD	9	6	3	Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	24	* 25	*

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.
(c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.
(d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."
(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

16-10-43
Date of Despatch

P.T.O.

Signature of Commander
POST. RMT TRANS OFF

a.w. 6m bks 3/43

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

SURPLUS

1 CPL. CLERK.

1 YMCA CPL.

1 M/C ORD.

DEFICIENT

1. SJT. CLERK — NOT REQUIRED.

2 TYPISTS. CLERKS - URGENTLY REQUIRED

1 DRAFTSMAN (ARCH).

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

/ (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 9/9/1943 HQ RAE 9 Aust Div (Unit)

W.E. 11/4/3 OFFRS. 5 O.R's. 26 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 3 ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Rein'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required.
				*					
				*					
			1	Lieut.-Colonels					
				Majors					
			3	Captains	AAMC	1			
			1	Lieutenants					
				Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
			5						

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in pars. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

DETAIL		A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL.
A.		6									6
E.(1)											
E.(2)											

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces.

PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
VX					To be posted as I.O.
62114	LIEUT	H. BURKITT	2/13 AUST	4	HQ. RAE 9 AUST
			Fd Coy. RAE	OCT	DIV.
				43	VICE - LIEUT H.
					GEHRMANN

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
VX					
36505	LIEUT	L.T. IZARD	2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy. RAE	2 Oct 43	TRANSFER
QX 83155	LIEUT	H GEHRMANN	2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy RAE.	4 Oct 43	TRANSFER

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO ..... (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. ...../...../194.....

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

HQ RAE 9 Aust Div Unit

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)
10/116 (Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 9/9/1943 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
MAJ T/LT-COL	VX243	MILLER	DO	ERE	YES.		
CAPT	VX3996	BROADHURST	F	AUST	YES		
LIEUT T/CAPT	QX19122	STEVENSON	AJG	F&ENGR	NO	ATTACHED FOR DUTIES 20 AUST WF BDE	19 SEP 43
LIEUT T/CAPT	QX9157	BLACKBURNE	GA	F&ENGR	YES		
LIEUT	VX62114	BURKITT	H	I.D.	YES.		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
NX					RMO.
20133	CAPT	GRANT L.H	AMC	17 SEP 43.	At present attached for duties to 2/3 Pal Cgt

9-9-43
Date of Despatch

F Broadhurst CAPT
Signature of Commander
ADJT. RAE 9 Aust Div

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
AWM2020.71.1541

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

...../...../.....(Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday...../...../194..... .....(Unit)

W.E...../...../..... OFFRS.....O.R's.....+ OFFRS.....O.R's.....ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Rein'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required.
				*					
				*					
				Lieut.-Colonels					
				Majors					
				Captains					
				Lieutenants					
				Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

DETAIL		A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	* *	TOTAL.
A.											
E.(1)											
E.(2)											

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
* * Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces.

PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO.....(Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. ...../...../194.....

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

[illegible] Unit

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

...../..... (Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday ...../...../194. (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
MAJ T/LT COL	VX243	MULLER	D O	CRE	YES		
CAPT	VX3996	BROADHURST	F	AUST	YES		
LIEUT T/CAPT	QX19122	STEVENSON	AJG	FO ENCR	NO	ATTACHED 20 AUST INF BDE	19 SEP
LIEUT T/CAPT	QX9157	BLACKBURNE	G A	FO ENCR	YES		
LIEUT	QX43155	GEHRMANN	H	I.O	YES		
LIEUT	VX30505	IZARD	LT	REINFT	YES		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.

2 OCT 43

Date of Despatch

Signature of Commander

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

14 / NG (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 30 / 10 / 1943. HQ RAE 9 Aust Div (Unit)

W.E. 11 / 4 / 3. OFFRS. 5 O.R's. 26 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 3 ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Rein'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required.
				*					
				*					
			1	Lieut.-Colonels					
				Majors					
			3	Captains	AAMC	1			
	1		—	Lieutenants					
				Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
	1		4			1			

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in pers. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

DETAIL		A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	* *	TOTAL.
A.		5									5
E.(1)											
E.(2)											

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
* * Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces.

PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
VX62114	LIEUT	BURKITT H.	EVACUATED TO 2/3. CCS	29 OCT 43.	WOUNDED IN ACTION.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO ..... (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. ... / ... / 194....

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

HQ. RAE. 9. Aust Div Unit

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

14/MG (Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 30/10/1943 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1 Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	2 Army Number.	3 Surname.	4 Initials.	5 Posting.	6 Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	7 If not present with Unit, state how employed.	8 Date of Detachment.
MAJ T/LT.COL	VX243	MULLER	DD	CRE	YES		
CAPT	VX30996	BROADHURST	F	ADJT	YES		
LIEUT T/CAPT	QX19122	STEVENSON	AJG	FdEngr	YES		
LIEUT T/CAPT	QX9157	BLACKBURNE	GFI	FdEngr	YES		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
CAPT	NX 20183	GRANT L.I.H.	FANC.	17 SEP 43	R.M.O.

30/10/43
Date of Despatch

A Broadhurst Capt
Signature of Commander
adjt

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

Army Form W.3009 (Adapted)
(Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

10 / NK (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 9/9/1943. HQ HKE 9 Aust Div (Unit)

W.E. 11/4/43. OFFRS. 5 O.R's. 26 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 3 ATT. BY W.E.

Part A. Posted Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements Required.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Reinfts. Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Reinfts. Required.
			1	W.Os. Class I.					
				W.Os. Class II.					
				Squadron or Company Quartermaster Sgts.					
				Staff Sergeants	AMMC	2			
NR	1		1	Sergeants	AAPC	1			
		2	4	Corporals					
			19	Troopers, Privates, etc.					
				Civilians counting as O.R.					
NR *	1	2	25 *	Totals of cols. marked * should agree with details shown in Part E on Page 2.		3 *			*

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 7 of instructions for compilation of this return will complete analysis of Part B(1) and B(2).

* * Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces, 10 N.Z. Forces.

Detail		C.M.F.		A.W.A.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	* *	TOTAL.
	A.I.F.	Under 19 Years.	19 Years and over.							
A	23						[redacted]	[redacted]		23
B(1)										
B(2)						[redacted]				

Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong
1	2/3 Fd Coy		
1	5/2/4 Fd Pk Coy		

Part C. Other Ranks Included in Part A Detached to Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.
1	DRO WARWICK		
7	LOB		
1	2/3 Fd Coy		
1	LO Edp.		

Part D. Description of Other Ranks Whose Return To.....(Unit) is Particularly Requested. ...../...../194.....

Army No	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

Hq. RAE 9 Aust Div. ..... Unit

Army Form W.3009
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

10 / 16 Serial No.

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 9/9/1943.

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangetakers			
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Rivetters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths								Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevedores			
Computors								Riggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical			
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers				Tailors			
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)	1	—	1	Bty. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters				Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)	1	1	—	Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks	2	2	—	Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)	1	1	—								
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators				GROUP III.				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				Battery Surveyors				RSM	1	1	—
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Butchers				TAT CPL.	1	1	—
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Clerks	4	2	2	YMCA CPL.	—	1	—
Grinder, Precision				Helio Operator				Clerks, Supply				RECORDS	2	3	—
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Technical				DVRS. MT	7	7	—
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties				Coach Trimmers				BATMEN	6	6	—
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Concretors							
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Cooks							
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Dental Clerk Orderlies							
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Despatch Riders				ATTACHED BY W.E.			
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals				HAMC	2	2	—
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Drivers, H.T.				A APC	1	1	—
Pattern Maker				Masons				Driver Mechanics							
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Driver Tptn. Plant							
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.				Engine Hands, I.C.							
Photowriter				Miners				Equipment Repairers							
Plumber				Moulders				Farriers							
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Fitters' Mates							
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Gun Layers							
CARRIED FORWARD	2	1	1	CARRIED FORWARD	5	4	1	CARRIED FORWARD	9	6	3	Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	29	38	3

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.
(c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.
(d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."
(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

9-9-43 ..... Date of Despatch

FOR DETAILS SEE back

Brandhurst CAPT ..... Signature of Commander
AUST. RAE 9 AUST DIV.

a.w. 6m bks 3/43

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

SURPLUS

1 Cpl Clerk.

1 YMCA Cpl.

1 M/c Orderly

DEFICIENT

1 Sjt. Clerk - Not Required

2 Typists Clerks - URGENTLY required

1 Draftsman (Architectural). ?

Army Form W.3009 (Adapted)
(Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

9 / NG (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 2/10/1943. HQ. RAE 9 Aust Div (Unit)

W.E. 11/4/43. OFFRS. 5 O.R's. 26 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 3 ATT. BY W.E.

Part A. Posted Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements Required.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.					ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Reinfts. Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.	DETAIL.	Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Reinfts. Required.
			1	W.Os. Class I.					
				W.Os. Class II.					
				Squadron or Company Quartermaster Sgts.					
NR	1		1	Staff Sergeants	AAMC	2			
				Sergeants	AAPC	1			
		2	4	Corporals					
			19	Troopers, Privates, etc.					
				Civilians counting as O.R.					
NR *	1	2	25*	Totals of cols. marked * should agree with details shown in Part E on Page 2.		3 *			*

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 7 of instructions for compilation of this return will complete analysis of Part B(1) and B(2).

* * Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces, 10 N.Z. Forces.

Detail		C.M.F.								
	A.I.F.	Under 19 Years.	19 Years and over.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	* *	TOTAL.
A	28						[redacted]	[redacted]		
B(1)										
B(2)						[redacted]				

Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong
1	2/13 Fd Coy.		

Part C. Other Ranks Included in Part A Detached to Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.
1	DAO WARWICK		
8	LOB		
1	2/3 I Coy		
1	20 Bde.		

Part D. Description of Other Ranks Whose Return To.....(Unit) is Particularly Requested. ...../...../194.....

Army No	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

W.D

HQ RAE 9 Aust Div
Unit

Army Form W.3009
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

4/16
Serial No.

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 2/10/1943.

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangetakers			
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Riveters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths								Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevedores			
Computors								Riggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical			
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers				Tailors			
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)	1	—	1	Bty. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters				Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)	1	1	—	Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks	2	2	—	Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)	1	1	—								
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators				GROUP III.				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				Battery Surveyors				RSM	1	1	—
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Butchers				FMT CPL	1	1	—
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Clerks	4	2	2	YMCA CPL	—	1	
Grinder, Precision				Hello Operator				Clerks, Supply				A/C QMS	2	3	
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Technical				DR. INT	7	7	
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties				Coach Trimmers				BATMEN	6	6	
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Concretors							
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Cooks							
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Dental Clerk Orderlies							
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Despatch Riders				ATTACHED BY W.E.			
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals				AIANC	2	2	
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Drivers, H.T.				RAPC	1	1	
Pattern Maker				Masons				Driver Mechanics							
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Driver Tptn. Plant							
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.				Engine Hands, I.C.							
Photowriter				Miners				Equipment Repairers							
Plumber				Moulders				Farriers							
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Fitters' Mates							
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Gun Layers							
CARRIED FORWARD				CARRIED FORWARD				CARRIED FORWARD				Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	29	28 *	*

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.
(c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.
(d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."
(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

2-10-43
Date of Despatch

A Brentnall CAPT.
Signature of Commander
AUST. RAE 9 AUST DIV

a.w. 6m bks 3/43

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

1 CPL. CLERK – SURPLUS.
1 YMCA CPL – SURPLUS.
1 M/C ORDERLY – SURPLUS.

---

1 SJT CLERK – DEFICIENT – NOT REQUIRED

2. TYPISTS CLERKS – URGENTLY REQUIRED

Burchard CAPT.
ADJT. RAE & AUST DIV.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

Army Form W.3009 (Adapted)
(Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

14/NG (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 30/10/1943. HQ 11 Aust Div (Unit)

W.E. 11/4/3. OFFRS. 5 O.R's. 26 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 3 ATT. BY W.E.

Part A. Posted Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements Required.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Reinfts. Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Reinfts. Required.
			1	W.Os. Class I.					
				W.Os. Class II.					
				Squadron or Company Quartermaster Sgts.					
				Staff Sergeants	AAMC	2			
			2	Sergeants	AAPC	—		1	—
			2	Corporals					
3	3		18	Troopers, Privates, etc.					
				Civilians counting as O.R.					
3 *	3	—	23 *	Totals of cols. marked * should agree with details shown in Part E on Page 2.		2 *		1	— *

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 7 of instructions for compilation of this return will complete analysis of Part B(1) and B(2).

* * Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces, 10 N.Z. Forces.

Detail		A.I.F.	C.M.P. Under 19 Years.	C.M.P. 19 Years and over.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	* *	TOTAL.
A		25						[redacted]	[redacted]		25
B(1)											
B(2)							[redacted]				

Part B. Other Ranks Attached from Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which they belong
1	2/3 Fd Coy		
1	2/4 Fd Pk.		

Part C. Other Ranks Included in Part A Detached to Other Units.

Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.	Number of O.Rs.	Unit to which detached.
1	DRO Warwick		
1	2/3 Fd Coy.		
8	LOB.		

Part D. Description of Other Ranks Whose Return To .....(Unit) is Particularly Requested. ...../...../194.....

Army No	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

HAC 9 Aust Div Unit

Army Form W.3009
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

14/ 116 Serial No.

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 30/10/1943.

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, E.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangetakers			
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Riveters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths								Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevedores			
Computors								Riggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical			
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers				Tailors			
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)	1	—	1	Bty. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erecters			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters				Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)		1	—	Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks	2	2	—	Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)	1	1	—								
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators				GROUP III.				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				Battery Surveyors				RSM	1	1	—
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Butchers				TAT CPL	1	1	—
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Clerks	4	2	2	MK. CLKS	4	3	—
Grinder, Precision				Helio Operator				Clerks, Supply				DRS MT	7	5	—
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Technical				BATMEN	6	6	—
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties				Coach Trimmers							
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Concretors							
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Cooks							
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Dental Clerk Orderlies							
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Despatch Riders				ATTACHED BY W.E.			
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals				AAMC	2	2	—
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Drivers, H.T.				AAPC	1	—	—
Pattern Maker				Masons				Driver Mechanics							
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Driver Tptn. Plant							
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.				Engine Hands, I.C.							
Photowriter				Miners				Equipment Repairers							
Plumber				Moulders				Farriers							
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Fitters' Mates							
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Gun Layers							
CARRIED FORWARD	2	1	1	CARRIED FORWARD	5	4	1	CARRIED FORWARD	9	6	3	Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	29 *	24 *	3.

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.
(c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.
(d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."
(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

30/10/43
Date of Despatch

Signature of Commander

a.w. 6m bks 3/43

P.T.O

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

DEFICIENT. TO WE.

1. Draftsman (ARCH) or Tops } Urgently Required
2. Typists.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

/ (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 23/10/1943. HQ HRE 9 Quad Div (Unit)

W.E. 11/4/43. OFFRS. 5 O.R's. 26 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 3 ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.					ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Rein'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.	DETAIL.	Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required.
				*					
				*					
			1	Lieut.-Colonels					
				Majors					
			3	Captains	AAMC	1			
			1	Lieutenants					
				Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
			5			1			

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in pars. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

DETAIL		A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL.
A.		6									6
E.(1)											
E.(2)											

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces.

PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. /194.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

HQ RAE 9 Aust Div
Unit

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)
13 / 116 (Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 23/10/1943 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
MAJ A/LT COL	VX243	MOLLER	DO	CRE	YES		
CAPT	VX3996	BROADHURST	F	ADJT	YES.		
LIEUT T/CAPT	QX19122	STEVENSON	AJG	FIELD	YES		
LIEUT T/CAPT	QX9157	BLACKBURN	GH	FIELD	YES		
LIEUT [redacted]	VX62114	BURKITT	H	I.O.	YES		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
CAPT	NX201183	GRANT L.H.	AAMC	17 SEP 43	RMO

23.10.43
Date of Despatch

A Broadhurst Capt
Signature of Commander
Actg CRE 9 Aust Div

GSS/KB

Subject: HQ RAE 9 AUST DIV WAR DIARY NOV 43

HQ RAE 9 Aust Div
Ref: 728/45
17 Sep 45

MIL HISTORY SEC
LHQ MELBOURNE.

1. Herewith 2 copies of complete daily notes forming the War Diary Int Summary for the month of NOV 43.

2. Report on Ops OCT 43 - JAN 44 included under the cover of DEC 43 War Diary covers a good deal of infm also relative to NOV 43, especially in respect to the photographic record contained therein.

3. Also included under NOV 43 War Diary will be found :-

(a) RAE 9 Aust Div Report on Operation DIMINISH. This covers activities of RAE 9 Aust Div from 19 Sep to 11 Oct 43.

(b) RAE 9 Aust Div Report on Operation POSTERN. This covers detailed activities of RAE 9 Aust Div during period 4 Sep to 16 Sep 43 during operations mounted for the capture of LAE.

(c) Spare copy of RAE 9 Aust Div Report on Operation POSTERN - note this copy is NOT complete.

Spare Pkt

.....Lt-Col
CRE 9 Aust Div

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118 (adapted)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ RAE 9 Aust Div *Date and Time.—From* 1 Nov 43 *To* 30 Nov 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
FINSCHAFEN	1		Advice received that 30 tons RE stores arriving LANGEMAK BAY night 1/2 Nov. 2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy instructed to have detachment standing by to receive same. Fd Engr inspected progress on NORTH SOUTH ROAD and issued instructions to Coys regarding culverts and bridges on NORTHERN end. CE NGF (Brig J.W. MANN) visited area and conferred with CRE on proposed proposed developement of FINSCHHAVEN as a Base. Approx 30 tons RE stores to arrive to-night per L.C.T's. from BUNA. 2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy detachment to receive & unload same. weather shows signs of lifting but all roads still out except to Jeep traffic. BUMIR jeep bridge washed out to sea. A F boat ferry constructed to ferry jeeps across.	
	2		Weather fine - roads beginning to dry out. Brig MANN visited DREGER HARBOUR area & inspected work on airstrip. CRE & Fd Engr inspected progress on NORTH SOUTH RD & issued instructions that all Mech eqpt be worked two shifts daily. Information received that approx 500 tons RE stores are to be shipped to LANGEMAK BAY prior to 14 Nov. Fd Park to establish Dump in the area to receive the stores coming in nightly. Rds still closed to all traffic except jeeps. Start made on improving SATELBERG TRACK up to forward troops.	
	3		Weather fine - rds improving but heavy vehs still grounded. Fd Engr visited U.S. Aviation Engrs at GODOWA, in an endeavour to obtain two graders to operate in FINSAHAVEN area - received promise of help at first opportunity - nothing definite. Brig MANN conferred with CRE re developement of this area and inspected main NORTH SOUTH RD (SIMBANG - SONG RIVER). CRE issued instructions that 2/3 & 2/13 Fd Coys be responsible for getting convoys of 12 & 8 jeeps daily up SATELBERG & KUMAWA tracks respectively in order to build up reserve supplies.	

Govt. Printer, Brisbane

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ RAE 9 Aust Div *Date and Time.—From* 3 Nov 43 *To* 6 Nov 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
FINSCHHAVEN	3		Mechanical Equipment & dozers - to be withdrawn from roadwork to ~~kwm~~ tow jeeps if necessary.	
	4		Fd Engr accompanied recce party from Div HQ to select new site for Div HQs.	
			2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy to set up Fd Bakery unit at KOLEM and to convert wood bruners into fuel oil burners.	
			Two Fd Coys engaged on fostering supply convoys up SATELBERG & KUMAWA tracks and also upon SIMBANG - SONG RIVER Rd.	
			Much difficulty being experienced in obtaining suitable timber for bridges, KWILA - the only suitable timber - being in small quantities. Coconut logs are being used for culverts.	
			E stores still coming in nightly, but not in quantities promised. A definite allocation of water tpt to Engrs would assist greatly in this matter. Representations made to that effect.	
	5		~~Weekly Itell Summ submitted to 2 Aust Corps.~~	~~See Appx~~
			Inspection of Engr Works revealed satisfactory progress in spite of recent bad weather & scarcity of Mech Eqpt.	
			Estimated date of completion of Airstrip, South of LANGEMAK BAY by 808 U.S Aviation Engrs, is 30 Nov 43.	
	6		Weather contd fine & all Coys engaged as before.	
			~~Advice received that 2/7 Aust Fd Coy, at present under comd~~ 5 Aust Div, will revert to 9 Aust Div, when water tpt becomes available.	
			Proposed itinary of LETHBRIDGE Mission (BRITISH ARMY) received - expected in FINSCHHAVEN area 8 - 10 Nov 43. CRE to conduct same round area & make available latest Engr Intell.	
			CE's Branch 2 Aust Corps, ack receipt of POSTERN Rept & fwd comments on same, several points requiring clarification, This attended to. Lt RABLING left to join 2/8 Fd Coy-sent to this formation by mistake.	

Govt. Printer, Brisbane

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ RAE 9 Aust Div *Date and Time.—From* 7 Nov 43 *To* 11 Nov 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
FINSCHHAVEN	7		CE 2 Aust Corps (Brig R.J.H. RISSON D.S.O., O.B.E.) afrived in area & conferred with CRE on prpposed works, RE stores etc. Will stay with this HQ whilst in area. Operation Order received setting out role of Engrs in regard to coastal defence in area. Between 1830 hrs & 0630 hrs all to be on one (1) hrs notice, until further orders.	
	8		Remainder of Operating Sec 2/1 Aust Mech Eqpt Coy arrived from LAE bringing Autopatrol & scoops. CE 2 Aust Corps & CRE made inspection of area & works in progress. Stores position beginning to improve, but a quantity of stores is reported not to have been unloaded & taken back to BUNA on several occasions. Work on rds progressing slowly due to Coys being engaged on operational work in getting supplies up SATELBERG & KUMAWA Track-mech eqpt used to tow jeeps & trailers.	
	9		Advance party left LANGEMAK BAY to establish new HQs at HELDSBACH. CE 2 Aust Corps, discussed stores position & promised to see that craft remained on beach to allow sufficient time for unloading. Also will endeavour to ensure that more mech eqpt is made available for works.	
	10		Main party left for new HQs.	
	11		Representations made to Div to have a definite allocation of craft to CRE to allow stores to be ferried from LANGEMAK BAY to LAUNCH JETTY (RAE Dump). Stores at present coming around piecemeal - with unsatisfactory results. No satisfaction from Div - CRE decides to have captured JAP barge put into commission for RAE use. Final discussion between CE & CRE re points brought up during CE's visit.	

Govt. Printer, Brisbane

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ RAE 9 Aust Div *Date and Time.—From* 12 Nov 43 *To* 16 Nov 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
FINSCHHAVEN	12		CE 2 Aust Corps left by launch for LAE. CRE inspected work on SIMBANG-SONG RIVER RD. Approx 200 tons of supplies have been fostered up SATELBERG & KUMAWA Tracks by RAE, also sqd of tanks, in preparation for the resumption of the offensive. 2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy completed installations for Fd Bakery Unit which commenced baking to-day. First bread available in this area for eleven weeks. Fd Engr inspected MAIN RD and issued instructions re alignment culverts & bridges. Bridge over QUOJA River completed.	
	13		Much speculation & many investments on MELBOURNE CUP noticed. Flight of LCV's bringing RE Stores & eqpt left at LAE, arrived at LAUNCH JETTY. Work on Main Rd commenced by all Coys after being operationally engaged for 5 days of this week.	
	14		The ~~inbiquitous~~ useless but inbiquitous 15 cwt vehs make their reappearance in the area. Control of SATELBERG RD placed under O.C. 2/13 Aust Fd Coy RAE through 26 Bde. Some LOB personnel arrive from BUNA but strangely enough not the ones we asked for on priority. 2 graders, 2 bulldozers, ripper scoop arrive from BUNA by CST. Bulldozers to 2/13 Aust Fd Coy to replace M E Coy plant.	
	15		2/3 Aust Pnr Bn comes under comd CRE for works. 3 ORs from HQ RAE personnel att to 2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy. Some FBE boats arrive from LAE. Some rain overnight & in afternoon. HQ personnel engaged on part time bridge building.	
	16		Heavy rain overnight turning QUOJA RIVER-SATELBERG RD section into a quagmire. Fd Engr sited further set of culverts to be built on main rd by 3 pl 2/3 Aust Fd Coy. Two ORs evac with fever. Water point in new location to be provided for CCS at SIMBANG by 2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy.	

Govt. Printer, Brisbane

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ RAE 9 Aust Div *Date and Time.—From* 17 Nov 43 *To* 19 Nov 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
FINSCHHAVEN	17		CRE confined to bed with fever & Capt BLACKBURN also evac to CCS. Some rain overnight. Some RE stores arrive by boat in FINSCH HARB including motor boat for CRE's use. Inf push fwd on SATELBERG Track assisted by tanks asisted by 3 pl 2/13 Aust Fd Coy. Further bogging of tanks in coastal stretch. First pile work on BUMI Rd bridge. Visit from Major MINSNER of 5 Aust CE (Works) Staff. Discussion with G1 on future Bde ops & Engr requirements. Received notification of arrival of 2/7 Aust Fd Coy to-night. 3 tanks bogged nearby also rescueing bulldozer.	
	18		2/7 Aust Fd Coy arrived at GODOWA Beach last night. Capt FRAME visited this HQ. Personnel unable to be removed from landing beach, but some unit bulk stores moved without any notification & usual flop over unloading & dispersal at LAUNCH JETTY. C Coy 2/3 Pnr Coy moving to LAUNCH JETTY AREA. Bogged bulldozer clawed its way out of mud & with excessive zeal subsequently got two tanks out. GOC'S conference 1600 hrs concerning future ops of 20 & 24 Bdes. Priority of work on tracks set out. Ord Room Sjt inadvertently upraided AQ in lieu of Div switchboard. MEC gp near BUMA RIVER to be moved into HELDSBACH area for work on tracks North of LAUNCH JETTY. 2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy to make Dump near MANEBA Pt in FINSCH HARB to take stores unloaded in this area. D Coy 2/3 Pn Bn move to work on SATELBERG TRACK.	
	19		Completely fine day. MEC Gp moved to HELSBACH Area. 2/7 Aust Fd Coy personnel & stores arriving in small trickles in HELDSBACH Area. 2/3, 2/7 & 2/13 Aust Fd Coys in support 20, 24 & 26 Bdes respectively. Lieut CONNOR returned from 3ME & taken on strength HQ RAE as I O. JAP barge commissioned by 2/24 Aust Fd Park Coy singled out for special attack by 9 bombers South of LAUNCH JETTY. No damage or casualties. Bombs probably badly aimed at a troop of guns on shore. 2/7 Aust Fd Coy stage in HELDSBACH plantation. Mines & tank ditches appear on SATELBERG TRACK, just like old times. No damage to tanks.	

Govt. Printer, Brisbane

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ RAE 9 Aust Div *Date and Time.—From* 20 Nov 43 *To*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
FINSCHHAFEN	20		Work commenced on Launch Jetty - SCARLET BEACH track. KATIKA Track to sq 6168. Recce of Track S bank of SONG R by 2/3 Fd Coy RAE. Heavy work for platoon and plant. 2/7 Fd Coy had platoon following advance of 2/32 Inf Bn to sq 6373. Capt HAIG, A/OC 18 Fd Coy reported to CRE. To work in FINSCHHAFEN Base Sub-Area. Track recce 500 yards South of 2600 feature occupied by 2/24 Inf Bn. Fine day with good drying. Adj had very damp trip in Royal Launch i.e. CREs motor boat. Our suspected malaria cases have proved to be mostly dengue. Yanks report UXB S of LANGEMAK BAY seem strangely unable to cope with it with any of their mass of troops. 2/7 Fd Coy and C Coy 2/3 Pnr Bn move to cove South of SCARLET BEACH.	
	21		2 Pl 2/13 Fd Coy to construct bridges in HELDSBACH Plantation area. First Engr battle casualties this month in 2/16 Fd Coy - 2 wounded. Movement of tanks on SATELBERG Track need close attention by sappers. Bn HQ 2/3 Pnr Bn and B Coy move to work on SATELBERG Track. Lieut WOODS arrives. We get all our vehicles but one tip truck to North side of BUMI. Without brakes no one was willing to move it. Good progress on road works in continued fine weather. AASC very anxious to have 24 casks of cement removed from their FSD. No need to worry, it won't explode.	
	22		Fine day 2/13 Aust Fd Coy bring in captured Japanese explosives and Engineering pocket books. Capt STEVENSON takes to his bed with the disease. Details of Jap Tank Ditches received very slavishly to book. CRE takes convalescents trip in Royal Launch under supervision of ADMS. A Coy 2/3 Pnr Bn move to SIKI CREEK to work on maintenance of KATIKA Track. Recces show every prospect of access to 2600 feature. 4 Pl 2/7 Aust Fd Coy take their turn at infanteering. No enemy put to flight yet. Infantry Bns keep doing the job themselves and all the amatuers see is bloodstains in the creek.	
	23		Another fine day. Capt BLACKBURNE returns from MDS, looks liked DEATH wound up. Captured Jap Spigot Mortar brought in by 2/13 Fd Coy looks as if it was used in the Wars of the Roses, also demolition stores. All work going ahead.	
	24		Yet another fine day. Capt BLACKBURNE brightens visibly on hearing he has been nominated for Tactical School at BEENLEIGH. Done over by Jap bombers with usual accuracy, bombs fell into sea. Track recce from KATIKA to 2600 feature shows jeepable track except in wet weather.	

Govt. Printer, Brisbane

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ RAE 9 Aust Div *Date and Time.—From* 24 Nov 43 *To*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
FINSCHHAFEN	24 (contd)		Road party of 2/7 Fd Coy drop grenade on 2 Japs carrying Bangalore Torpedo & prepared charge, killing one and badly wounding other. Believed objective to be dozer. One Pl 18 A Fd Coy comes under command RAE for works and local admn. 2/7 Fd Coy instal one floating bay of FBE to be used in event of SONG R flooding.	
	25		USA Base Area Sigs Major LYALL and Maj PROUD visited CRE, asked if they could construct BUMI R bridge. CRE agreed to hand over from 2/3 Fd Coy. Sjt SHARMAN arrived at HQ RAE with remainder of Cam Unit and 1 OR from HQ RAE. Received notification (purely accidental) that 2/72 LAD arrived at KEDAM on 21 Nov 43 complete with all equipment but minus OC and any NCOs who were reffed off another ship at LAE. Priority One Stores and Personnel submitted 4 weeks ago have not yet arrived , all the remainder except priority 1 have arrived. Reported our cooking gear returned to Ordnance. Adjt run poor answering telephone, decides to put extension in own office. SATELBERG occupied by 2/43 Inf Bn. 2/7 Fd Coy bring in Jap Bangalore Torpedo. Pl of 18 A Fd Coy start work on CCS at HELDSBACH.	
			Heavy rain for about 1½ hours in afternoon. Proposed supply route for 20 Bde operation KATIKA Track now abandoned. Road from SCARLET BEACH to be used. Remainder 18 A Fd Coy comes under command RAE for work and local admn.	
	26 Nov		Fine day again. Adjt has touch of filthy disease, won't lie down. Maj ROSENTHAL, OC 18 A Fd Coy reported to CRE. Air Raid in Morning, Div Sigs worried about UXB that did not exist. 2/43 Bn takes PINO HILL. Maj MOODIE tees up ride over SATELBERG area in Piper Cub. 2/7 Aust Fd Coys Dozer mortared at 652702, SATELBERG 1/25000, no casualties. 2/23 Inf Bn occupies MASANKOO.	
	27		Maj BENNETT, GII Cam, NGF, visits RAE. Satisfied Cam requirements this area NIL. Maj MOODIE reports 2 UXBs, one 1000 lb, other 250 lb on BOONg track to SATELBERG. Later he went for ride over area in Piper Cub. Adjt goes to MDS for blood slide, result no malaria, still has temperature. Lieut WOODS evacuated to MDS, probable Malaria. Light showers at 2000 hrs. Recce by Lieut WATSON, SATELBERG, FIORZ supply route. 2/7 Fd Coy found bridge that had been partially sawn through by Japs. Bridge later repaired and tanks went across OK. 2/13 Fd Coy laid and checked minefield for 2/43 Bn.	

Govt. Printer, Brisbane

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit HQ RAE 9 Aust Div *Date and Time.—From* 28 Nov 43 *To*

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
FINSCHHAFEN	28		Capt BLACKBURNE leaves for BEENLEIGH Tactical School, hope he enjoys his Xmas Dinner. Major WEARING SMITH, Maj COLES visit from RAE. E in C, CE NGF arrive at Div. Fine day, Lt Col HITCHMAN in charge of Heavy AA called re Engr assistance for clearing fields of fire for heavy AA. Remainder of unit equipment unloaded from "MULCRA". 2/7 Fd Coy lays and checks AP Minefield in front of 2/43 Bn positions. Track from ford to SATELBERG named after Lieut SPRY. 2/13 Fd Coy construct water point on SATELBERG TRack. Sprs guide tanks from KATIKA to 2600 feature. Lieut WATSON recces possible road to FIOR via PALANKO. 2/3 Fd Coy constructing culverts on main road between LAUNCH Jetty and FINSCHHAFEN airstrip. A Coy Prrs start work on track S of SONG R. 2/7 Fd Coy constructing bridge over SIKI River, also in support of 2/28 Bn in advance along coast to BONGA. 18 Fd Coy commence work on ASD HEILDSBACH. 170 Japs killed in PABU area since 20 Nov 2/3 Fd Coy start to collect stores for bridge over SONG River.	
	29		Maj Gen STEELE, Brig W T MAIN visits CRE later visited all Fd Coys accompanied by CRE Left by courier boat for FINSCHHAFEN at 1800 hrs. Maj BENNETT left for MORESBY, Capt FRANE goes for ride n Piper Cub. Estimated time of completion of FIOR-PALANKO rd 5 days. 2/7 Fd Coy lift minefield on PINO HILL. GUSIKA occupied by 2/28 Bn .	
	30		Fine Day. Maj LITTLE visits CRE. Very heavy storm in evening. 2/13 Fd Coy commence work on PALANKO-FIOR section of KATIKA track 2/3 Fd Coy commence work on bridge over SONG R but driven off by enemy action. 18 Fd Coy dig hole on FINSCHHAFEN airstrip for Piper Cub. 2/23 Bn capture Jap suspension Bridge over SONG River between KUANKO and FIOR. Roads open for Jeeps only after heavy rain.	

CRE. 9 Div.

Govt. Printer, Brisbane

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.1541