5/13/32/10

DECEMBER 1942

ORIG. INF.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
ACCESS STATUS
OPEN

16 FIELD COMPANY

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

WAR DIARY ~~or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

SECRET.

Unit 16.AUST.FD.COY.R.A.E. Date and Time.—From 1 Dec. 42 To 9 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
CAIRNS	1 Dec.	1400	Maj. LEONARD returned to camp from YUNGABURRA, where he had been conferring with members of the Bde. staff, 5 Aust. Div., staff and LHQ personnel re suitable sites for camps for 3 divisions - giving advice re availability of water, etc.	
	2 Dec.	0600	Capt. GEHRMANN and 3 O.R. left for COOKTOWN by MV 'MERINDA'.	See Ap 'A' - Report on operns of 16 AUST FD Coy for period 26 Nov to 2 Dec.
		0800	Maj. LEONARD and the CSM inspected a hill south of the camp for a wet season camp site.	
	3 Dec.	0900	Maj. LEONARD proceeded to INNISFAIL to meet the A/CRE (Lt.Col. ROUTLEY) and proceeded with demolition inspection.	
		0600	9 O.R. went on Home Leave.	
	4 Dec.	1800	Maj. LEONARD and the A/CRE returned to Coy. H.Q. Capt. GEHRMANN and 1 O.R. returned to camp from COOKTOWN.	See APPENDIX 'B' - Diary of Capt. GEHRMANN trip to COOKTOWN.
	5 Dec.	0800	Maj. LEONARD and Lt. Col. ROUTLEY went to INNISFAIL to inspect demo. prepns. in the area. They were accompanied by Lieut BELL.	See also APPENDIX 'B'.-Report by Capt. GEHRMANN.
	6 Dec.	1000	Rain began and continued with varying intensity throughout the day. SUNDAY - Rest Day. About 20 men proceeded to GREEN IS. and BARRON FALLS.	See Ap. 'C' - W3008 & W3009 for 5 Dec 42
		1900	A few of the men went to church in CAIRNS.	
	7 Dec.	0800	Stores for JACKY JACKY were taken in to the wharf ready to be loaded on the ship.	
	8 Dec.	1100	Maj. LEONARD and Lieut. BELL returned to CAIRNS from INNISFAIL.	
		1400	Maj. LEONARD went to interview Brig. CRAWFORD re demolition orders for the INNISFAIL area.	
		0600	Spr. BIRD, J. left for GDD, BRISBANE for discharge on compassionate grounds.	
	9 Dec.	0600	L/Sgt. HANNAH and Cpl. DUNSTAN left for COOKTOWN - L/Sgt. HANNAH will	

Dec '42.

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Capt.

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Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

Unit 16.AUST.FD.COY.R.A.E. *Date and Time.—From* 0600 hrs 9 Dec 42 *To* 16 Dec. 42.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
CAIRNS	9 Dec	0600	relieve Sgt. HUGHES who is to proceed to BONEGILLA to a B.D. School on 31 Dec. 42.	
		1600	Stores for JACKY JACKY were loaded on the vessel.	
		1000	Maj. LEONARD visited Bde. H.Q. to enquire re road recce required by FIRST AUST. ARMY.	See App 'A' & 'B'
	10 Dec.	1100	Lieut. D.B. BELL went to MAREEBA to carry out a road recce.	
			Maj. LEONARD left for a conference at H.Q. R.A.E. re posting	See App 'C'
		1400	of officers. The living tents were shifted to the new position on the hill behind the camp.	
	11 Dec.	1300	All ranks attended a lecture by the Jungle Trg. Team in the STRATFORD HALL.	See App 'D' 11 Bde Trg Instns. 15 & 16.
	12 Dec.	0900	All ranks attended lectures given by LHQ JUNGLE TRG TEAM in the STRATFORD HALL. There were some lectures for officers and N.C.O.'s only.	See App 'F' - W3008 & W3009 for 12 Dec 42
			5 miners marched in from 1.B.D.Coy. making 16.Fd.Coy. only 5 deficient in miners.	
	13 Dec.	0900	REST DAY. N.C.O.'s and Officers attended lectures given by members of the JUNGLE TRG TEAM. Rest of the men went on trips to GREEN IS. and BARRON FALLS.	See App 'E' - Report on Opns. of 16 Fd Coy to 13 Dec 42.
		1600	Bad thunderstorm.	
	14 Dec.		Bad case of Dysentery - most of the camp incapacitated.	
		0330	Maj. LEONARD & Lieut. FAGG and party (3 all terms) left on road recce for an all weather route to Cape York.	
	15 Dec.	1300	Lieut. BELL left camp for INNISFAIL to inspect work done on magazine there, and to show the N.C.O. i/c the work reqd with regard to demo. work in the area.	
	16 Dec.	Raining	Men working on camp hygiene and shifting camp onto high ground. Leave train has been postponed until Friday, 17 Dec.	

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Capt.
A/c 16 Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

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Unit 16.AUST.FD.COY.R.A.E. *Date and Time.—From* 17 Dec. 42 *To* 0830 hrs 19 Dec. 42.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
CAIRNS	17 Dec.	0900	Capt. GEHRMANN attended a conference at the BDE.COMD.POST. This conference, which was attended by the C.O.'s of all Australian and American Tps in the area, discussed the defence plan of the CAIRNS - MAREEBA area. During the conference, Sgt STORY of the Fd. Coy. gave in outline the demo. plan for the area. The weather continues to be very wet. Some of the tents leaking. Strength of Coy. 7 and 187. Lieut. BELL returned from INNISFAIL.	
	18 Dec.		Rain lighter, clearing up somewhat towards evening. Men still at work digging new incinerator and putting sand into the tents on the ridge and into the mens mess.	
		1845	The party from COOKTOWN returned to camp - word of their return was not received until about 1500 hrs - do not know reason for return which was ordered by Brigade. The sergeant (HUGHES) reported that the infantry showed no sign of moving yet. Message received from Bde.Comd.Post to attend a meeting with the Brig. at 0830 hrs on 19 Dec. 42.	App. 'A'
	19 Dec.	0830	Capt. GEHRMANN attended the Brig. and learned the present situation re disposal of tps in the area and proposed moves. There is a battalion of garrison tps encamped at KAMARUNGA (A surveyor from 16.AUST.FD.COY. was working on this day preparing a plan of the area in order to facilitate the planning of the adm. layout). On the tableland there will be a 600 bed hospital at ROCKY CK. and the present hospital will take 250 beds. Two divisions will move into camps on the tableland. To enable these camps to be built, Brig. LUCAS, 5 R.A.E. offrs. and 8 O.R. will establish at ATHERTON, a drawing office at YUNGABURRA and a dump will be established at ATHERTON. The 15.Aust.A.Fd.Coy. will move into the area, the 16.AUST.FD.COY. will be concentrated in the CAIRNS area and will immediately commence training. It is not yet known whether this is a prelude to a sudden move by the coy. or whether it merely means a period of trg for the coy.	App. 'G' - W3008 & W3009

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Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

Unit 16.AUST.FD.COY.R.A.E. Date and Time.—From 1550 hrs 19 Dec 42. To 21 DEC 42.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
CAIRNS	19 Dec.	1630	Capt. GEHRMANN visited Lt. Col. BROCK who is C.O., 51 Bn and arranged with him for the men of the Fd.Coy. to be incorporated with the infantry for trg purposes during the month of JAN 42. This trg will incorporate trg in ambush, in move through jungle, in patrols, and in similar inf. minor tactics.	
	20 Dec.	1200	Capt. GEHRMANN was summoned by BRIG. CRAWFORD to meet Maj. FLETCHER (Deputy Director of Works, Land Forces H.Q.) at KAMARUNGA TRANSIT CAMP. It appears that the 16.AUST.FD.COY. R.A.E. is to construct this camp. The first work required is improvement of the existing track into the area to enable stores to be transported into the area ready for building. Cpl. DUNSTAN who made a sketch of the area on the previous day, was asked for to work with a surveyor, Lieut. DOVERS, doing spot levels over the area. He began this at 1330 hrs.	Report on Opens of 16 Fd Coy to 20 Dec 42
		1400	Sgt. HANNAH and seven trucks and some N.C.O.'s with a working party from the 13.AUST.FARR.BN. (50 men) worked on the track and by 1700 had about 300 yards of the track gravelled.	
		1500	Capt. GEHRMANN attended a conference at Bde. Comd.Post - subject: Training. It appears the 16.AUST.FD.COY. will have little opportunity for training for the next month as it will be working on the staging camp. The Brig. explained the system on which the relief of the northern groups was being arranged and explained the projected moves in the area.	
		2000	Capt. GEHRMANN called at HIDES HOTEL to see Maj. FLETCHER if possible. He was at YUNGABURRA, but the AD of W (LIEUT NEWTON) was in and he explained the scheme of things to the Fd. Coy. Offrs.	
CAIRNS	21 DEC	0730	Work continued on improvment of the track into the new Transit Camp - work was satisfactory, although not as fast as was at first expected, due to the working party being only 30 men strong. Infantry working party worked all day with AASC tpt unloading trains of SCALE 'A' equiptment, and transporting	

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Adm Comd. 2 i/c 16 Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E.

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Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

SECRET

Unit 16 AUST FD COY RAE *Date and Time.—From* 0730 hrs 21 DEC *To* 1730 hrs 23 DEC 42.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
CAIRNS	21 DEC	0730	it to the site of the TRANSIT CAMP at KAMARUNGA.	
		1900	Men of 16 AUST FD COY helped unload and transport this equipt. Finished work at 2230 hrs.	
"		1800	Message received ordering CAPT GEHRMANN to proceed to CHILLAGO to meet MAJ LEONARD, taking with him rations for 2 months and 300 gall petrol.	
"	22 DEC	0830	CAPT GEHRMANN, his batman (SPR BONELL) and a mechanic left camp by WD truck for CHILLAGO. They reached MAREEBA by 1400 hrs and lunched at the crossing over the WALSH RIVER between MAREEBA and DIMBULA.	
		1800	They arrived at BOONMOO and were informed that the road they were on was no longer the main road - a new road goes through HERBERTON. At 1900 they got bogged and did not extricate themselves until 0400 hrs the following morning.	0930 hrs - LIEUT ROPER of 55 AUST FD PARK COY arrived at camp and began preps for return of stores from JACKY JACKY, IRON RANGE & COOKTOWN; and location for transit dump.
		0330	The coy began work sorting the scale 'A' equiptment at KAMARUNGA.	
		0730	15 sets are to be sorted out - surplus sent on to ATHERTON and the remainder required ordered from the dump at ATHERTON.	
		~~1700~~ 1800	BRIG LUCAS visited the camp and ordered the recall of MAJ LEONARD & CAPT GEHRMANN from CHILLAGO. It appears that the 16 AUST FD COY has been withdrawn from under comd 11 AUST INF BDE and placed under CRE 2 AUST CORPS. Party at INNISFAIL is to be recalled immediately.	1915 - LIEUT BELL and w whole coy moved out to KAMARUNGA and ~~began~~ worked until 2200 sorting stores.
"	23 DEC	0430	CAPT GEHRMANN and party halted and slept for the rest of the night resuming their journey at 0930 hrs. They arrived in ALMADEN at 1600 hrs and reached CHILLAGO at 1700 hrs. MAJ LEONARD had just received BRIG LUCAS's order as telegraphed on by LIEUT DANIELS, so the whole of both parties (that of MAJ LEONARD and that of CAPT GEHRMANN) returned to CAIRNS leaving CHILLAGO 1730 hrs. Originally MAJ LEONARD had intended to leave to continue his recce for a further fortnight at least, after conferring with his 2i/c. If CAPT GEHRMANN had not been late inarriving (due to his taking the old route instead of the new), MAJ LEONARD would have missed the	0315 - Party from INNISFAIL RETURNED to camp. see App N - order for Maj L's return.

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Capt.

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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SECRET.

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

Unit 16 AUST FD COY RAE

Date and Time.—From 1730 hrs 23 DEC To 1700 hrs 26 DEC 42.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
CAIRNS	23 DEC	2200	Due to the rain, the creeks had swollen so much that MAJ LEONARD decided not to proceed any further but to sleep where they were for the night. This was between CHILLAGO and KAMARUNGA	See M.P.O - Reed Report on Kamaruna Rd
"	24 DEC	0500	Work commenced on the TRANSIT CAMP at KAMARUNGA, following plan laid down by MAJ FLETCHER who is apparently SORE (WORKS).	
		1700	By night-fall quite considerable progress was apparent. MAJ LEONARD, CAPT GEHRMANN and party returned to camp, and these two officers went to KAMARUNGA to inspect the work and to learn of occurrences during their absence.	1600 hrs - Maj LEONARD called at YUNGABURRA to see BRIG EVANS. both he and Lt/Col CONNAN (CRE 2 AUST CORPS) were out.
		2000	MAJ LEONARD rang the CRE 2 AUST CORPS TPS who will call on him at lunch time on the following day.	
"	25 DEC		CHRISTMASS DAY. Work as usual, as the Camp has to be completed by the 30 DEC.	
		1300	Men given Christmas Dinner in camp: poultry, roast potatoes dried peas and marrow; Christmas Pudding and custard (complete with threepences); jelly, tinned fruit and ice cream; soft drinks, sweets, beer and cigarettes. They were given two hours off for Dinner.	See Ap 'I' - Christmas Cards from 55 Fd Park Coy 13 Fd Coy RAE
		1500	LT/COL CONNAN (CRE 2 AUST CORPS TPS) called on MAJ LEONARD and explained to him the general plan for developing the ATHERTON TABLELAND area. The TRANSIT CAMP is to receive tps (possibly from NEW GUINEA) not earlier than 30 DEC 42 and not later than 3 JAN 43. 16 AUST FD COY RAE will be an RAE 2 AUST CORPS TPS - he explained the system of reports required -, returns required - purchase - and requisitions for engr stores on dump at ATHERTON. He is giving wide powers to all engineering officers,.	
"	26 DEC	0500	Work as usual: progress quite good - although men will have to work 1 hour longer tomorrow, making a total of 11 hours.	
		1400	MAJ LEONARD &LIEUT DANIELS spent afternoon buying water supply stores. On the morning a tractor and a grader were received from the CRE.	
		1700	6 tipping trucks arrived from the CRE. H e has promised 2 concrete mixers and 6 tons of cement to the coy.	

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2 i/c 16 Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E.

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

SECRET

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 16 AUST FD COY RAE *Date and Time.—From* 27 DEC 42 *To* 30 DEC 42.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
CAIRNS	27 DEC		Work as usual.	
		1000	CAPT BRAITHWAITE who is now adjutant of HQRAE 5 AUST DIV arrived at the camp to find what he could about the present position of 8-A 16 AUST FD COY RAE with ref to RAE 5 DIV.	
			It appears that th-ey are completely in the dark. He was enlightened somewhat and proceeded on to YUNGABURRA.	
		0700,	A number of the coys trucks arrived back from ATHERTON with pipes and fittings, 2 concrete mixers, and cement.	
"	28 DEC		Work as usual.	
		0900	CAPT BRAITHWAITE returned from YUNGABURRA whe he had found that attachment of 16 AUST FD COY to 2 AUST CORPS is only temporary and for the period of construction of the camps; it seems likely that 5 AUST DIV will proceed overseas after this period. At TOLGA he had seen LIEUT ROPER, of 55 AUST FD PARK COY. He conferred with MAJ LEONARD and then returned to HQRAE 5 AUST DIV.	
		1800	LIEUT ROPER arrived in camp from the 11 INF BDE DUMP at TOLGA.	
"	29 DEC	0700	Work, proceeding as usual. Men working on new time-table - starting work at 0700 hrs and continuing to 1900 hrs, with one hour, off for lunch.	
		1500	The CRE, SECOND AUST CORPS visited the job and there met MAJ LEONARD. They carried out tests on a pattern of bed for the new camp.	
"	30 DEC		Work as usual - at end of day about 85% complete except for the road. Tomorrow the accomodation of the camp should be complete.	
			The road has yet to be completed - the pipes for the water supply will be completed as soon as the fittings are complete; There are still some tents to be put up — but this is being done by infantrymen.	

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Capt.
O/C 16 Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E.

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

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SECRET

Unit 16 AUST FD COY RAE Date and Time.—From 0700 hrs 31 DEC 42. To 31 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
CAIRNS	31 DEC	0700	Work as usual. Today all the buildings were completed and the road was put right through the camp. The road has yet to have a second layer of gravel put on it. The water supply has been rather slow due to lack of fittings - after the 3 " fittings arrive connection and testing should take only about 1 hour and should be finished about 1100 hrs tomorrow. Drainage system will be complete by 1500 hrs tomorrow. There were 305 beds finished on this day.	
		1500	BRIG LUCAS visited the job today and met MAJ LEONARD - he did not comment unfavourably on the job.	

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Adm Comd 21/c 16 Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E.

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16 AUST FD COY RAE

WARDIARY FOR DECEMBER, 1942

LIST OF APPENDICES.

AP 'A' - Report on operns of 16 AUST FD COY RAE for period 26NOV to 2 DEC.

*AP 'B' - VISIT OF CAPT GEHRMANN TO COOKTOWN 2-4 DEC 42 - Diary and reprt to OC COY.

*AP 'C' - W3008 & W3009 for 5 DEC 42;

*AP 'D' - 5 AUST DIV JANGLE TRG TEAM VISITS LL AUST INF BDE GP. LL BDE TRG INSTNS L5 and 16.

~~AP 'E' - W3008 & W3009 for 12 DEC 42.~~

AP 'E' - REPORT ON OPERNS OF 16 AUST FD COY RAE from 3 DEC 42 to 13 DEC 42.

*AP 'F' - W3008 & W3009 for 12 DEC 42.

*AP 'G' - W3008 & W3009 for 19 DEC 42.

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* Ap. H. - Message from H.Q. R.A.E. 5 Aust. Div, calling meeting of O.C.'s Coys to discuss alterations in postings of officers. Maj. LEONARD went as far as INGHAM to attend this, but was held up by creeks. He gave his views over the telephone and returned to camp the next day. Due to change of situtation, these alterations were not effected.

* Ap. J. - Message from Lieut. KING, O.C. 2 Sec. concerning proposed recce for a road MUNGANA to CAPE YORK.

Ap. K. - Report on Operns. of 16.Aust.Fd.Coy. from 14 Dec. to 20 Dec. 42.

* Ap. L. - Message putting all outlying dets. of 16.Aust.Fd. Coy. on 24 hrs notice to move to CAIRNS.

* Ap. M. - Cricket Matches played by 2 Sec, 16.Aust.Fd.Coy. at JACKY JACKY.

* Ap. N. - Telegrams recalling Maj. LEONARD, Capt. GEHRMANN and their parties to CAIRNS from road recce.

* Ap. O. - Recce Report for all weather road MUNGANA (Ref. Map ATHERTON 026062) to CAPE YORK, by Maj. H.A. LEONARD, O.C., 16.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.

* Ap. P. - 5 Div. Adm. Instn. No. 12 - Adm Layout JACKY JACKY, IRON RANGE, COOKTOWN & CAIRNS-MAREEBA.

* Ap. Q. - Notes on Visit of G.S.O.I., 5 Div to JACKY JACKY and IRON RANGE 23/24 Oct 42.

* Ap. R. - 5 Aust. Div. Trg. Policy Dec 42.

* Ap. S. - Location Statements & Medical Services - 26 Oct 42.

* Ap. T. - Christmas Cards received from 55.Fd.Park Coy; and 13.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.

* Ap. U. - Sitreps from 22 Nov. to 20 Dec. 42.

Ap. V. - Routine Orders by Maj. H.A. LEONARD for month of Dec. 42.

* These Appendices do not appear in Duplicate Copy.

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Appendix 'A'

SECRET.

Copy No 3.

Intelligence Officer,
H.Q.
R.A.E.
5 Aust Div.

Report on Operations of 16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E.

for the period

26 NOV -- 2 DEC 42

By C.G. STORY. A/Sgt.
16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E.

Ref Maps

CAPE YORK	8 M - 1"
CAPE DIRECTION	8 M - 1"
COOKTOWN	4 M - 1"
CAIRNS	4 M - 1"
INNISFAIL	4 M - 1"

1610 Hrs.

2 Dec. 42.

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- Part One -

For the period under review, a good standard of work has been maintained by the detachs and subsections engaged on different duties.

Training of personnel at H.Q. 16 Aust Fd Coy, has advanced, and although more time is needed to attain that proficiency due to constant practice, the men have a knowledge of the subjects, and standard is fair.

A/Sgt Story.C.G. and A/Sgt Jack.R. had a field day on 29 Nov 42 with 17 Bn V.D.C. Intelligience Scouts to obtain information on "living off the land", the information obtained was imparted to other members of the Coy, present at H.Q. 16 Aust Fd Coy.R.A.E. in a field day spent in the same areas as visited on 29 Nov 42.

Major Leonard, O.C.16 Aust Fd Coy.R.A.E., personally made a water recce of the southern sector of the TABLELANDS. 28 - 30 Nov 42.
The area covered included MILLA MILLA, MALANDA, YUNGA BURRA, LAKE EACHAM, ATHERTON and HERBERTON. It was originally intended to proceed to RAVENSHOE, but due to car trouble this was abandoned.
Suitable areas were located on the UPPER BARRON and HERBERTON Area at BLAGGY CK.
Major Leonard attended a conference wiyh Brig.Crawford and Senior L.H.Q.Officers at YUNGABURRA on 30 Nov 42.
For Major Leonard's report see Appendix.1.

Capt Gehrmann 2 i/c 16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E. left by boat on 2 Dec 42 for a visit to COOKTOWN Area.

Lieut Fagg and detach left COEN (M.R.CAPE DIRECTION 8 M-1" 660227) on 22 Nov 42, and arrived at H.Q.16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E. on 27 Nov 42.

Capt McSweeney A A M C .held a short arm inspection of personnel at H.Q.16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E. on 27 Nov 42.

Bde Dump at CAIRNS (1 M - 1"663710) is now manned by personnel of 55 Aust Fd Park Coy R.A.E. as from 26 Nov 42.

- Part Two-

.1. OPERATIONS

DEMO PREPARATIONS (R.M.INNISFAIL 4 M - 1")
Good progress has been maintained in the preparation of Demo tasks in INNISFAIL Area.

OPERATIONS COMPLETED

SOUTH JOHNSTON Riv Rd Bridge. M.R. 03300275

OPERATIONS IN PROGRESS M.R. 04120275

MOURILYAN HARBOUR WHARF.

Work on this wharf proceeded for two days, and on 3rd day was interupted due to the loading of a sugar boat.
Work has been suspended on the wharf for the time being due to the difficulties which arose, and on instructions from Major Leonard.

MAGAZINE V.D.C. H.Q. (M R 03480330)

Work has been confined to the roof and floor of the above job.

OPERATIONS COMPLETED

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OPERATION COMPLETED

The door previously located on North side of the building has been transfered to the southern end. The forms for the ~~xx~~ concrete walls, and premix damp course were framed and put into place. The outside concrete wall damp course and inside concrete wall is finished and the forms set for laying the concrete floor in 4 sections. The floor as to be completed by 30 Nov 42. Coarse aggregate for the concrete was difficult to obtain but aggregate was found at the RUSSELL RIVER 02740395 fourteen miles from INNISFAIL. It was found necessary to screen about 75% of sand and stone to obtain suitable material. The Innisfail Shire Council obliged by lending a concrete mixer, screens, barrows, bitumen pouring cans.

OPERATIONS IN PROGRESS

A start has been made on the post holes for the ~~back~~ blast wall. Portion of this work was in progress during the period required for drying concrete walls.

2. No 2 Sec (att 31 Aust Inf Bn) (R M CAPE YORK 8 M - 1")

No report has been received from this section.

3. AQUA (IRON RANGE) (CAPE DIRECTION 8 M - 1" M R 669375)

Sub Sec 1 Section under A/Sgt Bullpitt.A.P.

OPERATIONS COMPLETED

A recreation hut 36' x 16' was erected, writing tables and fittings were built and added to this hut.
A number of latrine cabinits were constructed.
A Q Store 16' x 13' was erected, the floor remains to be cemented. D.I.D. assisted to complete hut 40' x 20'
Truck No 43011 received an overhaul.

OPERATIONS IN PROGRESS

Work has progressed satisfactorily on the second magazine.

4. MARY (COOKTOWN) (COOKTOWN 4 M - 1"

Sub Sec 3 Sec under A/Sgt Hughes .W.M. (021058)

OPERATION COMPLETED

The timber has been cut for one bridge, and for part of the second. Timber in this area is very scarce, most of it being piped. A number of spikes and stays were made for the bridge.

OPERATIONS IN PROGRESS

A/Sgt Hughes.W.M. expected to start building one of the ~~xxxx~~ bridges on 24 Nov 42, but he thought that the heavy rain experienced about that period might delay the work for a few days.

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5. REPEATER STATION

COEN (CAPE DIRECTION 8 M - 1" 660227)

Lt Fagg and detach arrived at H.Q.16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E. (CAIRNS 1 M - 1" 663710) on 27 Nov 42 after completion of work on repeater station at COEN.

OPERATION COMPLETED

Construction of concrete dished drain around building to take storm water, erection of latrine for two maintinance personnel (army) and one P.M.G. personnel permanantly stationed at building. Fitting of joinery, painting, finishing of linings and ceiling.

MATERIALS

The materials were often damaged and unfit for use, a surplus of materials was left on the job under the care of personnel at the station.

It included:-

2 Tons	Portland Cement
20/7'	Sheets Ripple Iron
12/8½'	Sheets Fibro Cement Roofing
30/4'x3'	Sheets Fibro Cement
8/10'x4'	Sheets Fibro Cement (Damaged)

There were a number of deficiencies at the end of work, but deficiendy of material was overcome by improvisation.

DEFICIENCIES

1. Galv. steel supporting bracket for fibro cement ridge ventilator (sent to C. YORK Station at request of Capt Read.)
2. Connecting pieces to Fibus cement cone cowl roof ventilator.
3. 2/24'x2"x2"x5/16 L steel to form double tie beam to roof trusses (single tie beams used)
4. 1.lb Putty reqd for glazing windows.

REMARKS

Camouflage paint desirable for (fib cem) roof and G I. wall.

OPERATION IN PROGRESS

Supervisor and P.M.G. personnel remaining on job for futher two weeks to complete installation of plant. Removal of excavated earth and surplus gravel at rear of building to be left to two army maintenance personnel living on station.

6. 11 AUST INF BDE.

H.Q. (CAIRNS 1 M - 1" M R 676740)

A Comd Post for 11 Bde is being constructed at H.Q. 11 Aust Inf BDE. Excavation of site is proceeding.

7. RECCE and REPORTS (COEN DISTRICT)

A recce report of COEN district (Ref map CAPE DIRECTION 8 M - 1" M R 660227) has been prepared by Lt Fagg, this contains useful information under the following headings :- General, roads, Bridging, water, timber miscellaneous material communications Copies of this report have been prepared for the forwarding to H.Q. R.A.E. and 11 Aust Inf Bde and one for 1 Sec 16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

ATHERTON TABLELANDS : WATER

This report has been prepared by Maj.Leonard and contains information concerning the following streams:

BARRON RIVER
NORTH JOHNSTON RIVER
FLAGGY CREEK
MILLSTREAM
LAKES EACHAM and BARRINE
A copy of this report is attached as appendix.1.

8 TRAINING

One hour is devoted to training in the morning for personnel at H.Q.16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E. (CAIRNS 1 M - L") 663710
There are two squads and half an hour is devoted to unarmed defence, and the other half an hour to the Lewis Machine Gun. During the day men in camp, not on duty have been given lectures on Map Reading, and Compass and have handled compass in the field. Lectures on Patrols and application of Fire have also been included.

A/Sgt Story and Jack.R. accompained 17 Bn V.D.C. Intelligence Scouts to parts of the area, and were given instruction on a number of plants which would help sustan life in the Jungle and forest country, Although a long and a very instructive day was spent with the V.D.C, the Sgts were informed that what they had been shown was only 'touching on subject'.
A lecture on this information was given to the men at H.Q. 16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E. and on 1 Dec 42 a party of 33 accompanied A/Sgt Story.C.G. and Jack.R. on a field day, when the practical knowledge obtained from the V.D.C. was imparted to the men.
Owing to reinforcements being needed for secs and detachs on work in other areas, training will have to be adapted to these few men remaining at H.Q.16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E.
Night Lectures for the period:-

General lecture on V.D. Capt McSweeney

Bridging Equipment Lieut Daniels
For ~~work~~ next 30 days all training will cease as new camp site on side and crest of hill adjoining present site is being perpared.
Owing to proximity of wet season, this move was deemed advisable.

9. LESSONS LEARNT FROM TRAINING

UNARMED DEFENCE

A knowledge of holds and throws has been obtained, but men need more practice to attain speed and proficiency. The general standard is fair.

L.M.G.

Training imbracing, handling, action and stoppages, this is to be continued for those remaining at H.Q. Despite the week's baing training and due to a slightly different group of men ~~lessing~~ available each day the standard shows plenty of room for improvement, but personnel could get gun into action if need be, plenty of practice is reqd as the training of good L.M.G. gunners may not be achieved in a few lessons. In all this work, time is insufficient due to call on personnel of this Coy for work elsewhere.

Field day on "living off Land" was a success, men now have some knowledge of how to obtain food and water, whereas before many of them would have walked over, and by foodstuff without realising same

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10- LOCATION and MEANS OF INTERCOM

UNIT	PLACE	REF MAP MAP REF	INTERCOM	PROJECETED MOVES
16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E. H.Q.	CAIRNS	CAIRNS 1M -1" MR 663710	Postal Service or Phone through 11 Aust Inf Bde switch CAIRNS 9205	Recce Party MUNGANA - CAPE YORK 6 O.R.
No 2 Sec	JACKY JACKY	RM CAPE YORK 8M - 1" MR 570591	No 2 Sec to 11 Aust Inf Bde CAIRNS MIL.POST SERVICE	12 O.R.to reinforce party at JACKY JACKY
Sub Sec 1 Sec	IRON RANGE	CAPR DIRECTION 8M -1" MR 669375	MIL.POST SERVICE	
Sub Sec 3 Sec	COOKTOWN	COOKTOWN 4M - 1" MR 313044	MIL.POST SERVICE W/T	
DETACHS	INNISFAIL	INNISFAIL 4M -1" MR 03480330	PHONE 18 Bn V.D.C:H.Q. INNISFAIL MIL.POST SERVICE through V.D.C:H.Q.18 Bn	

DISTRIBUTION

1-2 H.Q.R.A.E.
3-4-War Diary
5 11 Aust Inf Bde
6 File

C.G. Stony
A/Sgt.

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APPENDIX 1

ATHERTON TABLELAND.

WATER.

The tableland is watered by two main river systems and the head waters of western streams.

(a) BARRON Rvr. rises in the HUGH NELSON Range S.W. of HERBERTON, following north via MAREEBA to KURANDA, then East to the sea at CAIRNS. This river is feed by many tributaries fed from the scrub areas on the costal range and GREAT DIVIDING RANGE. The flow varies considerably throughout the year according tothe season, but at ATHERTON near it's head the minium flow is 17 cusecs.

The water is potable but liable to heavy discolouration after storms due to the red soil of the banks.

This river and its tributaries will provide good water through -out the northern part of the tablelands.

(b) NORTH JOHNSTONE River and its tributaries, BEATRICE River, ITHACA, DIRRAN, and MALANDA Creeks, all perrennial streams of good potable water.

The NORTH JOHNSTONE River flows SOUTH EAST and EAST from its source at MALANDA to enter the sea at INNISFAIL, and flows for its entire length through the "Wet" belt.

All the streams flowing from the scrub country between MILLAA MILLAA, MALANDA and YUNGABURRA are perrennial and potable, but the area has been cleared and the water is discoloured after rains.

(c) FLAGGY Creek, six miles SOUTH of HERBERTON is a good flowing stream of clear potable water at present flowing at approx. 5000 g/h. This stream rises in the WESTERN slopes of the HUGH NELSON Range and flows WEST to meet WILD RIVER.

(d) The MILLSTREAM is a perrennial stream flowing WEST from RAVENSHOE to meet the HERBERT River. No definite flow figures of this stream are available at this H Q but from information obtained, the flow is considerable and the water good.

(e) LAKES EACHAM and BARRINE provide permanent supply of good potable water. These lakes are fed by surface water and springs.

SUMMARY.

Water is available in sufficient quantities throughout the area, it is potable and permanent, it may be heavily discoloured after storms in the wet season.

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Appendix 'B'

DIARY.

Visit to COOKTOWN by Capt H. GEHRMANN RAE — 2-4 Dec 42

2 Dec. 42 - 0700 - Left by M.V. "MERINA" accompanied by A/Cpl. McGINN AA, Spr. McILWELLY (reinforcements to Sgt Hughes' party and Spr. BONELL WO. Cargo - AASC supplies, timber for ARCHER PT. naval stn., motor cycles for Provost corps personnel and personal gear. Passengers - Chaplains RIGLEY, CAMPBELL and a YMCA officer. Trip uneventful - smooth water. Also US Army Major

1700 - Arrived COOKTOWN.

Slept night at "Commercial Hotel" General talk with Sgt Hughes re messing, pay, rations, clothing stores and personnel. He states we are working quite well.

3 Dec 42 - 0830 - Inspected mens quarters, latrines and dump.

0900 - Inspected anty. emplmt. on sea-front.

0930 Met Capt Peak, OC 'B' Coy Op. 51 Bn. - discussed affairs generally with him.

0945 - Looked at Endeavour Bridge, gravel pits near Landing Strip, and bridge our men are putting over Scrubby Ck. Workmanship quite good. Looked at proposed site for

Lily Creek. (both these are on north side of Endeavour River). Crossed Endeavour River and returned to Coy HQ. Here looked at 4 mile to 1" enlargement made by Coy 'I' Sec - excellent maps: tracings held at Bn HQ in Cairns. 'I' Sec knew of no good bridge sites over Endeavour R.

1300 - Lunched with Capt Peek, ~~and~~ Chaplain Campbell and Lieut Gillman (2 1/c).

1330 - Proceeded along road on SOUTH bank of ENDEAVOUR RIVER to see if suitable crossing presented itself near WILTON. Track very bad in places (would be especially so in wet weather). Crossed main ENDEAVOUR R. in ford near WILTON and NORTH BRANCH nearby. Proceeded back along N bank to SCRUBBY CK. Back to COOKTOWN calling to ~~look~~ at demolition job required by arty - clearing field of fire.

~~1900~~

1700 - Inspected vehs.

1900 - Talked with Capt Peek about conditions in the area. He is well satisfied with sapper work and can mention no new special requirements. Questioned him re bridge site over Endeavour R. He does not know of any - offered to

make prelim recce with Sgt Hoyle

4 Dec 42 - 0600 - left by boat for Cairns, arriving 1645 hrs.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Get typed for I.S. 4/7

Page 1

~~RE~~ To. CC 16 Aust Fd Cy RAE.

REPORT ON.

STATE OF ENGR WORK AT COOKTOWN.

by
H. Gehrmann Capt RAE

2000 hrs.
3 Dec 42.

Ref Map. COOKTOWN 4m = 1 inch.
Enlarged to RF $\frac{1}{25000}$

1. WORKS. The following engr works were inspected:-

(i) Gun Emplacement ~~to East of Wharf~~ - for 18 pr. - built by arty - rock blow - by engrs. - no revetment - Comment. - Rock liable to splinter if shelled - cliff behind is loose boulders and may slide - drainage should be ok ~~[illegible]~~ until very heavy rain when position is hard to estimate. Emplacement could be lined with sandbags or timber - cliff behind would be hard to deal with ~~[illegible]~~ can only suggest re-siting as revetment of whole cliff face would make posn conspicuous.

(ii) Rock Blasting near 919045 - to clear arty field of fire for 25 pds.

- some work done by arty - ~~Sgt.~~ Engr NCO.
~~Hughes~~ awaiting word from them to begin blowing. Granite boulder stops 7° of the gun's traverse.

(iii) BRIDGE OVER SCRUBBY CK (299050)
Work begun on 29 Nov 42. Pier in place, one abutment - girders and corbels for first span being positioned. Work is following plan by Lieut BELL.

Requirements - Class 9 - to take div vehs ~~of div.~~ (arty, trucks, jeeps) - apparently required by Lt Col. BROCK - ~~on western Road on N. Bank of river~~ - would be necessary ~~if~~, in absence of Endeavour Bridge, ~~if~~ for communication between landing strip and SOUTH bank, in wet season.

Height Reqd. - ~~Estimated catchment (from 4 inch = 1 mile enlargement compiled by 'I' Sec 'B' Coy) is 3 to 4 □ miles. - gravelly ridges - steep - little growth~~ - ~~so~~ about 400 square feet ~~catch~~ waterway reqd. Existing design allows for 175 ft at present, bridge is built as high as road on each side. Suggest - build as at present.

Workmanship - Quite good.

Timber is bloodwood and box - squared as reqd. by axe and adze. Abutment is well anchored back - Pier is well built - good bearing on all surfaces - silled pier buried 6 feet in bottom of gully. Well spiked - metal used is from deserted premises in Cooktown.

Should be complete in a fortnight at the most

(iv) BRIDGE OVER LILY CK.

Not begun.

Waterway. - ~~[Catchment 2 □ miles at most]~~ require 240 ft waterway, - existing design by Lieut Bell allows for 280 ft not counting clearance for logs - total of 200 ft allowing 2 ft clearance. Seems just satisfactory.

2×14×3
14
62
84

(v) Endeavour Road Bridge. - Demo Preps - no work done yet - waiting for wood boring machine. - informing at coy HQ.

~~(VI)~~ 2. RESOURCES.

(i) Timber. - Generally very poor - some bloodwood and box on Mr. Bennett's property

-up to 15" dia & 15 ft long. This timber is being used on bridges. Most timber is badly piped.

(ii) Gravel. - plenty of good gravel - Some near new landing strip 303048 (3 chinamen here). Some coarse gravel on Poison Ck Road on south side of Endeavour River. (exact position unknown)

3. ~~B~~ SITE FOR SECOND BRIDGE OVER ENDEAVOUR RIVER

Inspected present crossings at 296049 (near Jansen's Siding) and 039050 (above junction of Endeavour R. & ENDEAVOUR NORTH ARM)

(i) 296049.

This crossing is very long and is probably a very wide gap (over 300 ft) in the wet, although dry at present. The South Bank has been cordwayed by Infantry. ~~B~~ (sandy). North Bank would get very boggy in wet (as low-lying and badly drained)

(ii) ~~a~~ 039050 and 289052 -

These crossings are good and are probably not exceedingly wide in the wet. - but necessitates 2 crossings (one over Endeavour R and one over North Branch) - also very bad road ~~f~~ from ~~[illegible]~~ crossing (i)

to crossing (ii) on South Bank (about C3 in dry - almost impossible in wet.) Road on North Bank is C1 all weather.

What was seen of river between the two crossings above had very high banks (up to 30 ft) and was quite wide (up to 300 ft.) Location of bridge site would necessitate inspection of the river from Endeavour Bridge up. Best site probably downstream of the crossings mentioned above.

a possible course might be for crossing (i) to Mainpost, and a ferry used in wet. A floating bridge would take a large amount of equipment and weight strike trouble with the strong current in the wet.

NOTE a local inhabitant who has resided 63 yrs. in the district states that river has risen almost to floor of mission building at North end of Endeavour Br. ?]

4 ADM.

(i) Clothing - require shirts, socks, boots (Opl. Belgium has only 1 pr - size 8).

Suggest issue cards sent to Sgt. Hughes & he issue clothes on them. Worn out clothes - returned to coy & new ~~[illegible]~~ ones forwarded.

(ii) Canteen, Pay, Mail are satisfactory

(iii) Messing - Good food, very ~~[illegible]~~ light.

(iv) Personnel - working well. L/Cpl. Winnett especially good.

~~A/Cpl. Miller a bit disappointing in some ways - inexperienced in timber work.~~

(v) Quarters - could be cleaner & tidier - difficult to ~~[illegible]~~ produce very smart effect, due to old building.

~~(vi)~~ Latrines could be scrubbed more often, also bath-room. One latrine seat has badly fitting lid.

(vi) Vehs. - Good order - no trouble

(vii) Dump. - Tally kept - date of issue not noted. Slump secure and inconspicuous. No demand on barbed wire or Scale 'A' grease traps.

Made procedure for drawing stores clear to Capt Peek. Sgt. Hughes states no trouble re demands, although not made through Capt Peek.

Pump was satisfactory a week ago - ~~[illegible]~~ instructed Sgt. Hughes to inspect regularly.

Stores prob. reqd - Creosote for timber-work - rubbish bins

Q

(viii) Leave

(a) Recreational - Informed Capt Peek & men they would be relieved for leave purposes - lists to be sent to Capt Peek, who will send ~~them~~ men to Coy HQ.

(b) Compassionate - Capt Peek will judge case himself and issue leave pass.]

5. GENERAL.

(i) 'I' - ~~4 inches to 1 mile~~ 2 inches to 1 mile enlargements are available at HQ 51 Bn, CAIRNS - these give fair detail and would be good basis for better reports.

{(ii) Bridge Recce - Capt Peek has offered to watch out for pos. sites.

(iii) Capt Peek gives good report of sappers - cannot suggest any engr work or stores necessary.]

[signature]
RAF

Appendix 'C'

TO BE MADE UP TO AND FOR SATURDAY IN EACH WEEK.

Army Form W.3008
(Page 1.)
(Adapted.)

RETURN No 53

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

W/E 11/10A/3

AIF & CMF

7×239

1 ORA Hd AAMC

16 AUST FD COY RAE (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors	1		
Captains	1		
Lieutenants	5		
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
Totals	7	-	-

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Return No 53

16 AUST FD COY R.A.E.

A. I. F. PERSONNEL SERVING WITH UNIT
(Included in Para 2 W3008)

O.C.	1
2 i/c	1
Sec Offrs	3
I.O.	1
Q.M.	1
	7

5 Dec 42

Maj.
O.C. 16 AUST FD COY R.A.E.
11 AUST INF BDE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Appendix 'C'

TO BE MADE UP TO AND FOR SATURDAY IN EACH WEEK.

Army Form W.3008
(Page 1.)
(Adapted.)

RETURN No 33

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

W/E 11/10/43

AIF & CMF

7×239

1 ORA Hd AAMC

16 AUST FD COY RAE (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors	1		
Captains	1		
Lieutenants	5		
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
Totals	7	–	–

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Name.	Corps. UNIT OR CORPS	Date.	Cause.
	NIL		

Officers QUITTED during week.

Name.	Corps. UNIT OR CORPS	Date.	Cause.
	NIL		

C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Name and Initials.	Corps. UNIT OR CORPS	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).
	NIL	

/41

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Army Form W.3008
(Page 2.)
(Adapted.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Appointment ~~Corps~~.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Lieut/MAJOR (T)	QX36206	LEONARD HA	OC	No	Duty (on Recce)
A/CAPT	Q13305	GEHRMANN H	2 i/c	Yes	
LIEUT (P)	QX36207	KING JA	Sec Off	No	Duty Jacky Jacky
"	QX36208	BELL DB	"	Yes	
"	QX36209	FAGG AF	"	"	
"	QX36210	GRAHAM AG	IO	No	Course 10 Bonegilla
"	QXM105369	DANIELS RJ	QM	Yes	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER ~~CORPS~~ UNIT OR CORPS.

Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	UNIT OR ~~Corps~~. CORPS	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
LT/COL		ROUTLEY M	HQ RAE 5 AUST DIV	4 Dec 42	CRE

16 AUST FD COY RAE
(Unit.)

[signature] for MAJ
(Signature of Commander.) (AOD)

5 DEC 42
(Date of Despatch.)

11 AUST INF BDE
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

TO BE MADE UP TO AND FOR SATURDAY IN EACH WEEK.

Army Form W.3009
(page 1)
(Adapted)

RETURN
No 53

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

16 AUST FD COY RAE (Unit) 5 Dec 1942 (Date).

(To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

W/E 11/10A/3
AIF & CMF
7 x 237
1 OR Attd ARMS

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4

Return No 53.

16 AUST FD COY R.A.E.

A.I.F. PERSONNEL SERVING WITH UNIT.
(Included in Para 2 W3009)

C.S.M.	1
Sec. Sgt.	6
Tpt. Sgt	1
Cpls	7
Batman	1
Blacksmiths	3
Bricklayers	2
Carpenters	4
Clerks	1
Drivers M.T.	3
Electricians	2
Engine Hand I/C	1
Fitters	2
Mechanics M.V.	1
Motorcyclists	2
Painters	3
Plumbers	2
Pioneers	3
Tinsmiths	1
Water Dutyman	1
	47

5 Dec 42

Hal Gebers Capt
for Maj.
O.C.16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E.

11 AUST INF BDE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

TO BE MADE UP TO AND FOR SATURDAY IN EACH WEEK.

Army Form W.3009
(page 1)
(Adapted)

RETURN
No 53

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

16 AUST FD COY RAE (Unit) 5 Dec 1942 (Date).

(To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

W/E 11/10A/3
A/F & CMF
7 & 237
1 OR Attd AAMC

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.			
W.Os. Class II.	1		
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants			1
Staff Serjeants			
Serjeants	10	1	
Corporals	21	3	
Troopers, Privates, &c.	150		60
TOTALS	182	* 4	* 61

*These totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
Attached against W/E		Other Attachments	
1 A/Cpl	AAMC	3 OR	55 AUST FD PARK COY

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.			
W.Os. Class II.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Sergeants			
Staff Sergeants			
Sergeants			
Corporals			
Troopers, Privates, &c.			
TOTALS			

*These totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3909.

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

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

16 AUST FD COY RAE Unit.

Army Form W. 3009
(Adapted) (Aug. 41)
(page 2)

PART D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W. 3009.

Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)
Ammunition Examiners			Fire Control Operators			Panel Beaters		
Armament Artificers			Fitters			Pattern Makers		
Armourers			Fitters and Turners			Pharmacists		
Artificers, Artillery			Fitters, Cycle			Photographers, dry plate		
Axemen			Fitters, Drivers			Photographers, wet plate		
Bakers			Fitter's Mates			Photo-Writers		
Battery Surveyors			Fitters, M.V.			Plate Layers		
Battery Comdrs. Asst.			Fitters, Railway Signal			Plumbers		
Blacksmiths		1	Fitters, Signal			Predictor Numbers		
Boilermakers			Grinders			Printers		
Bricklayers			Gun Layers			Radiator Mechanics		
Butchers			G.P.O. Assistants			Radiographers		
Camouflage Modeller			Gun Operators			Range Takers		
Carpenter and Joiner			Hammermen			Riggers		
Clerks		1	Height Takers			Rivetters		
Clerks, Engineering Typist		1	Helio Operators			Saddlers		
Clerks, Supply			Instrument Mechanics			Saddle Tree Makers		
Clerks, Technical			Instrument Mechanics, Surgical			Saw Doctors		
Coachmakers			Instrument Operators			Sawyers		
Computers			Intelligence Duties			Shoemakers		
Concretors		1	Joiners			Signallers		
Cooks			Leather Stitchers			Signwriters		
Cooks, Hospital			Linesmen			Stokers, Stationary Engine		
Coppersmiths			Linesmen, Signals			Storemen, Technical		
Dental Clerk Orderlies			Lithographers			Surveyors		
Despatch Riders			Machinists			Surveyors, Engineering		
Dispensers			Masons	1		Tailors		
Draughtsmen			Masseurs			Telescope Identification Numbers		
Draughtsmen, Architectural			Mechanics, Dental			Textile Refitters		
Draughtsmen, Mechanical			Mechanics, M.T.			Tinsmiths		2
Draughtsmen, Signal			Mechanics, Typewriter			Toolmakers		
Draughtsmen, Topographical			Mechanics, Wireless			Turners		
Driver Mechanics		1	Millwrights			Vulcanizers		
Driver Operators MT		11	Miners		10	Wagon Erectors		
Drivers, Transportation Plant		1	Moulders Motorcyclists		2	Watchmakers		
Electrical Fitters			Nursing Orderlies			Watermen		
Electricians			Nursing Orderlies (Mental)			Welders		
Electricians, Eng. Units	1		Nurses, Trained			Well Borers		
Electricians, Signal			Observation Post Assistants			Wheelers		
Engine Artificers		9	Operating Room Assistants			Whitesmiths		
Engine Hands I/C		7	Operators, Signal			Wiremen		
Equipment Repairers			Opticians			Woodturners		
Farriers			Painters					
General Duty	2	14						
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)	3	47		1	12			2

Notes—(a) If rank other than Private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorised Trades or Specialists not included in list above will be added as required in spaces provided.

16 AUST FD COY RAE
Unit.

[signature] MN (AOD)
Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 5 Dec 42

11 AUST INF BDE
Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Appendix 'D'

11 AUST INF BDE TRG INSTN NO 16.
(To be read in conjunction with Trg Instn No 15).

JUNGLE TEAM.

1. Personnel CAIRNS Area (Trg Instn No 15) will RV at STRATFORD HALL for lectures by the JUNGLE TEAM as set out below.

2. Bde Duty Officer will be responsible for the assembly inside the hall prior to time set down for lecture.

3. LECTURE SCHEDULE.

DAY	TIME	LECTURES	TIME TO R.V.	TO ATTEND
FRIDAY	1500 hrs to	Japanese Tactics	1445	Offr & NCOs only
"	1700 hrs	Milne Bay Op		All Ranks.
SATURDAY	0900 hrs to 1200 hrs	Owen Stanley Range Campaign	0845	All Ranks
		Battle Procedure		Offr & NCOs only
		Attack		" "
		Advance and contact		" "
	1400 hrs to 1700 hrs	Supply & Evacuation	1345	" "
		Jungle Warfare		" "
		Defence		
		Jungle Craft		All Ranks
SUNDAY	0900 hrs to 1100 hrs	Training and Equipment	0845	Offrs & NCOs only.
		Weapons & Supporting Arms		Offrs & NCOs only.

J.A. Krause

(J.A.KRAUSE) Major,
B.M. 11 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION.	Copies
2/3 Aust Fd Regt	1
2 Bty 101 Aust A/Tk Regt	1
16 Aust Fd Coy	1
26 Coy ASC	1
Col Thomas	1
Maj Peck	1
Sgt Clements	1
Bde Comd	1
B.M.	1
S.C.	1
S.C. Learner	1
T.O.	1
L.Os (	2
I.O.	1
Hyg Offr	1
Amen Offr	1
Education Sgt	1
5 Aust Div	1
Col Gibson USA	1
Col Tracey USA	1
Lieut Comd Pixley	1
War Diary	2
File	2

Notice to be put on board.

Is this for cadre only?

HPL

Return to AC

11 AUST INF BDE TRAINING INSTN NO 15.

JUNGLE TEAM.

1. The Jungle Team under Col Thomas (USA) has arrived in CAIRNS and will commence instruction and lecturing on WEDNESDAY NIGHT 9th Nov as per schedule below.

Wednesday night	9/10 Dec	51 Bn Gp	GORDONVALE AREA
Thursday	10 Dec		
Thursday night	10/11 Dec		
Friday Night	11/12 Dec	Bde HQ 2/3 Fd Regt HQ	
Saturday	12 Dec	2 Bty HQ 16 Fd Coy	CAIRNS
Saturday night	12/13 Dec	26 Coy ASC	
Sunday night	14/15 Dec		
Monday	15 Dec	26 Bn Gp	KURANDA
Monday night	15/16 Dec		

2. Talks will be given as per attached schedule. Talks marked X will be given to all ranks. All others to Offrs & NCOs only.

3. Bn Gp Comds will arrange with Col Thomas times and periods of talks within their own groups.

4. 51 Aust Inf Bn and 26 Aust Inf Bn will accomodate and ration 2 Offrs, 1 N.C.O. and 2 O.Rs. of Jungle Team while staying in their area.

5. S/C HQ Bde will arrange for lecture hall and lighting for CAIRNS area personnel.

JAKrause

(J.A.KRAUSE) Major,
B.M. 11 Aust Inf Bde.

8 Dec 42.

DISTRIBUTION.

	Copies.
Bde Comd	1
B&M.	1
S.C.	1
26 Aust Inf Bn	1
51 Aust Inf Bn	1
2/3 Aust Fd Regt	1
2 Bty 101 Aust A/Tk Regt	1
16 Aust Fd Coy	1
26 Aust Coy ASC	1
War Diary	2
File.	2

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Annexure to HQ 11 Aust
Inf Bde Tng Instn No
15 of 8 Dec 42.

SCHEDULE OF TALKS.

COL [illegible]MS

1. Japanese Tactics.
2. Supply and Evacuation in Jungle Warfare.

MAJOR PIPER.

X 1. Story of campaign at MILNE BAY:

1st Phase.
Protective Patrolling and Outpost disposition.

2nd Phase.
Development of situation.

3rd Phase.
Action after contact established.

4th Phase.
Main operation.

2. Advance and Contact.
3. Attack.
4. Defence.
5. Weapons and Supporting Arms.
6. Battle Procedure.

SGT CLEMENTS.

X 1. Story of OWEN STANLEY RA CAMPAIGN

1st Phase
Personal story.

2nd Phase.
Patrol Formation.

3rd Phase.
First Contact.

4th Phase.
Lessons Learnt.

X 2. Jungle Craft.
3. Clothing and Equipment.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Appendix 'E'

SECRET.
Copy No. 3.

Intelligence Officer.
H.Q.N.A.H.
6 Aust. Div.

Report on Operations of 16 Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E.

for the period

3 Dec. to 13 Dec. 42.

By C.C.Story. A/Sgt/
16 Aust Fd. Coy R.A.E.

REF. MAPS.

CAPE YORK 6M.-1 in.
Cape Direction 8 M. - 1 in.
COOKTOWN 4M. - 1 in.
CAIRNS 1 M. - 1 in.
INNISFAIL 4 M. - 1in.

2345 hrs. 13 Dec. 42.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Part One.

No report has been received from No. 2 Sec. as to the progress of work, but a good standard of work has been maintained by the detachs. and other subsecs. engaged on different duties.
Valuable information was obtained by those members of the Coy at H.Q. 16 Aust. Fd. Coy R.A.E., who attended lectures by the L.H.Q.Jungle Training Team.
Capt. Gehrmann 2i/c returned from COOKTOWN on the 4 Dec. 42. after an inspection of engineering work in the area.
L/Sgt. Hannah and Cpl. Dunstan left for COOKTOWN on 9 Dec. 42. L/Sgt. Hannah will relieve A/Sgt. Hughes who is to proceed to BONEGILLA to a B.D. School on 31 Dec. 42.
Major Leonard, O.C. 16 Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E. proceeded to INNISFAIL on 3 Dec. 42. to meet A/C.R.E. Lt.Col.Routley; on 4 Dec. Major Leonard and Lt.Col. Routley returned to H.Q.16 Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E., and on 5 Dec.42. accompanied by Lt. Bell proceeded to INNISFAIL to inspect Demo. preparations in the area. Major Leonard and Lt.Bell returned to CAIRNS from INNISFAIL on 8Dec.42.

Part Two.

OPERATIONS

1. Demo.Preparations. R.M.INNISFAIL 4M.-1 inch.
Work performed by this detach. was not confined to Demo. tasks only, weather conditions interrupted outside work, so assistance was given to the detach. working on the magazine at V.D.C.H.Q. (C6480330).
Operations Completed.
Finished boarding saps on the Palmerston Highway, (M.R. 01470264) and (01250302). Tramway Bridge prepared on the MIRRIWINNI- Mt. GRAHAM Rd. over the ALICE CK.
Serial numbers painted on Railway Bridges.
One day was spent at MOURILYAN HARBOUR (C4120275)finishing work in hand. Piers of BEATRICE River Road Bridge prepared (01250296).
Operations Proposed.
It is anticipated that preparations of Demo. tasks will commence in TULLY Area from 15 Dec.42.

2. MAGAZINE V.D.C.H.Q.(M.R.C6480330).
Operations Completed.
Concrete floor. Iron has been placed on roof, but owing to shortage of nails, work is not properly completed. Ninety posts and some stays have been cut and carted for the blast wall, there is a difficulty in obtaining suitable timber, that obtained had to be carted 13 miles.
Operations in Progress.
A portion of the blast wall has been completed, and work is progressing on this task.

3. No.2.Sec.(att. 31 Aust. Inf. Bn.) (M.M.CAPE YORK 6M.-1in.)

No report has been received from this Section.

4. AGUA (IRON RANGE) (CAPE DIRECTION 6M. - 1in.)(M.R.669375)
Sub.sec. 1.Sec. under A/Sgt. Bullpitt. A.F.
Operations Completed.
Second Magazine finished; finished cementing of Q. Store; a new addition was made to Coy's Orderly Room, and the floor cemented.
Operations in Progress.
Erecting shed 40 ft. by 16 ft. for Bulk Canteen stores.
Driving for Water Supply within camp area, when a supply is located, this Sec. will sink a well on the site.

5. MARY(COOKTOWN) (COOKTOWN 4M.-1in. M.R. 313044.)
Sub.Sec. 3 Sec. under A/Sgt. Hughes W.M.
This Section is concentrating on bridge building, the strength of the Sec. was increased to 14.
Operations in Progress.
The smaller of the two Bridges(53 ft.)(M.R. approx. 295048) is about 60% completed. A/Sgt. Hughes was able to locate gravel for covering bridge, and also metal for filling , there is a sufficient quantity of material for both.
Timber is very scarce but on recce. a small quantity was found. which should be sufficient for the needs in hand.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Operations Proposed.
Second bridge (73 ft.)(M.R. approx.296048).
A further area of granite rock has to be removed for the Arty. Bridges to prepare for Demolition.

6. 11AUST.INF. BDE. (H.Q.CAIRNS1M.-1in. M.R.676740).
A small repair job was completed at 11 Bde. Comd. Post.
A detach. of 12 men have practically completed building a Comd. Post for the Brig. 11 Aust. Inf. Bde. at Bde. H.Q.

Operations Completed.
Excavation, concrete floor and surface drains, walls constructed with shutters, roof erected except for guttering and two down pipes.

Operations in Progress.
Small amount of lining to be completed, ceiling (if reqd.), weather stops to shutters gravelling path, 2 panels front and 2½ panels back of building to be painted. Work will be completed in two days if materials come to hand, and no ceiling is reqd.

H.Q.16 Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.(CAIRNS 1M.-1in. M.R. 663710)
Catch drains were dug around portion of new camp site to collect water from heavy rains; the work of shifting camp to new site progressed satisfactorily even though delayed by rain; a few tents remain to be shifted to complete the work.

7. RECCE. AND REPORTS.
A recce. of Bridges from INNISFAIL (R.M. INNISFAIL 4M.-1in. M.R.03440325) to TULLY (M.R.02870048) including Coastal Roads was made by Lt.Bell , in addition general information was obtained on beaches and vegetation in this area.
Copies of the report have been forwarded to :-
H.Q.R.A.E. ;11Aust.Inf.Bde. ; H.Q.5Aust. Div. ; 1 Aust. Army.
Appendix " A " of this report contains information on further Coastal Routes.
1. TULLY to TULLY RIVER. M.R. 02870048- 02920004.
2. TULLY RIVER to HULL ESTUARY(via Lower TULLY) 02920004 - 03740004
3. SOUTH MISSION BEACH to NORTH MISSION BEACH(Range Road) M.R.03900026 - 04000087.
A Recce. of MARKEBA - TOLGA Rd. has been prepared by Lt. Bell under the following headings:-
(1) Present condition of the Road. (2) Supplies of local material for Road surface (3) Summary of work necessary on Road (4) General information regarding soil, vegetation ,creeks, and camps.
This report will be forwarded when it has been typed.

8. MAPS
Tracings of enlargement 1/25000 COOKTOWN Area were obtained from I Sec. 51 Aust. Inf. Bn. and prints were made from the above.
A copy of each is attached for H.Q.R.A.E.

PROPOSED RECCE.
It is proposed to make a Recce. of the proposed route of the Road from MUNGANA to CAPE YORK to see if it is possible to obtain an all weather route.
Major Leonard and party will make a recce. of the route from MUNGANA to COEN, and Lt. King from CAPE YORK to ARCHER Riv.

9. TRAINING
Unarmed defence and L.M.G. including Bren Gun constituted the subjects for morning training carried out at H.Q.16 Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E.
Members of the Coy. present at H.Q. (CAIRNS 1M.-1in. 663710) attended lectures by the L.H.Q. Jungle Training Team (Maj. Peak and Sgt. Clements) on 11, 12, 13 Dec. 42.; some of these lectures were for Officers and N.C.O's. only. Much useful information was obtained by all ranks from these lectures.
Night lectures for the period :-
Water Supply by Lt. Pagg.
Guards and Picquets by E.J.Park. W.O.11.

10. LESSONS LEARNT FROM TRAINING.
The lectures by L.H.Q.Jungle Training Team were derived from personal experience by the lecturers ,and as operations of both the Coastal area of Milne Bay , and Highlands PT.MORESBY to KOKODA were the basis of the lectures valuable information as to the methods of warfare in these two types of jungle country was obtained.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

10. LOCATION AND MEANS OF INTERCOM.

UNIT	PLACE	REF.MAP. REF.GRID.	INTERCOM.	PROJECTED MOVES.
13 Aust. Fd.Coy. R.A.E. H.Q.	CAIRNS	CAIRNS 1M.-lin. 665710	Postal Service or Phone through 11 Aust. Inf. Bde. switch Cairns 9200.	Recce. Party MURRANA - CAPE YORK Rd. 6 C.R.
No.2 Sec.	JACKY JACKY	CAPE YORK SM.-lin. 570691	No.2.Sec to 11 Aust. Inf. Bde. CAIRNS MIL. POST SERVICE.	
Sub.Sec 1 Sec.	IRON RANGE	CAPE DIRECTION SM. -lin. 660375	Mil. Post Service	
Sub. Sec.3 Sec.	COOKTOWN	COOKTOWN 4M.-lin. 313044	Mil. Post Service W/T.	
Detachments	INNISFAIL	INNISFAIL 4M.-lin. 034680350	Phone 18 V.D.C. H.Q. INNISFAIL Mil. Post Service through V.D.C H.Q. 18 Bn.	

11. DISTRIBUTION.

1-2 H.Q.R.A.E.
3-4 War Diary
5 11 Aust. Inf. Bde.
6 Fils.

Appendix 'F'

TO BE MADE UP TO AND FOR SATURDAY IN EACH WEEK.

Army Form W.3008
(Page 1.)
(Adapted.)

RETURN No 54

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

16 AUST FD COY RAE (*Unit*)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
..... *			
..... *			
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors	1		
Captains	1		
Lieutenants	5		
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
Totals	7	-	-

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

RETURN No. 54

16 AUST. FD. COY., R. A. E.,

(A. I. F. Officers serving with Unit: Included in parq. 2 W.3008.)

O.C.
2 i.c.
Sec. Offs. 5
I.O.
Q.M.

~~666~~ 7

Major
O.C. 16 AUST. FD. COY., R. A. E.

12 Dec 42

LI AUST. INF. BDE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Appendix 'F'

TO BE MADE UP TO AND FOR SATURDAY IN EACH WEEK.

Army Form W.3008
(Page 1.)
(Adapted.)

RETURN
No 54

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

16 AUST FD COY RAE (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
..... *			
..... *			
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors	1		
Captains	1		
Lieutenants	5		
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
Totals	7	-	-

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Name.	Corps. (Unit & Corps)	Date.	Cause.
	NIL		

Officers QUITTED during week.

Name.	Corps. (Unit & Corps)	Date.	Cause.
	NIL		

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Name and Initials.	Corps. (Unit & Corps)	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).
	NIL	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

War Diary

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Army Form W.3008
(Page 2.)
(Adapted.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Appointment ~~Corps.~~	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
LIEUT/MAJOR (T)	QX36206	LEONARD HA	OC	YES	
" A/CAPT	QX13305	GEHRMANN H	2 i/c	YES	
LIEUT (P)	QX36207	KING JA	Sec Off	NO	Duty at Jacky Jack
"	QX36208	BELL DB	"	YES	
"	QX36209	FAGG AF	"	"	
"	QX36210	GRAHAM AG	IO	NO	Course to Bonegilla
"	QX40536	DANIELS RJ	QM	YES	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	UNIT OR ~~Corps.~~ CORPS	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
		NIL			

16 AUST FD COY RAE
(Unit.)

[signature] Major
(Signature of Commander.)

12 DEC 42
(Date of Despatch.)

11 AUST INF BDE
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

TO BE MADE UP TO AND FOR SATURDAY IN EACH WEEK.

Army Form W.3009
(page 1)
(Adapted)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

RETURN No 54 16 AUST FD COY (Unit) 12 Nov 1942 (Date).

RAE

(To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

W/E 11/10A/3 AIF & CMF 7x239 1 OR AAMC

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.			
W.Os. Class II.	1		
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants			1
Staff Serjeants			
Serjeants	10	1	

RETURN NO. 54

16 AUST. FD. COY., R. A. E.,

A.I.F. PERSONNEL SERVING WITH UNIT.

(Included in Para 2 W3009)

C.S.M.	1
Sec. Sgts.	6
Tpt. Sgt.	1
Cpls.	7
Batman	1
Blacksmiths	2
Bricklayers	2
Carpenters	4
Clerks	1
Drivers M.T.	3
Electricians	2
Engine Hand I/C	1
Fitters	2
Mechanics M.V.	1
Motorcyclists	2
Painters	3
Plumbers	2
Pioneers	3
Tinsmiths	1
Water Dutyman	1
	46

A. Leonard Major

O.C. 16 AUST. FD. COY., R. A. E.

12 Dec 42 11 AUST. INF. BDE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

TO BE MADE UP TO AND FOR SATURDAY IN EACH WEEK.

Army Form W.3009
(page 1)
(Adapted)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

RETURN No 54 16 AUST FD COY (Unit) 12 Nov 1942 (Date).

(To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

RAE W/E 11/10A/3 A/F & CMF 7x239 1 OR AAMC Attd

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.			
W.Os. Class II.	1		
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants			1
Staff Serjeants			
Serjeants	10	1	
Corporals	25	3	
Troopers, Privates, &c.	145		61
TOTALS	181	* 4	* 62

*These totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
ATTACHED AGAINST W/E		Other Attachments	
1 A/Cpl	AAMC	3 OR	55 Aust Fd Park

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
914421	Spr	HOWARD CH	Unit or Corps 16 FD COY	No 1 Bn RAE Trg Centre WAGGA

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

16 AUST FD COY RAE Unit.

Army Form W. 3009
(Adapted) (Aug. 41)
(page 2)

PART D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W. 3009.

Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)
Ammunition Examiners			Fire Control Operators			Panel Beaters		
Armament Artificers			Fitters			Pattern Makers		
Armourers			Fitters and Turners			Pharmacists		
Artificers, Artillery			Fitters, Cycle			Photographers, dry plate		
Axemen			Fitters, Drivers			Photographers, wet plate		
Bakers			Fitter's Mates			Photo-Writers		
Battery Surveyors			Fitters, M.V.			Plate Layers		
Battery Comdrs. Asst.			Fitters, Railway Signal			Plumbers		
Blacksmiths		2	Fitters, Signal			Predictor Numbers		
Boilermakers			Grinders			Printers		
Bricklayers			Gun Layers			Radiator Mechanics		
Butchers			G.P.O. Assistants			Radiographers		
Camouflage Modeller			Gun Operators			Range Takers		
Carpenter and Joiner			Hammermen			Riggers		
Clerks Typist		4	Height Takers			Rivetters		
Clerks, Engineering			Helio Operators			Saddlers		
Clerks, Supply			Instrument Mechanics			Saddle Tree Makers		
Clerks, Technical			Instrument Mechanics, Surgical			Saw Doctors		
Coachmakers			Instrument Operators			Sawyers		
Computers			Intelligence Duties			Shoemakers		
Concretors		1	Joiners			Signallers		
Cooks			Leather Stitchers			Signwriters		
Cooks, Hospital			Linesmen			Stokers, Stationary Engine		
Coppersmiths			Linesmen, Signals			Storemen, Technical		
Dental Clerk Orderlies			Lithographers			Surveyors		
Despatch Riders			Machinists			Surveyors, Engineering		
Dispensers			Masons	1		Tailors		
Draughtsmen			Masseurs			Telescope Identification Numbers		
Draughtsmen, Architectural			Mechanics, Dental			Textile Refitters		
Draughtsmen, Mechanical			Mechanics, M.T.			Tinsmiths		2
Draughtsmen, Signal			Mechanics, Typewriter			Toolmakers		
Draughtsmen, Topographical			Mechanics, Wireless			Turners		
Driver Mechanics		1	Millwrights			Vulcanizers		
Driver Operators MT		11	Miners		10	Wagon Erectors		
Drivers, Transportation Plant		1	Moulders Motorcyclists		2	Watchmakers		
Electrical Fitters			Nursing Orderlies			Watermen		
Electricians			Nursing Orderlies (Mental)			Welders		
Electricians, Eng. Units	1		Nurses, Trained			Well Borers		
Electricians, Signal			Observation Post Assistants			Wheelers		
Engine Artificers		7	Operating Room Assistants			Whitesmiths		
Engine Hands I/C		7	Operators, Signal			Wiremen		
Equipment Repairers			Opticians			Woodturners		
Farriers			Painters					
General Duty	2	15						
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)	3	48		1	12			2

Notes—(a) If rank other than Private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorised Trades or Specialists not included in list above will be added as required in spaces provided.

16 AUST FD COY RAE
Unit.

[signature] Major
Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 12 Dec 42

11 AUST INF BDE
Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Appendix 'G'

TO BE MADE UP TO AND FOR SATURDAY IN EACH WEEK.

Army Form W.3008
(Page 1.)
(Adapted.)

RETURN No 55

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

W/E 11/10A/3

16 AUST FD COY RAE (Unit)

7 x 239
1 ORAH
AAMC

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels			
	1		

RETURN NO. 54

16 AUST. FD. COY. R.A.E.

(A.I.F. Officers serving with Unit; included in para. 2 W.3008.)

O.C. 1
2 i/c.
Sec. Offs. 5
L.O.
Q.M.

7

Major
O.C. 16 AUST. FD. COY. R.A.E.

11 AUST. INF. BDE.

19 Dec 42

ULARLY

hereabouts,

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Appendix 'G'

TO BE MADE UP TO AND FOR SATURDAY IN EACH WEEK.

Army Form W.3008
(Page 1.)
(Adapted.)

RETURN No 55

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

W/E 11/10A/3

7 x 239
1 ORAHA
AAMC

16 AUST FD COY RAE (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels			
Majors	1		
Captains	1		
Lieutenants	5		
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters			
Totals	7	—	—

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps. (Unit or Corps)	Date.	Cause.
		NIL		

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps. (Unit or Corps)	Date.	Cause.
		NIL		

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps. (Unit or Corps)	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).
	NIL		

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Army Form W.3008
(Page 2.)
(Adapted.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	~~Corps.~~ Appointment	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
LIEUT/MAJOR (A)	QX36206	LEONARD HA	OC	No	Recce Patrol
A/CAPT	QX3305	GEHRMANN H	2 i/c	YES	
LIEUT (P)	QX36207	KING JA	Sec Off	No	Duty Incry Incrt
"	QX36208	BELL DB	"	YES	
"	QX36209	FAGG AF	"	No	Recce Patrol
"	QX36210	GRAHAM AG	I.O.	"	Course 10 Bonnegilla
"	QXM108369	DANIELS RJ	QM	YES	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	UNIT OR Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.

16 AUST FD COY RAE
(Unit.)

[signature] CAPT
(Signature of Commander.)

19 Dec 42
(Date of Despatch.)

11 AUST INF BDE
Admin Cond for MAJ AOD
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

TO BE MADE UP TO AND FOR SATURDAY IN EACH WEEK.

Army Form W.3009
(page 1)
(Adapted)

RETURN
No 55

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

6 AUST FD COY (Unit) 19 DEC 1942 (Date).
R.A.E.

(To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

W/E 11/10A/3 1 OR ATTY ADMC

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.			
W.Os. Class II.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants			1
Staff Serjeants			
Serjeants	10	1	
Corporals			

RETURN NO. 55

16 AUST. FD. COY., R. A. E.,

A.I.F. PERSONNEL SERVING WITH UNIT.
(Included in Para. 2 - W3009)

C.S.M.	1
Sec. Sgts.	6
Tpt. Sgt.	1
Cpls.	7
Batman	1
Blacksmiths	2
Bricklayers	2
Carpenters	4
Clerks	1
Drivers M.T.	3
Electricians	2
Engine Hand I/C	1
Fitters	2
Mechanics N.V.	1
Motor Cyclists	2
Painters	3
Plumbers	2
Pioneers	3
Tinsmiths	1
Water Duty	1
	46

[signature] Adm Cmd Major
O.C. 16 AUST. FD. COY. R.A.E.

19 Dec 42

11 AUST. INF. BDE.

...09.

...Corps to which ... belong.

...FD PARKEY

...eabouts if known).

Tng Centre
GA

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

TO BE MADE UP TO AND FOR SATURDAY IN EACH WEEK.

Army Form W.3009
(page 1)
(Adapted)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

..... (Unit) ..... 19..... (Date).

(To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.			
W.Os. Class II.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants			1
Staff Serjeants			
Serjeants	13	1	
Corporals	23	3	
Troopers, Privates, &c.	150		56
TOTALS	186	* 4	* 57

*These totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Army Form W. 3009
(Adapted) (Aug. 41)
(page 2)

16 AUST FD COY RAE Unit.

PART D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W. 3009.

Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)	Detail of Specialists, Tradesmen, etc.	Surplus (a)	Reinfts. Required (a)
Ammunition Examiners			Fire Control Operators			Panel Beaters		
Armament Artificers			Fitters			Pattern Makers		
Armourers			Fitters and Turners			Pharmacists		
Artificers, Artillery			Fitters, Cycle			Photographers, dry plate		
Axemen			Fitters, Drivers			Photographers, wet plate		
Bakers			Fitter's Mates			Photo-Writers		
Battery Surveyors			Fitters, M.V.			Plate Layers		
Battery Comdrs. Asst.			Fitters, Railway Signal			Plumbers		
Blacksmiths		2	Fitters, Signal			Predictor Numbers		
Boilermakers			Grinders			Printers		
Bricklayers			Gun Layers			Radiator Mechanics		
Butchers			G.P.O. Assistants			Radiographers		
Camouflage Modeller			Gun Operators			Range Takers		
Carpenter and Joiner			Hammermen			Riggers		
Clerks		1	Height Takers			Rivetters		
Clerks, Engineering		1	Helio Operators			Saddlers		
Clerks, Supply			Instrument Mechanics			Saddle Tree Makers		
Clerks, Technical			Instrument Mechanics, Surgical			Saw Doctors		
Coachmakers			Instrument Operators			Sawyers		
Computers			Intelligence Duties			Shoemakers		
Concretors		1	Joiners			Signallers		
Cooks			Leather Stitchers			Signwriters		
Cooks, Hospital			Linesmen			Stokers, Stationary Engine		
Coppersmiths			Linesmen, Signals			Storemen, Technical		
Dental Clerk Orderlies			Lithographers			Surveyors		
Despatch Riders			Machinists			Surveyors, Engineering		
Dispensers			Masons	1		Tailors		
Draughtsmen			Masseurs			Telescope Identification Numbers		
Draughtsmen, Architectural			Mechanics, Dental			Textile Refitters		
Draughtsmen, Mechanical			Mechanics, M.T.			Tinsmiths		2
Draughtsmen, Signal			Mechanics, Typewriter			Toolmakers		
Draughtsmen, Topographical			Mechanics, Wireless			Turners		
Driver Mechanics		1	Millwrights			Vulcanizers		
Driver Operators MT		11	Miners		5	Wagon Erectors		
Drivers, Transportation Plant		1	Moulders Motor Cyclists		2	Watchmakers		
Electrical Fitters			Nursing Orderlies			Watermen		
Electricians			Nursing Orderlies (Mental)			Welders		
Electricians, Eng. Units	1		Nurses, Trained			Well Borers		
Electricians, Signal			Observation Post Assistants			Wheelers		
Engine Artificers		9	Operating Room Assistants			Whitesmiths		
Engine Hands I/C		7	Operators, Signal			Wiremen		
Equipment Repairers			Opticians			Woodturners		
Farriers			Painters					
General Duty	2	~~16~~ 14						
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)	3	48		1	7			2

Notes—(a) If rank other than Private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorised Trades or Specialists not included in list above will be added as required in spaces provided.

16 AUST FD COY RAE
Unit.

[signature] CAPT
Signature of Commander. Adm Comd for MAJ AOD

Date of Despatch 19 Dec 42

11 AUST INF BDE
Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Army Form C. 2128.

MESSAGE FORM

Appendix 'H'

Serial No. 53

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.	IN	No. of Groups GR.	OFFICE DATE STAMP
	OUT 2 LIC	70	9 XII 42 SIGNALS

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO 11 Aust FD COY 16 Aust FD Coy 55 Aust Fd PK Coy.

FROM	Originator's Number	Date	In Reply to Number
H Q RAE 5 Aust Dive	CRE 4825	9	—

Conference oc coys now practicable ~~and~~ and will be held at HQ RAE 11 Dec 42 at 1400 hrs ⊙ could oc 16 Aust Fd Coy make necessary arrangements with 11 ~~in Fd~~ Inf Bde and ~~[illegible]~~ not-ify if alteration of time of conference is desired ⊙ Posting of officers will be considered ⊙

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS.

SIGNED

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CYPHER.

SIGNED

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN 2000

T.H.I. 2035.

T.O.R. 2235

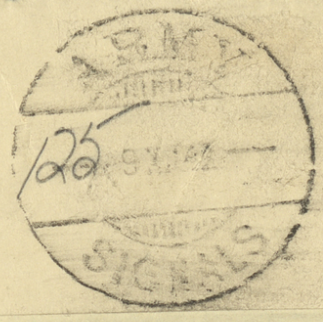
(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER
D	2145	MTH	[illegible]	P	2238						

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

16 Fd Coy.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.



ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

FASTEN ENVELOPE by gumming this label across flap.
OPEN by cutting label instead of tearing envelope.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Army Form C. 2128.

MESSAGE FORM

Appendix J Serial No. 15

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN Telegram

OUT

No. of Groups GR.

OFFICE DATE STAMP 10/12/42

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO 16 Aust Fd. Coy.

FROM	Originator's Number	Date	In Reply to Number.
T.I. 2 Sec 16 Aust Fd Coy	JAL 9.	9/12	

Ref Your 42/33/26 undertaking
myself arranging GT Blondell to take
over section until required TI attempting
to obtain some area photos wireless sets
⊙ Tentative time estimate 1 month ⊙
Advise if arrangements unsuitable to you ⊙
Will advise futher Arrangements made ⊙ ACK

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS.

SIGNED

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CYPHER.

SIGNED

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN 0045.

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

System In	Time In	Reader	Sender	System Out	Time Out	Reader	Sender	System Out	Time Out	Reader	Sender
P	1110	MJH		V			LB				

T.H.I. 11.15

T.O.R. 1130

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Revised 15

16 Aust Fd.

Coy

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Appendix K.

WAR DIARY.

SECRET.

Copy No. 3

Intelligence Officer.
H.Q.N.A.S.
6 Aust. Div.

Report on Operations of 16. Aust. Fd. Coy R.A.E.

for the period

14 Dec. to 30 Dec. 42.

By G.G.Story. A/Sgt.
16 Aust. Fd. Coy.R.A.E.

Ref. Maps.

CAPE YORK 8M. - 1 in.
JACKY JACKY 2 in. - 1M.
CAPE DIRECTION 8M.-1in.
GOOKOON 4M. - 1in.
CAIRNS 1". - 1in.
INNISFAIL 4M.-1in.

2255 hrs 19 Dec. 42.

Part One.

Engineer work has been suspended at COOKTOWN and IRON RANGE and the sub secs. are returning to H.Q.16 Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E.
The subsec. 3 sec. COOKTOWN returned to CAIRNS on 18 Dec. 42. at 1845 hrs.
The subsec. 1 sec. at IRON RANGE is expected to arrive at CAIRNS on 21 Dec 42.

The Recce. party with Lt. King is returning to JACKY JACKY from PORTLAND ROAD , and advice has been received that No. 2 Sec. from JACKY JACKY will be returning to CAIRNS in the near future.

Major Leonard O.C. 16 Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E. and recce. party departed CAIRNS for MUNCANA on 14 Dec. 42.

Lt. Bell departed CAIRNS for INNISFAIL on 15 Dec. 42 to inspect progress of work on the magazine at H.Q.V.D.C. 18 Bn. , he arrived at CAIRNS from INNISFAIL on 17 Dec. 42.

Dysentry affected all members at H.Q. on 14 and 15 Dec. 42

Part Two.

OPERATIONS

1. Demo. Operations . R.M. INNISFAIL 4M. - 1 in.
The preparation of the following bridges is completed ;-
TULLY RIVER TRAMWAY BRIDGE 03010008
TULLY RIVER ROAD BRIDGE 02920004

2. MAGAZINE V.D.C. H.Q. M.R. 03480330.
Operations Completed.
The first 20 ft. blast wall; one row of corrugated iron revetting placed in position and painted; the timbering of a 22 ft.side; uprights are in position on other 20 ft. side. A sandy loam was procured close to the building site and approx. 12 yards of soil has been placed in the wall. Three loads of timber were cut and carted.
The plumber has continued on roof, flashing uprights and joists making ridge capping and ventilators, cutting and fitting iron for revetting, but a shortage of wire and nails have delayed work on the latter.

3. No. 2 Sec. (att 31 A.Inf. Bn. R.M. CAPE YORK 8m.-1in.
JACKY JACKY 2in. - 1M.)
A report dated 25 Nov. 42 received from this sec. shows that good progress has been maintained for that period.

1. Operations in Progress.
1. Food Storage Huts RED ISLAND POINT. 564603.
Work was continued on this by Sec. carpenters working with A.W.C. personnel. Building can be roofed by end of week and put into use following week. Some timber was obtained from Americans, and split down at A.W.C. saw bench. Blocks were cut using section compressor saw mounted on a bench.
2. Field Bakery RED ISLAND POINT. Area.
Concrete strips laid at either end of oven, where fires and bread handled, strips laid to nearby mixing tent, floor of which has also been concreted. Framework to take iron erected over oven. Iron is available but very few roofing nails, further supplies of latter expected from THURSDAY ISLAND.
3. Hospital Huts 566598.
A total of 64 stumps has been cut for these in preparation for the arrival of building material, as yet site not fixed, but directly it is, work will begin. Material for huts expected from T.I. on 25 Nov. 42.
4. Piles for THURSDAY ISLAND 547635
Cutting continues, approx. 50 have been cut and hauled to RED IS. PT.
5. Camouflage Poles for T.I.
Cutting continues , approx. 250 are now at RED IS. PT. Mangrove timber is being used, good poles varying from 2-4", 14 ft. long being obtained; as yet no transport has been made available from T.I. for either poles or piles.
6. Bridges by 31 Aust. Inf. Bn.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Pioneers of this Bn. have half completed the decking of a 12 ft. bridge leading to the horse transport lines. Bridge (M.R.JACKY JACKY 57005908) They are making an excellent job , but far more work than the bridge warrants is being put into it; a further bridge is to be put in about ¾ mile S.W. of this one, but a simple span over a 10 ft. gap is all that is necessary at this point.

7. A.A.Guns.

The base plates have not yet arrived from T.I.

Operations Proposed.

8. American Engineer Work.

The proposed move of the American forces from the area has been delayed. It is now expected to take place on or about 27 Nov. 42. In the meantime they are continuing with all engineer work previously undertaken by them.

(a) Wharf. A clear approach to the end of the wharf at RED IS. PT. has been decked in order to allow the Americans to load their equipment and also allow use to be made of the wharf if no further work is done on it after their departure. This means that to deck the arm of the "L" of the wharf, much of this will have to be altered. It is only a temporary expediency. They have continued driving piles and there is now little more of this to be done working to their plan. If however the south arm of the is continued back to the shore to form a complete turning circuit for M.T. as we propose doing, we will have to carry on with this. In addition , a further sets of dolphin piles has to be driven 50 yards S. of the wharf.

(b) Road.

A gravelled surface has now been provided over the entire route. Much of this however is now beginning to show signs of wear. The method used to gravel the road was to borrow from immediately off the road using a 6 or 8 yard " carry all " scoop drawn by a Caterpillar D.8 tractor. In places the over burden was not sufficiently removed and much of this was deposited by the scoop on the road. This has just powdered. The Americans are now regravelling these powdered portions , using a truck to haul the gravel. There are other portions too, which will need attention, particularly insides of many curves where sand is showing through the gravel due to the latter being too thin here in an effort to obtain superelevation on the curve.

Side drains are being put in, but not much is being done in this respect. Waterways under culverts are being scooped clear, but apart from the obvious waterchannels, little is being done in the way of cross road drainage. There will be much to be done on the road to keep it properly maintained after they leave. Water is badly needed on the road to bind the new gravel.

9. Water.

If, when the Americans leave they take the pump at their well at RED IS. PT., a pump will have to be taken from E Coy. well to serve A.A.S.C. and Bn. tps. in RED IS. PT. area. This will mean only one pump serving the Bn. in JACKY JACKY area from SKULL CK.

10. Proposed Storage and Supply System

A supply and storage system has been laid down for the group. Distribution of rations, petrol, forage and ammunition into 3 groups. (a) a D.I.D. (b) a centre reserve (c) a rear reserve according to the following table;-

Item.	D.I.D.	Centre Reserve.	Rear Reserve.
Rations	15 days reserve and breaking up shed for daily group issue.	45 days reserve.	30 days reserve.
Petrol.	½	½	½
Forage	½	½	-
Ammunition (200 tons)	½	½	½

The fractions shown for petrol, forage and ammo. denote fractions of the total quantity to be carried. In the case of ammo. this is shown, but for petrol and forage it denotes fractions of existing stocks.

(a) The D.I.D. is to be sited on the junction of the Bn. road and the JACKY JACKY Rd.(M.R. JACKY JACKY 2in. -1M. 57105953). On the eastern side of the road the D.I.D. proper will be established. This will necessitate a breaking up shed approx. 30' x 30' . The type in mind will be of round timber roofed with iron , bark sides and concrete floor to stand continual handling of cases etc. The 15 days reserve rations can be stored in shelters of the half round type as for the

availability of these(giving preference for their use to ammo.) by an iron roofed log shelter. The forage can be stored in a large, roomy iron roofed shed.

On the western side of Bn. rd.(will move 26 Coy. A.A.S.C.) In this area will be the ammunition dumps. These will be of the half round type. The type of ammunition being supplied necessitates three buildings for each dump, irrespective of quantity. This information has been supplied by A.A.S.C. - dumps to be ¼ - ½ mile apart.

(b) Centre Reserve is to be sited in the area(approx. given by C.YORK 4M. -1in 565581). Similar buildings to the D.I.D will be erected with the exception that no breaking up shed is necessary.

(c) The Rear Reserve is to be sited in the area(approx. 563570) . The same as above applies to this reserve.

The track being extended S.W. from the bridge being erected by pioneers 31 A.I.B. will serve the centre reserve. The rear reserve will be on the O.T. line N. of the SANAMERE Lagoon area. It is doubtful whether either of these latter dumps will be in operation before the coming " wet".

The huts already erected at RED IS. PT. will in the meantime be used for storage(in the case of the 80 x 30') and breaking up (the 30 x 30') and will later fit into the final scheme as transit sheds for material coming off the wharf at RED IS. PT.

4. AQUA . IRON RANGE. (CAPE DIRECTION 8M - 1in. M.R. 669375)

A subsec. 1 Sec. under A/Sgt. Bullpitt A.P.

Operations Completed.

Shed 40' x 18' built for bulk canteen stores.

Operations in Progress

Commenced building bakery 30' x 18' . Shaft of well commenced , depth of 10' reached but no water found at this depth.

Operations Proposed

It is the intention of this subsec. to prepare the jetty for demolition.

This subsec. has been recalled and it is expected the personnel will will arrive at H.Q. 16 Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E. CAIRNS. on 21 Dec. 42.

5. MARY (COOKTOWN) (COOKTOWN 4M.-1in. M.R. 313044)

Sub. sec. 3 sec. under A/Sgt. Hughes W.M.

On instructions from 11 Aust. Inf. Bde. all engr. work in area was suspended on 17 Dec. 42. ; the subsec. left COOKTOWN by boat on 19 Dec. 42 and arrived at H.Q. 16 Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E. CAIRNS on 19 Dec. 42.

Only personnel with their equip. returned, stores and vehicles were left at COOKTOWN in charge of 1 O.R.

Work in Progress.

One bridge(M.R. 295043) is ready for decking , piers, girders and abuts. have been built; wet weather delayed the work on the bridge.

6. 11 AUST. INF. BDE. (R.M. CAIRNS 1m.-1in. M.R. 676740)

The Comd. Post for Brig. Crawford at 11 Aust. Inf. Bde. H.Q. has been completed , and Brig. Crawford is in residence.

H.Q.16 Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E. (M.R. 663710).

Heavy rain during week delayed the shifting of remainder of tents to new camp site, but work is progressing satisfactorily in this respect Improvements have been effected in camp area in preparation for wet season.

7. RECCE. and REPORTS.

Cpl. Dunstan made a recce. of Industrial facilities in COOKTOWN area. and a report on this will be typed and forwarded to H.Q.R.A.E.

Major Leonard and Recce. party left CAIRNS on 14 Dec. 42 for Mungan MUNGANA? to make a recce. of proposed route MUNGANA to CAPE YORK. , this party to make a recce. from MUNGANA to COEN, and Lt. King from CAPE YORK to ARCHER RIVER.

A message was received from Lt. King on 16 Dec. 42 to the effect that " Engr. recce. party proceeding to PORTLAND ROAD. Report road from RED IS. PT to MORETON good except north bank CYPRESS CK. washed out and bad crossing GUNSHOT CK. Slight bog between DULHUNTY RIVER and MORETON. 2½ inches rain last night at MORETON, road south PORTLAND believed boggy. Further rains COEN area will stop traffic."

A report on "State of Engr. Work at COOKTOWN." by Capt. Gehrmann has been forwarded to H.Q.R.A.E. and 11 Aust. Inf. Bde. It contains the following paragraphs;- 1. Works ; 2. Resources ; 3. Site for second bridge over ENDEAVOUR RIVER; 4. Administration ; 5. General.

8. TRAINING.

Very little training was carried out at H.Q. 16 Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E. (CAIRNS 1M.- 1in. 663710) the only instructions given being on subjects in Pamphlet No. 2. Protection against Gas and Air Raids.

There were no night lectures.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

It is proposed that from 4 Jan. 43. onward, personnel of this Coy. present at H.Q. CAIRNS will train with the 51 Aust. Inf. Bn. on Infantry work. Until then an effort will be made to complete instructions on gas. and perform some of the Elementary Tests of Field Engineering.

10. LOCATION AND INTERCOM.

UNIT.	PLACE	REF.MAP. MAP REF.	INTERCOM.	PROJECTED MOVES.
16 Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E. H.Q.	CAIRNS	CAIRNS 1M.-1in. 663710	Postal Service or Phone through 11 Aust. Inf. Bde. switch CAIRNS 9205.	
No.2 Sec.	JACKY JACKY	CAPE YORK 8M.-1in. 570591	No. 2 Sec. to 11 Aust. Inf. Bde. CAIRNS Mil. Post Service.	Expected to arrive at H.Q. on 25 Dec. 42.
Subsec.1 Sec.	KEEN RANGE	CAPE DIRECTION 8M. - 1in. 660375	Mil. Post Service.	Expected to arrive at H.Q. CAIRNS on 21 Dec .42
Sub.sec. 3 Sec.	COOKTOWN	COOKTOWN 4M.-1in. 315044		Sub.sec. returned to H.Q. CAIRNS on 18 Dec. 42.
Detachments	INNISFAIL	INNISFAIL 4m. -1in. 05480530	Phone 18 V.D.C. H.Q. INNISFAIL Mil. Post Service through V.D.C.H.Q. 18 Bn.	Expected to return to H.Q. CAIRNS by 31 Dec.

11. DISTRIBUTION.

1 -2 H.Q.R.A.E.
3 - 4 War Diary
5 11 Aust. Inf. Bde.
6. File.

L.G. Story Capt.

Army Form C. 2123.

MESSAGE FORM Appendix L.

Serial No. 5

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.	IN	No. of Groups GR.	OFFICE DATE STAMP
	OUT		

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO 3 Bn, 16 Fd Coy, 26 Corp Gp

FROM 11 Aust Inf Bde | Originator's Number O 327 | Date 15/6 | In Reply to Num

Secret	All	dets	16	Fd	Coy
24 hrs	notice	to	move	to	CAIRO
O	ack				

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS.

SIGNED

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CYPHER.

SIGNED Wallace Major

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN 2400

T.H.I. 030

T.O.R.

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER

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CRICKET SCORES. Appendix 'A'.

2 Sec. versus 31 A.B. (2nd team)

Engs. 1st Innings 112 — { Mechesney 13. King 21 Thomson 16 Bertram 4 } ~~[illegible] 28~~

2nd Innings 64 — { Matherson 38.

31 A.B. 1st Innings 62 { Dossetto (Capt) 2 for 2 Mechesney 4 for 6.

2nd " 101 { Mechesney 3 for 7. Bertram 2 for 8. Dossetto 2 for 1

Won by Engs. by 13 runs.

2 Sec. versus A.A. battery.

Engs. 1st Innings 114 { Mechesney 43. Nicol 15.

AA. 1st Innings 57. { Hopf 2 for 5 Mechesney 5 for 10

2nd Innings 7 for 83. { Hopf 2 for 6. Mechesney 2 " 24 Matherson 2 " 21

Won by Engs. by 57 on first Innings.

Matches played on the beautiful 2d Jacky Jacky aerodrome grounds, rich in the tradition of cricket & white flannels. Spr Lutvey R. won the raffle conducted by members of the Cape York Younger Set. The prize on each day was a scorebook. A good Sunday afternoon's sport was had by all.

J.

T.G. 42A COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA—POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT Office Date Stamp

Funds may be Quickly, Safely and Economically Transferred by MONEY ORDER TELEGRAM

URGENT TELEGRAM

This Telegram has been received subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations. The time received at this office is shown at the end of the message.

The date stamp indicates the date of reception and lodgment also, unless an earlier date is shown after the time of lodgment.

T C B

QUEENSLAND

42/68141

Office of Origin: CAIRNS Q

No. of Words: 38/1

Time of Lodgment: 12 20p

No.

Appendix N

14

MAJOR LEONARD
CARE CHILLAGOE PO.

MAJOR LEONARD CAPT GEHRMANN LEFT FAGG AND ALL PERSONNEL AND VEHICLES OF RECCE PARTY TO RETURN TO THIS HQ IMMEDIATELY STOP INSTRUCTIONS FROM BRIG LUCAS STOP ACK ~~XXXXX~~ ~~XXXXX~~ TOO-1200

LIEUT DANIELS 16th
FLD COY

4 35pB

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Appendix N.

T.G. 42. COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA—POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

FUNDS MAY BE QUICKLY, SAFELY, AND ECONOMICALLY TRANSFERRED BY MONEY ORDER TELEGRAM

(PLEASE TURN OVER)

SCH. C.3365—7/1941

TELEGRAM

THIS TELEGRAM HAS BEEN RECEIVED SUBJECT TO THE POST AND TELEGRAPH ACT AND REGULATIONS. THE TIME RECEIVED AT THIS OFFICE IS SHOWN AT THE END OF THE MESSAGE.

THE DATE STAMP INDICATES THE DATE OF RECEPTION AND LODGMENT ALSO, UNLESS AN EARLIER DATE IS SHOWN AFTER THE TIME OF LODGMENT.

OFFICE DATE STAMP

CHILLAGOE 23DE42 QUEENSLAND

T.
C.
B.

OFFICE OF ORIGIN.	NO. OF WORDS.	TIME OF LODGMENT.	No.
4.. CAIRNS	URGENT 36/1	3 5p	

MAJOR LEONARD
POSTOFFICE CHILLAGOE

MAJOR LEONARD CAPT GERHRMANN LIEUT FAGG AND ALL PERSONNEL AND VEHICLES OF RECCE PARTY TO RETURN TO THIS HQ IMMEDIATELY STOP INSTRUCTIONS FROM BRIG LUCAS ACK TOO 1200 LIEUT DANIELS 16th FLD XXXXXXXX CO Y

4 5opB

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

POST OFFICE COMMUNICATIONS AUSTRALIA

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS, CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS, SOCIAL MESSAGES, MOTHERS' DAY REMEMBRANCES, *as well as* EASTER, CHRISTMAS *and* NEW YEAR GREETINGS,

are issued on attractively coloured and appropriately designed telegram forms

WITHOUT EXTRA CHARGE.

You may lodge your message at any TELEGRAPH OFFICE, on the usual telegram form, or telephone it to "TELEGRAMS," indicating that the message is to be issued on an ornamental form.

7/1941

NOTE.—The standard time for the Eastern States of Australia (Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania) is half an hour in advance of the standard time for South Australia and two hours in advance of the standard time for Western Australia.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

War Diary

Appendix O.

Copy No. 4

RECCE REPORT for all weather road
MUNGANA (Ref. Map ATHERTON 025052)
- CAPE YORK.

BY

H.A. LEONARD, Major.
O.C. 16. Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E.

1. Progress report MUNGANA - MAYTOWN (Ref. Map MOSSMAN 019066).

2. Further information on route MITCHELL R. (Ref. Map MOSSMAN 019058) - PALMERVILLE (Ref. Map MOSSMAN 005071).

3. Daily Diary Recce party MUNGANA - GT. DIVIDING RANGE (Ref. Map Temporary Edition COOKTOWN 179066).

4. Recce. CAPE YORK - ARCHER RIVER (Ref. Map CAPE DIRECTION 635330.
(By J.A. King, Lieut., Attd. 31. Bn.).

5. Appendix - Map showing routes MUNGANA - PALMERVILLE.

Ref. Maps.

ATHERTON	4 m. - 1".
MOSSMAN	"
CAPE DIRECTION	8 m. - 1".
CAPE YORK	8 m. - 1".

1000 hrs. 28 Dec. 42.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

16.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.,
AUSTRALIA.
Dec. 42.

16. AUST. FD. COY. R.A.E.

Progress Report of Recce MUNGANA - MAYTOWN.

Ref. Map MOSSMAN.

(1) MUNGANA - WALSH RIVER (023002).

This road has been graded at some period but requires light formation and drainage with gravel in places, inverts and culverts are required to keep road open in wet season. Road passes through gravel ridges with scattered ironbark and bloodwood.
Distance 10.75 miles.

(2) WALSH RIVER (023002) to MITCHELA RIVER (019038).

The WALSH RIVER is crossed by a four span timber beam bridge on concrete piers (low level) 9' between ~~kerbs~~ Kerbs with concrete approaches. Bridge will be under water in flood periods.
Road is lightly formed 12' - 15' wide and reasonably well drained, the innumerable creeks require attention, some require concrete or grouted rock bottoms. Generally the road surface is good being natural gravel. Road passes through gravel ridges with scattered ironbark, ironwood and bloodwood.
MITCHELL RIVER is crossed by a 15/30' span timber beam bridge on concrete piers 9' between kerbs, it would be subject to 30' cover in flood periods which occur frequently in the wet season; immediate approaches are concrete.

(3) MITCHELL RIVER - MAYTOWN (019066).

All enquiries made on the route indicated the impossibility of following the old track to PALMERVILLE, however an attempt was made and a very old track was located which it was discovered led to MAYTOWN, this track was followed reasonably easily. The track follows the ridges for the most part through extremely rough mountainous country, however with several minor deviations it could be put in good order. There are a number of very steep grades up to 1 in 8.
A great deal of work has been done on the road some fifty years ago, rock cutting were found at intervals. Sandy Creek (018060) is an obstacle having a very rough rock bottom and very steep approaches cut in solid rock the grade being almost 1 in 4 for 200 ft, it may be possible to

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

~~loose~~ easc these by side cuttings. This creek is subject to high floods, bridging would be expensive in time and cost.

The crossing of the PALMER RIVER (022063) is six miles upstream from MAYTOWN; this has one steep approach which could be put in order, the crossing requires either a bridge which would be costly or a spillway crossing slab.

This road passes through ~~level~~ hard country for its entire length; this is only attained by keeping to the gravel ridges as has been done in the past.

(A day was spent in crossing the PALMER RIVER which had a rise of 2'6" at the time. The local people assured us we would be unable to cross at either FROME or PALMERVILLE until it dropped.

(4) MAYTOWN to DIVIDE. - Thence west along range.

After enquiring re possibilities of getting through to PALMERVILLE from MAYTOWN and being told that it would be impossible until the country dried up, it was decided to endeavour to follow the LAURA road to the crest of the GREAT DIVIDE then strike south-west and west in an endeavour to follow the crest of the range around heading PALMERVILLE and FROME. The LAURA road from MAYTOWN was constructed some sixty years ago presumably at great expense as there are very high rock cuttings up to 25' and deep fills, but it has been allowed to deteriorate so that at present it is barely possible to get through. It could be put in order but would take some time as all creek crossings are washed out and grades are badly scoured. Some of the grades are very steep up to 1 in 6. The creeks would hold up traffic after storms.

At the top of the range the old road was left and a track forced through the timber along the ridge for twelve miles, the country was reasonably ~~level~~ hard, being gravel ridges with open timbered ironbarks and bloodwood.

The divide is very narrow and at the 12 mile point breakes away leaving a cleft apprcx 100 feet deep connecting the two watersheds, this was impossible to detour without considerable work in getting down to the valley 800 - 1000 ft below. It was decided that the route was impracticable and that the party return to MAYTOWN and locate a road through to PALMERVILLE.

1300 hrs 20 Dec 42.

.....Major.
O.C.16.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

16 AUST. FD. COY.
R.A.E.
27 DEC 1942
42/33/36

16.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.,
AUSTRALIA.
27 Dec. 42.

16. AUST. FD. COY. R.A.E.

ROAD RECCE. MUNGANA - CAPE YORK.

Further information re possibilities of an all weather road between MITCHELL River Bridge and PALMERVILLE.

A number of people in the above district were interviewed including telegraph linesmen, miners, drovers and black boys re possibilities of an all weather road. From a careful study of all the information gathered it appears that two courses may be possible.

(a) MITCHELL River westerly to a point north-west of MT. MUSGRAVE station thence along telegraph line to PALMERVILLE.

(b) MITCHELL River westerly for a distance of approx 6 miles, then follow a track northerly for seven miles then strike north and slightly west through trackless country for the northern end of MT. MUSGRAVE (following the ridges as much as possible) then along the telegraph line to PALMERVILLE.

From information obtained and from a general knowledge of the country it is thought that either or both of these routes would provide a hard wet weather road. In route (b) there may be several sharp grades over ridges.

Owing to urgent recall to unit H.Q. by Brig. Lucas, it was not possible for the party under my command to investigate either of these routes.

It appears that the PALMER RIVER will be difficult to cross as soon as the wet season commences. A detailed recce would be necessary to locate possible crossings or places at which crossing could be quickly constructed until a bridge was completed.

Old tracks do exist leading from PALMERVILLE to the GREAT DIVIDE but no information has been obtained regarding them.

It appears likely that fair road building country could be located by following the DIVIDE generally almost to EBAGOOLA.

Maps attached show general direction of suggested routes.

[signature].....Major.
O.C.16.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

16.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.,
AUSTRALIA.

DAILY DIARY.

Recce Party MURRAMA - CAPE YORK.

14. Monday. Departed Cairns 0345. Staff car arrived Chillagoe 1515 trucks arrived 1930 hrs. Road Herberton - Chillagoe very rough, washed out. Sections totalling 25 miles formed. Surface level but creeks would give trouble in stormy weather.

Discussed proposed route with several local people, all of opinion that route is impossible.

15. Tuesday. Departed Chillagoe 0810. Car, 44 gals petrol and 4 gal tins left at Police Stn until return.

Arrived Mungana 0900. Enquired route and details of country from Mr. Prior.

Good road to Mitchell River, thence only bad track (see road recce).

Camped 17 miles north of Mitchell River. No accidents or trouble of any kind, 15 cwt heavy on petrol. Country very ragged, gravelly and lightly timbered with stunted ironbark, bloodwood, etc.

No rain. Distance travelled 82 miles.

16. Wednesday. Information re tracks is all rather contradictory, most people are of opinion that we will not get through. At present we may be on one of either two tracks, (a) PALMERVILLE - CROCKARVILLE. (b) MAYTOWN - CROCKARVILLE, the maps are so inaccurate that it is very difficult to fix a position.

Broke camp 0700 hrs, morning fine, cool night all slept well.

So far there have been no engr. difficulties except for a few sidling cuttings to avoid steep grades. 0830 trouble with 3 ton truck, held up for two hours. Fixed position on map by dissection and decided to go back for a mile and turn north keeping Mt. Mason 20 degrees W of N.

Picked up old track which is very badly scoured but usable. Bogged twice in bad creek crossing. Country all ridge, gravel with [illegible] shale and pipes. The old road has numerous old cuttings probably made fifty years ago also signs of an old telegraph line. Sandy Ck. is a serious obstacle, the approaches are very steep 1 in 4, and cut out of rock (trap rock). There are several steep grades within one mile of creek, otherwise going is good. The track follows ridges which is only solution for a quickly constructed road as creeks are innumerable, alignment is fairly reasonable and given minor deviations can be made into a good all weather road, little surfacing is required.

Ironbark timber no good for bridge work

Owing to trouble with 15 cwt truck, decided to camp for night approx 8 miles from MAYTOWN. No rain but storm moved round to S.E. Distance 32 miles.

Thursday, 17. Broke camp 0640. Arrived Palmer River at MAYTOWN 1000 hrs. River in flood 6' deep, crossed in recce boat, rang through to COOKTOWN for Capt Peek to report our position to 11.Aust.Inf.Bde. Local inhabitant guided us to crossing 6 miles upstream, this is also too deep; prepared approaches and decided to wait until tomorrow for stream to fall. Locals think it impossible to follow range north or west but we intend to try. Distance travelled 13 m.

Friday, 18. Managed to get vehicles through river by blocks and S.W.R.; water got into truck engine. Left Palmer River after lunch 1445. This crossing has fair approaches but would give trouble with every rise in water height.

Took main track to LAURA, this is very washed out but has been formed years ago; there are long steep pulls up Jessops Hill, all rock cuttings 25' wide, a tremendous amount of work has been done on the road, but it would take a considerable time to put in order again.

Had trouble in a washed out creek Xing, camped night after getting trucks out, only 12 miles travelled.

Tomorrow we will get to top of range about seven miles, then strike west along tableland. Weather stormy, but no trouble.

Saturday, 19. Broke camp 0630, breakfast 0540. Followed road through deep rock cuttings, very badly scoured and bad creek crossings to top of range. Turned N.W. at range top and travelled light forest coasting along divide for thirteen miles, divide is very narrow but going is good. Blocked by 100 ft. break in divide there is apparently no easy means of deviating this as valleys on both sides are shear. Decided to return to MAYTOWN. Petrol is getting very low due to consumption in low gear, bogs, river crossing etc. Looks as if we will not be able to proceed further north so have decided to find old road to MAREEBA and get more supplies. All well with exception of Sgt. Jack who is suffering badly from sunburn. Trucks giving minor trouble Distance travelled 22 miles.

Sunday, 20. Broke camp 0630 hrs. Travelled back to MAYTOWN, enquiries show that the MAREEBA track goes over Mitchell River bridge, in this case it will be better for us to return to MUTDANA, to telephone H.Q. for petrol and supplies. Made camp 1900 hrs. sixteen miles south MAYTOWN. Palmer River gave no trouble in crossing, delayed only two hours, it had dropped about twelve inches. Obtained fresh bread at MAYTOWN. Road terrifically rough.

Daily time table is as follows:-

Rise 0500. Breakfast 0545. Leave camp 0630. Lunch 1230-1330. Make camp 1900. Tea 1945. Light out 2100. The hours are long but men are standing up to it well. S.M. Park and Cpl. Bell are towers of strength, they are carrying the bulk of the work. Sgt. Humphrey is doing a good job keeping the trucks going.

Distance travelled 51 miles.

Monday, 21. Broke camp 0630 hrs.

Sgt. Jack has suffered badly from sunburn, but is recovering slowly, has been on light duties. This type of work brings out the true natures of the men, one particular man is very disappointing.

Arrived Chillagoe 1500 hrs after very good trip, no trouble experienced. Endeavoured to locate track from GROGANVILLE to PALMERVILLE without success.

Telephoned to Coy. H.Q. to send up another truck to replace existing one which is giving trouble, also petrol, rations, mail, cordage, etc.

Telephone service very bad, message had to be relayed through three sources.

All men stayed at hotel for night.

Distance travelled 98 miles.

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Tuesday, 22. Telephoned Coy. H.Q. Capt. Gehrmann had left at 0300 hrs. All gear is to be overhauled, 44 trucks checked, etc. My plan is to leave Chillagoe at dawn tomorrow and travel direct to PALMERVILLE via WROTHAM PARK; there enquire re tracks north to range and west to PROMI make the range as soon as possible to locate possible track north to EBAGOOLA. On return to PALMERVILLE an attempt will be made to locate old track to GROGANVILLE working south this time instead of north, no information appears to be available re this route from this area.

Wednesday, 23. Truck from Coy. H.Q. has not yet arrived, it must have struck some trouble en route.

Telegram received 1700 hrs instructing party to return to Coy. H.Q. immediately on Brig. Lucas' instructions.

Capt. Gehrmann and supplies arrived Chillagoe 1750 hrs.

Party departed Chillagoe 1830 hrs for Cairns. Heavy storms made creeks rise, delaying journey for twelve hours on the road.

Thursday, 24. Arrived Yungaburra 1415 hrs. called on Brig. Lucas who was away but saw Lt. Col. Paterson.

Arrived CAIRNS 1620 hrs.

ROAD RECCE. CAPE YORK - ARCHER RIVER.

I.O. of 31 Aust. Inf. Bn. has photographs forwarded from 5 Aust. Div. of the area running down the eastern side of the peninsula to HUNTER POINT.

The watershed running East from the O.T. Line N. of the JARDINE R. has been investigated by the "X" Branch of 31. Aust. Inf. Bn. and is reported as a good road route. The photographs show a similar watershed running E. of the JARDINE due N. & S. which looks quite good. The only difficulty on this portion might be at the head of the ESCAPE R. The photograpl show what might be difficult country inland from HUNTER POINT. This might be scrub country and shows many definite sandy creeks. It must be remembered, however, that these photographs have not been subject to expert investigation under stereoscope. What they do show is very helpful and on that account it is recommended that before any party investigate this area in the future, if at all, that they be provided with a complete set of aerial photographs in order to map a route.

Further photographic evidence of this route is not available as the Survey Section at Horn Is state that they are only completing the section N. of Orford Weir and to date have finished the western half of the peninsula only.

Information has been received, however, from Mr. Evans, a lineaman working from Cape York Telegraph Stn. and a Mr. Heineman who has a property at the head of the PALMER CKS, towards the eastern divide.

Evans states that he has been prospecting up many of the creeks on the eastern side of the Cape around the HUNTER POINT area and says that this area is good going, nothing worse than turkey bush. He seems to think that this portion of the route would take our M.T.

Heineman has owned and worked his property for 2 years and, apart from a few trips up the O.T. line does not know the country too well, nor does he know the capabilities of our M.T. He states, however, that the range marked on the map as the Great Dividing Ra. is merely a watershed and in many places there are ridges running into sandy soaks from which streams drain both ways. He quotes of none having been bogged in this type of country in wet weather, but also quotes instances of horses being bogged around the heads of the Palm, Ourie and other creeks on the O.T. line. He said that he did not think the SKARDON or other streams could be avoided by merely detouring the heads of each stream. He was of the opinion that the O.T. line would be better because of the ground being firmed up by use of both cattle and M.T.

Evans gave some infonation as to the stream conditions in the wet. Apparently the streams (including the JARDINE) rise and fall with the first rains on their watershed, so that early in the wet, streams which rise suddenly due to surface run off, often fall soon after and allow transport across. Later as the ground becomes soaked, streams rise and stay up high enough to prevent M.T. from crossing until July even.

This latter seems to make the investigation for a new route along watersheds an important factor. Even if sandy stretches are encountered these can be no worse than those in the existing route and there would be no large streams preventing use of the road for probably 6 months of the year, without expensive bridging work.

No information hs to this route has been obtained for the southern portion. It seems, however, that a portion of the O.T. line N. of Moreton could be used.

Reports on the road condition over the period 13-17 Nov 42 from Lieut. Aumuller of 31 A.I.B. who took a convoy to IRON RANGE. He states that there is a big improvement in the road since the main convoy going North travelled over it due to rain storms smoothing the road. The S. banks of all creeks are worse than the N. banks. This is due to the fact that the adv. party of the ELSIE group paid more attention to the N. banks. A good short cut track exists from a point on the O.T. line 33.4 mls S. of Moreton Map Ref. 607358. C. Direction 8 ml. to WENLOCK. This This saved about 40 miles on going to point 627298 Cape Direction 8 ml. and then turning to WENLOCK.

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Present conditions road reports will be submitted by the engineer recce party at present working down the O.T. line.

(Signed) J.A. King Lieut.

O.C. 2 Section

16.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.

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DESCRIPTION OF ROAD

1. MUNGANA - WALSH RIVER.
   Requires considerable attention. Bladed only.
2. WALSH RIVER TO MITCHELL RIVER.
   Road lightly formed 18' wide. Inverts, creek xings require attention. Several creeks will hold up traffic after storms.
3. MITCHELL RIVER TO MAYTOWN.
   Track follows old mining road. Badly washed out. Unused for past 50 yrs. except for occasional vehicles. Sandy Ck. approaches are very steep.
4. PALMER RIVER.
   Suitable xing. 6 Miles upstream from MAYTOWN. Only available whilst RIVER is flowing normally.
5. PALMER RIVER TO GT. DIVIDING RANGE.
   Old LAURA ROAD. Very Steep grades - Bad alignment - Streams will block traffic after storms.
6. GREAT DIVIDING RANGE.
   No tracks - no possibility of a reasonable route as there is a cleft in RANGE 13 miles from Old LAURA track approx. 2 miles from PALMERVILLE - FAIRVIEW track.

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Please ack receipt

16 Aust Fd Coy

Appendix P

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

SECRET

HQ 5 Aust Div
Q/40/16/1
COPY No. 9

5 AUST DIV ADM INSTN NO. 12

ADM LAY OUT JACKY JACKY, IRON RANGE, COOKTOWN & CAIRNS- MAREEBA.

1. JACKY JACKY: (ref map Cape York 1st edition 8m to inch)

(a) Reserves to be held, sups and POL 90 days, amn 60 days w.u.r. Reserves will be held in the following Areas:-

Sups & POL	Amn	Area
15 days	15 days	Junction of Rd Strip-Red Is Pt and track Bn Gp Area - Red Is Pt (ref 570595)
45 "	30 "	Map ref 562579
30 "	15 "	Map ref 563572

(b) Hospital will be located in Area map ref 562579.

Water point located on Jacky Jacky River will be developed and track made for use of hospital. When opportunity offers wells will be sunk in hospital area.

(c) i. The small shed already erected on Red Is Pt will be utilised for the storage of flour and such other goods as are required in the Red Is Pt area as may be from time to time decided by the Gp Comd.

ii. The large hut in process of erection at Red Is Pt will be used as a transit shed for the sorting of stores etc. when landed from vessel.

(d) DID will be est at map ref 570595.

(e) Refrigeration is being made available and when buildings and machinery are fwded will be erected in the vicinity of DID.

(f) Comd Bn Gp will arrange for erection of building in vicinity of horse lines for the storage of fodder etc.

2. IRON RANGE - PORTLAND RDS: (Ref map Cape Direction 1st edition 8 m to inch)

(a) Reserves to be held - Sups and POL 90 days, Amn 60 days w.u.r. Reserves will be held in the following areas:-

Sups & POL	Amn	Area
30 days	15 days	Ref 672373
30 "	15 "	Junction Rd Wenlock - Portland Rds and Rd aerodrome - Portland Rds (ref 672378)
15 "	15 "	Army Sigs Camp (ref 555372)
Coy Gp only		
15 days	15 "	Wenlock
Coy Gp only		

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(b) Transit shed will be est at Portland Rds for reception and sorting of stores etc, and for the holding of 30 days rations for tps in immediate vicinity of Portland Rds, estimated No. 500.

(c) i. DID will be est at 672378

ii. Sup pt for tps in Portland Rds area will be est at the Transit Shed.

(d) Refrigeration buildings when available will be erected in the vicinity of DID.

3. COOKTOWN. (ref Map Cooktown Temporary edition D 55 13 - 4 m to inch)

(a) Reserves to be held in Area - Sups and POL 90 days, amn 60 days w.u.r.
Reserves will be held in the following areas:-

Sups & POL	Amn	Area
15 days	15 days	Marton Area (ref 304045)
30 "	30 "	Wilton Area (ref 289050)
45 "	45 "	Laura (ref 218034)

(b) DID will be est in Marton Area (map ref 304045)

(c) Present buildings occupied by DID at Cooktown will be utilised as Transit Shed.

(d) Refrigerator bldgs will be est in vicinity of DID.

4. CAIRNS - MAREEBA AREA:

(a) Reserves for Bde Gp to be held in area - Sups and POL 90 days, Amn 60 days w.u.r.
Reserves will be held in the following areas:-

Sups & POL	Amn	Area
15 days	10 days	Kuranda
15 "	10 "	Little Mulgrave
15 "	10 "	Mareeba
45 "	30 "	Tolga. 73 FAD is being est by LHQ.

(b) 124 FOD is being est at Tolga to hold 30 days maintenance stocks Ord Stores for a Bde Gp.

5. Provision and erection of buildings in the various areas is being made by LHQ. Gp Comds will ensure that they are erected in the areas set out above.

6. CAMOUFLAGE.

In the actual siting of buildings due regard must be paid to the suitability of the site so as to enable camouflage to be carried out.

7. PROGRESS REPORTS.

Reports will be submitted by 11 Aust Inf Bde by Saturday of each week until the required number of reserves are held to show position of both sups and amn as at the preceding Wednesday. The first return is required on the 28 Nov 42.

8. CASC 5 Aust Div will arrange turn over of rations as necessary.

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9. Maintenance of amn:

Q'land L of C Area is providing two amn personnel for care of amn at each - Jacky Jacky, Iron Range and Cooktown, and staff of FOD FAD and amn dumps in CAIRNS - Mareeba Area.

10. Pending the erection of buildings every effort will be made to protect both sups and amn from deterioration owing to weather conditions. Temporary shelters will be erected where necessary, by utilising galvanised iron and other materials already authorised. Where required appln will be made to this HQ for authority to obtain additional sups of building material for protection of temp dumps. Buildings at Wenlock and Laura may be hired for storage space and particulars advised this HQ so that hiring arrangements can be made by No 1 (NQ) L of C Sub Area.

11. ACK.

Lt-Col.
A A & QMG 5 Aust Div.
0900hrs 14 Nov 42.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

16 Aust Id Coy Appendix Q

SECRET.

NOTES ON VISIT OF G.S.O. 1 5 AUST DIV.

TO JACKY JACKY AND IRON RANGE 23/24 OCT.42.

G.O.C.
G.
A.Q.
C.R.E.
A.A.S.C.

Item	Subject	Action or Information
JACKY JACKY.		
1.	RED IS POINT The old jetty at RED IS POINT is still being used for the off-loading of stores and rations for 31 Aust. Inf. Bn. Gp. A bigger jetty is in process of construction on the same site but at the moment the construction is only in the initial stages. The work is being carried out by an American Engr.Bn.	
2.	RD RED IS POINT - JACKY JACKY. This road is being constantly improved and at the moment is quite serviceable although parts are extremely rough. There are several miles of it that is not yet gravelled and as portion of this crosses black soil areas it is likely that heavy rains would render it impassible, The work is proceeding quite rapidly however, and it is expected that the road will be completed before the wet season. The road itself runs along the telegraph line for four miles from RED IS POINT, then branches EAST and terminates in the NORTH of the landing strip. About four miles from the strip another track branches off to the 31 Aust.Inf.Bn.Gp.Camp site. This track has NOT been gravelled as yet, but this work is being done.	AQ CRE CAASC
3.	CAMP SITE. 31 Aust.Inf.Bn Gp. are camped approx two miles SW of the strip on a piece of rising ground to the NORTH of the JACKY JACKY R. The site seems in every way suitable and excellent concealment has been achieved.	AQ
4.	JOURNEY FROM MUNGANA TO JACKY JACKY. C.O. 31 Aust.Inf.Bn.Gp. reports that the journey was completed in nine days and that no great difficulty was experienced at any stage. All vehs have now arrived at JACKY JACKY although a small number had to be towed over the latter stages of the journey. At the moment the L.A.D. is carrying out a systematic overhaul of all vehs, starting with those of the tpt pl AASC.	AQ ADOS
5.	DISPOSITIONS FOR OPS. The task of defending JACKY JACKY AERODROME presents considerable difficulty owing to the almost complete lack of high ground suitable for observation, and because of the tall timber with light undergrowth which reduces visibility to about 100 yards in practically all cases. The strip itself is situated on the edge of a swamp area immediately NORTH of the JACKY JACKY R and runs approx SE and NW. The NE edge also borders a swampy area which continues in patches for about three miles to the JACKY JACKY ESTUARY and the coast both of which are bordered by extremely heavy mangrove swamps. On the SW side of the strip is a small knoll which provides practically the only observation in the area.	

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Item	Subject	Action or Information

This was used by American engrs for quarrying gravel when making the strip, and consequently is cleared to a large extent. It is also expected that aerodrome installations will be erected in this area. It would appear therefore, to be a most suitable place to dispose static defences to cover the strip as well as to provide the only possible arty OP. The C.Os. present plan which is purely a preliminary one and subject to alteration after further recce, is roughly as follows:

(a) To provide a small grn to hold the high ground SW of the strip, this grn to be composed principally of MMGs, together with a minimun rfn necessary for local protection.

(b) To dispose one Coy gp for the protection of res sups amn POL etc at the ASC dump four miles from RED IS POINT.

(c) To retain the remainder of his force in mobile res in its present location.

To implement this plan, intensive recce and patrolling is being carried out and tracks are being made to various possible landing places on the EAST coast and in the JACKY JACKY ESTUARY. Other recces are being made NORTH towards CAPE YORK and in the vicinity of RED ISLAND POINT and as far SOUTH as the JARDINE R.

From the brief study of the ground made, together with infm received from C.O. 31 Aust Inf Bn Gp, it would appear that the most likely landing places are either the JACKY JACKY ESTUARY or RED IS POINT. The country in the vicinity of the Estuary is extremely difficult but would provide no great obstacle to JAP landing parties. On the other hand, RED IS POINT is the only possible place at which he could unload heavy stores. In view of this, present dispositions appear sound, except for the location of dumps of res in the vicinity of RED IS POINT. This matter will be dealt with more fully in a later para.

6. MAPS.

The absence of maps of the area presents considerable difficulties both to recce and planning. The First Aust Army Svy party att to 31 Aust.Inf.Bn. Gp. are handicapped by lack of air photographs of the area. These were requisitioned for a considerable time ago, but up to date have not come to hand. — G3(1)

7. INTERCOMNS.

Wireless comn to H.Q. 11 Aust.Inf Bde by means of No.11 set is entirely satisfactory. The 101 set provided for comn to THURSDAY IS is however, most unsatisfactory. This matter has been taken up with Sig Officer TORRES STRAIT FORCE, who is visiting JACKY JACKY to endeavour to effect some improvement. It is suggested that CO Sigs 5 AUST DIV take up the matter of line comn to T I by means of the submarine cable now in use. — CO Sigs

8. TRG.

Little or no trg is being carried out at present, the Bn being fully occupied on the preparation of its camp site for the wet season, constructing tracks, carrying out recces and patrolling, unloading stores etc.

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Item	Subject	Action or Information
9.	ADM.	
	(a) Supplies.	
	Supplies are coming fwd daily from T.I. These appear to be quite satisfactory .	AQ
	(b) Water.	
	Water is drawn from the water point at SKULL CK which is a tributary of BURSTER CK. The source of this Ck is a perennial spring, and no difficulty is anticipated in maintaining continuous water supply throughout the year.	
	(c) Canteen Stores	
	These are supplied from T.I. and are, on the whole, satisfactory. There has been no shortage in such items as tobacco, tinned fruit, cordials etc, although to date there has been a great shortage of razor blades and an entire absence of beer. Similar conditions prevail on T.I.	
	(d) Amenities.	
	At the moment nil, owing to lack of accommodation or any form of sporting facilities. Comd TORRES STRAIT FORCE has invited Comd 31 Aust. Inf.Bn. Gp. to send leave parties to T.I. by the ration boat daily, where they can attend pictures, swim etc. Before this is implemented however, it would appear to be necessary to arrange some form of leave camp at T.I. to enable pers to remain overnight.	
	(e) Accommodation Stores	
	Difficulty is being experienced through a proportion of tentage becoming US through fair wear. In addition, no cover is available for men's messes or recreation huts. Comd TORRES STRAIT FORCE has offered to make available quantities of galvanised iron from T.I. for this purpose. Under the circumstances it should not prove difficult for the sec 16 Aust.Fd.Coy. on the spot to erect the necessary accommodation. This must be done immediately before the wet season sets in. It is also considered necessary that US tentage be immediately replaced.	CRE
10.	RESERVES.	
	At the present moment 30 days res are being dumped at the ASC camp four miles from RED IS POINT In this area two huts are being constructed by ALLIED WORKS COUNCIL for housing all res. I was unable to ascertain who had issued the orders for the huts to be completed, or had chosen the location. Comd 31 Aust.Inf.Bn Gp agrees with me that the present posn of the res is not desirable tactically, but he feels that it is better to ensure that they are under cover for the wet season rather than disposed in the open in more tactically sound posns. It appears most necessary therefore, that a dump should be made four or five miles to the SW of the 31 Aust.Inf.Bn Camp site and the necessary cover immediately constructed. It was suggested to CO 31 Aust.Inf.Bn.Gp. that a track be constructed from his present camp site running, roughly, parallel to the JACKY JACKY R to join the telegraph line about 12 miles SOUTH of RED IS POINT, and that his adm installations incl res should be sited in the vicinity of the junction of this track and the telegraph line.	CRE
	The present plan is to site the remaining 30 days res back along the telegraph line, perhaps in the vicinity of the old McDONNEL TELE STN. This raises the problem of accessibility during the wet season when, according to local reports, the JARDINE R is anything up to nine miles wide.	AQ CRE CAASC

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Item	Subject	Action or Information
11.	RECOMMENDATIONS. (a) It is considered a matter of urgency that CAASC, AQ 5 Aust.Div., and O.C. 16 Aust.Fd.Coy should visit the area immediately for the purpose of settling difficulties with regard to the provision of covers for dumps, replacement of US stores, and other adm problems that are constantly arising. (b) That the request that a boat be provided for Comd 31 Aust. Inf. Bn.Gp. be followed up. A thorough recce of the coast and the various rivers in the Cape area from the point of view of discovering landing places is absolutely of the greatest importance and it is quite impossible to do this from the land except over an abnormally long period.	AA & QMG

IRON RANGE.

12.	CAMP AREA. Coy Gp. 26 Aust.Inf.Bn. is camped about half a mile from the main strip and on its WESTERN side. It appears to be perfectly satisfactory.	AQ
13.	ROADS (a) Rd IRON RA - PORTLAND ROADS This rd is practically complete and at the moment American engrs are engaged in erecting a bridge to the EAST of IRON RA MINE, and are also putting in several culverts. Near PORTLAND ROADS the rd is cut up badly owing to heavy traffic, but is still quite serviceable as an all weather rd. (b) Rd IRON RA - WENLOCK This rd has not been improved at all. Difficulty is experienced in movt with two-wheel drive vehs particularly, carrying heavy loads of res amn, rations etc.	AQ CRE
14.	PORTLAND ROADS It is understood that the jetty is to be extended a further 600 ft to enable quicker turn round of shipping to be made. There is a pile driver on the spot and engrs. are engaged in cutting piles from local timber. No estimate of the time required to complete this work was obtained.	AQ
15.	DISPOSITIONS FOR OPS The coast in the vicinity of PORTLAND ROADS is divided into two distinct parts, topographically, by a hill feature which runs into the sea immediately SOUTH of the jetty. The coast to the NORTH of this feature consists of mangrove swamps, while that to the SOUTH provides excellent beaches for landings. There are two main approaches to the landing strips from the coast, the first being the rd from the jetty to IRON RA, and the second the CLAUDIE R, which runs from the coast approx 12 miles SOUTH of PORTLAND ROADS to within 600 yds of the strips, and is navigable for small craft for the greater part of the way. In addition to these, a reasonably good land approach exists from LOCKHART MISSION. The first requirement would appear to be to provide some protection both at PORTLAND ROADS itself and on the beaches to the SOUTH but with the limited forces available this would lead to dangerous dispersion. At the moment, two 18 pr beach guns are disposed to cover the beaches to the SOUTH but this leaves the jetty area entirely unprotected. It is felt that additional beach guns are necessary to cover both areas effectively.	CRA AQ

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Item	Subject	Action or Information

Daylight OPs have been established along the coast from LOCKHART MISSION to PORTLAND ROADS, but difficulty is being experienced in maintaining effective comms.

Arty OPs and tp posns have been recced and prepared in three areas.

(a) to enable fire to be brought down in the PORTLAND ROADS area.
(b) to cover the rd about half way between PORTLAND ROADS and IRON RA, and
(c) WEST of TOZER GAP to cover a withdrawal if necessary through the TOZER RA.

AAF and U.S. engr pers have been organised for the static def of the strips at IRON RA, while the remainder of the Coy gp is held in mobile res to meet a threat wherever it should appear. Apart from the protection provided in the PORTLAND ROADS area, these dispositions appear perfectly sound, provided an efficient form of comn can be found between IRON RA and the LOCKHART MISSION OPs.

16. MAPS.

It is considered that steps should be taken to have an emergency 1" map of the area prepared, as at the moment no suitable map is available. The DD of Svy was consulted on this matter, and states that it is not the intention to carry out a svy of this area. — G3(1)

17. HORSES.

These are not obtainable in the area and Comd 26 Aust. Inf.Bn.Coy.Gp. is of the opinion that they would be of little or no value. This is due to the large proportion of thick jungle in the area which would be impassable for horses, and to his present depleted strength which would make the proper care of horses an embarassment, I have told him to stand fast on any negotiations for purchase until further notice. — AQ

18. TRG.

At the present moment a system has been adopted whereby one pl gp is sent out to traverse a given route over a period of four days. These gps carry hard rations and cross various types of country incl the thickest jungle available. The object of this form of trg is to teach the men, who are largely city bred, self-reliance in the bush and jungle-craft generally. — CRA

In addition, the remainder of the coy carry out no mal trg incl fd firing four afternoons a week, the remainder of the time being occupied with essential duties such as improvement of camp areas, tracks, cartage of stores from PORTLAND ROADS, etc.

19. INTERCOMMUNICATION.

Intercomm with Bde H.Q. at CAIRNS is unsatisfactory. Coy Comd reports that operators on the No.11 set are unable to carry out the maintenance and consequently comms are disrupted for considerable periods while RAAF pers are called in to repair the set. At IRON RA itself an AWA set is at present held by RAAF. This was formerly operated by the Protector of Aborigines, but was handed over to the RAAF pending installation of their normal eqpt. This set is not now used. Similar sets exist at LOCKHART RIVER MISSION and at HORN I. It is suggested that this set be taken over by Maj.RALSTON and manned by pers "K" Sec Sigs, and used for intercomm with the LOCKHART RIVER MISSION OPs and Bde H.Q. at CAIRNS. — CO Sigs.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Item	Subject	Action or Information

I discussed this matter with RAAF and they are perfectly agreeable to hand over the set provided we can obtain permission from the Protector of Aborigines. The set is a type 1 J3822 AWA Serial No.18 and operates on a frequency of 5020 kcs, and five kcs on either side. The frequency can be varied by obtaining the necessary coils from AWA. The receiver is a type 2C3487.

20. ADM. (a) Arrival of Stores

Maj.RALSTON is NOT informed of the pending arrival of any type of stores, As a consequence, he is unable to meet the boat on which they arrive, with the result that they are often offloaded and left lying about the dock area for some time before collection. In addition, he is unable to supervise the offloading. Cases of pilfering have occurred and rough handling during offloading has resulted in cases of amn and rations being broken and the contents being scattered about the dock area. Pilfering to date has included a large quantity of engrs' stores, unknown quantities of rations, and a large quantity of TSMG amn. It is considered a matter of utmost urgency that steps to taken to notify Maj. RALSTON of the details of stores to arrive, and their estimated time of arrival. AQ CAASC ADOS

(b) Control of Docks.

This appears to be entirely lacking. The present practice is for AAF stores to receive priority. The ship is called into the dock and AAF stores unloaded. The ship is then sent out into the roads again and another called in. If Army stores happen to be on top of AAF stores they are unloaded immediately, but unless there is Army supervision they are handled extremely roughly, resulting in considerable damage being done. It is understood that Lt.Comd.SKENE RAN has been appointed Harbourmaster. This should overcome the difficulty at present experienced when ships are being called in and sent out again not completely unloaded. There still appears however an urgent need for a dock control offr who can supervise the offloading of Army stores and liaise with movt control at the fwding port.

(c) Supplies.

Tps are living on hard rations with the exception of bread. No fresh meat has been available for three weeks owing to the fact that the cattle are not available within 100 miles of the area.

At the moment all stores are handled by an ASC Sgt and three ORs. The ration strength of the area is approximately 4000 and to expect four men to effectively handle all these rations is ludicrous. The result is chaos and until such time as a proper DID is installed this state of affairs will continue.

(d) Water.

Water is drawn from a water point on CLAUDIE R. While no actual shortage exists there appears to be not sufficient available to provide bathing facilities, although the American Engr Bn in the area possesses baths and showers. Under the circumstances it would seem desirable that similar facilities be installed for our tps in the area, as, with the wet season shortly due it is unlikely that a shortage of water will be experienced. In addition, the humid conditions and prevalent dust would appear to make regular bathing an absolute necessity both from the point of view of health and morale.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Item	Subject	Action or Information

(e) Canteen Stores

To date none have been received. Maj RALSTON states that he can obtain canteen stores by sending the money to CAIRNS when the stores will be fwded. With the present conditions prevailing in the dock area he is unwilling to do this as he would most certainly lose at least a proportion of the stores purchased. It is requested that a canteen representative be stationed permanently at PORTLAND ROADS who could supply both his Coy Gp and RAAF personnel on the station.

(f) M.T.

Practically all of the vehs on the strength of 26 Aust Inf Bn Coy Gp are two-wheel drive, and it is anticipated that considerable difficulty will be experienced in transportation of res from IRON RA to WENLOCK unless a considerable improvement is effected in the track. Furthermore, any movt in the IRON RA area off the main road must be done by carr. This is most uneconomical and will probably result in the carrs becoming US at an early date.

21. RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) That a dock control offr be appointed at PORTLAND ROADS. The loss of stores both by pilfering and careless handling already experienced has been severe. Although this is due largely to the control of the port by AAF pers, the fact remains that no steps were taken by us in the initial stages to adequately safeguard our own stores; and consequently the blame lies largely on our own organisation.

(b) That a percentage of FWD vehs be sent up to replace existing two-wheel drive vehs.

(c) That a number of Jeeps be provided for movt off the main road.

(d) That the AWA set be taken over and used for comn back to Bde HQ and with LOCKHART RIVER MISSION.

(e) That a visit be made as early as possible by AQ, CAASC, and ADOS to clear up adm problems.

--OOooOO--

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

File Appendix R.

Subject: TRG POLICY - DEC 42

HQ 5 Aust.Div.
19 Nov. 42.
G1488

R.A.E., 5 Aust.Div.

1. OBJECTIVE

The trg objective to be aimed at by all units of 5 Aust.Div. is complete fitness to undertake ops in tropical theatres by the middle of Jan 43. In order to achieve this, unit Comds must utilise every available hour and intensify trg to the utmost.

2. ALLOTMENT OF TRG PERIODS

The trg period of Dec will be sub divided as follows:

(a) Two weeks jungle trg.
(b) One week night trg.
(c) One week to be devoted to recapitulation, and to concentration on weaknesses noted during (a) and (b)

3. JUNGLE TRG TEAM.

The jungle trg team as notified in this office G1364 of 9 Nov will be available on the following days:

29 Aust Inf Bde Gp.	-	2 Dec - 11 Dec.
Other Div tps		12 Dec - 14 Dec.
11 Aust. Inf Bde Gp.	-	15 Dec - 22 Dec.

Every ounce of value must be extracted from this visit and any new ideas which may be put fwd, assiduously cultivated and practised.

4. USE OF INF WEAPONS

All units of 5 Aust.Div. will be given trg in use of inf weapons as laid down in LHQ Trg Instn No.2. Arrangements for the provision of instrs will be made by heads of arms and services direct with the inf bde comd in their area.

5. ARTY TRG.

In addition to the above, arty units will continue to practise the handling of arty eqpt in mountainous and jungle country. This will include selection and establishment of OPs in trees, etc., the clearing of tp posns, and the use of signal eqpt, particularly W/T, in the jungle

6. CONCLUSION

The coming month, must be regarded as an "all out" month from the point of view of trg. Should 5 Aust.Div. be called upon to undertake active ops early in 1943, the standard of trg must be such that we will not only compare favourably with other formations both AIF and Militia in the battle zone, but that an entirely new standard of jungle fighting by Australian units will be set. With the additional time which we have had to devote to trg, equality with other units is the lowest standard which should be expected of us.

(signed) T.J.Dalz Lt.Col.
GS 5 Aust.Div.

11 Aust.Fd.Coy.
16 Aust.Fd.Coy.
55 Aust.Fd.Pk.Coy.
Copy to: 5 Aust.Div. C.T.U.
284 Aust.L.A.D.
For action please in preparation of Training Programmes.

Lieut for Capt.
Adjt. R.A.E. 5 Aust.Div.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

16

Appendix S.

HQ 5 Aust Div.

M42/441/733.

26 Oct 42.

SECRET.

SUBJECT:- LOCATION STATEMENTS - MEDICAL SERVICES.

1. The attached location statement of medical units is effective as at 0900 hours [illegible] 26 OCT 1942

F. H. Lovell Colonel,
A.D.M.S. 5 Aust Div.

Distribution:-

7 Aust Fd Amb	(6)
19 Aust Fd Amb.	(6)
6 Aust C.C.S.	(2)
1 Mob Hyg and Bact Lab.	(1)
"A" Coy 4 Aust Fd Amb	(3)
5 A.C.H.	(3)
9 Aust A.M.C. Unit	(1)
2/1 Aust Dent Unit	(6)
79 Aust Dent Unit	(8)

Copies for infm:

[illegible]	
D.M.S. FIRST Aust Army.	(6)
2/2 A.G.H.	(2)
116 A.G.H.	(2)
Sub Depot Med. Stores	(2)
A.D.M.S. No 1 L of C Sub Area	(4)
C.A.S.C. (2 copies for "C" Sec 8 MAC)	(3)
A.A. & Q.M.G. 5 Aust Div.	(65) for Divisional Promulgation
War Diary	(2)
File	(1)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

SECRET.

LOCATION STATEMENT - MEDICAL SERVICES.

SER	UNIT	COY	DET.	LOCATION	INTER COMN.	REMARKS
1.	A.D.M.S. Staff	-	-	Dick Ck. Townsville Special - 947738	Town. 1946 1. Div. Sigs.	
2.	7 Aust Fd Amb	HQ + A Coy	MDS DRS	TOOMPAN AREA (Townsville 4 miles to 1 inch - 080084 Mt. Elliott Spec. - 957863.	1. Reid River 2. Med. DRLS.	
3.	7 Aust Fd Amb	A Lt Sec	ADS	ROSENEATH AREA (Townsville Spec - 965724)	Med DRLS.	
4.	7 Aust Fd Amb	B	ADS	BLACK RIVER Magnetic West - 733896	Med DRLS.	
5.	19 Aust Fd Amb	HQ Coy A Coy B Coy	ADS	KURANDA	Kuranda 6.	X
6.	19 Aust Fd Amb	Lt Sec (A Coy)	ADS	LITTLE MULGRAVE (Innisfail) 4 miles to 1 inch - 015059)	Little Mulgrave 3.	X
7.	19 Aust Fd Amb	Lt Sec (B Coy)	-	JACKY JACKY	-	
8.	19 Aust Fd Amb	Det.	-	COOKTOWN	-	
9.	19 Aust Fd Amb	Det.	-	IRON RANGE	-	
10.	6 Aust C.C.S.	-	CCS	MUNGTON VALLEY (Townsville) 4 miles to 1 inch - 077010)	1. L of C DRLS 2. Mingela PO Ext 6.	
11.	Mob Bact Lab.	-	-	TOOMPAN as Serial 2.	As Serial 2	-
12.	79 Dent Unit	HQ	-	E.S.C.A. Bdg. Sturt Str TOWNSVILLE	Towns. 1930.	-
13.	79 Aust Dent Unit	Det HQ Sec	-	Dick Ck. Area Townsville Special - 947738.	-	Att HQ 3 Aust Di
14.	79 Aust Dent Unit	A Sec.	-	BROOKHILL Townsville Spec 956714.	1. Brookhill 5. 2. Div Switch	Att Hq Comd. A.A.S.C.
15.	79 Aust Dent Unit	B Sec	-	BLACK RIVER Magnetic West - 733906	Via 47 Inf Bn.	Att 47 Inf Bn.
16.	79 Aust Dent Unit	C Sec	-	KITCHENER Townsville Special - 067807.	Via 27 Coy AASC	27 Coy AASC.
17.	79 Aust Dent Unit	D Sec.	-	BLUE WATER Ck. Magnetic West 824967.	Via 15 Inf Bn.	Att 15 Inf Bn.
18.	2/1 Aust Dent Unit	HQ Sec.	-	FRESHWATER AREA (moving)	att 11 Aust Inf Bde	X moving in: will function soon after arrival.
19.	" " "	A	-	JACKY JACKY (moving)	" 31 Aust Inf Bn.	
20.	" " "	B	-	COOKTOWN (moving)	" 51 Bn Coy Gp.	
21.	" " "	C	-	ROCKY CREEK (moving)	" 5 A.C.H.	
22.	" " "	F	-	WATT	" 51 Aust Inf Bn.	

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SER	UNIT	COY	DET.	LOCATION	INTER COMN	REMARKS.
23.	9 A.M.C.U.	-	-	CAIRNS (Cairns 1 mile to 1 inch - 758694 as Serial 9.)	Army PO 0103 Cairns 2826	Malaria Control.
24.	[illegible] Amb [illegible]	A Coy	CDS	[illegible] JACK [illegible]	[illegible]	-
25.	5 A.C.H.	-	-	ROCKY CREEK via ATHERTON - M R ATHERTON 4 miles to 1 inch - 097056)	1. Tolga 15 2. DRLS from 19 Aust Fd. Amb.	-
	The following locations are also supplied for infm.					
26.	2/2 A.G.H.	-	-	WATSON	Hughenden 18 Train Courier	
27.	116 A.G.H.	-	-	CHARTERS TOWERS.	C.T. 36 & 43 L of C DRLS.	
28.	Sub Depot Med. Stores.	-	-	CHARTERS TOWERS.	CT 376 Ext 14. L of C DRLS.	
29.	"C" Sec. 8 M.A.C.			HAUGHTON VALLEY	as Serial 10	Now under Comd AASC 5 Aust Div. for duty 116 AGH and 2/2 A.G.H.
30.	" " "	Sub Sec		CHARTERS TOWERS WATSON		
31.	" " "			LITTLE MULGRAVE	as Serial 6	for duty 19 Aust Fd Amb.

Appendix 'T'

CHRISTMAS CARDS.
received by Unit.



from
55 Aust Fd
Park Coy
RAE



13. AUST. F.D. COY. R.A.E.
Xmas 1942
New Year 1943

from
13 Aust
Fd Coy
RAE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Appendix 'I'

CHRISTMAS CARDS.
received by Unit.

With Kind Remembrances
and All Good Wishes
for a Happy Christmas
and a Bright New Year

From
Officers
55 Aust Fd Park Coy R.A.E.
5 Aust Div.

O.C. &



from
55 Aust Fd
Park Coy
RAE

We send you our Xmas Greetings
from our Dugouts far out in the blue
and though we're away in the desert
our hearts are at home with you

From ..... May
O.C. 13 Aust Fd Coy RAE
A.I.F. (M.E.)
Abroad

Hearty Greetings
for Xmas
and New Year

from
13 Aust
Fd Coy
RAE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Appendix 'V'

SECRET
C.P. 1068.

Copy No. 14

11 AUST INF BDE COMD POST.

SITREP NO 28 to 1900L/22.

1. LAND OPERATIONS.

BUKA 19/11 Natives report increased enemy acitivity at BUKA PASSAGE and the presence of more troops over before.

BUIN-FAISI 18/11. A transport and a Cruiser entered FAISI HARBOUR from the direction of MONO (Treasury) ISLAND. Recent allied attacks in this area caused many casualties and much damage, necessitating the re-erection of barracks etc on new sites.

AROE ISLANDS Tents observed in vicinity of DOBO - no activity. (The AROE ISLANDS are off the west coast of DUTCH NEW GUINEA). 19/11

WOODLARK ISLAND 16/11. There are no indications of enemy activity.

2. ALLIED AIR OPERATIONS.

BUIN-FAISI 18/11 Soupac aircraft destroyed 2 F/Ps and 12 type "O" SSFs (Zeke) and probably destroyed another.

KAHILI 20/11 15 single engined fighters in blast pens. Possible seaplanes south of MOLIKO RIVER.

PORTUGESE TIMOR 19/11. 4 Beaufighters straffed north coast villages from MANATUTO (27 miles NE of DILLI) to LAGA (33 miles NNE of BEACO)

KAVIENG 19/11. 1 Catalina bombed KAVIENG all bombs falling in target area.

MALAITA. 18/11. A cargo ship (about 8000 tons) drifting close in shore at CAPE ASTROLABE (appearing abondoned) was bombed by two planes and sank 19/11 after an explosion.

3. ENEMY SHIPPING SIGHTINGS.

RABAUL. 20/11 1 Cruiser, 1 destroyer, 1 submarine, 1 transport
4 Cargo vessels (2000-8000 tons) 40 u/i vessels.
KAVIENG approx 12 ships 19/11.

BUKA. 20/11 2 cargo vessels. BUKA PASSAGE 20/11 4 transports
6 small Cargo ships.

BUIN-FAISI 20/11 Between KAHILI and ERVENTA IS.)
1 Battleship or Heavy Cruiser
3 Light Cruisers or large Destroyers.
3 Destroyers
1 Medium Cargo vessel (nr shore E of KAHILI apparently smouldering).
1 Medium sized Cargo vessel off OVAU IS.
2 U/i Vessels North of KOMALEAI POINT.

J. J. P. Tully Lieut.
BDE COMD POST.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

16 Aust Inf Bde

Serial No I 253

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11 AUST INF BDE COMD POST.

SITREP NO 31. TO 1800L/26 Nov '42.

1. LAND OPERATIONS.

(a) BUNA - 22/11. Allied tps secured CAPE ENDAIADERE. Many snipers were encountered. Enemy a/c bombed Allied posns. Allied tps pushing fwd. The attack on GONA was maintained throughout the day with hvy casualties to both sides. At BUNA pressure was maintained on the enemy and an enemy counter attack on our fwd right flank was repulsed and hvy casualties inflicted on the enemy.

Our tpt a/c landed at POPENDETTA during day. There were many Japs on the KUMUSI RIVER.

23/11. Natives report fresh Jap tps landed about four nights ago. Strength unknown bit it is said they have two pieces of arty and many MMGs and LMGS. The natives were told by the Japs that all sick and wounded would be evacuated by ship followed by tps and native carriers.

24/11. Our tps are now in a posn to attack enemy lines of communication along the track from SANANANDA to SOPUTA.

(b) VELLA LAVELLA.- 21/11. Japs reported to have landed SOUTH of KUNDUKINA MORA PT.(East coas t of VELLALAVELLA).

2. LAE. - 24/11. Enemy reported to be using HOPOI drome and has few hundred tps in this area.

3. PORTUGUESE TIMOR.- 19/11. The enemy is harassing allied tps in the AINARO-MOABISSE area. 400 well armed natives attacked and allied post but were compelled with casualties.

4. ENEMY SHIPPING SIGHTINGS.

(a) BUIN-FAISI - 23/11. 1 lt cruiser 2 destroyers 8 cargo vessels 2 u/i vessels.

25/11. 1 destroyer 1 lt cruiser 7 merchant vessels 4 smaller vessels.

(b) VITAIZ STRAIT-24/11. 3 destroyers (1 burning)

(c) HUON GULF.- 24/11. 1 destroyer (burning) 2 destroyers (circling) 2 possible additional destroyers.

(d) NEW BRITIAN - 25/11 4 destroyers

(e) GABO IS. - 24/11 Sub reported in posn 3906 S 15236 E (TASMAN SEA)

(f) NOUMEA. - 23/11 Sub reported this area.

5. AIR OPERATIONS.

(a) BUNA-GONA AREA.- 24/11. Allied a/c maintained intense bombing and straffing attacks against enemy posns.

(b) VITAIZ STRAITS-HUON GULF - night of 24/11. Allied a/c took off to attack force of enemy destroyers. One of the destroyers left burning with two others standing by in posn 0722 S 14752 E.

HUON GULF.- 25/11. The result of the above attack on enemy warships. 2 hits on stern of one destroyer which was left burning and gutted an hour later. Another destroyer was hit on stern and appeared partly disabled. Near misses were reported within 30 feet of 2 destroyers and one other vessels. Further attacks were made on these warships by Beauforts and B 25s and it was reported one bomb hit on stern of destroyer. A later report states that one destroyer sank at 1400/24Z.

6. ENEMY AIR ATTACKS Raid No 88 on PORT MORESBY 24/11. 1 u/i a/c causing minor damage. no casualties.

J.J.P. Tully Lieut.
Bde Comd Post.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

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SITREP No 32 to 1500L/29 Nov 42.

1. LAND OPERATIONS.

(a) BUNA 25/11. Enemy mortars and snipers are active. An examination of enemy dead in vicinity of track between GERUA and BUNA indicate that a fresh well equipped detachment of a Naval landing party have been engaged in recent fighting. An attack by our tps in GONA area is held up by concentrated hvy MGs firing from well sited posns on fixed lines. Our mortar and arty fire was observed to be on the target. Native police continue to ambush small parties on enemy raft on KUMUSI RIVER. Village natives are co-operating with native police.

26/11 300 enemy tps escaped by track vicinity KUMUSI RIVER. There is no change in situation. Allied tps continue to attack.

Allied tps attacked along a line extending from the east end of the new strip to pt on coast 400 yds SE of CAPE ENDAIADERE. One Bn held up by MG fire advanced 300 yds into the cocoanut grove, where snipers were less active. Other allied tps were pushing on the left of SOPUTA TRACK.

At 0600/26½Z a fighting patrol on the left of SOPUTA-SANANANDA track contacted enemy inflicting casualities and captured 20 natives. A few Jap wearing new uniforms were seen. There was a small amount of enemy shelling thought to be 75 MM to the right of the posn.

Enemy A/C attacked in the vicinity of CAPE ENDAIDERE destroying the bridge across the mouth of SAMBOGA CK. An attack on both flanks of the enemy's posn on SOPUTA-SANANANDA track resulted in the Japs being driven back 350 yds on the right and 160 yds on the left flank.

Enemy counter attacked twice on our left flank on 26/11. Both attacks were repulsed enemy casualties being estimated at 23 killed. An enemy patrol was ambushed east of GONA and 10 killed. Allied tps dispersd an enemy patrol near OMBA (3 miles NNW of POPONDETTA). The Japs are reported to be leaving the mouth of KUMUSI R. by rafts for GONA area.

(b) SALAMAUA 25/11 The Japs occupied LABABIA (a small island approx 9 miles S by E of SALAMAUA using it as a supply base for MUBO.

27/11 Increased activity is reported MUBO and the sea. The MARKHAM RIVER is now normal.

(c) ?ARAWE. 27/11 ARAWEA and vicinity are unoccupied and free of enemy. ARAWE was visited by cruisers and a/c carriers in April for several days. No further visits were made.

(d) GUADALCANAL 26/11. Allied patrols are mopping up isolated enemy gps.

(e) SANTA YSABEL. 26/11 Reliable native reports state 3000 Japs are at REKATA BAY . Installations incl A/A guns W/T sta fuel dump. 26 a/c arrived some days ago.

(f) PORTUGUESE TIMOR. 200 Japs and 200 natives attacked allied section at HATA BUILICO. 200 Japs failed to surround allied tps at AINAC.

(g) LAE. 100 Japs previously reported in HOPOI area believed to be inferior type.

(h) BUNA. Our air attacks on GONA 24/11 reported to be very effect ive.

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2. ENEMY SHIP SIGHTINGS.

(a) BUIN-FAISI 25/11. 2 a/c carriers or destroyers 1 tpt 2 cargo ships and one small patrol vessel.
BUIN-FAISI-TONOLEI - 25/11 1 heavy cruiser 2 lt cruisers 3 destroyers 3 cargo vessels 4 u/i vessels.
BUIN-FAISI. 27/11. 5 destroyers 6 cargo vessels.

(b) BUNA -26/11. 1 small trawler (very close to shore NW end of runway)

(c) VELLA LAVELLA. 24/11. 5 ships sighted west of BAGA IS (off west coast of VELLA LAVELLA) course North. Hvt detonations were heard in this area.
25/11. The above 5 vessels were sighted hull down zigzagging. A floatplane was patrolling westward all afternoon.

(d) KAVIENG 27/11. 3 large ships possibly tpts.

(e) SOLOMONS SEA. 27/11 3 destroyers 3 tpts
27/11 At 2145/27/11 one tpt on fire.

3. AIR OPERATIONS. (ALLIED)

(a) BUNA AREA. 26/11. Intensive bombing and straffing attacks made against enemy posn this area.

4. (a) PORT MORESBY-RAID NO 90 26/11. One u/i bomber dropped 12 bombs vicinity JACKSON FIELD. No damage or casualties.

(b) DARWIN - 26/11 Unknown number of enemy a/c bombed HUGHES AREA.

5. ENEMY SUBMARINES.

SOLOMONS SEA. 27/11. A total of 19 subs were reported by a/c approx 90 to 105 miles north of BUNA. On 28/11 7 subs reported 30 miles north of BUNA.

6. CAIRNS AREA.

FINGER CHERRY. Preliminary enquiries suggest that ill affects from the FINGER CHERRY are due to fungus and not to the cherry itself. It is necessary to eat the cherry before ill effects occur.

TAR TREE. This tree grows freely in this area and an excellent example can be seen on the western side of the main rd out of CAIRNS about 100 yds on the CAIRNS side of the EDGEHILL turnoff. In climbing this tree, the sap gets on the hands and exposed parts and gives a rash which incapacitates the patient for some days, also treading on the fruit lying on the ground casuses an exudation of a latex like substance which has a very scalding effect on exposed skin.

Signed J.J.P. Tully Lieut.
Bde Comd Post.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

16 Hut 3a. box

All Off.

Serial No I 317

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SITREP NO 33 TO 1500 L/1 Dec '42.

1. LAND OPERATIONS.

(a) BUNA. 28/11 at 2100/27/Z allied tps made slight advance east of BUNA but were held up by hvy MG fire in the vicinity CAPE ENDAIADERE. Strong recce patrol were pushed out on our flanks. An endeavour is being made to clear the enemy from the South East end of the new strip. Night straffing and recce of the entire area was carried out by enemy a/c.

SOUTH OF BUNA. There was no change in the general situation and dispositions of our tps. Our arty engaged enemy posns with accurate fire. One barge on the beach near GONA on night of 27/28 was engaged with 2in Mortar fire No results were observed. A red flare from GONA beach was answered from the vicinity of the GONA WRECK. Our patrols were active in the vicinity of the new strip.

Our arty concentrated on BUNA MISSION on 28/11 At 0715/28/Z one enemy bomber supported by fighters were over DOBODURA and PORLOCK HARBOUR. A patrol in the vicinity of GONA- SANANANDA track brought in 150 Rabaul Natives on morning of 28/11.

SOUTH OF BUNA. Intense patrolling and sniping activities are being carried out. One patrol contacted a small party of Jap (some without arms or equipment) in a kunai patch one mile SOUTH of GONA, killing 30. Arty with air observation, sank four barges at SANANANDA and hit several store houses. KUMUSI RIVER is reported to be clear of the enemy. Native patrols killed 95 enemy between 10/11 and 28/11.

2. SHIP SIGHTINGS.

(a) NEW BRITAIN 29/11. Attack on 4 enemy destroyers. One destroyer stated to be on fire and believed to be beaching. However sightings of four destroyers now heading eastwards, continued after the attack.

(b) MOROBE 27/11. Enemy warship anchored at MOROBE (80 m NW BUNA)

(c) NEW GOERGIA 26/11. Jap destroyer shelled four villages on SE coast of GANONGGA IS. The destroyer and four other vessels were bombed. No results observed.

(d) VELLA LAVELLA 28/11. 3 destroyers 2 tpts sighted about 30 miles from MUNDI MUNDI. Three gun flashes observed from the rear destroyer vessels sctd. One tpt appeared to be damaged.

(e) SYDNEY 28/11. Indications of enemy sub in west channel.

(f) BUNA 29/11. One enemy sub attacked and probably damaged 14 miles NE of BUNA.

3. ALLIED AIR OPERATIONS.

(a) PORTUGUESE TIMOR 28/11. Beaufighters straffed huts LAGA (33 miles NNE of BEACO.

(b) BUNA-GONA MISSION AREA 27/28 Nov. 8 B 26's, 13 A20's, 6 B17's and 12 P40's bombed and straffed ground posns possible A/A posns It is considered that all these missions were succesful. One A20 failed to return.

29/11. 6 B17's attacked enemy destroyers with 500 lb boms. One destroyer set on fire and left motionless, listing badly. Another was hit twice and appeared to be badly damaged There was a possible hit on third destroyer. No tps or equipment was observed on the decks of the destroyer.

4. ENEMY AIR OPERATOPNS. FALL RIVER 29/11. Enemy a/c raided FALL RIVER No damage or casualities.

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Bde Comd

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16 3d bay

11 AUST INF BDE COMD POST.

SITREP NO 34 TO 1500L/ 3 DEC 42.

1. LAND OPERATIONS.

(a) BUNA - 29/11. Jap machine guns on the new strip were engaged with mortar fire, the results of which are not known. Strong patrolling is in progress by our tps. Allied fwd elements moved to a position near the beach approx 100 yds east of GONA and met with opposition 400 yds south of the coast on the night of 28/29 Nov. One Bn met with opposition when almost in GONA village. Harrassing fire on enemy positions and store dumps continued throughout the night. By 0200/29Z our tps had secured a footing on the SE corner of GONA VILLAGE. Strong opposition was encountered from the north and west. A plane over BUNA met with little A/A fire. By 0700/29Z the enemy's MG posn between the two strips had been destroyed by mortar fire. The enemy attaked in attempt to re-occupy the posn but the attack was dispersed with casualities. Our air operations at GONA are reported to be very effective. One Bn is established astride the track and is opposed by the enemy who is holding strong posns to the west. Another Bn is held up 300 yds east of GONA. Bother Bns dug in for the night. Another Bn was withdrawn from SE of GONA village and is under enemy fire.

(b) SALAMAUA - 29/11. Consistent bombing has compelled the enemy to move the majority of his men and most of his material to LABALIA IS. Recent bombings have killed a great number of natives working for the Japs. Native reports state that the Japs have explored and are maintaining all tracks connecting SALAMAUA LOKANU and LABABIA.

(c) PORTUGUESE TIMOR - 26/11. Five hundred Japs were unloading trucks and probable tractors at NEW LAGA wharf (34 miles SE DILLI) Japs are reported to be constructing a new drome at FUILORO. A tpt disembarked a new commander and 2000 tps at DILLI 24/11. Our bombing of NOVA LUSA on Nov 26 is reported to have been very effective, causing the enemy to retire to LEBOS (46 miles SW of DILLI.)

2. ENEMY SHIP SIGHTINGS.

(a) BUIN-FAISI -29/11. 2 lt cruisers, 10 destroyers, 8 cargo vessels, 1 lge tanker.
2 destroyers, 2 cargo vesseal (off SHORTLANDS)
At 2004/29/11. 1 submarine, 4 cargo vessels, 2 tankers.
12 destroyers unaccountered for.

(b) VELLA LAVELLA 28/11. An enemy convoy off VELLA LAVELLA consisting of three destroyers, and two lge cargo ships. These vessels were bombed by SOUPAC a/d hit being scored on one tpt.

(c) KIRA KIRA 30/11. Warships reported off KIRA KIRA course SOUTH (KIRA KIRA is on north coast SAN CRISTOBAL IS)

3. ALLIED AIR OPERATIONS.

(a) LAE 29/11. 13 B25's attacked LAE drome. Results not observed.
(b) BUNA MISSION 30/11. 7 Beaufighters dropped 500 lb bombs on A/A posns and runways.

4. ENEMY A/C SIGHTINGS LAE - 29/11. 5 u/s Medium bombers, 1 probable D/B 38 fighters (incl 25 u/s and others probable unserviceable.)

5. OTHER INTELLIGENCE. TIMOR The enemy is working to open roads in many areas.

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Serial No I 1406

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COMD POST OF 11 AUST INF BDE

SITREP NO 35 to 1900L/7 Dec 42.

1. LAND OPERATIONS.

(a) BUNA 29/11. An enemy position 800 yds east of GONA has not been occupied by our tps. Allied tps who gained a foothold on the SE corner of GONA VILLAGE have now b en withdrawn. Allied artillery shelled and sank four barges at SANANANDA and also hit storehouses.

An enemy a/c straffed an Allied vessel in ORO BAY approx 15 miles South of BUNA. Allied tps made successful attack track eastern BUNA AREA, capturing e trucks, prossure being maintained against enemy posns West of main track and advance is continuing North towards SANANANDA. Our tps are now within 100 yds GONA VILLAGE and are pushing forward, six enemy MG posns and pocket of 30 Japs were cleared.

30/11. An unstated number of enemy tps, equipped with lefebelts attempted to swim from beach. One enemy a/c made recce flights over the GONA AREA. Three barges 600 yds off shore East of BONA VILLAGE, and landing was attempted but was driven off. Photographs taken on 30 Nov shows main enemy defensive line to be from North end Eastern strip, Westward along the road North of the main strip then along South of the coccanut plantation to a A/A posn 1000yds SSE of BUNA MISSION. There is a strong enemy MG posn at West end of main strip at pt at which rd enters the plantation.

1/12. Reports indicate that some progress has been made by Allied tps South of BUNA and the edge of the village reached. At GONA the enemy is now contained in an area 450 ydsalong the beach with foremost posts approx 200 yds inland. A high bank around the beach is defended by posts on top facing inland and supported by posts below covering the beach.

2/12/ Further enemy defensive posns are being prepared near main runway at BUNA. In the GONA AREA an enemy COMMAND POST which was destroyed and 40 Bren MGs captured.
A slight advance has been made along the North edge of the New strip BUNA AREA. An attack was made against 9 MGs nests made of steel drums filled with sand. This attack was carried out after arty and air had attacked the target. Results are not known. Out tps also attacked in another direction in BUNA AREA following arty and mortar fire. The enemy is still being harassed in the GONA AREA. Artillery sighted 26 barges; arty sunk 6 and damaged others.

3/12. There is an unconfirmed report that Allied tps entered BUNA at 2300/2/Z
An infantry Colonel looking through field glasses claims that he saw parachutes dropping but was unable to discern whether these were carrying paratroops or supplies. Various reports were received but all were unable to identify whether they were tps or supplies.

(b) PORTUGUESE TIMOR. 30/11. 500 Japs landed at LAGA (35 miles NNE of BECO. The Japs are reported to be digging at MANATUTO (27 miles NE of DILLI).

(c) BOUGAINVILLE. 2/12 For the past four days 80 men have been camped at TURI BOINU. Natives report that a A/A gun has been installed. TURI BOINU is 8 miles NW of KANGU which is between BUIN and KAHILI. (East coast of BOUGAINVILLE IS).

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2. ENEMY SHIPPING SIGHTINGS

(a) BUNA 30/11 — Destroyers and 2 tpts. Course NW. There were indications that these ships were accompanied by subs.

(b) SOLOMONS 30/11 1/12 — Sighting of 4 destroyers approx 18 miles SSE CAPE ORFORD These ships were last seen approx 30 mls North of BUNA Of the force mentioned above 1 destroyer off BUNA other 3 destroyers 3 miles NW of BUNA circling about. It is thought that these ships were unloading. Approx seven attacks were made on these ships. It is considered that all attacks were unsuccessful. A total of 8 enemy a/c destroyed 3 probables and 2 damaged.

(d) BULN-FAISI 2/12. — 2 hy cruisers, 3 lt cruisers, 5 destroyers, 7 cargo vessels
At 0200/3/Z there were 10 destroyers which departed to the SE.
At 0600/3/Z. 3 cruisers, 1 sloop, 7 destroyers, 2 gunboats, 2 tankers 5 cargo ships, 3 subs
3 cruisers)
8 destroyers) off CHOISEUL IS.
At 2002/3/Z. 1 battle cruiser, 1 destroyer, 1 sub a tankers, 3 cargo ships.
At 0001/4/Z. 1 sloop, 15 destroyers, 5 cargo ships 2 tankers, 2 subs, several smaller ships

3. ALLIED AIR OPERATIONS.

(a) BUNA AREA. 30/11 and 1/12 — Extensive and intense bombing and strafing attacks carried out against this area. The main targets being land posns tunway and barges. Approximately 70 a/c taking part dropping 72 x 300 lb bombs, 40 x 250 lb and 800 x 20 lbs.

(b) 1/12 — 6 B25's attacked 4 enemy destroyers approx 92 miles NORTH OF BUNA. One hit scored near the bow of the leading destroyer and there were three near misses
3/12 and 4/12 — Strafing and bombing attacks continued in the BUNA-GONA AREA.

(c) GUADALCANAL 4/12 — SOUPAC A/c attacked shipping 150 miles NW of LUNGA. 2 hy bombs on one lt cruiser and one hy bomb on another cruiser. Torpedo hits on one and possibly two u/i vessels. Ten enemy float biplanes shot down.

4. ENEMY AIR OPERATIONS

(a) DARWIN 30/11 — An unstated number of enemy bombers attacked Allied vessels at 0225/30/Z the attack still in progress at 0348/30/11. Two of our Beaufighters intercepted tracer bullets were seen to enter two of the a/c but no further results have been reported. Allied losses 1 Beaufighter destroyed and one damaged.

(b) PORT MORESBY — At 0051/3/Z Air Raid in progress
At 1025/3/Z All Clear.

(c) DALL RIV R — At 1711/4/Z Air Raid in progress
At 1739/4/Z All Clear.

J.J.P. TULLY Lieut
HQ COMD POST

SECRET
CP 1033

Copy No. 15

COMD POST of 11 AUST INF BDE

SITREP NO 36 TO 1600 L/ 11 DEC.

1. CAIRNS AREA.

The traffic bridge CAIRNS - TOWNSVILLE HIGHWAY near WORKER hotel 4 miles SOUTH of CAIRNS is on a dangerous bend is closed for repair, deviation being necessary. Expected duration of closure 7 days .

2. FLOOD WARNINGS.

Reports indicate that the WALSH and MITCHELL RIVERS SYSTEMS have risen and continue to rise rapidly as a result of severe electric storms in the MAREEBA - MT MOLLOY area 9/10 and 10/11. Meteorological forecast, only isolated storms. Wet season expected to commence about last week in December.

3. COMMUNICATIONS.

The OVERLAND TELEGRAPH to THURSDAY Is is interrupted due to weather conditions on CAPE YORK PENINSULAR.

(Sgd) J.J.P. Tully. Lieut.
Bde Comd Post.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

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COMMAND POST OF 11 AUST INF BDE

SITREP NO 36 to 1700L/8 Dec 42.

1. LAND OPERATIONS.

(a) BUNA - 3/12. At 1445/3/Z 9 large enemy a/c with 14 fighters as escort have parachuted approx 30 objects through to be supplies to the North and West of the old strip near BUNA MISSION and BUNA VILLAGE. A further 120 were seen to fall in the vicinity of SANANANDA. The enemy have been cleared from a small pocket South of the track 2 miles East of GONA and our fwd elements are still advancing but our movements are slow owing to the lack of trucks and deep swamps.
From the north of AMBOGA RIVER a small party of Japs were sighted being evacuated. A patrol has been sent out to investigate. Our patrols contacted the enemy and encountered mortar and MG fire, some casualties were inflicted on the Japs.
Allied tps are pushing fwd against enemy tps opposing the left flank. The SOPUTA Strip is now ready for test landings. The natives in the MARKHAM AREA have gone bush as a result of Jap bombings of native villages.

4/12 The enemy is now contained on a front by a line running generally from T point 300 yds south of BUNA VILLAGE, from BUNA CK, EAST ENTRANCE CK, thon to a point 100 yds from the base of the junct of the SOPUTA TRACK. 7 to 8 enemy barges have been reported between BUNA VILLAGE and BUNA MISSION.

5/12 An attack on BUNA VILLAGE was partially successful, and elements of our forces are in the village. The attack is continuing. Hvy automatic fire is being encountered from the NORTH point of BUNA VILLAGE. A small enemy force is still on the east bank of BUNA CK, 200 yds from the coast. A patrol at the mouth of the AMBOGA R (3½ mls N of GONA) attacked a party of enemy tps inflicting casualties. The Japs were reported to be wearing new clothes and boots. An allied patrol crossed an inlet 1000 yds west of CAPE KILLERTON and were fired upon. A strong patrol is investigating. The enemy has barricaded in depth along the coast in vicinity of CAPE EDDAIADENE and MGs and snipers are making progress difficult. One Battalion of Allied tps advanced in the vicinity of the track connecting the two strips, but the enemy counter-attacked and forced our tps to withdraw southwards on the track. Our forces are now being held up by concentration of MG and mortar fire from the woods North of this posn and from the west edge of the new strip. The attack is continuing despite hvy casualties.

Natives report that one Jap mountain gun and a hospital are located in the sandpit area 700 yds southwest of CAPE KILLERTON.

Our attack on GONA has up to the present been unable to make any progress. An enemy patrol fired on our tps in this area to the South of the strips, a patrol was sent out to investigate but so far no reports have been received. The enemy are reported to be using arms and automatic weapons captured from a Bren carrier. Native carriers escaping from BUNA state enemy reinforcements landed by submarine.

Allied arty continues harassing fire between BUNA MISSION and GIROPA PT.

6/12 Allied elements attacked enemy posn SW of GONA VILLAGE.

7/12 There has been no change in the disposition of Allied tps in the area of the BUNA strips.

(b) SALAMAUA. A party of 40 Japs approached under cover of mist to within 800 yds of GUADAGSAL but were dispersed with MG fire. 5/12

5/12 Japanese patrols 40 strong have been to WAIPALI and GUADAGSAL (Near MUBO) recruiting all available native carriers.

J.J.P. TULLY Lieut.
Bde COMD POST.

16 Bn Coy

Serial No 1468

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11 AUST INF BDE COMD POST

SITREP NO 37 TO 1500L/15 DEC.

1. LAND OPERATIONS.

(a) BUNA 12/12 In the BUNA strips area pressure in all enemy's localities continues. In the Government station area recce patrols are pushing into the area south of GIROPA PT. A slight advance was made by our forces on the west of the SOPUTA - SANANANDA track on p.m. 12/12. Since the capture of GONA was completed our tps have buried 638 enemy dead. Our forces are continuing the offensive against the Japs between GONA and the mouth of the AMBOGA RIVER.

11/12 Activity in the BUNA AREA has been limited to consolidation of posn gained in the recent fighting and to counter sniping. The enemy is reported to be wearing US helmets and jackets.

(b) BUIN-FAISI 12/12 It is reported that enemy tps appear to be digging in at TURIBEPU, and it is believed that the enemy are short of food and are raiding the native gardens and pig herds.

2. ENEMY SHIP SIGHTINGS.

(a) BUIN-FAISI 12/12 A report of shipping in the area on 13/12 of 14 destroyers 1 sloop, 4 cargo ships and 2 tankers.

(b) MADANG-FINCAHVEN CAPE WARD HUNT An enemy force of 5 destroyers or 2 light cruisers and 3 destroyers sighted off the North coast of NEW GUINEA and some distance north of MADANG. Our a/c shadowed during the day and night and the ships passed MADANG entered VITIAZ STRAIT and then passed FINCAHVEN on their way south. At 1620/13/Z they were 10 miles N of CAPE WARD HUNT headed SW. It would appear that the enemy force is bound for BUNA. Attention is drawn to the fact that the course of the enemy force is in contrast to that followed on previous occasions, when enemy ships have come along the south coast of NEW BRITAIN passed GASMATA.

(c) TONOLEI (Infm gained from photographic interpretation)
18 ships visible incl -
7 destroyers, 2 submarines, 1 minelayer, 1 tanker
2 small ships, 1 u/i ship, 4 merchant ships.

3. ALLIED AIR OPERATIONS.

(a) CAPE WARD HUNT. 13/12. 8 Beauforts took off to attack enemy destroyers. No results obsserved.

(b) NEW GEORGIA. 11/12 14 bombers 8 P38's and 4 type FAF GRUMMAN WILCAT) attacked 11 enemy destroyers off NORTH BAY scoring hits on six.

4. LOCAL INFORMATION

CHANGE OF LOCATION 11 AUST INF BDE COMD POST will close at its present location at 1400 hrs on Wednesday 16 Dec 42 and re-open at 11 AUST INF BDE HQ - FRESHWATER at 1400 hrs. All matters will then be conducted at new location

Direct phone lines to
NAVAL STAFF OFFICE, US BASE SUB SEC, VAOC, RAAF FIGHTER SECTOR, CIVIL LIAISON OFFICER, QUARTERING and CLAIMS OFFICER, 94 C.A. (AA) Regt and 11 AUST INF BDE will operate, there being no line to 397 AUST GUN STA. All other calls for COMD POST should be made through 9205 temporarily.

BDE COMD POST.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

SECRET.
CF 2004

(8 Copies)
Copy No 14..

11 AUST INF. BDE DOMD POST

SITREP NO 38 TO 1200L/20 DEC 42.

1. LAND OPERATIONS

(a) BUNA 15/12. Our tps were attacking JAP posns SOUTH of BUNA Govnt Sta. It is reported that these are the only remaining enemy posns WEST of ENTRANCE CK .

Our tps in the AMBOGA Area have been reinforced. An attack has beanalaunched against enemy tps blocking the track approx 2 miles SOUTH of CAPE KILLERTON.

Infm from a reliable source indicates thatbthere are approx 150 Japs at the mouth of the MAMBRE RIVER.

16/12. The cocoanut grove WEST of ENTRANCE CK has been cpmpletely occupied by our tps and MGs have placed to fire across stream. An Allied patrol report that enemy have a strongly occupied posn NW of AMBOGA RIVER. An enemy counter attack from the direction of BUNA MISSION 16/12 was replused.

(b) SALAMAUA 15/12. On 15/12 pro-Jap natives were dispersed by an Allied patrol. These natives had bean sent out by Japs to bring back carriers to MUBO.

2. ENEMY SHIP SIGHTINGS.

(a) BUIN -FAISI 17/12. 17 vessels at TONOLEI and 2 at SHORTLAND ISS

(b) CAPE GLOUCESTER 17/12. 2 warships left in the direction of KAVIENG.

3. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

Moresby was raided 1339Z/17.

4. ALLIED AIR ACTIVITY

(a) BUNA MISSION was bombed on 16/12. Smoke came from MISSION after attack.

Allied a/c straffed a barge and the shore of a lagoon 7 miles SOUTH of KUMUSI RIVER. 15 barges are estimated to be in the SANANANDA PT area.

Reports of attacks on the MAMBAREA RIVER Aarea on 14/12 show that many barges were hit and the majority of drums probably sunk.

(b) BUNA MISSION 18/12. Very little air activity has been reported during the last 24 hrs. BUNA MISSION was bombed, direct hits being scored on 2 buildings.

Southern Island of MANGROVE GP was straffed(just off coast between BUNA and GONA.)

J.B. Reilly.
Lieut
Bde Comd Post

Distribution	Copy No
NOIC	1
94 C.A. (AA) Regt.	2
Sub Sec 1 Base Sec 2	3
Fighter Sector	4
VAOC	5
Quartering and Claims	6
11 Aust Inf. Bde	7
File	8

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

Appendix "V"

A.M.R. & O 1588B. Copy No. 10

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

ROUTINE ORDERS - PART I.

BY

Major H.A. LEONARD. O.C.16.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.

DATE: 1 Dec 42. 322/42.

---

1. DUTIES. Mounting Retreat 1 Dec. 42.

Orderly Officer	-	Lieut. Daniels, R.J.
Next for Duty	-	" Pagg, A.F.
Orderly N.C.O.	-	L/Sgt. McPhail, N.G.
Next for Duty	-	A/Sgt. Jack, R.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. O.C. No. 1 Sec.
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5. 11.Aust.Inf.Bde.
6. Q. & M.G. Rec. Off.
7. H.Q. 5 Aust.Div.
8. File.
9. Notice Board.
10/11. War Diary.

.....Major.
O.C.16.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

AM.R.&.O. 1588 B

Copy No /o

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS PART 1

BY

Maj.H.A.LEONARD — O.C.16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E.

Date. 3 Dec 42. — 324/42.

1 DUTIES. MOUNTTNG RETREAT 3 Dec 42.

Orderly Officer Lieut Daniels .R.J.
Next for Duty Lieut Bell .D.B.

Orderly N.C.O. A/Sgt Story .C.G.
Next for Duty A/Cpl Dunstan .A.R.

2. LOSS OF ARMS (Extract from 5 Aust Div Routine Orders Part1) (N632. 28 Nov 4

The continued increase in the number of reports reaching H.Q.5 Aust Div regarding loss of arms is received with great concern.
All ranks must take utmost care to safe gard arms on issue ti them.

3. PACKING OF PARCELSEx(Extract from 5 Aust Div R/Os No 31 21 Nov 42. 360)

A considerable number of parcels addsd to Fd Forces reach Fd Post Offices damaged to such an extent as to render their contents useless.
Personnel are instructed to advise their corrospondents of the vital necessuty for secure and reliable packing of parcels which will do much towards ensuring receipt in good condition by addressees,

4. F.G.COURT MARTIAL. 17/10/42.

Q76458 Spr Pennel.C.O. Absent without leave 0600 hrs 26 Dec 41 to 2300 hrs 5 Aug 42. A.A.15 (1)
Finding:Guilty
Award: To undergo detention for a period of 180 days

DISTRIBUTION

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2. O.C. No. 2 Sec
3. Transport Sgt
4. H.Q..R.A.E.
5. 11 Aust Inf Bde
6. Q & NGO. R/O.
7. H.Q.5 Aust Div
8. File
9. Notice Board
10/11. War Diary

D.D.Bell Lt for
Maj.
O.C.16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E.

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A.M.R & O 1588 B

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS PART 1

BY

Maj.H.A.LEONARD — O.C.16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E.

Date: 5 Dec 42 — 325/42

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1. DUTIES — MOUNTING RETREAT 5 Dec 42.

Orderly Officer	Lieut. Fagg.A.F.
Next for Duty	Lieut. Daniels.R.J.
Orderly N.C.O.	A/Sgt. Jack.R.
Next for Duty	A/Sgt. Loxton.L.C.

2. CLOTHING ISSUE FOR Q'STORE

In futher, clothing issues or replacements from the Q'Store will only be made on Wednesdays at 1815 hrs.
Issues or replacements will not be made at any other time except under exceptional circumstances.

3. ANTI- MALARIAL MEASURES.

All personnel MUST be dressed in long trousers and will wear their shirt sleeves buttoned at the wrist before the evening meal parade.

4. AREA ADJACENT TO OCEAN TERMINAL OIL DEPOTS, CAIRNS.

It is advised that the area adjacent to Ocean Terminal Oil Depots Cairns (i.e. from entrance in Wharf St to Vacum Oil Coy along Wharf St to Grafton St - up Grafton St to Hartley St along Hartley St to Sheridan St to Wharf St) is closed to all traffic during the following-hours.

MONDAYS TO SATURDAY - 1800 hrs to 0800 hrs
SATURDAYS TO MONDAYS and HOLIDAYS - 1200 hrs to 0800 hrs

Permits to enter Area for those who have legitimate business during these hours will be issued by O.C. "C" Coy 15 Aust Grn Bn Telephone No 3154 Ext 3 or by O.i/c Oil Depot Guard Post. Telephone No 3154 Ext 4.

Maj.
O.C.16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E.

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1 O.C. No 1 Sec
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5 11 Aust Inf Bde
6 Q & N.C. Rec Off
7 H.Q.5 Aust Div
8 File
9 Notice Board
10/11 War Diary

..M.R.&.O. 1588 B Copy No

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS PART 1

BY

Maj.H.A.LEONARD — O.C.16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E.

Date: 9 Dec 42. 237/42.

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1. DUTIES: MOUNTING RETREAT 9 Dec 42.

Orderly Officer	Lieut Ball.D.B.
Next for Duty	Lieut Pagg.A.F.
Orderly N.C.O.	A/Sgt Jack.R.
Next for Duty	A/Sgt Story.C.G.

DISTRIBUTION

1. O.C. No 1 Sec
2. O.C. No 2 Sec
3. Transport Sgt
4. H.Q..R.A.E.
5. 11 Aust Inf Bde
6. Q.&.N.C. Rec Off.
7. H.Q.5 Aust Div.
8. File
9. Notice Board
10/11. War Diary

O'Leonard Maj.
O.C.16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS PART 1

BY

Maj.H.A.LEONARD O.C.16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E.

Date: 12 Dec 42. 240/42.

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1. DUTIES: MOUNTING RETREAT 12 Dec 42.

Orderly Officer	Lieut. Bell.D.B.
Next for Duty	Lieut. Fagg.A.F.
Orderly N.C.O.	A/Sgt. Loxton.L.C.
Next for Duty	A/Sgt. Story .C.G.

DISTRIBUTION

1. O.C. No 1 Sec
2. O.C. No 2 Sec
3. Transport Sgt
4. H.Q.R.A.E.
5. 11 Aust Inf Bde
6. Q & N.G.Rec Off
7. H.Q.5 Aust Div
8. File
9. Notice Board
10/11. War Diary

Maj.
O.C.16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E.

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A.M.R. & O. 1588B

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS

Part I

by

Major N. A. LEONARD. O.C. 16 AUST. FD. COY., R.A.E.

Date: 18 Dec. 42 No. 338/42

1. DUTIES Mounting Retreat 18 Dec 42

Orderly Officers: Lieut. BELL, D. B.
Next for Duty: " DANIELS, R. J.

Orderly N.C.O. A/Sgt. STONY, C. G.
Next for Duty " HUGHES, W. M.

2. PARADES

(i) The 0830 Parade will be attended by all men in camp except:

Cooks
Guard
C.Q.M.S.

(ii) The 0730 Parade will be attended by all men in camp except:

O.R. Sgt.
Sgt. Cook
C.Q.M.S.
Mess Orderlies (2)
Guard
Tpt. N.C.O.

3. CORRIGENDA: R/O's. Part I

R/O's. Part I dated 7 Dec 42 and numbered 238/42
should read 326/42
and consecutive numbers altered to corresponding
consecutive nmbers to 342/42 which should read
338/42

Capt.
for
Major
O.C. 16 Aust. Fd. Coy., R.A.E.

DISTRIBUTION:

1. O.C. No. 2 Sec
2. Officers Mess
3. Tpt. Sgt.
4. HQ. R.A.E.
5. 11 Aust. Inf. Bde.
6. Q. & M.G. R.O.
7. HQ. 5 Aust. Div.
8. File.
9. Notice Board
10.) War
11.) Diary ✓

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

A.M.R. & O. 1568B Co py No 10

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS

PART I

by

Major H. A. LEONARD, O.C. 16 AUST. FD. COY., RAE

Date 20 Dec 42 No. 334/42

1. DUTIES MOUNTING RETREAT 20 Dec 42

Orderly Officer	Lieut.	BELL, D. B.
Next for Duty	"	DANIELS, R. J.
Orderly N.C.O.	L/Sgt.	HANNAH, G.
Next for Duty	A/Sgt.	HUGHES, W. M.

2. RETURN RAIL ACCOMMODATION FOR LEAVE PERSONNEL
(Ex tract from 11 AUST. INF. BDE. H/O. Part I No 73/4 Para.5)
Personnel are instructed that should accomodation not be available on the required date for the return journey, a signed statement must be obtained from the R.T.O. or Station Master at destination to that effe ct and for each successive day.

Capt. for
Major
O.C. 16 Aust. Fd. Coy., R.A.E.

DISTRIBUTION:

1. O.C. No. 2 Sec.
2. HQ. R. A. E.
3. 11 Aust. Inf. Bde.
4. Q. &. N.C. R. O.
5. HQ. 5 AUST. DIV.
6. Offs. Mess
7. Tpt. Sgt.
8. File
9. Notice Board
10/11. War Diary

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

ROUTINE ORDERS - PART I.

BY

Major H.A. LEONARD. O.C. 16. Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E.

Date: 24 Dec. 42. 335/42.

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1. DUTIES. Mounting Retreat 24 Dec. 42.

Orderly Officer	-	Lieut. Daniels, R.J.
Next for Duty	-	" Bell, D.B.
Orderly N.C.O.	-	A/Sgt. Hughes, W.M.
Next for Duty	-	A/Sgt. McMahil, N.G.

2. SALE OF LIQUOR TO SOLDIERS.

All troops are a gain reminded that the sale of bottled beers, spirits and all alcholic liquors to troops is prohibited.

3. SHAVING.

Troops are instructed that they will shave once daily before 0730 hrs Parade.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. O.C. No. 2 Sec.
2. H.Q. R.A.E.
3. 11. Aust. Inf. Bde.
4. Q. & N.C. R.O.
5. H.Q. 5 Aust. Div.
6. Officers Mess.
7. Transport Sgt.
8. File.
9. Notice Board.
0/11. War Diary.

.....Lieut.
for Major.
O.C. 16. Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E.

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

ROUTINEORDERS - PART I.

BY

Major H.A. IRONMAD. O.C.16.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.

Date: 25 Dec. 42. 336/42.

1. DUTIES. Mounting Retreat 26 Dec. 42.

Orderly Officer	-	Lieut. Fagg,	A.F.
Next for Duty	-	" Daniels,	R.J.
Orderly N.C.O.	-	A/Sgt. Hughes,	W.M.
Next for Duty	-	L/Sgt. McPhail,	H.

2. MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS - "KNOCK FOR KNOCK" AGREEMENTS. (Extract from First Aust Army Orders A379 Paras 4).

In every case in which an Army vehicle is involved in a collision with a non-Army vehicle, action will be taken by the driver or any authority inquiring into the accident as follows:-

(a) Ascertain if the non-army vehicle is insured and with what Company;
(b) If the non-army vehicle is owned by any State Dept, Local Government Authorities or Public Utility, obtain particulars of the Dept etc concerned.
(c) In investigating any claim for damage to a non-army vehicle, its owner will be required to certify that the damage is not covered by a "Knock-for-Knock" Agreement with the Commonwealth, and this assurance will be obtained before any recommendation is made to the Deputy Commonwealth Crown Solicitor as to settlement.

3. TRAFFIC CONTROL - DAZZLING HEADLIGHTS ETC: (Extract from First Aust Army Orders C384 Paras 3-4 2).

~~1. The provisions of MSO Q154~~

2. If a driver is dazzled by the lights of an approaching vehicle, his duty is to slowdown to such a speed that he can stop within his lessened limits of vision. If the dazzle is such that he cannot see at all, he should stop at once. If he fails either to slow down or stop as the case may be, he is guilty of negligence. Similar provisions apply where the driver's limit of vision is curtailed by dust, fog, rain or any other agent.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. O.C. No. 2 Sec.
2. H.Q. R.A.E.
3. 11.Aust.Inf.Bde.
4. Q. & N.G. R.O.
5. H.Q. 5 Aust. Div.
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.....Capt.
for Major.
O.C.16ZAust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

ROUTINE ORDERS - PART I.

BY

Major H.A. LEONARD. O.C.16.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.

Date: 28 Dec. 42. 337/42.

1. DUTIES. Mounting Retreat 28 Dec. 42.

Orderly Officer	-	Lieut. Fagg, A.F.
Next for Duty	-	" Daniels, R.J.
Orderly N.C.O.	-	A/Sgt. Hughes, W.M.
Next for Duty	-	L/Sgt. McPhail, N.G.

2. IDENTITY DISCS. (Extract from C.R.O. A649/42 Para 1 (a) and last sentence of Para. 4).

All ranks will be supplied with two identity discs which will be worn as shown below:-

(a) The No. 1 disc (green) will be ~~supplied~~ suspended round the neck beneath the uniform by 32 inches of cord, and the No. 2 disc (red) will hang below the No. 1 by the two being joined by 6 inches of cord.

Neglect to wear discs will be treated as a breach of discipline.

3. FALSE STATEMENTS TO OBTAIN LEAVE, ETC. (Extract from National Security (General) Reg. 75A Sub Reg. 1).

A person shall not knowingly produce any document containing any false statement or from which any material omission has been made, or knowingly make any false statement, whether oral or in writing, or any omission, for the purpose of obtaining for any person:-

(a) exemption from service in or leave of absence from any part of the Defence Force;

(b) a transfer from one unit, service, department, corps or arm of the Defence Force to another or from any place at which he is serving as a member of the Defence Force to any other place;

(c) the transfer from any place of detention to any other place, or the release, whether temporarily or permanently, of any person detained under any regulation made in pursuance of the Act, or any benefit or special treatment for any person so detained.

4. FALSE STATEMENTS TO SECURE EXEMPTION, LEAVE, ETC. (Extract from G.R.O. A652/42).

A.M.R. 205A provides that every person subject to military law, who, with intent to deceive, makes any false statement or representation, whether verbal or in writing, in connexion with any application that -

(a) any member of the Military Forces shall be granted exemption from service or leave of absence; or

(b) any member of the Defence Force shall be transferred from one arm, service, department, corps or unit of the Defence Force to another or from one place to another;

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to penalties as prescribed by A.M.R. 215.

5. GREEN ENVELOPES - POSTAL CHARGES. (Extract from G.R.O. A653/42 Para 1 (a) & (b).).

(a) When the Green Envelope contains one letter only - the green envelope will be addressed to the person for whom the letter is intended and bear the appropriate postage stamp. If it is intended that the letter be sent by air mail, the appropriate

(OVER).

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

5. (contd.)

additional postage stamp will be affixed and the green envelope marked "By Air Mail."

(b) When the Green Envelope contains two or three letters the following conditions must be observed:-

(i) Each letter enclosed in the green envelope must be placed in an addressed envelope which must bear the necessary postage stamps and be left unsealed. The green envelope will be addressed to the "Deputy Base Censor" and will not bear any postage stamps.

(ii) The words "By Air Mail" must be written on the green envelope if any of the letters enclosed therein are prepaid for transmission by air mail.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. H.Q. R.A.E. Second Aust. Corps
2. Q. & N.G. Rec. Office.
3. Officers Mess.
4. Transport Sgt.
5. File.
6. Notice Board.
7/8. War Diary.

.....Major.
O.C.16.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

ROUTINE ORDERS - PART I.

BY

Major H.A. IRONMAND. O.C.16.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.

Date: 29 Dec. 42. 338/42.

1. DUTIES. Mounting Retreat 29 Dec. 42.

Orderly Officer	-	Lieut. Daniels, R.J.
Next forDuty	-	" Fagg, A.F.
Orderly N.C.O.	-	L/Sgt. McPhail, N.G.
Next for Duty	-	" McPhail, N.G.

2. CLEANING OF WEB EQUIPMENT AND GAITERS. (Extract from G.R.O. 0 657/42).

1. The practice of bleaching articles of web equipment and web gaiters, either by excessive washing with soap and soda or other means, is to cease immediately.
2. Items treated in this manner are not only unduely conspicuous in action but the treatment greatly deteriorates the material and reduces the life of the article.
3. When it is necessary to clean any item by washing, luke warm soapy water and light scrubbing only should be used. However, such washing should be restricted to occasions when it is absolutely essential.

3. CAMERAS AND PHOTOGRAPHY. (Extract from G.R.O. 6645/42).

All ranks, who have cameras, may in future use them subjedt to the following:-

An officer will be appointed in each unit to be O.i/c Photography. He will maintain a register showing the number, make and description of every camera held in the unit, together with the number, rank and name of its possessor.

Officers and O.R.s will be responsible for ensuring that cameras in their possession are registered with the O.i/c Photography.

Cameras will be withdrawn, prior to departure, from personnel of units about to proceed to an active theatre of operations. Cameras will be withdrawn at once from personnel already in an active theatre of operations.

C.O.s of units may at any time order the withdrawal of cameras for security reasons.

Notwithstanding the provisions of paras. 4 & 5, a C.O. may, if he thinks fit, approve of the retention of cameras by not more than four members of the unit provided they signify their agreement that such retention will be subject to the following terms:-

(a) That cameras so retained will be used only as directed by O.i/c Photography.
(b) That the said cameras remain in the possession of the members concerned and will be at such members' risk.
(c) That the C.O. may withdraw such approval at any time.

Films of photographs taken by officers and O.R.s for non-official purposes will be forwarded to an approved photographer for processing.

Photographs (other than those taken for official purposes) which, if captured, would be of value to the enemy, are prohibited.

Contraventions of this order will be dealt with by disciplinary action and/or by:-

(a) Withdrawal, temporary or permanent, of cameras.
(b) Destruction of films and prints.

O.i/c Photography 16.Aust.Fd.Coy. will be the I.O., Lieut. A.G.Graham until his return to unit, Lieut. A.F. Fagg will act in his place.

DISTRIBUTION.

Major.
O.C.16.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.

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DISTRIBUTION.

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2. Q. & N.G. Rec. Office.
3. Officers Mess.
4. Transport Sgt.
5. File.
6. Notice Board.
7/8. War Diary.✓

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

ROUTINE ORDERS - PART I.

BY

Major H.A. LEONARD. O.C.16.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.

Date: 30 Dec. 42. 339/42.

1. DUTIES. Mounting Retreat 30 Dec. 42.

Orderly Officer	-	Lieut. Fagg, A.F.
Next for Duty	-	" Daniels, R.J.
Orderly N.C.O.	-	L/Sgt. McPhail, N.G.

2. USE OF GREEN ENVELOPES.

Men are reminded that Green Envelopes may only be used once every 10 days. Any used at more frequent intervals will be liable to censorship by unit.

3. DRESS.(Extract from Adv. Ech. LHQ Routine Instn 1).

Regulations dress will be worn by all trps except that shirts may be removed, by troops actually engaged on constructional work. Troops travelling by MT on constructional jobs will be properly dressed.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. H.Q. R.A.E. Second Aust Corps
2. Q. & N.G. Rec. Office.
3. Officers' Mess.
5. Transport Sgt.
6. Notice Board.
7/8. War Diary.

.....Major.
O.C.16.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

ROUTINE ORDERS - PART I.

BY

Major H.A. LEONARD. O.C.16.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A

Date: 31 Dec. 42. 340/42.

1. DUTIES. Mounting Retreat 31 Dec. 42.

Orderly Officer	-	Lieut. Daniels, R.J.
Next for Duty	-	" Fagg, A.F.
Orderly N.C.O.	-	L/Sgt. McPhail, N.G.

2. DRESS.

Men will not be given passes to proceed on leave unless they are correctly dressed in long trousers. Long trousers will be worn at evening meal.

3. PERSONNEL RIDING ON VEHICLES.

Personnel must not stand up whilst riding in back of vehicles, nor sit up on top of cabin. Personnel must be properly dressed whilst travelling in vehicles along public roads.

DISTRIBUTION.

1. H.Q. R.A.E. 2 Aust. Corps
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.....Major.
O.C.16.Aust.Fd.Coy.R.A.E.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

SECRET

DECR 1942

WAR DIARY

OF

From 1 Dec 43 To 31 Dec 42

VOLUME 10

502

Dec

ech
25 Jan 43

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.2662

16 AUST FD COY - WAR DIARY.

SUMMARY FOR DEC. 42.

This month is taken up mainly by the concentration of the 16 Aust Fd Coy at CAIRNS and by the construction of a Transit Camp at REDLYNCH under the direction of Brig. Lucas i/c of Adv Ech LHQ(Q'ld).

On 1 Dec Maj. Leonard conferred with LHQ Personnel re suitable sites for camps on the ATHERTON TABLELAND. On 20 Sec 42 the ATHERTON TABLELAND Development Scheme came into operation. 16 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E., 15 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E., and ~~1st~~ 19 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E. did the construction work under the direct control of CRE, 2 AUST CORPS. At the close of the month construction was going at full swing - a camp at RAVENSHOE, a transit camp (16 Aust Fd Staging Camp) at REDLYNCH and a hospital at ROCKY CREEK. The 16 Aust Fd Coy built the REDLYNCH camp and on 31 Dec 42 accomodation was ~~xxx~~ ready if any men should move in. On the day this written (7 Jan 42) the job is almost complete. Brig. Lucas went so far as to commend the men on the speed of their work.

At the end of the month the future history was somewhat uncertain. Although the Coy was in R.A.E 2 Aust Corps Adv Ech LHQ, it seemed likely it would revert soon to R.A.E. 5 Div, ~~especially in view of indications of~~ an early move by 5 Aust Div. It is believed that at least part of 5 Div. will be sent to an overseas station to replace exhausted units.

The first touch of the rainy season was experienced early in the month.

The end of the month however was fine although very hot and humid.

Capt.
2 i/c 16 Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E.

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