8/2/11/11

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AUGUST 1943

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H.Q. II INFANTRY BRIGADE
APPENDICES

Folder 11

COPY

Extracts from the Sydney Morning Herald, dated 27th April and 15th May, 1934.

27/4/34 "Secret preparations. Expedition to New Guinea. A party under the leadership of a South African Engineer-Scientist, is secretly preparing in Sydney for an expedition of exploration into the heart of British and Dutch New Guinea. Negotiations are proceeding for the purchase of a schooner now lying in Sydney Harbour, in which the party, it is understood, proposes to penetrate far up the Fly and Strickland Rivers. Elaborate preparations, it is stated, will be made before the party leaves Sydney towards the end of the Month. In addition to exploring for gold, petroleum, anthropological and other scientific work will be carried out.

15/4/34. New Guinea. A Sydney expedition to seek gold and petroleum. Elaborate preparations are being made for an expedition to leave Sydney towards the end of this month on a Gold Prospecting Exploration and scientific journey into the interior of New Guinea. An auxiliary schooner has been purchased a fitted out for the voyage. She has been named the "De Voortrekker" (Dutch for the Pioneer). The expedition, reference to which has already been made in the "Herald" will be under the leadership of Capt. Archalbert J. Kenrick, a South African Engineer-Scientist, who has already traversed much of the country which is to be penetrated. He will be accompanied by Mr. Cyril K. Bennett, an Asst Mining Engineer, as Deputy Leader, who has been on several ventures with Captain Kenrick in Australia, New Guinea and Islands. Also a mercantile officer as assistant navigator, two assistant engineers, three miners and prospectors, a general assistant and a cook will be included in the expedition. The whole of the operations will be carried out by Capt. Kenrick. When the Voortrekker leaves she will proceed directly to Furgarson Island one of the D'Entecasteaux Group on the voyage to New Guinea, here 20 native "boys" will be signed on. These will be taken on to Port Moresby for registration under the Papuan Government Labour Ordinance Acts. After a short stay at the entrance of the Tauri River, the party will proceed along the coast to the mouth of the Kakori River, where it will encounter the mostile natives in the whole of the Papuan delta districts. Thence the party will penetrate far into the interior. Leaving the Schooner in charge of the assistant engineer the party will journey along the navigable lengths of several of the main streams by outboard motor boat and aeroplane. Much of the country has not yet been explored between Sir Arthur Gordons Range, Papua and Sir William MacGregor Range in the Mandated Territory. Little of this country has been mapped by the Governments states Capt. Kenrick, except the vague outlines. The party only rely on the maps prepared by Capt. Kenrick and from his personal knowldge of the country. Unknown parts of Dutch New Guinea will also be penetrated by Capt. Kenrick and Mr. Bennett alone, while the party remain on the Papuan side.

The expedition is one of the most ambitious which has ever set out for New Guinea and is expected to be absent for about 12 months. Although its principal purpose is the search for gold, and petroleum, valuable scientific research, including anthropological observations will be carried out by Capt. Kenrick. Parts of the areas to be searched are in Dutch New Guinea which claims to be among the richest in mineral resources in the world. At least one of the rivers to be followed is claimed to be navigable by a vessel of the Voortrekker type for at least 250 miles and the remainder of the journey can be covered by an out-board motor launch. Prospecting will be carried out in the foothills between Sir Arthur Gordons Range and Mount Donaldson, which will be approached by two parties from different directions. The syndicate is named the "Voortrekker Exploration Limited."

Doc #26

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

File
AHQ
3/2.

SECRET.

SUBJECT: Comd of MERAUKE Force.

HQ TORRES STRAIT Force
27 Jan 43.
SM 9/43

Lt Col A G K HAUPT
62 Aust Inf Bn AIF

Copy to:
CO 40th CA Bde (AA)
APO 922.

In persuance of TORRES STRAIT Force Operation Instruction No 19 of 4 Jan 43, which states that the senior officer of Allied Forces at MERAUKE will command MERAUKE Force you will take over command of MERAUKE Force from Major W G EASTON CAC upon your arrival at MERAUKE.

Major
GSO II TORRES STRAIT Force.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECRET 55/43/1
Copy No 2
Jan 43

APPRECIATION OF THE SITUATION FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE COMMANDER TORRES STRAIT Force AT MERAUKE 12 Jan 43 AT 1200 hrs.

Ref att sketch

OBJECT

1. To prevent enemy occupation of MERAUKE aerodrome and docks.

CONSIDERATIONS

2. Relative Strength ern

(a) Should considerations of sea and air permit a Japanese offensive along the west approaches to TORRES STRAIT and the GULF, it is possible that an occupation of MERAUKE may be attempted in strength for the purpose of securing an advanced air base. Except in this eventuality it is most probable, and considerations generally favour, attack on a smaller scale.

(b) MERAUKE Force consists of the following units :

Bty D 104 Sep CA AA Bn (US)
C Coy 62 Aust Inf Bn
NEI Fusilier Coy
Port Detachment A (US)
26 Portable Hospital (US)
RAAF Sigs and RDF Details

Combatant units have some additional weapons which are listed as Appx A. NEI Fusilier Coy has so many automatic weapons that no rifle units exist as such.
Arrangements are being made to train all units for an infantry role.

3. Provided no determined attempt is made in strength to occupy MERAUKE our forces are considered sufficient to carry out their role, although insufficient to deal with anything more than a raid.

4. AIR and AA

(a) If Japanese fighter aircraft are to co-operate with their land forces, a base closer to MERAUKE than FAK FAK, BABO, or DOBO must be employed. Rather than hazard aircraft carriers on a limited mission, it is more probable that the enemy will seize the TANAHMERAH strip which is within fighter range of MERAUKE.

(b) It is understood that the Dutch authorities will execute the destruction of TANAHMERAH : this however will not prevent its eventual use by the enemy, and Japanese occupation of TANAHMERAH which is at present garrisoned by one platoon of NEI Infantry, may be the first phase of an attack on MERAUKE.

(b) HORN Is OB is outside normal fighter range of MERAUKE.

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(c) MERAUKE AA defence comprise 40 mm BOFORS and .50 cal MGs only.

Bombing from 10000ft and above can therefore be carried out without opposition. Existing AA defences will be effective in the doubtful event of dive bombing of such targets as the enemy may select prior to a land operation, and against desultory, if not sustained, air support of enemy troops.

5. Civil

MERAUKE and TANAHMERAH contain 880 NATIONALISTS (principally Javanese and Ambonese) who, misnamed "Communists", are political exiles from various Dutch possessions in the EAST. These exiles are reported to be passably well educated and rabidly anti-European in outlook. Some have been employed on defence works, and no doubt many more are familiar with our strength and depositions. The Dutch authorities recently rescinded an order for their removal from this area, and large scale Fifth Column activity is therefore to be expected should hostilities eventuate.

6. Topographical

The coastal region of Dutch New Guinea is almost entirely flat and large areas subject to deep swamp. The possibility of an overland approach march to MERAUKE is therefore remote.

Of MERAUKE itself it is thought that only the route E STREET and HIGHWAY1 will be passable to transport at a later stage of the rains. A firm tactical base will therefore be established in this area.

COURSES OPEN

7. To the enemy

(a) From an assembly point in PRINCESS MARIANNE CHANNEL to launch overnight an attack in assault craft, landing in MERAUKE RIVER MOUTH, and south between MERAUKE RIVER and SALIRA with the object of advancing to the MANGGATTERIK ROAD and isolating our forces.

(b) To occupy and make serviceable the aerodrome at TANAHMERAH. To move a force from TANAHMERAH down the DIGOEL RIVER to PESNANNAM (80 m.) on the BIAN RIVER, thence overland to BOEPOEL (46 m.) which is on the MERAUKE RIVER. At this point to assemble river craft and move 180 miles downstream to MERAUKE. Also to land forces en route to complete the reverse of the encirclement as in para 6 (a), with or without air support from TANAHMERAH according to the hour of the attack.

(c) A combination of (a) and (b), in which case the enemy will attempt to pin down our forces by daylight when air support from TANAHMERAH would assist them to overcome resistance.

8. It is considered that the enemy will adopt a course approximating (c).

9. To us

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(a) To meet and hold enemy attacks at all points. This will involve ruinous dispersion of forces.

(b) To develop a defence system on the axis of E STREET and HIGHWAY 1, to include the aerodrome and the dock, in which to employ all troops except outposts and a main striking force.

10. Course (b) will be adopted.

P L A N

11. Three defended localities will be established as follows:

(a) No 1 locality to include the aerodrome, the approaches to the MANGGATTERIK road, and portion of HIGHWAY I.

Troops will be allotted to this locality as follows :

Force HQ (US and AIF) with 2 LMGs LEWIS
AIF Sig Details
1 Pl D Bty 104 CA AA Bn (US) with 2 60 mm Mortars
3 light tanks
3 37 mm A/Tk guns (NEI)
1 60 mm Mortar Det (NEI)
1.30 LMG LEWIS sec (NEI)
26 Portable Hospital (US)
RAAF Sig details
NEI Police (less patrol details).

(b) No 2 locality to include the docks, and portion of E and MAIN STREETS incl of approaches from B STREET.

Troops allotted to this locality as follows:

1 Pl D Bty 104 CA AA Bn (US) with 2 60 mm Mortars
1 37 mm A/Tk gun (NEI)
1 Sec (2) .30 Brownings (NEI)
1 60 mm Mortar det (NEI)
1 .30 LMG LEWIS sec (NEI)

(c) No 3 locality to include the RDF station at B STREET NORTH for approximately 1000 yards to A STREET.

Troops allotted to this locality as follows:

RAAF RDF personnel with 2 .50 cal MGs and 1 60 mm Mortar
1 Sec (2) .30 Browning (NEI)
2 60 mm Mortars dets (NEI)
1 .30 LMG MADSON sec (NEI)
1 .50 cal MG sec (NEI)

(d) Mobile force as follows

C Coy 62 Aust Inf Bn with 3 60 mm Mortars
2 3" Mortar dets.

12. NEI Police detail will maintain a patrol at WENDOE to operate NORTH of MERAUKE RIVER.

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13. MAIN STREET, E STREET, HIGHWAY 1, AND B STREET will be kept under repair; the remainder allowed to deteriorate with the rains and destroyed.

14. CPs, maintained from Nos 1 and 3 localities respectively will be established at MERAUKE RIVER NORTH EAST of the aerodrome and on the coast off C STREET.

15. In the event of an attack from seawards, No 3 locality, if engaged, will hold the enemy at the point of landing. If compelled to troops will withdraw up B STREET. C COY 62 Aust Inf Bn will counter-attack. If the counter-attack fails to destroy the enemy, or in the event of enemy attacks developing elsewhere, C Coy 62 Aust Inf Bn and NEI troops from No 3 locality will withdraw to No 1 locality.

16. No 2 locality will be prepared to withstand a feint attack in that area. C Coy 62 Aust Inf Bn, if available, will counter-attack or reinforce No 2 locality. If no reinforcement is available, or if compelled to, troops will withdraw to No 1 locality.

17. No 1 locality, with C Coy 62 Aust Inf Bn, will be prepared to withstand a main attack from up river or the MANGGATTERIK road. No 1 locality will be held at all costs. If necessary, troops will be withdrawn from No 3 locality to No 1 locality as reinforcements.

18. Ground mounts will be supplied for all .50 cal AA MGs .50 cal MGs, will be sited where possible in pairs, on ground and AA mounts respectively, where enemy air support of ground troops is provided.

19. A dummy coast bty will be installed in No 3 locality, as a deterrent for landing craft in that area.

C O N C L U S I O N

20. Ref para XI 4.

It is suggested that circumstances warrant either the provision of heavy AA for MERAUKE, or the completion of the strip and the subsequent stationing there of a fighter Sqn.

21. Ref paras 15 and 17.

It is considered that the role assigned to MERAUKE Force could be more satisfactorily carried out by the addition of field artillery. It is suggested that a section, or three, 18 pr fd guns sited within No 1 locality would materially assist in delaying and harrassing the enemy in his course down river, or in seaward landings, or in his slow advance across the swamps, where AFVs if employed will surely be slowed down if not completely bogged, or finally as a close range weapon in the last stage, should that be reached, of the defence of the strip. This Force is able to supply 3 18 prs, without 18 pr dial sights, from its own resources. The provision of the necessary stores, ammunition and personnel (1 Offr, 1 Sgt, 2 Bdrs, and 8 ORs) by First Aust Army is recommended.

22. It is considered that all BOFORS guns should be capable of engaging tanks or landing craft. The provision of sufficient

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40 mm AP is therefore suggested, as AA amn is no use against armour.

23. It is considered that the role of MERAUKE Force is a task for a battalion group.

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Appx to SM 55/43/1

SECRET

DATE 11 Jan 43

US	ON HAND
RIFLES	
Eddystone	52
Springfield	3
Garand	178
PISTOLS:	
.45 Automatic	22
.38 Calibre	0
Thompson Sub-Machine Gun	15
MACHINE GUNS:	
.30 Calibre	0
.50 Calibre Anti-aircraft	13
.50 Calibre Air-cooled M2 Heavy Barr	0
Trench Mortar 60 mm	8
Anti-aircraft Bofors 40 mm	8
Anti-Tank 37 mm	8
ORDNANCE SPARE PARTS STOCKS:	
Not indicated on this report.	

AUSTRALIAN:	
Enfield Rifles	19
.38 Calibre Pistols	6
DUTCH:	
Thompson Sub-Machine Guns	150
Johnson Rifles	45
.45 Pistols	2
Colts .32 Automatic	5
.30 Cal. Machine Guns M2	4
.30 Cal Lewis Machine Guns	3
.30 Cal LMG Madson	2
Anti-tank 37 mm	4
Mortars M2 60 mm	3

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62 AUST INF BN AIF

Rifles .303	133
Pistols .455	9
LMG Lewis	2
LMG Bren	9
Thompson Sub-machine gun .45	11
Mortars 3"	2
Pistols Signal	2
Tanks Light	3
Vans 15 cwt	2
Lorries 30 cwt	1
Lorries 3 ton	2
Motor Cycles	2

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Number	Rank	Name	Unit	Age	Period of Service	Appointments	Courses	Civil	Date of Comns
NX333	Capt	WEIR J.H.	11 Bde	31	AIF 39	Staff Cadet Jun 39 Pl Comd 2/3 Bn Dec 39 Coy Comd 2/3 Bn Jun 41 LO Div HQ Jan 42 LO Army HQ May 42 BM/L 11 Bde May 43	Carrier School Apr 41 Pass Staff School Nov 41 Qual	Aust Staff Corps Pharm. Chemist	Lieut Dec 39 Capt Aug 41
QX36516	Capt	COMPTON J.W.	26 Bn	30	Militia prior to War.	Pl Comd Oct 40 Adjt Jul 42 Coy Comd Jan 43	Jnr Ldrs Tank School Pucka-pumyal Aug 41. D & M Seymour Nov 41 Coy Comd Southport 42.	Business Manager	Lieut Oct 40 Capt Nov 42.
QX40801	Capt	STRANGE S.O.	31/51 Bn	29	AMF prior to War.	Pl Comd Feb 39 Coy 2 i/c Mar 40 Adjt Jul 40	MMG Randwick Oct 39 Q MMG (NCTS) Feb 40 Q Snr Offrs Course Jun 42 Q	Master baker	Lieut Feb 39 Capt Jun40
QX36520	Lieut	MAXWELL C.K.	26 Bn	24	Militia prior to War.	Pl Comd Mar 41 Adjt Jan 43	Pot Offrs Liverpool 40 PASS FAA Jun Staff School Sep 42	Grazier	Lieut Mar 41
QX111273	Lieut	BISHOP R.R.	26 Bn	23	AMF prior to War.	Pl Comd Jun 42 LO2 11 Bde Feb 43	LHQ IOTS 42 72%	Manager	Lieut Jun 42
QX40896	Lieut	STEVENSON V.G.E.	11 Bde	23	AMF Feb 39	DADOS(L) 5 Aust Div May 42 OO YORKFORCE Feb 43 DADOS Merauke Force Jun 43	1 Aust Army Jnr Staff School Sep 42 Q	Assist Accountant	Lieut 4/4/42

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NUMBER	RANK	NAME	UNIT	AGE	PERIOD OF SERVICE	APPOINTMENTS	COURSES	CIVIL	DATE OF COMNS
QX34011	Capt	GIRARD B.W.	31/51 Bn	34	Militia prior to War.	A/SC 11 Inf Bde Nov 39 S.C. 11 Inf Bde Oct 40 Adjt 51 Bn May 42 Adjt 31/51 Bn Apr 43.	Weapon Trg ENOGGERA Jan 40 Q SC Course, MELBOURNE Sep 41 Q JOOTS, Pt Stephens Feb 43 V.Sat	Clerk (Railways)	Lieut Nov 39 Capt Oct 40

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Number	Rank	Name	Unit	Age	Period of Service	Appointments	Courses	Civil	Date of Comms
QX33704	Lieut	BARRELL F.T.	62 Bn	25	AMF 40	Pl Comd Mar 42 A/Adjt 31 Bn Aug 42 LO3 11 Bde Dec 42 (This period has been spent as SC(L))	OTS Liverpool Jan 42 80% A/Gas Cabarlah Jun 42 95% FAA Jun Staff School Q (Recommended as ~~SC(L)~~)	School Teacher	Lieut Mar 42.
QX36426	Lieut	DOYLE R.B.	26 Bn	31	Militia prior to war.	Pl Comd Jul 41 SC(L) 11 Bde Sep 42 G3 Yorkforce 25 Jan 43 SC(L) 11 Bde Jun 43	Offrs Tact School Enoggera Sep 41 Pass Jun Staff Offr, Southport, Aug 42. Pass	Commercial Artist	Lieut Jul 41
QX35737	Lieut	DUDDINGTON H.G.	26 Bn	32	Militia prior to war.	Pl Comd Dec 40 SC(L) 11 Bde Mar 41 SC 11 Bde Jun 42 QM 26 Bn Apr 43.	'Q' Course Jun 41 Enoggera No 2 Army Course Staff Capt Dec 41 Pass No 4 JOOTS Nov 42 Pass (Very Sat)	School Teacher	Lieut Dec 4 Capt Jun 42 Lieut May 4
QX47046	Lieut	WEBB C.B.	11 Bde	22	Militia prior to War.	Pl Comd 51 Bn Aug 41 A/Adjt Apr 42 Ass/Adjt Feb 42 Pl Comd Jun 42	OTS Liverpool 40 77% Offr Tact School Enoggera 41 85% RI Gas LHQ Bonegilla 42 66% 60% Gl11 CW Bonegilla 42 78.5% 62.5%	Clerk	Lieut May 4

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RB. File in Staff & Command File.

Number	Rank	Name	Unit	Age	Period of Service	Appointments	Courses	Civil	Date of Comns
	Major	BARRETT J.C.	AASL	24	Militia prior to War.	Adjt AASL Gp Jun 40 OC 'A' Trg Depot Aug 40 RAE Adj FDC Feb 41 OC 52 AASL Coy Nov 41 Adm Comd 1 AASL Bn Nov 42 Adm Comd 2 AASL Bn Jan 43 OC76 AASL Bty Apr 43	No 7 School Military Eng 40 D No 1 Rationing and Supply School 41 Q No 70 Snr AASL Off Course SME 41 Q	Loss Assessor	Lieut Jun 40 Capt Jul 41 Maj Jul 42
QX33762	Major	CROWE A.J.	DADST MERAUKE FORCE		Militia	Sup Offr Nov 37 2 i/c Sup Col Mar 40 2 i/c Trg Depot Apr 40 Adjt 5 Aust Div ASC Mar 41 OC 26 AASC Coy Apr 42 OC 157 Gen Tpt Coy Apr 43	No 18 D & M Geelong Aug 40 Q Inf Pl Comd No 1 1940 C	Accountant	Lieut Nov 39 Capt March 41 Major Nov 42.
NX70201	Capt	PHILLIPS P.O.	SC(A) 40 MERAUKE BASE		British Army 1916-20 Militia 1940 AIF 1940	OO 226 Fd Bty AA 1920 TO 9 Middlesex Regt 1922 SC M'sx Bde 1923 Coy Offr Royal Fus. 1923	RMA Cert.A 1920 SAS 1923 Q Sch of Arty 1922 Q C & SS Duntroom 1940 Q OTC 1916-20	Radio Executive	Lieut 1920 Capt May 41.
NX4224	Capt	HERWIG L.C.	11 Aust Inf Bde	38	AIF Oct 39 2/3 Bn	Pl Comd Jun 40 QM Apr 41 Coy Comd Nov 42 SC Jun 42	OTS 39 Q METS Mar 40 Q Adm Course SYRIA 41	Factory Manager	Lieut Jun 40 Capt Sep 41

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Number	Rank	Name	Unit	Age	Period of Service	Appts.	Courses	Civil	Date of Comns
NX70166	T/Maj	MORAY M.H.	20 Aust Inf Bn sec MERAUKE BASE	26	Snr Cadets 33-36 AMF 1938	P1 Comd May 38 IO Nov 38 GS03(I) & Aust Div Jan 40 SO Snr Cadets Apr 40 P1 Comd Jan 41 GS01i Newcastle Cover Force May 41 GS03 Ops 7 MD Sep 41 G302 7 MD (A/GS01 Oct 41 - Dec 41) Mar 42 GS02 A/S Control 7 MD Mar 42 GS02 7 MD L of C Area Apr 42 DAQMG 17 L of C Sub-Area Dec 42 DAA & QMG MERAUKE FORCE Apr 43.	2 Div Int Course Nov 38 Q 55 Aust Jun Wing Aug 42 Q Grade ii any branch.	School Master	Lieut May 38 Capt Jun 40 Maj Dec 41.
40812	Capt	AYRES N.G.	222 Sup Dep Pl	32	Militia prior to War.	Snr Inst ASC Trg Depot 41 BASCO May 41 Bde Sup Offr May 42 2 i/c 26 Coy ASC May 42 OC 222 Sup Dep Pl Apr 43.	Jnr Ldrs Enoggera Sep 41 94% No 4 Sup Course Geelong 42 Q Snr Inst ASC Trg Depot BRISBANE Q	Public Servant	Lieut Oct 40 Cpt 5 Nov 42

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Number	Rank	Name	Unit	Age	Period of Service	Appointments	Courses	Civil	Date of Comns
VX102605	Capt	HARDGRAVE P.A.	62 Bn	32	Militia prior to War.	Pl Comd Mar 39 Adm Comd B Coy 59 Bn 39-41 Coy Comd Aug 41 - May 42 IO May 42-Aug 42 114 LAA Aug 42-Jan 43 2 i/c B Coy 62 Bn Jan-Jun 43 Adjt 62 Bn Jun 43	Pl Comd, Seymour May 39 Q Coy Comd Seymour Oct 39 Q Fd Wks (Inf) Nov 39 Pass Coy Comd, Seymour Mar 40 Q SCTS Nov 40 Q OTS Mt Matha Jan 41 Q Sen Offr Svy Nov 41 - "I" Chermside Jan 42 Q A/A Sydney Sep 42 Q AI Randwick Oct 42 Q	Accountant	Lieut 28/3/39 Capt 2/8/41
VX104349	Capt	TURNER E.W.	62 Bn	31	Militia prior to War.	Pl Comd 14 Bn Mar 39 2 i/c Coy 52 Bn A/Adjt 52 Bn Coy Comd 62 Bn Jan 43		Clerk (Vic.Rly)	Lieut 1/11/39 Capt 41
QX36511	Capt	SEARLES S.G.	26 Bn	27	Militia prior to War.	Pl Comd Aug 39 Adjt Jun 40 Coy Comd Jul 42	Jnr Leaders Aug 39 Pass Jnr Leaders Tact Oct 39 Pass Air Co-op Camberra Aug 39 Pass JOOTS Dec 42 Very Sat	Clerk	Lieut Aug 39 Capt Feb 41

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Number	Rank	Name	Unit	Age	Period of Service	Appts	Courses	Civil	Date of Comns
QX17023	Capt	MacKENZIE A.A.	62 Bn	35	AMF 1938	Pl Comd 61 Bn Feb 39 Bd Comd Vic Barracks Aug 39 2 i/c Coy 61 Bn Oct 39 Pl Comd 15 Bn Papua Jun 40 Pl Comd 49 Bn Dec 40 Adjt Papuan Inf Bn Jun 41 Adjt 14 Grn Bn Dec 41 OC HQ Coy 14 Grn Bn Dec 41 LO US Force Sep 42 SC Torres Force Mar 42 OC HQ 62 Bn Jan 43 2 i/c D Coy 62 Bn May 43.	Fd Works Nov 39 Redbank Q Coy Comd Nov 39 Redbank Q Comd Ops Moresby 41 Q Fd Wks & Camflg Southport Sep 42.	Accountant	Lieut Feb 39 Capt May 41
VX102612	Capt	STEWART A.D.	62 Bn	32	Militia prior to War.	Pl Comd 59 Bn Nov 38 Adm Comd 59 Bn Coy Aug 40 Coy Comd 59 Bn Nov 41 Adjt 62 Bn Feb 43.	Pl Comd Seymour 1940 Good Coy Comd Seymour 1940 Good Coy Comd Refresher 1940 70% Guerilla Course Seymour 42 -- FAA Fd Wks & Cam Southport 42 VG LAA Sydney 42 42% 70% Aircraft Ident. 42 90%	Motor Engineer	Lieut 13 Nov 38 Capt 8 May 41

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

File Merauke

SECRET.

Subject: REPORT ON VISIT TO MERAUKE
BY CAPT R.D. HULL

2117/43

From the Headquarters
11 Aust Inf Bde
AMF
3 Apr 43

HQ YORKFORCE.

1. Enclosed herewith map MERAUKE AREA (4" to 1 mile) and Report.

2. Please acknowledge.

(R.D. HULL) ~~Capt~~
Adm Comd ~~BM~~ 11 Aust Inf Bde Gp

MOST SECRET

REPORT ON VISIT TO MERAUKE

--- by ---

Capt. R.D. HULL

TROOPS IN AREA : H.Q. MERAUKE FORCE - 62 Aust Inf Bn, 59 Bty 2/9 Aust Fd Regt., D Bty 104 Separate Coast Arty Bn A/A. U.S. FORCES - Augusta Det of Port Det A U.S. Forces, 26 Portable Hospital U.S. Forces, 1 Coy N.E.I. Army, R.A.A.F. Personnel.

TOPOGRAPHY : The country is flat and featureless and very largely consists of mud and mangrove swamps. Local Intelligence reports that this type of country extends for some 200 miles inland and along the coast both N.W. and S.E. My observations from the plane confirms this. As far as one could see there was only flat swampy country to be seen. A number of coral gravel ridges approx. 9 feet above high water level extend to the S.E. from the town area. The few roads follow the general line of these ridges.

ROADS : Except in the immediate vicinity of the town area roads are non-existent during the wet season (November to April). The whole country-side except for these ridges being a vast swamp. During the Dry however, (May to October), movement is possible by M.T. along tracks S.E. some 40 miles and a similar distance inland. The MERAUKE River is navigable for about 200 miles to light draft launches.
The roads marked on the map are either corduroyed with cocoanut palms or are built up with coral gravel. The tracks marked were not trafficable at the time of my visit.

BIVOUAC AREAS : The area marked in squares 3052 and 3051 would accommodate a Bn temporarily. Other areas marked have sufficient space for a Coy - squares 3050, 3149 and 2652. A further area in square 3249 would accommodate approx. 3 Coys. Approx. 1500 yds E of MOPPA square 3247 are two ridges capable of bivouacing 1 Coy each. All these sites are all weather. Bde H.Q. has an area ready for its occupation vicinity of MOSTI square 3050.

LANDING FACILITIES: Very poor. Maximum unloading capacity being 10 tons per hour using wharfage (only usable at high tide), and two dutch luggers made available. The wharf was damaged in a recent raid. C.R.E. F.A.A. has the matter in hand, and 16 Aust Fd Coy are being sent to MERAUKE immediately. Owing to shallow water and extensive Mud Flats, landing on beach is impracticable.

SIG COMMS : By Wireless with THURSDAY ISLAND and PORT MORESBY. Sig lines can be buried during the dry. In the "wet" it is advisable to have them above ground. It is suggested that a considerable number of 108 sets be made available.

AVAILABLE SHELTER : Site of Force H.Q. has ample huts built. Coy H.Qs of 62 Aust Inf Bn all have 'Q' Store and Orderly Rooms in huts which are built by MALAYS. These people though poor workers in any other sphere, are very good at erecting huts from local material. Wire mesh is very important and sufficient quantity should be taken to at least mosquito proof all offices. Work otherwise would be very difficult as mosquitoes of every shape and size bite indiscriminately 24 hrs a day.

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HYGIENE : Generally quite good except by U.S.A. Forces where it is poor.
MALARIA is rife - 62 Aust Inf Bn has in two months 43 proved cases. Dengue is also fairly prevalent. Cuts and scratches must be treated immediately otherwise Tropical Ulcers might result.

WATER : At present plentiful owing to "wet" season. During the coming months of dry however, it will constitute a problem. Wells are the only answer and they are largely brackish and liable to dry up. Lt-Col HAUPT C.O. 62 Aust Inf Bn is investigating.

ADVANCE PARTIES: Roads will be reasonably good in the dry. The only abnormal work necessary will be in obtaining water. 16 Aust Fd Coy should be available to assist in digging wells. Landing facilities also must be improved. This is I understand in hand.

TACTICAL : Visibility except in a number of open swampy fields is very limited owing to long grass and thick undergrowth. As all roads follow the high ground, Camps will of necessity have to be along or near roads. They are easily observed from the air and should the Jap, who makes frequent air recces observe any activity hostile air action must be anticipated. The town and Air strip have been heavily bombed on a number of occasions. A Coy of the N.E.I. Army is in the Area and it is suggested they come under cond of MERAUKE FORCE in order that full co-operation be obtained.

MEDICAL : A U.S.A. Mobile Camp Hospital is situated at Xroads (square 3248) and is being enlarged. A Fd Amb is, I understand, to accompany 11 Bde.

AMENITIES : Owing to enervating climate and lack of any amenities whatsoever it is suggested that a Mobile Cinema accompany troops.

GENERAL : Owing to the likelihood of hostile enemy air action troops be fully conversant with P.A.D. and importance of camouflage be fully stressed.

Experience of the 62 Aust Inf Bn is that for inter-communication and cartage of stores, Jeeps and FWD Trucks respectively are very necessary.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOST SECRET

REPORT ON VISIT TO MERAUKE

--- by ---

Capt. R.D. HULL

TROOPS IN AREA : H.Q. MERAUKE FORCE - 62 Aust Inf Bn, 59 Bty 2/9 Aust Fd Regt., D Bty 104 Separate Coast Arty Bn A/A. U.S. FORCES - Augusta Det of Port Det A U.S. Forces, 26 Portable Hospital U.S. Forces, 1 Coy N.E.I. Army, R.A.A.F. Personnel.

TOPOGRAPHY : The country is flat and featureless and very largely consists of mud and mangrove swamps. Local Intelligence reports that this type of country extends for some 200 miles inland and along the coast both N.W. and S.E. My observations from the plane confirms this. As far as one could see there was only flat swampy country to be seen. A number of coral gravel ridges approx. 9 feet above high water level extend to the S.E. from the town area. The few roads follow the general line of these ridges.

ROADS : Except in the immediate vicinity of the town area roads are non-existent during the wet season (November to April). The whole country-side except for these ridges being a vast swamp. During the Dry however, (May to October), movement is possible by M.T. along tracks S.E. some 40 miles and a similar distance inland. The MERAUKE River is navigable for about 200 miles to light draft launches.
The roads marked on the map are either corduroyed with cocoanut palms or are built up with coral gravel. The tracks marked were not trafficable at the time of my visit.

BIVOUAC AREAS : The area marked in squares 3052 and 3051 would accommodate a Bn temporarily. Other areas marked have sufficient space for a Coy - squares 3050, 3149 and 2652. A further area in square 3249 would accommodate approx. 3 Coys. Approx. 1500 yds E of MOPPA square 3247 are two ridges capable of bivouacing 1 Coy each. All these sites are all weather. Bde H.Q. has an area ready for its occupation vicinity of MONTI square 3050.

LANDING FACILITIES: Very poor. Maximum unloading capacity being 10 tons per hour using wharfage (only usable at high tide), and two dutch luggers made available. The wharf was damaged in a recent raid. C.R.E. F.A.A. has the matter in hand, and 16 Aust Fd Coy are being sent to MERAUKE immediately. Owing to shallow water and extensive Mud Flats, landing on beach is impracticable.

SIG COMMNS : By Wireless with THURSDAY ISLAND and PORT MORESBY. Sig lines can be buried during the dry. In the "wet" it is advisable to have them above ground. It is suggested that a considerable number of 108 sets be made available.

AVAILABLE SHELTER: Site of Force H.Q. has ample huts built. Coy H.Qs of 62 Aust Inf Bn all have 'Q' Store and Orderly Rooms in huts which are built by MALAYS. These people though poor workers in any other sphere, are very good at erecting huts from local material. Wire mesh is very important and sufficient quantity should be taken to at least mosquito proof all offices. Work otherwise would be very difficult as mosquitoes of every shape and size bite indiscriminately 24 hrs a day.

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HYGIENE : Generally quite good except by U.S.A. Forces where it is poor.
MALARIA is rife - 62 Aust Inf Bn has in two months 43 proved cases. Dengue is also fairly prevalent. Cuts and scratches must be treated immediately otherwise Tropical Ulcers might result.

WATER : At present plentiful owing to "wet" season. During the coming months of dry however, it will constitute a problem. Wells are the only answer and they are largely brackish and liable to dry up. Lt-Col HAUPT C.O. 62 Aust Inf Bn is investigating.

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SECRET

"I" Sec.
II Aust Inf Bde.
3 Apr. '43.

GENERAL INFORMATION - MERAUKE

(Infm gained from Summaries)
(& aerial photos held by)
(RAAF CAIRNS)

I. **AERODROME**

A preliminary survey of the construction of a landing field at MERAUKE was made and an excellent site found at which a field with a 3/4000 ft. runway could be XXXXXX constructed.
Work had just been commenced on the aerodrome but it was decided to abandon the project just after the fall of JAVA.

2. **NATURE OF SURROUNDING COUNTRY**

(i) NOT agricultural
(ii) From Aeriall Photos the surrounding country appears very FLAT for many miles
(iii) Timber. Typical QUEENSLAND bush timber with patches of Rain forest - much of this timber is NOT suitable for building purposes (too soft)
(iv) Some areas of Grass Lands - Grass 2' high.
(v) Mangroves & Marsh border the streams.
(vi) Thousands of Wallabies exist.

3. **MERAUKE RIVERm**

Seaplane landings are always possible during the day time on the river or in the Mouth of the river. Sometimes rough seas are experienced. Previously there were four mooring buoys. There is ap pier and a small jetty which provides anchorage for a supply ship. There is a current up to 5 Knots.

4. **GENERAL APPEARANCE**

From aerial photos it can be seen that MERAUKE village is situated close to the MERAUKE RIVER mouth - is neatly laid out on Flat country. Most of the buildings have been damaged by enemy air attacks. Clusters of Cocoanut or palm trees dot the village area. A report stated that the radio poles at MERUAKE have been taken down. Amongst other buildings are the GOVERNMENT REST HOUSE and the Native constabulary barracks.
The surrounding country is covered with fairly thick scrub, with some small treeless areas.

LIEUT.
BDE. I.O.

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M E R A U K E

MERAUKE (Lat 8°32' Long 140°23') is situated on the South coast of DUTCH NEW GUINEA, on the Eastern bank of the MERAUKE River, four miles from the mouth. The MERAUKE River is navigable for a distance of sixty miles from the mouth for vessels drawing 10½ feet, and 200 feet in length; vessels drawing up to 18 feet can cross the bar at high tide.

The river at MERAUKE is suitable for a seaplane alighting area, being 670 yards wide at this point.

There is NO serviceable aerodrome, although the DUTCH commenced the construction of an aerodrome, prior to the fall of JAVA.

The partly constructed aerodrome is situated three miles South East of the town; here areas have been cleared for two runways; one 2,700 yds by 130 yds and the other 2,000 yds by 130 yds. There are facilities for quartering approximately 800 men at the airfield.

MERAUKE township is comparatively small and unimportant, except for its strategical significance; the pre-war population consisted of 2,200 (DUTCH and native). What has been referred to in the Press as dock areas, consist only of a small riverside ferry wharf and a small pontoon wharf connected by a narrow causeway across the mud flats to the mainland.

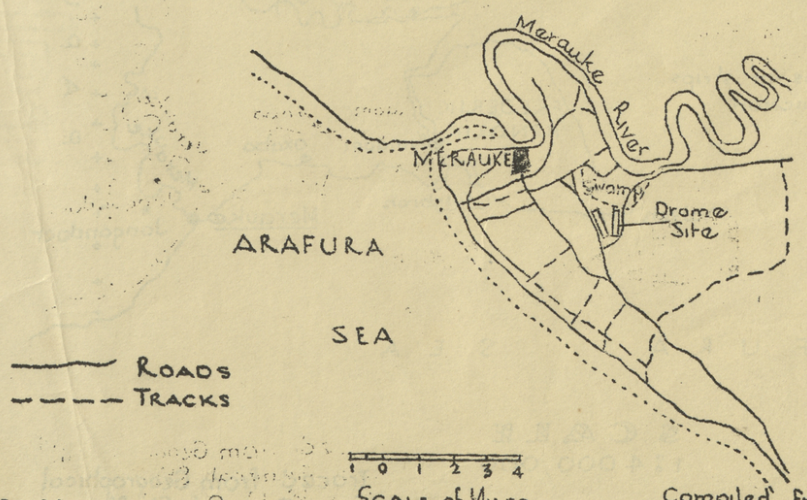
The approaches from the sea on the East and West of MERAUKE are hazardous owing to the mud banks. Inland from the beach there is a ridge of low sand dunes, which falls away on the East side of MERAUKE to coconut and sago plantations. Slightly further inland, some areas are cleared for rice cultivation. Running NW from the beach are large areas of swamp and marsh land interspersed with low ridges. In heavy rains the drainage is bad, making the area virtually impossible for wheeled traffic.

North of MERAUKE, between the MERAUKE and KOEMBE Rivers, the undergrowth is NOT dense and there are a few plantations. The area West of MERAUKE is covered with dense undergrowth with areas cleared for agriculture.

The banks of the rivers are fringed with mangroves and dense undergrowth.

There are a number of roads and tracks in the area, with three access roads to the aerodrome; the only other road suitable for M/T, travels East from MERAUKE to JANGANDOER; but beyond this, the country is entirely unsuitable for the construction of motor roads. JANGANDOER is situated 23 mls EAST of MERAUKE.

MERAUKE DROME & ROADS



GSI(t) 2 Aust Corps

Compiled from infm contained in Allied Geographical Sec Terrain Study No 44

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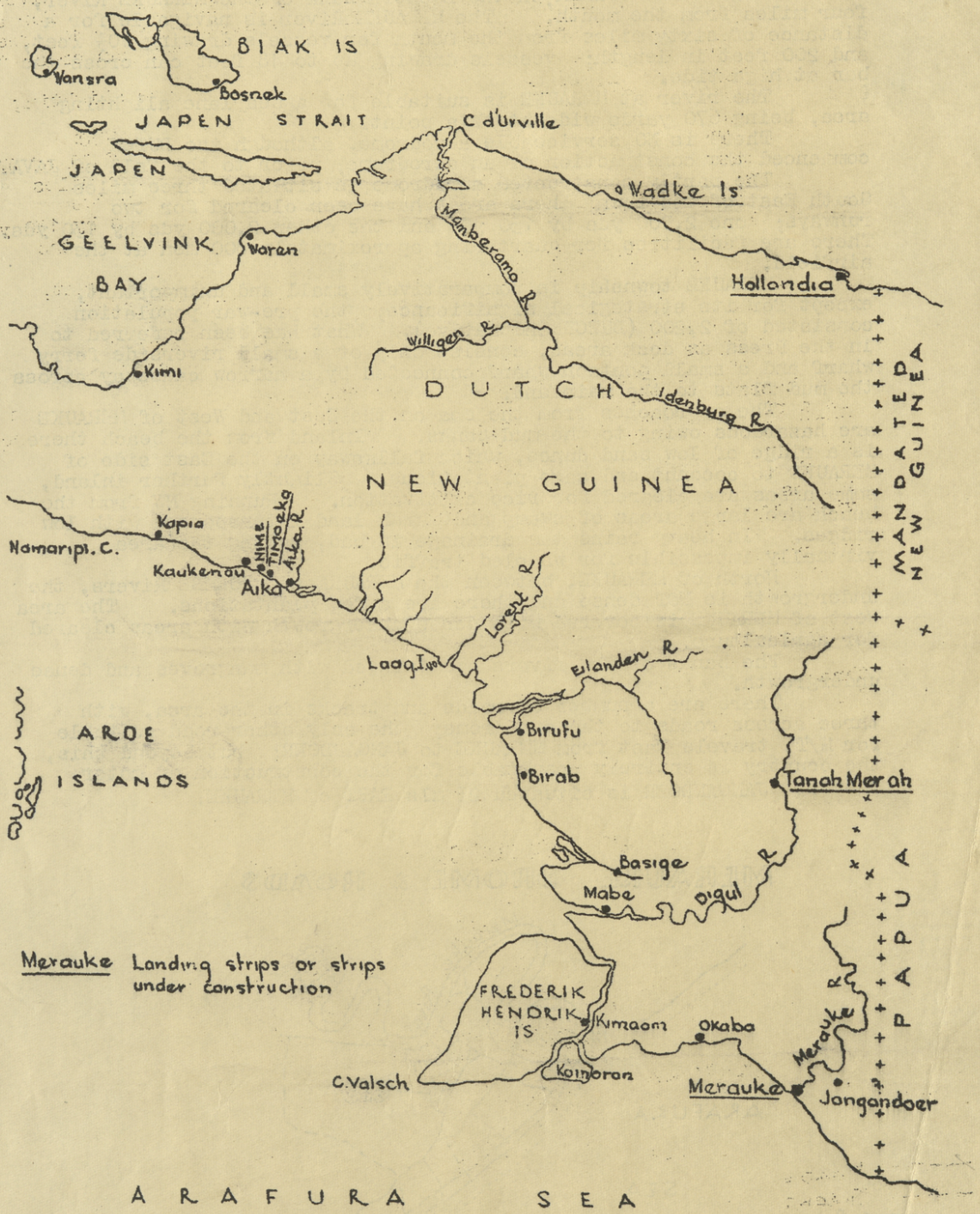
DUTCH NEW GUINEA



Merauke Landing strips or strips under construction

SCALE
1:4000,000

Traced from Geographical Sec, General Staff.
Map No 3860
(GSI(L) 2 AUST CORPS)

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SECRET

COPY

(From H.Q. L of C. QLD. Intelligence Report)

MERAUKE

Near the Southern end of the frontier between British and Dutch New Guinea , is about 4 Miles up the MERAUKE RIVER. AT the mouth of the river there is a bar, and ships drawing more than I2 feet must await suitable tides before entering. It is a fairly busy settlement, with about a dozen Chinese traders, and a R.C. Mission. The Administration is in the hands of a Controleur, and a small force of native soldiers and police are stationed there under European officers.

MERAUKE is regarded as an unhealthy town, and in the settlement, surrounded by swamps, fever is rife. The natives, like most Dutch NEW GUINEA tribes, are exceedingly treacherous, and practice cannabalism. At one time MERAUKE was the centre of the Bird of Paradise trade, and many bird shooters, incl Australians, made it their headquarters. The Bird of Paradise trade was most lucrative, and brought prosperity to MERAUKE. Since the demand for birds has fallen off, and the birds themselves are protected by the Government, copra has become the principal export. The River abounds in crocodiles, and many skins are sent to JAVA for tanning.

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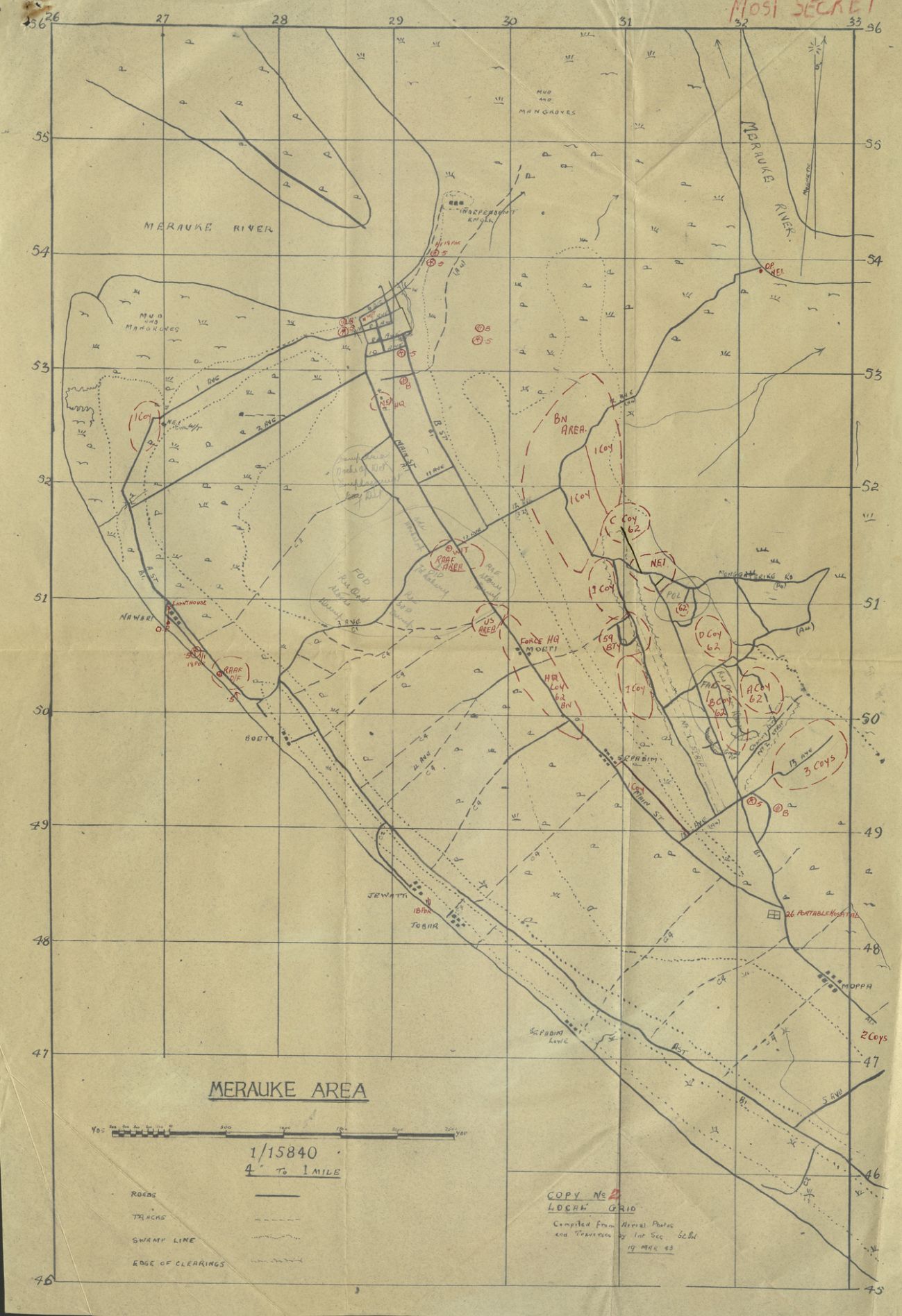
MOST SECRET



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Army Form C.2128
(Adapted, Large)
(Pads of 100)
Reprinted October, 1942—a.w. 10m pads.

MESSAGE FORM

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

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO 11 Aust Inf Bde (L. of C. Cairns Sass)

FROM YORKFORCE (VIA LOCKTOWN) | Originator's Number D752 | Date 89 | In Reply to Number

(Write horizontally)

For	Capt	Hull.	O	your	5
visit	Aust	bound	purpose	recce	10
for	location	Bde	H.Q.	and	15
two	Bns	. O	initial	move	20
Bde	H.Q.	and	one	Bn.	25
very	full	particulars	O	landing	30
facilities	road	and	signal	comm.	35
dry	camp	sites	O	available	40
shelter	water	supply.	Hygiene	construction	45
facilities	any	abnormal	work	advance	50
parties	required	. O	report	on	55
existing	and	probable	future	fac.	60
dispositions	O	any	other	relevant	65
unit	O	take	tracing	paper	70
O	report	at	CAIRNS	aerodrome	75
to	P.O.	on	arrival	approx	80
1530	hrs	this	day	O	85
From	McLucas.				90
					95
					100
					105
					110
					115
					120
					125
					130

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS: (*(EXCEPT)) WIRELESS

SIGNATURE.....

* ORIGINATOR MAY DELETE "EXCEPT" AND INSERT "INCLUDING."

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

SIGNATURE.....

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOST SECRET

Copy No 1

19 Apr 43

(2)

FIRST AUST ARMY OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 30

MERAUKE FORCE

Cancelled

To :- Commander 11 Aust Inf Bde

INFORMATION

1. Enemy land and air forces are concentrating in the area north-west of AUSTRALIA principally in TIMOR and about KENDARI, AMBON and KAIMANA. It is within the enemy's power to launch an attack on the TORRES STRAIT area including the southern part of DUTCH NEW GUINEA.

2. Allied Naval Forces are providing naval support against enemy sea-borne movement in the eastern ARAFURA SEA. Naval measures include the eventual establishment of an advanced PT boat base at MERAUKE and the establishment of a mine sweeper and PT boat base at THURSDAY ISLAND. It is understood that Allied Naval Forces will assume responsibility for patrolling the PRINCESS MARIANNE STRAIT.

3. Allied Air Forces are providing fighter and bomber facilities in the CAPE YORK PENINSULA, at MERAUKE and at MILIMGIMBI, and are also carrying out reconnaissances designed to provide a minimum of 36 hours' warning of enemy sea-borne movements towards TORRES STRAIT.

4. First Aust Army has been made responsible for the land defence of the TORRES STRAIT area, and of such other localities in DUTCH NEW GUINEA as are required for the defence of this area, against land, sea and air attacks.

5. This operation instruction covers part of the action required in the plan of defence known as the MOULTRIE Plan.

6. First Aust Army Operation Instruction No 24 of 31 Dec 42, dealing with MERAUKE Force, and addressed to Commander Torres Strait Force, is CANCELLED.

COMMAND

7. The senior officer of Allied land forces present at MERAUKE will command MERAUKE Force.

8. The Netherlands East Indies, Australian and United States military forces of the South-west Pacific Area now serving in or hereafter assigned to the MERAUKE area are placed under the operational control of the officer commanding MERAUKE Force. In exercising this authority Commander MERAUKE Force, while co-ordinating and perfecting planning of all forces in the preparation for defence, will not, except when attack is imminent or in progress, disturb the execution of the general plans of the local commanders of the other Allied Services (including the United States Army Services of Supply).

9. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 7 and 8 above, all anti-aircraft units in MERAUKE Force will revert to the operational control of Allied Air Forces as soon as operational aircraft are based on the MERAUKE airfield. Operational control of anti-aircraft units will then pass to

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Commander MERAUKE Force when attack is imminent or in progress, at the same time as that of other Air Force units and installations: such operational control will be exercised through the local Air Force commander.

10. Anti-aircraft units will be administered by MERAUKE Force at all times.

11. You will assume command of MERAUKE Force as soon as your headquarters is established at MERAUKE.

12. MERAUKE Force will remain under command Torres Strait Force until you assume command when it will come directly under command First Aust Army. The intended composition of MERAUKE Force on the completion of the two stages of the MOULTRIE Plan has been indicated to you separately.

13. The following extract from GHQ SWPA memorandum of 11 Jul 42 is quoted for your guidance :-

> "When attack is imminent or in progress, the authority of the commander exercising unified command is unlimited, subject to higher authority, with respect to the forces permanently constituting the command. Such authority should be exercised through the senior commanders of the other forces represented. The commander exercising unified command has no authority over striking forces proceeding through the areas by orders of higher authority. He will, however, utilise all available means at his disposal to insure the success of the mission of such striking forces."

14. Lt-Col van den BERGE, Royal NEI Army, has been appointed civil magistrate with the title of Assistant Resident of the TOEAL Division of the MOLUCCA Residency but he does not exercise any military command. His advice and assistance should be sought in implementing military plans which directly affect the civil administration of the area, e.g. general security, provision of local labour and materials and trading restrictions.

TASKS

15. You will be responsible for the land defence of the MERAUKE area, with a view to preserving for our use the airfield and the port facilities.

Delete Sub amend No 3

16. You will deny TANAHMERAH airfield to the enemy.

Deleted & subs. amend 2

17. You will be responsible for coast watching between inclusive the mouth of the MORESHEAD RIVER and inclusive the southern end of PRINCESS MARIANNE STRAIT.

Deleted & subs amend 2

18. You will operate inland water patrols as far north as inclusive the EILANDEN RIVER, and such sea patrols as may hereafter be authorised. Action is being taken by this headquarters to obtain small craft for these patrols. Detailed instructions as to the resources being provided and the general method of their employment for this role will be issued in due course.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

DELEGATION OF POWERS

19. The powers of a formation commander in relation to summary discipline, appointments and reversions of WOs, NCOs etc. are being sought for Commander MERAUKE Force.

MEDICAL

20. CO 19 Aust Fd Amb is appointed Senior Medical Officer MERAUKE Force. By authority of the Director-General of Medical Services LHQ he will command, under you, all medical staff and units in the MERAUKE area including those of the Allied Air Forces.

21. Your attention is particularly directed to the necessity for maintaining a high standard of hygiene in view of the unhealthy climate and terrain of MERAUKE.

22. You will arrange evacuation of all Allied casualties by hospital or other ship, through Movement Control CAIRNS, or by air, as arranged with RAAF. Evacuation by air will be used wherever possible.

23. Provision has been made for reserve medical stores for 90 days for 5,000 men to be put into MERAUKE.

PROVOST

24. The provost personnel provided for MERAUKE Force are not considered sufficient for finding escorts outside your area. Escorts will be provided by First Aust Army on request.

25. You are authorised to establish and operate a field punishment centre. Any officer detailed by you to command such a centre will act in the capacity of an assistant to the APM First Aust Army.

BURIALS

26. You will arrange through the Assistant Resident for a military section to be set apart in the MERAUKE cemetery, and forward plans to this headquarters.

MAINTENANCE

27. You will be responsible for the handling, storage and issue of all stores for all services, from the arrival of these stores in the MERAUKE area.

RESERVES OF MATERIAL

28. Dump areas will be large enough to hold reserves of 60 days' supplies, ammunition, ordnance stores, and petrol, oil and lubricants for the entire force.

WATER

29. Arrangements are in hand to provide seven 38 ft ALCAs for bringing water from above the tidal limit in the MERAUKE RIVER to the garrison. You will provide temporary storage to hold this water.

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ACCOMMODATION

30. You will make use of local supplies of salvaged and native building materials, by arrangement with the local civil authorities, for accommodating stores.

DOCKS OPERATION

31. Three 44 ft, one 38 ft and two 32 ft landing craft are being provided for unloading ships pending improvement of the wharf facilities.

WORKS

32. Construction of the airfield, improvement of port facilities and other engineer constructional work is to be co-ordinated by an engineer officer appointed by GHQ.

ACKNOWLEDGE

Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

Time of signature 2225 hrs

DISTRIBUTION	Copy No	Method of Issue
11 Aust Inf Bde	1	Air mail - safe hand
Torres Strait Force	2	"
2 Aust Corps	3	"
Yorkforce	4	"
BRA	5	Hand
CSO	6	"
NG Force	7	Air mail - safe hand
NT Force	8	"
NE Area RAAF	9	"
Adv LHQ	10,11,12	DRLS
LHQ	13	Air mail - safe hand
GOC-in-C	14	Hand
MGGS	15	"
G(o)	16	"
G(I)	17	"
G(SD)	18	"
CE	19	"
DA & QMG	20	"
A	21	"
Q	22	"
S & T	23	"
Medical	24	"
Ord	25	"
AEME	26	"
File	27,28	
War diary	29,30	
Spares	31,32,33	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Cond

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

HQ Merauke Force
[illegible] May 43

MERAUKE FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO. 1.

1. WATER AND SANITATION.

As drainage of underground water is believed to be toward the sea:

(a) all wells will be sited on the edges of camp areas furthest from the sea;

(b) all deep trench latrines, grease traps and sumps will be sited on the seaward extremities of camp areas.

Where camp areas adjoin in an Easterly and Westerly direction, OCs will liase as to the siting of wells and latrines etc to ensure conformity with this instruction.

2. PRESERVATION OF TIMBER.

In order to maintain the maximum cover from air observation NO timber will be cut without permission from this HQ.

Units etc will apply for such permission through normal channels and an area where timber may be cut will be allotted.

Where palm trees are cut in accordance with this instruction, a return will be forwarded showing the number of trees felled so that compensation may be arranged with NEI authorities.

3. SPEED LIMITS.

Road surfaces are being damaged by vehicles travelling over them at excessive speeds.

As from the date of this order the following speed limits will apply within the MERAUKE AREA:

Trucks 1/4 ton GP	-	25 m.p.h.
Motor Cycles	-	25 m.p.h.
All other wheeled vehicles	-	20 m.p.h.
Tracked vehicles	-	10 m.p.h.

Except that NO vehicle will exceed 10 m.p.h. in MAIN STREET on that section of the road extending from 1/4 mile NW to 1/4 mile SE of 4th AVENUE.

(M.H.MORAN) Maj
DAA & QMG MERAUKE FORCE

Distribution:

All units MERAUKE FORCE
RAAF (6 copies)
USASOS SWPA (6)
NEI Fus Coy (2)
Assistant Resident (3) - for information
File (2)
War Diary (2)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

12/5

MOST SECRET

Copy No ...1.....

2 May 43.

3

FIRST AUST ARMY OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 30

AMENDMENT NO 1

To - Commander 11 Aust Inf Bde

The following amendment to the above operation instruction will be made:-

Delete 7. The senior officer of Allied Forces present at MERAUKE will command MERAUKE Force.

and substitute 7. The senior officer of the Allied Land Forces present at MERAUKE will command MERAUKE Force.

ACKNOWLEDGE

Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

Time of signature 1147 hrs

DISTRIBUTION	Copy No	Method of Issue
MERAUKE Force	1	(DRLS to Torres Strait (Force thence safe hand
Torres Strait Force	2	DRLS
2 Aust Corps	3	"
Yorkforce	4	"
BRA	5	Hand
CSO	6	"
NG Force	7	Air Mail
NT Force	8	"
NE Area RAAF	9	"
Adv LHQ	10,11,12	DRLS
LHQ	13	Air Mail
GOC-in-C	14	Hand
MGGS	15	"
G(o)	16	"
G(i)	17	"
G(SD)	18	"
CE	19	"
DA & QMG	20	"
A	21	"
Q	22	"
S & T	23	"
Medical	24	"
Ord	25	"
AEME	26	"
File	27,28	
War Diary	29,30	
Spares	31,32,33	

12 May.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECURITY.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
16 May 43

MERAUKE FORCE AIR DEFENCE INSTRUCTION NO. 1.

1. AIR RAID WARNING SYSTEM.

(a) Authority for Sounding Warning Signal:

The air raid warning signal will be sounded ONLY by authority of Headquarters, MERAUKE FORCE.

(b) Air Raid Warning Signals:

Air Raid Warning Signals will consist of a series of rounds fired by No 7 BOFORS gun, as follows -

(i) Attack Imminent (Air Raid Red).
four shots with an interval of three seconds between shots - an interval of fifteen seconds - four shots with an interval of three seconds between shots

(ii) All Clear

eight consecutive single shots at automatic rate of fire.

NOTE: SIRENS WILL NOT BE USED FOR AIR RAID WARNINGS.

2. ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY PERSONNEL ON SOUNDING OF AIR RAID WARNING.

(a) By day

(i) All ranks will proceed with their normal duties, except that an air sentry will be posted by each unit, detachment etc.

(ii) Normal duties will continue until the immediate area in which personnel are located is attacked or bombed, when all personnel concerned will take cover by adopting a prone position taking advantage of accidents of ground.

(iii) All Anti-Aircraft guns, heavy and medium machine guns, and light automatic weapons sited for anti-aircraft defence will engage enemy aircraft ONLY when within range.

(iv) Other weapons will NOT be fired except on the orders of an officer, and then only when concealment is no longer possible.

(b) By night

(i) All lights and fires will be extinguished. Care will be taken to ensure that all lights are turned out before leaving buildings or tents.

(ii) When the immediate area in which personnel are located is being attached or bombed action as in para 2(a)(ii) will be taken.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

NOTE: ABOVE INSTRUCTION [redacted] TO THE CIVIL POPULATION.

3. ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY VEHICLES ON SOUNDING OF AIR RAID WARNING.

(a) By day

(i) All movement of vehicles, except those carrying out operational duties, will cease when enemy aircraft are in the immediate vicinity.

(ii) Vehicles will be driven off roads into the nearest available concealment. Where NO concealment is available vehicles will drew off roads and remain stationary.

(iii) Where practicable, personnel in transit to duty will proceed on foot.

(iv) When the All Clear is sounded, vehicles will either report as ordered by the Senior Officer, W or NCO, if any, of the party, which they were transporting, or, in the absence of any other orders, will report back to unit lines

(b) By night

(i) All vehicle lights will be extinguished.

(ii) Movement of vehicles will continue.

4. SLIT TRENCHES.

(a) No further slit trenches will be dug in MERAUKE area and all existing deep slit trenches will be filled in.

(b) Shallow scratch trenches may be prepared in probable target areas by personnel working therein.

5. TARGET AREAS.

For purposes of this instruction, target areas will be:

(a) the wharf area bounded by, on the:

North - MERAUKE RIVER
East - Western edge of KING FIELD
South - incl 9th Avenue (BOMB ALLEY)
West - excl CREEK immediately West of NEI Wireless Sta.

(b) the air strip (from a date to be notified later).

(M.H.MORAY) Maj
DAA & QMG MERAUKE FORCE

DISTRIBUTION:

All units of all Services and detachments under direct comd MERAUKE FORCE
Assistant Resident, MERAUKE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

COPY.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY REGULATIONS.

DELEGATION OF POWERS UNDER AMR & O 219.

By virtue of the provisions of the Australian Military Regulations and of all other powers me thereunto enabling I, Thomas Albert Blamey K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., General, Commander-in-Chief, Australian Military Forces, do hereby delegate to every officer, not below the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, who shall, during the continuance of this delegation, hold the office or perform the duties of the office of Commander 6th Australian Infantry Brigade or Commander 11th Australian Infantry Brigade, the power to reduce any warrant officer or non-commissioned officer to any inferior rank or grade or to the ranks or in seniority of rank conferred upon me by regulation 219 of the Australian Military Regulations.

Dated this fourth day of May 1943.

(SGD). T.A. BLAMEY.

General,
Commander-in-Chief,
Australian Military Forces.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Unit..... Formation.....

Army No.	Rank	NAME	Medical Classification	Present Duties in Unit	T G and N.E.	Not T G	Civil Occupation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.851

COPY.

DLS (2) /P.A. SECRET.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MELBOURNE S.C.1.

L.H.Q.

9 May 43.

SM11511

Headquarters,
FIRST AUST ARMY.

6th INF. BDE and 11th INF BDE.

Reference your A4936 of 19th April, 1943, delegation under AMR & O 219 and authority under AMR & O 198 to the respective commanders of the above brigades have been made and copies are forwarded herewith.

Delegation of powers in relation to courts-martial have been submitted to the Governor-General and you will be advised as soon as the delegation has been gazetted.

(SGD). ???? Lt.Col.
for Major-General.
ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

COPY.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY REGULATIONS

AUTHORITY UNDER A.M.R. & O. 198 AND 199.

By virtue of the provisions of the Australian Military Regulations and of all other powers me thereunto enabling, I, Charles Edward Maurice Lloyd, C.B.E., Major General, Adjutant-General, do hereby authorise every officer, not being below the rank of Brigadier, who shall during the continuance of this authority hold the office or perform the duties of the office of Commander 6th Australian Infantry Brigade or Commander 11th Australian Infantry Brigade to appoint any person or promote any soldier to the rank of warrant officer (Class I) or warrant officer (Class II) or of a non-commissioned officer in the Australian Military Forces.

Dated this 27th day of April 1943.

(SGD) E.E.M. LLOYD

Major-General,
Adjutant-General.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Unit..... Formation..... War Establishment.....

Army No.	Rank	NAME	Medical Classification	Present Duties in Unit	T G and N.E.	Not T G	Civil Occupation	Years of Experience	Apprenticeship Complete	ACTION TAKEN				CASUALTY RETURN	
										Trade tested and competent to carry out duties of	DISPOSAL			No.	Date
											Trade grouped and retained in unit if WE permits	Trans to another unit with capacity to absorb and trade grouped	Available for transfer to meet requirements in other Formations		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

AWM2020.71.8502
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

SECRET.

MERAUKE FORCE REPORT VIDE FIRST AUST ARMY SECRET MESSAGE 02055 OF 10 MAY 43.

1. (a) Det Adv Party MERAUKE FORCE, comprising Brig. STEVENSON, Maj MORAY and Lieut KING arrived at MERAUKE by CATALINA Flying Boat at 0506Z on 28 Apr 43.

(b) The balance of Adv Party arrived also by CATALINA Flying Boat at 0705Z on 29 Apr 43

2. On 2 May 43, TORRES FORCE Secret Message G640 (TOO 1440Z/1, TOR 0520Z/2) concerning change in command was received by this HQ. A copy of the message is attached.

3. It is noted that this message advises the change of command as taking place from 2400 hrs 28 Apr 43, presumably Eastern Standard Time, whereas First Aust Army Secret Message 02055 of 10 May 43 quotes the time of hand-over as 1445K/28, at which time Brig STEVENSON had NOT arrived in MERAUKE (vide para 1, above).

4. The word "confirming" in TORRES FORCE G640 is NOT understood, as there had been NO prior communication on the subject, and this HQ was governed in the matter by First Aust Army Op Instn 30, para 11. Secret Message G640 was NOT acknowledged as TOR was just before the intended time of departure of Brig STEVENSON for CAIRNS. He saw the message, and as his aircraft was to land at HORNE IS, it was his intention, when he left MERAUKE, to ring Comd TORRES STRAIT FORCE from HORNE IS, and point out to him that he was NOT in a position to assume command as he would NOT have the personnel to establish his HQ until the arrival of the first flight.

(G.H.BROCK) Lt-Col
// May 43. Adm Comd MERAUKE Force.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Subject: MERAUKE FORCE: CHANGE OF COMMAND.

(10)

AQ MHM/LCD 1

HQ MERAUKE Force
11 May 43

First Aust Army.

1. With reference to your Secret Message 02055 of 10 May 43, attached is a statement of the circumstances concerning the premature report of change of command of MERAUKE FORCE.

(G.H. BROCK) Lt-Col
Adm Comd MERAUKE FORCE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

AMS3:JK

Nil Return
ACR

(2)

AMS 2/1/49

HQ FIRST AUST ARMY.

AMS 7771 14 May 43.

DISTRIBUTION LIST (B) (Branches and Formations only)

Subject: POSTING OF CMF OFFICERS TO HQ STAFFS.

1. It has been decided by L.H.Q. that the following policy will be observed in relation to the posting of C.M.F. officers to H.Q. Staffs:-

"C.M.F. officers may be posted to the H.Q. Staff of Formations, whether the H.Q. is deemed to be an A.I.F. unit or not, except in the following cases; -

H.Q. First Aust Army
H.Q. 1 Aust Corps
H.Q. 2 Aust Corps
H.Q. 3 Aust Corps
H.Q. New Guinea Force
H.Q. 6 Aust Div
H.Q. 7 Aust Div
H.Q. 9 Aust Div "

2. Action is now to be taken to replace by AIF officers any CMF officers at present posted to the Headquarters as detailed in para (1).

3. Please forward as early as possible a return setting out:

(a) Name of officer to be replaced.
(b) Name of officer nominated as replacement. (state definitely if no such officer is available).
(c) Earliest date on which replacement can conveniently be effected.

Nil return where applicable is required.

Reconsall Capt
for Lt.-Col.
ASSISTANT MILITARY SECRETARY.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
20 May 43

STANDING ORDERS FOR DISCHARGE OF CARGOES BY WORKING PARTIES.

1. O.C. Working Party will report to Movt Control Officer half an hour before party is due to report.

2. Working parties will be moved by the General Transport Coy.

3. Shifts will be of 8 (eight) hours duration. Units will supply a meal at the Wharf.

4. Officers will be placed in charge of working parties, and will ensure that directions of the Docks Operating Coy are carried out.

5. Officers will take immediate steps to stop any pilfering.

6. Any pilfering will be immediately reported by Docks Operating Coy to Force HQ, giving name of Unit supplying the working party

7. Working parties will NOT cease work until relieved by another party.

8. Every care will be taken in handling cargo gear as it is very difficult to replace. An instance of sabotage is given by one working party which on finding that three rollers had become detached, immediately threw the section of rollers into the mud.

9. Units will continue working and endeavour to clear the wharf area of cargo, when the Yellow Air Raid Warning is given.

10. Movt Control will notify O.C. Docks Operating Coy of the intended arrival of a ship and type of craft.

11. The Master of M.V. "WOMBAT" will be notified thirty minutes before the arrival of a ship, so that the engines will be warmed up.

12. An officer will be appointed by Base HQ to control transport at the Wharf.

13. In the event of a ship being ordered out before all cargo has been discharged, Units will be instructed to send a representative to report to O.C. Docks Operating Coy to select vital cargo.

(M. H. MORAY) Major.
DAA&QMG MERAUKE FORCE.

Distribution: All Units under comd MERAUKE FORCE
War Diary
File
Spare (40)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
20 May 43

MERAUKE FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO 5
PREVENTION OF DISEASES & PROHIBITION OF WASHING BY NATIVES.

1. The practice whereby personnel of units etc, have their clothing etc. washed by natives is to cease forthwith.

2. It is possible to contract hookworm and contagious skin diseases in this manner.

3. COs and OCs will be held responsible for seeing that this instruction is rigidly enforced.

(M. H. MORAY) Maj.
DAA & QMG MERAUKE FORCE.

Distribution: All units under comd MERAUKE FORCE
Comd
G
AQ (3)
War Diary (2)
File (2)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Subject: POSTING OF CMF OFFICERS TO HQ STAFFS

(3)

G/ACR/MAW/16

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
21 May 43

HQ First Aust Army (AIF)

1. Ref your HQ memo AMS 7771 of 14 May 43.

2. A NIL return is submitted from this HQ.

(J. R. STEVENSON) Brig.
Comd MERAUKE FORCE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

~~Base~~ SC (A)
Cond. (Ltr)

SECRET.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

Subject: DISTRIBUTION LIST NUMBER 1.

FTB/LCD/G14

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
2/ May 43

Distribution List B.

1. Att as Appdx A for all serials of List B is MERAUKE FORCE Distribution List Number 1.

2. Att as Appdx B for serials concerned are details of distribution necessary within Serials 2, 3, 4, 12, 23, 24, 25 and 26.

J Harrell Lieut

(A.C. RALSTON) Maj
BM MERAUKE FORCE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECRET.

APPDX A
Issued with
MERAUKE FORCE
FTB/LCD/G14 of
21 May 43.

DISTRIBUTION LIST NUMBER 1.

Serial Number.	Detail.	A Branches etc only.	B Branches and down to units, incl small independent units.	C Branches and down to coys, or equivalent sub-units.
1	59 Aust Fd Bty		1	1
2	CAAD	1	5	18
3	DCRE	1	5	7
4	DCSO	1	4	4
5	26 Aust Inf Bn		1	6
6	31/51 Aust Inf Bn		1	6
7	62 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)		1	6
8	1 NEI Pnr Coy		1	1
9	B Coy 2/3 Aust MG Bn		1	1
10	Pl 15 Aust Emp Coy		1	1
11	HQ Cd Pl		1	1
12	Movement Control	1	3	3
13	RAAF Comd	1	1	1
14	Force Comd	1	1	1
15	BM	1	1	1
16	Int	1	1	1
17	SC	1	1	1
18	LOs	1	1	1
19	BASCO	1	1	1
20	Misc Appointments	3	3	3
21	Base Comd	1	1	1
22	Base Staff	3	3	3
23	S & T	1	7	9
24	Med	1	6	9
25	Ord	1	4	4
26	AEME	1	3	3
27	Pro	1	1	1
28	Postal	1	1	1
29	Pay	1	1	1
30	ADCS	1	1	1
31	War Diary	2	2	2
32	File	2	2	2
		30	67	102

For infm:

33 ~~LHQ (Aust)~~
34 ~~Adv LHQ~~
35 First Aust Army
36 ~~NG Force~~
37 ~~Torres Strait Force~~
38 1 (NQ) L of C Sub-Area
39 17 (CAIRNS) L of C Sub-Area
40 Civil Administrator, MERAUKE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECRET.

APPDX B(1)
Issued with MERAUKE
Force FTB/LCD/G14 of
21 May 43.

Serial.	A	B	C
2	CAAD	CAAD	CAAD
		9 Aust Hy AA Bty	HQ 9 Aust Hy AA Bty
			382 Hy AA Gun Sta
			383 Hy AA Gun Sta
			9 Aust Hy AA Sig Sec
			9 Aust Hy AA Wkshop Sec
		110 Aust Lt AA Regt	HQ 110 Aust Lt AA Regt
			154 Aust Lt AA Bty
			Sub Sec 110 Lt AA Regt Sigs
			Sub Sec 110 Lt AA Regt Wkshop
		76 Aust AASL Coy	HQ 76 Aust AASL Coy
			Aust AASL Sec (Type Y)
			Aust AASL Sec (Type Y)
			133 Aust AASL Sec (Type X)
			76 Aust AASL Wkshop Sec
		Bty D 104 Sep CA (AA)(US)	HQ Bty D
			two pls

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECRET.

APPDX B(11)
Issued with MERAUKE Force
FTB/LCD/G14 of 21 May 43.

Serial	A	B	C
3	DCRE	DCRE 16 Aust Fd Coy 1 Bn 96 US Eng Regt 55 Naval Construction Bn First Aust Army Camflg Trg Unit	DCRE 16 Aust Fd Coy 1 Bn 96 US Eng Regt(3 copies) 55 Naval Construction Bn First Aust Army Camflg Trg Unit

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECRET.

APPDX B(111)
Issued with MERAUKE Force
FTB/LCD/G14 of 21 May 43.

Serial	A	B	C
4	DCSO	DCSO K Sec 5 Aust Div Sigs 1 Aust Comp Sig Sec Indep Cipher Sec	DCSO K Sec 5 Aust Div Sigs 1 Aust Comp Sig Sec Indep Cipher Sec

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECRET.
APPDX B(viii)
Issued with MEMAURE
FORCE FTE/LCD/614 of
21 May 45

Serial	A	B	C
12	Movement Control	Movement Control 31 Docks Op Det Det 2 Aust Water Tpt Op	Movement Control 31 Docks Op Det Det 2 Aust Water Tpt Op

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECRET.
APPDX B(1v)
Issued with MERAUKE FORCE
FTB/LCD/G14 of 21 May 43

Serial	A	B	C
23	DADST	DADS&T	DADS&T
		157 Gen Tpt Coy	(HQ 157 Gen Tpt Coy (Aust Tpt Pl (R.D.I.
		222 Aust Sup Depot Pl	222 Aust Sup Depot Pl
		Sec 8 Aust Fd Bakery	Sec 8 Aust Fd Bakery
		Det AACS	Det AACS
		Det BIPOD	Det BIPOD
		Det Port Det "A" US	Det Port Det "A" (US)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECRET.

APPDX B(v)
Issued with MERAUKE
Force FTB/LCD/G14 of
21 May 43.

Serial	A	B	C
24	SMO	SMO 19 Aust Fd Amb 12 AAMCU 79 Aust Dental Unit 104 Aust Adv Depot Med Stores 26 US Port Surgical Hospital	SMO (HQ 19 Aust Fd Amb (A Coy (B Coy 12 AAMCU (HQ 79m Aust Dental Unit (D Sec 79 Aust Dental Unit 104 Aust Adv Med Stores 26 US Port Surgical Hospital

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECRET.

APPDX B (v1)
Issued with MERAUKE
Force FTB/CD/G14 of
21 May 43.

Serial	A	B	C
25	DADOS	DADOS 123 Aust Fd Ord Depot 74 Aust Fd Amn Depot 102 Sec 5 Aust Div Ord Fd Pk	DADOS 123 Aust Fd Ord Depot 74 Aust Fd Amn Depot 102 Sec 5 Aust Div Ord Fd Pk

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECRET.
APPDX B(vii)
Issued with HE RAU KE
FORCE FTB/LCD/G14 of
21 May 43

Serial	A	B	C
26	DADME	DADME 102 Sec 5 Aust Div Wkshop 242 Aust LAD(Type J)	DADME 102 Sec 5 Aust Div Wkshop 242 Aust LAD (Type J)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECRET

MARY

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
21 May 43

(1)

MERAUKE FORCE OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 1

To NCO i/c

1. A coastal watch station will be established at OKABA.

2. Personnel

QX18878
Cd Sgt McKENZIE J. — 62 Aust Inf Bn AIF
3 Ptes — 62 Aust Inf Bn
3 Sig operators — Force HQ

Equipment

1 No 11 Wireless Set with Bty Charger
1 Tent and necessary cooking utensils
First Aid Kit
Telescope and Binoculars
Compass

Supply

30 days rations will be carried, for the whole party.
P.O.L. requirements for Bty Charging Set
1 Pick
1 Shovel

Transport

Party will assemble at 1630 hrs on 22 May 43 and embark on the launch LILY.

Task

On arrival at OKABA, you will set up a coast watching station, and establish contact with Force HQ. You will retain the launch LILY until communication is complete when the launch will return and bring with it the wireless set at present situated at OKABA in charge of PALIALA (BESTURS assistant OKABA) and which belongs to Bty D 104 Sep CA (AA).
You will maintain a 24 hour watch.

Reports

You will report to Force HQ every 2 hours on the even hour i.e. 0200, 0400 etc. However, any information as called for in the following para will be signalled immediately.

Items to Report

(a) Numbers, type and direction of flight (bearing) of all aircraft sighted.
(b) All ship sightings
(c) Any information or matter of a suspicious nature obtained from local (native) population, giving source and degree of reliability.

3. LOCAL DEFENCE

You are responsible for the security of the party and equipment against enemy action or sabotage. In the event of the enemy approaching in your locality, you will immediately signal this HQ giving the strength of the enemy, and the type of force i.e. seaborne, airborne or landforce.

If your position is endangered, you will endeavour to move overland to MERAUKE, using native porters to carry your equipment. If the wireless set is in danger of being captured, it will be destroyed together with this document and all call signs and codes in possession of your party.

4. LIAISON

You will make liaison with the local missionary Pastor Father Rivers and local police official Paliama , and arrange for them to advise you of any reports received by them.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

5. CODE

All messages sent and received by you will be based on the attached special code. Call signs and frequencies will be supplied by C.S.O.

6. The supply of rations to the jetty will be Force Hq responsibility.

A.C. Ralston
(A.C.RALSTON) Major.
B.M. MERAUKE FORCE

ACK

Distribution: 62 Aust Inf Bn
NCO i/c
War Diary
File

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

ELSIE

SECRET

HQ MERAUKE FORCE

21 May 43

MERAUKE FORCE OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 2

To Officer i/c

1. The object is to report on a site for a Coastal Watch in the vicinity of TAMARIKE.

2. Personnel

Comd will be Lieut 62 Aust Inf Bn

Other personnel comprise:

6 ORs from 62 Aust Inf Bn
1 Sgt and 3 ORs from 59 Aust Fd Regt.

3. Supply

7 days rations will be carried on the man.

4. Transport

You will move on the morning of 23 May 43 .

5. Task

You will proceed along MAIN Street along the coast to TAMARIKE to recce site in the vicinity of TAMARIKE for a coast watching site.

You will also reconnoitre suitable route for communication for the purpose of supplies to the Post.

(i) Total estimate of time taken will be 2½ days

(ii) One day will be for recce of the proposed site to be used.

6. Liaison

Officer in charge of the patrol will make liaison with 59 Aust Fd Bty to make a rendezvous of personnel and time.

7. Report

On return of patrol O.C. Party will report to Force HQ and submit a report.

8. Ammunition

50 rds will be carried on the man.

9. ACK.

A. C. Ralston

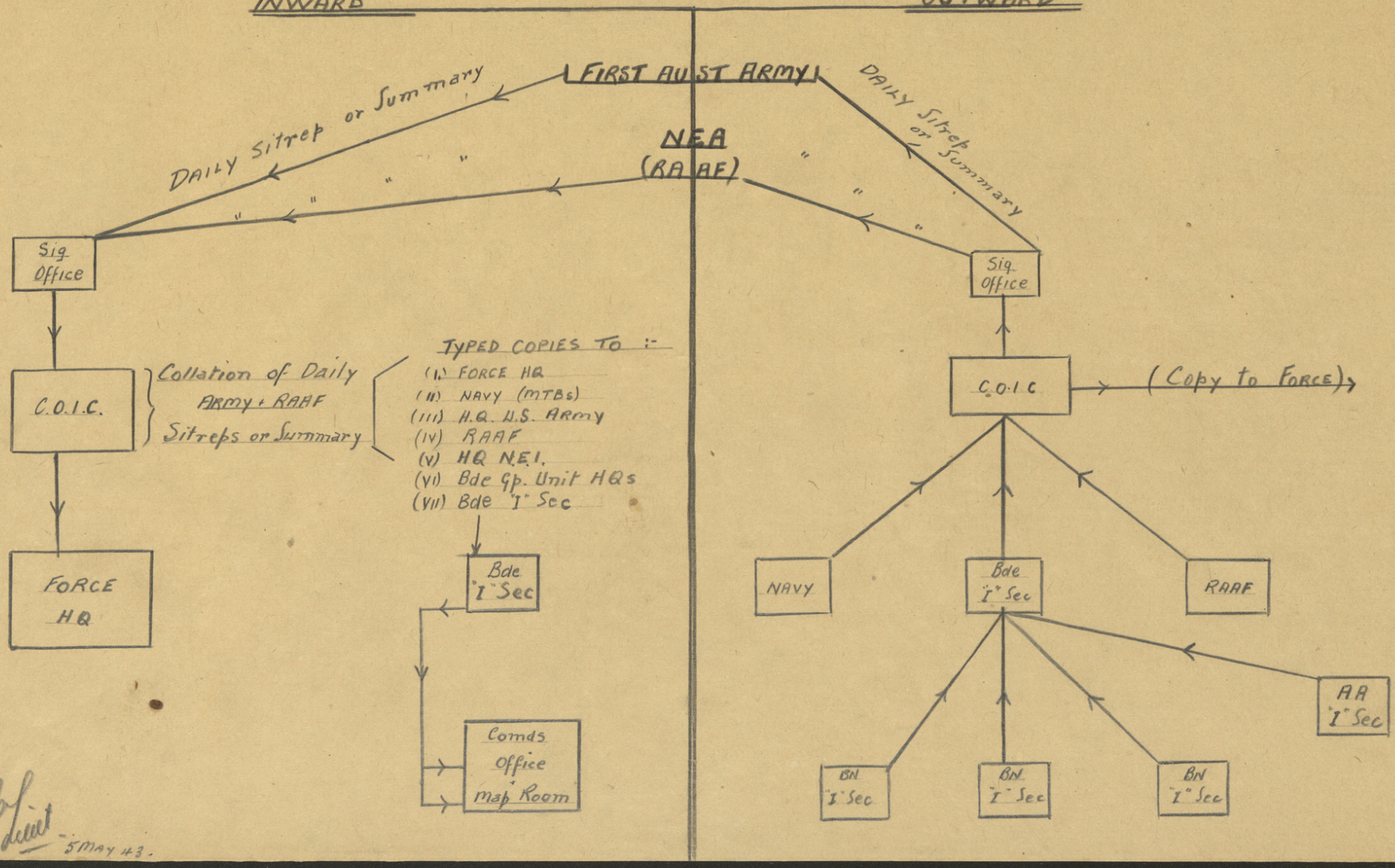
(A.C.RALSTON) Major.
B.M.MERAUKE FORCE.

Distribution: 62 Aust Inf Bn
Officer i/c
59 Aust Fd Bty
War Diary (2)
File

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Secret

DIAGRAM
Showing
Proposed INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS



Lieut
5 MAY 43.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
AWM2020.71.8502

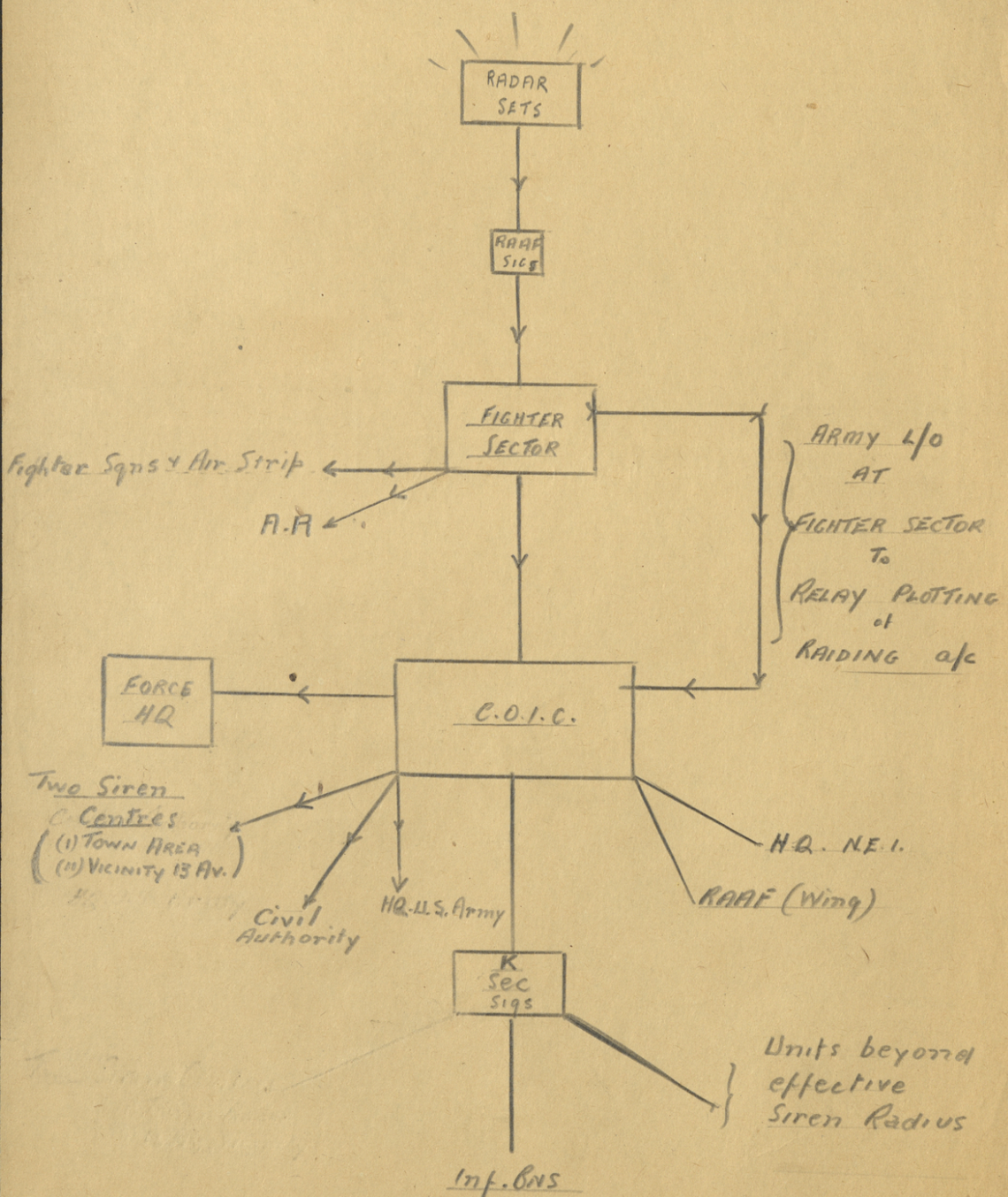
Secret

Suggested

Sequence & Channels

of

AIR RAID WARNING PROMULGATION



6 May 43.

Details of Coast O.P.s

MAPPI POST : Prior to bombing by enemy planes early in April MAPPI POST was inhabited by
1 Ambonise Administrator,
12 N.E.I. Police
20 Teachers
1 Wireless operator
Wireless Comm. was maintained between this Post and TANAH MERAH.
Since the bombing attack the population has moved to JOEDON
MAPPI POST DISTRICT is inhabited by ~~savage~~ Hostile KIA KIA.

KINAAM: As at 21 apr. '43.

STRENGTH:	168	12	6	1
NATIONALITY:	KIA KIA	NEI POLICE	MALAYANS	DUTCH PRIEST

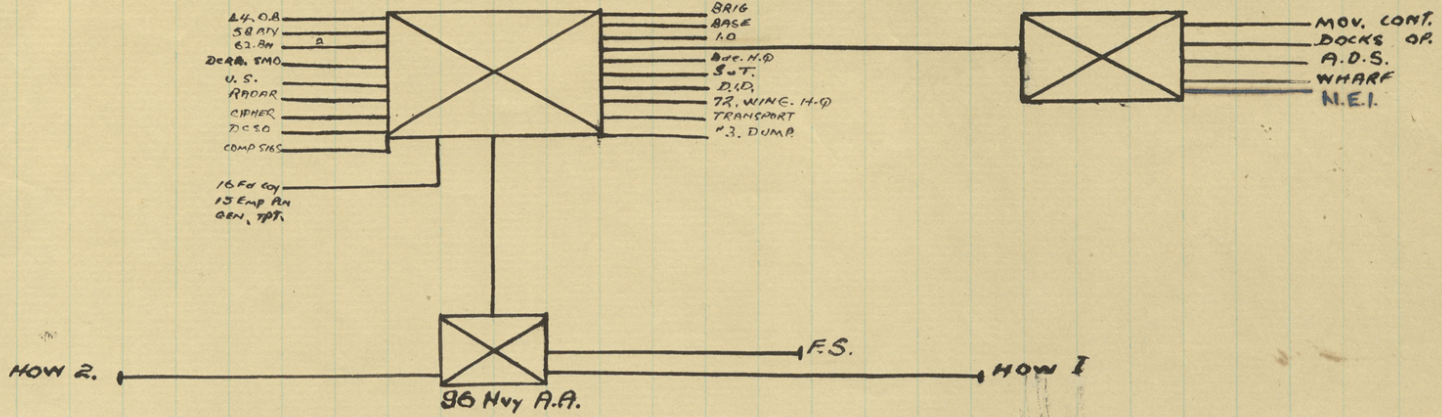
Visited by I.O. and Personnel of 62 Aust Inf Bn on 21 apr. '43.

At present there are no OPs. manned north of MERAUKE other than the personnel present at JOEDON, approx 6 miles from MAPPI

KINAAM on FREDERIK HENDRIK ISLAND was visited by I.O. 62 Aust Inf Bn on 21-24 apr. '43.

L. E. Walker
Sgt
Force Intelligence

Line Diagram as at 1400 hrs 24/5/43



R. D. Fraser Capt
DCSO
Merauke
Force

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOST SECRET

JOAN

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
25 May 43

MERAUKE FORCE OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 3

To NCO i/c

1. A coastal watching station will be established in the vicinity of CAPE KOMBIES.

2. Personnel

Comd will be QX28747 Sgt McCAULEY A.D. of 62 Aust Inf Bn
3 Ptes 62 Aust Inf Bn
3 Sigs Force HQ

Equipment

The following equipment will be taken:

1 No 11 Wireless Set with Bty Charger
1 Tent and necessary cooking utensils
First Aid Kit
Telescopes and Binoculars
Compass

Supply

30 days rations will be carried for the whole party, in addition to 10 days boat rations. Rations will include Atabrine.

P.O.L. requirements for Bty Charging Set
1 Pick
1 Shovel

Force HQ will supply wireless set. 62 Aust Inf Bn will supply all other stores and equipment exclusive of reserve rations which will be the responsibility of Force HQ, and will be delivered to the Jetty by 1500 hrs 26 May 43.

Transport

The party will assemble at 1600 hrs on 26 May 43 at the Jetty and will embark on the launch LILY.

Task

On arrival at CAPE KOMBIES, you will set up a coast watching station in the vicinity of CAPE KOMBIES. Prior to the launch leaving, you will ensure that communications are established with Force HQ.

The launch will then proceed with Capt H.V.Harper and F/O R.H. Robinson for a local reconnaisance.

You will maintain a 24 hour watch.

Reports

You will report to Force HQ every two hours on the odd hour i.e. 0100 hrs, 0300 hrs etc. However, any information as called for in the following para will be signalled immediately.

Items to Report

(a) Numbers, type and direction of flight (bearing) of all aircraft sighted.

(b) All ship sightings.

(c) Any information and matter of a suspicious nature obtained from local (native) population, giving source and degree of reliability.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

3. LOCAL DEFENCE

You are responsible for the security of the party and equipment against enemy action,or sabotage. In the event of the enemy approaching in your locality,you will immediately signal this HQ giving the strength of the enemy and the type of the force i.e. seaborne airborne or land-force.

If your position is endangered,you will endeavour to move overland to MERAUKE,using native porters to carry your equipment. If the wireless set is in danger of being captured,it will be destroyed together with this document and all call signs and codes in your possession.

4. LIAISON

You will make liaison with a Catholic Father named WAMAL who is reported to be in that area,and arrange for him to advise you of any reports by him.

5. CODE

All messages sent and received by you will be based on the attached special code. Call signs,codes and frequencies will be supplied by C.S.O.

6. ACK.

Method of despatch: D/R

Time of signing: 1400 hours

A.C. Ralston
(A.C.RALSTON) Major.
B.M. MERAUKE FORCE.

Distribution: NCO i/c
62 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)
C.S.O.
War Diary (2)
File (3)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECRET

HQ MERAUKE FORCE

21 May 43

(2)

MERAUKE FORCE OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 2

To Officer 1/c

1. The object is to report on a site for a Coastal Watch in the vicinity of TAMARIKE.

2. Personnel

Comd will be QX16941 Lieut B.C.P. DOUGLAS 62 Aust Inf Bn
Other personnel comprises:

6 ORs from 62 Aust Inf Bn
1 Sgt and 3 ORs from 59 Aust Fd Bty.

3. Supply

7 days rations will be carried on the man.

4. Transport

You will move at 0600 hrs on the morning of 23 May 43

5. Task

You will proceed along MAIN STREET along the coast to TAMARIKE to recce site in the vicinity of TAMARIKE for a coast watching site.

You will also reconnoitre suitable route for communication for the purpose of supplies to the Post.

(i) Total estimate of time taken will be 2½ days.

(ii) One day will be for recce of the proposed site to be used.

6. Liaison

Officer in charge of the patrol will make liaison with 59 Aust Fd Bty to make a rendezvous of personnel and time (Junc 5 AVE and MAIN STREET)

7. Report

On return of patrol O.C.Party will report to Force HQ and submit a report.

8. Ammunition

50 rds will be carried on the man.

9. ACK

A.C. Ralston

(A.C.RALSTON) Major.
B.M. MERAUKE FORCE.

Distribution:
62 Aust Inf Bn
Officer i/c
59 Aust Fd Bty
War Diary (2)
File

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

1735/3

SECRET

Copy No 5

21 May 43

FIRST AUST ARMY OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 33

INTER-SERVICE PLANNING

To :- Yorkforce
Torres Strait Force
Brisbane Fortress

1. In areas in which unified command is exercised during inactive periods, planning is a function of the commander. In other areas committees are constituted to prepare plans. This instruction does not apply to Moresby Force, the Commander of which exercises unified command. South East DUTCH NEW GUINEA where the senior land force commander

amdt No 4 30 Apr

DEFINITIONS

2. A defended port for the purpose of this instruction is a port at which there are fixed defences and to which a naval officer-in-charge is appointed.

3. A local planning committee (L.P.C.) is a committee instituted at a defended port, attended by the commanders of the components of each Service involved in the port defence and responsible for the co-ordination of plans for the defence of the port. (This committee was formerly known as a local defence committee.)

4. A combined planning committee (C.P.C.) is a committee instituted in an area (as defined below) attended by the senior officer responsible for the operations of each Service in the area and charged with the co-ordination of the plans for the defence of the area as a whole. (This committee was formerly known as a command planning committee.)

LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEES

5. Local planning committees will be instituted at BRISBANE, TOWNSVILLE, CAIRNS and THURSDAY ISLAND.

6. Local planning committees will co-ordinate plans within the following areas :-

TOWNSVILLE and CAIRNS — Fortress Areas

(a) at BRISBANE - Brisbane Fortress area
(b) at TOWNSVILLE) - Fortress areas as defined
(c) at CAIRNS) by Yorkforce
(d) at THURSDAY ISLAND - ~~Torres Strait Force area~~ TORRES STRAIT Islands and CAPE YORK PENINSULA North of 12° SOUTH

amdt No 4 30 Apr 43

7. Yorkforce will appoint the chairmen of the local planning committees at TOWNSVILLE and CAIRNS. The chairmen of the local planning committees at BRISBANE and at THURSDAY ISLAND are being appointed by First Aust Army.

8. The chairman of each local planning committee will submit reports on meetings to the combined planning committee for the area.

9. Local planning committees will have power to co-opt as members the heads of Allied Services interested in the defence of the areas concerned.

10. Local planning committees will meet at monthly intervals. Their activities will be restricted to local matters, and they will not be permitted to encroach upon the functions of combined

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

planning committees which deal with their respective areas as a whole.

COMBINED PLANNING COMMITTEES

11. Combined planning committees will be established at BRISBANE and TOWNSVILLE.

12. The areas covered by the combined planning committees will be as follows :-

BRISBANE Combined Planning Committee :-

No 2 L of C Sub-area, plus that area lying between the NSW - QUEENSLAND border and all inclusive the general line GRAFTON - GLEN INNES and thence due west to the South Australian border.

TOWNSVILLE Combined Planning Committee :-

Nos 1 and 17 L of C Sub-areas. Papuan Peninsula North of latitude 12° South and the Torres Strait islands.

13. The GOC-in-C First Aust Army is the permanent chairman of each committee but he is entitled to delegate his authority from time to time to a subordinate field force commander, or, where there is no field force in an area, to the senior L of C commander in that area.

14. A combined planning committee is also being established at SYDNEY, and it has been agreed with the departments of Navy and Air that the boundary between the areas of responsibility of this committee and the BRISBANE Combined Planning Committee shall be the southern boundary of the latter as defined above [illegible]. However, the territory between this line and the QUEENSLAND - NSW border is outside the province of the Naval Officer-in-charge, BRISBANE, and consequently both committees must be prepared to make such mutual arrangements as are necessary for the co-ordination of plans in the region affected by this agreement.

15. The delegate of the GOC-in-C First Aust Army as chairman of the TOWNSVILLE Combined Planning Committee will be :-

(a) When plans within that part of the area south of latitude 12°S are discussed - Commander Yorkforce.

(b) When plans within that part of the area north of latitude 12°S are discussed - Commander Torres Strait Force.

16. Copies of the proceedings of combined planning committees will be forwarded to HQ First Aust Army for transmission to the HQ of each Service for information, one copy for HQ Allied Air Force and one for HQ RAAF being included.

17. Combined planning committees will meet at two-monthly intervals.

ACKNOWLEDGE ✓

Time of signature 1310 hrs

N J Boase
Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

DISTRIBUTION	Copy No	Method of Issue
Yorkforce	1- 2	DRLS
Torres Strait Force	3- 4	"
Merauke Force	5	DRLS to Torres Strait Force thence safe hand
Brisbane Fortress	6- 7	DRLS
Corps HQ VDC QLD	8	"
"A" Gp VDC NSW	9	Air Mail
2 Aust Corps	10	DRLS
3 Aust Armd Div	11	"
QLD L of C Area	12	"
BRA	13	Hand
CSO	14	"
Adv LHQ	15	DRLS
LHQ (Aust)	16	Air Mail
Second Aust Army	17	" "
NSW L of C Area	18	" "
NOIC TOWNSVILLE	19	DRLS
NOIC CAIRNS	20	"
NOIC THURSDAY ISLAND	21	"
Eastern Area RAAF	22	Air Mail
NE Area RAAF	23	" "
3 FS RAAF	24	DRLS
8 FS RAAF	25	"
GOC-in-C	26	Hand
MGGS	27	"
G(o)	28	"
G(I)	29	"
G(SD)	30	"
CE	31	"
DA & QMG	32	"
A	33	"
Q	34	"
S & T	35	"
Medical	36	"
Ord	37	"
E & ME	38	"
File	39-40	
War diary	41-42	
Spares	43-46	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
21 May 43

MERAUKE FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO 3

WHARF AND DUMP DUTY PARTIES

1. Movement Control will be responsible for advising Force HQ of personnel and transport requirements from time to time. Wharf parties consisting of 3 Offrs 10 NCOs and 94 OR will report to Capt Lord at Wharf at times to be advised (approx time of commencement 1500 hrs 21 May) from the following units in rotation:

1st 8 hrs	59 Aust Fd Bty
2nd 8 hrs	15 Aust Emp Coy
3rd 8 hrs	62 Aust Inf Bn
4th 8 hrs	59 Aust Inf Bty
5th 8 hrs	15 Aust Emp Coy
6th 8 hrs	62 Aust Inf Bn
7th 8 hrs	62 Aust Inf Bn

2. In addition to above, 62 Aust Inf Bn will supply at time to be advised the following Dump party:

2 NCOs 18 ORs
reporting to Dumps Co-ordinating Officer at No 3 Dump MAIN Street.

3. 62 Aust Inf Bn will supply 2 Dumps Co-ordinating Officers with each shift in para 2 above and 1 NCO as Dump Guard.

4. Units will arrange meals for men on respective jobs, work continuing with half shift during meal hours.

5. S & T will liaise with units regarding transport arrangements for movement of parties.

6. Disposal of officers mentioned in para 1 hereof:

1 Offr on ship to liaise with Docks Operating Coy Officer

Duties: (a) Assist and carry out instructions of Docks Operating Coy Officer
(b) Prevent pilfering of cargo.

1 officer on each jetty to liaise with Movt Control Officer

Duties: (a) Assist and carry out instructions of Movt Control Officer
(b) Prevent pilfering of cargo

7. Disposal of Dumps Co-ordinating Officer:

1 officer at wharf Control Points for liaison with Movement Control and S & T regarding tpt requirements, and to control tpt at Wharf.
1 Officer at Dump

8. 62 Aust Inf Bn will supply Regimental Police to control traffic at the following points:

1. MAIN STREET and 12 AVE
2. WHARF ROAD and BOMB ALLEY
3. Between jetties

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

9. 62 Aust Inf Bn will supply 1 NCO 9 OR for ASC Dumps as required to report to Capt Thompson at D.I.D., S & T to arrange necessary tpt.

10. S & T will arrange to clear dumps simultaneously with arrival of material at dumps.

11. Force Sigs will maintain personnel and Lucas lamps at O.P.3 and also Fullerphones operator from 1300 hrs 21 May 43.

12. 62 Aust Inf Bn will maintain Beach Light as Lighthouse for use on three hours notice.

13. All units which may have material arriving will provide identification party of 1 NCO and 1 OR at Dump to facilitate despatch of material to units.

(M.H.MORAY) Maj.
DAA & QMG MERAUKE FORCE.

Distribution: All units under comd MERAUKE FORCE
File
War Diary
Spare (30)

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
22 May 43

ADDENDUM 1

MERAUKE FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO.3

To implement the provisions of para 7 of the above instruction, and to prevent confusion at Wharf and Dumps area, the officers mentioned in para 7 of that instruction will have the following responsibilities:

(a) The Officer at Wharf Control Point shall liaise with Movement Control Officer regarding working party and tpt requirements at Wharf and shall be responsible for seeing that working parties in excess of requirements are released and transported to their respective areas, and that excess tpt is released to tpt lines.

The Officer at Wharf Control Point will see that transport in Wharf area is reasonably dispersed at all times.

(b) The Officer at Dump will liaise with A/DADST (Capt Karrasch) regarding working party and tpt requirements at dumps, and shall be responsible for seeing that working parties in excess of requirements are released and transported to their respective areas and excess tpt is released to tpt lines.

(c) Before movement of parties to Wharf and Dump areas, liaison as above by Co-ordinating Officer will take place so that working parties and tpt in excess of requirements are NOT moved from respective areas if NOT required.

ACK

Method of despatch: D/R

Time of signing: 1450 hrs

(M.H. MORAY) Maj.
D/A & QMG MERAUKE FORCE

Distribution: All units under comd MERAUKE FORCE
Comd
G
A
File (2)
War Diary (2)
Spare (40)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECURITY

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
22 May 43

MERAUKE FORCE AIR DEFENCE INSTRUCTION NO 3

1. Action to be taken by shipping on sounding of Air Raid warning.

(a) YELLOW WARNING

When the YELLOW flag is raised at the JETTY, normal work will continue. This flag is only to WARN shipping that a RED alert MAY follow.

Masters of all vessels will ensure that cargo handling continues but is so arranged that any vessel tied up at the time may be cast off rapidly IF a red should follow.

(b) RED ALERT

The alarm will be sounded by No 7 Bofors Gun and the RED flag raised at JETTY.

(i) Transport vessels will continue to unload on to barges moored alongside unless directly attacked.

(ii) U.S. Small Ships. Vessels of this Unit will cast off if tied up and disperse either up or down stream.

(iii) Det 2 Aust Water Tpt Gp

"SYLVIA" will proceed upstream and tie up to river bank under cover.

"MIMI" will proceed to vicinity INDEPENDENT KNOLL and remain under cover, but prepared to assist in rescue from any aircraft brought down in water.

(iv) R.A.A.F. Crash Launch will adopt same procedure as for "MIMI" in para (iii) above.

(v) Any other light craft will proceed upstream.

2. ACK.

Method of despatch: By D/R
Time of signing: 1430 hrs.

A. C. Ralston
(A.C.RALSTON) Major.
B.M. MERAUKE FORCE.

MERAUKE FORCE AIR DEFENCE INSTRUCTION NO 1

AMENDMENT NO 1

In para 4, delete sub-para (b) and substitute the following:

" Shallow scratch trenches should be two (2) feet deep, and will be constructed for protection of all personnel."

Delete para 5.

A. C. Ralston
(A.C.RALSTON) Major
B.M. MERAUKE FORCE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

MERAUKE FORCE AIR RAID DEFENCE INSTRUCTION NO. 2.

1. ALARM AT JETTY:

Air Raid Warnings will be sounded at the Jetty from the Signal Tent.

On Air Raid "Yellow", a yellow flag will be raised,
On Air Raid "Red", a red flag will be raised, and
On All Clear, a white flag will be raised.

2. CRASHED AIRCRAFT.

Any unit observing aircraft making crash or forced landings, will take a bearing on the area in which the plane descends, and report forthwith to Force HQ as follows:

(a) Bearing from observer to crashed plane
(b) Map Ref of position from which bearing taken
(c) Estimated distance from observer
(d) Time of observation.

3. It is the responsibility of any unit in whose area aircraft crashes whether our own or enemy, will immediately mount a guard over the area and prevent any person from interfering with the plane except for the preservation of life. Any enemy air personnel will be taken into custody and sent under escort to Force HQ. The above guard will be maintained until relieved by RAAF guard.

4. UNEXPLODED BOMBS.

In the event of any unexploded bombs falling in MERAUKE area, the locality of same will be reported to Force HQ immediately, and a sentry placed at the site until a warning sign is erected.

5. RESULT OF AIR RAID.

Immediately after the siren of an "All Clear" following an air raid, each unit or sub-unit will check the effect of the raid in their areas and report to Force HQ on the following points.

(a) Number of casualties to service personnel
(b) Number of casualties to civil personnel
(c) Estimate of damage to service property or equipment
(d) No of bombs dropped in area
(e) Type and description of bombs, if obtainable
(f) Any unusual circumstances.

A C Ralston

(A.C.RALSTON) Major
B.M. 11 Aust Inf Bde.

May 43

DISTRIBUTION:
All Units &Sub Units of services under Cmd M.RAUKE FORCE
FILE (2)
WAR DIARY(2)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

1735/3
G

SUBJECT:- DELEGATION OF POWERS OF APPOINTMENT UNDER AMR & O 198 AND 219 6 AND 11 AUST INF BDE

HQ FIRST AUST ARMY (AIF)
AS/994
23 May 43

Merauke Force
York Force

Copy:- G(SD)
AMS
LSO

1. Forwarded herewith for information are copies of delegations by A.G. LHQ in favour of commanders of 6 and 11 Aust Inf Bdes.

Brig,
DA & QMG First Aust Army.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

C O P Y.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY REGULATIONS

AUTHORITY UNDER A.M.R. & O. 198 AND 199

By virtue of the provisions of the Australian Military Regulations and of all other powers me thereunto enabling I, Charles Edward Maurice Lloyd, C.B.E., Major General, Adjutant-General, do hereby authorise every officer, not being below the rank of Brigadier, who shall during the continuance of this authority hold the office or perform the duties of the office of commander 6th Australian Infantry Brigade or Commander 11th Australian Infantry Brigade to appoint any person or promote any soldier to the rank of warrant officer (Class I) or warrant officer (Class II) or of a non-commissioned officer in the Australian Military Forces.

Dated this 27th day of April 1943.

(SGD). C.E.M. LLOYD.

Major-General,
Adjutant-General.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

1735/3

SECRET

Copy No 5

23 May 43

9

FIRST AUST ARMY OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 34

INTER-SERVICE CO-ORDINATION OF OPERATIONS

To :- Yorkforce
Torres Strait Force
Merauke Force
Brisbane Fortress

1. This instruction deals with the co-ordination of the activities of the various Services in the event of land operations. Air operations not involving enemy land activity will not in general call for any disturbance in the relations between the Services that obtain in inactive periods.

DEFINITIONS

2. An air operations room (AOR) is an operational centre located at each RAAF area or operational group headquarters, and at which the naval officer-in-charge is represented. This centre was formerly known as an area combined headquarters (ACH).

3. An air operational intelligence centre (AOIC) is an air intelligence centre located at each AOR and to which Navy and Army appoint liaison officers as required for the exchange of operational intelligence between the Services.

4. The Command Air Operations Room (AORC) is an air operations room located at HQ Allied Air Forces BRISBANE.

5. The Combined Operational Intelligence Centre (COIC) is a combined intelligence centre located at General Headquarters Southwest Pacific Area, BRISBANE. An advanced echelon of COIC may be set up in forward areas from time to time. (The existing COICs at TOWNSVILLE and elsewhere are being eliminated.)

6. A local defence headquarters (LDH) is the headquarters of the commander charged with fighting the local battle within a defended port in all its aspects. The LDH will be staffed by the Service to which the local defence commander belongs. The LDH takes the place of the combined defence headquarters (CDH). The commanders of the components of each Service involved in port defence will appoint suitable officers for liaison with the LDH. The LDH will have direct communication with the operational headquarters of the other Services and the civil air raid precautions authorities and will be staffed continuously.

7. A fighter ~~sector headquarters~~ control unit (FCU) ~~(FSHQ)~~ is an Air Force headquarters formed for the purpose of controlling fighter aircraft, anti-aircraft guns and anti-aircraft searchlights within the fighter sector area, and at which Navy and Army are represented. amendt 1 30 Apr 44

amendt 1 8. A zone filter room FCU is an Air Force centre formed to extend the cover of the ~~FSHQ~~ and to provide filtered early warning information outside the 200 miles effective radius of the static FSHQ.

UNIFIED COMMAND

9. In certain parts of the Southwest Pacific Area the C-in-C has given local commanders unified command of all forces in their

South East DUTCH NEW GUINEA amendt 1 30 Apr 44

areas. The only part of First Aust Army area in which unified command has been given is ~~the area of Merauke Force.~~ Elsewhere in First Aust Army area unified command is exercised only in the event of landing attack.

10. Co-ordination of operations in South East Dutch New Guinea, amendt 1 30 Apr 44

CO-ORDINATION OF OPERATIONS IN THE AREA OF MERAUKE FORCE

10. Within this area the conduct of operations is the responsibility of the Commander Merauke Force who will, however, be governed by the qualifications in paragraph 17.

Within this area the conduct of operations is the responsibility of the senior land force comd who will, however, be governed by the qualifications in para 17.

CO-ORDINATION OF OPERATIONS IN DEFENDED PORTS

11. In the event of landing attack on the defended ports of BRISBANE, TOWNSVILLE, CAIRNS or THURSDAY ISLAND, the local defence commanders will assume supreme command in their areas, including all elements of the three forces therein, except bombardment aviation, which will remain under the command of the Allied Air Forces Commander.

12. The expression "defended ports" used in the above paragraph will be taken to mean the fortress areas in the case of BRISBANE, TOWNSVILLE and CAIRNS, ~~and the whole area of Torres Strait Force in the case of THURSDAY ISLAND.~~ and in the case of THURSDAY ISLAND, the TORRES STRAIT Islands and CAPE YORK PENINSULA North of Latitude 12° South. amendt 1 30 Apr 44

13. Local defence commanders in each of these areas are being appointed by, or on the authority of, Commander First Aust Army.

14. In the event of an attack from the air ~~FSHQ~~ FCU will keep the local defence commander informed of the situation. The local defence commander will then be responsible for defining the localities likely to be affected, deciding the degree of air raid alert to be adopted in those localities and instructing the Services and civil ARP authorities accordingly. amendt 1 30 Apr 44

15. At a port where no ~~FSHQ~~ FCU exists the local defence commander will decide the degree of air raid alert on information derived from the Anti-aircraft Defence Commander, naval and army coast watchers, Zone Filter Room, Volunteer Air Observer Centre, civil police and other sources.

CO-ORDINATION OF OPERATIONS IN OTHER DEFENDED LOCALITIES

16. The rule that the senior commander of Allied land forces on the ground will assume supreme command in the area in which a landing attack is made will apply to coastal areas other than those classed as defended ports. It is not possible to define the limits of any of these areas, and local commanders will have discretion as to the areas in which they assume command, subject to the general restriction that the degree of command assumed should be tactical rather than strategical.

GENERAL

17. In exercising command the local defence commander will not, except when a landing attack is imminent or in progress, disturb the execution of the general administrative or functional plans of the other Services. The commanders of the other Services will retain full responsibility for the administration, discipline and basic function of the units within their respective commands.

18. In the event of the enemy overcoming the defences of defended ports, and general land operations becoming imminent in an area in which the principle of unified command does not apply,

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

it may be assumed that the field force commander in that area would be given powers of unified command. However, it must be borne in mind that the conduct of operations of all Services may be taken over by higher authority at any time.

ACKNOWLEDGE ✓

Time of signature 1200 hrs

Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

DISTRIBUTION	Copy No	Method of Issue
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QLD L of C Area	12	"
BRA	13	Hand
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Second Aust Army	17	" "
NSW L of C Area	18	" "
NOIC TOWNSVILLE	19	DRLS
NOIC CAIRNS	20	"
NOIC THURSDAY ISLAND	21	"
Eastern Area RAAF	22	Air Mail
NE Area RAAF	23	" "
3 FS RAAF	24	DRLS
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MGGS	27	"
G(o)	28	"
G(I)	29	"
G(SD)	30	"
CE	31	"
DA & QMG	32	"
A	33	"
Q	34	"
S & T	35	"
Medical	36	"
Ord	37	"
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Spares	43-46	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

JOAN

MOST SECRET

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
25 May 43

(3)

MERAUKE FORCE OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 3

To NCO i/c

1. A coastal watching station will be established in the vicinity of CAPE KOMBIES.

2. Personnel

Comd will be QX28747 Sgt McCAULEY A.D. of 62 Aust Inf Bn
3 Ptes 62 Aust Inf Bn
3 Sigs Force HQ

Equipment

The following equipment will be taken:

1 No 11 Wireless Set with Bty Charger
1 Tent and necessary cooking utensils
First Aid Kit
Telescopes and Binoculars
Compass

Supply

30 days rations will be carried for the whole party, in addition to 10 days boat rations. Rations will include Atabrine.

P.O.L. requirements for Bty Charging Set
1 Pick
1 Shovel

Force HQ will supply wireless set. 62 Aust Inf Bn will supply all other stores and equipment exclusive of reserve rations which will be the responsibility of Force HQ, and will be delivered to the Jetty by 1500 hrs 26 May 43.

Transport

The party will assemble at ~~1600~~ 1247 hrs on ~~26~~ 29 May 43 at the Jetty and will embark on the launch LILY.

Task

On arrival at CAPE KOMBIES, you will set up a coast watching station in the vicinity of CAPE KOMBIES. Prior to the launch leaving, you will ensure that communications are established with Force HQ.

The launch will then proceed with Capt H.V.Harper and F/O R.H. Robinson for a local reconnaisance.

You will maintain a 24 hour watch.

Reports

You will report to Force HQ every two hours on the odd hour i.e. 0100 hrs, 0300 hrs etc. However, any information as called for in the following para will be signalled immediately.

Items to Report

(a) Numbers, type and direction of flight (bearing) of all aircraft sighted.

(b) All ship sightings.

(c) Any information and matter of a suspicious nature obtained from local (native) population, giving source and degree of reliability.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

LOCAL DEFENCE

You are responsible for the security of the party and equipment against enemy action,or sabotage. In the event of the enemy approaching in your locality,you will immediately signal this HQ giving the strength of the enemy and the type of the force i.e. seaborne airborne or land-force.

If your position is endangered,you will endeavour to move overland to MERAUKE,using native porters to carry your equipment. If the wireless set is in danger of being captured,it will be destroyed together with this document and all call signs and codes in your possession.

4. LIAISON

You will make liaison with a Catholic Father named WAMAL who is reported to be in that area,and arrange for him to advise you of any reports by him.

5. CODE

All messages sent and received by you will be based on the attached special code. Call signs,codes and frequencies will be supplied by C.S.O.

6. ACK.

Method of despatch: D/R

Time of signing: 1400 hours

A.C. Ralston
(A.C.RALSTON) Major.
B.M. MERAUKE FORCE.

Distribution: NCO i/c
62 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)
C.S.O.
War Diary (2)
File (3)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOST SECRET.

Copy No 13

26 May 43

(4)

MERAUKE FORCE OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO. 4.

Ref Maps: STAR MOUNTAINS 1:500,000
LAKE MURRAY 1:500,000
AUST AERONAUTICAL MAP SHEET B.7 1:1,000,000
LOCAL NEI ARMY SKETCHES
TANAMERAH NEI SHEET 1:250,000

To:- Comd TANAMERAH Garrison

INFORMATION.

1. Enemy land and air forces are concentrating in the area north-west of AUSTRALIA principally in TIMOR and about KENDARI, AMBON and KAIMANA. It is within the enemy's power to launch an attack on the TORRES STRAIT area including the southern part of DUTCH NEW GUINEA.

The enemy at present hold KAUKENAU with a reported strength of approximately 500. 1000 An airfield has been completed in this area and is now ready for use by both fighters and bombers.

An unconfirmed report states enemy occupied a village in the vicinity of the mouth of the EILANDEN river but has subsequently withdrawn.

2. Allied Naval forces are providing Naval support against enemy sea-borne movement in the eastern ARAFURA SEA. Naval measures include the eventual establishment of an advanced P.T. boat base at MERAUKE. It is understood that Allied Naval forces will assume responsibility for patrolling the PRINCESS MARIANNE STRAIT.

3. Allied Air forces are providing fighter and bomber facilities in the CAPE YORK PENINSULA at MERAUKE and at MILIMGIMBI, and are also carrying out reconnaissances designed to provide a minimum of 36 hours warning of enemy seaborne movements towards TORRES STRAIT.

4. 11 Aust Inf Bde Gp has been made responsible for the land defence of MERAUKE area with a view to preserving for our use the airfield and the port facilities.

COMMAND.

5. There are a number of NEI troops stationed at TANAMERAH who come under your command for operational purposes - 1 Sgt (name ZEYLSTRA) and 17 men.

6. There are also approx 45 NEI police under Inspector SCHOKKER.

7. M. WEGNER has been appointed CONTROLEUR of the sub-district but does not exercise any military command. His advice and assistance should be sought in implementing military plans which directly affect the civil administration of the area.

8. There are a number of political prisoners interned at TANAMERAH. It is proposed to evacuate the

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

whole of these internees as soon as possible. When the evacuation is completed the NEI Army personnel will probably be withdrawn.

OWN FORCE.

9. Your immediate force will consist of:

one rifle coy
two det mortars
one MMG Pl
one lt sec Fd Amb
two RAE personnel
two AASC personnel
three sigs "K" Sec
one cipher NCO

TASKS.

10. (1) You will deny TANAMERAH airfield to the

Amdt No 1

" You will provide for the defence of radar station in your area, and will render such assistance in their installation as the local commander of Allied Air Forces may request."

(3) You will operate inland patrols to the areas:

(a) NINIKAPPA
(b) NIENATIE
(c) OEWIMMERAH river 15 miles south of its junction with the MOEJDE river
(d) junction OEWIMMERAH and DIGOEL rivers.

(4) You will recce all tracks emenating from TANAMERAH and prepare a district track map.

PATROL REPORTS.

11. Your reports on the above patrols will cover:

(a) Types of country;
(b) Condition of tracks;
(c) Conditions of villages;
(d) Attitude of natives;
(e) Numbers of natives;
(f) Water supply;
(g) Navigability of rivers including height and type of banks;
(h) Timber and stone resources;
(j) Check on accuracy of existing maps as to tracks shown.

12. Reports will be forwarded this HQ by quickest available means under "safe hand".

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

13. Medical: Lt Sec 19 Aust Fd Amb will hold and treat all sick in your area. Cases requiring evacuation will be evacuated each month by the DUTCH vessel "HARMON". Owing to the high malarial rate amongst the civilian population you will exercise strict discipline of suppressive measures and insist on a high standard of hygiene.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

whole of these internees as soon as possible. When the evacuation is completed the NEI Army personnel will probably be withdrawn.

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9. Your immediate force will consist of:

one rifle coy
two det mortars
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two RAE personnel
two AASC personnel
three sigs "K" Sec
one cipher NCO

TASKS.

10. (1) You will deny TANAMERAH airfield to the enemy.

(2) You will operate inland water patrols as far as the EILANDEN river. Action is being taken to obtain small craft for these patrols. Two ALCVs and two harbour launches have been requested for this task.

(3) You will operate inland patrols to the areas:

(a) NINIKAPPA
(b) NIENATIE
(c) OEWIMMERAH river 15 miles south of its junction with the MOEJDE river
(d) junction OEWIMMERAH and DIGOEL rivers.

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(b) Condition of tracks;
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(d) Attitude of natives;
(e) Numbers of natives;
(f) Water supply;
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(h) Timber and stone resources;
(j) Check on accuracy of existing maps as to tracks shown.

12. Reports will be forwarded this HQ by quickest available means under "safe hand".

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

13. Medical: Lt Sec 19 Aust Fd Amb will hold and treat all sick in your area. Cases requiring evacuation will be evacuated each month by the DUTCH vessel "HARMON". Owing to the high malarial rate amongst the civilian population you will exercise strict discipline of suppressive measures and insist on a high standard of hygiene.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

14. Supplies: You will move in with 60 days supplies including amn and medical stores. Further supplies will be provided by 26 Aust Inf Bn.

Amdt No 1

" You will provide supplies for the RAAF personnel of Radar Station.

RAAF personnel will be included on weekly ration strength."

16. Field Works: An RAE officer will accompany your initial party and submit to you a detailed field works programme together with demolition plan for the airfield.

You will requisition on MERAUKE FORCE for necessary Engineer Stores.

17. Communications: One No.11 set is being provided for you to report direct to MERAUKE FORCE.

Call sign and frequency will be allotted by DCSO, MERAUKE FORCE.

You will report at 0600 and 1800 hrs local time daily. You will use local time (Eastern Standard) in all communications.

All communications will be in cipher.

Should your wireless become inoperative, an alternate means of communication exists through the Dutch control.

18. Acknowledge

A. C. Ralston.

(A.C.RALSTON) Maj.
BM MERAUKE FORCE.

Time of Signature 1745 hrs

DISTRIBUTION

		Method of Issue
Copy No 1	OC Coy 26 Aust Inf Bn	Air mail - safe hand
2	CO 26 Aust Inf Bn	do.
3	Torres Strait Force	do.
4	Comd	Hand
5	BM	"
6	DCSO	"
7	S & T	"
8	DCRE	"
9	SMO	"
10	DAA & QMG	"
11	First Aust Army	Air mail - safe hand
12 - 13	File	
14	War Diary	
15 - 18	Spare	

ADD 19. You will signal weekly:

(a) stocks on hand of rations and POL as at 1800 hrs each Saturday.
(b) Ration strength
(c) Consumption for the previous week.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

14. Supplies: You will move in with 60 days supplies including amn and medical stores. Further supplies will be sent you every 30 days.

15. Accomodation: You will billet your troops in the Dutch barracks. As there is not sufficient accomodation for your entire force at the present time, seven (7) tents will be provided by 26 Aust Inf Bn.

16. Field Works: An RAE officer will accompany your initial party and submit to you a detailed field works programme together with demolition plan for the airfield.

You will requisition on MERAUKE FORCE for necessary Engineer Stores.

17. Communications: One No.11 set is being provided for you to report direct to MERAUKE FORCE.

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4	Comd	Hand
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15 - 18	Spare	

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(a) stocks on hand of rations and POL as at 1800 hrs each Saturday.
(b) Ration strength
(c) Consumption for the previous week.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOST SECRET.

Copy No 4

26 May 43

MERAUKE FORCE OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO. 4.

Ref Maps: STAR MOUNTAINS 1:500,000
LAKE MURRAY 1:500,000
AUST AERONAUTICAL MAP SHEET B.7 1:1,000,000
LOCAL NEI ARMY SKETCHES
TANAMERAH NEI SHEET 1:250,000

To:- Comd TANAMERAH Garrison

INFORMATION.

1. Enemy land and air forces are concentrating in the area north-west of AUSTRALIA principally in TIMOR and about KENDARI, AMBON and KAIMANA. It is within the enemy's power to launch an attack on the TORRES STRAIT area including the southern part of DUTCH NEW GUINEA.

The enemy at present hold KAUKENAU with a reported strength of approximately 500. An airfield has been completed in this area and is now ready for use by both fighters and bombers.

AGAINST An unconfirmed report states enemy occupied a village in the vicinity of the mouth of the EILANDEN river but has subsequently withdrawn.

2. Allied Naval forces are providing Naval support against enemy sea-borne movement in the eastern ARAFURA SEA. Naval measures include the eventual establishment of an advanced P.T. boat base at MERAUKE. It is understood that Allied Naval forces will assume responsibility for patrolling the PRINCESS MARIANNE STRAIT.

3. Allied Air forces are providing fighter and bomber facilities in the CAPE YORK PENINSULA at MERAUKE and at MILIMGIMBI, and are also carrying out reconnaissances designed to provide a minimum of 36 hours warning of enemy seaborne movements towards TORRES STRAIT.

4. 11 Aust Inf Bde Gp has been made responsible for the land defence of MERAUKE area with a view to preserving for our use the airfield and the port facilities.

COMMAND.

5. There are a number of NEI troops stationed at TANAMERAH who come under your command for operational purposes - 1 Sgt (name ZEYLSTRA) and 17 men.

6. There are also approx 45 NEI police under Inspector SCHOKKER.

7. M. WEGNER has been appointed CONTROLEUR of the sub-district but does not exercise any military command. His advice and assistance should be sought in implementing military plans which directly affect the civil administration of the area.

8. There are a number of political prisoners interned at TANAMERAH. It is proposed to evacuate the

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

whole of these internees as soon as possible. When the evacuation is completed the NEI Army personnel will probably be withdrawn.

OWN FORCE.

9. Your immediate force will consist of:

one rifle coy
two det mortars
one MMG Pl
one lt sec Fd Amb
two RAE personnel
two AASC personnel
three sigs "K" Sec
one cipher NCO

TASKS.

10. (1) You will deny TANAMERAH airfield to the enemy.

(2) You will operate inland water patrols as far as the EILANDEN river. Action is being taken to obtain small craft for these patrols. Two ALCVs and two harbour launches have been requested for this task.

(3) You will operate inland patrols to the areas:

(a) NINIKAPPA.
(b) NIENATIE.
(c) OEWIMMERAH river 15 miles south of its junction with the MOEJDE river.
(d) Junction OEWIMMERAH and DIGOEL rivers.

(4) You will recce all tracks emonating from TANAMERAH and prepare a district track map.

PATROL REPORTS.

11. Your reports on the above patrols will cover:

(a) Types of country;
(b) Condition of tracks;
(c) Conditions of villages;
(d) Attitude of natives;
(e) Numbers of natives;
(f) Water supply;
(g) Navigability of rivers including height and type of banks;
(h) Timber and stone resources;
(j) Check on accuracy of existing maps as to tracks shown.

12. Reports will be forwarded this HQ by quickest available means under "safe hand".

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

13. Medical: Lt Sec 19 Aust Fd Amb will hold and treat all sick in your area. Cases requiring evacuation will be evacuated each month by the DUTCH vessel "HARMON". Owing to the high malarial rate amongst the civilian population you will exercise strict discipline of suppressive measures and insist on a high standard of hygiene.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Signal weekly Rations on hand Ration strength Consumption for the week as at 1800 hrs Saturday

14. Supplies: You will move in with 60 days supplies including amn and medical stores. Further supplies will be sent you every 30 days.

15. Accomodation: You will billet your troops in the Dutch barracks. As there is not sufficient accomodation for your entire force at the present time, seven (7) tents will be provided by 26 Aust Inf Bn.

16. Field Works: An RAE officer will accompany your initial party and submit to you a detailed field works programme together with demolition plan for the airfield.

You will requisition on MERAUKE FORCE for necessary Engineer Stores.

17. Communications: One No.11 set is being provided for you to report direct to MERAUKE FORCE.

Call sign and frequency will be allotted by DCSO, MERAUKE FORCE.

You will report at 0600 and 1800 hrs local time daily. You will use local time (Eastern Standard) in all communications.

All communications will be in cipher.

Should your wireless become inoperative, an alternate means of communication exists through the Dutch control.

18. Acknowledge

A. C. Ralston

(A.C.RALSTON) Maj.
BM MERAUKE FORCE.

Time of Signature 1745 hrs

DISTRIBUTION

		Method of Issue
Copy No 1	OC Coy 26 Aust Inf Bn	Air mail - safe hand
2	CO 26 Aust Inf Bn	do.
3	Torres Strait Force	do.
4	Comd	Hand
5	BM	"
6	DCSO	"
7	S & T	"
8	DCRE	"
9	SMO	"
10	DAA & QMG	"
11	First Aust Army	Air mail - safe hand
12 - 13	File	
14	War Diary	
15 - 18	Spare	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

OUTLINE PLAN

Party proceed overland from TANAMERAH to FLY RIVER.

Strength

2 Offrs,1 Sgt,3 OR,3 Sigs,2 N.E.I. Army Personnel,2 N.E.I. Police, 35 Porters,1 Guide.

Equipment

2 Bren Guns, 2 SMG,remainder rifles. 150 rds per Bren. One No 11 set. One Verey Pistol,RAP kit and atebrin.

Route

TANAMERAH to AGAMBOERAN on OEWIMMERAH RIVER to MITIKOP on MOEJE RIVER vicinity FLY RIVER,approximate latitude 6 degrees 20 minutes. Presumably near CARLTON ISLAND.

Time

Approximate time of travel overland eight days.

Supplies

Fourteen days supplies to be carried. Further fourteen days for fourteen men and 36 natives to be provided on launch by TORRES FORCE.

Communication

One No 11 set to be established at TANAMERAH. One No 11 to be carried by party. Both supplied by MERAUKE.

One No 11 set and operators on launch to be provided by TORRES FORCE.

All on frequency to be allotted by MERAUKE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

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Communication

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One No 11 set and operators on launch to be provided by TORRES FORCE.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

OUTLINE PLAN

Party proceed overland from TANAMERAH to FLY RIVER.

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2 Bren Guns, 2 SMG,remainder rifles. 150 rds per Bren. One No 11 set. One Verey Pistol,RAP kit and atebrin.

Route

TANAMERAH to AGAMBOERAN on OEWIMMERAH RIVER to MITIKOP on MOEJE RIVER vicinity FLY RIVER,approximate latitude 6 degrees 20 minutes. Presumably near CARLTON ISLAND.

Time

Approximate time of travel overland eight days.

Supplies

Fourteen days supplies to be carried. Further fourteen days for fourteen men and 36 natives to be provided on launch by TORRES FORCE.

Communication

One No 11 set to be established at TANAMERAH. One No 11 to be carried by party. Both supplied by MERAUKE.

One No 11 set and operators on launch to be provided by TORRES FORCE.

All on frequency to be allotted by MERAUKE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

B/T

SUBJECT: DELEGATION OF POWERS OF APPOINTMENT UNDER AMR & O 198 AND 219 6 AND 11 AUST INF BDES.

1800/8

5

1800/8
G

4 AUST DIV.
Secret AQ. 108/1/3

HQ 4 AUST DIV (AIF) &
HQ YORKFORCE.

27 MAY 43.

11 AUST INF BDE

Forwarded herewith for information are copies of delegations by A.G. LHQ in favour of commanders of 6 and 11 AUST INF BDES.

(F. R. BEASLEY) Q. MAJ,
DAAG 4 AUST DIV.

Bm AMR
SC
SC(Q)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HQ MERAUKE FORCE

27 May 43

MERAUKE FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO 2

MALARIA CONTROL

1. In amplification of the abovementioned instruction, the following are extracts from a report by an Entomological Specialist on the control of malaria in MERAUKE.

(a) Personal protective measures must be strictly enforced.

(b) All units etc will forward to this HQ by 0900 hrs 30 May 43 a return showing

(i) numbers of KNAPSAC, REGA SPRAYS and hand sprays held as at 22 May 43.

(ii) The quantities of malariol and fly spray held as at 22 May 43.

(c) (i) all units etc will form Mosquito Squads of suitable size (e.g. 1 NCO and 2 OR in the case of a unit of Coy or equivalent strength)

(ii) Where squads which have already been formed are not already trained, their training will be undertaken by 12 A.A.M.C.U.

(iii) A return will be forwarded showing the number of personnel which

(a) have already been trained
(b) require training.

(d) Bomb craters and wheel tracks are sources of mosquito breeding and those within unit etc areas must be filled in or sprayed regularly where filling in is impossible.

(e) A new Army Mosquito Repellant is expected to be on issue in the near future:

(i) This is a colourless fluid, which is NOT greasy, does NOT stain the clothes and has a very faint odour. It does NOT sting the skin except in the case of the eyes or very sensitive parts.

(ii) One bottle will be issued to each man which is to last for 14 days.

(iii) It is applied by shaking a few drops (almost half a teaspoon) of the lotion on to the hands, and smearing carefully over all exposed parts of the face, neck arms etc. About half of the original quantity is sufficient for renewal, unless biting is particularly fierce, when this dosage may be slightly increased.

(iv) It is to be used by all ranks at sundown and again on rising, if reveille is before sunrise.

(v) Picquets and others on night duty will apply the lotion, to exposed parts, if any, on commencing duty and thereafter at three hourly intervals, or more often if required.

(vi) Personnel on continuous patrols, under conditions in which nets cannot be used, will apply the lotion at three hourly intervals, or more often if required.

(M.I. MOIAY) Major.
DAA & QMG MERAUKE FORCE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOST SECRET

Copy No 4

31 May 43

(6)

MERAUKE FORCE OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO.5
PATROL DIGOEL RIVER TO FLY RIVER

Ref Map: TANAMERAH N.E.I. Sheet 1/250,000

To:- O.C. Patrol

1. Party to proceed overland from ASSIKE on the DIGOEL RIVER to FLY RIVER vicinity MOETAWANGGI.

TASK

2. (a) To ascertain possibility of developing track into all weather route for MT.

(b) If this track is unsuitable, to ascertain possibilities of developing another route to NORTH of it, but SOUTH of 6th parallel of latitude.

STRENGTH

3.

O.C. Party	Capt WOULFE 16 Aust Fd Coy RAE
1 Officer	62 Aust Inf Bn AIF
1 Sgt	62 Aust Inf Bn AIF
3 OR	62 Aust Inf Bn AIF
6 Sigs	K Sec 5 Aust Div Signals
2 NEI Army personnel	
2 NEI Police	
35 Porters	
1 guide.	

EQUIPMENT

4. Two Bren Guns, remainder rifles
150 rds per Bren
Two No 11 sets complete with ~~12 rds Red and 12 rds Green~~ (Battery charging sets)
R.A.P. Kit and Atebrin
Shovel, Axe, Cooking Gear etc.
2 Very pistols with 12 rds Red and 12 rds Green

ESTIMATED TIME

5. Appendix A attached.

SUPPLIES

6. Fourteen days supplies to be carried for 9 personnel, 4 NEI, 36 natives. In addition, 7 days voyage rations for 12 personnel and 18 days rations for 3 personnel. All supplied by MERAUKE FORCE.

Fourteen days supplies for 10 personnel, 4 NEI Army, 36 natives to be provided on launch by TORRES FORCE.

COMMUNICATION

7. One No 11 set to be established at ASSIKE with 3 operators (complete with Bty Charging Set)

One No 11 set to be carried by party.

One No 11 set (complete with Bty charging set) on launch to be provided by TORRES FORCE.

All on frequency allotted by MERAUKE FORCE. For emergency, ASSIKE terminal will carry frequency of TANAMERAH station.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

8. From time of Rendezvous (estimated date 16 June) in event of wireless breakdown, each party to fire two red lights at 1900 hrs and 1930 hrs. When seen, to be answered by two green lights.

Launch, on failure to gain contact, will recce ten miles from rendezvous upstream in the morning, and 10 miles downstream in the afternoon.

If no contact made by 20 June, land party will return to ASSIKE and wireless TANAMERAH for Dutch launch AMBOIN.

Launch is carrying discharger cups and smoke grenades, which will be fired at each hour on 19 June 43.

9. ACK.

Time of issue: 1400 hrs

A. C. Ralston
(A.C.RALSTON) Major.
B.M. MERAUKE FORCE.

Copy No	Distribution.	Method of Issue
1.	Capt Woulfe	Safe Hand
2.	62 Aust Inf Bn	" "
3.	Torres Force	" " Air Mail
4.	CO Launch - Reliance	" "
5.	Capt Isaacs	" "
6.	TANAMERAH Garrison	" "
7.	Comd	" "
8.	B.M.	" "
9.	DAA & QMG	" "
10.	C.S.O.	" "
11.	Lt-col van den Berge	" "
12.	First Aust Army	" " Air Mail
13-14.	War Diary	" "
15	File	" "

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Appendix A

ESTIMATED TIME OF TRAVEL

	LAND PARTY	LAUNCH PARTY
June 4	Dep MERAUKE	Dep THURSDAY ISLAND
10	Arr ASSIKE. Establish base W/T station	
11	Dep ASSIKE	
14	Arr MOETAWANGGI	
15	Recce route to FLY	Arrive rendezvous - FLY RIVER approx latitude 6° 39'
16	Contact launch party and replemish supplies	Capt Isaacs joins land party
17	Return MOETAWANGGI	
18	dep and recce routes NORTH of swamp and LAKE area - approx time 6 days.	Launch party will be able to make contact further NORTH about 20 June. Then return THURSDAY ISLAND.
23	Arr MOETAWANGGI	
24	Dep MOETAWANGGI	
27	Arr ASSIKE	
28	Dep ASSIKE in Dutch launch AMBOIN for TANAMERAH	Alternative. May be able to delay return of HARMEN at ASSIKE and party will then return direct to MERAUKE.
29	Arr TANAMERAH	
July 9	Return to MERAUKE	

PORTERS

Party of 2 NEI Army personnel
2 NEI Police, 35 porters, 1 guide:

Dep TANAMERAH on 9 Jun 43
Arr ASSIKE on 10 Jun 43 by
Dutch launch AMBOIN

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOST SECRET

Copy No 38

5 Jun 43

(1)

MERAUKE FORCE OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 6

Ref Maps: Aust Aeronautical Map Sheet BY - 1/1,000,000
Aust Aeronautical Map Sheet CY - 1/1,000,000
N.E.I. Map Sheet MERAUKE - 1/250,000
Local Map MERAUKE - 4 inch to 1 mile

INFORMATION

1. Enemy land and air forces are concentrating in the area north west of AUSTRALIA principally in TIMOR and about KENDARI, AMBON and KAIMANA. It is within the enemy's power to launch an attack on the TORRES STRAIT area including the southern part of DUTCH NEW GUINEA.

The enemy at present hold KAUKENAU with a reported strength of approximately 1,000. An airfield has been completed and is now ready for use by both fighters and bombers.

An unconfirmed report states enemy occupied a village in the vicinity of the mouth of the EILANDEN RIVER and has subsequently withdrawn.

2. Allied Naval forces are providing Naval support against enemy sea-borne movement in the eastern ARAFURA SEA. Naval measures include the eventual establishment of an advanced F.T. boat base at MERAUKE. It is understood that Allied Naval Forces will assume responsibility for patrolling the PRINSES MARIANNE STRAIT.

3. Allied Air Forces are providing fighter and bomber facilities in the CAPE YORK PENINSULA, at MERAUKE and at MILNE BAY and are also carrying out reconnaissances designed to provide a minimum of 36 hours warning of enemy seaborne movements towards TORRES STRAIT.

4. Coast watching posts are established at OKABA and CAPE KOMBERS.

5. A garrison of one Coy with detachments is being established at TANAMERAH.

TASK

6. MERAUKE FORCE will deny the air Strip, Base installations and port facilities to the enemy and preserve them for our use.

METHOD

7. (a) All available troops will maintain a perimeter defence system by a series of mutually supporting defended localities. In accordance with Outline Plan A issued 21 May 43.

(b) Sectors of responsibility are as follows:

62 Aust Inf Bn (less D Coy, Carrier Pl, and Det Light Tanks)	Sea beach. LIGHTHOUSE incl to JUNCTION A Street and 5 Ave incl.
R.D.F. Station	Local defence of station.

1 Bn 96 US Engr Regt	Junction A Street and 5 Ave excl. Junction 5 Ave and MAIN Street - KINGS CROSS incl. With anti-paratroop role on ANN Field and defence 26 Portable Hospital.
55 Naval Constn Bn	KINGS CROSS excl - MANGATERIK Rd (area baseball pitch) incl.
72 Wing and 44 O.B.	MANGATERIK Rd excl - OP 1 Road incl.
223 Aust Sup Dep Pl	O.P. 1 road excl to N.W. covering No 5 and 6 Bofor positions - INDEPENDENT KNOLL excl.
D Coy, 62 Aust Inf Bn	INDEPENDENT KNOLL incl - No 1 Hy AA Station excl.
N.E.I. Fusilier Coy	No 1 Hy AA Gun Station excl - KNIGHTHOUSE excl along general line of FIRST AVE.
31 Aust Docks Op Det	General line of SECOND AVE.
Pl 15 Aust Emp Coy	Vicinity Gen Tpt Coy lines with vehicles from Pool as mobile reserve. Pp prepare a defence area covering THIRD AVE on ridge & ORDNANCE Depot area.
Carrier Pl and 2 Lt Tanks 62 Aust Inf Bn	Force reserve vicinity MOPPO. To establish L/L with Force HQ.
16 Aust Fd Coy RAE	Supply two demolition parties. Remainder of personnel to form reserve in camp area.
59 Aust Fd Bty	To be prepared to: (a) Support 62 Aust Inf Bn from RIVER entrance to KING & STREET and 5 Ave. (b) Concentrations on ANN Field (c) Concentrations on NORTH bank of river to prevent small parties crossing river between ENTRANCE and WENDOE village. (d) Concentrations O.P. 1 area (e) Defensive fire lines around unit defended localities
4 18 pdr guns	Sited as Beach defence guns in defended localities of 62 Aust Inf Bn, in support of 62 Aust Inf Bn
9 Aust Hy AA Bty Bty D 104 CA (AA)	(a) Normal AA role (b) Ground defence of gun positions (c) No 1 Hy AA Station to cover entrance to MERAUKE RIVER.
2 Aust Water Tpt Gp RAAF Watercraft U.S. Small Ships Sec	All watercraft proceed to O.P. 1 area and await further orders. In the event of an attack developing from up river, conjointly with a sea attack, will prepare to scuttle launches.
Relief Driver Increment Pl.	Will report to D.T.D. for local defence and ammunition supply.
123 Fd Ord Depot 74 Fd Amn Depot	Local defence of dump areas.

FIELD WORKS

8. (a) All units will prepare positions by digging shallow trench pits.

(b) One bomb proof shelter will be provided in each section post from local material for protection against mortar fire.

(c) Particular attention will be paid to camouflage of all field works.

(d) All localities will be wired - 62 Aust Inf Bn will wire sea beach between high and low water mark. Indents will be submitted immediately to B.C.R.E. for engineering stores. Priority for wire will be given to sea beach.

9. 16 Aust Fd Coy RAE will be responsible for preparing jetty installations for demolition.

MEDICAL

10. 19 Aust Fd Amb will establish an A.D.S. at JUNCTION MAIN STREET and 11 AVE, and M.D.S. at 1000 yards EAST of SOUTH end of No 1 Air Strip.

SUPPLY

11. All units will hold seven days reserve supplies in defence areas.

AMMUNITION

12. (a) All units will hold seven days W.U.R. ammunition in defence areas.

(b) 50 rds SAA will be carried by all personnel at all times.

(c) Units will ensure that sufficient grenades are held in unit areas to make an initial issue of two per man.

INTERCOMMUNICATION

13. (a) Force HQ remains at MORTI.
(b) All units will be connected by T/T to Force HQ.
(c) General alarm will be passed by telephone and repeated on short and long blasts on siren.

14. AGK.

Time of issue: 1030 hrs.

(A.C.RAISTON) Major.
B.M. MERAUKE FORCE.

Distribution:

1-4.	62 Aust Inf Bn
5-8.	RAAF
9-11.	US Army
12-30.	Units as in para 7.
31.	Comd
32.	B.M.
33-34.	War Diary
35-40.	File
41.	First Aust Army (for info)
42.	HQ Torres Force (for info)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOST SECRET

Copy No 31

5 Jun 43

MERAUKE FORCE OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 6

Ref Maps: Aust Aeronautical Map Sheet B7 - 1/1,000,000
Aust Aeronautical Map Sheet C7 - 1/1,000,000
N.E.I. Map Sheet MERAUKE - 1/250,000
Local Map MERAUKE - 4 inch to 1 mile

INFORMATION

1. Enemy land and air forces are concentrating in the area north west of AUSTRALIA principally in TIMOR and about KENDARI, AMBON and KAIMANA. It is within the enemy's power to launch an attack on the TORRES STRAIT area including the southern part of DUTCH NEW GUINEA.

The enemy at present hold KAUKENAU with a reported strength of approximately 1,000. An airfield has been completed and is now ready for use by both fighters and bombers.

An unconfirmed report states enemy occupied a village in the vicinity of the mouth of the EILANDEN RIVER and has subsequently withdrawn.

2. Allied Naval forces are providing Naval support against enemy sea-borne movement in the eastern ARAFURA SEA. Naval measures include the eventual establishment of an advanced P.T. boat base at MERAUKE. It is understood that Allied Naval Forces will assume responsibility for patrolling the PRINSES MARIANNE STRAIT.

3. Allied Air Forces are providing fighter and bomber facilities in the CAPE YORK PENINSULA, at MERAUKE and at MIMIMBI and are also carrying out reconnaisances designed to provide a minimum of 36 hours warning of enemy seaborne movements towards TORRES STRAIT.

4. Coast watching posts are established at OKABA and CAPE KOMBIES.

5. A garrison of one Coy with detachments is being established at TANAMERAH.

TASK

6. MERAUKE FORCE will deny the air Strip, Base installations and port facilities to the enemy and preserve them for our use.

MISSION

7. (a) All available troops will maintain a perimeter defence system by a series of mutually supporting defended localities. In accordance with Outline Plan A issued 21 May 43.

(b) Sectors of responsibility are as follows:

62 Aust Inf Bn (less D Coy, Carrier Pl, and Det Light Tanks)	Sea beach. LIGHTHOUSE incl to JUNCTION A Street and 5 Ave incl.
R.D.F. Station	Local defence of station.

1 Bn 96 US Engr Regt	Junction A Street and 5 Ave excl. Junction 5 Ave and MAIN Street - KINGS CROSS incl. With anti-paratroop role on ANN Field and defence 26 Portable Hospital.
55 Naval Constn Bn	KINGS CROSS excl -MANGATERIK Rd (area baseball pitch) incl.
72 Wing and 44 O.B.	MANGATERIK Rd excl - OP 1 Road incl.
223 Aust Sup Dep Pl	O.P. 1 road excl to N.W. covering No 5 and 6 Bofor positions - INDEPENDENT KNOLL excl.
D Coy, 62 Aust Inf Bn	INDEPENDENT KNOLL incl - No 1 Hy AA Station excl.
N.E.I. Fusilier Coy	No 1 Hy AA Gun Station excl - LIGHTHOUSE excl along general line of FIRST AVE.
31 Aust Docks Op Det	General line of SECOND AVE.
Pl 15 Aust Emp Coy	Vicinity Gen Tpt Coy lines with vehicles from Pool as mobile reserve. Tp prepare a defence area covering THIRD AVE on ridge a ORDNANCE Depot area.
Carrier Pl and 2 Lt Tanks 62 Aust Inf Bn	Force reserve vicinity MOPPO. To establish L/T with Force HQ.
18 Aust Fd Coy RAE	Supply two demolition parties. Remainder of personnel to form reserve in camp area.
39 Aust Fd Bty	To be prepared to: (a) Support 62 Aust Inf Bn from RIVER entrance to MAIN A Street and 5 Ave. (b) Concentrations on ANN Field (c) Concentrations on NORTH bank of river to prevent small parties crossing river between ENTRANCE and WENDOE village. (d) Concentrations O.P. 1 area (e) Defensive fire lines around unit defended localities
4 18 pdr guns	Sited as Beach defence guns in defended localities of 62 Aust Inf Bn, in support of 62 Aust Inf Bn
8 Aust Hy AA Bty Bty D 104 CA (AA)	(a) Normal AA role (b) Ground defence of gun positions (c) No 1 Hy AA Station to cover entrance to MERAUKE RIVER.
2 Aust Water Tpt Gp RAAF Watercraft U.S. Small Ships Sec	All watercraft proceed to O.P. 1 area and await further orders. In the event of an attack developing from up river, conjointly with a sea attack, will prepare to scuttle launches.
Relief Driver Increment Pl.	Will report to D.I.D. for local defence and ammunition supply.
123 Fd Ord Depot 74 Fd Amn Depot	Local defence of dump areas.

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FIELD WORKS

8. (a) All units will prepare positions by digging shallow trenches pits.

(b) One bomb proof shelter will be provided in each section post from local material for protection against mortar fire.

(c) Particular attention will be paid to camouflage of all field works.

(d) All localities will be wired - 62 Aust Inf Bn will wire sea beach between high and low water mark. Indents will be submitted immediately to B.C.R.E. for engineering stores. Priority for wire will be given to sea beach.

9. 16 Aust Fd Coy RAE will be responsible for preparing jetty installations for demolition.

MEDICAL

10. 19 Aust Fd Amb will establish an A.D.S. at JUNCTION MAIN STREET and 11 AVE, and M.D.S. at 1000 yards EAST of SOUTH end of No 1 Air Strip.

SUPPLY

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AMMUNITION

12. (a) All units will hold seven days W.U.R. ammunition in defence areas.

(b) 50 rds SAA will be carried by all personnel at all times.

(c) Units will ensure that sufficient grenades are held in unit areas to make an initial issue of two per man.

INTERCOMMUNICATION

13. (a) Force HQ remains at MOMI.
(b) All units will be connected by T/T to Force HQ.
(c) General alarm will be passed by telephone and repeated on short and long blasts on siren.

14. ACK.

(A.C.RAISTON) Major.
B.M. MERAUKE FORCE.

Time of issue: 1030 hrs.

Distribution:
1-4. 62 Aust Inf Bn
5-8. RAAF
9-11. US Army
12-30. Units as in para 7.
31. Comd
32. B.M.
33-34. War Diary
35-40. File
41. First Aust Army (for infm)
42. HQ Townes Force (for infm)

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SECURITY

HQ MERAUKE FORCE

6 Jun 43

MERAUKE FORCE AIR DEFENCE INSTRUCTION NO 4

1. Para 14 of First Aust Army Operation Instruction No 34 reads;

" CO-ORDYNATION OF OPERATIONS IN DEFENDED PORTS

In the event of an attack from the air, F.S. HQ will keep the local defence commander informed of the situation. The local defence commander will then be responsible for defining the localities likely to be effected, deciding the degree of air raid alert to be adopted in those localities, and instructing the services and civil ARP authorities accordingly. "

This paragraph will be read in conjunction with MERAUKE FORCE Air Defence Instruction No 1 Part I (b) (i).

2. No 7 Bofors Gun will only fire the alert;

(a) Only when ordered to do so by the ~~Brigadier, Comd~~ MERAUKE FORCE.

(b) In the absence of the Brigadier, by the Bde Major, MERAUKE FORCE.

(c) If both Brigadier and Bde Major are not available, by OAAD (Lt-Col England).

3. ACK.

Time of issue; 1630 hrs

Method of issue; D/R

(A.C.RALSTON) Major.
B.M. MERAUKE FORCE.

Distribution; All units under comd MERAUKE FORCE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Force Comd

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

Subject: X LIST PERS - RETURN TO UNITS.

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
2 Jun 43

DISTRIBUTION LIST B (less serial numbers 8, 13, 16, 18, 20, 33 - 36)
plus Records Liaison Offr, MERAUKE)

1. Relevant parts of LHQ memo SM10064 of 29 Apr 43, Qld L of C Area Records Office memos 44941 of 11 May 43 and 45359 of 13 May 43, and First Aust Army memo AS/083 of 19 May 43, are consolidated and attached for info of addressees.

(McH. MORAN) Maj
DAA & QMG MERAUKE FORCE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

"X" LIST PERS - RETURN TO UNITS.

1. An LHQ review of the "X" list situation has revealed that many thousands of soldiers with unit identity are being retained in trg units for long periods and NOT being drafted forward to their own units as soon as they might be.

2. These personnel all belong to forward units and the responsibility of their training and efficiency rests with their own units and NOT with training units. From the training point of view, it is only necessary for training units to retain present "X" List personnel for a very short period in order to harden them before they move forward to re-join their own units, and even this hardening period should be completed normally in convalescent depot.

3. For purpose of drafting, therefore, all "X" list personnel with unit identity are being regarded as DPI (training) and provided they are medically fit, are NOT being retained in trg units for further trg. This procedure will clear trg depots as quickly as possible of "X" list personnel at present held therein.

4. In future, "X" list pers will NOT pass through trg depots but will go from convalescent depots etc either through GDD or direct to units.

5. Instns and requirements are being promulgated to all General Hospitals, Camp Hospitals, Convalescent Depots, CCSs, Fd Ambs, Schools, Detention Barracks etc as follows -

(a) Wherever reasonably practicable, "X" list pers with unit identity are to be returned direct to unit;

(b) Where it is NOT practicable to return such pers or where any doubt exists of the location of the parent unit, they will be drafted to the nearest concentration point enumerated hereunder -

(i) Brisbane and Warwick Areas:

Qld L of C Area Gen Details Depot

(ii) Townsville Area:

NG Force Adv Reinft Depot

(iii) Cairns and Atherton Areas:

16 Aust Pers Staging Camp.

Under NO circumstances should it be necessary for "X" list personnel possessing unit identity to remain in other than the depots specified.

6. Arrangements have been made for Records Liaison Staffs located at or near the concentration points enumerated in para 6(b) to issue Reinforcement Orders authorising onward movement to units of "X" list personnel marched into these depots, and to ensure that such movement is carried out as expeditiously as possible.

7. The procedure as outlined in CMO A412/42, particularly para 7 thereof, is in no way affected by the issue of these instns.

8. Medically down-graded personnel who cannot, by reason of such down-grading be returned to their parent units, will be posted to suitable vacancies under arrangements of Qld L of C Area Records Office. Should any doubt exist as to whether such personnel may be absorbed within the authorised

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

WE of the parent unit, they will be drafted to the nearest concentration point.

The same procedure will apply in respect of personnel attending schools and courses who have been up-graded and successfully trade-tested in trades for which no provision exists within the authorised WE's of parent units. Separate instns in this regard are being issued.

9. In regard to GRO A.368/43, particularly para 3 (c) and (d), it is advised that all applications for transfer of "X" list personnel will be referred to Qld L of C Area Records Office or the Records Liaison Staff located at nearest concentration point, for approval.

Only personnel whose application is based on compassionate grounds may be withheld from draft, pending investigation by the HQ of the L of C Area concerned, but such personnel should be retained only at authorised concentration points. All other personnel from whom applications are received will be drafted forward in the normal manner as expeditiously as possible.

10. Units in this area having "X" list personnel, will report to Force HQ any unusual delay in return to units with the exception that isolated cases need NOT be reported unless there is a clear case of maladministration to be corrected.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Force Comd

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

HQ MERAUKE FORCE,
3 Jun 43

MERAUKE FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NUMBER 8.

RATION RETURNS AND ISSUES. (AMF & RAAF UNITS ONLY)

1. Rations are at present made available on a weekly basis, but to provide more efficient service the following adjustments to the present system will be put into operation immediately.

2. Units will submit AB.55 in duplicate to BASCO, Force HQ, by 1000 hrs, three days prior to date of issue; e.g. for issue Thursday, AB.55 must be submitted 1000 hrs Tuesday. Supplies will NOT be forwarded without submission of indents.

3. Daily Ration Strength Return, W.3809, will be submitted in duplicate to BASCO, Force HQ, daily. Weekly Summary of Ration Strength (W.3810) will be submitted in duplicate to BASCO, Force HQ, by 1600 hrs Saturday of each week.

4. Rations will be delivered to units on days of issue as follows:

Tuesday:	62 Aust Inf Bn
	157 Aust Gen Tpt Coy
	222 Aust Sup Depot Pl
	40 RDF, RAAF
	72 Wing HQ, RAAF
Thursday:	9 Aust Hy AA Bty
	59 Aust Fd Bty
	31 Aust Docks Op Det
	12 Sigs, RAAF
	Movement Control
Saturday:	16 Aust Fd Coy
	2/8 Aust Emp Coy
	HQ MERAUKE Force
	44 OBU, RAAF
	Force Tpt Pool
	6 MRS, RAAF

(Previous instructions regarding "issue days" are cancelled)

MONTHLY VEH LOG SHEET SUMMARY (AAF.C.6). (AMF units only)

1. Ref First Aust Army Adm Instn Number 14.

2. In accordance with para 5 of the above instn, AAF.C.6 and statement as set out in pro forma, will be forwarded to reach this HQ by 5th of following month.

3. AAF.C.6 will be returned to unit as early as possible.

4. MERAUKE Force Adm Instn Number 4, para 3(b) (Monthly Veh Log Sheet Summary) is cancelled.

(M.H.MORAY) Maj
DAA & QMG MERAUKE FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION: List B

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

C/- D Bolot, Esq.,
Public Accountant,
39 Martin Place
SYDNEY

9th June, 1943.

Executive Engineer,
Office of the Engineer
U.S.A.S.O.S.,
A.P.O. 501.

Dear Sir,

Regarding my interview with Mr. W.J. Duff on 8th inst., re appointment, I was advised to set out briefly my experience of Netherlands New Guinea.

(a) I was associated with various scientific bodies in the Netherlands East Indies and New Guinea, where I spent over seven years (from 1922-26 and from 1934-39), and I have a sound knowledge of the coast and the interior.

(b) I am well acquainted with the native dialects in various regions, and with the Muto dialect which is spoken along the coastal regions of New Guinea.

My native language is South African Dutch. I am conversant with the Netherlands language, which is very little different, and with Hindostan.

(c) I have a sound knowledge of the coastal regions, such as rivers, harbours, ports and small islands adjacent to Dutch New Guinea, which I have on several occasions explored for mineral and geographical data.

(d) I have prepared geological and goegraphical data relative to Dutch New Guinea whilst attached to the various scientific surveys as Geologist and Research Engineer.

Hoping this information meets with your requirements,

Yours faithfully,

/s/ A.J. Kenrick
/t/ (A.J. KENRICK)

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY:

DAVID S. MELLINKOFF,
1st Lieut., F.A.

Jun #24

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

1st Ind /les

HEADQUARTERS 1ST BATTALION 96TH ENGINEER REGIMENT, APO 922,
3 July 1943.
TO: Officer of the Engineer, Headquarters USASOS APO 501.

1. It is believed that the services of Mr. A.J. Kenrick would be of value to this base.

2. Surveys or Petroleum Surveys relative to this immediate area might prove invaluable in solving the water supply problem.

For Captain MacDONALD:

W. H. NICHOLS
Capt., 96th Engrs.
Acting Adjutant.

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY:

DAVID SL MELLINKOFF,
1st Lieut., F.A.,

Inc #25

Force Comd

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

MERAUKE FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NUMBER 8.

RETURNS (second instn)
(first instn not to all addressees)

1. DAILY STRENGTH STATE: (All units)

(a) AMF units are reqd to submit W.3006 by 1200 hrs daily - one copy only is required.

(b) NEI and US units are required to submit by 1200 hrs daily, one copy of statement or strength by officers and other ranks, showing firstly, numbers actually present in camp, and secondly, numbers in hospital etc.

(c) RAAF HQ is required to consolidate strength return of all RAAF units and submit one copy by 1200 hrs daily.

2. CASUALTY RETURNS: (all units)

(a) AMF units vide Adm Instn Number 4.
(b) NEI and US units and RAAF HQ are requested to submit casualty statements for information of Force HQ, at earliest possible opportunity, in the case of casualties due to air raids, enemy action etc.

3. POSTINGS OF OFFRS: (all units)

(a) Postings of offrs for AMF units will be obtained by Force HQ weekly from W.3008;

(b) NEI and US units are requested to submit on 30th of each month, a statement of appointments of all officers within the unit;

(c) RAAF HQ is requested to supply for Force infm, names and appts of senior officers and commanders and administration officers.

4. MONTHLY CENSUS OF WARLIKE STORES: (AMF units only)

This return is now to be submitted in duplicate on 20th of each month, and notification of amendment is NOT necessary. Returns will be consolidated by Force HQ.

5. NORMAL SUPPLY RETURNS: (RAAF and AMF units only)

(a) Indents for rations (AB.55) are to be submitted in duplicate to Force HQ by 0700 hrs on the day prior to the day of issue.

(b) Daily Ration Strength Return (W.3809) to be submitted in duplicate to Force HQ daily. Units note that Daily Ration Strength Return should include all personnel messing with that unit. Totals do NOT necessarily agree with Daily Strength Return (para 1 of this instn).

(c) Weekly Summary of Ration Strength (W.3810) to be submitted in duplicate to Force HQ by 1560 hrs each Saturday.

Units NOT in possession of return AB55, W.3809, W.3810 may obtain specimen copies from Force HQ.

6. RESERVES RETURN: (All units)

(a) MERAUKE Force Routine Order Serial 1 Number Q13 is cancelled;

(over)

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(b) All units are now required to furnish a return on 30th of each month stating reserves by type of Rations and POL held, for example:

Rations:
(i) NG Scale
(ii) Iron rations
(iii) Dehydrated rations
(iv) US Type B
(v) US Type C
(vi) US Type D
(vii) Hospital rations
(viii) Expense stores

(Units please state any other type that may be held)

POL:
(i) Aviation fuel
(ii) Motor spirit fuel
(iii) Range fuels
(iv) Fuel oils
(v) Lubricants
(vi) Greases

(Units please add any other types that may be held)

(c) Many units in this area are NOT holding reserves. Such units are requested to submit a NIL return.

(d) This return is in respect of unit holdings only and NOT to be confused with the "reserve holdings in bulk" return requested by DADS&T from US Port Det A, 222 Sup Depot Pl, POL Sec, 55 Naval Construction Bn (US) and 72 Wing HQ RAAF.

7. FORCE SIGS DESPATCH RIDER SERVICE:

It is suggested that all units take full advantage of Force Sig Despatch Rider for forwarding mail and returns to Force HQ, thus economising in the use of tpt and eliminating unnecessary journeys to Force HQ.

(M.H.MORAY) Maj
(DAA & QMG MERAUKE FORCE.

26 May 43

DISTRIBUTION: List B

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Force Comd

MERAUKE FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO. 7.

WHARF AND DUMP DUTY PARTIES.

1. MERAUKE FORCE Administrative Instruction Number 3 is cancelled and has no effect from the time of signing this instruction.

2. This instruction is supplementary to Standing Orders for Discharge of Cargoes by working parties of 20 May 43.

3. Movement Control will be responsible for advising Force HQ of personnel and tpt requirements from time to time, but the above shall not exempt:

(i) Wharf Co-ordinating Officer
(ii) S & T

from duties detailed in later paras of this instruction.

4. Total labour available for

(i) Ship and wharf parties
(ii) Dump party
(iii) ASC Dump party
(iv) Co-ordinating Offrs

shall not exceed in the aggregate 5 Offrs 10 NCOs 100 OR, except when expressly ordered by Force HQ.

5. Units available shall be until further notice as follows:

15 Emp Pl.
62 Aust Inf Bn
59 Fd Bty

and rotation of shifts of units will be detailed by Force HQ.

6. Ship and Shipfand wharf party shall not exceed 8RNCO 84 OR
Dump party shall not exceed 1 NCO 10 OR.
ASC Dump party shall not exceed 1 NCO 6 OR
unless expressly ordered by Force HQ.

7. 62 Aust Inf Bn will on notification from ForceHQ provide:

(i) Wharf Co-ordinating Offr, whose duties shall be liaison with Movement Control and S & T regarding:

(a) Working party and tpt requirements at wharf and shall be responsible that working parties in excess of requirements are released and transported back to their respective areas, and that excess tpt is released to tpt lines.

(b) To see that tpt at wharf is reasonably dispersed.

(c) To raise flag at wharf for notification of yellow and red alerts. It is pointed out that the raising of the flag is a warning to shipping only - see Standing Orders referred to above.

(d) To report hourly by telephone to Force HQ progress of unloading.

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7. (contd)
(i) (contd)

(e) When not engaged in the performance of his duties elsewhere, he shall remain at shore end of Main Wharf, and if away from this position, he shall advise NCO of jetty guard of his whereabouts.

(ii) Dump Co-ordinating Officer, whose duties shall be liaison with A/DADST (Capt Karrasch) regarding;

(a) Tpt and working parties and dumps, and shall be responsible for seeing that working parties in excess of requirements are released and transported to their respective areas and exaess tpt is releasedtto tpt lines.

(b) The destination of material in dumps and shall see that such material is consigned to its correct destination, andhe shall obtain from the driver of the vehicle conveying such material, a report on the correct delivery of such material.

(c) To seethatt dumps are being cleared simultaneously with material coming into them and to liaisewith S & T regarding tpt necessary for that purpose.

Both the officers detailed above shall before movement of parties to Wharf and Dump areasliase with Movement Control and A/DADST to prevent working parties in excess of actual requirements being moved from their respective areas if NOT required.

As the efficient working of wharf and dumps depends to some extent on the above officers carrying out their duties in an efficient manner, units will see that all officers, who may be detailed for the above duties, are aware of their duties as detailed, and that these officers are conversant with this instruction.

8. Officers detailed with wharf and ship parties will bedisposed as follows;

(a) One officer on ship to liaisewith Docks Operating Coy. Officer to assist and carry out instructions of Docks Operating Coy officer, and to prevent pilfering of cargo.

(b) One officer on each jetty to liase with Movement Control officer - to assist and carry out instructions of Movement Control officer and to prevent pilfering of cargo.

9. 62 Aust Inf Bn will supply Regimental Police as required by Force HQ to control traffic at the following points;

(i) MAIN STand 12 AVE
(ii) corner WHARF RD and BOMB ALLEY
(iii) corner MAIN ST and BOMB ALLEY
(iv) between jetties.

Personnel detailed for the above duties will be correctly dressed and conduct themselves in asmart and soldierly manner

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MERAUKE FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO. 7. (Contd)

10. ASC Dump party shall be provided as ordered by Force HQ.

11. Force Sigs will maintain personnel, Lucas lamps and Fullerphone at OP 3 as required by Force HQ.

12. 62 Aust Inf Bn will maintain BEL at lighthouse as required by Force HQ for use on three hours notice.

13. All units which may have material arriving will provide identification parties at ship and dump when necessary to facilitate correct despatch of material to units. Units will liaise with Movement Control to ascertainn if material consigned to them has arrived.

(M.H.MORAY) Maj
DAA & QMG MERAUKE FORCE

May 43

DISTRIBUTION

List B.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
8 Jun 43

MERAUKE FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE INSTN NUMBER 9.

ACCUMULATION OF AND EXPENDITURE OF BALANCES IN REGTL TRUST FUNDS.

1. The following extract from a LHQ circular on above subject is forwarded for information of all concerned. HQ of units will be responsible for seeing that this is brought to the notice of those operating and conducting the accounts in which such funds are deposited.

2. (a) "GRO Q175 of 1942 provides for the distribution on a per capita basis of 3½% of turnover from the Central Canteens Control Board for Unit Trust Funds and of 1½% of turnover to Formation Commanders for special amenities and other purposes for which the Unit Trust Funds are not appropriate.

These funds are intended to be applied for objects of collective benefit to members of the Army. M.B.Memo No. 93207 of 5 Dec 41 specifically authorises the purchase of sporting material from unit funds so derived.

The principle to be observed in the expenditure of these funds is as aforesaid and articles of equipment, furniture or clothing, which are authorised Government issues are not to be purchased from such funds.

(b) "GRO Q54 of 1943 provides for the publishing monthly in unit Routine Orders by Commanding Officers holding such funds a statement showing the balance standing to the credit of the fund, the receipts during the month, the expenditure during the month and the details of the purposes for which disbursements were made.

(c) "GRO F281 of 1942 provides for the method by which such Unit Trust Funds shall be established and operated by deposit or withdrawal and for the audit of the same.

3. A number of problems in relation to the operation of such funds have come to notice and for the information of all concerned the following matters are referred to and the principles in respect to them laid down as a guide to those responsible for the operation and conduct of the accounts in which such funds are deposited.

4. (a) In a number of cases the balances in such accounts are abnormally high and the credits therein represent in many instances a large proportion of the allocations from Canteen profits, which were distributed for the benefit of the members of the unit. Such accumulations defeat the intention of these distributions.

As on and from the first day of June 43, a review of such balances will be made quarterly by LHQ and in such cases as the credit therein exceeds the amount of £1 for each member of the unit, a direction will be given that the excess in respect of such distributions will, unless satisfactory reasons are adduced to the contrary, be transferred to the funds of whichever of the undermentioned Commanders of Formations is the relevant superior authority of the unit concerned, to be spent at such Commander's discretion for the general benefit of the troops under his command -

GOC First Aust Army	GOC N.T. Force
GOC Second Aust Army	GOC New Guinea Force
GOC 3 Aust Corps	GOC Each L of C Area

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MERAUKE FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE INSTN NUMBER 9 (contd)

(b) In addition, if the relevant Commander so directs, the unit concerned may be excluded from distributions allocated from Canteen profits under the provisions of GRO Q175 of 1942 until he otherwise directs.

5. Where a considerable proportion of the personnel of any unit is transferred to another unit or where any unit or detachment is attached to or being provided with amenities by another unit, the unit from which such transfer is made or which, or part of which, is so attached to another unit, shall contribute from its regimental funds to the transferee unit or unit to which such personnel are attached, a fair proportion of the cost of the amenities provided. Failing agreement as to the amount of such contribution, the assessment shall be referred to and determined by the relative Divisional or higher Commander.

6. Where under GRO Q175 of 1942, a formation Commander, as referred to in para (a)(ii) thereof, has under his Command a detached Sub-Area or unit not smaller than the equivalent of an Infantry Battalion, he shall ensure that a fair proportion of the funds distributed to him for special amenities and other purposes is spent for the benefit of the troops in such sub-area or Unit so detached and in so doing he shall consult with the Commander of such Sub-Area or unit as to the purposes for which the same can most advantageously be employed.

7. Because the needs to provide special amenities and sports, entertainments and the like in respect of the AWAS and AAMWS may vary in character from the provisions for other members of the Forces, it is desired that funds received in respect of such units by formation Commanders shall be made available proportionately to the whole sum received, to the Commanders of such units of the AWAS and AAMWS to be spent by them for the members of their units.

In cases where units consist to any considerable extent of members of the AWAS and AAMWS and the funds received in respect of such unit pass to the Commander, it is desirable that on any Executive or Committee which he may appoint to deal with such funds a representative or representatives of the AWAS or AAMWS shall be elected or appointed in order that the expenditure of the fund shall be for the benefit of the women as well as for the men who are members of the unit.

(M.H.MORAY) Maj
DAA & QMG MERAUKE FORCE

DISTRIBUTION: List B

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Force Comd

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

Subject: AMENDMENTS.

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
6 Jun 43

DISTRIBUTION LIST B.

1. Routine Order Serial 1 of 28 May 43:

Routine Order Number G.I SECURITY -

delete "0700" and substitute "0830".

2. Administrative Instn Number 6 of 3 Jun 43:

Para 4 - Tuesday delete "157 Gen Tpt Coy"

Thursday add "2 Aust Water Tpt Gp
157 Aust Gen Tpt Coy
18 Aust Fd Amb (AIF)"

Saturday add "74 Aust Fd Amn Depot
125 Aust Fd Ord Depot".

(M.H.MORAY) Maj
DAA & QMG MERAUKE FORCE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOST SECRET.

ALLIED LAND FORCES SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

COPY NO. 1

MCO Office,
MERAUKE,
9 Jun 43.

MOVEMENT ORDER NUMBER 2.

1. INFORMATION.

Ref Signal Movts Cairns QM943 of 29/5/43, ss "BOTH" is expected to arrive at MERAUKE 10 Jun 43 from Cairns via Thursay Island. The exact time of arrival will be advised as soon as is known.

2. PURPOSE.

To discharge personnel and cargo as set out in Appx "A" of this Order;

(a) Personnel will be disembarked immediately the ship is made fast in the Order shown in Appx "A". They will embus on waiting trucks and be conveyed to the areas already prepared, with exception of Number 4 Platoon "A" Coy 2/1 Aust Gd Bn, who will move under arrangements Force HQ.
RAAF Personnel will move under arrangements HQ RAAF.
USA personnel will move under arrangements US Army HQ.

3. BULK STORES & WE.

If possible these stores will be unloaded in Unit Order and conveyed to their respective camps. Otherwise they will be taken to central dump under arrangements Force HQ.

4. MT AND M/CYCLES.

All vehicles and motor cycles will be driven from Docks Area. POL and drivers, if necessary will be arranged by Force HQ.

5. GUIDES.

Guides to Camp Areas etc. will be provided under arrangements Force HQ.

6. ROUTE OF MT TO AND FROM JETTY.

IN; via MAIN STREET, 12 AVE, & "B" STREET.
OUT; via 9 AVE, & MAIN STREET.
On "IN" journey, vehicles will disperse to 75 yds intervals and come forward as required. Port MCO in conjunction woth Tpt Offr will see that this instruction is strictly adhered to.

7. CONTROL OF DISCHARGE.

Movt Control will be represented by Lieut P.O. STARLING, Port MCO, or in his abscence S/Sgt J.M. STEELE. They will be the sole channle of communication on the wharf in relation to all matters appertaining to discharge, between representatives of service consignees and Master of ship.

8. MT.

MT required for conveyance of goods discharged will be requisitioned by Movt Control.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOVEMENT ORDER NO.2 (contd)

9. MILITARY LABOUR.

Force HQ will supply working parties for each shift as follows:-

1 Offr, 5 NCOs and 48 OR. Total personnel 54. Additional personnel to be detailed for duty at dumps under arrangements Force HQ, when advised by Movt Control. The numbers required for each gang may be altered by circumstances from time to time in which case Force HQ will be notified accordingly.

10. DISEMBARKATION OF SICK.

PMO will be in attendance at jetty to board the ship immediately on berthing, and will arrange di sembarkation of sick personnel in conjunction with MSO.

11. SECURITY GUARD.

Military guard for security of Docks Area and approaches thereto, will be supplied by Force HQ. In addition 1 MP will be required for duty at gangway and one on the ship. No unauthorised person (military or civilian) will be permitted access to Docks Area. Authorised persons are those holding passes issued by Force HQ, RAAF HQ, and Comd USA Forces.

12. PILFERING.

Personnel comprising working parties are to be warned that strong disciplinary action will be taken against any man detected pilfering goods. Officers and NCO's in charge of working parties, will be held responsible for this order being carried out. Care is to be taken to see that cases of rations etc, are handled with as much care as possible with a view to preventing their being broken open. Should services concerned so desire, one guard may be placed in each hold of vessel to safeguard their consignments.

13. P.A.D.

Offrs and ORs working on or required to visit the Docks Area will acquaint themselves with PAD arrangements in event of enemy air action.

14. SECRECY.

The strictest secrecy is to be maintained in connection with this movement. The importance of observing this instruction is to be impressed upon all concerned.

15. Acknowledge.

(L.J.LORD) Capt.
OC MOVEMENT CONTROL.

APPENDIX "A" TO MOVT CONTROL ORDER NUMBER 2.

SS "BOTH"

PERSONNEL:-

UNIT	OFFR	OR	TOTAL	REMARKS
HQ 11 Aust Inf Bde	5	52	57	
11 Aust Inf Bde Sigs	1	17	18	
Number 4 Platoon "A" Coy 2/1 Aust HQ Gd Bn	1	42	43	
19 Aust Fd Amb	1	3	4	
RAAF	3	52	55	
USA Force (26 Port Surg Hosp)		30	30	
	11	196	207	

CARGO SHIPPED PER ss"BOTH"

CONSIGNEE	NUMBER PACKAGES	GOODS	MEASUREMENT TONS	MEASUREMENT FEET
Ordnance Offr	6	Motor cycles as per B/L	2	10
HQ 11 Aust Inf Bde	98	Drums M/T Spirit as per B/L	17	12
Supply Offr	5318	Pkgs Stores as per B/L	210	6
Supply Offr	255	Pkgs Stores as per B/L	11	25
11 Aust Inf Bde	357	Pkgs Eqpt as per B/L	59	30
HQ Gd Pl	41	Pkgs Eqpt as per B/L	4	27
Supply Offr	176	Pkgs Stores as per B/L	11	28
HQ 11 Aust Inf Bde	26	Jeeps as per B/L	233	4
K Section Sigs	64	Pkgs Eqpt as per B/L	8	20
ADCS	204	Pkgs Canteen Goods as per B/L	14	38
APO	112	Bags Mail	11	8
	6657.		585	8

Distribution:

1-15 Force HQ
16-20 RAAF
20-24 USASOS
25-26 Lieut MCNAB Docks Supt
27 Movements LHQ
28 HQ First Aust Army
29 Adv LHQ (Movements Section)
30-31 OC Troops
32 SMO
33 PMO
34 Lt Col Van den Berge (for infm)
35-36 Spare
37 File.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECRET

Subject: COMBINED OPERATIONS - EQUIPMENT

HQ MERAUKE FORCE

G/ACR/MAW/6

11 Jun 43

62 Aust Inf Bn AIF

1. 62 Aust Inf Bn will carry out a jungle march from MERAUKE to KOEMBE and return, commencing on 14 Jun 43 and terminating on 17 Jun 43.

2. The following troops will take part in the exercise:

62 Aust Inf Bn

Two rifle Coys
62 Bn HQ
HQ Coy less Carrier Pl and Tk/Ak Pl
Two 3" mortars and 20 bombs only per mortar
Sigs will carry three miles of D3 cable.

59 Aust Fd Bty

1 O.P. officer and 11 OR with No 11 set
In rear of column as a separate sub-unit, will be 30 OR (gun numbers) - two 25 pdr guns

3. Transport

(a) 2 Aust Water Tpt Gp will make 3 ALCVs available, and will ensure that they have been tested prior to the exercise being carried out.

(b) Troops will embark on ALCVs at Town Jetty at 0900 hrs on 14 Jun 43, and will disembark at the LEADS.

(c) Adjt., 62 Aust Inf Bn will arrange with W.O.ii Maher 2 Aust Water Tpt Gp, regarding the tactical loading of craft. NOT more than 30 personnel per ALCV.

4. After crossing MERAUKE RIVER in ALCVs, you will proceed overland to KOEMBE.

5. Officers as observers will be provided by Bde HQ.

6. Report on conclusion of the exercise, will reach this HQ by 0900 hrs on 19 Jun 43.

A. C. Ralston

(A.C.RALSTON) Major.
B.M. MERAUKE FORCE.

Distribution:
1. 62 Aust Inf Bn
2. 59 Aust Fd Bty
3. 2 Aust Water Tpt Gp
4. Comd
5. BM
6. DAA & QMG
7. I.O.
8-9. File
10-11. War Diary

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
14 Jun 43.

ADDENDUM 1.

MERAUKE FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO.8

AASC SUPPLIES.

1. ISSUE OF POL (AMF and RAAF Units only)

(a) Units will submit AB 55(a) in duplicate direct to DID each Monday for issue on Friday.

(b) A Petrol Point will be established off MAIN STREET, opposite 13 AVENUE, and will be open between 1000 and 1600 hrs on Friday of each week.

(c) Units will supply own Tpt.

(d) Issues at times other than the above will NOT be made, except under urgent circumstances, when special indents will be submitted to DID, 222 Aust Sup Depot Pl.

2. ISSUE OF EXPENSE STORES (AMF and RAAF units only)

(a) F55 and AB 55 will be submitted by units to BASCO, Force HQ, by 1000 hrs, three days prior to date of issue.

(b) Expense Stores will be delivered to units on days of issue as set out in Adm Instn Number 8 of 3 Jun 43.

3. RESERVE RATIONS. (AMF and RAAF units only)

(a) Units will hold only 7 days' iron rations as reserves, with the exception of dehydrated rations.

(b) Any surplus rations will be consumed by units and necessary deletions shown on AB56.

(c) Reserves will consist of the following commodities;

Pres Meat
Service biscuits
Tea
Sugar.

4. PERISHABLE COMMODITIES (AMF and RAAF units)

(a) As persihable commodities are made available, such supplies will be issued on a pro rata basis for immediate consumption.

(b) Necessary deletions covering perishables will be made by units on subsequent indent for rations.

(M.H.MORAY) Maj
DAA & QMG MERAUKE FORCE

DISTRIBUTION LIST B.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.7.1.8502

Lord Condi

Subject: CHANGE IN DISIGNATION: 102 SEC 5 AUST DIV W/SHOPS AND 102 SEC 5 AUST DIV ORD FD PARK.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

AQ/MHM/JKL/

HQ MERAUKE FORCE,
16 Jun 43.

Distribution : List B.

1. It is advised that the existing designations of the units as shown above have been cancelled as from 29 May 43.

2. The Units will henceforth be known as:-

102 Aust Bde Wkshops
102 Aust Bde Ord Fd Park.

(M.H.MORAY) Maj
DA & QMG MERAUKE FORCE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Force Comd

IMPORTANT

AQ CIRCULAR:

Subject: RIFLES NO 3 MK IX T

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
16 Jun 43

Distribution List B

1. Subtended is the text of First Aust Army memo G(SD)6658 of 8 Jun 43:

" In the past uncertainty has existed in regard to the recognition of Rifle No 3 Mk IX T: Weapons shown under the heading "Serial 511" in the monthly Census of Warlike Stores have eventually proved to be either Serial 508, 509 or 512.

In consequence of the above an accurate physical check of all rifles held will be made immediately by all units and a return forwarded by formations and units under command in time to reach this HQ by 30 Jun 43. Nil returns are required.

It should be ensured that a unit member who is thoroughly conversant with all rifles .303 Calibre, namely Rifles No 1 MK IIIX (Ordinary Service Rifles), Rifles No 4 MK I, Rifles No 3 MK IX F (fine adjustable backsight) and Rifles No 3 Mk IX T (Telescopic Sight), supervise the physical check. For the purpose of recognition, attention is drawn to GRO 724 of 1942 GRO 12 of 1943 and MGO Equipment Memorandum No 3 para 6 of Feb 1943 (not to all addressees)"

2. In accordance with this memo, units etc will carry out an accurate physical check and report the result (incl NIL Returns) to this HQ immediately and NOT later than 21 May 43.

(M.R.MORAY) Maj
DAA & QMG MERAUKE FORCE

20 Jun 43

3

MOST SECRET

HQ MERAUKE FORCE

20 Jun 43

MERAUKE FORCE OPERATION INSTRUCTION No 7

To O.C. Patrol

1. INFORMATION

43. Unidentified troopship anchored at MAPPI POST 180CK on 19 Jun

2. OBJECT

To patrol MAPPI area and investigate if enemy have landed and approximate numbers, and any further action on the part of the enemy.

3. STRENGTH

One Pl, 62 Aust Inf Bn AIF, of 1 Offr and 30 OR (including one "I" man for cipher.
2 Bn Sigs
2 "K" Sec Sigs
1 stretcher bearer.
Lt-col van den Berge will accompany party.

4. ROUTE

Patrol will land at OKABA and proceed overland to MAPPI. Carriers will be arranged by Lt-col van den Berge at OKABA. Patrol will embark on Dutch vessel HARMON on 21 Jun. Time will be notified later.

5. SUPPLIES

14 days rations will be taken.
S.A.A. 200 rds per man plus 4 boxes .303.
2 boxes grenades.

Boxes amn will be cached along track to form a reserve.

6. COMN

Sig Det will be provided with ground to air recognition code, and strips by RAAF. One No 11 set will be carried, linked direct to MERAUKE. On same frequency as MARY and JOAN. Code word for patrol will be notified.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

A. C. Ralston

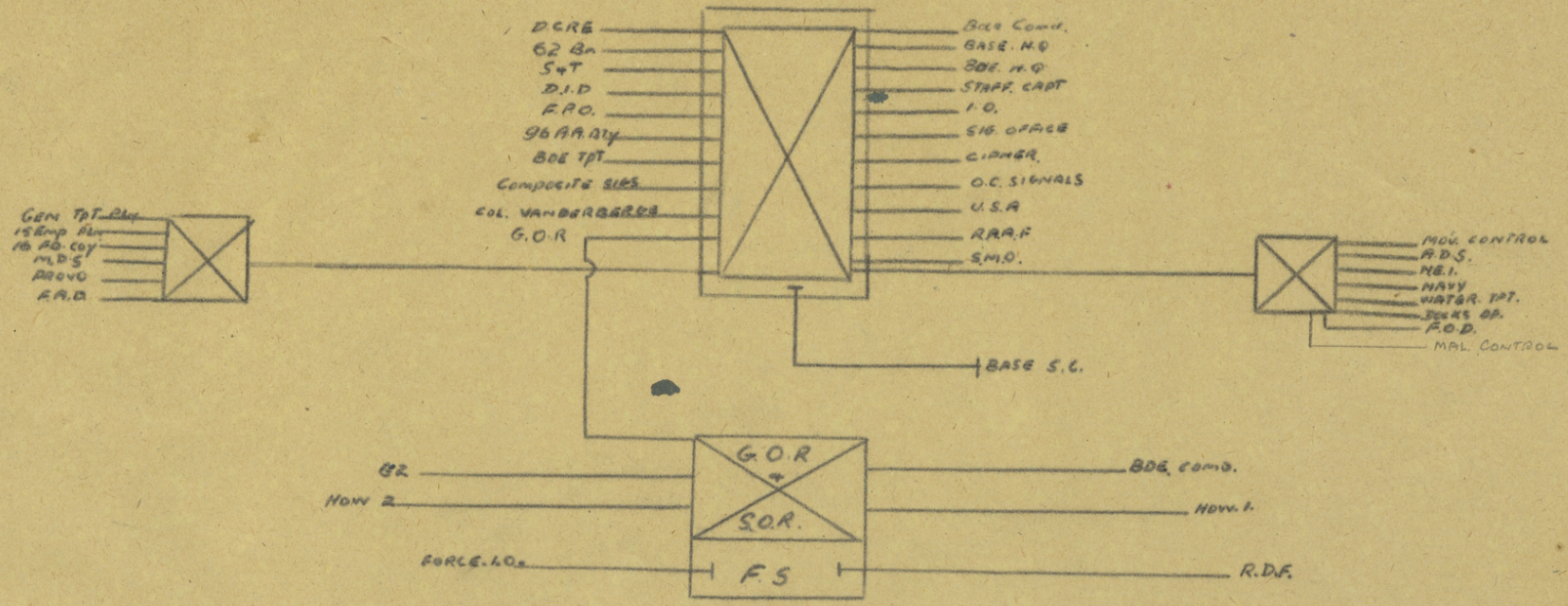
(A.C.RALSTON) Major.
B.M. MERAUKE FORCE.

Distribution:
1. O.C.Patrol
2. Lt-col van den Berge
3. Comd
4. First Aust Army
5. File
6-7. War Diary
8. B.M.
9-10. Spare.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

LINE DIAGRAM

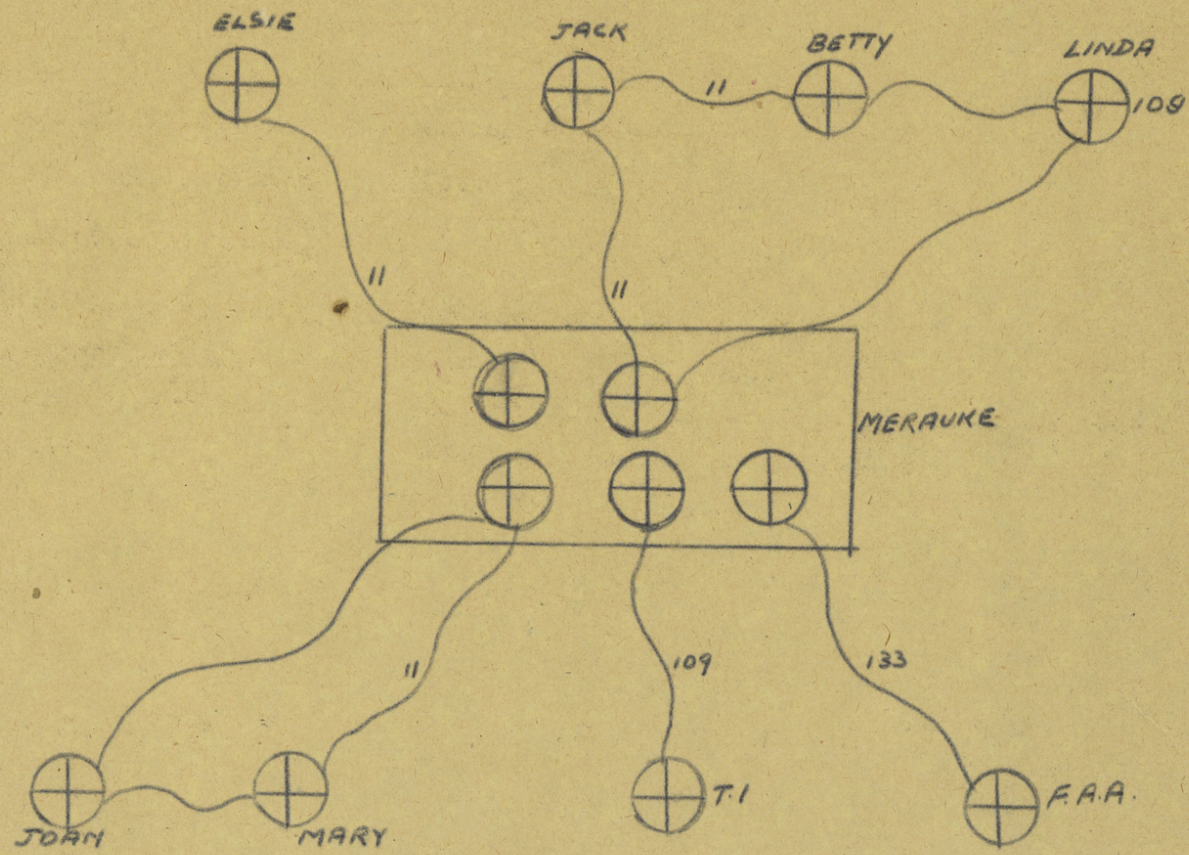
16. C. 43



R D Fraser Capt
D C S O

WIRELESS DIAGRAM

16-6-43



L D Law Capt.
O C Signals
Merauke Force

SECRET.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

HQ MERAUKE FORCE,
24 Jun 43.

MERAUKE FORCE CINEMA.

An ACF Cinema Unit will operate as from Monday, 28 Jun 43.

LOCATION. Behind the Protestant Church in the TOWN AREA.

SCREENINGS. At 1930 hrs every day except Sunday.

PROGRAMMES. Changed weekly.

UNIT ALLOCATIONS. See Appendix A.

ATTENDANCE. CO's of units and offrs or NCO's in charge of detachments, will ensure that allocations are not exceeded, but also, that while the attendance of each man is to be limited to once per week, taking into consideration the security para which follows, as many personnel as possible will be released to attend.

DRESS. Will be in accordance with MERAUKE FORCE Administrative Instruction Number 2 of 13 May 43.

TRANSPORT. Units, wherever possible will provide their own transport and where none is available or additional vehicles are required, requisitions will bemade to S&T by 1600 hrs on preceding day.

SECURITY. (a) Personnel other than details of six and under from units in the TOWN AREA, will not proceed individually, but will be under command as follows:-

Detail	Officer or NCO in Charge
7 - 30	Sgt or Cpl
30 - 50	WO or Sgt
50 upwards	Capt or Lieut.

(b) Vehicles will be parked in MAIN or B STREETS, NOT in BOMB ALLEY and a dispersal of 75 yards will be strictly observed.

(c) In the event of an air raid, personnel will disperse quietly and will return to units under instructions from Officers or NCO's in charge as soon as is practicable.

(d) Unit commanders will be responsible for ensuring that attendances are contingent upon the security of their areas and of the Force area as a whole.

(e) Provost will be detailed as under:

2 to Parking Area
2 to Cinema

(M.H.MORAY) Maj
DAA & QMG MERAUKE FORCE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECRET.
Appx A.

UNIT ALLOCATION.

MONDAY

Unit	Allocation
59 Aust Fd Bty	60
First Aust Army Comflg Trg Unit	4
K Sec Sigs	23
Inde Cipher Sec	8
31/51 Aust Inf Bn	200
62 Aust Inf Bn	200
157 Aust Gen Tpt Coy	50
222 Aust Sup Depot Pl	15
102 Aust Bde F. Park and Wshop	45
Pl 15 Aust Emp Coy	40
Pay	6
ADCS	6
RAN	30
Det Port Det A	15
RAAF	250
26 US Port Surg Hosp	20
NEI Troops	40

TUESDAY

Unit	Allocation
9 Aust Hy AA Bty	70
110 Aust Lt AA Regt	80
16 Aust Fd Coy	70
76 Aust AA S/L Coy	80
31 Aust Docks Op Coy RAE	30
Det 2 Aust Water Tpt Gp	10
1 Aust Comp Sig Sec	20
62 Aust Inf Bn	200
B Coy 2/3 Aust MG Bn	50
19 Aust Fd Amb	70
104 Aust Adv Med Stores	3
79 Aust Dental Unit	5
242 Aust [illegible]	8
Movement Control	4
Postal	3
Bty D 104 Sep Coast Arty (AA)	40
55 Naval Construction Bn	100
L Bn 96 US Eng Gen Serv Regt	120
NEI Troops	40

WEDNESDAY.

Unit	Allocation.
HQ MERAUKE FORCE	50
HQ Aust Gd Pl	22
59 Aust Fd Bty	50
76 Aust AA S/L Coy	80
First Aust Army Comflg Trg Unit	4
K Sec Sigs	23
31/51 Aust Inf Bn	200
157 Aust Gen Tpt Coy	50
222 Aust Sup Depot Pl	15
Det BIPOD	15
102 Sec 5 Aust Bde Fd Park and Wshop	45
123 Aust FOD	20
74 Aust Fd Amn Depot	15
Pl 15 Aust Emp Coy	40
Sec 8 Aust Fd Bakery	10
ADCS	6
Pay	6
RAAF	200
Bty D 104 Sep Coast Arty (AA)	60
55 Naval Construction Bn	100

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

UNIT ALLOCATION.

THURSDAY

Unit	Allocation
9 Aust Hy AA Bty	80
110 Aust Lt AA Regt	70
16 Aust Fd Coy	70
31 Aust Docks Op Coy RAE	30
Det 2 Aust Water Tpt Gp	15
Ind Cipher Sec	8
62 Aust Inf Bn	200
B Coy 2/3 Aust MG Bn	50
19 Aust Fd Amb	70
242 Aust LAD	8
Movt Control	4
Postal	3
RAAF	250
1 Bn 96 US Eng Regt	120
NEI Troops	40

FRIDAY

Unit	Allocation
59 Aust Fd Bty	60
110 Aust Lt AA Regt	70
76 Aust AA S/L Coy	60
1 Aust Comp Sig Sec	20
31/51 Aust Inf Bn	200
157 Aust Gen Tpt Coy	50
222 Aust Sup Depot Pl	15
Det BIPOD	15
104 Adv Depot Med Stores	3
79 Aust Dental Unit	5
102 Aust Bde Fd Park and Wshops	45
123 Aust FOD	20
74 Fd Amn Depot	15
Sec 8 Aust Fd Bakery	10
Pl 15 Aust Emp Coy	40
RAAF	200
1 Bn 96 US Eng Regt	100
55 Naval Constn Bn	60
NEI Troops	40

SATURDAY

Unit	Allocation
HQ MERAUKE FORCE	50
HQ Aust Gd Pl	22
9 Aust Hy AA Bty	80
16 Aust Fd Coy	70
31 Aust Docks Op Coy RAE	30
31/51 Aust Inf Bn	200
62 Aust Inf Bn	200
B Coy 2/3 Aust MG Bn	50
19 Aust Fd Amb	70
Provost	10
RAN	20
RAAF	100
26 Port Surg Hosp	20
Det Port Det A	15
Bty D 104 Sep Coast Arty AA	60

MOST SECRET

Copy No 4

23 Jun 43

FIRST AUST ARMY OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 35

REINFORCEMENT OF TORRES STRAIT GARRISONS

Yorkforce
Torres Strait Force

1. Stage 2 of the MOULTRIE Plan provides that should an emergency arise the TORRES STRAIT garrison will be reinforced by air by one division less two brigades. Stage 2 also provides for the reinforcement of Merauke Force by an additional battalion from Torres Strait Force.

2. Appendix 'A' shows the units designated by First Aust Army in accordance with paragraph 1.

3. First Aust Army Operation Instruction No 31 of 28 Apr 43 is CANCELLED. HQ 2 Aust Corps is relieved of responsibility for organizing the air movement.

REINFORCEMENT BY AIR

4. The following units are to be in readiness to move by air to the TORRES STRAIT area :-

HQ 4 Aust Div HQ RAE 4 Aust Div 4 Aust Div Sigs, less infantry brigade and artillery sections HQ AASC 4 Aust Div	from airfields in the TOWNSVILLE area
HQ 6 Aust Inf Bde, with sig sec and LAD 14/32 Aust Inf Bn 19 Aust Inf Bn 36 Aust Inf Bn One Aust fd coy (if allotted by LHQ) 14 and 15 Sup Depot Pls 6 Aust Fd Amb 4 Aust Div Pro Coy (less two secs)	from MAREEBA airfield

5. Movement by air will be on a tactical basis. If ordered, it is expected that air transport to lift 1000 men a day will be provided. HQ 4 Aust Div will work out the composition of the flights, which will be placed on the following notice :-

First flight of 1000 all ranks	:	12 hours
Subsequent flights each of 1000	:	each an additional 24 hours.

6. Units moving to TORRES STRAIT area by air in emergency will carry :-

5 days' rations on the man (including 3 days' emergency)
5 days' ammunition at WUR
All signal equipment
One blanket and one waterproof sheet per man
All weapons
Motor cycles
Jeeps, if available, but no other vehicles
Other equipment at the discretion of HQ 4 Aust Div

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOVEMENT BY SEA

7. If the air reinforcement plan is implemented, it is expected that units designated for Stage 2 which are NOT moving by air will go by sea, together with the vehicles and heavy equipment of the units moving by air. Plans should be prepared for the movement of these vehicles to ports of embarkation. The scale of vehicles should be kept low, and initially units should be prepared to move with minimum tactical vehicles.

COMMAND IN TORRES STRAIT AREA

8. On the arrival in the TORRES STRAIT area of HQ 4 Aust Div Torres Strait Force will come under its command. Subsequently Merauke Force will also come under command 4 Aust Div from a date to be notified by First Aust Army.

ACKNOWLEDGE ✓

Time of signature 0852hrs

Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

DISTRIBUTION	Copy No	Method of Issue
Yorkforce (incl one for 4 Aust Div)	1, 2	Safe hand
Torres Strait Force	3	" "
Merauke Force	4	" "
2 Aust Corps	5	" "
BRA	6	Hand
BAA & FD	7	"
CSO	8	"
Adv LHQ	9,10	Safe hand
LHQ	11	" "
GOC-in-C	12	Hand
MGGS	13	"
G(o)	14	"
G(I)	15	"
G(SD)	16	"
CE	17	"
DA & QMG	18	"
A	19	"
Q	20	"
S & T	21	"
Medical	22	"
Ord	23	"
E & ME	24	"
File	25,26	
War diary	27,28	
Spares	29,30,31	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOST SECRET

Appendix 'A' to First Aust Army
Operation Instruction No 35
of 23 Jun 43

MOULTRIE PLAN STAGE 2 - DESIGNATIONS OF FORMATIONS AND UNITS

Serial No	Formation, unit etc.	Present Location	Remarks
	TORRES STRAIT GARRISON		
	HQ		
1	HQ 4 Aust Div & 305 Aust LAD	DICK CREEK	
	INT		
2	P Aust FS Sec	DICK CREEK	
	CAV		
3	1 Aust Indep LH Sqn	PALUMA	
	ARTY		
4	2/9 Aust A Fd Regt (less one bty) Balance Sec Sigs & 2/68 Aust LAD	HELIDON	Under command BRA First Aust Army
5	6 Aust Fd Regt, Sig Sec & 222 Aust LAD	KINDURO	
6	One bty 2/3 Aust Tk A Regt, Det 'H' Sec Sigs 9 Aust Div	KAIRI	Under command 9 Aust Div (2 Aust Corps)
	ENGRS		
7	HQ RAE 4 Aust Div	DICK CREEK	
8	One Aust Fd Coy		If allotted
9	4 Aust Div Camflg Trg Unit	DICK CREEK	
	SIGS		
10	Sigs 4 Aust Div (less all inf bde and arty secs) & 233 Aust LAD	DICK CREEK	
11	4 Aust Div Cipher Sec	DICK CREEK	
	INF		
12	4 Aust Div Carr Coy	EDMONTON	
13	HQ 6 Aust Inf Bde, K Sec Sigs & 269 Aust LAD (Type 'J')	RAINY MOUNTAIN	
14	14/32 Aust Inf Bn	KURANDA	
15	19 Aust Inf Bn	do	
16	36 Aust Inf Bn	do	
	AASC		
17	HQ Comd AASC 4 Aust Div	CLUDEN	
18	HQ 159 Aust Gen Tpt Coy	WOODFORD	Being formed. Coy will include 'A' Pl 133 Aust Gen Tpt Coy now at THURSDAY ISLAND.
19	One tpt pl	WOODFORD	Being formed
20	One RDI	do	Being formed
21	HQ and one sec wkshop pl	do	Being formed
22	14 Aust Sup Depot Pl	CAIRNS	
23	15 Aust Sup Depot Pl	do	
24	223 Aust Sup Depot Pl	WOODFORD	Being formed
25	HQ plus one and one-half pls fd bakery		To be raised
	MEDICAL		
26	6 Aust Fd Amb	KURANDA	
27	102 Aust CCS	WOODFORD	Under command First Aust Army
28	104 Aust Adv Depot Medical Stores (less det)	TOOWOOMBA	Under command First Aust Army
	DENTAL		
29	HQ (less det) 79 Aust Dental Unit	WONGABEL	Under command 2 Aust Corps
30	B Sec 79 Aust Dental Unit	WONGABEL	Under command 2 Aust Corps
31	E Sec 79 Aust Dental Unit	MAREEBA	Under command 2 Aust Corps
32	F Sec 79 Aust Dental Unit	WONDECLA	Under command 2 Aust Corps
	ORD		
33	116 Aust Bde Ord Fd Pk		Being formed
34	Det Aust Mob Laundry		To be allotted
35	124 FOD		To be provided by LHQ
36	75 FAD		To be provided by LHQ
	PAY		
37	4 Aust Div Fd Cash Office	DICK CREEK	
	POSTAL		
38	4 Aust Div Postal Unit (less one sec)	DICK CREEK	
	PRO		
39	4 Aust Div Pro Coy (less two secs)	BROOKHILL	
	RECEPTION CAMP		
40	4 Aust Div Sec Reception Camp		Being formed
	CANTEEN		
41	Det AACS		To be provided by LHQ
	MISC		
42	One pl employment coy		To be provided by LHQ
	MERAUKE GARRISON		
43	26 Aust InfBn (less det)	THURSDAY I	To be moved to MERAUKE on relief by a bn of 6 Aust Inf Bde

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

22

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
23 Jun 43

APPENDIX "A"

to

AMENDMENT NO 1 OF INSTN NO 6

ERECTION OF TANGLEFOOT WIRE.

The sett diagram represents wiring covering a frontage of 13x, and outside pickets should be further staggered to cover line of defensive position.

METHOD.

1. Pickets varying in height from 3'6" to 9" above ground level will be firmly driven into the ground and staggered to cover intervals in adjacent rows.
Each row will consist of 5 pickets, intervals in all cases inter-rows and inter-pickets will be 3x.

2. Wire will be firmly attached to the top of each picket but in between pickets will be slack, and each wire will follow an irregular course as shown in diagram.

3. Coverage of two rows only by a single wire lessens resistance in case of breakage.

4. On completion of wiring, add loose wire vide MTP No 30 Part III Page 8.

GENERAL.

The object of the tanglefoot method of wiring is to entrap the enemy, as wire cutting is impossible, and once within the wire, progress in any direction only brings about fresh entaglement.

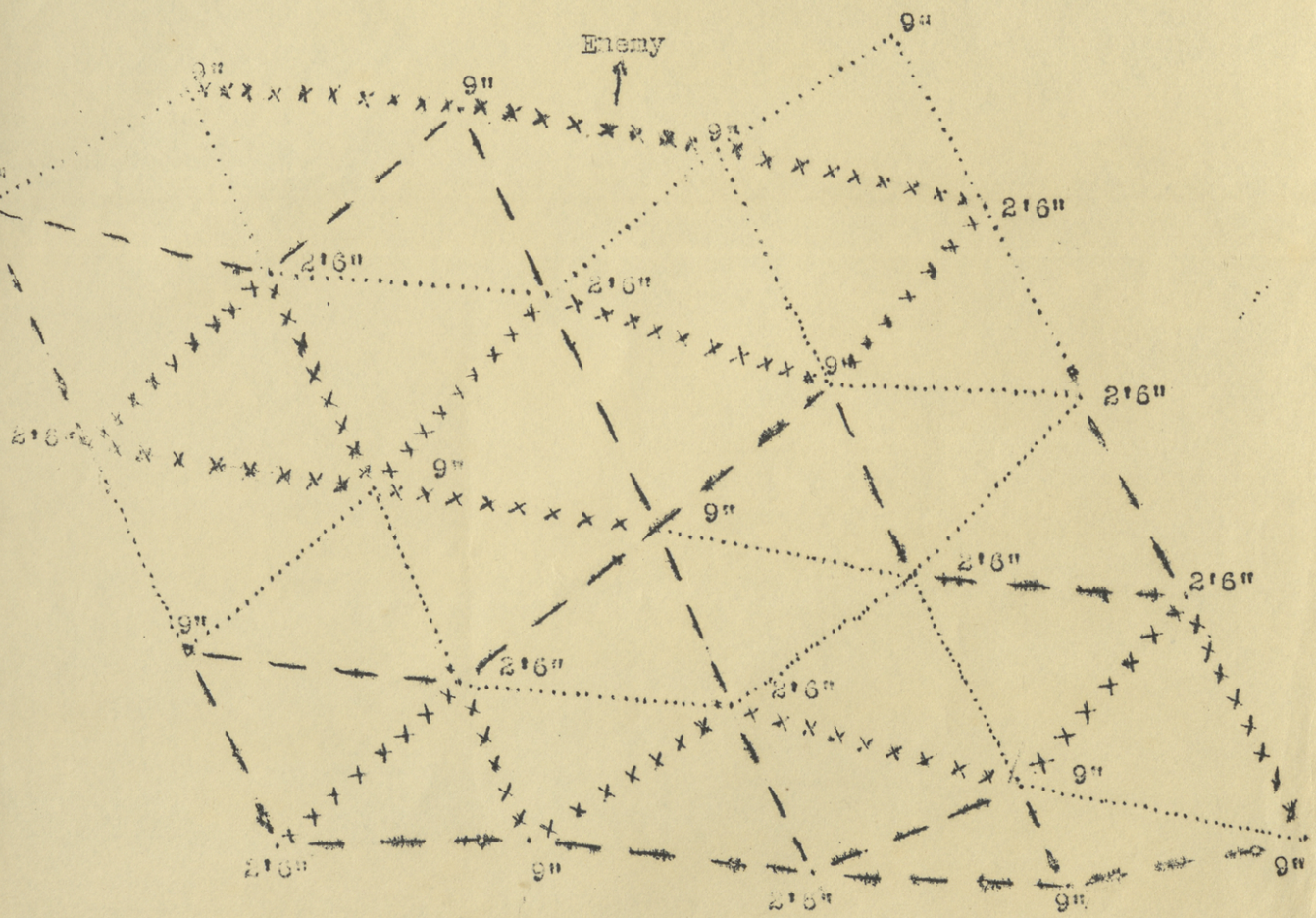
Staggering is employed, and the resulting irregular alignment added to the low surface provide better protection from view, particularly from aerial observation than the conventional types of wiring.

Specimen of wiring will be available at HQ 16 Aust Fd Coy as from 0900 hrs 23 Jun 43, and units concerned will detail an officer to report to inspect same at earliest.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

ALL STAKES 3[x] apart.

Height of stakes as shown.

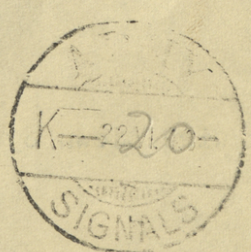


Reproduced from sketch
Submitted.

Irregular wire shown by - X X X X X X

- - - - - -

. . . . . .



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

HQ 11 AUST. INF. BDE.
G
12300
30 JUN 1943
No.
Passed to
For Action.

SECRET

Copy No 2

25 Jun 43

FIRST AUST ARMY OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 22

AMENDMENT NO 1

To :- Commander Torres Strait Force

Paragraph 3 is amended by the addition of the following sub-paragraph :-

" (d) Defence of radar stations in your area and provision of such assistance in their installation as the local commander of Allied Air Forces may request. "

ACKNOWLEDGE

Time of signature 1241 hrs

Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

DISTRIBUTION	Copy No	Method of Issue
Torres Strait Force	1	DRLS
Merauke Force	2	(DRLS to Torres Strait (Force thence safe (hand
Yorkforce	3	DRLS
2 Aust Corps	4	"
3 Aust Armd Div	5	"
BRA	6	Hand
BAA & FD	7	"
CSO	8	"
Adv LHQ	9,10	DRLS
LHQ (Aust)	11	Air mail
QLD L of C Area	12	DRLS
NE Area RAAF	13	Air mail
GOC-in-C	14	Hand
MGGS	15	"
G(o)	16	"
G(I)	17	"
G(SD)	18	"
DA & QMG	19	"
A	20	"
Q	21	"
CE	22	"
S & T	23	"
Medical	24	"
Ord	25	"
E & ME	26	"
File	27,28	
War Diary	29,30	
Spares	31,32,33	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

HQ 11 AUST. INF. BDE.
G
30 JUN 1943
No. 300
Passed to For Action.

G.

MOST SECRET

Copy No 1

25 Jun 43

6

FIRST AUST ARMY OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 30

AMENDMENT NO 3

To :- Commander 11 Aust Inf Bde

The following amendment will be made :-

Delete paragraph 16

Substitute the following :-

"16. You will provide the defence of radar stations in your area, and will render such assistance in their installation as the local commander of Allied Air Forces may request."

ACKNOWLEDGE

Time of signature 1242 hrs

Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

DISTRIBUTION	Copy No	Method of Issue
Merauke Force	1	(DRLS to Torres Strait (Force thence safe (hand
Torres Strait Force	2	DRLS
2 Aust Corps	3	"
Yorkforce	4	"
BRA	5	Hand
BAA & FD	6	"
CSO	7	"
NG Force	8	Air mail
NT Force	9	" "
NE Area RAAF	10	" "
Adv LHQ	11,12,13	DRLS
LHQ	14	Air mail
GOC-in-C	15	Hand
MGGS	16	"
G(o)	17	"
G(I)	18	"
G(SD)	19	"
CE	20	"
DA & QMG	21	"
A	22	"
Q	23	"
S & T	24	"
Medical	25	"
Ord	26	"
E & ME	27	"
File	28,29	
War Diary	30,31	
Spares	32,33,34	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

H.Q. 11 AUST. INF. BDE.
G
15 JUN 1943
No.
Passed to
For Action

MOST SECRET

Copy No 1

4 Jun 43

5

FIRST AUST ARMY OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 30

AMENDMENT NO 2

To :- Commander 11 Aust Inf Bde

First Aust Army Operation Instruction No 30 of 19 Apr 43 is amended as follows :-

1. Delete paragraph 17 and substitute :-

"17. (a) You will be responsible for observing and reporting enemy air, land, sea and inland waterway movement in the area MERAUKE to inclusive the DIGOEL RIVER to TANAHMERAH and inclusive PRINSES MARIANNE STRAIT.

(b) Between the EILANDEN and the DIGOEL RIVERS you will provide two or three coast watching posts each of no more than 12 men equipped with a launch. The number of posts will depend on what vantage points can be found in the area. Their tasks will be to watch the entrances to the EILANDEN and ODAMMOEN RIVERS and to explore the inland waterways running into and connecting these two rivers.

(c) You will arrange at your discretion for coast watching as far east as inclusive the mouth of the MOREHEAD RIVER.

(d) The Allied Intelligence Bureau is responsible for activity from exclusive the EILANDEN RIVER NW towards TIMIKA. "

2. Delete paragraph 18 and substitute :-

"18. For the purpose of carrying out your responsibilities under the previous paragraph you will operate such inland water and other patrols as you may consider practicable and necessary. Action is being taken by this HQ to obtain small craft for these patrols, the method of operation of which is left to your discretion. "

3. Paragraph 27 line 2 :-

Delete: "all services"

Substitute : "Aust Army and RAAF".

4. Paragraph 28 line 3 :-

Delete : "entire force"

Substitute : "Aust Army and RAAF".

ACKNOWLEDGE ✓

Time of signature 1200 hrs

Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

DISTRIBUTION	Copy No	Method of Issue
→ Merauke Force	1	(DRLS to Torres Strait (Force thence safe hand
Torres Strait Force	2	DRLS
2 Aust Corps	3	"
Yorkforce	4	"
BRA	5	Hand
CSO	6	"
NG Force	7	Air mail
NT Force	8	"
NE Area RAAF	9	"
Adv LHQ	10,11,12	DRLS
LHQ	13	Air mail
GOC-in-C	14	Hand
MGGS	15	"
G(o)	16	"
G(I)	17	"
G(SD)	18	"
CE	19	"
DA & QMG	20	"
A	21	"
Q	22	"
S & T	23	"
Medical	24	"
Ord	25	"
E & ME	26	"
File	27,28	
War Diary	29,30	
Spares	31,32,33	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Copy.

(4)

To (1) MERAUKE Force rptd (2) TORRES Force (3) Landops (4) LHQ (5) NEA

From First Aust Army. 02020 2

Most Secret (./) my operation instruction 30 of 19 Apr (.) Following amendment issued today (.) Delete para 1 and substitute QUOTE 1 (.) The senior offr of the Allied Land Force present at MERAUKE will command MERAUKE Force UNQUOTE (.)

IMPORTANT

TOO 1214/2
THI 0617Z/2
TOR 0655Z/2

5 May [illegible]
Comd. For attachment to Op Instn

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Subject: SECURITY

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
27 Jun 43
G11

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECURITY OFFICERS

1. In every Headquarters, unit or establishment one officer is detailed as security officer. This officer is responsible for imparting and explaining to all ranks of the unit their share in the security work of their unit, and their responsibilities in relation to the rset of the armed forces. In an Arty Regt and Inf Bn the 2 i/c will be the unit security officer.

The unit security officer is responsible in his own unit for:

(i) Enforcement of Security and Censorship Regulations

(ii) Eduaction and development of "Security Mindedness" in all ranks.

(iii) Investigations of breaches of Security

(iv) Methods available to him are:

(a) The issue of Unit Security Standing Orders

(b) Personal example

(c) Lectures and talks

(d) Security tests and exercises. Encourage troops to report, even the slightest hint of Leakage of Information.

2. The following are examples of subjects which concern all security officers:

(i) DETAILS AFFECTING SECURITY OF INFORMATION

(a) Current field camouflage practice and latest developments.

(b) Suppression of visible and legible information and notices, badges, names of units, recent allocations of billets etc.

(c) Arrangements for changes of routine where suppression of information is not practicable.

(d) Warnings to officers and all ranks of the necessity for discretion, even among themselves, as regards conversations on subjects concerning the war. Special warnings against talking among unknown patients or visitors in hospital.

(e) The necessary precautions to be taken by officers and other ranks carrying letters, papers, marked maps, copies of orders, note books, diaries etc. with them on occasions when they are liable to capture, especially just before movements or operations. Warning for the necessity of complete destruction of all waste papers left behind in billets or camps.

(f) Instructions to all concerned regarding what items one may or may not mention in private letters, whether sent home or from one part of a foreign country to another. Complete reliance should NOT be placed on franking officers cutting out dangerous news; and it is advisable that they have orders to report all cases in which they find a breach of military instructions on these subjects.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

(g) warnings to all against enemy agents in disguise.

(h) Explanation regarding what troops should do if they meet any one, civilian or in uniform who appears to be attempting to elicit military information, either by direct questioning or in the course of general conversation in a restaurant or private house, etc.

(i) Warnings to all of the necessity for reporting the location of pigeon lofts, wireless apparatus and any other signalling devices.

(j) The issue of special instructions in the use of civil and military telephone systems. Definite warnings as regards local dengers, to be supplied for use with every telephone and telegraph instrument in the field.

(k) The action to be taken in the case of any person claiming to be a British or Allied agent.

(l) The collection and disposal of scraps of written or printed documents which do not appear to be of Allied origin.

(m) The reporting of any local newspapers, journals etc, received from home which contain forbidden details about the field forces.

(n) The warning of officers and other ranks against replies to trade circulars, or response to letters of congratulation, or acknowledgement of gifts, in such a manner that the recipient will be able to discover some military information, such as the location or numbering of particular units; corresponding with pen friends is not permissible.

(ii) DETAILS AFFECTING SECURITY OF PERSONNEL

(a) Isolation of personnel from unnecessary contact with local civilians. Places which are out of bounds.

(b) Orders regarding the challenging at control or examination posts of every person to produce any military pass or permit that he should possess.

(c) Routine arrangements for intercepting and collecting dangerous literature, leaflets and propaganda.

(d) Explanation to the troops of false statements or insinuations made in seditious propaganda which has reached the troops.

(e) Orders regarding reports to be made by troops of civilians and others who attempt any form of propaganda work and of any alarmist rumours that are in circulation.

(iii) DETAILS AFFECTING SECURITY OF MATERIAL

(a) The issue of warnings concerning any local points specially vulnerable to sabotage.

(b) Special warnings against giving strangers any description of enemy successes or failures in cases of attempted sabotage, air action or gun fire. The avoidance of giving any information that might enable the enemy to do more damage on the next occasion.

(c) Ensure that adequate guarding of areas containing important war material is carried out.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

13. (a) Field Security Sections are normally allotted by GS(Int) Adv LHQ on the basis of one section per Div HQ, Corps HQ, Army HQ and L of C Sub-Area. Owing to the requirements of this force, however, a detachment of "O" F.S.Sec has been allotted to MERAUKE FORCE.

(b) Personnel of Field Security Sections are specially selected and trained in their duties which cover all branches of security. These duties include assisting and advising Unit Security Officers in the execution and detail of their duties. To implement above, they will contact Unit Security Officers or may be interviewed at Force HQ.

(c) Security matters outside the scope of the unit or on which the Unit Security Officer requires assistance will be immediately reported to O.C. "O" Sec F.S. Sec at Force HQ.

A.C. Ralston

(A.C.RALSTON) Major
BM MERAUKE FORCE

Distribution - List B (Branches and units incl independant units)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Army Form C.2123
(Adapted, Large)
(Pads of 100)
Reprinted October, 1942—a.w. 10m pads.

MESSAGE FORM

Serial No.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN

OUT

No. of Groups GR.

OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO 11 AUST DIV

FROM MERAUKE FORCE | Originator's Number 3913 | Date 24 | In Reply to Number

(*Write horizontally*)

please	advise	LHQ	comd	MERAUKE
FORCE	has	no	objection	TO
families	of	policemen	returning	MERAUKE
O	advised	Mr	VAN	der
PLAS	on	recent	visit	families
could	return-	MERAUKE	but	could
NOT	accept	any	responsibility	event
ops	this	area	O	did
NOT	consider	IT	advisable	families
return	TANAH MERAH			

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS: (*(EXCEPT)) WIRELESS

SIGNATURE.....

* ORIGINATOR MAY DELETE "EXCEPT" AND INSERT "INCLUDING."

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

SIGNATURE.....

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN 2410 30 h

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOST SECRET

Subject :- Observer Parties - Merauke Force

HQ First Aust Army (AIF)
28 Jun 43

G(o) 1124

Merauke Force —

Copy :- G(I)
G(SD)
A
Q

1. Adv LHQ advises that a detachment of 4 officers and 15 other ranks of the Insulinde Corps of the Royal Netherlands East Indies Army has recently arrived for duty in the SWPA. This detachment received special training in ENGLAND and has recently been on duty in COLOMBO.

COMMAND

2. In order to familiarise themselves with conditions in NEW GUINEA, this detachment will be employed in the MERAUKE area, under command of the Commander Merauke Force, for a period of approximately three months.

DUTIES

3. In general this detachment should :-

(a) Be used to supplement the regular patrols, being used in the first instance on local patrol duty in the vicinity of MERAUKE, followed by similar work in the TANAHMERAH area, and finally in the area of the DIGOEL RIVER between TANAHMERAH and the river estuary.

(b) Perform such other tasks as their previous training and the tactical situation permits.

ADMINISTRATION

4. (a) This detachment should be placed under command of the OC NEI Coy at MERAUKE for local administration.

(b) Clothing, equipment and arms are being supplied by Netherland Forces Intelligence Service, MELBOURNE.

(c) Arrangements for movement will be notified later.

FUTURE DISPOSAL

5. Upon completion of this training, further instructions will be issued as to the disposal of this unit.

Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECRET

Copy No 5

/ Jul 43

FIRST AUST ARMY OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 33

INTER-SERVICE PLANNING

AMENDMENT NO 1

To :- Yorkforce
Torres Strait Force
Brisbane Fortress

Delete paragraph 15 and substitute :

"15. Commander Yorkforce is the delegate of the GOC-in-C First Aust Army as chairman of the TOWNSVILLE Combined Planning Committee. The chairman should arrange with Commander Torres Strait Force for the latter to be represented at meetings at which matters in the TORRES STRAIT area are discussed."

ACKNOWLEDGE

Time of signature 1416 hrs

Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

DISTRIBUTION	Copy No		Copy No
Yorkforce	1- 2	Eastern Area RAAF	24
Torres Strait Force	3- 4	NE Area RAAF	25
Merauke Force	5	3 FS RAAF	26
Brisbane Fortress	6- 7	8 FS RAAF	27
Corps HQ VDC QLD	8	GOC-in-C	28
"A" Gp VDC NSW	9	MGGS	29
2 Aust Corps	10	G(o)	30
3 Aust Armd Div	11	G(I)	31
QLD L of C Area	12	G(SD)	32
BRA	13	CE	33
BAA & FD	14	DA & QMG	34
CSO	15	A	35
Adv LHQ	16	Q	36
LHQ (Aust)	17	S & T	37
Second Aust Army	18	Medical	38
NSW L of C Area	19	Ord	39
NOIC BRISBANE	20	E & ME	40
NOIC TOWNSVILLE	21	File	41-42
NOIC CAIRNS	22	War Diary	43-44
NOIC THURSDAY ISLAND	23	Spares	45-48

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOST SECRET

Copy No 4

2 Jul 43

11

FIRST AUST ARMY OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 35

REINFORCEMENT OF TORRES STRAIT GARRISONS

AMENDMENT NO 1

To :- Yorkforce
Torres Strait Force

1. Delete paragraph 4 and substitute :-

"4. The following units are to be in readiness to move by air to the TORRES STRAIT area :-

HQ 4 Aust Div HQ RAE 4 Aust Div 4 Aust Div Sigs less infantry brigade and artillery secs 55/53 Aust Inf Bn HQ AASC 4 Aust Div	from airfields in the TOWNSVILLE area
4 Aust Div Pro Coy less two secs	from MAREEBA airfield
HQ 3 Aust Inf Bde, with sig sec and LAD 27 Aust Inf Bn 43 Aust Inf Bn 7 Aust Fd Coy Two sup depot pls One RDI 13 Aust Fd Amb	from ARCHERFIELD, under arrangements First Aust Army, as long as units remain in the BRISBANE area; from MAREEBA, under arrangements Yorkforce, after their arrival in the CAIRNS area. These units are to be moved by rail to the CAIRNS area and will come under command Yorkforce on arrival. "

2. Delete Appendix 'A' and substitute attached Appendix 'A'.

ACKNOWLEDGE

Time of signature 1457 hrs

R R McNicoll Lt Col
Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

DISTRIBUTION

	Copy No		Copy No
Yorkforce (incl one for 4 Aust Div)	1, 2	G(I)	17
Torres Strait Force	3	G(SD)	18
Merauke Force	4	CE	19
2 Aust Corps	5	DA & QMG	20
3 Aust Inf Bde	6	A	21
BRA	7	Q	22
BAA & FD	8	S & T	23
CSO	9	Medical	24
Adv LHQ	10,11,12	Ord	25
LHQ	13	E & ME	26
GOC-in-C	14	File	27,28
MGGS	15	War diary	29,30
G(o)	16	Spares	31,32,33,34

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOST SECRET

Appendix 'A' to First Aust Army
Operation Instruction No 35
of 23 Jun 43, as amended by
Amendment No 1 of 2 Jul 43

MOULTRIE PLAN STAGE 2 - DESIGNATIONS OF FORMATIONS AND UNITS

Serial No	Formation, unit etc.	Present Location	Remarks
	TORRES STRAIT GARRISON		
	HQ		
1	HQ 4 Aust Div & 305 Aust LAD	DICK CREEK	
	INT		
2	P Aust FS Sec	DICK CREEK	
	CAV		
3	1 Aust Indep LH Sqn	PALUMA	
	ARTY		
4	2/9 Aust A Fd Regt (less one bty) Balance Sec Sigs & 2/68 Aust LAD	HELIDON	Under command HRA First Aust Army
5	6 Aust Fd Regt, Sig Sec & 222 Aust LAD	KINDURO	
6	One bty 2/3 Aust Tk A Regt, Det 'H' Sec Sigs 9 Aust Div	KAIRI	Under command 9 Aust Div (2 Aust Corps)
	ENGRS		
7	HQ RAE 4 Aust Div	DICK CREEK	
8	7 Aust Fd Coy		Being moved into First Aust Army area
9	4 Aust Div Camflg Trg Unit	DICK CREEK	
	SIGS		
10	Sigs 4 Aust Div (less all inf bde and arty secs) & 233 Aust LAD	DICK CREEK	
11	4 Aust Div Cipher Sec	DICK CREEK	
	INF		
12	One Aust div carr coy		Will probably be formed from carr pls of 27, 43 and 55/53 Aust Inf Bns
13	HQ 3 Aust Inf Bde, 'K' Sec Sigs & 275 Aust LAD	WOODFORD	
14	27 Aust Inf Bn	WOODFORD	Under command First Aust Army
15	43 Aust Inf Bn	D'AGUILAR	
16	55/53 Aust Inf Bn	ALLIGATOR CREEK	Under command Yorkforce
	AASC		
17	HQ Comd AASC 4 Aust Div	CLUDEN	
18	HQ 159 Aust Gen Tpt Coy	WOODFORD	Being formed from 23 Aust Coy AASC. Coy will include 'A' Pl 133 Aust Gen Tpt Coy now at THURSDAY ISLAND
19	One tpt pl	WOODFORD	
20	One RDI	do	Being formed from 23 Aust Coy AASC
21	HQ and one sec wkshop pl	do	
22	One aust sup depot pl	do	
23	One aust sup depot pl	do	Being formed from 7 Aust Coy AASC
24	223 aust sup depot pl	do	Being formed from 23 Aust Coy AASC
25	HQ plus one and one-half pls fd bakery		To be raised
	MEDICAL		
26	13 Aust Fd Amb	WOODFORD	
27	102 Aust CCS	do	Under command First Aust Army
28	104 Aust Adv Depot Medical Stores (less det)	TOOWOOMBA	
	DENTAL		
29	HQ (less det) 79 Aust Dental Unit	WONGABEL	
30	B Sec 79 Aust Dental Unit	WONGABEL	Under command 2 Aust Corps
31	E Sec 79 Aust Dental Unit	MAREEBA	
32	F Sec 79 Aust Dental Unit	WONDECLA	
	ORD		
33	116 Aust Bde Ord Fd Pk		Being formed
34	Det Aust Mob laundry		To be allotted
35	124 FOD		To be provided
36	75 FAD		by LHQ
	PAY		
37	4 Aust Div Fd Cash Office	DICK CREEK	
	POSTAL		
38	4 Aust Div Postal Unit (less one sec)	DICK CREEK	
	PRO		
39	4 Aust Div Pro Coy (less two secs)	BROOKHILL	
	RECEPTION CAMP		
40	4 Aust Div Sec Reception Camp		Being formed
	CANTEEN		
41	Det AACS		To be provided by LHQ
	MISC		
42	One pl employment coy		To be provided by LHQ
	MERAUKE GARRISON		
43	26 Aust Inf Bn (less det)	THURSDAY I	To be moved to MERAUKE on relief by a bn of 3 Aust Inf Bde

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

KAW/BRR

MOST SECRET & PERSONAL

ALLIED LAND FORCES
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

MOST SECRET

ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS

9 Jul 43.

Dear Brigadier

Attached is a copy of a most secret and personal memo from Col Roberts which I think explains itself.

The precaution of sending this letter is probably quite unnecessary but it might so happen that your commander at TANAHMERAH might ask Sgt Swart awkward questions and you know how touchy the Dutch are in these matters.

I am sending one copy of this letter to you through the ordinary channels and one copy per safe hand of Maj Schofield, G2I First Aust Army, who is shortly visiting you.

Yours sincerely,

Brigadier J. R. Stevenson,
Commander,
MERAUKE FORCE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Copy/KAW/BRR

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA.

MOST SECRET

Allied Intelligence Bureau.

8 July 1943.

SUBJECT: N.E.I. Area - Projects - 21W

TO : D.M.I., Allied Land Forces.

1. At the request of GHQ, NEFIS is arranging to send a party to TANAHMERAH which will remain in the area in the event of Japanese occupation. This party will be under the command of Sgt. H.P.SWART.

2. Commander Salm fears that if Swart proceeds to his station he may draw the attention of the local military authorities with consequent interference with his duties and loss of security, as it is essential that the reason for his presence in Tanahmerah should not be known to anyone there except Mr. WEGNER, who is Government Controller at Tanahmerah.

3. It would, therefore, be appreciated if you would arrange for Brig. Stevenson alone of the Allied Military personnel in Merauke to be advised of Sgt. Swart's mission and asked to provide him with a letter which will protect him from interference without disclosing in anyway his mission.

4. You will appreciate the necessity for confining knowledge of a mission of this type, where the party will be living in an area occupied by Allied troops, to the GOC alone.

sgd C. G. ROBERTS Col.
Controller.
Allied Intelligence Bureau

Copy to:
Col. Sandberg (2)

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
12 Jul 43.

MERAUKE FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NUMBER 10

ORDNANCE PROCEDURE

1. The following ordnance procedure will be adopted for the issue and receipt of Ordnance Stores.

(a) Units will indent for stores on AAF F20 or G99?, which will be prepared in triplicate. The original and duplicate copies will be forwarded to DADOS for approval, and the third retained as unit file copy.

(b) Indents must be signed by the CO or his representative, such as the Quartermaster or Accounting Officer.

(c) Authority for issue will be quoted on each indent. If stores are required other than those authorised, a full explanation will be given in the remarks column of the indent.

(d) It must be clearly indicated whether stores are required as initial equipment, replacement or maintenance issues.

(e) Items demanded must be sectionised and grouped on all indents, and shown clearly under each section. Stores may be demanded under more than one section on the indent providing each section is in the one sub-depot. Separate indents will be prepared for stores in different sub-depots.

(f) Attached herewith as Appx "A", is a guide, showing the various sections and groups under the heading of each sub-depot.

(g) Units will prepare AF G1033 in triplicate for the return of stores to Returned Stores Depot. The original and duplicate copies will be submitted to DADOS for approval to return the stores, and the third retained as unit file copy. The approved copies will be returned to the unit whereupon the stores may be delivered to 123 Aust Fd Ord Depot accompanied by both vouchers. One of these copies will be acquitted by the Depot as a receipt for the stores.

(h) Inter-unit transfers may be transacted in accordance with GRO 11/43, without prior approval by DADOS.

2. Units will be advised by 123 Aust Fd Ord Depot, per phone or signal, when stores as demanded are available for collection. Units will arrange transport for this purpose.

3. 123 Aust Fd Ord Depot will commence functioning on Monday 19 July 1943.

4. The above instructions apply equally to ammunition. 74 Aust Fd Amn Depot is now operating.

REPAIR OF VEHICLES.

1. Immediately a vehicle becomes in need of repair which cannot be carried out by the unit mechanics, it will be despatched to 242 Aust LAD. That unit will carry out first line repairs.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MERAUKE FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NUMBER 10 (Contd)

2. If the vehicle is beyond the scope of the LAD, and requires second line repairs, it will be passed on to 102 Aust Bde Wkshop by the LAD.

3. In the case of vehicles held by 157 Aust Gen Tpt Coy, first line repair will be carried out as far as possible by that units wkshop sec.

4. MT spare parts will be issued by 102 Aust Bde Ord Fd Pk to 242 Aust LAD, 102 Aust Bde Wkshop and AASC Wkshop Sec. Spare parts will NOT be issued to any other units direct, unless under special arrangement.

(M.H.MORAY) Maj
DAA & QMG MERAUKE FORCE.

DISTRIBUTION : LIST B (AMF Units only).

Sub-depot	Stores	Group	"APPX""A" Section
1	MT Vehs and spares	I II	L.V.M.T.
2	Camp Equipment General Stores Clothing	III	Clothing AI and AII DI and DII
		IV	E3, 4 and 5 F G and I. HI, II, III and IV. JI and II. K CIII EI
3	Artillery Small Arms Sigs Engr Stores	V	MI, II and III NI, II and III O QI and II V; I, III, IV, V and VI,
		VI	BI and II CI and II VII WI and II XI and II Y ZI, II and III

NOTE : Further details may be obtained by reference to the unit War Equipment Tables.

MOST SECRET

Copy No 4

13 Jul 43

MERAUKE FORCE OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 4

AMENDMENT NO 1

To :- Commander, TANAHMERAH GARRISON.

The following amendment will be made:-

Paragraph 10(1) add:-

" You will provide for the defence of radar station in your area, and will render such assistance in their installation as the local commander of Allied Air Forces may request."

Paragraph 14 add:-

" You will provide supplies for the RAAF personnel of Radar Station.

RAAF personnel will be included on weekly ration strength."

ACKNOWLEDGE.

A.C. Ralston

(A.C. RALSTON) Major.
BM MERAUKE FORCE .

Time of signature: 1003 hrs

DISTRIBUTION	Copy No	Method of Issue
OC Coy 26 Aust Inf Bn	1	Air Mail -Safe Hand
CO 26 Aust Inf Bn	2	" " " "
Torres Strait Force	3	" " " "
Comd	4	Hand
BM	5	"
DCSO	6	"
S & T	7	"
DCRE	8	"
SMO	9	"
DAA & QMG	10	"
First Aust Army	11	Air Mail -Safe Hand
File	12 -13	
War Diary	14 -15	
Spare	16 -18	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Copy No 4

14 July 1943

MERAUKE FORCE OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 8

To:- NCO i/c

1. A coast watching station will be established at MAPPI.

2. PERSONNEL

Comd will be QX27187 Sgt GIBBS C.A.	62 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)
5 ORs	62 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)
1 Sig	62 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)
1 OR A.I.B.	Force HQ

EQUIPMENT

The following equipment will be taken:

Two SMGs
One 3B TELERADO complete with Bty Charging Set
One Tent and necessary cooking utensils
First Aid Kit
Telescopes and Binoculars
Compass

SUPPLY

60 days rations will be carried for the whole party, to include ATABRINE.

P.O.L. requirements for Bty Charging Set
1 Pick
1 Shovel

CSO will supply wireless set and charging motor, and will arrange 60 days P.O.L.

62 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) will supply all other stores and equipment exclusive of reserve rations which will be the responsibility of Force HQ, and which will be delivered to the Town Jetty at a time and date to be notified later.

TRANSPORT

The party will assemble at Town Jetty at time and date to be notified and will embark on the launch "IVANHOE".

TASK

On arrival at MAPPI, you will set up a coast watching station.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Prior to the launch leaving, you will ensure that communications are established with Force HQ.

You will maintain a 24 hour watch.

REPORTS

You will report to Force HQ.

Routine calls will be made at 0800, 1300 and 1800 hrs daily. However, any information as called for in the following paragraph will be signalled immediately. Control set will stand by 24 hours.

ITEMS TO REPORT

(a) Number, type and direction of flight (bearing) of all aircraft sighted.
(b) All ship Sightings
(c) Any information and matter of a suspicious nature obtained from local (native) population giving source and degree of reliability.

3. LOCAL DEFENCE

You are responsible for the security of the party and equipment against enemy action or sabotage. In the event of the enemy approaching in your locality, you will immediately signal this HQ giving the strength of the enemy and the type of the force i.e. seaborne, airborne or land force.

If your position is endangered, you will endeavour to move overland to MERAUKE, using native porters to carry your equipment. If the wireless set is in danger of being captured, it will be destroyed together with this document and all call signs and codes in your possession.

4. LIAISON

You will make liaison with MAPPI POST Magistrate (Besteurs Assistant) J.D.LEBELAUM who has 17 policemen which evacuated MAPPI to YODOM. The P.M. has two small motor launches and W/T to TANAHMERAH - thence DARWIN.

5. CODE

All messages sent and received by you will be based on the attached special code. Call signs, codes and frequencies will be supplied by CSO.

6. RECONNAISANCE

Lieut R.R.Bishop, 2 ORs from 13 Fl 2/1 Aust HQ Guard Bn, will investigate prior to the return of the "IVANHOE" two unidentified tents and a prau sighted in the vicinity of GOLIEB - Location 07° 30' S, 139° 4' E.

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7. ACKNOWLEDGE

Method of despatch: D/R

Time of signature: 1617 hrs

a.c. Ralston

(A.C.RALSTON) Major.
B.M. MERAUKE FORCE .

DISTRIBUTION:	COPY NO
NCO i/c	1
62 Aust Inf Bn	2
CSO	3
Comd	4
BM	5
DAA & QMG	6
S & T	7
War Diary	8-9
File	10-11

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECRET

MAPPI AREA - GENERAL DESCRIPTION

LOCATION: MAPPI POST is sited just upstream of the junction of DIGOEL and ODAMMOEN RIVERS, and is situated on the Northern bank of the DIGOEL. The location is tactically suited to observe and control any entrance by water craft into the DIGOEL proper.

ENEMY INTEREST: The post has been subjected to light bombing and recce up to early June 1943.

TOPOGRAPHICAL: Although MAPPI itself is situated on slightly raised ground, the surrounding country is low and swampy, with the exception of that lying to the WEST on the NORTH bank of ODAMMOEN RIVER, and which is reported to be to some extent undulating.

No known track links the lower DIGOEL with EILANDEN RIVER, although tributaries of these two rivers link during the wet season, and travel is possible by small boat and prau.

A track (foot and prau) runs from YODOM on DIGOEL (20 miles SW of MAPPI) to OKABA on the coast. This track runs along the line of upper BOELAKA RIVER via NAKIAS.

POPULATION: Area NORTH of DIGOEL is comparitively sparsely inhabited by KIA KIA tribes whose tribal boundaries are defined by the DIGOEL. Tribal hostility exists. They are headhunters. Reported to be unruly and strongly resent strangers. Towards the EILANDEN RIVER the population is Nil.

Area immediately to the SOUTH of DIGOEL occasionally inhabited by native hunting parties. However, from NAKIAS south a better type and more co-operative native is met.

ADMINISTRATION: The only "official" inhabitants are the MAPPI POST Magistrate (Besteurs Assistant) J.D.LEBELAUW and 17 policemen. These personnel have evacuated the site of MAPPI POST and are now situated at YODOM. (Ref Map 1:250,000) 1:50,000)

O.Y.4362

The P.M. has in his possession two small motor launches. Also W/T with which he can make contact with TANAHMERAH and DARWIN.

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CIVIL ADMINISTRATOR
---o---

(1)

Merauke, 14th July 1943.

No. 386/2

I hereby inform you that on the 12th of July 1943 at about 2100 hours an American negro soldier came to the temporairy livingplace of a certain SAID at Gembapi, about seven miles past Moppa. Said and his wife were sleeping. The soldier put his carabine with fixed bajonet into the musquito-net and asked for the woman. Said and his wife sprung out of bed and Said ran out to get help. In the meantime the soldier raped the woman.

A certain Kasanredjo came to help, but stopped at about 10 meters, because he saw the soldier aiming with his carabine at him.

Shortly afterwards came a certain DJANTOK. The soldier shot at him, but missed. Djantok tried to get past him, but then the soldier shot for the second time and stabbed him with the bajonet.

This time Djantok was hit and died nearly immediately.

Most probably the witnesses will not recognize the soldier, because it was to dark. On the spot we found a torch and the two empty cartridges.

I request your assistance to get hold of the murderer.

Where this is not the first time, that the black soldiers start shooting, I request you to forbid them to go out with any weapon. I think, that that will be the only change to stop things like this.

Up till now, my people were refused to get cartridges for their rifles, but you will understand, that they must be able to protect themselves against murderers, so if my proposal is not feasable, I have to give them the cartridges again.

The Assistent-Resident,

L.A.van den Berge.

To
t he Commanding Officer Merauke Force.
---o---
Copy to C.O. American Forces.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

KAW/BRR

ALLIED LAND FORCES
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

SECRET

ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS
GS/523.24/Int
16 Jul 43

Dear Brigadier

... For your information herewith copy of letter received from Col SANDBERG concerning Sgt SWART.

Yours sincerely,

Brigadier J. R. Stevenson,
Commander,
MERAUKE FORCE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECRET

Brisbane 15. July 1943.

SUBJECT : N.E.I. area, project 21 W.

TO: D.M.I. Allied Land Forces.

FROM: Col. Sandberg.

1). With reference to the letter of Col. Roberts of the 8th July 1943 on the same subject, you are advised that Sergeant Swart will call at Merauke in a Netherlands Catalina shortly on his way to Tanah-Merah.

2). If it is not possible to hand Sergeant Swart the requested letter when he calls at Merauke, it is suggested that this letter is sent to Mr. Wegner, Government Controler, Tanah-Merah.

Sgd Lt-Col. Gen. Staf.
J.M.R. Sandberg

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Army Form C.2130
(Adapted, Large)
(Reprinted ... October, 1942)—M.P.C.

MESSAGE FORM

Serial No. 39

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN Merauke KEAZ

OUT

No. of Groups GR. 17

OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO 11 aust inf Bde

FROM Yorkforce

Originator's Number	Date	In Reply to Number
0802	4	

(Write horizontally)

SECRET	O	ref	your	report
MERAUKE	2117643	O	ack	

C.P.
39 in

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

(2)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

AQ/MHM/LCD/P

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
15 Jul 43

The Assistant Resident,
MERAUKE.

1. With reference to your memorandum 386/2 of 14th July, 1943, it appears that identification will be most difficult to ascertain and it is therefore not possible to hold a military enquiry at this juncture.

2. It is understood that a Civil Enquiry will be held at 0900 hours, 15th Julym 1943.

3. Lt-Col P. W. Hopkins, SMO MERAUKE FORCE; Maj Rhett Barnes, US Army Portable Surgical Hospital; Capt R.H.Hopper, HQ US Army Forces, MERAUKE, and Lieut David S. Melinkoff, HQ US Army Forces, MERAUKE, will be in attendance.

4. It is desired that the abovenamed officers be permitted to address questions to the witnesses.

5. It is also requested that a copy of the proceedings and evidence be forwarded to this Headquarters on completion.

(J.R.STEVENSON) Brig
Comd MERAUKE FORCE

File in Security box

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

REF A/30

SUBJECT. SGT M.P.SWART

TANAMMERAM,
5 Aug 43

COMD MERAUKE FORCE

1. This acknowledges G92 dated 22 Jul 43 referring to the mission of the above Sgt.

2. Instructions relative to this person will be adhered to.

BDE. COMD.
B.M.
S.C.
B.M.G.O.
B.T.O.
I.O.
L.O. I
L.O. II
L.O. III

CAPT.
O.C. TANAMMERAM GARRISON

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOST SECRET

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
22 Jul 43
G92

Capt G.Searles,
O.C. TANAHMERAH GARRISON

1. A representative and party of the Allied Intelligence Bureau will be proceeding to your area in the near future.

2. The party will be under command of Sgt H.P. SWART.

3. Sgt SWART's mission is of a most secret nature and will NOT be divulged to anyone.

4. You will ensure that Sgt SWART is not interfered with in any manner, and that his presence as far as possible is NOT divulged to any person except the Controleur, Mr WEGNER.

(J.R.STEVENSON) Brig.
Comd MERAUKE FORCE.

file

MOST SECRET

Copy No 4

23 Jul 43

(10)

MERAUKE FORCE OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 9

REF MAP: Aeronautical Series B7,C7

INFORMATION

1. (a) Coast watching and observation posts are established at:

OKABA	08° 07'	139° 42'
KOMBIESE RIVER	08° 10'	138° 51'
MAPPI	07° 08'	139° 25'

(b) A Garrison of one Coy and detachments is established at TANAHMERAH 06° 07' 140° 22'

(c) Following journeys are being undertaken by Motor Vessels:

(i) MV "LILY" 24 Jul depart MERAUKE
26 Jul arrive OKABA
OKABA
KOMBIESE RIVER

Note: Balance of loading after personnel vide para 2 will be made up with RDF personnel for KOMBIESE RIVER. "LILY" will proceed to KOMBIESE RIVER after disembarking W/Cdr THOMSON and party at OKABA.

(ii) MV "HARMEN" -28 Jul dep MERAUKE. 31 Jul arr MAPPI, 1 Aug dep MAPPI, 3 Aug arr TANAHMERAH.

INTENTION

2. A patrol consisting of:

(i) Wing Comdr D.THOMSON
(ii) 2 ORs from 31/51 Aust Inf Bn
(iii) 1 N.E.I. Police Cpl
(iv) 4 native porters

will make a recce of the route MERAUKE - OKABA - MAPPI - TANAHMERAH and return to MERAUKE.

TASKS IN GENERAL

3. The following itinerary will be observed as far as is practicable:

AM 24 Jul Leave MERAUKE on Dutch MV "LILY"
26 Jul Arrive OKABA
27 Jul Depart OKABA, travelling overland
Approx 31 Jul Arrive MAPPI
1 Aug Depart MAPPI on launch "HARMEN"
3 Aug Arrive TANAHMERAH

The return to MERAUKE will be by MV "HARMEN" or alternatively, opportunity will be taken of return by air if available.

ADMIN

4. (a) Supplies: 14 days supplies will be carried. Further supplies as required will be available at MAPPI.
(c) Porters: 4 porters will be obtained from the local Dutch magistrate at OKABA for the overland journey.

5. ACK.

for Major,
BM MERAUKE FORCE

Time of issue: 1835 hrs

Distribution: 1. NOIC [illegible] 4. 72 Wing 7. Comd
2. 2 Aust Water Tpt Gp 5. DAA & QMG 8-9. War Diary
3. W/Cdr THOMSON 6. BM 10-11. File

Lff 24/1/13

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
26 Jul 43.

Dear Mr van der Plas,

I desire to thank you for the list of teachers and organization of tribes which you have so kindly supplied.

In regard to your memorandum on incidents which have occurred between the American coloured troops and the natives, apparently a number of incidents have occurred which have not been reported to this HQ. After the occurrences on 21 May and 17 June orders were issued that ammunition was not to be carried by coloured troops outside their camp area. All native villages and houses were placed out of bounds.

In view of a report of a further incident which occurred on 12 July the troops are not allowed outside the camp area without a pass.

It has been difficult to obtain reports on these incidents promptly and usually sometime elapses which precludes the apprehension of the troops perpertrating the incident.

It would be appreciated if this HQ was informed immediately either by the civil police or the civilian witnesses whereupon troops could be despatched and the culprit apprehended.

In regard to incident reported from GEMBAPI a request was made that certain officers be permitted to attend the civil inquiry. As yet no action has been taken so that the chances of identifying the culprit are now very remote.

A muster parade of all coloured troops will be held at 1715 hours 26 July to enable Mrs M. Paringkuan to identify her assailants.

It is requested that the Assistant Resident accompany Mrs M. Paringkuan to Force HQ at 1700 hours.

(J.R. STEVENSON) Brig
Comd MERAUKE FORCE.

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MEMORANDUM.

(3)

After the murder on July 12th of Djantok by a negro soldier, who raped the woman Toekinem while his other victim was expiring, attempted outrages against women, Netherlands subjects, even wives of petty officials and Netherlands policemen have continued.

These have caused evacuation of natives to more distant places hampering the war effort, and general unrest.

Moreover such outrages create antipathy against allied troops. Even government officials have remarked that our enemies cannot be worse than these negro soldiers.

The following review contains only more serious cases, especially of recent date.

May 21st a negro sergeant, a corporal and a private, drunk, penetrated into a hut in Soeweni (Mopa), where t here were three policemen and asked for women, ending in shooting at one policeman and later at a native (letter Assistent-Resident, May 23rd No. 248/2).

June 17 (11 p.m.) a negro soldier entered the hut of Marsoem in Wasoer Moppa, put his gun through the mosquitonet calling "boy, boy". A struggle ensued, the soldier was overwhelmed and bound and the case was reported at American headquarters. The three natives, who had acted in self defence, have been detained one night at the guard of the negrocamp (letter Assistent-Resident, June 24th No. 350/2).

July 12th murder of Djantok. As a result the native have fled and negro soldiers have thereupon cut down the bana plantations.

July 18th (Sunday) negro soldiers came at 10 a.m. to the village Onggaya (300 inhabitants), 16 miles from the negro camp, trying to catch women, at which the inhabitants ran away into the woods. This must have been a weekend trip.

H.G.Eykendorp, chief of the postoffice reports that his wife has been frightened twice by negro soldiers. A forthight ago Mrs.Eykendorp was sowing before the open window at 4 p.m. when she saw two negro soldiers enter her neighbours house, look at her through the window and come towards her house. She locked the doors whereupon the negroes started knocking on the doors and Mrs.Eykendorp hid in a cupboard.

The house is situated in Merauke (main-street).

On July 22nd about 4 p.m. two negroes crawled towards the house from the back. She hid hurriedly and her kaja-kaja servant, calling for help, went with a hatchet at the negroes who ran away.

The

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

The last case happened yesterday July 23rd at 9.30 a.m. (!). Two negro soldiers approached Mrs. Martha Parengkuan, wife of the N.I.policeman Parengkuan, living in kampong Timor, Merauke, from her backgarden and asked: Have you a husband? She replied: Yes, a policeman! They then entered the house, opened the curtains of the bed, where a baby was sleeping and went towards Mrs.Parengkuan again. One of them grabbed her right hand and began caressing her face. She resisted and fell in the struggle. Her screams for help and those of her neighbour Mrs.Doetawihardja, wife of the clerk at the Assistent-Residents office, who witnessed the whole scene and, grasping her baby, ran away calling for help, made the negroes retire. Mrs.Parengkuan is sure that she will recognise the two soldiers and I should appreciate if a confrontation could be promptly arranged.

I have mentioned only established facts and have omitted all rumours and unconfirmed report.

I do not doubt that you will agree that this situation is intolerable and I look forward to hear what measures have been taken to absolutely guarantee the persons and honour of Netherlands subjects from agression by negro soldiers.

Ch.O.van der Plas.
Governor Free Netherlands Indies.

Merauke, July 24th 1943.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

(6)

Merauke, July 27th 1943.

Dear General.

I greatly appreciate the effectiveness and rapidity of the proceedings in the case of Mrs.Parengkuan.

I have passed on your excellent suggestions to the Assistant-Resident who will take the necessary measures.

I enclose the data on the Asmat trikes between Otakwa and Eilanden rivers hoping it may be useful.

Passed to IO

Yours very sincerely,

Ch.O.van der Plas.

Governor of Free Netherlands Indies.

Copy to US Hqrs

TELEPHONES—

5

Australian Military Forces.

Please quote this Number when replying.

Address HQ MERAUKE FORCE
Date 27 Jul 43
G112

Dear Mr van der Plas,

Further to the identification parade held on 26 July, it is understood that one soldier has been identified by the witness Mrs Martha Parengkuan.

An immediate investigation will be made and it is desired that the civilian witnesses be questioned by the investigating officer, and evidence prepared for Court Martial proceedings.

It is suggested that it may be possible to attach five or six troops to the civilian police post, so that upon notification of an incident, the troops could proceed immediately to the scene in company with the police.

Your comments on the above suggestion and any other suggestions you would care to submit, would be appreciated.

(J.R.STEVENSON) Brig
Comd MERAUKE FORCE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Comd

SECURITY

HQ MERAUKE FORCE
27 Jul 43

MERAUKE FORCE AIR DEFENCE INSTRUCTION NO 5

GENERAL

1. This Instruction supercedes MERAUKE FORCE Air Defence Instruction Nos 1 to 4 inclusive

2. Paras 4 to 11 inclusive will be read to all ranks and a certificate in the form of Appendix 'A' rendered to this HQ by 4 Aug 43.

3. Para 14 of First Aust Army Operation Instruction No 34 reads:

"CO-ORDINATION OF OPERATIONS IN DEFENDED PORTS

In the event of an attack from the air, FSHQ will keep the local defence commander informed of the situation. The local defence commander will then be responsible for defining the localities likely to be effected, deciding the degree of air raid alert to be adopted in those localities, and instructing the services and civil ARP authorities accordingly."

4. TARGET AREAS

For purposes of this instruction, target areas will be:

(a) the Wharf area bounded by, on the:

North - MERAUKE RIVER
East - Western edge of KING FIELD
South - incl 9th Avenue (BOMB ALLEY)
West - excl CREEK immediately west of NEI Wireless Sta

(b) the air strip.

AIR RAID WARNING SYSTEM

5. (a) Air Raid Warning Signals

Air Raid Warning Signals will consist of rounds fired by BOFORS Gun (Map Ref MERAUKE SPECIAL 436300), as follows -

(i) Attack Imminent - (Air Raid RED)

Four shots with an interval of three seconds between shots - an interval of fifteen seconds - four shots with an interval of three seconds between shots.

(ii) All Clear

Eight consecutive single shots at automatic rate of fire.

NOTE: Sirens will NOT be used for Air Raid Warnings.

(b) Authority for sounding Warning Signals

The air raid warning signal will only be sounded by authority of Headquarters, MERAUKE FORCE. The Bofors Gun will fire the alert:

(i) When ordered to do so by Comd MERAUKE FORCE
(ii) In the absence of the Comd, by the Bde Major, MERAUKE FORCE.
(iii) If both Comd and Bde Major are not available, by AADC.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON ALARM

6. (a) At Jetty

(i) Air Raid Warnings will be sounded at the Jetty from the Signal Tent.
(ii) Action to be taken by shipping on sounding of Air Raid warning will be:-

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A. Yellow Warning

When the YELLOW flag is raised at the Jetty, normal work will continue. This flag is only to warn shipping that a RED alert MAY follow.

Masters of all vessels will ensure that cargo handling continues, but is so arranged that any vessel tied up at the time may cast off rapidly IF a red should follow.

B. RED Alert

The alarm will be sounded by the Bofors Gun and the RED flag raised at the Jetty.

(i) Transport vessels will continue to unload on to barges moored alongside unless directly attacked.

(ii) U.S. Small Ships. Vessels of this unit will cast off if tied up, and disperse either up or down stream.

(iii) det 2 Aust Water Tpt Gp.

"SYLVIA" will proceed upstream and tie up to river bank under cover. "MIMI" will proceed to vicinity INDEPENDENT KNOLL and remain under cover, but prepared to assist in rescue from any aircraft brought down in water.

(iv) R.A.A.F. Crash Launch will adopt same procedure as for "MIMI" in para (iii) above.

(v) Any other light craft will proceed upstream.

(b) By all personnel by day

(i) All ranks will proceed with their normal duties, except that an air sentry will be posted by each unit, detachment etc.

(ii) Normal duties will continue until the immediate area in which personnel are located is attacked or bombed, when all personnel concerned will take cover by adopting a prone position taking advantage of accidents of ground.

(iii) All Anti-Aircraft guns, heavy and medium machine guns, and light automatic weapons sited for anti-aircraft defence will engage enemy aircraft ONLY when within range.

(iv) Other weapons will NOT be fired except on the orders of an officer, and then only when concealment is no longer possible.

(c) By all personnel by night

(i) All lights and fires will be extinguished. Care will be taken to ensure that all lights are turned out before leaving buildings or tents.

(ii) When the immediate area in which personnel are located is being attacked or bombed, action as in para 8 (b) (ii). will be taken.

(d) By vehicles by day

(i) All movement of vehicles, except those carrying out operational duties, will cease when enemy aircraft are in the immediate vicinity.

(ii) Vehicles will be driven off roads into the nearest available concealment. Where NO concealment is available vehicles will draw off roads and remain stationary.

(iii) Where practicable, personnel in transit to duty, will proceed on foot.

(iv) When the All Clear is sounded, vehicles will either report as ordered by the Senior Officer, W or NCO, if any, of the party, which they were transporting, or, in the absence of any other orders, will report back to unit lines.

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(c) By vehicle by night

(i) All vehicle lights will be extinguished.
(ii) Movement of vehicles will continue.

SLIT TRENCHES

7. (a) No further slit trenches will be dug im MERAUKE area and all existing deep slit trenches will be filled in.

(b) Shallow scratch trenches should be two (2) feet deep, and will be constructed for protection of all personnel.

CRASHED AIRCRAFT

8. Any unit observing aircraft making crash or forced landings, will take a bearing on the area in which the plane descends, and report forthwith to Force HQ as follows:

(a) Bearing from observer to crashed plane.
(b) Map Ref of position from which bearing taken.
(c) Estimated distance from observer
(d) Time of observation.

9. It is the responsibility of any unit in whose area aircraft or crashes whether our own or enemy, to immediately mount a guard over the area and prevent any person from interfering with the plane except for preservation of life. Any enemy air personnel will be taken into custody and sent under escort to Force HQ. The above guard will be maintained until relieved by RAAF guard.

UNEXPLODED BOMBS

10. In the event of any unexploded bombs falling in MERAUKE area, the locality of same will be reported to Force HQ immediately, and a sentry placed at the site until a warning sign is erected.

RESULTS OF AIR RAIDS

11. Immediately after sounding of an "All Clear" following an air raid, each unit or sub-unit will check the effect of the raid in their areas and report to Force HQ on the following points:

(a) Number of casualties to service personnel
(b) Number of casualties to civil personnel
(c) Estimate of damage to service property or equipment.
(d) Number of bombs dropped in area
(e) Type and description of bombs, if obtainable.
(f) Any unusual circumstances.

12. ACK.

Major.
BM MERAUKE FORCE

Time of issue: 1455 hrs

Distribution - List B

Appendix 'A' to
Merauke Force Air
Defence Instruction
No 5 of 27 Jul 43

Unit .....

Date .....

HQ MERAUKE FORCE

Instruction vide MERAUKE FORCE Air Defence Instruction No 5 para 2 have been carried out and all ranks have complete understanding of the above mentioned paras.

.....Comd.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOST SECRET

Copy No ....3....

28 July 43

(11)

MERAUKE FORCE OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 10

Ref Map: MERAUKE (SPECIAL) 1/25,000.

INFORMATION

1. A coast watching and observation station is established at 403322.

INTENTION

2. The abovenamed station at present manned by personnel from 62 Aust Inf Bn (AIF), will be relieved by Navy personnel, such relief to be complete by 1200 hrs 30 Jul 43, and a signal to this effect forwarded to LDH. On completion of relief, this post will be known as WSS (War Signal Station). All duties at present performed by post will be undertaken by WSS.

TASKS

3. Forward such information to NOIC as is required under Navy instructions.

ADMINISTRATION

4. NOIC will arrange all transport, accomodation, stores, rations, administration etc.

5. An officer representing NOIC will liaise with 62 Aust Inf Bn for -

(a) Water Supply

(b) Evacuation of casualties

INTERCOMMUNICATION

6. Until such time as direct line to NOIC is installed by Navy, communication will be by line telephony through 62 Aust Inf Bn switch to Force switch to LDH, who will relay verbally by direct line to NOIC.

7. The post has authority to make priority calls on operational matters only through the above circuit. Other calls will not be given priority.

8. Communication from shore to ship will be by Lucas Lamp. The lamp at present used by 62 Aust Inf Bn will be handed over to the leading hand in charge. When Navy equipment is available, it will be returned to 62 Aust Inf Bn in good order and condition.

9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Major.
BM MERAUKE FORCE.

Time of issue: hrs

Distribution: 1. NOIC
2. 62 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)
3. Comd
4. BM
5. DAA & QMG
6-7. War Diary
8. File
9. DCSO

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

TELEPHONES—

Subject: STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Australian Military Forces.

(46)

Please quote this Number when replying.

Address HQ MERAUKE FORCE

Date 10 Aug 43

G1/150

HQ First Aust Army (AIF)

1. Ref your G(SD) 7523 of 29 Jul 43.

2. Herewith completed forms vide abovementioned memorandum.

(J.R. STEVENSON) Brig.
Comd MERAUKE FORCE.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

MOST SECRET

Copy No 30

11 Aug 43

MERAUKE FORCE OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 11.

REF MAPS: Aust Aeronautical Map 1/1,000,000 Sheets B7 and C7
MERAUKE (SPECIAL) 1/25,000

GENERAL

1. This Operation Instruction supercedes Operation Instruction No 6 which will be destroyed.

INFORMATION

2. Enemy

(a) Enemy land and air forces are operating in the area North-west of Australia, principally in TIMOR (20,000), about CELEBES (7,000), AMBON (5,000) and KAIMANA (2000). It is within the enemy's power to launch an attack on the TORRES STRAIT area incl the southern portion of DUTCH NEW GUINEA.

(b) The enemy at present hold KAUKENAU area with a reported strength of approximately 1,000. An airfield has been completed and is now ready for use by fighters, and possibly bombers.

(c) An unconfirmed report states enemy occupied a village in the vicinity of the mouth of the EILANDEN RIVER, and has subsequently withdrawn.

3. Own Troops

(a) Allied Naval Forces are providing Naval support against enemy sea borne movement in the Eastern ARAFURA SEA. Naval measures include the eventual establishment of an advanced P.T. boat base at MERAUKE.

(b) Allied Air Forces are providing fighter and bomber facilities in the CAPE YORK PENINSULA, at MERAUKE, and at MILIMGIMBI, and are also carrying out recce designed to provide a minimum of 36 hours warning of enemy sea-borne movement towards TORRES STRAIT.

(c) Coast watching posts are established at OKABA 08° 07' 139° 42', and KOMBIESE RIVER (PRINSES MARIANNE STRAIT) 08° 10' 138° 51'

(d) An outpost has been established at MAPPI 07° 08', 139° 25'

(e) A garrison of one coy with detachments is established at TANAHMERAH.

(f) RDF stations are established and operating at

MERAUKE	08° 29'	140° 24'
TANAHMERAH	08° 07'	140° 22'
KOMBIESE	08° 10'	138° 51'
BOEPOEL	07° 56'	140° 49'

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INTENTION

4. All units comprising MERAUKE FORCE will deny the air strip, base installations and port facilities to the enemy and preserve them for our use.

TASKS IN GENERAL

5. All available troops will maintain a perimeter defence system by a series of mutually defended localities.

TASKS IN PARTICULAR

6. (a) Artillery

(i) 2/59 Aust Fd Bty to be prepared to:

A - Support 62 Aust Inf Bn from RIVER entrance to junction A STREET and 5 AVE 45302775.

B - Bring concentrations to bear on ANN FIELD 46802725.

C - Support B Coy 31/51 Aust Inf Bn on NORTH bank of river in preventing small parties from crossing river between ENTRANCE and OEREMBE 35403650 area.

D - Bring concentrations to bear on OPl area 45503480.

E - Bring defensive fire to bear around all unit defended localities.

F - Man 4 18-pr guns sited as beach defence guns in defended localities of 62 Aust Inf Bn, and give support by such guns to 62 Aust Inf Bn.

(ii) 139 Aust Hy AA Bty, 52 Aust Composite AA Regt.

A - Normal AA role with two four gun stations sited at 42023448 and 45072945.

B - Ground defence of gun positions.

C - Gun sta at 42023448 to cover the entrance of the MERAUKE RIVER and prevent entrance of enemy surface vessels.

(iii) 154 Aust Lt AA Bty, 52 Aust Composite AA Regt.

A - Normal AA role with guns at 45372895, 45083065, 44793157, 44563104, 43633079, 45752910, 42603433, 41903441, 44713045, 44902998, 42803515, 45302995.

B - Ground defence of gun positions.

(iv) 76 Aust AASL Bty (AIF)

A - Normal AA role with S/Ls located at 40023500, 41463063, 45252715, 48402680, 45502933, 44832993, 45283110, 44303163, 44793185, 45003465, 42503445, 37863668.

B - Ground defence of S/L positions.

(b) Engineers

(i) 16 Aust Fd Coy RAE - To supply two demolition parties for jetty, details of which will be incorporated in a Demolition Instruction to be issued separately. Remainder of personnel to form reserve in, and to be responsible for defence of, camp area, 46242846, and prevent infiltration along 5 Ave.

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(ii) 1 Bn 96 US Engr G.S. Regt

A - To prepare defensive position in area Junc A STREET and 5 AVE 46302775,excl - Junc 5 AVE and MAIN STREET 46352835 - KINGS CROSS 45953010 incl.

B - To defend 26 US Portable Hospital.

C - To destroy any paratroops landing on ANN FIELD 46802725

(iii) 55 US Naval Construction Bn

To be responsible for defence of general area INDEPENDENT KNOLL 42803605 incl - KING FIELD 43503460 excl - TOWN area excl.

(c) Infantry

(i) B Coy 2/3 Aust MG Bn less one Pl.

A - One pl to be in close support of 2/59 Aust Fd Bty, to be prepared to adopt an anti-paratroop role on KING FIELD 43503460,and,as a secondary role to adopt an anti-paratroop role on ANN FIELD 46802625 in conjunction with 1 Bn 96 US Engr GS Regt.

B - Coy less two pls to be in support of 62 Aust Inf Bn with the role of beach defence.

(ii) 62 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) with B Coy 2/3 Aust MG Bn less two Pls,and 2/59 Aust Fd Bty in support (vide para 6 (a) (i) (A) and 6(c) (i) B above) to be prepared to

A - Prepare beach defence positions in the vicinity LIGHTHOUSE 40253220 incl to Junc A STREET and 5 AVE 45302775 incl.

B - Defend RDF station at 40703160.

C - Prepare immediate positions for laying of Tk/A mines in area Junc A STREET and 3 AVE and area junc A STREET and 5 AVE. These mines will be drawn immediately and suitably stored,but will not be laid until definite orders to do so,are given by this HQ.

(iii) 31/51 Aust Inf Bn less one Coy - to be Force Mobile Reserve and prepared to operate anywhere in the Force area. To enable this mobility,20 3-ton trucks with drivers will be made available by 157 Aust Gen Tpt Coy and come under command 31/51 Aust Inf Bn on the sounding of the general alarm. Should the Bn be withdrawn from present bivouac area,they will leave sufficient adm personnel to maintain patrols in the area TEROWIE JUNC 45903075 incl - KINGS CROSS 45353010 incl - SCRUBBY CREEK incl.

(iv) B Coy 31/51 Aust Inf Bn

A - To maintain an OP in the CEROEMBE 35403650 area with the object of keeping unrestricted watch on the beach North-West of the mouth of the MERAUKE RIVER.

B - To prevent an enemy landing in the CEROEMBE area with the possibility of operating as far North-West as WENDOE 08° 28',140° 17',and prevent enemy infiltration to the Northern bank of the MERAUKE RIVER.

(v) 11 Aust Inf Bde Indep Carrier Pl - to be Force reserve located in the MOPAH 45852875 area and be prepared to proceed to any position within the area to repel landing and/or attack.

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i) 1 NEI Fusilier Coy

A - to prepare defensive positions in the area 42023448 - LIGHTHOUSE 40253220 excl - general line of FIRST AVE.

B - Prevent enemy tank penetration in a westerly direction along 1 and 2 AVE.

C - Prevent enemy tank penetration in Ordnance 435322 area.

B - Hold two Tk/A guns as mobile reserve at Ordnance area.

(d) S & T

(i) 222 Aust Sup Dep Pl - local defence of dumps.

(ii) 157 Aust Gen Tpt Coy - to be prepared to hold in readiness 20 3 ton trucks with drivers which will be placed under command 31/51 Aust Inf Bn vide para 6 (c) (iii). Remaining personnel will occupy defensive positions in present tpt and bivouac lines.

(iii) 51 Aust BIPOD Pl - defence of dump area.

(iv) Port Det A - defence of dump areas.

(e) Ordnance

(i) 123 Aust Fd Ord Depot and 74 Aust Fd Amn Depot will prepare local defense positions in dump areas.

(ii) 102 Aust Bde Ord Fd Pk will prepare a perimeter defence of their camp area, and prevent enemy infiltration on to JEEP ROAD 44163055.

(f) AEME

102 Aust Bde Wkshops will act as in sub para e (ii) above

(g) RAAF

72 Wing HQ and 44 O.B.U. will :

(i) maintain active patrols and where necessary, prepare defensive positions on the general line OPl 45503480 - TEROWIE June 45903075 excl - RD June 43653300 incl.

(ii) Repel enemy paratroop attack on Air Strip.

(h) RAN

Together with det 7 Aust Movt Control Group, to be responsible for defence of town and dock area

(i) 31 Aust Docks Operating det - to prepare defensive positions on the general line 2 AVE from RD June 42103405 excl - RD June 40053305 excl.

(j) Field Works -

(i) All units not mentioned in subparas (a) to (g) above will prepare perimeter defences of their own bivouac area, and, if not already despatched to Force HQ, will forward a trace showing position of guns, LMGs, SMGs, Tk/A Rifles and guns, and weapon pits, forthwith. All units will prepare positions by digging shallow weapon pits or where nature of ground does not permit, raised bunkers.

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(ii) One bomb proof shelter will be provided in each section post from local material for protection against mortar fire.

(iii) Full camouflage will be carried out on all installations, bivouac areas and defensive positions under the direction of 16 Aust Camflf Unit

(iv) All localities will be wired. 62 Aust Inf Bn will wire sea beach between high and low water mark. Indents will be submitted to DCRE where necessary for engineer stores.

7. ADM

(a) Traffic control on sounding of General Alarm

(i) A Provost TCP will be established at both road blocks NORTH and SOUTH of Force HQ and confirm that all vehicles are on official business.

(ii) All vehicluar traffic will be prohibited along A Street.

(iii) 157 Aust Gen Tpt Coy will keep in contact with 31/51 Aust Inf Bn for information as to routes to and from their respective units.

(iv) TCP will be established in the vicinity of the SOUTH end of air strip.

(b) Supplies. All units will hold seven days reserve supplies incl water in defence areas. Sup P. at present DID 43313182.

(c) Medical. ADS June MAIN STREET and 11 AVE 42553326
MDS 1000 yards EAST of SOUTH end of No 1 Air Strip.

(d) Amn.

(i) 7 days WUR in defence area
(ii) 50 rds SAA to be carried by all ranks at all times.
(iii) Sufficient grenades to be held to allow of an initial issue of two per man.
(iv) Amn Pt at present position of 74 Aust Fd Amn Depot.
(v) 1028 Tk/A mines to be issued to 62 Aust Inf Bn vide para C (c) (ii) G.

8. INTERCOMN

(a) General Alarm consists of a series of short and long blasts. This will be passed by telephone and repeated on whistles and sirens.

(b) Synchronization of time will be carried out over L/T system at approx 0800 hrs each day.

(c) All units will be connected to Force HQ by L/T.

(d) Force HQ remains at MOETI 43353172.

9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Method of issue: Safe Hand and D/R.

Time of issue: 1330 hrs

Major.
BM MERAUKE FORCE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

DISTRIBUTION	COPY NO	METHOD OS ISSUE
RAN		
AADC	1	D/R
2/59 Aust Fd Bty	2-4	"
DCRE	5	"
16 Aust Fd Coy	6	"
1 Bn 96 US Engr GS Regt	7	"
55 US Naval Constn Bn	8	"
16 Aust Camflg Unit	9	"
det 2 Aust Water Tpt Gp	10	"
DCSO	11	"
31/51 Aust Inf Bn	12	"
62 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)	13-15	"
1 N.E.I. Fus Coy	16-17	"
B Coy 2/3 Aust MG Bn	18	"
11 Aust Inf Bde Carrier Pl	19	"
S & T	20	"
SMO	21	"
26 US Portable Surgical Hospital	22	"
123 Aust Fd Ord Depot	23	"
74 Aust Fd Amn Depot	24	"
102 Aust Bde Ord Fd Pk	25	"
102 Aust Bde Wkshops AEME	26	"
det 7 Aust Movt Control Gp	27	"
31 Aust Docks Op Det	28	"
Force Cond	29	"
101 Sec FSW	30	"
G(o)	31	"
G(I)	32	"
AA	33	"
DADOS	34	"
DADME	35	"
72 Wing HQ	36	"
War Diary	37-38	"
File	39-40	Safe Hand
HA First Aust Army (for infn)	41-42	Safe Hand
Tobres Force (for infn)	43	Air Mail - Safe Hand.
	44	

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

SECRET

Copy No 5

11 Aug 43

BDE COMD.
B.M.
S.C.
B.M.G.O.
B.T.O.
I.O.
L.O. I
L.O. II
L.O. III

FIRST AUST ARMY OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 33

INTERSERVICE PLANNING

AMENDMENT NO 2

To :- Yorkforce
Torres Strait Force
Brisbane Fortress

First Aust Army Operation Instruction No 33 of 21 May 43 is amended as follows :-

Delete paragraph 16 and insert the following in lieu thereof :-

"16. Copies of the proceedings of Combined Planning Committees will be forwarded to HQ First Aust Army for transmission to the HQ of each service for information; one copy for each of HQ Allied Air Forces, RAAF Headquarters and RAAF Command, BRISBANE, being included."

ACKNOWLEDGE

Time of signature 1235 hrs

Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

DISTRIBUTION	Copy No		Copy No
Yorkforce	1- 2	Eastern Area RAAF	24
Torres Strait Force	3- 4	NE Area RAAF	25
Merauke Force	5	3 FS RAAF	26
Brisbane Fortress	6- 7	8 FS RAAF	27
Corps HQ VDC (Q)	8	GOC-in-C	28
"A" Gp VDC NSW	9	MGGS	29
2 Aust Corps	10	CE	30
3 Aust Armd Div	11	G(o)	31
QLD L of C Area	12	G(I)	32
BRA	13	G(SD)	33
BAA & FD	14	DA & QMG	34
CSO	15	A	35
Adv LHQ	16	Q	36
LHQ (Aust)	17	S & T	37
Second Aust Army	18	Medical	38
NSW L of C Area	19	Ord	39
NOIC BRISBANE	20	E & ME	40
NOIC TOWNSVILLE	21	File	41-42
NOIC CAIRNS	22	War Diary	43-44
NOIC THURSDAY ISLAND	23	Spares	45-48

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502

Merauke Force

G1

1560/3

Subject: STAFF APPOINTMENTS

36

HQ First Aust Army (AIF)
29 Jul 43
G(SD) 7523

Comd
BM
BM(L)

BM(L) act

Distribution -
Serial 2-6, 8-12, 23,24,28,30
37A,38-42,46,47,49.

1. Particulars are required of every officer possessing staff experience, so that none will be overlooked when staff appointments are being considered.

2. Forms setting out the details required are forwarded herewith. It is requested that one form be filled in and returned to this HQ for each officer coming within one or more of the following categories:-

(i) Those at present holding staff appointments.

(ii) Those who have previously held a staff appointment.

(iii) Those who have qualified at a recognised Staff School

3. Completed forms will be forwarded to reaoh this HQ by 20 Aug 43.

Maj-Gen
GS First Aust Army

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AWM2020.71.8502