

10/2/24/2

JUNE JULY
1941

ORIGINAL

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

HQ A.A.S.C. 9 DIVISION

124 21 24
HQ AASC 9 DIV

TOBRUK

1346A

UNIT ORGANISATION

8 Jun
"B" COY
WITHDRAWS

"B" Coy (AASC Inf) withdrawn. All personnel less 2 Officers and 8 ORs together with 33 ORs withdrawn from "A" Coy (AASC Inf) and attached to Bns of 18 Inf Bde as drivers of tp carrying tpt.

HQ 9 DIV
~~8 Jun 41~~
AASC Inf
Jun 41

29 Jun

No 1 Tp Carrying Tpt Coy formed today - Capt W.L. Day OC. Consists of 3 Sections each of thirty 3 ton lorries. The Section to be attached for operational purposes to each Bn of the Reserve Bde.

HQ 9 DIV
~~29 Jun 41~~
AASC Inf
Jun 41

SUPPLY

AMMUNITION
TURNOVER

For month Jun 41 app.

HQ 9 DIV
AASC Inf
Jun 41

ORIGINAL

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

JUL 22 1941

WAR DIARY

Army Form C 2118.

Unit HQ AASC 9 AUST DIV.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Commanding Officer Lieut-Colonel JA Watson.

(Erase heading not required).

Month and Year June 1941.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
TOBRUK.	8 Jun.		"B" Coy (AASC Inf) withdrawn today. All personnel except OC, Capt K.C. HUTTON, 2 i/c, Lieut V.H. TUTT and 8 ORs, together with 33 ORs withdrawn from "A" Coy (AASC Inf.) were attached to Bns of 18 Inf. Bde as drivers of tp carrying tpt. 1 off. and 56 ORs being attached to 2/9 Bn, 1 off. and 56 ORs being attached to 2/10 XXXX Bn and 1 off. and 30 ORs to 2/12 Bn.	
	29 "		No 1 Tp Carrying Tpt Coy formed today with Capt W.L. DAY as OC. Consists of three Sections, each of 30 x 3 ton lorries. 1 Section to be attached for operational purposes to each Bn of the Reserve Bde. Personnel obtained from those previously attached to 18 Inf. Bde. Vehicles transferred from RASC Coys.	
			<u>APPENDICES.</u>	
			1. Ammunition turnover for the month of June 1941 (1 copy).	
			2. Unit Routine Orders for the month of June 1941 (1 copy each).	
			3. Employment Chart as at 0600 hrs 30 Jun. 41.	

Wt 13474/1808 1,300,000 7/40 BPL 51-7171 Forms C2118/22

Johnston
Adjutant A.A.S.C. 9 Aust Div.

AASC EMPLOYMENT CHART.

As at 0600 hrs 30 Jun. 41.

	Off. x 7	ORs. 30
HQ AASC 9 Aust Div.		
AASC Inf. Coys. "A" Coy 5 - 117)		
"C" Coy 3 - 74)		
"D" Coy 2 - 79)	10	270
Guard Duties. (TOBRUK Security Guard).	3	170
Ammunition Duties.	6	122
Workshops. Amn. Coy 1 - 22)		
Pet. Coy 3 - 69)		
Sup. Col. 1 - 35)	5	126
Detached to Inf. Bns. 2/9 Bn 1 - 58)		
2/10 Bn 1 - 57)		
2/12 Bn 1 - 30)	3	145
Supply Duties.	1	2
Attd 2/3 Fd Amb.	1	1
" HQ 9 Aust Div.	1	
" HQ AASC 7 Aust Div.	1	1
OC Tp Carrying Tpt Coy	1	
	39	867

x. Includes RMO attd.

Various ORs are detached in small numbers to different units for driving duties.

Number of personnel evacuated beyond RAP 1 - 97.

TOTAL STRENGTH (inc. attd.) 40 1002.

W. M. AldCapt.
Adj. AASC 9 AUST DIV.

Total Tonnage for June 403.744 Tons

Wun Diny

Rev. *Rev. [Signature]*
 Capt
 1st Lt. O. G. - AUS DIV 4 & C

AMMUNITION STATE

as at 0800 hrs

Ammunition Turnover June 1941.

Turnover Tonnage

303 Tracer		
303 Bandolier	367055	12.47
303 Bundle	102000	3.06
303 Carton	869488	26.08
403 in Belt VIII	15700	.61
403 in Belt VII	26640	1.03
7.92 mm Ball	37425	1.98
7.92 mm Mixed	70200	3.7
38 Pistol	972	.02
450 T.S.M.G.	98475	2.95
485 Pistol	1240	.03
25 Pdr. Cart.	97	
25 Pdr. Super Cart	1046	5.8
25 Pdr. H.E.	9283	153.16
25 Pdr. Smoke		
25 Pdr. A.P. Shot	40	.59
18 Pdr. H.E.	1668	21.68
18 Pdr. A.P. Shot		
18 Pdr. Smoke	4	
18 Pdr. Shrap.		
4.5 How. H.E.	2455	63.08
4.5 How. Smoke	119	2.5
37 mm	1556	3.11
40 mm Bofors		
60 Pdr. H.E.	796	25.47
60 Pdr. Smoke Perc. Tubes	200	1.
75 mm	395	9.95
100 mm	255	7.65
2" Mor H.E.	2063	3.3
2" Mor. Smoke	156	.234
3" Mor H.E.	1250	8.62
3" Mor Smoke	77	.41
2 Pdr. A/Tk H.E.	822	2.46
2 Pdr. A/Tk Shot	2639	7.91
55 A/Tk A.P.	8000	1.38
5 A.P.	9769	.95
Molotov Cocktails		
Grenades 36 M	6375	6.35
Grenades No. 65 Smoke	2895	2.43
ST Grenades	95	
Mines A/Tk.		
Mines Shrap.	862	
Guncotton Net Crates	59	.25
Matches Fusee	10476	
Primers Guncotton 1oz.	540	
Ammonal 1lb	500	.22
Gen. Smoke No 8	785	1.9
Gen. Smoke No 5	450	1.1
Fuse Safety Feet	12060	
P.I.D. Feet	48000	
Det. No. 27	5835	
Det. No. 33 Elec.	2180	
Det. Dupont	1200	
Sigs 1" Illum.	1155	
Sigs 1" Green	1035	
Sigs 1" Red	557	
Infantry Flares	135	
Igniters Safety Fuse	50	
47/32 A/Tk.	3280	13.12
20 mm A.P. Shot	2250	2.25
20 mm H.E.	7420	7.42
81 mm Mortar H.E.	612	1.8
45 mm Mortar H.E.	1935	1.93
7.7 mm Tracer	15815	
7.7 mm A.P.	19605	
7.7 mm Ball	40000	6.75
8.5 mm Ball	101300	
8 mm Flat	94540	
8 mm Schwartz-Loose	43920	

ROUTINE ORDERS

by

Lieut-Col. J. Watson, C.A.A.C. 9th Aust Div.

In the Field,
6 Jun 41.

16. CENSORSHIP OF MAIL - A.M. & O.

All ranks must be informed that private cables and telegrams from all ranks reporting individual casualties are forbidden. Details in regard to casualties may be given in letters only, one month after known date of casualty. All officers are to take greater care in perusing letters and to avoid to mention forbidden items themselves.

17. TRANSPORT.

- (a) No transport whatever will be used for transporting troops to beaches.
- (b) It is to be insured that when a vehicle is required to carry out a journey, all other possible and necessary duties are done during the same trip.
- (c) The driver of every vehicle will be provided with a work chit signed by an officer, in respect of each trip necessarily carried out. The chit will show No of vehicle, unit, destination, nature of duty and time and date of journey.
- (d) A statement of the days consumption of petrol will be signalled through normal channels to POMERLEIGH at 1200 hrs each day.
- (e) Detachments will notify this HQ immediately of the estimated daily average consumption of petrol.

18. PETROL DRUMS.

There has been misuse on a large scale of petrol drums, mainly in the construction of defences. It is realised that the shortage of sandbags in the early stages necessitated some substitute. The use of drums for this purpose has however resulted in a serious shortage, one that may mean that we have insufficient drums for the detailed distribution of petrol. Wherever possible these misused drums are to be replaced by other revetting material, salvaged and returned to Petrol Depot. In future also it is to be ensured that pet drums are returned to Petrol Depot as soon as empty.

19. DISCARDED MILITARY UNIFORMS.

Officers Commanding units etc. will make arrangements for the collection of all discarded military uniforms and take steps to prevent all such items from falling into unauthorised hands.

Native workmen employed in military areas have been found wearing odd items of uniform. In view of the possibility of prisoners of war and internees attempting to escape, such articles of clothing would be invaluable to them for carrying out their designs.

20. PRESS - NOISES AND TALKING.

Approval is given, vide A.M. Order 557, for the wearing of rank badge, and title badge "Australia" khaki worn on shirts, etc. only. Metal rank badge will continue to be worn on other garments as at present.

21. ATTN: HQ.

Detachment of 1st A.C. 9 Aust. Div. will submit an immediate return to this Hq. giving the following information in respect of Guns, Machine Guns, 303 held by them.

- (a) Number with Mk 1 Barrels.
- (b) Number with Mk 1k Barrels.
- (c) Number with Mk 1 Gas Regulators.
- (d) Number with Mk 1ll Gas Regulators.

22. USE OF WATER AT HOSPITALS.

It has been reported that unauthorized persons have been entering hospital grounds and attempting to draw water from the tanks there.

As water is drawn for patients on a scale laid down, any loss results in patients going short.

This practice will therefore cease and disciplinary action will be taken against offenders.

23. CODE NAME 9a.

All copies of Code List 9a will be returned by an officer to this Hq. by 1200 hrs on 9 Jun. 41. Code Lists will not in future be issued to detachments.

Officers Commanding detachments may obtain Code Names which concern them on personal application to this Hq.

Application should be made before 8 Jun. 41.

J. C. Donald Capt.
Adjutant 1st A.C. 9 Aust. Div.

DISTRIBUTION.

As For H.O. of 1 Jun. 41.

For Official
Use Only.
AR 0 1587.

AUSTRALIAN LIGHT TROOPS.

A.A.S.C. 9th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

ROUTINE ORDERS

(Nos 24 - 28)

by
Lieut-Col J.A. Watson, C.A.A.S.C. 9 Aust. Div.

In the Field,

9 Jun. 41

24. VEHICLES - MAINTENANCE.

Units must pay particular attention to air filters on all vehs, as careful attention to these has a large bearing on the life of the engine and petrol consumption, especially in the case of vehs fitted with the Gauze Type filters.

25. BLOOD GROUPING - AIF DETACHMENTS.

All AIF units will submit through normal channels a return to reach HQ 9 Aust Div by 11 Jun. 41 showing the number of unit personnel whose blood group is not recorded either in paybook or on identity disc.

26. MODIFICATION OF VEHICLES - AIF DETACHMENTS.

AIF Order 352 is repeated:

The sole authorities for modifications to army vehicles are GHQ M.E. for MD vehicles, and HQ AIF (ME) for Australian pattern vehicles.

Modifications to both Australian vehicles and MD vehicles, will be promulgated, together with the necessary drawings, etc. through the medium of the Mechanisation instructions now being issued from time to time. This ensures standardisation.

Modifications considered desirable by formations etc, must be submitted to HQ AIF (ME) for the necessary technical consideration and approval or otherwise, and no such modifications are to be carried out prior to this approval being obtained.

The practice of formations, units, etc. authorising modifications is irregular and is to cease immediately.

27. PROVOST COY, 9 AUST DIV.

Applications are called from members of A.A.S.C. for transfer to PRO Coy 9 Aust. Div. Every opportunity should be given to troops to allow them to submit their applications. Applications must reach this HQ by 1800 hrs 12 Jun.

28. RETURNS.

All detachments of A.A.S.C. 9 Aust Div must pay more attention to the prompt rendering of returns called for.

It is realised that in some cases little time is allowed in which to obtain the information required, but, to prevent delay in the rendering of returns by this HQ a greater effort must be made by detachments to ensure information reaching this HQ on time.

Where it is apparent that a written return cannot reach this HQ on time the required information should be telephoned and subsequently confirmed in writing.

The return called for in RO 21 of 6 Jun. is not yet to hand from any detachment. This will be expedited. The weekly return of weapons and vehs held, must reach this HQ by 1200 hrs each Monday.

ADD TO PARA 24 OF THIS ORDER.

All Air Filters must be cleaned at least once a week, and after every dust storm. This is one of the most important points of normal maintenance to be carried out by drivers.

Distribution as for RO 6 Jun. 41.

J. McDonald
.....Capt.
Adjt A.A.S.C. 9 Aust. Div.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

H.Q. A.A.S.C. 9th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

ROUTINE ORDERS

(Nos 29 - 36)

by

Lieut-Col J.A. Watson, C.I.A.S.C. 9 Aust. Div.

In the Field,

14 - 8 Jun 41.

29. A.I.F. ORDERS (H.Q.)

298. Explosives in Kits.

Numerous instances have occurred recently of explosives of various types having been discovered in kits deposited in the A.I.F. Kit Stores for safe keeping.

On no account will ammunition of any kind, whether enemy or otherwise, be deposited in A.I.F. Kit Stores.

This Order will be repeated in all unit Orders, and re-promulgated, wherever practicable, prior to the depositing of kits in A.I.F. Kit Stores.

30. STOLEN VEHICLES.

AIF Order 301 is repeated:

Reports have been received that vehicles are being stolen under varying circumstances. In some cases they have been taken from city streets, and in others removed from unit lines.

The stealing or unauthorised use of military vehicles by AIF personnel will be made a Court Martial offence, and, in the case of a stolen vehicle being found in the possession of a unit other than that to which the vehicle is in charge, the C.O. of the unit in which the vehicle is located will be held responsible.

No army vehicle is to be left unattended in a city street, and strict precautions will be taken by all oficers in charge of transport to ensure that the vehicles in their charge are not removed by any unauthorised person.

31. VACANCIES IN AUSTRALIAN ARMY PAY CORPS.

Several vacancies exist in the Australian Army Pay Corps. After a period of probation, personnel selected will be eligible for promotion to the rank of Acting Corporal.

Applications of personnel at or below the rank of Corporal, which must have the approval of the applicant's Commanding Officer, should be forwarded to the Divisional Paymaster in the case of Divisional Units, Corps Paymaster, in the case of Corps Troops, and the Chief Paymaster, A.I.F., in all other cases. Particulars will be given of experience in accountancy, typewriting and machine accounting.

32. ANTI-PERSONNEL BOMBS.

Further supplies of tins are required for manufacture of these bombs. The most suitable type is that in which "Molvans" and "Barclays" beers are canned.

All units are accordingly asked to collect all empty tins of this nature and return them to the nearest ammunition point or to No.2 Sub-depot A.I.D.

33. WELLS.

A shallow well situated at 1294336 contains water which is definitely dangerous for drinking purposes and which may be unfit for washing.

Pending investigation, this well will be out of bounds.

34. DESIGNATION OF UNITS ON INDENTS, DC CILLIVETS, ETC.

In future units will be shown on indents, correspondence and other documents, other than signal messages in front of Div H.Q., by their designation and NOT by their code name

(cont. over)

35. EMPTY FOOD TINS.

Empty food tins other than returnable containers must be turned and buried in the vicinity of unit lines. If burning is not practicable, tins must be well buried. Immediate action will be taken by all detachments.

36. BREN GUNS.

Regimental Routine Order 21 of Jun 6, 44 is repeated :-

Detachments of A.A.S.C., 9 Aust Div will submit an immediate return to this H.Q., giving the following information in respect of Guns, Machine, Bren, .303" held by them :-

- (a) Number with Mk 1 Barrels.
- (b) Number with Mk 12 Barrels.
- (c) Number with Mk 1 Gas regulators.
- (d) Number with Mk 111 Gas regulators.

At the present date returns have been received from the following detachments only :-

A.A.D.
550 Coy R.A.S.C.
Security Guard.
10 Pl "D" Coy.
11 Pl "D" Coy.

All other detachments and units under command will forward the required information to reach this H.Q., by 1800 hrs 16 Jun 44.

H. L. ... Capt.
Adjutant, A.A.S.C., 9 Aust Div.

Total Tonnage for June 403.744 Tons

Capt

AMMUNITION STATE

as at 0800 hrs

Ammunition Turnover June 1941.

Turnover

Tonnage

303 Tracer		
303 Bandolier	367055	12.47
303 Sandoz	102000	3.06
303 Carton	862488	26.00
303 in Belt Vlllx	15700	.61
303 in Belt Vll	26640	1.03
7.92 mm Ball	37425	1.98
7.92 mm Mixed	70200	2.7
38 Pistol	972	.02
450 T.S.M.G.	96475	2.95
455 Pistol	1240	.03
25 Pdr. Cart.	97	
25 Pdr. Super Cart	1046	3.8
25 Pdr. H.E.	2283	153.16
25 Pdr. Smoke		
25 Pdr. A.P. Shot	40	.59
18 Pdr. H.E.	1668	21.68
18 Pdr. A.P. Shot		
18 Pdr. Smoke	4	
18 Pdr. Shrap.		
4.5 How. H.E.	2455	53.02
4.5 How. Smoke	119	2.5
37 mm	1556	2.11
40 mm Bofors		
60 Pdr. H.E.	796	25.47
60 Pdr. Heavy Perc. Tubes	200	1.
75 mm	385	9.25
100 mm	255	7.65
2" Mor H.E.	2063	3.5
2" Mor. Smoke	156	.234
3" Mor H.E.	1850	8.62
3" Mor Smoke	77	.41
2 Pdr. A/Tk H.E.	822	2.46
2 Pdr. A/Tk Shot	2632	7.21
35 A/Tk. A.P.	8000	1.58
35 A.P.	9762	.25
Molotov Cocktails		
Grenades 35 M	6375	6.55
Grenades No. 63 Smoke	2825	2.43
37 Grenades	95	
Mines A/Tk.		
Mines Shrap.	862	
Cuncotton Net Crates	59	.25
Matches Fusee	10476	
Primers Cuncotton 1oz.	540	
Ammonal lbs	500	.22
Gen. Smoke No 8	785	1.9
Gen. Smoke No 5	450	1.1
Fuse Safety feet	12060	
P.I.D. feet	48000	
Dets No. 27	5835	
Dets No. 53 Elec.	2180	
Dets Dupont	1200	
Sigs 1" Illum.	1155	
Sigs 1" Green	1035	
Sigs 1" Red	557	
Infantry Flares	135	
Igniters Safety Fuse	50	
47/52 A/Tk.	5220	13.12
20 mm A.P. Shot	2250	2.25
20 mm H.E.	7420	7.42
81 mm Mortar H.E.	612	1.0
45 mm Mortar H.E.	1825	1.93
7.7 mm Tracer	15615	
7.7 mm A.P.	19605	
7.7 mm Ball	40000	6.75
6.5 mm Ball	101500	
8 mm Flat	94840	
6 mm Schwartzkopf	43620	

ORIGINAL.

AUG 17 1941

WAR DIARY

Army Form C 118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

HQ AASC 9 AUST DIV.

Lt-Col J.A. WATSON, C.A.A.S.C.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
TOBRUK.	1941 Jul.		<p>During the month of July considerable changes took place in the work being done by this unit. Three Transport Coys were formed :- No 1 Troop Carrying Coy of 90x3 ton lorries being formed mainly of personnel withdrawn in June from "A" and "B" Inf Coys and attached to 18 Aust Inf Bde for special transport duties. Capt W.L. Day appointed O/C the Coy on the date of its formation 29 Jun. 41. Section Officers, Lt D.E. Prothero Lt W.G.N. Orr and Lt A.G. Livingstone.</p> <p>One section of this Coy is attached for troop carrying duties to each Bn of the Reserve Bde. One of the duties is the carrying of personnel of the Reserve Bde into the line when their period of duty in Reserve is completed and bringing out the personnel of the relieved Bde</p> <p>No 2 Troop Carrying Coy of 90 x 3 ton lorries was formed mainly of personnel formerly in "C" and "D" Inf Coys. This Coy was formed on 10 and 11 Jul. O/C Capt J.N. Duncan, Section Officers, Lt A.T. Munton and Lt J.S. Harvey and WO 146 H.J. Shillinglaw.</p> <p>One section of this Coy is attached to the Reserve Bn of each Bde in the forward areas for troop carrying duties. The third Coy known locally as Area Transport Coy, and consisting of 90 x 3 ton lorries, was formed at the same time as No 2 Troop Carrying Coy from personnel of 7 Aust Div Sup Col (Under Command AASC 9 Aust Div). O/C Capt Thompson.</p> <p>The duties of this Coy are general and include transport of stores of all descriptions from Docks to BSB, Ordnance Etc. The four RASC Reserve MT Coys under command of this unit were evacuated from the area early in the month. These Coys were 309, 346, 346 and 550 Res MT Coys. Their vehicles were taken over by Lieut R.C. Ballantyne and placed in three vehicle parks.</p> <p>A Temporary Vehicle Reception Depot was formed with a HQ and three vehicle parks. O/C Capt C.H. Locke, 2 i/c Lt W.H. Waters. (MOOs i/c parks, CQMS Kentwell and Sgts Tietzel and Smith). This T/VRD is now performing the duties previously done by 76 VRD who were evacuated from the area. Evacuation of technical workshop vehicles, ambulances, Mack and White lorries has been carried out by Lieuts Ballantyne and Birch.</p> <p>12 and 48 DIDs and 24 and 25 FSDs have ceased to exist, and breaking of bulk rations and issue to units is now being done by two DIDs formed from personnel of 9 Aust Div Sup Col under command of Capt D.H. Carnegie and Lt V.H. Tutt respectively. Rations are drawn in bulk from 9 BSB as formerly.</p> <p>Since the evacuation of ADS & T 76 Base Sub-Area, and his staff, his duties have been carried out by CASC 9 Aust Div. Early in the month "C" and "D" Inf Coys, excepting No 10 Pl (Lt Gates) of "D" Coy were withdrawn from the line. No 10 Pl., "D" Coy, Inf. was withdrawn from the line on 26 Jul 41. "A" Coy is now the only AASC detachment doing duty as infantry.</p>	
	" 20		<p>Major L.A. Withers, formerly of 6 Aust Div Amn Sub Pk assumed duties of Senior Supply Officer vice Major A.J. Overell, who was appointed O/C Petrol Company, AASC 9 Aust Div.</p>	
			Appendix 1. AASC Routine Orders for month of July.	
		" 2	Letter from Brig. J.J. Murray, Comd. 20 Aust Inf Bde.	
		" 3	Summary of events in Ammunition Supply.	
		" 4	Monthly turnover of Ammunition for July	

C.F.A. 5/40. 50.000.

J.W. Mald
.....Capt.
Adjutant AASC 9 Aust Div.

War Diary.

H.Q., A.A.S.C. 9 Aust Div.,
In the Field,
14 Jul 41.

To All A.A.S.C. Dets.

Herewith copy of letter received from Comd.
20 Inf Bde. The contents will be promulgated to all
ranks. --

NX365,
Brig. J. J. Murray,
H.Q., 20 Aust Inf Bde.,
Australian Imperial Force,
ABROAD.
10 Jul 41.

Lt.-Col. J. A. Watson,
C.A.S.C.
9 Aust Div.

Dear Colonel,

The Brigade having just completed a five weeks' tour
of the line in undoubtedly its most difficult position, to
hold the Salient and thereabouts, I would like to express
the appreciation of myself and my Commanding Officers on the
excellent work put in by your men whom we had attached.

Their conduct was exemplary, they quickly picked up
the work and believe me you have every reason to be proud of
their conduct under fire. They came to us when our need was
very great, and although asked to undertake a task for which
they are not particularly trained, they rendered the most
valuable assistance.

I would deem it a favour if you would let these men
know that we deeply appreciate their efforts.

Yours sincerely,

J. J. Murray
Brig.
Comd. 20 Aust Inf Bde.

C. J. Jones
for Adj. A.A.S.C. 9 Aust Div. Capt.

- March 8th. Arrived at Magrum.
- March 9th. Lieut. Tracey took over A.P. from section of the 6th. Div. Ammunition Company A.A.S.C. in charge of Lieut. Trend. Ammunition Point situated 2 kilos from "Bada Form" half way between Magrum and Agadabia, 75 miles west of Benghazi. On the night of the ninth. made first delivery to F.D.P. 45 miles west of A.P. Road was good bitumen surface, but narrow and in parts built up to a height of three feet at the sides. The road from Magrum to the D.P. was subjected to dive bombing and machine gunning- all deliveries done at night. We were supplying the 20th Bde., 51st Fld. Regt. and some British units.
- March 10th. Did an M.T. job. Picked up 3000 gallons of petrol at Benghazi and delivered to forward landing ground 25 miles south west and inland from A.P. Particularly bad track through heavy sand. We made deliveries nightly until 23/3/41.
- March 24th. The H.Q. Ind. Bde. A.S.C. Coy., was in the town of Magrum and was repeatedly dive bombed and machine gunned. F.A.D. was situated one mile from Magrum.
- March 25th. Moved A.P. back to El Abiar, a virgin camp, low hills and grassy surroundings. Stocked A.P. from Benghazi F.A.D. The A.P. was servicing 20th Bde., 51st Fld. Regt. who were dug in on Regina Pass.
- March 26th. Formed an A.P. at Baracca with Sgt. D.G. Smith in charge. This A.P. was supplying the 26th Bde., who were holding the Teora pass. Part of the Ammunition section were working as an M.T. Company, in conjunction with the balance of Ind. Bde., A.S.C. Coy., carting ammunition from Tobruk to Tecnis F.A.D. The A.P.s. were drawing their supplies and replenishments from Tecnis F.A.D. as Benghazi was a closed town.
- April 1-3. Shortage of 18 pr. and 4.5 How ammunition. A.D.O.S. was still insisting upon indents before supplies could be released. War seemed far away. Sunday a day of rest at Command H.Q., no work done. Eventually picked up 400 rounds of 18 pr. and 500 rounds of 4.5 How. all of which was held at A.P. at El Abiar. Half of each type was delivered, in stock also was fair quantities of S.A.A. approx. 60000 rounds and also 36M Grenades.
- April 3-4. Ordered to stand by and to be prepared to evacuate. Dumps were to be prepared to demolition. Move to Tecnis Dump at 1400 hrs. Late orders from Div. H.Q. to abandon whatever ammunition could not be carried, and not demolish. Took .55W, Gren 36M, 303 Tacer and A.P. stocks and abandoned rest approximately 40 tons. Most of ammunition vehicles diverted to other causes and duties.
- April 5th. At Tecnis F.A.D. Took over from Capt. Grimble 501 A.A.D. This dump together with one truck load of S.A.A. on Madelina Road was for use of all units in the area, who were informed accordingly. Personnel present included Lieut. Northey, Sgt. D.G. Smith, L/Cpl. Simpson, L/Cpl. Fountain, Dvrs. Clarke, Doody and others. Large issues made to Arm. Bde. Support Group of 25 pr. approx. 3000 rounds, many other issues made to units mostly of S.A.A., Gren 36M, and demolitions. Upon reviewing stocks of area, discovered appreciable stocks of 3.7 AA, 37mm Bofors, and 60 pr. Cart. Decided to use all available transport to evacuate this ammunition from the area as no weapons were available, and to bring up further stocks of 4.5 How and 18 pr. which was desperately needed. Capt. Grimble left for Giovanni Berta with approx. fifty tons of ammunition. This amount with issues reduced the original amount from 500 tons to 350 tons. Arrangements were then made that troop carrying transport would load one ton of ammunition each, mostly of wanted Italian 47/32 A/Tk and 20mm Breda, and also 1" Signal, .55W, and Streambelt. 48 tons were removed in this manner and the remainder was prepared for demolition in conjunction with the Engineers. On the evening of the 5th. was advised that withdrawal would take place and was ordered to let all units evacuate the area and then to demolish all the ammunition and then get out ourselves. Prior to zero hour, the order was countermanded and the units began to return to their positions on the escarpment.
- April 6th. In contact with Command H.Q. regarding supplies of 18 pr. and 4.5 How. No word from Capt. Grimble or drivers sent back to pick it up. At 1600 hrs ordered to evacuate the area immediately. Waited until the last of the infantry units had had gone and the Artillery had passed F.A.D. and then ordered the engineers to commence to blow up. Supervised preparations of stacks and when assured that demolition would be satisfactory left area at approx. 2000 hrs. en route for Giovanni Berta. At Giovanni Berta informed the R.E of dump close to the ~~road~~ fort and told them to demolish. Reported to Major MacLennan at Supply Dump, refuelled and proceeded cross country to Matrubah.
- April 7th. Proceeded from Matrubah via El Gazala to kilos 98 and 89 F.A.D.s. at which ample supplies of wanted ammunition were discovered. Established A.P.s. at each site, one under Sgt. D.G. Smith, and the other under L/Cpl. Fountain.

Diary and Summary of events in Ammunition Supply April 7th. to June 14th.

April 7th (cont.) Issues were made from these points, which were simultaneously prepared for demolition. In the evening ordered to retire to Kilo 40 from Tobruk and established A.P. there. Balance of stocks at dumps, which were now practically cleared were handed over to the R.E. for demolition.

April 8th. Established contact with 501 A.A.D. at Tobruk.

April 8th. Moved back to outer perimeter Tobruk defences and A.P. established just outside the wire. The A.P. was taken over by Lieut. Tracey. There was aerial day fighting and machine gunning. Remained here for two days.

April 11th. Established A.Ps. on Derna Road, Bardia Road, and Pilastrino to supply all units in the area excepting the A.A.Bde., and commenced to keep records of turnover etc. Lieut. Tracy in charge of Pilastrino Point, with Sgt. D.G. Smith, L/Cpl. Simpson in charge of Bardia Point (together with Sgt. Chaplin on the 12th.) Sgt. Rymill in charge of Derna Point, and L/Cpl. Fountain in charge of deliveries at A.A.D.

April 12th. Sgt. MacColl and loading party of twenty men reported to A.A.D. Traffic Office, and additions made to personnel at A.Ps. At this stage it was pointed out that for ammunition supply to be dependable, sufficient transport to completely lift the second line scale establishment was imperative. This point was simply illustrated between El Abiar and Tobruk. During that period two 3 tonners and one 30 cwt only were available. Fighting units who were themselves short of transport had to complete responsibility of picking up replenishments. Sufficient vehicles were immediately allotted to the A.Ps.

April 13-15 Large attacks by enemy during period 11th April to 15th April when the points were being formed and organised. The following amounts of ammunition were delivered. S.A.A. 1200000, 25 pr. 30000, 18 pr. 696, Gren 36M 6500, and considerable quantities of other types.

April 17th. Establishments made up for A.Ps. from weapon strength states and location statement supplied by Div.H.Q. Subdivision was made of units according to the proximity of their location to a particular point.

April 19th. List of units sent to individual A.Ps., each list containing the names of units located in the area of the A.P.: establishments were no brought up to strength and the points had started to operate systematically.

May 1st. Total turnover from 11/4/41 to 30/4/41. was 1188.724 Tons. Revision of establishments at A.Ps. made necessary by units changing location. Derna Rd. Point holding second line scale of the Arm'd. Bde. During attack on May 1st orders were received to deliver 42000 rds 25pr. H.E. to the guns in less than six hours. Special transport was arranged for and within 3½ hours 22000 rds. had been delivered and the order then came to cease deliveries.

May 5th. Turnover figures for ten day period from 26/4/41. to 5/5/41 104.6 Tons daily average. ST Grenades issued to Derna and Pilastrino A.Ps. The supply of these weapons was restricted to one box per issue. These weapons were demonstrated to an Infantry class before the original issues were made.

May 7th. ST Grenades are to be issued from now on only on Divisional order.

May 15th. Turnover for twenty day period from 26/4/41. to 5/5/41. 65.180 Tons daily average.

May 22nd. Turnover for period 16/5/41. to 22/5/41. 68.081 tons daily average.

May 26th. A.A.D. Traffic office (ARP) moved to new site at 4110-4344 Tobruk Sheet.

May 29th. Turnover for period 23/5/41. to 29/5/41. 16.359 tons daily average.

May 30th. New location state and weapon strength state made available. New establishment being made up to cover additional weapons and change in location of units.

June 1st. Total turnover for May 1726.278 Tons

June 2nd. New establishments given to points. Immediate adjustments made. To overcome transport difficulties some of Pilastrino Point's establishment was carried at Derna Road. A.P. where it was kept available for use at all times.

June 6th. Turnover for period 30/5/41 to 6/6/41. 27.922 Tons daily average. All the Arm'd. Bde. changed over to VIII2 belt ammunition. All Mc. VII withdrawn and replaced by Mc. VIII2 Belt.

June 7th. Instructions received regarding the likelihood of forming an Ind. Bde., and also the possibility of the Arm'd. Bde. operating separately, or independently

June 9th. Establishment made up for an Ind. Bde., with supporting units. Ammunition held by Derna Rd. A.P. for the Arm'd. Bde., transferred to separate vehicles and virtually a separate point formed for the Arm'd. Bde.,

June 11th. Independent Establishment loaded on to 7 Div Sup. Coln. vehicles and a separate A.P. formed at a site near the El Adem Road on the Bardia Road. Sgt. D.G. Smith sent from Pilastrino point to act in an advisory capacity.

June 12th. Turnover for period 6/6/41 to 12/6/41. 15.122 Tons daily average.

June 13th. Establishment of A.Ps. reduced owing to some units having been withdrawn to make up the Ind. Bde.,

June 14th. Additional Ammunition added to the establishment of Ind. A.P. including Italian S.A.A. and 45mm Mortar.

Diary and Summary of events in Ammunition Supply June 18th to July 21st 1941.

June 18th. Establishment made up of an Independent Battalion and supporting troops and also for an Independent Artillery Battery. This was done in case such troops were transferred to Armd. Bde. Command from the Ind. Bde. Command.

June 19th. Turnover for period 13/6/41. to 19/6/41. 14.14 tons daily average.

June 20th. Independent A.P. disbanded and ammunition returned to A.Ps and A.A.D.

June 21st. Establishment at A.Ps reduced by 50% in Artillery and S.A.A. Also in view of unlikely moves in the near future, transport was reduced to a minimum consistent with maintaining replenishments, all units would now call for ammunition with no deliveries being made. The personnel at A.Ps. also were reduced to 20 at Pilastrino, 15 each at Bardia and Derna Rds, and 10 at A.R.P.

June 26th. Turnover for period 20/6/41 to 26/6/41 7.673 tons daily average.

July 1st. Total tonnage for June 403.744 tons of which 50 tons were of Italian Ammunition and 260 tons were of British Artillery ammunition.

July 3rd. Turnover for week ending 3/7/41. was 10.44 tons daily average of which 7.2 Tons were of British Artillery Ammunition. Lieut. Meggitt was instructed in the procedure to be taken in the salvage and dumping of ammunition from Torto Dump. Work commenced in clearing Torto Dump of unwanted Italian Ammunition.

July 4th. Dumping of unwanted Italian Ammunition from Torto area continued, but the area for dumping was changed at the suggestion of the N.L.O. at Div. H.Q.

July 5th. Ammunition dumped into the sea blew up, killing Lieut. Meggitt, Dvrs Doody and Clarke and injuring several others. Inspection made of the location of explosion and evidence taken from witnesses.

July 8th. Ammunition Points notified of the necessity of additional protection needed for stacks against bomb fragments and aircraft machine gun fire. Additional stones for cover suggested.

July 9th. Bardia Rd. A.P. establishment increased to carry 100 rounds of 75/46 mm also increased by 50 rounds of 149/15 mm to cover increased demands in the area. 1000 rounds of Sand Filled 2pr. A/Tk. sent to Derna Point for drawing by Armd. Bde and A/Tk units for practice.

July 10th. Turnover for week ending the 10th July 12.068 tons daily average. 8 Tons were of British Artillery Ammunition.

July 13th. Notification from Div. H.Q. that salvage of Italian Ammunition was to recommence. Ammunition Company A.A.S.C. notified and machinery set in motion to commence these operations.

July 14th. In co-operation with Capt. White G.S.O3, classes were held for Representatives of all Infantry Bdes., and Bns., 2/1st Pnr. Bn. and the 18 th Cav. Regt., on the performances of the No68 A/Tk Grenade and the Incendiary (Brasso Tin) Bomb. Grenades were fired on a Medium Italian Tank with good results. Each pupil fired at least one round from the discharger cup. The incendiary bomb was described and demonstrated in it's most efficient uses.

July 15th. Class continued. Even better results than on previous day and the grenade proved to be most useful weapon. Grenades were issued from A.A.D. to all units on a restricted scale for training within units.

July 16th. Incendiary Bombs (Brasso Tin) were issued from A.A.D. to all units on a restricted scale for use to the best advantage. Sgt. Gibson and eleven men commenced duty at Repair Depot A.A.D. Their duties consist of receiving returned ammunition from units, resorting it into categories and assisting the Ammunition examiners in refitting it for service.

July 17th. Turnover for week ending 17/7/41 was 47.191 tons daily average of which 9.703 tons were of British Ammunition (including 7.5 tons of Artillery) and the remainder Italian Ammunition. Additional No 68 Grenades issued for additional training and reserve. Application made to H.Q. A.A.S.C. for 36 men for labour on the Salvage and Dumping of Italian Ammunition operations.

July 18th. Application made to H.Q. 9 Aust Div. for approval of the site chosen for dumping Italian Ammunition into the sea. Surplus men from A.A.D. and A.Ps. commenced duty at No 2 A.A.D. on preparing unwanted Italian Ammunition for dumping into the sea. Cpl Roberts withdrawn from Sgt. Gibson's squad to take charge of salvage squad.

July 19th. Dumping of ammunition commenced. Lieut Tracy being in charge of operations. 30 men reported for labour, carting being done by spare personnel from A.A.D. and A.Ps. Ninety tons approx. being dumped during the day.

July 20th. Approval granted for area in which to dump. Labour no longer available preparation of ammunition for dumping continued by personnel from A.Ps. and A.A.D. Dumping suspended owing to weather and lack of labour.

July 21st. Application to Div. H.Q. for 30 men for labour on Salvage and Dumping operations. Preparation of ammunition for dumping continued.

Diary and Summary of events in Ammunition Supply July 22nd. to July 31st 1941.

- July 22nd. 50 Rounds of 149/13 mm deleted from establishment of Derna Road A.P. and added to Pilastrino Point to cover likely demands in that area. 100 rounds of 105/28 mm added to Establishment of Pilastrino to cover demands for new weapons to the area.
- July 25th Labour still unavailable so preparation of ammunition for dumping continued under direction of Lieut. Shea. Ammunition expenditure for week ending 24/7/41. was 38,346 tons of all varieties which included 13,635 tons of British ammunition. Artillery turnover for the week was 33,615 tons which included both British and Italian Ammunition.
- July 27th Preparation of ammunition for dumping continued under Lieut. Shea. During the course of this work Dvr. Donhardt struck a primer with a hammer and chisel causing it to detonate as a result of which he suffered injuries to his hands, with the possible loss of a finger.
- July 28th Preparation of ammunition for dumping continued with by Lieut. Shea and personnel from A.Ps. Advise sent out to Derna A.P. that in future Amnd. Bde. would draw only VIII2 Mixed belt and the exchange of mixed for ordinary VIII2 in their present stocks arranged. A report from Sgt. Rymill of Pilastrino A.P. that some VIII2 belt was in unsoldered boxes and as a result was becoming damaged from the dampness of the atmosphere getting into the boxes and causing corrosion. Action taken to see that unsoldered boxes were issued first and that any doubtful material was returned to the Repair Depot A.A.D.
- July 29th Suggested to Ammunition Company A.A.S.C. that each A.P. Officer establishes personal contact with units in his area and see whether any help or advice is needed.
- July 30th Advise given to all units through Div. H.Q. routine order, regarding additional necessary care which should be given to all phosphorus filled smoke ammunition. This applies to 3" Mortar smoke, 4.5 How smoke, and 18 pr. Smoke. Instructions given that extra care and protection should be given to these varieties as they are likely to be effected by the heat. Special care to be taken on handling any damaged shells as phosphorus burns are extremely poisonous.
- July 31st Inquiries into defects found, in Mc. VIII2 Belt 303 ammunition, by the Northumberland Fusiliers. As a result of inquiries, arrangements made for the return of suspect ammunition to Repair Depot A.A.D. and for further inquiries to be made there by the Inspecting Ordnance Officer.

W. J. Walker Capt.
AMND C. 9TH AUS DIV A.S.C.

App. 1.

War Diary

For official
Use Only.

AMR & C 1587.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES.

H.Q. A.A.S.C. 9th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

ROUTINE ORDERS

(Nos 39 - ⁴⁹~~48~~)

by

Lieut-Col. J.A. Watson, C.A.A.S.C. 9 Aust. Div.

In the Field,
2 Jul. 41.

39. DEBRUISE SORES.

All men must see that EVERY abrasion is treated as soon as possible,

1. by cleaning and application of an antiseptic followed by,
2. dressing or elastoplast

Supplies of antiseptic, dressings and elastoplast can be obtained by detachments on application to R.A.P.

Cases that become infected or do not heal in a few days should report to R.A.P.

40. DISINFECTANTS.

Due to shortage in certain items particularly chloride of lime and cresol, it is not possible at present to meet units' demands in full from available stocks:

Units will ensure that the items concerned are used carefully and not wasted. In this respect, it is noted that the correct proportion of cresol is $\frac{1}{4}$ round cigarette tin (50 cigs) to 2 gals of water.

41. UNIT CENSOR STAMPS.

A return in accordance with A.I.F. Orders (ME) 404 is required from (9 Div. Am Coy, Pot Coy, Sup Col and 7 Div Sup Col, to reach this H.Q. by 1200 hrs on 6 Jul. 41.

42. DRESS - WARRANT OFFICERS AND N.C.Os - A.I.F.

1. The practice of affixing badges of rank on detachable wrist-bands, in the case of warrant officers, and on detachable armbands, in the case of non-commissioned officers, will cease.

2. Badges of rank will be permanently affixed in an appropriate place in approved manner. With summer dress, warrant officers may wear badges above the forearm when shirt sleeves are rolled.

3. White tape stripes may be worn on Shirts, K.D., but will be of standard pattern consisting of white tape stripe $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide and of same size as stripes normally worn on service dress.

43. M.T. VEHICLES - DEFECTIVE STUB AXLES.

(a) Breakages of Stub Axles are occurring in load-carrying vehicles, mainly owing to the extra strain imposed by the over-sized wheels and tyres fitted to commercial type vehicles for Army purposes.

(b) To reduce the strain on Stub Axles under these circumstances, Commanding Officers will ensure that :-

- (i) Vehicles are not overloaded.
- (ii) Speed limits are strictly observed.
- (iii) Vehicles are not sharply braked or accelerated.
- (iv) Correct tyre pressures are maintained.
- (v) Front wheels are not turned violently when vehicle is moving and not turned when vehicle is at rest.

44. AIR MAIL LETTER CARDS.

(a) As from 15th July, 1941, a reduced rate air-mail letter card service to Australia will be introduced.

(b) The postage rate will be threepence, and Australian stamps only may be used. Although the cost is much less than the ordinary air-mail letter, there will be no distinction in speed of despatch and delivery.

(c) The concession is available to all members of the Imperial Forces in M.E.

(d) On application at any British Army P.O., A.I.F. personnel may avail themselves of the reduced rate air-mail letter card service for correspondence with persons in United Kingdom.

(e) The letter card is designed to provide a writing space of one and a half pages, quarto size. Censorship arrangements will apply as in the case of letters. All ranks are specially warned that if anything is enclosed, the card will be sent by ordinary surface mail.

(f) A first issue of letter cards will be made to units by Stationery Depot, Printing and Stationery Services, Palestine. Units will requisition for subsequent requirements from Stationery Depot, Printing and Stationery Services.

(g) If issues of letter cards have not reached units by the date of commencement, an emergency supply may be obtained by requisition from the nearest Australian Army P.O. Requisition must be signed by the Officer Commanding.

(h) The available aircraft space and load is limited and it is therefore desirable that letter cards be used instead of air-mail letters to the maximum possible extent.

(i) Owing to the acute shortage of suitable paper, all ranks are warned that wastage must be avoided. Strict disciplinary action will be taken if necessary, to check improper use of letter cards.

45. TREATMENT OF UNDELIVERABLE POSTAL ARTICLES.

In accordance with National Security (General) Regulations promulgated by the Minister for the Army, the following procedure will be adopted with all unclaimed unregistered postal articles (other than letters, postcards and commercial papers) :-

Newspapers and Periodicals. Undeliverable newspapers and periodicals, clearly distinguishable as such, shall be distributed, at the discretion of the senior postal representative with the force, among other members of the unit of address or made available as reading matter to hospitals, convalescent camps or recreational centres for troops. The address labels or covers should, in such cases, be destroyed, or the addresses completely obliterated before such distribution is effected.

Parcels and Packets. Undeliverable parcels and packets shall be opened at the Overseas Base Post Office and such contents as are suitable for the purpose shall be handed over to the accredited representatives of the Australian Comforts Fund and the Australian Red Cross Society for general distribution to the troops. Items of sentimental value shall, however, be withheld from distribution and wherever possible returned to the senders.

Officers Commanding will ensure that the foregoing instructions are given effect in accordance with the technical instructions issued by the A.D.P.S., H.Q., A.I.F. (M.E.), for the guidance of unit postal orderlies.

46. SWIMMING PARADES.

(a) Swimming parades will be held daily by all units except those of fed bdes. The proportion of troops permitted to attend these parades daily will be on the basis of one coy per bn, or similar sub-unit gns (averaging 20% of strength) per unit.

Offrs will accompany troops of their sub-units.

(cont on page 3)

46. SPLITTING PARADES (cont.)

(b) The use of L.T. for conveying tps to and from bathing places is authorised. The most economical use of tpt must be arranged. Preference will be given to vehs using dieseline rather than those using pet.

(c) Duration of parades :-

0900 - 1230 hrs
or, 1300 - 1630 hrs

(d) Units will ensure that vehs parked near bathing places are well dispersed.

(e) Bathing places allotted are :-

(i) Units east of rd TOLBUI - EL AUDA - beaches S.E. of TOLBUI Town.

(ii) Units in and adjacent to TOLBUI Town - handiest beaches.

(iii) Res Formation - incl beaches from WADI ABD EL ORRI 442437 to WADI EL AUDA.

(iv) Other units - from WADI EL AUDA westwards.

47. VEHICLES AND WEAPONS RETURN.

It is still apparent that some units are not disclosing in their weekly returns, details of all weapons held. This has been established by a check of arm demanded.

All units will therefore ensure that their returns in future are complete both as regards British and captured enemy weapons of all types.

The weekly return of vehicles and weapons is in many cases not being correctly compiled. This return is to be submitted as per the following proforma, as at 0600 hrs each Monday, to reach this H.Q. by 1600 hrs each Monday :-

RETURN OF VEHICLES AND WEAPONS.

Detachment, unit,
etc.

.....

.....Date..

(a) VEHICLES.

(i) Numbers on charge by types.

(ii) Numbers of attached vehicles showing registered numbers, unit from which attached and number of attached drivers.

(b) WEAPONS.

Numbers of the following held :

Hotchkiss	45 mm Mortar
Bren	81 mm Mortar
Vickers	.303 rifles
Lewis	Bayonets
Boys	.38 pistols
2" Mortar	.38 auto pistols
3" Mortar	.45 pistols
Breda L.M.G.	Compasses, prismatic
Plat L.M.G.	Binoculars

Numbers of any other weapons held will be stated with detail.

48. DRIVERS WORK TICKETS - VEHICLES.

Cases are still occurring of drivers halted by Provost Road patrol not being in possession of a work chit signed by an officer. It is to be ensured that all drivers are in possession of the required chits.

Cent.

49. FIELD GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL.

100 0135 Dr COOPERFIELD J.O., 9 Aust Div Sup Col, was tried by F.G.C.M. on 25 Jun 41, on the charges:-

1. Sec 9 (2) When on Active Service, disobeying a Lawful Command given by his superior officer, in that he at TOBRUK on 13 Jun. 41, when ordered to proceed to 2/15 Bn by Lieut WILIS, did not do so.
2. Sec 40. When on Active Service: Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, in that he at TOBRUK, on 13 Jun. 41, after having been ordered by Lieut WILIS of 9 Aust Div Sup Col to proceed to 2/15 Bn, said to the said Lieutenant "They can do what they like, I'm not going back to the battalion" or words to that effect.

Findings of Court : Guilty on both charges.

Sentence. 35 days detention.

Johnston Capt.
Adjutant, A.S.C 9 Aust Div.

For Official
Use only
AMR & O 1587

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

H.Q. A.A.S.C. 9th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

ROUTINE ORDERS

by

(Nos 50 - 60)

Lieut.-Col. J.A. Watson, C.A.A.S.C. 9 Aust Div.

In the field
18 Jul 41.

50. FIELD CENSORSHIP - PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVES LEAVING EGYPT.

G.H.Q. (M.E.) General Order 588 is repeated:-

1. Cases are continually occurring of service personnel attempting to leave Egypt with undeveloped photographic negatives in their possession.
2. It is notified for information that it is prohibited by Egyptian Government decree to take undeveloped photographic negatives out of Egypt.
3. In future, when such negatives are found on service personnel, they will be confiscated and destroyed."

51. LIGHTS.

No one is authorised to fire on an exposed light. All persons seeing lights during the hours of blackout will make inquiries and request that it be put out by the person in charge of it.

If the request is not complied with, a charge should be laid under AA 40 or A.A. 11 and the C.O. of the offender notified.

The attention of all ranks, especially sentries, guards and M.Ps. will be directed to this order.

Disobedience hereof will be followed by disciplinary action against the firer.

52. SPARE PARTS

(a) Owing to the restricted quantity of spare parts obtainable, allocation of stocks received must be strictly co-ordinated.

(b) Until further notice, the following procedure will be instituted in regard to spare parts for repair of M.T. vehicles, artillery equipment and technical stores.

(i) All such spares will be obtained through Ordnance Department.

(ii) Demands will be submitted as under :-

By Unit L.A.Ds. and A.S.C. Workshops Sections to D.A.D.O.S., 9 Aust Div.

By A.A. Bde Workshops (which will check indents of workshop Sections), A.O.W., Army Pd Workshops, and H.R.S. R.A.S.C., and C.O.M.E. TOBRUCH.

(iii) S.O.M.E. 9 Aust Div and C.O.M.E. TOBRUCH respectively will check indents before approval.

(iv) Stores will be issued through A.O.D. on allocation made by C.O.M.E. TOBRUCH.

(v) If stores demanded are not held in stock, a consolidated demand will be placed by C.O.O. A.O.D. through H.Q. 9 Aust Div.

52. SPARE PARTS (Cont'd).

- (c) Requirements of extreme urgency will be demanded on separate indent. If not available for immediate issue, C.O.M.E. will arrange through H.Q. 9 Aust Div to signal for priority provision.
- (d) (i) Demands will be submitted for articles required only to repair vehicle etc which is actually out of action, and the indent will be endorsed with a certificate to this effect.
Demands will not be submitted for completion of reserve stocks or scales.
- (ii) Particulars of type and make of vehicles, and registered numbers and W.D. numbers, of equipment and vehicles, will be shown on the indents.
- (e) If repairs required to any one vehicle are extensive, C.O.M.E. will use his discretion to arrange for replacement rather than immediate repair, and will hold up the indent concerned.

53. AIRGRAPH SERVICE.

G.H.Q. (M.E.) General Order 497 is repeated :-

"The attention of all ranks is drawn to the following :-

- (a) Certain colours are unsuitable for photography on these forms and the best results are obtained when BLACK or DARK BLUE inks are used.
- (b) The perforated portion at the bottom of the form should be removed before the form is handed in for censorship. The postage stamp should not be affixed to this portion of the form.
- (c) Do not forget to fill in the address portion in the panel.

Typewritten characters are not suitable for the address, which should be written in LARGE BLOCK LETTERS."

54. CLOTHING - MOTOR CYCLISTS.

- (a) Helmets, crash, despatch riders, will in future be issued on the scale of one for each despatch rider and motor cycle orderly of all units. Indents will be submitted through the usual channels.
- (b) Helmets, khaki, rubber-proofed, motor cyclists, are withdrawn from general use, and units in possession of these items will return them forthwith to the nearest Aust. Ord depot.
- (c) All War Equipment Tables E2 Series will be amended by the inclusion of helmets, crash, under Section A1.

55. PILFERING.

A complaint has been made that certain Units have been pilfering sand-bags and Italian Ammunition boxes used as revetments in the green line and its switch line defences. These works are an essential part of the Fortress Defence, and have been constructed by weeks of hard work by portion of the Garrison, and this work is being practically wasted owing to irresponsible action by certain units. All ranks are warned not to interfere with these defences.

56. AUDIT -- Regtl Funds and Trust A/c.

The undermentioned Officers are appointed Auditors of Regtl Trust accounts of Companies, and H.Q. of this unit -

Lieut. J. H. ELLIOTT
Lieut. R. C. PROCTOR

They will carry out an audit of all Trust Accounts at end of each month, and submit to this H.Q. in duplicate, Audit Certificate in accordance with A.I.F. Orders 56, 157, and 300, and 9 Aust Div R.O. 188.

57. WATER.

With reference to 9 Aust Div Circular "Diarrhoea and Dysentery", 20 Jun 41, six cases of amoebic dysentery have recently been reported.

In each instance, the patient admitted drinking water from non-treated wells. Units will ensure that only that water drawn from authorised water points, and sterilized by unit personnel at the time of drawing, is used for drinking purposes.

58. CARRYING OF ARMS.

It has been noticed that some laxity is creeping in regarding the carrying of arms.

Arms will be carried by all ranks at all times, regardless of where the person or persons are going, or length of visit.

59. ASCORBIC ACID TABLETS.

Future issues will be 9 per all ranks per week, on the basis of one tablet daily, except Wednesdays and Sundays (two).

60. 81 m.m. MORTAR AMM.

1. Primary Charges for 81 m.m. Italian Mortars are urgently required, if this useful weapon is to be kept in use in the area.
2. All units will make an immediate search of their areas, and REPORT all available boxes of charges. The boxes are marked as follows:

Cariche di lancio fondamentali

per bomba da 81

Balistiche al 42%

3. It is essential in the interests of the Garrison as a whole, that no individual unit retains stocks surplus to their immediate needs.
4. Units will report direct to this H.Q. -

(a) Quantities now held.

(b) Quantity located in area.

J. MacDonald Capt.
Adj. A.A.S.C. 9 Aust Div.

DISTRIBUTION LIST:

Amn Coy	6 (Includes 1 for each A.P., 1 for A.R.P., 1 for W/Shop Sec.).	Vehicle Pool	4 (includes 1 copy for each Park).
Pet Coy	2 (Includes 1 for W/Shop Sec.).	No. 1 T. C. Coy.	1
9 Div Sup Col	4 (includes 1 for each D.I.D. and 1 for W/Shop Sec.).	No. 2 T. C. Coy	1
		"A" Inf Coy	1
		Capt Jones	1
		Lieut. Gates	1
		File	1
		War Diary	1
7 Div Sup. Col.	1		
Security Guard	1		

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

For official
Use only
AMR & O 1587

H.Q., A.A.S.C. 9th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

ROUTINE ORDERS

by

(Nos 61 - 70)

Lieut.-Col. J. A. Watson, C.A.A.S.C. 9 Aust Div.

In the Field
24 Jul 41.

61. MOVEMENT OF VEHICLE ADVICE (A.P. G.871).

Further to instructions contained in para 2 (e) of Instructions for the Operation and Maintenance of Transport, issued by this office on 22 Jul 41, the above-mentioned form will be used to advise movement of vehicles between sub-units of A.A.S.C. 9 Aust Div. When used for this purpose, a single copy only will be forwarded to these H.Q. by both the transferor and transferee sub-units.

No inter-sub-unit transfers of vehicles will be effected without the prior approval of these H.Q.

62. SUBMISSION OF RETURNS - A.A.S.C. 9 AUST DIV.

It would appear, from the failure of some detachments to submit returns by the due time and date, that no efficient system is being used to ensure that returns are not forgotten.

Considerable inconvenience, at the very least, is experienced by this office when returns call for do not arrive to time. All sub-units, if they have not already done so, will install a fool-proof system to ensure that returns reach this office when they are required.

The excuse that a return has been sent and must have gone astray is not a good one.

It is the responsibility of the detachment submitting the return to see that it arrives at its destination.

63. RUM

(a) 9 Aust Div R.O. 92 of 28 Apr 41 is cancelled.

(b) Rum will be issued from P.S.Ds and D.I.Ds. on authority of H.Q. 9 Aust Div only, as shown below.

(c) The normal issue will not exceed 1/64 gallon per man.

(d) (i) General issue to all personnel will be authorized by G.O.C. only in special circumstances.

(ii) An emergency reserve stock will be held by Comds as follows :-

H.Q. each fwd Inf Bde	-	20 gallons
O.C. TORRUCH Area	-	10 gallons.

This reserve will be utilised to provide an issue, where special conditions render it desirable, to any portion of the command who have carried out hazardous or arduous duties under conditions of severe stress or hardship.

The issue will be made at the discretion of Bde Comd or O.C. Area only.

Issues will be authorized for consumption on conclusion of the duty or operation only.

(iii) For other units not under Comd of fwd Inf Bdes, an issue of rum for conditions as in para (ii) above may be authorized by H.Q. 9 Aust Div on application by H.Q. or Comd concerned

(e) When any portion of reserve stock is consumed, immediate report by Comd concerned of such issues will be made to A.A. & Q.M.G. 9 Aust Div who will authorize replacement.

(f) On change over of Bdes in fwd sectors, the emergency reserve will be handed over to the relieving Bde by the outgoing Bde Comd.

At present there is no authority for the use of additional words, at 5 pence per word, in E.F.M. messages as shown in a SYDNEY report published in a recent copy of A.I.F. News.

Para 501 from A.I.F. Standing Orders is repeated :-

(1). All such pay-books will be handed immediately to the Pay Sergeant of the unit, or if the unit has no Pay Sergeant, to the nearest Australian Paymaster.

- Paybooks left behind by men becoming casualties, are to be forwarded to the Divisional Paymasters under cover of Schedules.
- Two pay-books should be completed :-

- If a doubt arises as to whether a soldier is deceased his name should be inserted in Schedule (b) with the following note :-

66. DISPOSAL OF CASH IN EFFECTS OF CASUALTIES - A.I.F. UNITS.

"The following procedure will be adopted in the A.I.F.

- (a) All moneys found on the bodies or in the effects of deceased members of the A.I.F. will be forwarded by the O.C. unit to the nearest Australian Paymaster. The O.C. will forward with the cash a schedule showing the ownership of the money.
- (b) The Paymaster will issue to the O.C. an official receipt for moneys received, and will account to the Chief Paymaster, A.I.F. for the amounts.
- (c) The chief Paymaster will ensure that such moneys are immediately credited to the Estates of the deceased officers or soldiers concerned.

67. BURIALS - GRAVES REGISTRATION

- (a) The Graves Services of the A.I.F., U.D.F., and N.Z.E.F. have been unified with those of the British Forces under Assistant Director Graves Registration and Enquiries, M.E.
- (b) All units in TOBRUK, whether British, A.I.F. or Indian Army will dispose of Burial Returns as follows :-
 - (i) Two copies direct to A.A.G., 2nd Echelon, G.H.Q., M.E.
 - (ii) One copy to Rear H.Q. 9 Aust Div.

These copies will be passed by Rear H.Q. 9 Aust Div to Graves Registration Tobruk Sub-Area, who will take extracts from them and, in the case of returns of A.I.F. and Indian Army units, forward them to the respective 2nd Echelons.

68. A.I.F. KIT STORES No. 3

All kit for A.A.S.C. 9 Aust Div has been transferred to A.I.F. Kit store No 3, C/- Aust B.O.D. Tel-el-Kebir.

All enquiries and requisitions for kits of personnel will be submitted to A.I.F. Kit store No. 3 direct.

69. TENTS.

The erection of E.P.I.F. and R.D. tents is to be limited to essential requirements. All tents are to be dug in and camouflaged. Only under special circumstances, approved by H.Q. Tobruk Fortress, are tents to be closer to each other than 500 yards.

70. FIELD GENERAL COURT MARTIAL

NX30906 Dvr Peters J, 9 Aust Div Sup Col, was tried by F.G.C.M. on 11 Jul 41 on the charges :-

- (1) Stealing public property, in that he, at Tobruk, on 9 Jun 41, stole 12 tins of milk and 4 bottles of Roccoaro Water, A.A. Sec 18 (4). (Alternative to 2nd charge).
- (2) Receiving, knowing it to have been stolen, 12 tins of milk and 4 bottles of Roccoaro Water. A.A. Sec 41. (Alternative to 1st charge).

Finding - "Guilty" on 1st Charge. "Not guilty" on 2nd charge.

Accused was sentenced to 21 days detention. Confirmed by G.O.C. 9 Aust Div.

J. McDonald Capt.
Adj. A.A.S.C. 9 Aust Div.

Distribution.

In distribution list for R.O. issued 18 Jul 41, opposite 9 Div Sup Col, amend "D.I.D." to read "F.S.D." and amend "Vehicle Pool" to read "Vehicle Reception Depot".

As for R.O. issued 18 Jul 41. + 1 copy for S. Sup. O.

Ammunition Turnover July 1944.

		Tonnage
500 SAC		
500 TOR	16750	.569
500 UNCLE	53000	1.59
500 CAN	550320	16.524
700 SERRAN BOLT	15000	.620
500 BOLT	13500	.526
700 BOLT		
700 BOLT	2250	.119
POINT 5 IN AP.	1286	.126
300 BOW	36	
45 ARMO	117550	3.526
POINT 1 DOUB E 5	36	
25 pr. GALT ONLY	208	
25 pr. SUPER GALT.	572	2.61
25 pr. HP	11572	190.938
25 pr. SHOF	232	4.321
25 pr. SHOF	196	3.234
18 pr. B3	400	6.240
18 pr. SHOF		
16 pr. SHOF		
4.5 BOW LB	2240	48.384
4.5 BOW SHOF		
60 pr. HE	943	30.176
60 pr. SHRAP		
2 MCR HE	964	1.545
2 MCR SHOF	306	.428
2 MCR HE	2330	16.132
2 MCR SHOF	263	1.420
2 pr. A/TK.	979	2.928
2 pr. TK HE	74	.222
37 MM A/TK		
DOUB 5 IN	1663	.287
40 MM A.		
3.7 AA 100 GZ		
1000 A/TK		
SHRAP B/TK		
C/C CRATES		
PULVER	3020	
C/C CRAM		
APPL 100		
SAFE feet	9636	
FLD feet		
27 DETS	4775	
32 AL DETS		
1 IN LIL	544	
1 IN SIGM	947	
1 IN SIG MCD	800	
36 CRON	2444	2.444
63 CRON	45	.040
WHOLELY CRON	10	
NEO CRON	1250	1.250
8 SHOF CRON	30	.075
5 SHOF CRON		
	450	
7.7 MM TRACER	1450	14.400
7.7 MM AE.	4700	
7.7 MM BALE	7000	
6.5 MM TAG	37400	
8 MM FIAT	61400	
8 MM SCHWELF	21040	3.989
75 MM 75/27	9290	276.9
100 MM	1045	33.44
149 MM	2375	118.75
17/32 A/TK	3630	14.520
20 MM A.P. Shot		
20 MM HE		
45 MM MORTAR LB	1000	1.
81 MM MORTAR HE	2982	20.575
INFANTRY WEAPONS	74	

Total Tonnage 819,856 Tons.