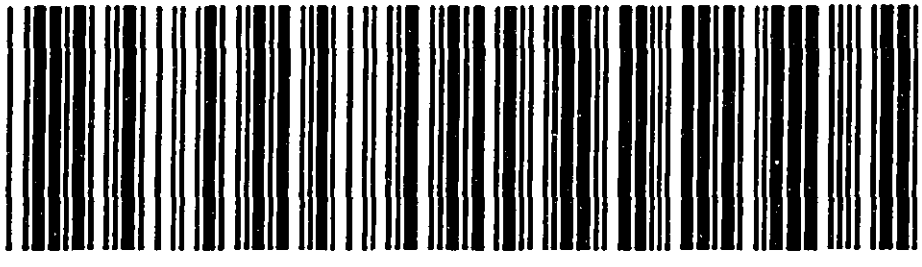
AWM52
Australian Military Forces, Army headquarters, formation and unit diaries, 1939-1945

1/12/29
EAST & MIDDLE EAST UNITS

Headquarters AIF Ceylon Quartermaster General Branch (HQ AIF Ceylon QMG Branch)

March - July 1942



1/12/29-0013

This document was found during a survey of obsolete unit records conducted in Sydney, 1951-53. As no war diary covering the period marked above had previously been submitted, this copy has been accepted and registered as an ORIGINAL

WAR DIARY MAJOR MCKENZIE 21 Mar 42

S.S. Otranto arrived CBO. AQ came aboard late this afternoon with GOC and advised disembarkation would not take place for a few days but that certain offrs and personnel of Div HQ would disembark at 1100 hrs 22 Mar.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 22 Mar 42

Recce parties of 17 Bde disembarked at 0700 hrs and OQ staff att 1100 hrs. Proceeded to MUSAEUS COLLEGE which was inspected and provisional allocation of quarters made for HQ and Base. tps. i.e.,- Pay, Postal, Kit store, 2 Ech - in absence of cooking facilities had meals for first two days at local cafe.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 23 Mar 42.

Special arrangements were made for balance of Div HQ personnel to disembark during the day.
Many visits were made to Comd HQ in an endeavour to ensure that proper camp facilities would be available for tps on arrival at camp sites e.g., latrine buckets, water tank, tents, would be available and all necessary assurances were given. Later entries in this diary will show how far the assurances were given effect to.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 24 Mar 42

Camp movement orders attached will give details of disembarkations on this day.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 26 Mar 42

2 Ech finance _____ base tps disembarked and proceeded to MUSAEUS COLLEGE

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 10 Mar 42.

Stepsister 3 sailed from Port Tewfik, Div HQ being aboard H.M.T. Otranto with 17 Bde HQ, 5 and 6 Bn and 2/2 Fd Regt and other small units.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 4 Apr 42.

S.S. CORFISH CITY still unloading. At about 1700 hrs AQ. branch was advised of approach of an enemy force SOUTH of the island and RAF stands by.
Particulars obtained from Bde Gps showing No. of vehs unloaded and and deficiency in 1st and 2nd line amn. for "C".
Details available and set out in attached copy statements. (Annex copies of statements for 16 and 17 Bde.)
AQ. CEYLON Comd asked for an L.O. but on his arrival at Comd at about 1830 hrs it was found that all the offrs were going home and he was told he was NOT now wanted. Unloading parties instructed to hasten unloading as much as possible and get maximum amn down to units.

WAR DIARY. Maj. McKenzie.

27 Mar, 42. 7

DAQMG met Brig and COs at passenger wharf at 0720 hrs and punctually at 0730 hrs the first launch with 16 Aust Inf Bde and attached personnel for PANADURA Ry Sta and HORANA Camp arrived at the wharf. The tps marched abt 1 mile to Ry and cooking gear and baggage was taken on MT from wharf to Sta. The Brig and COs went ahead of the tps in hired taxis in the absence of unit or military tpt. In fairness to the Movement Control there were no hitches or lateness in disembarkation.
A copy of Movement Control order No 3 of 25 mar is attached and shows units and destinations. On return to HQ efforts were reviewed to locate the missing tentage. Comd HQ and CEYLON Movement Control did nothing except reiterate the statement made by Col Weems in his written notes for AQ Ceylon Comd that the tents in fact were at BOUSSA and that latrine buckets had in fact been sent to camp areas.
DAQMG AIF finally contacted civil railway authorities who advised at abt 1015 that six trucks containing in all 242 tents were lying ingthe Ry Siding COLOMBO. The civilian asked what was to be done with them as they had been lying there for days.
DAQMG directed that 4 trucks containing in all 142 tents should move immddiately to PANADURA for 16 Aust Inf Bde Gp. 2 trucks carrying the balance to BOUSSA for 17 Aust Inf Gp (and for 2/1 Aust Inf Bn) The trucks drew out at 1130 hrs. Further exasperating evidence of the lack of cooperation shown by CEYLON COMD and Movement Control was the fact that although a written order had been given for 25 buses to convey troops and stores ~~from~~ from PANADURA to HORORA only 15 appeared at the appointed hour.
This was advised to DAQMG by S.C. 16 Aust Inf Bde by the irregular means of a telephone from the Police Sta at HORORA.
M.C. when informed of this assured DAQMG that the extra 10 buses had in fact left COLOMBO for HORORA. HQ Ceylon Comd promised to expedite.
In actual fact nothing was done, and the ferrying of troops and stores was accomplished in spite of the diffidence of the officers concerned.
It was well after dark before the last tps arrived at camp site. Its low lying sites, its thick tropical growth, its heavy dew at 0300 hrs to say nothing of three heavy tropical downpours during the night 28/29 march made that night reminiscent of the snows of VERRIOR and the rains of LARISSA of the period 10th - 20th apr 1941.
Advised HQ CEYLON COMD at 170 hrs that neither buckets nor extra 10 vehs had arrived. No response and DAQMG was informed that no additional tentage had been discovered. DAQMG pointed out that only 1/3 of tps would be under shelter and that the next day would bring a further 1400 tps into the area, on the basis that"where there is smoke there is fire" would it not be possible for the balance of the tents to have escaped the vigilant eyes of Movement Control and that they were languishing in some ry siding. Further inquiries at 1300 hrs elicited the fact that the Q staff at HQ Ceylon Comd were "taking Tea".
CRE reported at 1900 hrs that the lack of tpt at HORONA had prevented any tents being erected before dark and at 1947 DAQMG telephoned Comd HQ to find that there was no duty officer on the premises. A telephone call to the GALLE FACE hotel however sent some officer scurrying to HQ and finally at 2107 hrs a very unhappy S.C. Q who happened to be the duty offr was presented with all the worries. DAQMG insisted that some action be taken on all matters during the night and that progress reports be given during the night.
The first report was at 2230 hrs and no one had been located and there were no further reports during the night. During this day AQ made several visits to wharf in an endeavour to get reliable information about the loading of MT but without any definite results.

WAR DIARY MAJ MCKENZIE

28 Mar, 42.

0645 hrs DAQMG telephoned comd HQ and no duty offr could be located, visited the wharf and saw the first flights of 2/1 Fd Regt arrive at the jetty at 0730 hrs. Returned to Comd HQ and finally found S.C. Q and DAQMG who both promised that efforts would be redoubled.
DAQMG returned to AQ who saw the HOC and all matters were then taken up by GOC with C in C. Results were immediate and within a short time AQ office had visits from Q MC Ord and DDMS, all Offrs offering assistance, most surprising of all being the Ord. Rep who stated that he had had 400 latrine buckets waiting in his store for onward movement to camps for Several days.
Tpt was arranged by MC and dispatched immediately for HORANA. Order for unloading of MT ships was arranged by AQ with MC.
Govt Agent advised that tenants of houses at MATUGAMA were vacating sigs. Made recce of MATUGAMA Area. DAQMG arranged for taking over of house in 2/1 Fd Amb Lines at HORANA for camp Hosp. It was discovered that there was no water sterilizing powder in DID at HORANA. DDMS were requested to supply and promised unlimited supplies.

29 Mar 42.

Decision made today in Consultation with 2/2 A F W'Shops to estab recovery post near Victoria Pk filling sta. with 60 personnel of W'shops to service vehicles as unloaded. Cornish City developed engine trouble at BOOGRA selected as first ship.
16 and 17 Bdes directed to select site for a bty of 2/1 A Tk Regt - 1 to go to Div area MATUGAMA and one to be used as area school in A.T. Gunnery.
ADMS advised that supplies of chlorinating powder are limited after all but a small supply would be sent immediately.
Villa in Frankfurst Place taken over as Doctors residence for 4 AGH as an annexe to St Peters School.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 11 to 21 Mar 42 abc 21

Voyage uneventful and conduct of tps generally of a high standard. Calls were made at Pt Sudan and Aden, but of course no leave at either place.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 6 Apr 42 (ADDENDUM) 16

Tel request to Comd HQ to advise procedure for cutting down trees.

See Cont

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 7 Apr. 17

to Comd asks for particulars as above asking for a reply forthwith and draft reply was sent back by L.O. Contrary to arrangements of yesterday s.s.GOOCRA was not alongside until about 1600 hrs today. Work was commenced immediately and by 1830 hrs 15 vehs had been unloaded.
Camp Comd proceeded to MATUGAMA to lay out a camp site. Comd HQ advised arrival of 58 tents at Colombo and others were being sent on to MATUMARUNDA.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 10 Apr 42. 15

Some ships continued unloading. Progress was not as quick on account of difficulty in getting tugs and lighters to work. Civilians very reluctant. Disembarkation took place of 2 Btys of 1 Aust A/tk Regt. Disembarkation late because of difficulties of civilian launches.
Decision to provide ballast for s.s.MATOOMBA and for DUNTROON bound for Australia. Tea suggested & firm of Delmeye Forsyth & Co contacted, who said they would provide the tea if we could supply labour. Not able to contact necessary naval authorities but hope to do so tomorrow.
Return as to stevedores shows 204 from 2 Bdes - Eighteen 25-pounders loaned by Br. to 2/1 Fd Regt coir matting available for MATUGAMA camp site, now ready for occupation except for attached accommodation stores.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 8 Apr 42 16

s.s.GOCRA continued unloading, and the following other vessels were commenced:- Clan McTavish and Summington Court. 200 vehs in all were offloaded and much stores and rations.
s.s.MATOOMBA entered harbour at about 1630 hrs and O.C. tps proceeded to Div HQ and tentative arrangements were made for the disembarkation as follows:- Bty HQ and 2 tps MATUGAMA, 1 tp KOGGALA, 1 tp. MATUKARUNDA. Disembarkation fixed for Fri 10 Apr.
Major Hovendale (Comforts Fund)Commissioner) arrived from s.s.BENNRINNES at 1700 and conferred with Maj. Hayward AACS rep.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 30 Mar. 5

s.s.BEGUM BEGAN UNLOADING M T and stores at 0900, ninety vehs being placed on the wharf by midnight. The Rec provided by 2/2 Army Fd Wkshops handled the vehs as they were passed from the wharf and their guides took them off to unit areas. Lieut. Brown of D COY AASC with personnel of his coy having a knowledge of winch operating took over from civilian labourers from time to time and in spite of advice from certain movement officers

30 Mar (cont.)
that it was not "good form" carried on. Work continued throughout the night 30 Mar. As happened on the occasion of the GREECE campaign, M T was found to be stored under less important freight and this proved exasperating for the units who have been suffering untold inconvenience through lack of tpt.

G2 ? and DAQMG reconnoitred location in MATUGAMA area for Bty of 121 and A/tk Coy in afternoon. Major English of 2/3 Aust Fd Hyg Sec accompanied, to advise whether trench latrines could be used as the "caste" system of this island prevents the securing of conservancy labour in this area. Report by Major English was, that there would be no danger to the water from trench latrines.
Inspector COOK, CEYLON Supt at MATUGAMA again was of great assistance to the recce party.
s.s.WANGANELLA sailed for M.E. 200 beds will be required on its return for evacuation of personnel from here - mainly SINGAPORE evacuees.

WAR DIARY MAJ McKENZIE 31 Mar 42

s.s.BEGUM continued unloading, mainly stores for 16 Aust Inf Bde. Rec Sec still doing a swift efficient job in getting the vehs put through and on road. First firm information that 2/1 Aust A/tk Regt expected to arrive at an early date. Copy Movement Order No. 5 attached. Arranged for reception 1 Apr - as above. (In Notes for 30 Mar.)
CEYLON Comd offered to take over our 25 Fd Bakery at BOUSSA for training with British unit. Offer gladly accepted.
Decision by GOC to recall Service Dress from universal kitbags and store in kit store owing to climate difficulties, mildew etc. Brit Ord promised to arrange proper storage in local Ord Depot.

WAR DIARY MAJ McKENZIE 1 Apr 42

Unloading of s.s. BEGUM NOT complete. Much Ord stores amn and supplies on wharf ready for taking over, so all tpt of 16 Aust Inf Bde Gp was pooled so as to expedite clearance from wharf. Guards also brought up from Bdes to protect stores. After careful plans for reception of 2/1 A/tk Regt, including the provision of tents from the missing balance of 500 - referred to in diary entry of ____ Mar - news received by AQ that unit would NOT arrive. Received message from Comd HQ that Boys' School at MATUGAMA NOT available. Minister for Education offered Girls' School in lieu. G 2 and AAQMG made further recce during afternoon and decided Girls' School would be suitable. Decided 1 Coy Sigs would move down from HORANA and formally take possession.

A propos of 2/1 Aust A/tk Regt, AQ perused files of movement and there was no solid information about the guns. It transpired however that twelve are on the "KAIMATA", "GLEN PARK" and on "EMPIRE SCOT" - the latter two being on route to Fremantle due there on 16 Apr. Also that HOLBROOK and DUNTROON are both going direct to Australia and the KATOOMBA to Colombo only.

Decision by GOC that supplementary rations account can be used for such purposes as NAAFI. Stocks are pretty well exhausted and AACS is NOT operating.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 9 Apr 42 17

Vessels referred to in yesterday's entries continued unloading; the BENLEDI and JEL GUNCLE.

s.s.KATOOMBA arrived with 1 Aust A-Tk Regt on board. Movement Control Order No. 6 of 9 Apr issued (attached) and speaks for itself.

16 Aust Inf Bde fostering Bty HQ and two (2) troops in HOROWAILA Area.

Brig. SNELLING who is replacing Brig. DAVIS at Comd HQ as Brig. i/c Administration called on the CCC. He had recently arrived from IRAQ.

A sinister report was received to the effect that south bound trains were being slowed down at certain places by AIF personnel. Enquiries show that this is not true and investigations are proceeding as fifth column activities may be responsible.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 24 Mar 42 See Copy 5

Preliminary reconnaissance by G2 and DAQMG, area Matugama for Div HQ. Inspected schools and bungalows and discussed various matters such as attitude of people to requisitioning etc., with Supt of Police. Visited Nattadola estate (Capt. Besant) and had wide view of surrounding areas showing a good proportion of divisional front. Besant is officer i/c Armoured Train.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 25 Mar 42 6

17 Aust Inf Bde disembarked from s.s. CTRANTO. Moves were in accordance with Movement Order (attached).

Further recce made by G2 and DAQMG of HORANA and MATUGAMA areas for an additional area for a Fd Amb, Fd Regt, Coy AASC, Army Fd Wkshops and Div HQ. Latter sited at MATUGAMA and further ground was taken over at HORANA to place the advanced units. Original camp site at HORANA and being prepared by British R.E's found to be completely inadequate.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 6 Apr 42 14

Arrangements made for unloading of balance of ships by 40 personnel 2/2 Army Fd Wkshops and 60 from 16 Aust Inf Bde to commence from tomorrow 7 Apr 42. 1 Aust A-tk Regt's arrival again discussed and proposed to accept 2 Btys. at COLOMBO.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 5 Apr 42 13

Air raid at 0730 hrs. Details in "G" Diary. Ships deserted by coolies, and discussion took place as to whether Australian tps would take over work of unloading. All units made offers to undertake the unloading. 16 Aust Inf Bde continued clearing again from docks. Arranged for all 25-pounders in HORANA to be taken to 17 Bde area.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 2 Apr 42 11

"CORNISH CITY" unloading - vehicles of 2/2 Fd Regt mostly. All vehs off by 1630 hrs. A great deal of Ord stores, rations and amn. also on boat, but NOT known whether for us or for British.

Cable received from Australia:-

"Following received from Austforce CAIRO. Maintenance stepsister three in CEYLON. indeast despatching 90 days maintenance OS stores, mail, M.T. spares for W D vehs. Austforce despatching spares for Aust pattern vehs signal and engineer stores also hats and boots. Armindia please pass Auscom CEYLON.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 11 Apr 42 19

Instructions that whole of 2/1 Anti-tk Regt would disembark, Movement Order No. 7 attached. Regimental HQ and 2 Bty to go to Med Mard Military Road, Thurston. Visit by Col. GEE AACS and he conferred with Maj. Hayward on future canteen policy. Contacted Tea Tp Off and movements on possibility of loading tea on s.s. KATOOMBA and DUNTROON. but _____ had to be refd to C & C on limited number of tugs and lighters available. Following ships continued unloading; the vehs shown were unloaded:

REPORT OF SHIPS WORKED 11 Apr 42, COLOMBO:

CLAN McTAVISH	49	Aust
BEN LEDI	3	R.A.F.
SINNINGTON COURT	7	Aust
PARDU	4?	British
CLAN McGILLIVRAY	4	British
Total vehicles discharged	67	

The GOOGRA did not unload and only 2 bargeloads were taken fr allsum. A call for 200 _____ stevedores was made by Comd and billets arranged reclamation Fire Engine sta. Reptd by Movements that Sgt. White of 17 Bde ordered trains (trams) to slow down in certain places. Bde investigating. Area for marshalling vehs changed from Victoria Park to Campbell Park.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 12 Apr 42 20

After conference arranged for transfer of two officers and A A parties from HOLBROOK to KATOOMBA also 5 sisters and 3 medical officers and 2 medical orderlies. As soon as this transfer was complete - convoy - which included DUNTROON, KATOOMBA and HOLBROOK sailed. HQ and 2 btys. 2/1 Aust Anti-tank Regt disembarked and reception by Ceylon Command was poor. Fostering Officer did not even know billets were to be occupied. No rations or cooking gear had been provided, in spite of Major Todd's promises. Major Todd is B.M. Colombo Base area.
Eventually, after much trouble, sending an L.O. from HQ fu rther? telephone conversations.- the Regt was comfortably installed. 2/1 Bn was asked to vacate Hospital premises occupied by a section of Fd Amb at Katukurunda. GOC asked for detailed report from Lt-Col Hayman regarding slow progress of unloading. Conference was held with the navy at 1600 hrs and decision taken to man lighters, tugs etc., by the navy. As a result of this unloading should improve tomorrow. HQ CEYLON asked for drivers for bulldozers. Application was made for taking over Teachers' Training College as a Field Punishment Centre.
GOC agreed that topees would be issued to personnel not having hats.

WAR DIARY MAJOR McKENZIE 13 Apr 42

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

APRIL 1942 — Q Branch AIF (CEYLON).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CBO	APR 1		Unloading of s.s. Begum NOT complete. Much Ordnance Stores, amn and sup on wharf ready for taking over, so all tpt of 16 Aust Inf Bde was pooled so as to expedite clearance from wharf. Guards also brought up from Bdes to protect stores. After careful plans for reception of 2/1 Anti/Tk Regt., including the provision of tents from the missing balance of 500 - referred to in diary entry of Mar 27 - news received by AQ that unit would not arrive. Received message from Comd HQ that Boys' School at MATUGAMA not available. Minister for Education offered Girls' School in lieu. G2 and DAQMG made further recce during afternoon and decided Girls' School would be suitable. Decided 1 Coy Sigs would move down from HORANA and formally take possession. A propos of 2/1 Aust Anti/Tk Regt., AQ perused files of movement and there was no solid information about the guns. It transpired, however, that twelve are on the "Kaimata" "Glen Park" and "Empire Scot" - the latter two being en route to FREMANTLE, due there on 16 April; also that "Holbrook" and "Duntroon" are both going direct to AUSTRALIA and the "Katoomba" to COLOMBO only. Decision by GOC that supplementary rations account can be used for such purposes as NAAFI. Stocks are pretty well exhausted and AACS is not operating.	
	2		"Cornish City" unloading - vehs of 2/2 Fd Regt mostly. All vehs off by 1630 hrs. A great deal of Ord stores, rations and amn also on boat, but NOT known whether for us or British. Cable received from AUSTRALIA:- "Following received from Austforce CAIRO. Maintenance stepsister three in CEYLON. Indeast despatching 90 days maintenance OS stores, mail, MT spares for WD vehs. Austforce despatching spares for Aust pattern vehs, signal and engineer stores also hats and boots. Armindia please pass Auscom CEYLON.	
	3			
	4		"Cornish City" still unloading. About 1700 hrs AQ Branch was advised of approach of an enemy force south of the island and RAF stands by. Particulars obtained from Bde Gps showing number of vehs unloaded and deficiencies in first and second line amn for "G". Details available and set out in attached copy statements AQ CEYLON Comd asked for an L.O., but on his arrival at Comd about 1830 hrs it was found	

1623/PME/2 - 150000 - 9/41.

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Army Form C. 2118.

APRIL 1942 — Q Branch AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CBO	APR 4	(cont)	that all the offrs were going home and he was told he was NOT now wanted. Unloading parties instructed to hasten unloading as much as possible and get maximum amn down to units.	
	5		Air raid at 0730 hrs. Details in "G" Diary. Ships deserted by coolies and discussion took place as to whether Australian tps would take over work of unloading. All units made offers to undertake the unloading. 16 Aust Inf Bde continued clearing again from docks. Arranged for all 25-pounders in HORANA to be taken to 17 Aust Inf Bde area.	
	6		Arrangements made for unloading of balance of ships by 40 personnel 2/2 Army Fd Workshops and 60 from 16 Aust Inf Bde to commence from tomorrow 7 Apr 42. 1 Aust A/Tk Regt's arrival again discussed and proposed to accept 2 Btys at COLOMBO. Tel request to Comd HQ to advise procedure for cutting down trees.	
	7		_____ to Comd asks for particulars as above, asking for a reply forthwith and draft reply was sent back by L.O. Contrary to arrangements of yesterday s.s.Gogra was not alongside until about 1600 hrs today. Work was commenced immediately and by 1830 hrs 15 vehs had been unloaded. Camp Comd proceeded to MATUGAMA to lay out a camp site. Comd HQ advised arrival of 58 tents at COLOMBO and others were being sent on to MATUMARUNDA.	
	8		s.s GOGRA continued unloading and the following other vessels were commenced:-Clan McTavish and Sinnington Court. 200 vehs in all were offloaded and much stores and rations. s.s.KATOOMBA entered harbour about 1630 hrs and 0 C tps proceeded to Div HQ and tentative arrangements were made for the disembarkation as follows:- Bty HQ and 2 tps MATUGAMA, 1 tp Koggala, 1 tp KATUKARUNDA. Disembarkation fixed for Fri 10 Apr. Major Hovendale (Comforts Fund Commissioner) arrived from s.s.Benrinnes at 1700 and conferred with Maj Hayward, AACS representative.	
	9		Vessels referred to in yesterday's entries continued unloading; the Ben Ledi and Jel Gungle. s.s."Katoomba" arrived with 1 Aust A/Tk Regt on board. Movement Control Order No. 6 of 9 Apr issued (attached) and speaks for itself. 16 Aust Inf Bde fostering Bty HQ and two (2) troops in HOROWALLA area. Brig SNELLING who is replacing Brig. DAVIS at Comd HQ as Brig i/c Administration called on the GOC. He had recently arrived from IRAQ.	

1623/P/E/2 - 150000 - 9/41.

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Army Form C. 2118.

APRIL 1942 — Q Branch AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CBO	APR 9(cont)		A sinister report was received to the effect that south-bound trains were being slowed down at certain places by AIF personnel. Enquiries show that this is not true and investigations are proceeding as fifth column activities may be responsible.	
	10		Some ships continued unloading. Progress was not as quick, on account of difficulty in getting tugs and lighters to work. Civilians very reluctant. Disembarkation late because of difficulties of civilian launches. Decision to provide ballast for s.s."Katoomba" and for "Duntroon" bound for Australia. Tea suggested and firm of Delmeye Forsyth & Co. contacted, who said they would provide the tea if we could supply labour. Not able to contact necessary naval authorities but hope to do so tomorrow. Return as to stevedores shows 204 from 2 Bdes - eighteen 25-pounders loaned by Br. to 2/1 Fd Regt. Coir matting available for MATUGAMA camp site, now ready for occupation except for attached accommodation stores.	
	11		Instructions that whole of 2/1 Anti/Tk Regt would disembark - Movement Order No. 7 attached. Regimental HQ and 2 Bty to go to Med Ward, Military Road, Thurston. Visit by Col. Gee AACS and he conferred with Maj. Hayward on future canteen policy. Contacted Tea Tp Off and Movements on possibility of loading tea on s.s."Katoomba" and "Duntroon" but had to be refd to C in C on limited number of tugs and lighters available. Following ships continued unloading: the vehs shown were unloaded: Clan McTavish 49 (Aust) Ben Ledi 3 RAF Sinnington Court 7 Aust Pardu 4 British Clan McGillivray 4 British. Total vehs discharged 67. The Gogra did not unload and only 2 bargeloads were taken from "Aalsum". A call for 200 stevedores was made by Comd and billets arranged, reclamation Fire Engine Sta. Reported by Movements that Sgt White of 17 Aust Inf Bde ordered trains to slow down in certain places. Bde investigating. Area for marshalling was changed from Victoria Park to Campbell Park.	
	12		After conference, arranged for transfer of two officers and A A parties from "Holbrook" to "Katoomba"; also 5 sisters and 3 medical officers and 2 med orderlies. As soon as this transfer was complete, convoy - which included "Duntroon", "Katoomba" and "Holbrook" sailed.	

1623/PME/2 - 150000 - 9/41.

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WAR DIARY
or
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Army Form C. 2118.

APRIL 1942 — Q Branch HQ AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CBO	APR 12	(cont)	HQ and 2 Btys 2/1 Aust Anti/tk Regt. disembarked and reception by Ceylon Command was poor. Fostering Offr did not even know billets were to be occupied. No rations or cooking gear had been provided in spite of Major Todd's promises. Major Todd is B.M. COLOMBO Base Area. Eventually after much trouble, sending an L.O from HQ, further telephone conversations, the rgmt was comfortably installed. 2/1 Bn was asked to vacate hospital premises occupied by a section of Fd Amb at KATUKURUNDA. GOC asked for detailed report from Lt-Col regarding slow progress of unloading. Conference was held with the navy at 1600 hrs and decision taken to man lighters, tugs etc by the navy. As a result of this, unloading should improve tomorrow. HQ CEYLON asked for drivers for bulldozers. Application was made for taking over Teachers' Training College as a Field Punishment Centre. GOC agreed that topees would be issued to personnel not having hats.	

2623/PME/2 - 250000 - 9/42.

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

APRIL 1942 — Q Branch HQ ATF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CBO	APR 13		Attached is a copy of report by Capt. Smith i/c unloading. Today was mainly spent in organising for future unloading and it is expected by tomorrow it will be in full swing. Suggested decrease in bread and meat ration, which are at present as follow: Bdes etc. asked for their views. Advised by Ceylon Comd that one coy of the Pnr Bn Engineers would probably be available within five days Considerable looting of beer etc on wharf - see A Diary Advised AQMG Ceylon Comd that we should not be able to supply drivers for bulldozers but if none could be obtained by Ceylon would be taken up by us.	
	14		Discovery that packing of kitbags in Museum College may present an element of danger. Close packing, moisture, humidity and the other incidents of the tropics are said to cause spontaneous combustion. Steps taken to build racks in better ventilated rooms. At the wharf things went more smoothly under naval control except that during the day the disquieting announcement made that many of the personnel manning the lighters, tugs etc were from HMS Renown and HMS Prince of Wales and would in fact be returning to England tomorrow. Report by O/i/c unloading is attached Royal Air Force rep called objecting to occupation of Military Hosp, Thurston Rd by 2/1 Aust A/Tk Regt and asked on whose authority they had taken possession. DAQMG was able to refer him to Comd HQ. GOC to be asked whether he approved of black British pattern boots pending arrival Aust. pattern.	
	15		Air raid alarm this morning was inclined to upset the natives at the docks but otherwise unloading continued smoothly. Revising Admin layout submitted by 17 Aust Inf Bde. AQ visited Comd Hq to discuss with Brig i/c Admin., but could not find latter in. Col. Harvey visited HORANA and BOGSA [illegible] dumps. Capt. Flynn 2/1 Fd Regt	
	16			

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

APRIL 1942. Q BRANCH. AIF (CEYLON) .

(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	16		G-O-C approved of black boots (British Pattern) pending arrival of Australian pasm boots. Unloading of ships continued and report by Capt Smith is attached.	
	17		Inquiries about chloride of lime from units and it was found that this commodity is very scarce and probably no stocks. Arranged with service reps to revise para's for AIF (CEYLON) Standing Orders. O.C's troops several M.T. vessels complained of lack of rations and although this is a matter for Movement Control our Senior Supply Officer was able to arrange.	
	18		Capt Smith's report attached. Negotiations with Major Robertson for taking over "ELSCOURT MANOR" as a leave hostel.	
	19		The following were appointed to control Amenities Fund of £1000 :- Major E.W.Hayward (AACS), Capt (T/Major) I.S.McKenzie (HQ. AIF (CEYLON).), Capt J.R.Sabine (AAPC)., and th e following were appointed to the Ceylon Board - Aust Army Canteen Services:- Major E.W.Hayward (AACS)., Capt (T/Major) I.S.McKenzie (HQ. AIF (CEYLON)., Capt J.R.Sabine (AAPC)., Capt C.Jones (AASC).	

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Army Form C. 2118.

APRIL 1942 — Q Branch HQ AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CBO	APR 20		Requested further £1000 from the AIF (ME) for Amenities. Decided NOT to lay out a vast sum in taking over a cafe but arranged with Pagoda Cafe, Chatham St to provide our tps with meals when day leave begins. Arranged with Comd HQ for bivouac area at Intention is to give a limited number of men (say 30) leave for 2 days and they will act as a recce party and visit KANDY etc. Asked for school at PANADURE as a rest camp Saw Red Cross reps re alleged cases of goods left on wharves unattended. Apparently Wilkinson, chief rep here, is NOT taking sufficient interest. Ships continued unloading. Report of Capt. Smith attached. AQ visited wharf and inspected every part of it to ensure none of our equipment lying about.	
	21		Forwarded sketches for Rest Camp (Schoolhouse) requisition at PANADURE to Comd HQ. Advised by Comd HQ on telephone that it would probably be approved. Also advised that school for F.P.C would yet be a few days before finally handed over to us. Unloading continued and Capt. Smith's report is attached. Wrote final letter to Major Robertson confirming terms of Leave Hostel. Copy attached.	
	22		Arranged with Movement Control for two Red Cross vehs to be unloaded from "KAIMATA". Amenities Committee visited "Pagoda"Cafe, where one-day leave personnel will be able to obtain meals. In accordance with request by Comd HQ, 17 Aust Inf Bde returned 89 tents to 34 Ind Div. These were loaned to 17 Aust Inf Bde by 16 Inf Bde (British) on arrival in CEYLON. Arranged for 3 m/cs to be handed over to Dets 1 Aust A/Tk Regt., for recce work Peak day in unloading - Capt. Smith's report attached.	
	23		Unloading continued - report attached. Decision taken to stop Aust personnel unloading any but Aust stores and MT. L.O. sent round to contact all offrs i/c stevedores to ensure that only Aust stores handled GOC called for statement of all offences of pilfering by Aust tps since unloading began; also statement of number of stevedores employed daily on wharves. Copy statement attached. For Statement of Offences see "A" Diary. Passage booked for Lt-Col Lucas CRE on s.s.KAIMATA for Australia. He will embark tomorrow.	

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APRIL 1942. Q BRANCH HQ. AIF. (CEYLON).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	24		Lt. Col. Lucas did not actually embark until today at 1630 hrs. An officer of 22 Fd Pk Coy reported at 1730 hrs that the bridging equipment was on the Hiamata, that the hatches were closed, unloading had ceased and ship was about to sail. Inquiries elicited the facts that the ship was in fact unloading and Sea Transport officer was contacted and we were assured that the equipment would be unloaded. The Kit Store problem was enlarged to-day by the heavy rain over-night. Low lying parts of Musaeus College were flooded and some kits were wet. Articles extracted from kit bags such as S.D. were found to be mildewed. C.O.C. was contacted and no storage space is available in the mountain climate of Kandy. O.C., A.I.F. Details visited Colombo Cold Storage in an endevour to find storage space but 5000 cubic feet was the limit available. For 12000 kit bags 36000 feet would be required. C.O.C. suggested return to Australia as in the case of troops in Malaya. Letter received from Comd. to return British vehicles on loan. Major Perry A.M.L.O., and O.C., A.I.F., Details asked if we would take steps to ensure passage home of survivors of S.S.Glen Shields torpedoed en route Bombay to Australia. Survivors included private secretary to Sir Bertram Stevens. Shipping Company wanted some guarantee that if they sailed on the S.S.Madura on 27 Apr., difference between fares on Glen Shields (cheap rates) and the Madura would be paid. AQ declined to enter the matter until onus had been thrown back on Shipping Company to find a solution. It was not considered that because there is no Australian Consular or Government Representive on the Island the Military should be called upon in the first instance to take responsibility in the matter. Major Foote, No.1 Bty 1 Aust A/Tk Regt., camped at Horuwala appealed for fibrous sheets to make kitchen as they are getting very wet. C.R.E's representive at Comd. HQ "played magnificently" and said we could help ourselves. Complaints from Horana that camp was very wet and when would extension of hutments be commenced. Contacted C.R.E. Comd HQ., and he promised to expedite . Loading continued Captain Smiths report attached/ Application from 16 Bde for timber as flooring for tents. A.Q.M.S. Ceylon Comd., gave authority to purchase and 16 Bde advised.	
	25		Unloading continues, Capt Smiths report attached . Wanganella berthed, arrangements made for evacuation of casulties from 12 Aust Gen Hosp. Arrangements made for return of at least part of the stevedores. Decision to write letter of commendation to Capt Smith, W.O. Scaly and Sgt Kitson for their work at the unloading of stores and M.T. Further concerned about kit bags and a decision was made by C.O.C. to return kit bags containing woollens to Australia. An afterthought however lead to the conclusion that an early return to Australia or to some colder climate might lead to extreme cold.	

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APRIL 1942. — Q BRANCH. — HQ. AIF. (CEYLON).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	25		There would be no hope of procuring woollens either here or from India. The matter was postponed pending the location of a satisfactory store air-conditioned or cold storage.	
	26		Conference of Amenities Officers was held at 1000hrs 26 Apr 42., at Museus College. Major R.W.Hayward A.A.C.S. and Amenities officer HQ. AIF (CEYLON) presided. (Report of conference attached.) Despite the fact that it was considered that the alleged slowing down of trains at DODENDUWA was closed, a letter from 17 Bde dated 23 Apr 42., was received today and we were compelled to admit to COMD. HQ., that 2/8 Aust Fd Coy., had, in fact, slowed down the trains. We therefore wrote the following letter to COMD. HQ. Reference your Tn/101/3 of 3 Apr 42 and further to this HQ T1/4/300 of 16 Apr 42: 2/8 Aust Fd Coy., working on preparation of demolitions on the DODENDUWA Bridge discovered that the vibration caused by the trains shook the primers, detonaters and guncotton loose before packing was complete, and, furthermore that the vibration was excessive for the safety of the charge laid on the roadbearers. The engineer personnel working at the bridge therefore caused the train to slow down. On the instructions of an NCO with the party a telegram was sent by the stationmaster at DODANDUWA on 6 Apr 42 to the forman platelayer as follows "Military authorities require all trains passing the DODANDUWA Bridge at 64 M.P. between the DODANDUWA and HIKKADUWA Stations to be run at 5 m.p.h. over bridge. Arrange. S.M. DODANDUWA". On 8 Apr 42 a further message was sent to the forman platelayer as follows:- "Slowing trains while crossing bridge 63.63 is not now necessary. Will notify if speed reduction is necessary. Slowing down of trains has therefore now ceased and it will be appreciated that the action taken by 2/8 Aust Fd Coy was in accordance with the exigencies of the situation. CRE has now been advised that restrictions on trains must now be done through this HQ. Grenade Scales changed and the following memo received from Comd HQ:- C.R.C.A.C./115/2/Q. Pending the issue of the new "Scales of Ammunition" to be held by units, the following grenades will be held by Inf Bns. Bns will indent to complete to this scale immediately. Grenades No.36, Hand - 96. Grenades No.69, bakelite Hand 96,136. Bns who already hold a higher scale will retain their present scale. Practice Issue of the following additional grenades is authorised for practice for the period up to 30 June 42:- Grenades No. 36 Hand 96: Grenades No. 69 Hand 102 per bn. Para 2 is interesting as our units are holding enormous numbers of grenades. Stevedores camp shifted from Campbell Park to Victoria Park and large numbers of stevedores returned to units on account of alleged murder of a Singhalese last night.	

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Army Form C. 2118.

Q BRANCH
HQ. AIF (CEYLON).

APRIL 1942.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	27		Decision to move HQ to MATUGAMA Wednesday 29 Apr. Called on Bdes to supply deficiencies in Div HQ transport. Major Hovendeans ACF Rest Rooms for troops opened by G.O.C. Arranged for a further 100 men to leave fore station tomorrow.	
	28		Last day on unloading. Capt Smiths report herewith for yesterday. Special arrangements made for floodlights tonight. First occasion on which floodlights have been used in the area. Arrangements made for move tomorrow of this HQ to MATUGAMA. HQ AIF (CEYLON) Movement Order No.1 (copy attached). During the day transport arrived from units to build this HQ's transport up to a working establishment. Letter to Comd. HQ on subject of rations (copy attached). Report from Comd. HQ that a Government Agent from KATUKURUNDA had reported that there had been a wholesale evacuation of KTA. Enquiries from 16 Bde and 2/1 Aust Inf Bn revealed that the report was completely untrue. Unloading continued until 2300hrs and the last article was unloaded.	
	29		Both flights of this HQ moved of to time and throught the move was smooth. HQ closed COLOMBO 1600 hrs and reopened MATUGAMA 1600 hrs. During the morning Lt Col Brown A.Q.M.C. of HQ. CEYLON COMMAND telephoned and said how much HQ CEYLON COMMAND appreciated the work which had been done by our stevedores. G.O.C., when informed, suggested we asked for it in writing. This was done by AQ. Today and yesterday efforts are being made to find a suitable Kit Store in a suitable climate. It is now thought that probably the kit store will be done away with. As Capt Smith has finished his job as Officer i/c loadingDiv secs Ord Fd Pks were disposed today as follows:- D sec - 16 Bde area, E sec - 17 Bde area, F sec - 2/2 Aust A. Fd Wkshops. Rec. secs as follows:- 5 rec sec - 16 Bde, 6 rec sec - 17 Bde. Capt Smith's final report attached hereto	
	30		Telephoned AQMG HQ CEYLON COMMAND for a ruling on capes, anti-gas; whether they had to be returned or whether they could be kept for protection against weather. He agreed they might be used in certain cases against weather e.g. DR's, and suggested we put up a letter asking for a wider use to be made of them. Visited 16Aust Inf Bde later in the day and they agreed to initiate the matter. Complaint was made some days ago that Tp of 1 Aust A/Tk Regt under command 2/1 Aust Inf Bn was not receiving a "fair deal" in regards to rations etc. Today Brigadier Lloyd visited 2/1 Aust Inf Bn to clear up any difficulties. Letter from HQ. CEYLON COMMAND requesting six 3 ton trucks for BOOSA RASC det. Electric light plant next to AQ office making terrific noise from 1700 - 2300 hrs Arrangements being made to remove it.	

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Army Form C. 2118.

MAY 1942 — Q BRANCH HQ AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATUGAMA	MAY 1		Letter from Brigadier i/c Administration thanking stevedores and advising that C. in C. would also be writing. Further letter from 2/1 Aust Inf Bn through Bde HQ re land and buildings to be taken over at KTR. Arranged for DAQMG to visit KTR tomorrow and see extent of civil evacuation. Visit from DAQMG Ceylon Command to ask if we had any problems. Lt-Col HAYMAN asked for camouflage paints. "Q" advised him that all British vehicles loaned had now been returned to VRP. CRE has apparently gone into possession of a bungalow 5 miles from here - officers only, troops to remain in MATUGAMA. G does not approve, nor do we. Advised to seek another billet. Recce of Reformatory Wing at KAGGONA which is suggested as alternative site for FPC. Letter came today approving of school at PANADURE for Rest Camp but refusing the Teachers' College at KAGGONA for FPC. At same time 16 Bde advised that Rest Camp NOT necessary and we wrote to Ceylon Command advising.	
	2.		Visit to KATUKURUNDA to inspect area taken over by 2/1 Aust Inf Bn for defence of aerodrome all buildings and boundaries were checked with requisition form submitted by 2/1 Bn and found to be correct. Visit from Brigadier Lloyd, discussed various matters including proposed move to KURUNEGALA when the monsoon sets in. Also discussed with him complaint by his B.M. that Ceylon Command Routine Orders were being sent direct to units with resulting confusion. It was explained to the Commander that this was not the fault of this Branch but that Command HQ had sent the copies direct and not through this HQ.	
	3		Visited Ceylon Command. AAG was asked to say whether the recent Command R.O. setting out Army Pattern blackout for vehicles would be acceptable to Inspector-General of Police as the latter had informed our DAAG that AIF vehicles bearing this blackout would be stopped. AAG stated that the blackout would be accepted and the first case in which an AIF vehicle is stopped is to be reported to him immediately. Inspected new kit Store building at 65 Rosmead Place CBO,- fans and large rooms, which should be satisfactory without heating. Issued AIF (CEYLON) Administrative ~~Instruction~~ Instruction No. 6 (see copy attached). In view of possible move of 16 Bde to KURUNEGALA (N.W. of KANDY) inquired from Command HQ the accommodation there. It appears there are only two Bns in the area in addition to Bde HQ. Therefore 16 Bde Gp will probably have to take many accommodation stores. But the move will NOT be till the monsoons begin. 1st Officer of KAIMATA asked for a certificate that all vehicles had been unloaded. Some difficulty in providing this as some vehicles did NOT pass through the Rec Sec at Campbell Park.	

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Q BRANCH

HQ AIF (CEYLON).

MAY 1942.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATUGAMA	4		A lengthy letter from HQ AIF (ME) suggesting that a DADAPS be appointed to HQ CEYLON COMMAND to represent this formation at that HQ. Suggesting that Capt. Fairweather should be appointed and Lieut. C.V.Smith should take over 6 Aust Div Postal Unit. A reply was drafted setting out that the British and Indian Postal Services are hopelessly undermanned and if an Aust. officer were appointed to HQ CEYLON COMMAND greater responsibility might devolve upon him and more work be given to the small AIF Postal unit viz; 1 officer - 14 OR's. Represented that Capt. Fairweather should remain at Base P.O., Lieut C.V.Smith move to HQ AIF (CEYLON) in the field but that some postal representative is necessary at BOMBAY and that Lieut. Franklin AMLO at BOMBAY is the ideal choice for the position. No further personnel are required in CEYLON but if an Air Mail letter service from ME is instituted (hinted in a cable received today which also inquired frequency of shipping between CBO and AUSTRALIA) then further personnel would certainly be necessary. 16 Bde decided to send a recce party to KURUNGALA tomorrow. ADOS reported contracts with bed manufacturers for construction of beds for the troops in view of the approach of the rainy season. Approached by Command with regard to certain Recovery trailers which were allegedly with one of our units and could two of them be returned immediately as they were on issue to the British.	
	5		ADOS(E) clarified position regarding recovery trailers and saidhe had them with the consent of the British COME. Inquires made by one unit as to method of issue of driving licences. Conferring with ADOS(E) and decided on method of issue. Drafted instructions providing for testing by unit transport officers, re-issue of present licences after re-testing and issue of new licences only by C.O's.	
	6		S.S.KAIMATA sailed yesterday with Lt Col Lucas on board. Cabled Army Melbourne advising. ADOS(E) conferred with the COME., HQ CEYLON COMMAND regarding lights and full details agreed to will be issued shortly. Visit of G-O-C inC., Licut-General Sir Henry Pownall, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C. AQ represented at A Mess afternoon tea by AQ, DAQMG, ADOS and DADMS. DAAG absent at HQ. CEYLON COMMAND.	
	7		Visit of B.M. 16 Bde arranging for billeting of rifle Coy in MATUGAMA area for purpose of digging defences for the area.	

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MAY 1942 — Q BRANCH. HQ. AIF (CEYLON).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATUGAMA	8		Brigadier Snelling., Brigadier i/c Administration. Ceylon Command called today at 0930 hrs. After discussing various A matters, location and holdings of dumps were discussed. In conference later with the G.O.C. it was requested that a minimum of 30 days Supa and P.O.L. be placed at KOGGALA - GALLE - and KATUKURUNDA. 14 days to be held by mobile units. It was also agreed that the areas for cemetrys should NOT be fixed as yet. Again telephoned Command HQ endeavouring to obtain approval of wing of MAGGONA Reformatory for F.P.C. Promise of early decision. (This matter was also mentioned to Brigadier Snelling today). Lifesaving reels; this matter was raised today.	
	9		Perused a lengthy report from 2/3 Aust Fd Hyg Sec., on general sanitation affecting "Q". Recommendations which will be considered will be as follows:- 1. Cementing of wells and erection of superstructure and pulleys for lowering of buckets (supply of cement to be considered carefully owing to demands for road blocks). 2. In view of the necessity for clarification of water in wet season many more tanks will have to be provided in unit areas. CRE asked to report upon availability. 3. Rubber Thigh Boots. ADOS will inquire. These boots are reported to be essential for men working in and around swamps owing to leeches. Acquired two further properties; a house for HQ AIF (CEYLON) just in front of Police Station MATUGAMA for 6 Aust Div Pro Coy and a further house on ALUTGAMA road4 1/2 miles from MATUGAMA Junction for 2/3 Aust Fd Hyg Sec. Cipher cable (copy attached) received from ARMINDIA. Settled draft of instructions for drivers of M.T. and driving of vehicles by officers This will be included in Standing Orders.	
	10		Visit of C. in C. Decision to hold "AQ" conference on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only. Instructed CRE to estimate and earmark materials for construction of a P.W. cage in HORANA area to house 50 to 100 prisoners but no work to be commenced until further instructions issued by this HQ. Received a letter from HQ? Ceylon Command to AIF Paymaster citing certain TS4's submitted for reimbursement under capitation arrangements and pointing out that the appropriate departments of Ceylon Command must approve of the expenditure before TS4 is submitted. On the face of it this proposition seems to be irregular and Paymaster is instructed to investigate with a view to ensuring that endorsement of the TS4 by this Branch is sufficient authority. S.S.O. pointed out that scale of Molotov Cocktails is:- 1st Line NIL. 2nd Line 99 galls. Telephoned G2 who advised that it was to be left to Brigade Commanders to decide what proportions would be carried respectively in 1st and 2nd Line.	

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Q BRANCH

HQ AIF (CEYLON)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATUGAMA	11		Visited 2/2 Aust A Fd Wkshops following a report from Command HQ that rubber estate owners were not being allowed to enter the area to tap trees. Whilst at the orderly room tappers were observed working on trees on every side and the C.O. explained that a daily parade of tappers was conducted by him and arm band issued with a "T" thereon. Enquiries from Major Hayward and Major Perry regarding availability of surf lifesaving reels. Both reported none on Island but 2/2 Aust A Fd Wkshops prepared to manufacture some reels. Also instructions given to ADOS(E) to design type of bridge or sand track for vehicles to run over ditches, into " harbour areas" as suggested in Command Training Instructions on basis of experience in MALAYA.	
	12		Forwarded return in reply to cipher cable No. 1193/G of 7 May which requested Number and Types of vehicles by units on charge AIF (CEYLON). In covering letter we pointed out the difficulties and delays which attended the unloading of ships, shortage of tugs, barges, etc. Result was that some ships sailed (e.g. S.S. CORNISH CITY) without being fully unloaded. Also stated that reallotment will be made to conform to operational roles of units. Letter received from 17 Aust Inf Bde claiming 14 days res. sups. at R.N. KAHAWATTA 1561915 in accordance with maintenance project submitted on 9 Apr 42. 17 Aust Inf Bde under the impression that Command HQ did not now intend to provide this reserve. Telephoned Brigadier Snelling who confirmed the fact that the reserve was to be established and that we were to select a site. Report from Capt. Flynn that MORANA and HULUNDOWA units complete in 1st and 2nd Line ammunition with exception of .38, .455 and .55 ammunition. Ceylon Command dumps in the same areas also almost complete except for shortages in the categories named.	
	13		G.O.C. called for a report on the hutting. Detailed report (copy attached) obtained by telephone from each unit. General position seems to be that 17 Aust Inf Bde Gp is well advanced and 16 Aust Inf Bde Gp is seriously behind. CRE requested to expedite as far as possible. Discussed with G1 latest summary received from 2/1 Aust Inf Bn (through 16 Aust Inf Bde) on property and billets acquired in KTA area(landing ground). Forwarded report and trace to Command HQ. Detailed enquiries were made by 16 and 17 Aust Inf Bdes for surf reels from civilian sources. None were found. 2/2 Aust A Fd Wkshops urged to expedite manufacture. Signal from ADOS(E) HQ Ceylon Command requesting makes of M/C. Information sent by return. Native labourers discovered erecting latrines etc., for Government school in close proximity G.O.C's residence. Contacted local Revenue Officer and work was stopped immediately. One hundred discs for fitting to motor headlamps to comply with latest blackout restrictions received from HQ Ceylon Command. Distribution on a limited basis made to all units and preliminary instructions sent out by signal that the discs would be fitted before entering CBO and TRN and removed after passing through.	

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Q BRANCH

HQ AIF (CEYLON)

MAY 1942

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATUGAMA	14		Deputy-Assistant Commissioner, COLOMBO (Aust Red Cross) advised that position now different from that which obtained prior to the establishment of HQ AIF (CEYLON). Accommodation is now available at MUSAEUS COLLEGE where an officers' mess exists and rations are provided; if these facilities are not used then expenses incurred by representatives will be their own concern and payments from public funds not approved. Also advising the necessity for curtailing expenditure and that there will be many instances in which this HQ would be in a position to assist in the matter of distribution and storage. HQ 2/3 Aust Fd Hyg Sec moved into new location (Ref map ALUTGAMA 1 mile - 1 inch 957119). Dets. will continue to move about in unit areas. Boot repairing being carried out by 2/2 Aust A Fd Wkshops - in order to cope with repairs units requested to enquire whether any repairers on strength and if so, attach temporily to 2/2 Aust A Fd Wkshops.	
	15		DAQMG visited HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde reference projected move to KURUNEGALA and confirmed that no accommodation stores or buildings (except enough for Bde HQ offices) available and if the move is ordered, considerable work on hutments etc., will have to be done. Progress reported on hutting. All "urgent" huts referred to in Hutting Report now expected to b e finished in 5 days' time, 80natives working on ground, and much material delivered to unit areas. Signal to HQ CEYLON Command to expedite approval for Fd Punishment Centre.	
	16		Approval at last received from HQ CEYLON Command for taking over wing of MAGGONA Reformatory for Fd Punishment Centre. Copy of latest report on amn situation is attached. Conference called of all O!s C. L.A.D's and Wkshop pls AASC with C.O. 2/2 Aust A Fd Wkshops. Complaint by 2/2 Aust Fd Hyg Sec that maggots appearing from deep trench latrines caused by lack of oiled sacking under earth round latrines. Instructions issued (copy attached). Following heavy falls of rain, there have been some damage to fans of M.T. due to passing through water and blades buckling. The blades pierce the radiator core and tank. 16 Bde conducted tests and issued instructions that passage of vehicles through water would be limited as follows:- DS Cars and utility cars - No water deeper than 7". 15-cwt vehicles - No water deeper than 7". 1-ton vehicles - No water deeper than 10". 3-ton CAS trucks - No water deeper than 17". 2/2 Aust A Fd Wkshops are conducting further tests and an instruction for the whole formation will be issued shortly. Assurances received from all units that there was no interference with tapping of rubber trees. Letter to HQ CEYLON Command accordingly. Recced site in MATUGAMA area for Shell Bowser. Issued instructions (compiled by CRE) to units for care of explosives and amn in this climate.	

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HQ AIR (CEYLON).

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATUGAMA	17		Circular on care of amn and explosives in this climate issued (copy attached). Ascertained from Movement Control that s.s. "Jeannette Skinner" with 149 tons M.T. spares and 103 tons clothing etc., left SUEZ on 10 May and would come to CBO direct, and expected any day. Instructions from HQ CEYLON Command to transfer quantities of amn from HORANA and HULANDOWA to B O D., CBO. Also new "target" (scale) for dumps issued. Passed to "G" for approval before transfer commences.	
	18		Complaint from St George Rubber Estates that stones being removed from side of roads by engineers; also slight damage to small rubber trees by HQ Sigs. Visit to manager by D.A.Q.M.G. who also explained that huts erected around estate bungalows (already requisitioned for billets) were put there by the prerogative of DCRE under para 33 of Defence Regs. (copy attached). The manager expressed pleasure at our visit and promised co-operation in every way. Advised all units that when about to chop down trees, they will advise Government Agent purpose for which felling is being done i.e. distinguish between trees cut down to make a field of fir e and those cut down for operational purposes, such as constructing road blocks, revetting etc. Two letters from 16 Aust Inf Bde requesting flour etc., for TEBUWANA Cricket and Sports Club. This club allows for a visit by 450 men per week. Wives of planters serve the meals and sporting facilities such as golf, cricket and tennis are available. The men are very enthusiastic about it. Petrol rationing threatens to make it difficult for the ladies to carry on. S. Sup. O. is endeavouring to arrange extra coupons from Controller of Petrol. He is endeavouring also through S & T CEYLON Command for additional flour and sugar. Units will be asked to provide extra rations out of Regimental Funds and Supplementary Ration account. Request by 2/1 Aust Inf Bn to demolish houses on KTA landing ground. G.O.C. gave permission for certain demolitions. Letter submitted to HQ CEYLON Command requesting permission to demolish as far as necessary for defence of landing ground and to provide essential fields of fire.	
	19		G.O.C. to see G.C.C.-in-C. about KTA landing ground matter. Took actual possession of wing of MAGGONA Reformatory for Fd Punishment Centre.	

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WAR DIARY
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

May 1942 — Q Branch AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATUGAMA	MAY 19	(cont)	Result of GOC's interview with GOC in C was that demolition may take place as approved by Govt Agent except any scheme which would involve any extensive evacuation of KATUKURUNDA. Reply from HQ AIF (ME) that Lieut. Smith (Postal) may now be used at GOC's discretion. He will take over 6 Aust Div Postal unit (see Diary entry of 4 May 42). Major Jones interviewed Controller of Petrol at CBO, who advised that he will co-operate in matter of petrol for members of TEBUANA Club.	
	20		Inspection of Regimental Funds a/cs of units revealed healthy balances in almost all cases e.g. 2/3 Aust Inf Bn £900. Therefore units will probably assist the Club. AA & QMG visited KURUNEGALA area with recce party of 16 Aust Inf Bde on 18 May 42. Possible move of Bde to that area in near future. As a result of recce CE (CEYLON Command), CRE and representative of 16 Aust Inf Bde will visit area in near future to site hutments, latrines, kitchens etc. Capt. Flynn (Amn offr) reported today that amn dumps at HORANA and HULANDAWA would be taken over by CEYLON Comd with RIAOC personnel on Saturday 23 May 42	
	21		Engineers commence work on wing of Reformatory School for Fd Punishment Centre Major Hovendene ACF agreed to assist recce (leave) parties to KANDY with some commodities. Advised Bdes to arrange for QM's to contact him before parties leave. Forwarded trace of KURUNEGALA area to HQ CEYLON Command and confirmed that rep of CRE would accompany CE (or his rep) to the area to site hutments, latrines etc. Also arranged for rep of 16 Aust Inf Bde to accompany party. Wrote to 16 Aust Inf Bde on KTR aerodrome in reply to a letter from that Bde which asked for confirmation of "verbal permission" given by GOC"to C.O. 2/1 Aust Inf Bn to carry out demolitions on a restricted scale at his discretion". Our letter stated that permission is now granted for essential demolitions to which the Govt Agent has agreed to be carried out in areas A1 and A2 of sketch of KTR aerodrome accompanying letter from 2/1 Aust Inf Bn dated 7 May 42. Attention of 2/1 Aust Inf Bn to be drawn to the fact that verbal permission as stated above was NOT given by GOC. On the contrary, the C.C. was told that matter would be referred to Command HQ and every effort made to get reply by 1300 hrs on the following day 13 May. Further, C.O. was instructed to consider, in anticipation of favorable reply, the possibility of reducing the number of demolitions in the areas referred to with a view to avoiding (a) unnecessary compensation and (b) attracting attention to his defensive localities by destroying all buildings in the immediate vicinity.	

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Army Form C. 2118.

May 1942 — Q Branch AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATUGAMA	May 21		Letter from HQ CEYLON COMD alleging that AIF in habit of utilising civilian service stations for high pressure lubrication of vehicles, hiring a plant by the day. C.O. 2/2 Aust Fd Wkshops stated that the only unit possibly doing this is 1 Aust A/Tk Regt which received instructions from COME CEYLON COMD. AA & QMG telephoned Brig i/c Admin and this officer asked that letter be destroyed.	
	22		Returns showing initial deficiencies in unit vehicles and equipment from time of leaving PALESTINE to time of arrival at CBO were completed today. These deficiencies would possibly be due to certain vessels leaving CBO before being completely unloaded or by equipment being loaded at SUEZ on to vessels which ultimately sailed to AUSTRALIA. Recce party (CRE, CE and 16 Aust Inf Bde reps) left for KGA to site huts, latrines etc. Procedure at last laid down for compensation of owners of trees cut down for military purposes: (a) Unit gives owner a certificate that trees were cut down for military purposes (b) owner requested to pass certificate together with his claim to Govt valuer, 106 Havelock Rd CBO. (c) After investigation the Govt valuer will pass the claim to the Command Land Agent for settlement with the owner direct.	

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Army Form C. 2118.

MAY 1942 — Q BRANCH AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATUGAMA	May 23		Movement Order No. 2 issued today (copy attached). Move of one truck to TRN to pick up RAF flares. Issued letter to 16 and 17 Aust Inf Bdes directing Courts of Inquiry to be convened to inquire into deficiencies or surpluses of Equipment between PALESTINE and COLOMBO. Although we have only had verbal information that IAOC were taking over the amn dumps at HORANA and MOLANDAWA shortly, Today Movement Order per IAOC personnel from CBO to respective dumps arrived with a para stating that "HQ Aust Div" had kindly agreed to provide tpt for part of the det. This was based on some verbal promise by ADOS that we "could possibly help" with tpt. After consulting "G" it was decided to provide the tpt - 8 3-tonners in all. Move to take place on 27 May 42.	
	24		Issued letter to 16 and 17 Aust Inf Bde ordering Courts of Inquiry to be convened to inquire into discrepancies in equipment loaded at SUEZ and that unloaded at CBO. Divided Div Tps between the two Courts. In connection with felling of trees, demolitions etc., visited COMD HQ and ascertained that it was now intended that the following procedure will be followed in all cases: The claim will be investigated and if it is considered legitimate, a certificate will be forwarded to the owner to the effect that the trees were felled or damage done for military purposes. The owner should then be requested to pass this certificate, together with his claim to the Govt. Valuer, 106 Havelock Rd CBO. After investigation the Government Valuer will pass the claim to the Command Land agent for settlement with the owner direct. DAQMG asked COMD whether units will have to go back "over their tracks" and hand out certificates for every single tree cut down or at least every owner affected, when the Govt agent has the information all the time. Saw Major Hovendene and he said that he had already sent towels and raisins to Tebuana Club. Attended first Board Meeting of AASC. Present: Major Hayward, Major McKenzie, Capt. Sabine (Major Jones ill). Major Hayward gave an account of AACS activities. Although instructions were issued that it would not function in CEYLON in the usual way, many transactions have been "fathered" by Maj. Hayward, which have been for the benefit of the tps. Canteen Orders up to 10,000 rupees have been cashed. Stock from s.s. "Wyreera"(from M.E.) about £1000 worth sold to the tps. 7 million cigarettes bought from Army and sold netting a profit of 35,000 rupees. Also, Maj Hayward has unofficially represented AIF on Citizens' Welfare Committee, which is opening a large tearoom shortly for all troops on Island. A balance sheet and a full report on AACS activities will be	

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MAY 1942 — Q BRANCH AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATUGAMA	May 24 (cont)		submitted by Major Hayward at an early date. He also reports that Leave Hostel "Elscourt" Manor" would have a credit balance of £300 at end of May and this would be quite clear of any debts. Brig i/c Adm had rung AQ yesterday to ask if we would lend 4 sec. trailers which are 10'6" wide and which we are not using at present. Actually we have 4 British ones on loan from COME and we are prepared to lend our own provided we can retain the British ones. Ours are apparently alright for use from docks to depots. DAQMG saw Brig Snelling who asked that ours be sent up tomorrow on trial. Ascertained that vehicles which had been taken away by "Cornish City" when that vessel could not be unloaded at CBO were now close to CBO. They have been offloaded in DURBAN from "Cornish City" and transferred to a vessel due here soon. "Q" Movements will warn O.C. AIF Details CBO when the ship arrives CBO.	
	25		Wrote to 16 Aust Inf Bde requesting them to have locality sketches made of camps in HORANA as pensioners and police guards are taking over if and when 16 Aust Inf Bde move out. Instructions issued to 16 and 17 Aust Inf Bdes to provide tpt for IAOC personnel taking over amn dumps HORANA and HOLANDAWA. Capt Flynn (amn offr) advised that he had been asked to recce possible sites for amn dumps at POLGAHAWELA (due W of KANDY) and also to investigate condition of amn at DYT range practices.	
	26		DAQMG visited CBO, saw DAQMG CEYLON Comd and later Chief Secretary on felling of trees, compensation etc. Following agreed upon: (1) Govt agent to submit particulars already in his hands from units of trees cut down and felling done, without further certificates from our units. (2) In future, before trees are felled or other damage done, particulars will be furnished to Govt Agent and copy to this HQ (as per our ordinary requisition of property;) in effect, the same procedure as before, now applies.	
	27		HQ CEYLON Command advised release of 2 more Bren mountings. Also ordered 2 which were issued to 2/1 Aust Inf Bn for armd cars to be allotted to this HQ. Two Brens from 2/1 Aust Fd Regt to be handed over to this HQ.	
	28		Attached four vehicles from each Bde to CEYLON Command for a fortnight. Wanted by S & T to carry fresh vegetables from NEURALIA to CBO. Arranged with AQMG CEYLON COmmand for medical comforts to be released for Fwd Operating Unit at HOLANDAWA.	

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MAY 1942 — Q BRANCH AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	MAY 28 (cont.)		Took over a further cottage in MATUGAMA as billets for overflow of offrs from Rest House (B Mess)... Request from CEYLON Command for our requirements in LATEX car protectors for arty personnel. Issued R.O. to compel wearing of crash helmets for motor cyclists. This R.O. a result of number of D.R's and motor cyclists at present in hospital with head injuries. Also R.O. re flooding of carburettors when starting engine - to effect that drivers must ensure that there is no excess petrol around outside of carburettor before starting the engine. Several m/c's have lately been damaged through drivers overflooding. Blackout restrictions CBO and TRN area for MT now settled by a CEYLON COMMAND R.O. This will be republished by this HQ. **Advised by COMD that four out of eight vehs asked for NEURALIA NOT now required**	
	29		**Urgent report from Australian wing, V.D. Hosp, BOUSA, that huts had been damaged by rain; impossible to take further patients or carry on under present conditions. (L) Rang Brig i/c Adm at Comd HQ who authorised use of part of RAF Rest Camp. DAQMG went down to BOUSA and later to GALLE and arranged with contractors to repair huts etc. Letter written to CEYLON COMD requesting agreement to proposal that Wing be transferred to area of 12 Aust Gen Hosp, setting out hutting requirements etc.** **Amended plans of areas to be taken over by 16 Aust Inf Bde at KURUNEGALA and hutting requirements sent to Comd. with request that owing to malaria, the Bde be not moved until hutting complete. Approval given for 15 native sweepers at 4 Aust Gen Hosp. Additional 100 screens blackout for headlamps of cars arrived.**	
	30		**Work on Fd Punishment Centre not progressing quickly enough. Decision to detail 12 OR's for work. Advised by British Ord that 500 greatcoats and sweaters now dumped at DYT Convalescent Depot for patients. This is very acceptable owing to sudden low temperatures after leaving hospitals CBO area. Arranged despatch of two packages to 6 Aust Div Cav Regt**	
	31		**Decision to convert 3 3-ton vehicles into office vans for this HQ. Work to be done by 2/2 Aust A Fd Wkshop by 6 June. Brig i/c Adm rang and referred to our letter which requested cigarettes to be issued to Aust tps with rations. He said that the Order appearing in Comd R.O's which stated that the Aust Govt had specially forbidden cigarettes to Aust tps. had its origin in MALAYA. The Govt had been cabled and replied "In no circumstances will cigarettes be issued. He said he would be only too delighted to issue the cigarettes, but he did not want to get "raspberry" from Mr Curtin who had been rather outspoken of late. Asked by DAQMG**	

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MAY 1942 — Q BRANCH AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	May 31 (Cont)		if the MALAYA cable was their only authority for the Comd R.O., he said "Yes, except that you have a daily supplementary ration allowance". DAQMG would not admit it was lieu. Later AQ telephoned and urged issue.	

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Army Form C. 2118.

JUNE 1942 — "Q" BRANCH HQ AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATUGAMA	JUNE 1.		Signal received directing issue of cigarettes with rations w.e.f. 1 June 42 Up to the present no regular amn return has been required by CEYLON COMD. Several times the matter has been mentioned to the "Q" Branch, but each time it has been stated that no return is required. For our own information the att. return has been asked for. Re-allotment of tpt within formation issued by "G" and att. instructions issued.	
	2.		Ship arrived CBO with vehicles from "Cornish City" transhipped at DURBAN. 2/2 Aust A Fd Wkshops instructed to send a rec. team to MUSAEUS COLLEGE to overhaul them when all unloaded. G instructed that they will then come into the pool. There are probably 4 3-tonners. Costs incurred in distribution of Australian Red Cross comforts to RAN, RAF referred to HQ CEYLON COMMAND who agree AIF should not pay. Matter being referred to Comd Paymaster. Dyes Camouflage - nil available - experiments being carried out under direction Comd HQ - Solution anticipated week end.	

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Army Form C. 2118.

JUNE 1942 — **Q Branch HQ AIF (CEYLON)**

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATUGAMA	JUNE 3		Change of tpt proceeding but 17 Aust Inf Bde vehicles held up on account of floods. Letter from HQ CEYLON COMD approving of change of Aust wing of BOUSA V.D. Hospital to 12 Aust Gen Hosp and giving directions to CE to proceed with hutting etc...Cable from Melbourne advising names of ships which had left Australia carrying mails for here, a total of 1338 bags. OC 3 Aust Base P.O. on the other hand only accounts for 802 bags. Issued Instruction on Dengue Fever (copy attached).	
	4		Appeal to Brig i/c Adm that issue of cigarettes with rations should be retrospective. He said there was a British Order to the effect that no back rations could be issued. Proposed to ask for them to be issued from 1 May 42 which was the day on which British Tps commenced to receive them. AQ left for 7 days' leave. CEYLON COMD Adm Instruction No. 5 came to hand and DAQMG re-issued it as AIF CEYLON Adm Instruction No. 9.	
	5		Received cable from Central Eastern Provisions Officer to GHQ Melbourne as follows: "Since CEYLON under INDIA your provision demands for all common user items should go to GHQ INDIA. For Australian pattern stores, CEYLON should demand direct on MIDDLE EAST, copy to GHQ INDIA. When MIDDLE EAST can NO longer supply, CEYLON will demand direct on AUSTRALIA." Cable from BOMBAY that medical stores would arrive shortly from BOMBAY. Request from COMD HQ for particulars of personnel, vehicles and commodities held by static garrisons, KOGGALA, GALLE and KATUKURUNDA. Received CEYLON Command Administrative Instruction No. 5 and issued AIF (CEYLON) Administrative Instruction No. 9 in pursuance thereof.	
	6		Grant of 500 rupees made by GOC to YWCA, GALLE Branch, which has done excellent work entertaining tps in that area. CEYLON Command agreed to supply materials for drying rooms for units. Extra fuel is being allowed by AASC.	
	7		Received Exercise Warning Order for move of this HQ to HORAWALA (adv.) and POLGAMPOLA (rear). DAQMG drew Movement Order for practice only. Brig. i/c Adm HQ CEYLON Command rang and asked for early warning of any move of our units to Wilson's Plains area. Apparently there is a suggestion that some unit may go there for bivouac. Comd HQ would stock up DYT DIDs if they thought we were likely to be sending units up there. Letter from Comd HQ requesting us to interview certain school teachers for purpose of liaison between services and the civil population. Anti-malarial control unit requested permission to employ a native cook. GOC approved so long as not attached to a unit which can cook for it.	

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Army Form C. 2118.

JUNE 1942 — Q Branch HQ AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATUGAMA	JUNE 8		All day exercise. Established HQ at HORAWALA and POLGAMPOLA in accordance with "BUNGO" Exercise.	

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JUNE 1942 — *(Erase heading not required).* Q Branch HQ AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAT UGAMA	JUNE 8		All day exercise. Established HQ at HORAWALA and POLGAMPOLA in accordance with "BUNGO" Exercise.	

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Army Form C. 2118.

JUNE 42 — Q Branch Hq AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATUGAMA	JUNE 9		Notification received from Comd HQ that further 100 tons wire allotted to AIF (CEYLON) (copy of circular attached). Memo from DDMS that dental stores addressed to AIF would be delivered to 11 Dental Stores Depot. GOC directed letter from us to effect that DDMS had no right to interfere with stores addressed to us. Fresh local meat now being delivered to us frozen has been used up. Signal from HQ CEYLON COMD asking petrol reserves held by units. Brig Snelling advised that petrol position was rather "tense" on the island. Also he said further consideratio_n would be given to the question of issuing arrears of cigarettes i.e. from 1 May when British tps began to receive them as part of the ration. Request from Comd HQ for number of respirators, civilian pattern required by units under our command. No progress on V.D. Hosp near 12 Aust Gen Hosp. Telephoned Brig Snelling who will discuss with our GOC tomorrow.	
	10		Advised holdings of petrol to HQ CEYLON Comd: Unit 29732 Bde 3256. Cable from Landforces MELBOURNE requesting Army Nos., make, type, contact and serial nos. M.T. received by AIF CEYLON ex "Stepsister"...Major Hayward AACS brought out Balance Sheet of AACS. Copy to be sent to us.	
	11-12		Two-day Exercise. *Movement Order & Table no 4 att.*	
	13		Advised by CEYLON Comd that issue of cigarettes with rations now approved with effect from 1 May 42. Forwarded details make, type etc., of all vehicles ex Stepsister to Landforces, Melbourne by safe hand bag No. 9 and a cable giving numbers of vehicles by types and advising that details were following. 16 Aust Inf Bde reported President of Court of Inquiry on missing articles from "Stepsister" evacuated to hospital. Court to continue with two members.	
	14		Brig i/c Adm rang and stated NOT now possible for issue arrears of cigarettes ration owing to a sudden new demand by another force. Advised CEYLON Comd details of personnel, vehicles and sups by commodities held by static garrisons GALLE, KCGGALA and KTR. Exercise PIP in progress. So far HQ has remained present location. Cable received that "Jeannette Skinner" at last approaching CBO with much Ord stores, comforts etc., on board.	
	15		Arranged return of 4 No. 18 sets from 2/1 and 2/2 Aust Fd Regts to Ord CEYLON Command. Exercise PIP still going on. Not much for AQ Branch to do so far. Preparing return of civilians employed by units. Received accounts for Armoured Train - incurred before our arrival here. Sent them back to Ind Div Sigs. Lt-Col Hayman left for INDIA to arrange for shipment of vehs to replace those being left here. These vehs to come from WO pool.	

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JUNE 1942 — Q BRANCH AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATUGAMA	JUNE 16		Accounts for signal material purchased for Armd Train before our arrival sent to us by C.O. Indian Divisional Signals. Returned them immediately. Complaints from Sigs that cables sent from Australia to individuals within units were sent by sea mail,- despatched in Australia on 27 March and received here on 2 June. 3 Aust Base P.C. will investigate further, but pointed out that all cables are accepted throughout the world at sender's risk in wartime. Refunds are only made on undeliverable reply paid cables, if sender has the reply paid docket. In view of a recent fire caused by cleaning a carrier with petrol the attached circular was issued today. Warning of conference at Comd HQ. Preliminary conference GI, GII, DAQMG, DAAG prepared list of matters for Command Conference.	
	17		A formal letter from HQ CEYLON Command received today that owing to depletion of stocks issue of cigarettes and tobacco with rations is w.e.f. 1 June 42. Reply to our letter of complaint about DDMS CEYLON Command presuming to order AIF Dental Stores into Command Stores; reply stated that there was no question of their being "designed for use by anyone other than the AIF". Exercise PIP ends. GOC and AQ return to HQ.	
	18		A re-allotment of Discharger Cups was made in accordance with attached circular. Additional explosives for second line made available and in view of the fact that electric cable is on order from INDIA, signal cable is to be issued in lieu. Statement of deficiencies and surplus of accounts for M.T. ships for voyage to CBO was produced by auditors Capt. Hutchens and Lieut. Fox. O's C tps are to be asked to explain deficiencies. Signal arrived that 12 AGH and rear party would remain, consisting of 12 offrs here before our arrival. AQ and G1 attached ~~EMME~~ Conference Comd HQ.	
	19		Letter to Comd nominating Major Perry as offr authorised to claim rebate of customs duty on goods purchased here. Information from AACS that entire stock £2000 recently purchased in INDIA had been sold to EFI. This step was taken because had we NOT done so there would have been every excuse for EFI to refuse to sell to our tps in a reasonable proportion. Ascertained that surf reels which had temporarily been held up while 2/2 Aust A Fd Wkshop concentrated on conversion of office trucks now proceeding and expected to be complete by Sunday 21 June. GOC left HQ until next Monday. G1 to 16 Bde to tell plans. AQ held conference 2 i/c Aust A F W, Pay, Camp, Pro Coy CRE and C.C. Sigs also told. Signal to Lt-Col Hayman to expedite report on progress.	

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JUNE 1942 — Q BRANCH AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATUGAMA	JUNE 20		Received cable from Austforce that 60 rubber discs with maintenance stores for CEYLON. Shipping further 210 discs earliest. Advised by O.C. AOD HORANA that res amn extra to 1st and 2nd line holdings to be stored at KTA now available for issue to AOD. Cabled Landforces MELBOURNE that no trace of case belonging to Maj-Gen Bridgeford; s.s. "Binfield" cargo had been transhipped here into Durban Castle which had left here for Australia on 2 March 42. Advised Comd HQ our 2nd line amn scale. AQ to 17 Aust Inf Bde to put in picture. Cable from India telling types of vehs agreed on for taking with us. Received C.C.3221/Q of 20 June (Copy of cable and Order attached) Also amendment 600/200/QM stating dates of loading vehs. Maj Lovell to query strength of gds for M.T. ships ex BOMBAY and also if m/c's and compressors to be taken. Major Jones , 2/2 Aust A Fd Wkshop called and asked if he would take delivery of 10 tons expanded metal from wharf. Instructed him NOT to take it. Visit of Brigadier Linney (Ord.)	

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JUNE 1942 — Q BRANCH AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATUGAMA	JUNE 21		"G" Conference all C.C's Div tps and heads services. Movo discussed and tps now to be told. Settled Amenities vehicles to be taken. AQ saw CEYLON Command about tractors. Wired Lt-Col Hayman to make sure they were available from India. Stopped mail from being sent. Information derived from units re vchs to be taken and also personnel.	
	22		Sent out Adm Instn No 12 (copy attached) and Movement Order No 5 (copy att.) These personnel to man M.T. ships ex BOMBAY. Comd HQ arranged for tents to be shipped from BOMBAY and ours handed over here. Received copy cable from Armindia that landing rations only would be taken by AIF ex CEYLON. Advised AASC to return 2nd Line amn to dumps at HORANA and HULANDAWA and NOT BAD CBO. Surplus engineer stores to be returned to Fd Coy dumps. Visit from Major Sharpe RAOC re number of vehicles to be returned to VRD at HORANA and BUSSA and discussing time table for their return by units. AQ with Lt-Col Hallett discussing vehicles for shipment.	
	23		Signal to units that Capt Smith to take charge of shipment of vehicles but evacuated today with dengue fever and Capt. Davenport substituted. E Sec 1 Aust Ord Fd Pk moved up to join F Sec 1 Aust Ord Fd Pk at 2/2 Aust A Fd Wkshop. First vehicles 2/2 Aust A Fd Wkshop to go up to Victoria Pk tomorrow morning at times that will NOT clash with "Sunshine". Tp 1 Aust A/Tk Bty from GALLE moved today to Bty HQ at HORAWALA. CRE concerned about compressors and whether tools would remain here. Sent cable to Lt-Col Hayman and requested him to ensure that tools and accessories accompany vehicles from India.	
	24		Issued Adm Instn No. 13 (copy att.) "Sunshine" Operation today. Arranged accommodation with CEYLON Command for Capt. Davenport and his dock operating det. at Echelon Barracks. Also arranged with Major Speed CBO Base Area for latrine etc. accommodation at Victoria Park for M.T. concentration area. Camp Commandant of this area who is being appointed by 16 Aust Inf Bde and also S. Sup O. will contact Speed tomorrow and arrange details. Cables received. Arranged for first guard for M.T. ship to go on board at 0900 tomorrow. Capt. Davenport reported first ship "City of Lille" ready to take vehicles and list Line ammunition, but galley would NOT be available for cooking as previously promised and our guards would have to take cooking gear. Speeded up the time programme of amn loading contained in Adm Instn No. 13 as ship ready and Capt. Davenport very anxious to move. Also arranged for 22 Aust Fd Pk Coy heavy vehicles to be called down to Victoria Pk tomorrow as these have to go into ship first. CRE NOT yet satisfied that when compressors are sent from India tools will	

1623/PME/2 - 150000 - 9/41.

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

JUNE 1942 — ? BRANCH AIF (CEYLON)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MATUGAMA	JUNE 24(cont)		accompany, so we sent a further cable to INDIA actually naming the accessories and items to be taken with compressors. Sent cable to ARMINDIA rptd Landforces Melbourne advising despatch of Major Perry to CALCUTTA to endeavour locate baggage of Major General A.S.Allen...Signal from Comd HQ that VRDs at BUSSA and HORANA not taking vehs until 1 July. CBO VRD to be the normal VRD at COTTE. Tentage to be kept standing.	
	25		At 0810 first amn trucks were unloaded, 0925 first vehicles. Total vehicles for day 17. Report from Capt. Davenport attached. All 1st Line amn loaded by 1900 hrs. Signal from Lt-Col Hayman that 13 breakdown lorries were now to be taken and one Leyland. Received Movement Control Embarkation Order No 52. Copy attached.	
CBO	26		63 vehicles loaded today. Capt. Davenport's report is attached. Loaded 250 RAF flares with 1st line amn. Movement Control Embarkation Order Nos 52 and 53 issued. Attached O's C. Troops appointed by GOC HQ CEYLON Command. Instruction C.C. No 3221/Q of 25 June issued. Covering instruction by this HQ also attached.	
	27		Cable from Lt-Col Hayman confirming tractors arty from INDIA, lorries breakdown 5 from INDIA 14 for CEYLON, motor cycles 364 from INDIA, trailer compressors 8. Tools and G 1098 equipment for compressors also to be taken. 90 boxes spares shipped from INDIA for our new vehicles.	
	28		Received strength of incoming units and advised our units. Also arranged AA & QMG allotment for transports. AQ 20 Ind Div called and accommodation arranged at MATUGAMA for HQ officers. Train time tables for lifting our tps also arrived today. Issued instructions thereon,- copy attached.	
	29		Arranged for DYT Con Depot to be cleared by 2 July 42. YB now to be delayed. Therefore arranged for staff to go to higher port to arrange accommodation etc en route. Found missing lathe from s.s. Ben Ledi with 2/2 Aust A Fd Wkshop and hand back to E.S.B.D. Issued a special instruction (copy attached) on safe custody of rifles on board and on handover of vehicles. Report from Lt-Col Hayman from BOMBAY on latest vehicle situation. Crane broke on wharf,- Capt Davenport's report attached.	
	30		Ship's staff for YB left for BOMBAY. Trains bringing incoming units late in all cases. HQ 20 Ind Div took over MATUGAMA area. Crane giving trouble at wharf. City of Lille now full. Awaiting arrival of a further M.T. ship. Capt. Davenport's report attached.	

1073/M/7—150000—9/41.

4th Aust Rec Sec
27 June 42

Loading was continued today and a total of 77 vehicles were placed on board.

Difficulty was experienced owing to some units failing to send vehicles to Park when called for and also, several vehicles did not report to Park but went straight to the loading point. This makes for confusion and extra work.

The vehicles by types were as follows:-

Vans	15-cwt	Office	1
"	1-ton	"	3
"	"	W/T	30
"	"	C/L	2
Truck	15-cwt	Office	2
"	"	C/L	10
Lorries	3-ton	F.B.E.	1
Trailers	4-whld	Machinery	1
"	"	F.B.E.	1
"	2-whld	Water	1
"		Artillery	25
			77

sgd. J. DAVENPORT Capt.
O.C. 4 Aust Rec Sec

CAPT. DAVENPORT'S REPORT

4th Aust Rec Sec
28 June 42

A further 8 vehicles were loaded today.

Difficulty was again experienced because some units have made no serious attempt at lowering canopies and they have had to be lowered in the Park. In one case the canopy was lowered in 10 minutes, showing t that no attempt had been made.

Vehicles are being sent down carrying far in excess of the loads submitted, such loads in several cases being made up of stores etc. to which the unit was not entitled; these have been off-loaded and returned to C.O.O.

Total vehicles by types are as follows:-

Vans, 1-ton Office	1
" " W/T	12
" 15-cwt A.C.F.	1
Truck 15-cwt C/L	3
Lorries 3-ton Store	1
Cars D.S.	2
Trailers 2-whld, Water	2
" Arty	44
Ordnance Q.F. 25 pr.	21
	87

Sgd. J. DAVENPORT Capt
O.C. 4 Aust Rec Sec

4th Aust Rec Sec
29 June 42

A further 56 vehicles were loaded today.

When loading vehicle No. LX3115, on charge to 22 Fd Park Coy RAE the crane was pulled over owing to excessive weight of vehicle. As the rear portion of the S/Trailer was being lifted at the time and its load was given as 8 tons, it can be seen how inaccurate this weight was, as a previous vehicle weighing 10 tons was lifted successfully. No persons were hurt and no damage done. The accident occurred at 1500 hrs.

Number of vehicles by types was as follows:-

Vans 15-cwt. (ACF)	1
Lorries, 3-ton Store	3
" " Garage	3
" " F.B.E.	1
" 5-ton S/T F.B.E.	1
Portees A/Tk	11
Trailers 2-whld Water	6
" Arty	3
Ordnance Q.F. 25 pr.	27
	56

(Sgd) J. DAVENPORT Capt
O.C. 4 Aust Rec Sec.

4th Aust Rec Sec
30 June 42

Only 17 vehicles were loaded today, mainly owing to the crane being out of operation until 1330 hrs.

It seems that the same trouble is being experienced as during the unloading, namely, difficulty of getting native labour to work, and the tug going cruising on other jobs when returning from the ship.

Total vehicles by types were as follows:-

Truck 30-cwt.	1
Lorries 3-ton Office	4
" " Machinery	1
Portee A/Tk	1
Trailers 2-whld Water	10
	17

(Sgd.) J. DAVENPORT Capt.
O.C. 4 Rec Sec.

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C. 2118

Unit Q Branch HQ AIF

Commanding Officer

Month and Year JULY 1942

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	JULY			
COLOMBO	1		S.T. running late, Arrived CBO 1230 hrs but baggage loaded before dark. Inspected house opposite Comd HQ for proposed move of 20 offrs from MATUGAMA. Trains with relieving units on are still arriving late. 2 vans, 1 ton W/T to be loaded on "Devonshire". Cable from Major Perry that missing packages of Maj-Gen Allen probably left BOMBAY 26 June 42.	
	2		"City of Canterbury" in and commenced loading 4 AGH gear. Late start owing to shortage of lighters...Case of smallpox reported amongs Indian troops at MATUGAMA and arrangements had to be made for move of Sigs to CBO area. Accommodation arranged at MUSAEUS, Kit Store and Echelon Barracks. Vaccination to be applied in case of all contacts. Officers of HQ came up to new quarters opposite Comd HQ. DYF Con Depot Aust Wing closed today. "Elscourt Manor" Leave Hostel now handed over to Comd HQ without loss to Amenities Fund	
	3		Major Perry returned from CALCUTTA and his search for Maj-Gen Allen's baggage. Apparently it was sent off to 2 Ech MELBOURNE on s.s. Madura ex CALCUTTA. Lieut. Boulter's bag sent to BOMBAY on 26 June for shipment to Australia. Amendment to Movement Control Embarkation Order No. 52 dated 24 June. Copy attached. Effect was to postpone all personnel moves forty-eight hours. Difficulty still re compressor tools. Armindia agrees with CEYLON Comd that the tools should NOT leave here. Therefore we again cabled Lt-Col. Hayman to ensure that they are shipped from BOMBAY. Loading held up on account of non-arrival of ships. WD and DL expected before noon tomorrow. Capt. Davenport's report attached.	

22293 Wt. 33096/1140 1,000m 12/4C—McC & Co Ltd—51-8212 Forms C2118/22

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WAR DIARY
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Army Form C. 2118

Unit Q Branch HQ AIF

Commanding Officer

Month and Year JULY 1942

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
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	2		"City of Canterbury" in and commenced loading 4 AGH gear. Late start owing to shortage of lighters...Case of smallpox reported amongst Indian troops at MATUGAMA and arrangements had to be made for move of Sigs to CBO area. Accommodation arranged at MUSAEUS, Kit Store and Echelon Barracks. Vaccination to be applied in case of all contacts. Officers of HQ came up to new quarters opposite Comd HQ. DYP Con Depot Aust Wing closed today. "Elscourt Manor" Leave Hostel now handed over to Comd HQ without loss to Amenities Fund	
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22203 Wt. 33096/1140 1,000m 12/40—McC & Co Ltd—51-8212 Forms C2118/22

4th Aust Rec Sec
6 July 42

A further 6 vehicles were loaded on the Dunedin Star today, leaving a further 33 to be loaded.

Total by types was as follows:

Lorries	3-ton Store	2
"	" B/down	4
		6

Sgd. J. DAVENPORT Capt
O.C. 4 Rec Sec

4th Aust Rec Sec

4 July 42

Loading was recommenced today and a total of 10 vehicles placed as deck cargo on the "Dunedin Star".

The problem of weights again being to the fore, one unit had given the tare 2 tons 15 cwt as the gross weight of the vehicle, whereas this was actually in the region of 4 tons 10 cwts.

Total of vehicles by types was as follows:

Vans 1-ton W/T	2
" " Office	1
Lorries 3-ton Office	1
" " Garage	1
" " Store	3
" 30-cwt.	2
	10

Sgd. J. DAVENPORT Capt.
O.C. 4 Aust Rec Sec.

4th Aust Rec Sec
1 July 42

Loading on board was completed today and a total of 12 vehicles placed on board making a grand total of 328.

The last vehicle was a trailer 4-whld Gen No. X3656.

All vehicles have been securely lashed and canopy covers were taken on board and handed over to O.C. escort party. The covers will be used for covering of vehicles on deck.

All loading was carried by this section with 23 personnel from 2/2 A.F.W. and the following officers from outside the section were used -

Lieut A.K. Myers 6 Rec Sec
" R. Horsley 5 " "

Vehicles were taken to the ship on lighters and M.L.C's

Types of vehicles loaded today were as follows:

Lorries	3-ton	Office	1
Trailers	4-whld	Rec	8
"	6 "	"	1
"	4 "	Gen	1
"	2 "	Water	1
			12

J. DAVENPORT Capt.
O.C. 4 Rec Sec

Copy

4th Aust Rec Sec
6 Jul 42

A further 9 vehicles were placed on board the Dunedin Star today.

It is anticipated that this ship will have room for a further 14 vehicles.

Total of vehicles by types was as follows:-

Lorries	3-ton	Store	4
"	"	Garage	1
"	"	M.D.S.	2
"	"	B/Down	1
"	5-ton	"	1
			9

Sgd. J. DAVENPORT Capt.
O.C. 4 Aust Rec Sec.

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118

Unit Q BRANCH HQ AIF (CEYLON)

Commanding Officer

Month and Year JULY 1942

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
COLOMBO	JULY 4		"Dunedin Star" with serum on board arrived CBO. Arranged for serum to be taken off for 12 Aust Gen Hosp. Arranged for 2/2 Aust Fd Regt and 8 Fd Coy to entrain BUSSA in lieu of GALLE, and 2/6 Aust Inf Bn to entrain at KOGGALA in lieu of TALPE. "Martand" arrived from BOMBAY with part of A.A. guard on board. This ship would not take Ghurkas as it was not so fitted. Notified that 187 S.P.S. of "Controlled" NOT to proceed to CBO but BUSSA. Capt. Davenport's report attached.	
	5		Arranged for O.C. Troops "W D" to arrive here at 0900 hrs tomorrow; also for baggage parties "WD" and "XC" to report at 0700. Amendment to trains to provide for suggestions made yesterday and also provision of a further ship "O" - s.s. Martand for personnel. Therefore HQ RAE, 22 Fd Pk Coy and 80 LAD taken from "YB" and placed on the "O". Report from Capt. Mayberry, offr. i/c Ship's Staff at BOMBAY advising arrival there. Capt. Davenport's report attached.	
	6		XC "Westerhland" and WD "Arminda" arrived today and baggage parties operated and completed. Issued warning message to all units that tps NOT allowed to leave dock or ry sta area during embarkation, also customs instructions. Capt. Davenport's report is attached.	
	7		"Rajula" arrived today from SUEZ with 9 Aust Div Offrs and tps. totalling 1025. Embarkation proceeded according to plan. The usual startling list of a/cs for our EFI arrived. Hectic researches by units for receipts etc. to prove that once more the EFI have kept books negligently and then endeavoured to victimise unsuspecting units. But on this occasion the accounts will be hardly contested. "Rajula" will be granted leave tomorrow.	

22793 Wt. 33096/1140 1,000m 12/40—McC & Co Ltd—51-8212 Forms C2118/22

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WAR DIARY
or
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Army Form C. 2118

Unit Q BRANCH HQ AIF (CEYLON)

Commanding Officer

Month and Year JULY 1942

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WAR DIARY
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
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"Q" Branch, Army Form C. 2118

Unit H Q AIF (CEYLON)

Commanding Officer .....

Month and Year JULY 1942

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
COLOMBO	JULY 8		Lt-Col. Hayman arrived from BOMBAY. Brig Snelling advised compressor tools now to be taken by RAE after all. Embarkation proceeded smoothly according to plan. Two members AASC released from civil gaol and embarked forthwith. "Rajula" will allow 200 on leave plus picquet of 9 offrs and 90 O.Rs	

22293 Wt. 33096/1140 1,000m 12/40—McC & Co Ltd—51-8212 Forms C2116/22

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WAR DIARY
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
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"Q" Branch,
H Q AIF (CEYLON) Army Form C. 2118

Unit.....

Month and Year JULY 1942

Commanding Officer.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
COLOMBO	JULY 8		Lt-Col. Hayman arrived from BOMBAY. Brig Snelling advised compressor tools now to be taken by RAE after all. Embarkation proceeded smoothly according to plan. Two members AASC released from civil gaol and embarked forthwith. "Rajula" will allow 200 on leave plus picquet of 9 offrs and 90 O.Rs	

22293 Wt. 33096/1140 1,000m 12/40—McC & Co Ltd—51-8212 Forms C2118/22