

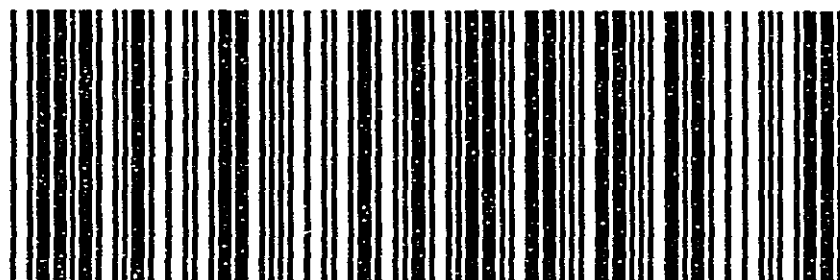
AWM52

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

1/3/1 ARMY

First Army-General Officer
Commanding and Army
Commander (First Army GOC
& Army Commander)

June - July 1944, October - November
1945



1/3/1-004\$

Month ended: 30 Jun

WAR DIARY

SECRET

Year: 1944

HQ FIRST AUST ARMY

Branch - ARMY COMMANDER

Place	Date	Summary of Events	Ref to Appendices	Comments
MARREEBA	1 Jun	CGS arrived and had conference with GOC.		
	2 Jun	CGS departed.		
	3 - 6 Jun	At Headquarters.		
	7 Jun	Conference with Brig FIELD, Adm Comd 3 Aust Div. Visited camp area and inspected Sigs Camp, AWAS Camp, Provost Camp, Transport Lines, OR's Rest Area and B, C, D, E, F, Messes.		
	8 Jun	Inspected 132 Aust Gen Tpt Coy, ASD, Canteen ATHERTON, 132 Aust Gen Tpt Coy Wksps, 3 Div ASC, 5 Aust Farm Coy. Interview with Brig FEWTRELL.		
	9 Jun	Mr. COLLINS, State Member, called. GOC 1 Aust Corps called accompanied by BGS.		
	10 Jun	At Headquarters		
	11 Jun	Muster parade.		
	12 Jun	DGMS called. Met AG and Comd 7 Aust Div at aerodrome. Conference on Hygiene attended by GOC 1 Aust Corps and Comds 3, 6, 7 and 9 Divs and senior officers. Conference addressed by AG, DGMS, Brig FAIRLEY, Maj COOK and Maj ENGLISH.		

Month ended: 30 Jun.

WAR DIARY

SECRET

Year: 1944

HQ FIRST AUST ARMY

Branch - ARMY COMMANDER

Place	Date	Summary of Events	Ref to Appendices	Comments
MAREEBA	13 Jun	Conference on Hygiene continued.		
	14 Jun	Brig i/c Adm Qld L of C Area called. BRA reported for duty. GOC witnessed demonstration of fire fighting with large chemical extinguisher. Extinguisher lacked sufficient pressure.		
	15 Jun	At Headquarters. Spoke 1 Aust Corps re accommodation.		
	16 Jun	At Headquarters. Inspected site for AWAS Sigs Camp. Inspected 2/2 Aust HQ Gd Bn.		
	17 Jun	At Headquarters.		
	18 Jun	Recced proposed site for schools at WONGABEL.		
	19 Jun	Met C-in-C. C-in-C inspected Headquarters and thereafter proceeded ATHERTON. GOC 1 Aust Corps was also present.		
	20 Jun	Met C-in-C at Officers' Club and, accompanied by GOC 1 Aust Corps, proceeded to HQ 9 Aust Div. Met by Commander and staff. Inspected 2/2 Aust MG Bn, 2/122 Bde Wksp, 26 Bde, 2/1 CCS, 24 Bde, 20 Bde, Mens Cafeteria and Officers' Club.		
	21 Jun	Met C-in-C at Officers' Club and, accompanied by GOC 1 Aust Corps, proceeded to HQ 6 Aust Div. Saw troops, guards, amenities, Officers' Club.		

SECRET

Month ended: 30 Jun

WAR DIARY

Year: 1944

HQ FIRST AUST ARMY

Branch - ARMY COMMANDER

Place	Date	Summary of Events	Ref to Appendices	Comments
MAREEBA	21 Jun (contd)	Proceeded 3 Aust Div, met by Brig FIELD, Adm Comd. Drove through camp area and met Brig KITTO. Drove through MAPEE area to 2/2 and 2/6 AGHs.		
BRISBANE	22 Jun	Accompanied C-in-C to BRISBANE. Conference with QMG. Saw CGS, A/DCGS and DA & QMG.		
MELBOURNE	23 Jun	Proceeded MELBOURNE by civil aircraft.		
	26 Jun	Discussions with DSD, BGS, LGA and CGS. Conferred with MGRA reference reduction in Artillery units.		
	27 Jun	Interview with CGS, MGO and Military Secretary. Discussed Engineer problems with E-in-C. Brig HOPKINS called.		
BRISBANE	28 Jun	Proceeded to BRISBANE. Discussions and arranged programme with BAA & CA and Comd BRISBANE Fortress. - General discussions with DA & QMG, Landops.		
	29 Jun	Inspected BRIBIE Bty. Visited HQ Coast Artillery, CALOUNDRA. Discussions at Rear Headquarters with Brig NEYLAN, Lt-Col RICHARDSON, Lt-Col PITT.		Undesirable for AWAS to be stationed in such isolated stations.

Month ended: 30 Jun

WAR DIARY

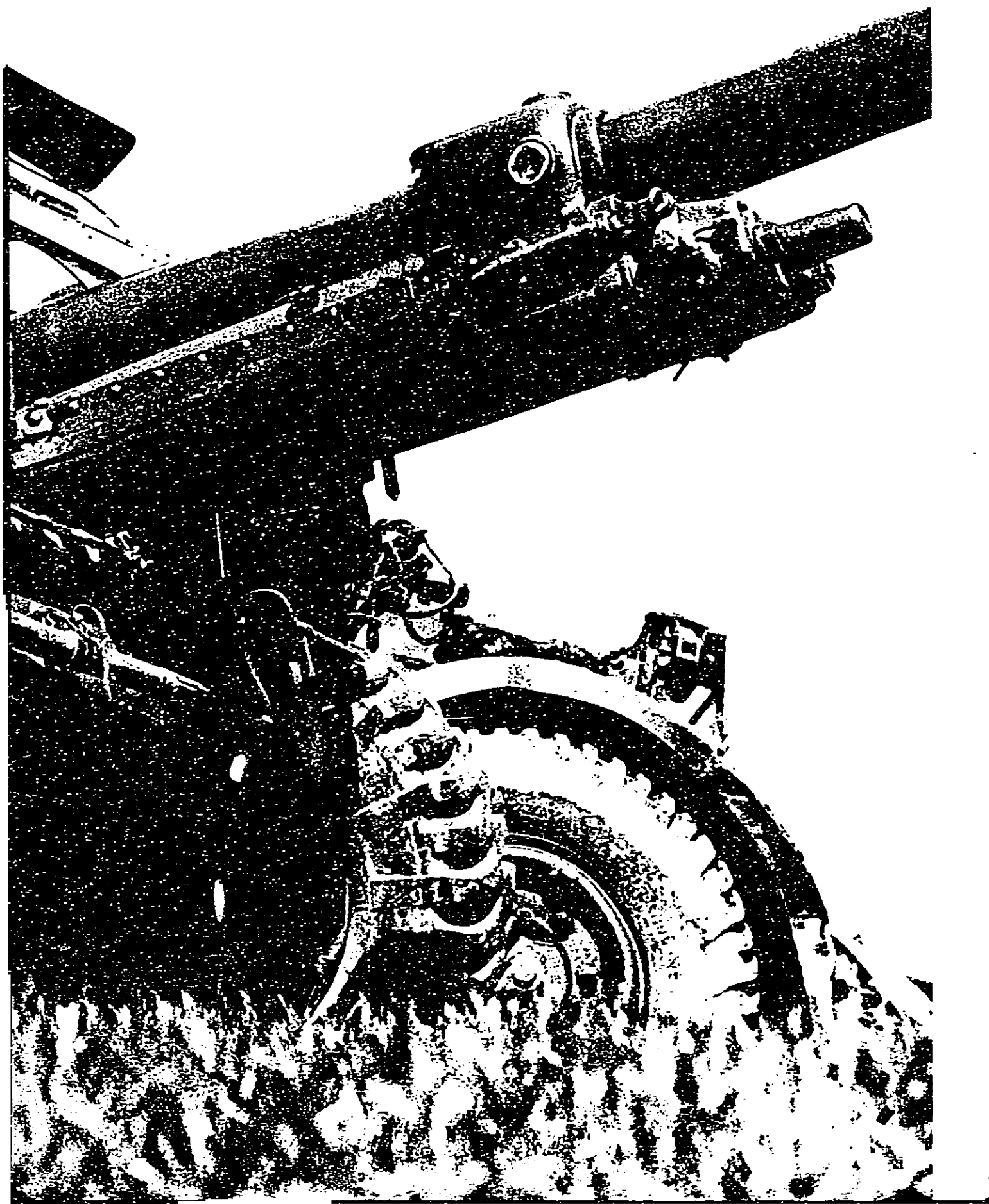
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Year: 1944.

HQ FIRST AUST ARMY

Branch - ARMY COMMANDER

Place	Date	Summary of Events	Ref to Appendices	Comments
BRISBANE	29 Jun (contd)	Visited BRISBANE Fortress HQ with Comd, Col MEREDITH. Conference with Comd Qld L of C Area and Brig i/c Adm.		
	30 Jun	With Comd BRISBANE Fortress and BAA & CA embarked in ML for journey to MORETON ISLAND at 0830, disembarked 1010 at TANGALOOMA. Visited ROUS and COWAN Btys.		



SECRET

Month ended: 31 Jul

WAR DIARY

Year: 1944

HQ FIRST AUST ARMY

Branch - ARMY COMMANDER

Place	Date	Summary of Events	Ref to Appendices	Comments
BRISBANE	1 Jul	Called on His Excellency the Governor of Queensland.		Discussed future of THURSDAY ISLAND.
BRISBANE	2 Jul	Departed BRISBANE for MAREEBA.		
MAREEBA	3 Jul	Met Empire Parliamentary Association Delegation consisting of Maj MARKHAM (U.K.), Dr. DONNELLY and Mr. HARRIS (CANADA) and party of 7.		
MAREEBA	4 Jul	With Empire Parliamentary Association proceeded TOLGA AOD and BOW. Visited BARRINE, LAKE EACHAM, WONGABEL and 6 Div, inspected guard of honour mounted by 2/2 Bn and viewed training.		
MAREEBA	5 Jul	Empire Parliamentary Association visited 5 Aust Farm Coy, 3 Div, MAPEE, 2/2 and 2/6 AGHs. Viewed Barron Falls Hydro Electric Scheme.		
MAREEBA	6 Jul	7 Aust Inf Bde Parade.		
MAREEBA	7 Jul	Attended opening of Officers' Club WONDECLA.		
MAREEBA	8 Jul	At Headquarters. Brigadier MILFORD, British Army, called.		
MAREEBA	9 Jul 10 Jul	} At Headquarters }		

Month ended: 31 July

Year: 1944.

WAR DIARY

HQ FIRST AUST ARMY

SECRET

Branch - ARMY COMMANDER

Place	Date	Summary of Events	Ref to Appendices	Comments
MAREEBA	12 Jul	Col McCALL, Officers' Preselection Board, called. Lt-Gen Sir Leslie MORSHEAD, GOC 1 Aust Corps, arrived and called at Headquarters.		
MAREEBA	13 Jul	C-in-C arrived and proceeded ATHERTON.		
MAREEBA	14 Jul	C-in-C reviewed 9 Aust Div.		
MAREEBA	15 Jul	Comd 7 Aust Div arrived.		
MAREEBA	16 Jul	At Headquarters.		
MAREEBA	17 Jul	Review 6 Aust Div by C-in-C.		
MAREEBA	18 Jul	C-in-C departed for BRISBANE.		
MAREEBA	19 Jul	Brig FAIRLEY, Col THOMAS, US Medical Corps USASOS, Mr. BISHOP, US Entomologist, and Dr. WATSON, US Medical Specialist, called.		U.S. Malarial Investigation Committee.
MAREEBA	20 Jul	MGO and ADC arrived.		
MAREEBA	21 Jul	Conferences with MGO. Inspected camp area First Aust Army and Sigs AWAS camp.		
MAREEBA	22 Jul 23 Jul	) At Headquarters)		
MAREEBA	25 Jul	Col GRAHAM, G1 4 Aust Div, called.		

Month ended: 31 July

WAR DIARY

SECRET

Year: 1944

HQ FIRST AUST ARMY

Branch - ARMY COMMANDER

Place	Date	Summary of Events	Ref to Appendices	Comments
MAREEBA	26 Jul	Witnessed exercise of 19 Aust Inf Bde and 2/3 Fd Regt at BIBOOHRA. Brig STEVENSON, 11 Bde, arrived. Brig KITTO, CRA 11 Div, arrived.		
MAREEBA	27 Jul	Lt-Col T.R. BLANEY arrived. Visited First Aust Army Press Unit. Visited 1 Aust HQ Area Comd ATHERTON. Inspected 65 AWAS Barracks.		
	28 Jul	Visited CAIRNS Fortress. Inspected EDGEHILL Rest Camp and REDLYNCH Transit Camp.		
	29 Jul	Comd 11 Aust Div called. Brig KOE, Lt-Col GEHRMAN, Cdr CAMPBELL and Lt WATSON called.		
	30 Jul	At Headquarters.		
	31 Jul	Travelled by car MAREEBA - TOWNSVILLE.		

Month ended: 30 Sep

WAR DIARY

War Diary

SECRET

Year: 1945

HQ FIRST AUST ARMY

Branch - ARMY COMMANDER

Place	Date	Summary of Events	Ref to Appendices	Comments
LAE	1 Sep	BGS, NOIC NEW GUINEA, DA & QMG and Colonel 'Q' conferred reference Japanese surrender at RABOUL.		
	4 Sep	GOC proceeded to JACQUINOT BAY, met by GOC 11 Div (Maj-Gen K.W. EATHER) and Lt JACKSON, ADJ. Visited HQ 8 Bde (Brigadier EDGAR) and CRA (Brigadier TINSLEY).		
	5 Sep	Conferred with Commander Task Group 111.5 (Captain A.W. BUZZARD, DSO, OBE) on board HMS "GLOXY" with reference to surrender of Japanese off RABOUL. Embarked on HMS "GLOXY".		
	6 Sep	At 1130 hrs on board "GLOXY" off KABANGA BAY, NEW BRITAIN, received surrender from Commander Japanese South Eastern Army (General IMAMURA) and Japanese South Eastern Navy (Vice Admiral KUSAKA). IMAMURA and KUSAKA signed the instrument of surrender after IMAMURA had surrendered his sword to the GOC on the flight deck of "GLOXY" in the presence of the whole ships company. GOC read his Directive. GOC and Maj-Gen EATHER later questioned IMAMURA and KUSAKA.		
	7 Sep	Returned to LAE in "GLOXY".		

Month ended: 30 Sep

WAR DIARY

SECRET

Year: 1945

HQ FIRST ARMY

Branch - ARMY COMMANDER

Place	Date	Summary of Events	Ref to Appendices	Comments
LAE	11 Sep	Col HENEERY, U.S. Air Corps, and Mr. Lee VANATTA, U.S. War Correspondent, arrived en route to RABAU.		
	12 Sep	Col HENEERY and Mr. VANATTA left.		
TOROKINA	18 Sep	GOC arrived TOROKINA met by GOC 2 Corps (Lt-Gen S.G. SAVIGE) and staff. Conferences with GOC 2 Corps (Lt-Gen S.G. SAVIGE) and GOC 3 Div (Maj-Gen W. BRIDGEMORE) reference taking over by 3 Div from 2 Corps. Conference reference confinement areas for Japanese surrendered personnel.		
JACQUINOT BAY RABAU	20 Sep	GOC arrived JACQUINOT BAY en route RABAU. GOC arrived RABAU met by Brigadier WINNING. Drove through town area thence via TUNNEL HILL Rd to TAVUI returning via North Coast.		
LAE RABAU	21 Sep	Brigadier BINNS and Gp Capt PODGER arrived at Headquarters. In company with GOC 11 Div (Maj-Gen K.W. EATHER) drove to KOKOPO via MALAGUNA, VULCAN and RALUANA returning via VUNAKANAU Mission and VULCAN Foothills. Later drove through area TUNNEL HILL ROAD, TALILI BAY, WUNAWATUNG ROAD and FOURWAYS to VUNAKANAU returning by MALAGUNA ROAD.		
LAE	22 Sep	GOC returned to LAE.		
	23 Sep	CGS (Lt-Gen J. NORTHCOTT) and Major BIERI arrived.		
	24 Sep	Conferences with CGS, who also visited PIR and Training Schools, YALU. CGS inspected AWAS Barracks. Brig BINNS and Gp Capt PODGER departed.		

Month ended: 30 Sep

WAR DIARY

SECRET

Year: 1945

HQ FIRST ARMY

Branch - ARMY COMMANDER

Place	Date	Summary of Events	Ref to Appendices	Comments
LAE	25 Sep	CGS and Major BIERI departed for TOROKINA.		
WEWAK	27 Sep	GOC arrived WEWAK and was met by GOC 6 Div (Maj-Gen H.C.H. ROBERTSON). Conferences ref Jap surrendered personnel and later visited MUSCHU ISLAND and inspected Japanese personnel and Japanese hospital.		
LAE	28 Sep	GOC visited Base Area, WEWAK, and later returned to LAE.		
	29 Sep	CGS and Major BIERI returned.		

Month ended: 30 Nov

Year: 1945

WAR DIARY

HQ FIRST ARMY

SECRET

Branch - GOC

Place	Date	Summary of Events	Ref to Appendices	Comments
LAE	1 Nov	Air Commodore WALTERS, TWO MADAP and OC 33 Squadron, Son Ldr MALONEY conferred with GOC on the question of Courier Services in the First Army area. BGS and Col Q also attended conference.		
	2 Nov	Col WOO YIEN, commanding CHINESE Army in RABAUl conferred with GOC.		
RABAUl	5 Nov	GOC arrived VUNAKANAU Aerodrome, RABAUl, and was met by GOC 11 Div - Maj-Gen K. EATHER. GOC conferred with GOC 11 Div. Later he inspected ANGAU HQ (Maj BLAKE), camp established for CHINESE civilians belonging to RABAUl, the ANGAU Hospital and LAKUNAI Aerodrome. GOC later visited Commander 13 Bde, Brig WINNING, and met the COs of the battalions.		
	6 Nov	GOC visited CHINESE ex-internees (civilians) and the NANKING Detachment of the CHINESE Army (Col WOO YIEN). GOC inspected the parade and addressed the troops. He then visited the INDIAN recaptured PW camp and inspected the troops. He later visited the Officers' Mess. GOC inspected 118 AGH (CO, Col BLACK, Matron, Matron GREEN). In the afternoon the GOC proceeded by water to MALAPAU and then by road to inspect JAPANESE Camp No 3 being erected in the RAVELIEN Plantation area. The GOC visited Commander 11 Bde, Brig STEVENSON, and met COs of the battalions.		

Month ended: 30 Nov

WAR DIARY

SECRET

Year: 1945

HQ FIRST ARMY

Branch - GOC

Place	Date	Summary of Events	Ref to Appendices	Comments
RABAU	7 Nov	GOC proceeded to DUKE OF YORK ISLAND on board HMA HDML 1354. GOC later visited Commander 4 Bde (Brigadier EDGAR) and met COs of the battalions.		
TOROKINA	8 Nov	GOC arrived TOROKINA and was met by GOC 3 Div (Maj-Gen W. BRIDGEFORD) and by AA&QMG (Lt-Col COURT). GOC conferred with General BRIDGEFORD and later visited HQ 4 Base Sub Area (Brigadier LEGGE).		
	9 Nov	GOC accompanied by GOC 3 Div, visited TOROKINA College and inspected various classes at work. Later GOC departed TOROKINA by 60 ft ambulance launch for KARIKI, FAURO ISLAND. GOC was met at KARIKI by Commander 23 Bde (Brigadier POTTS) and CO 7 Bn (Lt-Col DUNKLEY).		
FAURO ISLAND				
FAURO ISLAND	10 Nov	GOC accompanied by Commander 23 Bde proceeded to SAMANSO ISLAND and gave directions to Commander JAPANESE Army, Lt-Gen KANDA and Commander JAPANESE Navy, Vice Admiral SAMAJIMA and their staffs. GOC informed General KANDA that the JAPANESE nation had been completely obliterated, that millions were starving in JAPAN, that he would be provided with a minimum of food, that his troops were to make gardens for food and that if there was any trouble, no food supplies would be provided. GOC later visited JAPANESE Navy camp at PIEDU ISLAND and inspected the area. He later visited the Army hospital on TARATEI and one army camp. GOC inspected JAPANESE barge point at KARIKI and later visited companies of 7 Bn in POYANA BAY.		

Month ended: 30 Nov

Year: 1945

WAR DIARY

HQ FIRST ARMY

SECRET

Branch - GOC

Place	Date	Summary of Events	Ref to Appendices	Comments
BALLALE IS	11 Nov	GOC accompanied by Commander 23 Bde, proceeded to BALLALE ISLAND and inspected Japanese strip which was found to be in reasonable condition. GOC visited War Graves Commission who were engaged in exhuming certain bodies believed to be those of British Soldiers. GOC returned to HQ 3 Div.		
	12 Nov	GOC returned to LAE		
LAE	18 Nov	Maj-Gen H.C.H. ROBERTSON arrived.		