

**AWM52**  
**2nd Australian Imperial Force and**  
**Commonwealth Military Forces unit war**  
**diaries, 1939-45 War**

**Item number: 8/2/17**

**17 Infantry Brigade**

**December 1940, Appendices, part**  
**1 of 2**

H. Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
IKINGI MARYUT.  
11 Dec. 40.

Security.

1. Brig. Comd. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. has been appointed Comd. of Zone B for general security.

2. Area of Zone B is bounded by -

East Rd. CAIRO - ALEXANDRIA to EL AMIRIYA - thence continuation of rd. to 49429303 - thence continuation to SEA.

West 48258840 - 48709040 - BAHIG - SEA.

South 51309000 - 48258840.

Note : Div. H.Q. is excluded from Zone B.

3. The particular responsibility of Units within the zone is in respect to :

- (a) Parachutist and air-borne troops.
- (b) Lights and signals that may guide hostile aircraft.
- (c) Reporting in detail air raids and the effects thereof.
- (d) The presence of unauthorized persons in their zones. Observation of the zone is the duty of existing A.A. posts and security guards.

4. (a) Information regarding para. 3 (a) will be reported immediately to Bde. H.Q.

On receipt of this information the zone Comd. may order the occupation of selected defensive positions as under:

(i) Outer perimeter defences. On receipt of this order :-

- "A" Bn. remains on security duties.
- "B" Bn. will occupy Coy. localities as under as a defended line of observation.

KNOLL "30" in 490920.

KNOLL 49209202.

ROUND KNOLL in 493918.

HILL "40" in 495918.

"C" Bn. in mobile reserve own lines.

Cav. Regt. in mobile reserve own lines.

A.A.S.C. in reserve own lines.

Fd. Regt. prepared to support any action by observed fire as ordered.

(ii) Inner perimeter defences. In the event of a surprise enemy attack when no time is allowed to implement the above plan, this order will be issued when :-

"A" Bn. remains on security duties.

Fd. Regt. will occupy line 49109218 - 49289204 incl.

"B" Bn. " " " 49289204 excl. - 49499205 - 49509210.

Sigs. " " " of contour 49559216 - 49609220.

Bde. H.Q., R.A.A., Pro. will occupy line of contour 49609224 - 49689230.

A.S.C. will occupy line 49689250 - 49849240.

A.F.W. " " " 49849240 - 49979240.

Cav. Regt. in mobile reserve own lines.

"C" Bn. in " " " " " "

In this plan all units will muster maximum available S.A. weapons to hold the line indicated.

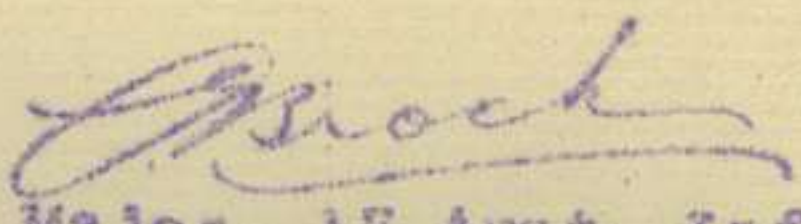
(b) Information regarding para. 3 (b) will be reported immediately to Bde. H.Q., giving the following information :

- (i) Time seen.
- (ii) From where seen (map ref.)
- (iii) Bearing of light or signal.
- (iv) Estimated distance from O.P.
- (v) Location of light (if possible).

(c) Information regarding para. 3 (c) will be reported immediately after an air raid by message beginning "SITREP" and franked "IMPORTANT", to reach this H.Q. by 1000 hrs. and full details on the approved form (appendix A) as soon as possible.

(d) Unauthorized persons will be placed under guard and Bde. H.Q. informed.

5. Lights. Unit comds. will ensure that all lights, either Military or Civil, are obscured, but in the case of any suspicious lights, the persons operating them will be taken into custody and this H.Q. informed immediately in accordance with para. 4 (b).

  
Major,  
Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

Distribution :

Copy No. 1	2/5 Bn.
2	2/6 Bn.
3	2/7 Bn.
4	6 Aust. Cav.
5	R.A.A.
6	8/1 Fd. Regt.
7	Sigs. 6 Aust. Div.
8	A.A.S.C.
9	2/2 A.F.W.
10	6 Aust. Pro. Coy.
11	2/1 Fd. Amb.
12	2/2 Fd. Amb.
13	6 Aust. Div.
14	Bde. I.O.
15	File.
16-17	War Diary.
18-25	Spares.

Hostile Air Action.

Report of \_\_\_\_\_ Bn. Post at \_\_\_\_\_

Date

Time

Place

No. of planes

Markings

Type

Direction of Approach  
and withdrawal.

No. and description  
of bombs dropped.

Probable objective.

Casualties.

Damage.

Location of  
Unexploded bombs.

Action by post.

Remarks.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

This return to be rendered in the event of any hostile Air Action.

succession upon which they could fight.

## II. Action of Troops withdrawing.

- (a) The right Bde. sent complete recce. parties to their new positions, and allowed for adequate guides for coys. to their ~~xxxxxxx~~ individual localities. An outstanding feature was that all coys. were linked up for L/T with Bn. H.Q. and were thus in immediate comm. with Bn. H.Q. on arrival. At dawn the new positions were held with the whole front covered and defences in good depth.
- (b) The left Bde. continued their withdrawal without molestation. Their dispositions did not appear to be as well planned as desirable. Bde. H.Q. appeared to be too far to the rear and were outside the ambit of protection. At first light alterations had to be made including the re-siting of a Bn. H.Q. It is felt that this state of affairs was due to inadequate recce. parties.
- (c) Fighting continued on the right Bde. sector shortly after occupation until the Exercise was called off. The only action on the left sector was that of an 8 Bn. patrol which captured a fwd. pl. and a patrol of the 11 Bn. which broke through from a point near the inter-bde. boundary and moved round the rear and attacked the reserve coy. of the 2/1 Bn. at approx. 0040 hrs. The move of Cav. in their attack on Div. H.Q. might easily have been diverted to Bde. H.Q. in their rearward position. It is noted that 16 Bde. advised Div. H.Q. <sup>at 0650 and recd at 0705</sup> that 20 lt. tks. were moving 800 to 1000 yds. on their left flank, but apparently not much heed was taken to the warning.

## III. Comments.

(a) In view of the known fighting during the day on the right sector, the withdrawal of a Bn. so necessary in this operation was one which might lead to disaster on active operations.

(b) The withdrawal of this Bde., in the circumstances and their excellent occupation of the new defensive area, is creditable.

### (c) Layout of Bde. H.Q.

#### (i) Rt. Sector.

The Senior Umpire (16 Inf. Bde.) reports that H.Q. was established in good time at each location. Vehicles were well dispersed, slit trenches and latrines properly dug. Camps were broken quickly and trenches filled in. "I" Sec. was well conducted, information passed ~~xxxxxx~~ promptly and the battle maps and summaries kept up to date. Efficient communication was maintained throughout the exercise, and information received was good and passed promptly. "Q" work was most efficient.

#### (ii) Left Sector.

The lay-out of Bde. was good, but protective measures did not appear to be adequate, and sentries were not evident. There was a general lack of latrine accommodation throughout the Bde. The "I" work was good, but at first arrangements for passing on information appeared to be inadequate. Due to changed methods, however, great improvement was made. Communications were inefficient on the new defensive posn. as lines were not taken up on the original posn. soon enough to establish L/T before first light. Verbal orders were generally sketchy with likelihood of creating confusion, especially that relating to the withdrawal, when instructions were passed either by telephone or per L.Os. It is considered that the recce. parties consisting of one responsible officer per Bn., one officer per Coy. and one M.C.O. per pl. were inadequate.

### Left Sector.

Generally the dispositions were good in taking full advantage of defiladed positions and depth, but in some cases a number of sections were observed in position at noon who had not dug in. In other cases errors of crest line defences were apparent.

### Anti-tank Defences.

In every case seen guns were mounted on their portees and were in position where they could be clearly seen by the enemy. Mine fields were laid on both fronts in vital areas such as astride the railway and on the left Bde. sector between the numerous sand dunes in their fwd. positions. The right Bde. reported locations of mines, but there is no record of this action by the left Bde.; this is an important duty to be always maintained. The siting of A.Tk. rifles appeared to be sound throughout the defence, except when fwd. slope defences were taken up. Among the comments in regard to the defence are the following :

- (a) Too much digging on sky lines, a fault shared by the whole of the defence and the enemy.
- (b) Transport badly dispersed, which was particularly evident among enemy units and the left flank of the right defensive sector.

After the activity of the patrols had died down on the left sector, the defensive area was consolidated and tps. re-grouped where necessary. By noon it can be said that the defence was solid and its defeat would entail careful preparations and heavy support to enable it to be carried by infantry attack.

### Action by Enemy.

The Commander planned to carry the defences by an attack with two Bns. starting from points approx. 2500-3000 yds. apart. Zero was originally fixed for 1200 hrs., but altered to 1230 hrs. The main attack was launched from a line immediately south of track through 48409116 and directed towards knoll 48479120. This attack was to be in conjunction with A.F.Vs., which were ~~fixed~~ timed to reach the objective slightly ahead of the Inf. The general plan was a wave of tanks clearing the Inf. and rushing the objective, followed by a second wave passing through the Inf. as they approached more closely the objective. Although the orders were clear, the A.F.Vs. moved fwd. approx. 6 mins. ahead of their start time. This placed them within the area, being shelled by the supporting arty. Immediately the attack developed an A.Tk. gun opened on the approaching vehicles with what would have been devastating effect in real action. As the A.F.Vs. and Inf. reached their first objective they ran into the concentrated fire of Inf. and A.Tk. weapons well placed in the defence. The attack ended by the enemy gaining an intermediate objective occupied by the outpost line. Their action, however, caused the withdrawal of outposts in the defence position to the left of the captured area. The attack by the left Bn. developed from the areas immediately south of BAHIG Station, withered before it had gone half way of its course of approx. 2400 yds. The orders to this Bn. were loose and inconclusive beyond that they were to assist the main attack by advancing on SIDI ROHO.

The main conclusions are -

- (a) The attacks were inadequately supported in their task of carrying prepared positions.
- (b) They were launched from points too far distant to give mutual support, and suffered defeat in detail.
- (c) The orders were not clear and lacked essential details such as start line poorly described, task of supporting Bn. not clearly stated, M.G. tasks at ranges which could not be reached, map references incorrectly given, and the use of the six figure reference was maintained in this action and throughout the operations. There is no record of the errors in the order being rectified.

such as the map reference which placed the A.D.S. approx 2000 yds. in the defender's position.

The attack finished at approx. 1330 hrs. with preparations for an attack at dawn.

#### Withdrawal of Defending Force.

Information was obtained by the enemy, through its Cav., that reserves of the defenders were withdrawing at 1540 hrs. Orders were given to maintain contact by intensified action with special instructions for daylight recce leading to continuous night patrolling. The first sign of intensive enemy action was noted by the right Bde. at 1700 hrs. when enemy tps. opposite their right flank began to withdraw. This appeared to be the prelude to concentration of forces on that front. At 1800 hrs. defensive fire signals were reported. At 1846 hrs. the left of this sector was heavily engaged and at 1912 hrs. they reported one coy. surrounded and the enemy were using carriers, one of which was captured. At 1915 hrs. the defensive line in this area was re-established. The right Bn. left Bde. reported at 1630 hrs. that they had been attacked by A.F.Vs. and Inf. which were held up 100 yds. to their front. At 1941 hrs. the right sector reported being attacked on its centre and they were slowly withdrawing. At 2120 hrs. their left was still obscure, but it was ascertained that they had broken contact with the enemy and it appeared that one Coy. together with the C.O. were either isolated or captured. New Bde. H.Q. were established by the left Bde. at 1950 hrs. and by the right Bde. at 2120 hrs.

The arty. were ready to fire on C.F. and D.F. tasks covering the new positions as follows :

First Battery	2205 hrs.
Second "	2305 "
Third & Fourth Btys	2235 " .

#### General.

1. Recce. flight at 0910 hrs. appeared to be unknown to the tps., who gazed with interest at the machine; much the same occurred the day before.
2. Resulting from a check on Signal communications, it is evident that there is a time lag between T.O.O. and T.H.I.
3. There was a gratifying advance on the good improvement of yesterday in the relationship between units and their R.M.Os.
4. There appears to be some doubt as to the action required by or expected of the Arty. in the event of an S.O.S. Present misconceptions lead to the belief that a call on one sector will bring down protective fire on the whole front.
5. Fwd. tps. proceeding too far nullified the efforts to obtain registration. Arrangements were made for silent registration, but the difficulties of the country and the meagre help obtained from the map could not give a guarantee for accuracy. It is felt that, despite these disabilities, the co-operation between the two arms was so good that substantial covering fire could have been expected.
6. A grave fault shared by all Commanders and particularly in regard to the enemy was the issue of orders from the highest points and with unduly large numbers exposed.
7. Communications are still extremely bad, but this will be reported on after more thorough investigation.
8. The layout of H.Q. was good, with the defenders but there was insufficient opportunity obtainable to express an opinion in regard to that of the enemy.

Brig.  
Chief Umpire.

(iii) Enemy.

The lay-out of Bde. H.Q. was good, but that of Bns. generally poor, as little attention was paid to dispersion of vehicles. It is difficult to follow the apportioning of duties on the staff, and it is considered that efficiency cannot be maintained if the Staff Capt. is used on patrols usually carried out by an N.C.O. or as a Liaison Officer when the situation did not appear to warrant such action. On such occasions, pressure on demands for "A" and "Q" work were the heaviest, and the substitution of the T.O., or by other officers would ~~not~~ appear to lead to a likely breakdown in an important department. The appreciation of the Bde. Comd., together with the issue of maps, followed the movements of his enemy with meticulous accuracy. All typed orders and messages were most vague in their application to the situation for which they were intended.. The written messages were fuller in their detail, and had a more definite application to the situation in hand.

IV. Other Services.

(a) Medical arrangements to service enemy tps. were excellent and the report of the medical umpire is attached.

(b) Artillery -

(i) S.O.S. - a well defined policy is necessary in regard to S.O.S. signals as noted in interim report No. 2.

(ii) It is necessary that it be more clearly understood that Comds. should always have their Arty. officer available for advice while operations are being planned. It is equally essential that Arty. officers should consider it to be a duty to be available for quick call by the Commander.

(c) Sigs. -

Time lag between the writing of the message and its receipt is so long as to be definitely dangerous on active operations. It is suggested that this aspect warrants special study. There is no record of any arrangements for the synchronization of time to cover all units, except at one Conference.

V. Appendices.

Attached are the following appendices :

- A. Cav. Umpire report.
- B. Arty. Umpire report.
- C. Sigs. Umpire report.
- D. Medical Umpire report.
- E. O.Os. issued by 16 Bde.
- F. " " " 17 Bde.
- G. " " " 19 Bde.
- H. Extract of messages received at Div. H.Q. from Formations in Div. units.

Brig.,  
Chief Umpire.



4 Dec. 40.

Patrols.

(a) Right Bde.

Most active patrolling was carried out by both sides throughout the night. At one stage an enemy raid or strong patrol surprised 2/6 Bn. and captured 40 prisoners and a truck. They, in turn, were surprised by a counter attack delivered by the 2/6 Bn. which recaptured the prisoners and truck. The enemy comdr. had gained close contact with our forces early and instructed his coys. to carry out vigorous patrolling as a definite responsibility. Any criticism which might be made on both sides indicates that the troops did not take the patrolling seriously at first. During the day the aggressive spirit was maintained by both parties by attacks and counter attacks which grew in intensity. Up till the time the withdrawal commenced honours were even and both sides did a good job.

(b) Left Bde.

Only distant glimpses of the enemy were obtained before nightfall by our troops. The Bde. Comd. ordered inf. patrols to clear the front to a depth of 1000 yds. and carrier patrols at dawn to penetrate to a depth of 2000 yds. It is suggested that orders giving such a depth, particularly for carriers unsupported by infantry, would rarely be successful; in this instance it was eminently successful to a depth of 1500 yds., which was apparently the limit of their advance. Along this line, it appears that contact was gained with the enemy who were misled into the belief that the line was the front edge of the defence. Enemy patrols endeavoured to seek an entry through the left flank of the position, but failed to gain contact, and up until 1200 hrs. were apparently no closer than 2000 yds. from the defensive position. This indicates that they were either misled by the activity of the patrols from the defence or failed to make good any ground covered or gained by their own patrols during the night. Among the comment which may be made are :

- (a) Enemy patrols on his left flank were both adequate and active.
- (b) Patrols on our right flank were adequate and on the left of this front were particularly active and well instructed, which included carrier patrols.
- (c) Although the planning was good and the original orders clear, those finally issued to the patrol by the junior leader lost their clarity. It is thought that this could be applied to all patrols including the enemy.

Work on defences - Right Sector.

The continuous fighting throughout the night and day occupied the attention of both sides to an extent that tended towards neglect of digging in. When this was done, both sides went to the ridges and sky lines and neglected good defiladed positions. On the left of this front there was a tendency to wrongly accept fwd. slopes for defence which were in full view of the enemy from a flank. The enemy dispositions in this sector created greater faults in regard to crest line defences on their left, but their defiladed positions in the vicinity of the windmill were equal to any of both sides, in fact they could be termed the best defences. They, however, failed in making the good dispositions better by not digging in.

CHIEF UMPIRE'S REPORT - Interim Report.  
at 2245 hrs. 3 Dec. 40.

Movement across Start Line.

Right Bde. moved on time and its leading troops secured first objective at 1103 hrs. The right flank, though parallel with the left, crossed at 1105 hrs.

The Left Bde. appeared to commence its movement at 1037, but its leading tps. did not cross the first objective until 1123 hrs. It appeared that there was a mis-conception as to the locality of the Start Line.

The movement of the Bdes. on to the Start Line appeared to be orderly and went according to plan. There was, however, much congestion on the road from Ikingi caused by the movement of Arty Units, Div. H.Q. and M.T. It is suggested that Div. issue a march table or give parallel lines of advance for each unit.

The movement of tps. from the Start Line to the first objective was good on the right and centre of the right Bde., but there was undue bunching between the ry. line and the inter-bde. boundary.

The movement of the Left Bde. appeared to follow more the lie of the country than that of a defined axis of advance. This caused a big gap between the two Bdes. It is suggested that the principle be maintained when higher authority co-ordinates the movement of two formations by laying down points of contact.

Generally speaking dispersions were well maintained by both formations, except in the following instances:

1. Bunching on the left of the Right Bde.
2. Bunching of Bde. H.Q. left Bde.
3. Bunching in a few instances of tpt. at Bde.

Movement from First to Second Objectives.

(a) Right Bde.

The bunching on the left of the Ry. line was rectified, but became evident with the leading Bn. on the right of the ry. line.

(b) Left Bde.

An endeavour was made to fill the gap between them and the right Bde., but the fault of the big gap persisted till a point almost as far as the second objective.

Commanders of each Bde. called their Bn. Commanders fwd. for a distant recce. of the second objective. This plan was upset by the G.O.C. calling for Bde. "R" gps. to a point on the second objective.

The right or directing Bde., on crossing the first objective, noted that the left Bde. was lagging and consequently halted with their leading Bn. obscured from the view of the main body. On the order being given to continue the march, the main body was unaware of the movement of the leading tps. By the time this was rectified a gap equal to  $\frac{2}{3}$  hour march was created, penalty for which was a late arrival on the second objective to take up their dispositions.

The left Bde. also lagged, but without apparent reason and did not catch up on the second objective until the same time as the right Bde.

During the major part of the movement both Bdes. covered their front with Carriers, which was particularly good with the left Bde.

Flanks with both Bdes. were covered similarly.

On approaching the second objective the A.T. Coy. 1st Bde. proceeded in column of route along the track leading from SIDI ROHO into enemy territory. Umpiring painted the picture which was availed of by the Commander A.T. Coy.

During the advance it was noted that the clock hour halt was not observed by either Bde. The right Bde. halted at approx. 1130 hrs. to enable the left to come fwd. to line up with them.

From this period of operations the chief lesson arises, proving that it is imperative that some form of wireless communication be established to control the movement. With the wide front and great depth of a force moving across broken country, contact and cohesion will be lost unless the Commander can control his own force and be aware of the movements of his neighbours. With the surface conditions of the day due to rain, it was impossible for M.C.D.Rs. to operate. It became equally difficult for Liaison Officers even when provided with M.T. This applies equally to the effort of Div. to control the movement of their Comd. It is strongly recommended that wireless be used with a very short radius, say 3 miles. It is interesting to note that all Commanders in the Western Desert use wireless in this manner during Exercises, and maintain the impossibility of conducting them without its use.

#### Occupation of Defensive Position.

Both Bdes. shared equally the error of slowness in occupation of their positions. This may be attributed largely to the unpleasant conditions which did not inspire the tps. to an activity that is desirable in these circumstances. There appeared to be a long gap between the issue of the outline plan by the Bde. Comd. and the subsequent orders by lower formations with the attendant reces. It would also appear that a liberal amount of time was allowed for the statement of the outline plan by Div. H.Q.

#### Artillery.

The movement of the Artillery within the right Bde. was good and the co-operation between Commanders is reported to be excellent. The broken ground on the left defiladed most of the movement of the left and rear of the left Bde. which denies an accurate statement concerning the Arty. in that quarter, but it appeared that uncertainty as to the position of the Arty. in the "Box" caused confusion in the early stages with the left Bde.

#### Orders.

The right Bde. resorted to the practice of verbal orders as against the use of much paper. The reverse appeared to be the practice with the left Bde. Verbal orders appeared to work well except in isolated cases, when there was some distortion on reaching the junior comds.; this will be overcome by checking back and initialling notes which must be taken, and by further practice.

Among other errors to be rectified is the tendency for M.T. to bunch when halted, which also applies to recce. gps.

#### Information.

The right Bde. knew the dispositions of the enemy down to its 3 Bns. in rough outline by 1500 hrs.

The messages sent to Div., informing them of the situation up until 2230 hrs. were as follow :

Right Bde.	29	R.A.A.	2
Left "	5	R.A.E.	2
Div. Cav.	15	Div. to Bdes.	7

Medical. There appears to be a distinct improvement in the liaison between the unit and its M.O. There was still some lag in the case of the rear Bns. during the initial stages, which can be only overcome by permission to use wireless to call fwd. the unit commanders. A separate report will be given by M.Os.

Enemy. A separate report will be submitted.

Brig.,  
Chief Umpire.

H.Q., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
IKINGI MARYUT,  
12 Dec '40.

NEWS SUMMARY No. 34.

0600 hrs 11 Dec 40 to 0600 hrs 12 Dec 40.

MIDDLE  
EAST:

Latest reports from the Western Desert state that SIDI BARRANI has been captured. SIDI BARRANI was the main advanced base of the occupying forces and contained large numbers of troops and much material.

Both troops (including three generals) and equipment (comprising tanks, lorries, armoured cars and field guns) have been captured by the advancing British forces.

M.E. Headquarters last night announced that advanced elements of our mechanised forces were operating westwards of BARRANI and further captures had been made. The prisoners captured at BARRANI are in addition to the 6000 captured in the earlier operation.

R.A.F. operations again covered the land force movements and ten enemy planes were destroyed during the operation. One British plane was lost. A squadron of Australian fighters accounted for four of the lost enemy machines. Eight of the enemy planes shot down were a new type of FIAT fighter of fast speed, but which, up to date, had been little used on this front.

Italians are evidently too busy in the Desert to take advantage of the full moon and thus continue their raids on ALEXANDRIA. Presumably all available aircraft are being used in an endeavour to stem the British onslaught.

It is suggested that Mussolini is calling on German aid and rumours to this effect are wide-spread throughout the BALKANS.

TURKEY has denied the AXIS propaganda implication that she would intervene as a 'peace-maker' between GREECE and ITALY. A report supporting the Turkish denial states that the Turkish Foreign Minister, M. Sarajoglu, was not nor has been in GREECE to act as a mediator or for any other reason.

A reported agreement between TURKEY and BULGARIA affecting an agreement which would forbid the passage of foreign troops through either country is rapidly gaining ground.

It is reported that the Soviet reply to the German threat to push troops through BULGARIA has resulted in a Soviet threat to occupy the Black Sea ports of BURGAS and VARNA if such a move was made.

The Greek advance continues despite bad weather. Positions in the neighbourhood of POGRADETZ were taken at the point of the bayonet. Considerable gains have been made, particularly by the capture of material, including many guns.

Italian re-action to the present situation is nothing short of extraordinary. Broadcasts from that source state that the people are well-disciplined and that they were taking no notice of High Command changes. They were being charged to remember the Italian success in Ethiopia.

LONDON:

London spent another quiet night, air activity over the capital being very small in comparison to previous efforts on the part of the raiders. A few bombs were dropped in East Anglia where only minor damage was done.

RAF continued their bombardment of targets in occupied territory and Western Germany where large fires were started in dockyards, railway junctions and aerodromes.

NEW YORK:

M. Paderewski yesterday criticised American help to Britain stating that Americans were under the impression that the present collaboration by them was sufficient. He said that the exchange of destroyers for naval bases should be considered as a deal rather than as a contribution - Contribution means sacrifice.

FRANCE:

Reports from French sources state that German troops in PARIS fired on Austrian troops who voiced their dis-satisfaction.

V. J. Schofield, Lieut,  
B.I.O. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

LESSONS.1. H.Qs.

- (a) Layout - More attention is required to the layout of Bn. H.Q. Vehicles were badly dispersed and there were instances of siting H.Q. on fwd. slopes or in positions which could be seen to a flank.
- (b) Protection - There were instances of inadequate protection of Bde. and Bn. H.Q. Sentries were not posted, and there did not appear to be arrangements for personnel to occupy positions to defend H.Q.
- (c) Consideration is desirable to the improper employment of S.Os. on extraneous duties, particularly that relating to officers responsible for "Q" duties.
- (d) Orders - There were cases of orders being too sketchy and indefinite. Errors in map references and incorrectly stating Bns. were noted and no record is available of corrections sent out.
- (e) "I" Battle maps were well maintained and information quickly obtained and accurate in detail. There was a time lag in passing this information to Div., flank formations and subordinate Comds.
- (f) Bde. H.Q. should maintain a duty roster for night duties.

2. Recon.

On numerous occasions Bde. and Bn. recon. were carried out on high points and with an unduly large number of officers present. This is considered to have been the worst aspect of the Exercise.

3. Dispositions, etc.

- (a) There remains a distinct tendency towards bunching of tps. and tpt. while on the move. Sections and vehicles should be dispersed at approx. 100 yds. interval.
- (b) Although Bde. H.Q. is given a route, there should be an axis of advance laid down for the Force.
- (c) It is essential that points of contact be laid down when two or more formations or units are moving on parallel lines of advance.
- (d) The importance of formations passing a Start Line on time was not observed and is an essential requirement on the part of Commanders.
- (e) Loss of direction and converging towards the centre, or to a flank, requires the consideration and attention of Commanders.
- (f) Attention is required to prevent undue gaps between the leading Bn. and those in rear.
- (g) There is an undue prevalence to occupy positions on a sky line or forward slopes, and a neglect to take full advantage of defiladed positions.
- (h) There was a distinct tendency to neglect both locality defence and depth in defence.
- (i) Patrols - Although plans were good and the C.Os. orders were clear, orders given by subordinate Commanders were vague. Practice in taking notes of instructions and the initialling of them by the person issuing the order appear to be essential. There were occasions when patrols moved without regard to the necessity for silence and cases were noted when tps. smoked and talked loudly. In the case of good patrolling and where the enemy were at a distance, the enemy was misled in regard to defence dispositions.

4. Action of Troops - (a) Digging in was, in some cases, poor, and in others completely neglected.

(b) Despite the fact that troops displayed less interest in defence than in aggressive action, a greater display of interest could have been expected.

(c) The knowledge tps. are expected to have of H.Q. and the general situation was generally good, but there were cases of complete ignorance of essentials.

(d) There was a widespread neglect to post sentries over working parties, groups and tps. consuming their rations. The importance of vigilance at all times requires to be stressed.

#### 5. Transport.

- (a) Dispersion of transport in the vicinity of H.Q. was bad in many instances.
- (b) Losses in transport would have been suffered through placing them on crests and in re-entrants where they could be seen by the enemy.
- (c) There appears to be a complete disregard to the fact that speed raises dust, and consequently discloses the intention of the Commander.
- (d) Many vehicles moved with lights at night, but there is a general improvement in this regard.
- (e) Vehicles in B Echelon were generally well dispersed, but further attention to the importance of this is necessary.
- (f) Complete disregard to the avoidance of bright fires for cooking, particularly at night, is apparent.

#### 6. Communications.

- (a) The difficulties of moving large forces on a wide front and to a great depth are increased by wireless silence, particularly in country which defilates one unit from the other.
- (b) L/T - The importance of establishing L/T rapidly was neglected in some instances.
- (c) Reliance upon M.C.D.R. during the weather conditions experienced cannot be guaranteed.
- (d) The work of Liaison Officers and the use made of them was an outstanding feature of good work.
- (e) Delay in messages through the signal service appears to be far too great. Attention is necessary to delays caused between T.O.O. and T.H.I. on the part of the sender.

#### 7. Sanitation.

There was an unwarranted disregard to the provision of latrines. It is suggested that troops deployed as in the case of the Exercise, require latrines on the basis of 1 per section.

H.Q., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
IKINGI MARYUT,  
13 Dec '40.

NEWS SUMMARY No. 35.

0600 hrs 12 Dec to 0600 hrs 13 Dec.

Operations in the western desert continue satisfactorily. Communiques report the capture of over 20,000 prisoners and a large quantity of materials. It is suggested that the number of troops captured represent about one tenth of Mussolini's North African Army.

The equipment captured should prove useful as it includes tanks, armoured cars, guns, lorries, and large quantities of ammunition.

The prisoners include three Commanders - Generals Gallina, Pescatore and Mezzari. This makes for a very difficult situation as far as the enemy is concerned as the replacement of these generals can hardly take place at short notice.

The fleet continues to shell the retreating Italians and their present bases at SOLLUM and BARDIA. No casualties have been suffered by our naval forces.

The RAF brought down nine more enemy planes on Wednesday thus bringing the total to 40 covering the three days fighting. During these three days operations only four British planes have been lost.

As a result of RAF raids many Italian aerodromes have been rendered unfit for use and upon hangers and grounded aircraft the hail of bombs has resulted in chaos as far as Italian aerial activity is concerned in this sphere of activities.

Mr Churchill in a speech to the House of Commons, spoke of the 'victory' in the Western Desert and the resultant blow dealt to Mussolini's hopes. The advance, he said, was similar to the German advance in France - a rapid encircling movement together with incessant bombing from the air which had completely demoralised the enemy.

The Greeks continued their advance along the front in ALBANIA yesterday. Great progress has been reported in the coastal sector. The Italians are in full retreat and general rain is contributing to their discomfort.

Berlin remains indifferent to her ally's plight. Communiques in German newspapers relating to the Italians engagement against the Greek forces have been relegated to back page news.

His Excellency the British Ambassador to the United States of America, Lord Lothian, died at the British Embassy, Washington, at 3 o'clock yesterday.

Lord Lothian was fifty-eight years of age and was very popular with Americans.

German raids on England yesterday were conspicuous by their absence. The RAF on the other hand continued their activities over Germany. Their operations included the bombing of Dockyards and railway junctions of importance.

A German steamer, the RHEIN, has been captured by a Dutch destroyer off CUBA. The crews attempt to scuttle the ship before capture was unsuccessful.

J. V. Schofield. Lieut,  
B.I.O. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

H.Q., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
IKINGI MARYUT,  
12 Dec '40.

NEWS SUMMARY No. 34.

0600 hrs 11 Dec 40 to 0600 hrs 12 Dec 40.

MIDDLE  
EAST:

Latest reports from the Western Desert state that SIDI BARRANI has been captured. SIDI BARRANI was the main advanced base of the occupying forces and contained large numbers of troops and much material.

Both troops (including three generals) and equipment (comprising tanks, lorries, armoured cars and field guns) have been captured by the advancing British forces.

M.E. Headquarters last night announced that advanced elements of our mechanised forces were operating westwards of BARRANI and further captures had been made. The prisoners captured at BARRANI are in addition to the 6000 captured in the earlier operation.

R.A.F. operations again covered the land force movements and ten enemy planes were destroyed during the operation. One British plane was lost. A squadron of Australian fighters accounted for four of the lost enemy machines. Eight of the enemy planes shot down were a new type of FIAT fighter of fast speed, but which, up to date, had been little used on this front.

Italians are evidently too busy in the Desert to take advantage of the full moon and thus continue their raids on ALEXANDRIA. Presumably all available aircraft are being used in an endeavour to stem the British onslaught.

It is suggested that Mussolini is calling on German aid and rumours to this effect are wide-spread throughout the BALKANS.

TURKEY has denied the AXIS propaganda implication that she would intervene as a 'peace-maker' between GREECE and ITALY. A report supporting the Turkish denial states that the Turkish Foreign Minister, M. Sarajoglu, was not nor has been in GREECE to act as a mediator or for any other reason.

A reported agreement between TURKEY and BULGARIA affecting an agreement which would forbid the passage of foreign troops through either country is rapidly gaining ground.

It is reported that the Soviet reply to the German threat to push troops through BULGARIA has resulted in a Soviet threat to occupy the Black Sea ports of BURGAS and VARNA if such a move was made.

The Greek advance continues despite bad weather. Positions in the neighbourhood of POGRADETZ were taken at the point of the bayonet. Considerable gains have been made, particularly by the capture of material, including many guns.

Italian re-action to the present situation is nothing short of extraordinary. Broadcasts from that source state that the people are well-disciplined and that they were taking no notice of High Command changes. They were being charged to remember the Italian success in Ethiopia.

LONDON:

London spent another quiet night, air activity over the capital being very small in comparison to previous efforts on the part of the raiders. A few bombs were dropped in East Anglia where only minor damage was done.

RAF continued their bombardment of targets in occupied territory and Western Germany where large fires were started in dockyards, railway junctions and aerodromes.

NEW YORK:

M. Paderewski yesterday criticised American help to Britain stating that Americans were under the impression that the present collaboration by them was sufficient. He said that the exchange of destroyers for naval bases should be considered as a deal rather than as a contribution - Contribution means sacrifice.

FRANCE:

Reports from French sources state that German troops in PARIS fired on Austrian troops who voiced their dis-satisfaction.

V. J. Schofield, Lieut,  
B.I.O. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.



H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.  
I K I N G I M A R Y U T.  
11 Dec. 40.

NEWS SUMMARY No 33.

0600 hrs 10 Dec. - 0600 hrs 11 Dec.

LONDON.

Air attacks on England have again fallen off, the only raid signal last night being ~~at~~ East Angles. The night before a few planes were sighted off the South Coast, but their activity was limited to reconnaissance. One of these planes was shot down in the North Sea.

Long range guns were engaged in a duel yesterday for a short time, and later guns on Cape GRIS NEZ were bombed by the R.A.F.

German industry and submarine bases were again heavily attacked by the R.A.F. Hundreds of incendiary and heavy bombs were dropped causing great destruction. Fires from the submarine bases were visible 50 miles away.

HERR HITLER'S SPEECH TO THE MULTITUDE. The multitude in this case was not very great and the howls and tirades of the **Fuhrer** were somewhat subdued. He made no mention of Italy's plight and in fact was silent on Italy's part in the war. Actually in this speech came the first hint of foreboding for the future. His first reference on this subject was that if Germany lost then it would be the end for everything Germans dreamed of. There was a half hidden hint to the workers that he would be calling on them for greater effort and then an outburst that he did not have any inferiority complex when opposed to Britain. In this respect he said he was determined to keep the spoils he had already gained and if Britain ventured to stop him then he would destroy her. The only problem confronting Germany, Hitler contended in his speech, was that of transport which greatly interfered with the work on hand.

Hitler contended that bombing raids on Britain by German planes were a reprisal for damage done by the R.A.F. to private property in Germany. He suggested in his speech that his own bombers were careful and ~~chase~~ only nights for operations when targets were visible so in order to spare civil populations as much as possible. Hitler's express policy was one of caution and as a cautious man considered the gains made by Germany worth while.

Hitler blamed Mr Churchill for starting the war, who he contended had planned subsequent events prior to the commencement of hostilities. Germany, he said, had not the slightest wish to start any trouble at all.

The remainder of the speech was devoted to his usual denunciation of the Treaty of Versailles - Applause on the part of the workers at the termination of the speech was hardly comparable to previous efforts.

LONDON.

It has been announced in London substantial increases are to take place in the strength of the Coastal Command thus enabling it to play a bigger part in the defence of Britain.

Allied shipping losses have been considerably reduced during the last few weeks. For the week ending Dec 1 the total tonnage lost amounted to approximately 52000 tons or 10000 tons less than the average lost during the calculating period.

Dr. Benes ex Prime Minister of Czecho-Slovakia in a speech yesterday gave reasons which, in his opinion, had already decided the war. 1. Germany's difficulties in occupied territory. 2. Internal economy. 3. Potential armaments output of Britain and the U.S.A. 4. The liability which Italy has proved to Germany.

It was announced in London yesterday that two German spies had been executed. They were convicted on the 22 Nov. after having been caught carrying small wireless sets each weighing about one pound together with a considerable amount of money. During their trial they suggested that they had been told they would be relieved by invading forces.

This is the first official pronouncement on the spy question since the beginning of the war.

GREECE.

The Greek struggle continues with success in the southern sector and also the centre region of activities. During advances made yesterday many important points were taken at the point of the bayonet. Though Italians destroyed some materials large quantities were nevertheless captured by the Greeks.

GREECE.

A report states that forces are gathering in the northern sector which makes it possible that a large battle is imminent.

The R.A.F. and Greek Air Force are harrowing the retreat.

MIDDLE EAST.

Operations in the western desert continued satisfactorily yesterday. The last communique issued yesterday stated 4000 prisoners had been taken together with a number of guns.

The R.A.F. raided dromes from DERNA to SIDI BARRANI destroying twentytwo planes. Three British planes were lost but two of their pilots were safe behind our lines.

The Navy is pounding bases along the coast and the advance continues.

Contact has been established west of SIDI BARRANI between the Navy and Army where, a report states, two Italian divisions have been cut off. These divisions are separate from the 4000 prisoners previously referred to.

LONDON.

The Prime Minister Mr. Winston Churchill in the course of a speech yesterday remarked that the position in the western desert is now being clarified. Previously neither the army or the Air Force were available in sufficiently large numbers to undertake an offensive; consequently a defensive role had been allotted to them. Now that the forces had been substantially augmented the offensive could be pushed ahead. This reinforcing program particularly applied to the Air Force which now held the whip hand; which was essential to the advance of land forces.

Asked whether he had any information whether the advance would be pushed still further west he said the time was not yet ripe for any more information to be passed on.

NEW YORK.

The Duke and Duchess of Windsor have arrived in New York, where the Duchess will undergo a dental operation.

CANADA.

It was announced yesterday that a destroyer of the Canadian Naval Forces had been torpedoed whilst engaged in the task of submarine hunting in the Atlantic. The destroyer made port with a number of casualties.

H.M. merchant cruiser CARNARVON CASTLE left Monte Video yesterday after repairs had been effected. The vessel left considerably inside her time limit.

1000 Dec 9  
H.Q., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
IKINGI MARYUT,  
10 Dec '40.

NEWS SUMMARY No. 32

0600 hrs 9 Dec. to 0600 hrs 10 Dec 40.

GREECE: On the central and southern fronts in ALBANIA the Italians are still retreating to VALONA.

The latest Greek communique states that Greek forces have passed ARGYROCASTRO and are continuing to press forward. Reports also state that burning and pillaging by the retreating Italians continues.

The RAF together with Greek air forces continue to hammer the columns in their retreat and in addition are bombing ships in the harbour of VALONA.

LONDON: The Lord Mayor of London has opened a fund to help the Greeks who have been rendered homeless.

MIDDLE EAST: The RAF made a heavy attack in the Middle East yesterday when a town near TRIPOLI was raided. Eight planes were destroyed on an aerodrome and fires from hangers were visible 50 miles away. All our planes returned safely.

GREECE: The British-American Ambulance Corps have donated 25 ambulances to Greece. They will be sent from America shortly.

LONDON: The heaviest attack over Britain for some time took place last night. The raid was not as intense as those of September, which is interesting in view of the fact that the German radio announced that the raiders came from 'drones in HOLLAND, FRANCE and BELGIUM.

The attack started soon after dark and planes came over singly. Flares were dropped followed by fire bombs, but the fire brigades assisted by civilians dealt with many of them before any damage could be done.

However a Convent, 5 hospitals, an orphanage and a nurses home were hit. There were some casualties at one hospital.

Two of the bombers were shot down. One of the defending 'Spitfires' was piloted by a Brisbane lad.

Two enemy planes were shot down over ESSEX yesterday in addition to those brought down during the night raid.

The German press admits the RHINE and RUHR districts are suffering from nightly attacks delivered by the RAF.

The RAF continued their night attacks when they bombed blast furnaces and steel works at COLOGNE and ESSEN.

MELBOURNE: Mr Hughes announced that plans had been completed for driving enemy raiders from Australian waters.

CAIRO: Successive communiques are arriving from the Western Desert, the first starting on Saturday. This first communique stated that there was a 'No man's Land' which consisted of eight miles of desert.

Mechanised units and infantry went forward within striking distance and waited. Enemy planes failed to locate them and the attack started at dawn south of SIDI BARANI - an entire enemy camp was captured together with 500 prisoners.

The British forces are extending their flank 20-30 miles from the coast and the situation is considered satisfactory.

The RAF are assisting by bombing behind the enemy lines. 20 tons of bombs were dropped on aerodromes in the rear areas.

General Wavell announced that an enemy commander has been killed and the 2 1/2 taken prisoner.

H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
IKINGI MARYUT,  
9 Dec. '40.

NEWS SUMMARY No. 31

0600 hrs 8 Dec. to 0600 hrs 9 Dec.

GREECE:

Further success attends the Greek drive through ALBANIA. It was officially announced last night, that the towns of ARGYROCASTRO and DELVINO have now been occupied, thus constituting a line which extends right across Southern Albania.

General Metaxis, in a speech last night stated - 'One seventh of ALBANIA had been freed from ITALIAN control in addition to one quarter of its population.

It is reported that the Chief of the ITALIAN Navy has resigned - the fourth important member of the Italian Staff to resign within a fortnight.

The mystery surrounding the deaths of two further Italian Generals who were involved in an air accident at PIEDMONT on Saturday has succeeded in creating doubt in many Italian minds when they remember numerous similar incidents in the not too distant past.

The Italians are experiencing increasing difficulty during the progress of their retreat as all strategic points are occupied by the Greek forces. There are only two main roads which can be used by the Italians in their retreat towards VALONA and these are being continually harassed by the Greeks.

Italian sea planes yesterday bombed CORFU but no damage resulted from the attack.

Acting in conjunction with the Greek forces the RAF continue their attacks on Italian columns and bases. In addition a successful attack was made on an Italian ship off the coast of Albania yesterday by a plane from the RAF.

CAIRO:

The RAF bombed and did considerable damage to two supply dumps at ASSAR during a raid yesterday.

LONDON:

London was treated to a 'night off', last night. German bombers have not been so active during the last 24 hours as during the previous few days.

In attacks made by the RAF objectives were DUNKIRK, CALAIS, and the dockyard at BREST. Barracks were set on fire and considerable damage was done to warehouses.

An American source suggests that German output has been reduced by 50% as a result of RAF raids. Germans are working day and night to clear up the ruins. Hamburg has suffered severely and her industrial production is almost at a standstill.

Raids on DUSSELDORF yesterday lasted for over an hour during which period many military objectives engaged the attention of R.A.F. bombers.

The Carnarvon Castle which engaged a German raider at long range a few days ago will take about 72 hours to repair though the engagement lasted 90 minutes. Large sea and air forces are now actively searching for the raider which is said to be about 10,000 tons, fast and heavily armed.

British aid to SPAIN includes 6000 tons of manganese ore. Britain has also purchased the Spanish crop of bitter oranges. Arrangement for the purchase of the sweet orange crop are proceeding.

H.Q., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
IKINGI MARYUT,  
7 Dec 40.

NEWS SUMMARY No. 30.

0600 hrs 6 Dec. to 0600 hrs 7 Dec 40

ITALY: The Chief of the Italian General Staff, Marshal Badoglio, has been relieved of his duties at his own request. The move is considered to be a protest to Mussolini at the recklessness and uselessness of the attack on GREECE.

General Cavalero, 60 years of age, has succeeded 69 year old Marshal Badoglio.

GREECE: Late last night it was announced that the ADRIATIC supply port of SANTI QUARANTA had fallen into Greek hands. This was one of the ports used for landing Italian troops in preparation of their attempted invasion of GREECE.

The destroyer, earlier reported to have been bombed off the coast of ALBANIA is now stated to have been waiting to put into port at SANTI QUARANTA for the purpose of evacuating Italian Officers, the rest of the army marching back to VALONA to be taken off. It appears that these Italian Officers now run the risk of being caught in the Greek net.

The greek advance continues. Prisoners are being captured in large numbers and the opinion is expressed that the Italian Army is in a bad way. The Greek advance is characterised by the systematic occupation of strategic points, thus compelling further withdrawals by the enemy.

RAF and Greek planes are continually bombing Italian troop concentrations and military barracks.

On Wednesday 10 Italian planes were shot down. Pilots who carried out raids on the Royal Arsenal and Fiat Works stated that the smoke from the resultant fires reached a height of 3000 feet.

6000 Italians from the Army in ALBANIA have so far been interned in YUGO-SLAVIA. An officer among them said that the troops did not want to fight and discipline was bad.

During raids by the RAF on Italian positions yesterday, opportunity was taken to take further photographs of damage done during previous raids on TARANTO harbour.

LONDON: Gifts to the Empire from Colonial Governments since the outbreak of war total 18 million pounds.

The Netherlands East Indies have also contributed in the form of 'Spitfires' - 23 in all.

In the House of Commons yesterday, a 'peace motion' was defeated by 341 votes to 4. Mr Attlee commenting on the result of the motion stated 'Impossible to negotiate with such men - Hitler's abominable dictatorship will not be tolerated.

YUGO-SLAVIA: The Yugo-Slavian Prime Minister stated yesterday that he was confident that his country would not be involved in the war. He emphatically added however, that should any foreign power attempt to intimidate the country they would find them prepared to meet any eventuality.

LONDON: The Admiralty released the following information yesterday: H.M. Armed Merchantman, 'CARNARVON CASTLE' was fired on yesterday by an enemy raider at long range. The fire was returned but the raider kept at long range and eventually made off at high speed to the north. It is not known whether the Carnarvon Castle inflicted damage on the raider or not. The merchantman was slightly damaged and there were a few casualties.

MIDDLE EAST: There is no change in the situation in the WESTERN DESERT, though enemy activity has increased slightly during the last few days.

There is an apparent sign of friction between the Army and the Fascist Party the cause of which is the dislike of the army to political intervention in army affairs.

H.Q., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.  
EKINGI MARYUT,  
6 Dec 40.

NEWS SUMMARY No 29

0600 hrs 5 Dec 40 - 0600 hrs 6 Dec.

Further Greek success in Central and Southern Sectors - In Central Sector six more heavy guns were captured and immediately turned on the enemy. Greek 'dive' bombers added by the RAF are attacking mechanised Units.

Two hits were scored on an Italian destroyer in the Mediterranean yesterday. A Greek newspaper says 'Italians having been defeated on sea, land and in the air are now bombing the civilians in CORFU.

In AFRICA the enemy unsuccessfully tried to resist British Armoured Cars which charged I.G. positions. Eventually the Italians fled, some taking refuge in trees. Heavy casualties resulted to the enemy forces. Only two Britishers were killed.

British overseas trade is improving. At present Britain have some 2500 ships at sea which number is supplemented by nearly one million tons of American shipping.

Addressing workers in Britain, Mr Churchill told them to put every ounce of energy into production.

The main air attack on England last night was centred on a coastal town. So good, however was the barrage set up that many of the raiders failed to get through; those that did drop their bombs quickly and left for home without delay. A Cinema and house were hit.

London had two early raids last night; on each occasions of only small extent. Daylight raids on the capital did not stop H.M. the King carrying out engagements and he later visited Portsmouth and Southampton where he inspected docks and shipyards. At Portsmouth he talked to some of the men who brought from America the recently purchased destroyers.

The main RAF attack on Italy was at the Royal Arsenal where they inflicted heavy damage. For 12 hours last night the RAF made raids over Western Germany. Main damage created as a result of these attacks was on a steel works which employs 6000 workers. Other raids were on the Rhine and Calais.

Thirteen planes were shot down yesterday and another by AA - two British planes are missing but only one pilot was lost.

American opinion summing up the situation considers that Britain will pull through and win.

Signed V. J. Schofield, Lieut.  
B.I.O., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
IKINGI MARYUT,  
1 Dec. '40.

NEWS SUMMARY No. 28.  
0600 hrs 30 Nov. to 0600 hrs 1 Dec

- LONDON : A naval battle took place yesterday at the Firth of Forth. Hits were scored on enemy ships but no results are yet known. The destroyer 'JAVALIN', with the King's cousin on board, was damaged but later reached port safely.
- ATHENS : In the Mediterranean, the Greek destroyer, 'ETOS' successfully engaged and sank an Italian submarine.  
The Greek airforce operating in ALBANIA raided enemy columns yesterday, using machine guns during the attack. The enemy quickly dispersed and fled.  
Italians are renewing resistance, but the Greeks have strengthened their position, particularly west of KORITZA. In the north of the town difficulty is being experienced on account of the heavy snow.  
The RAF continue to assist the Greek forces and yesterday seven Italian fighters were brought down in less than one minute.  
Air victims in GREECE total 604 killed (including 220 women and children) and 1070 injured.
- RUMANIA : The funeral of the late Prime Minister of RUMANIA took place yesterday. The Chief mourner was the head of the Government. Among the many wreaths was one sent by the Government of Austria. Although the funeral was kept secret, 6000 persons attended. The killing of the late Prime Minister has aroused disgust throughout the country.  
A message received through the HUNGARY wireless states that the situation in RUMANIA has gone beyond the control of the Government.
- FRANCE : 70,000 French have been expelled from their native land. They have had to abandon homes and personal associations because of their opposition to Nazi oppression.  
15,000 French workers have been conscripted and sent to GERMANY.
- BATAVIA : The Netherlands East Indies continue to resist Nazi bullying. They are hard and resolute in their determination. 'We will settle the account later' - say the Dutch.
- LONDON : Three planes were shot down over ENGLAND today. Only a few of the raiding machines succeeded in penetrating the British defences. Bombs were dropped in S.E. England and Home Counties. Little damage was done. A hospital was hit and two ambulance men were killed at their post. The RAF lost two planes during the engagement but both pilots are safe.  
After causing direct hits on military objectives over GERMANY all British planes returned safely to their bases.
- INDIA : Income Taxes in INDIA will be increased by 25% as from tomorrow. Postal and Telegraph rates will also be subject to an increase.  
A scheme is announced whereby Indian workers are to receive training in ENGLAND.
- THE SUDAN : An enemy patrol was successfully ambushed and a recon force was met with artillery fire from our troops.
- LONDON : The Prime Minister, Mr Winston Churchill, received congratulations from all parts of the world yesterday, on reaching 66 years of age. Among gifts received was one of £35,000 for the purchase of 7 'Spitfires'.
- INDIA : India has contributed and sent to Greece £3,750 in appreciation of their success against the common enemy.
- LONDON : H.M. Ship 'Oranta' was successfully launched in SYDNEY, Australia, today by Lord Gowrie.

*V. J. Schfield*  
.....Lieut.,  
B.I.O., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS

By

Brogadier S.G. Savige, D.S.O., M.C., E.D., Comd. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

No. 178

14 Dec 40.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

"G" SECTION.

189. CAMERAS: D.R.O. 1120/40.

Ref. G.S. I. No. 63 dated 7 Dec 40, Cameras will be stored by personnel with their surplus kit. Units will make arrangements to collect and store cameras at Surplus Kit Store for personnel who are not storing kit.

190. HEADINGS ON CORRESPONDENCE. D.R.O. 1122/40.

Units will discontinue including location with the unit and date in the headings of correspondence. Under NO circumstances is the unit name to be connected with the particular camp or area in which it is stationed.

191. A.I.F. CENSOR STAMPS. D.R.O. 1123/40.

Units holding A.I.F. Censor Stamps (issued in Australia) will return them to this HQ by 18 Dec 40.

*J. W. Smith Capt.*  
.....Major,  
Bde. Major 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

"A" & "Q" SECTION.

192. CAPTURED WAR MATERIAL. D.R.O. 1124/40.

The system of collection and disposal of captured war material is revised.

It will in future be handed in to the nearest Salvage Dump. Articles of an important nature will be handed over to the Officer Commanding or to a responsible N.C.O. of the Salvage Unit.

The Officer Commanding Salvage Unit will inform G.S. (1) of what has been handed in, and will ask for instructions as to disposal.

Technical reports required by G.S. (1) on any particular article will remain an Ordnance responsibility. Salvage will arrange for inspection of stores in conjunction with the local Ordnance representative.

193. AMMUNITION COMPONENTS: D.R.O. 1125/40.

(a) Ammunition components shown below are urgently required, and will no longer be treated as expendable stores. They will be recovered by units and returned to Base Ammunition Depots through O.O's i.e Ammunition Railheads.

S.A.A. & R.F.

Cartons .55", .303", .320", .380", and R.F. .22", Cylinders R.F. 22", "Tear Off" lids of linings (all S.A.A. boxes) Belts ammunition Stripless .303". Bandoliers Cotton and Chargers.

GRENADES.

Gas Check Plates. )  
Base Plugs. ) Grenades  
Split Rings and Pins. ) No 36  
Keys. )  
Empty Cylinders for dets. )  
Cylinders for Cartridges SARG. for Nos. 36, 58, 59, & 63.  
Grenades.  
Protecting caps for Grenades 58, 59 & 63.  
Brassards from Grenades Hand.  
A.T. Type.

MORTAR AMMUNITION.

Fuze Caps.  
Tail covers and cups.  
Carriers.  
Tail unit, from recovered.  
Smoke.  
Bombs.

Spare secondary charges. CARTRIDGES ILLUMINATING. & SIGNAL.

Fired Cartridges.  
Tear Off Lids of linings,

GENERATOR SMOKE.

Lids.  
Striker Sticks.

GUN AMMUNITION.

Grumets.  
Fuze Caps.  
Fired Cartridge Cases.

P.T.O.



R/O 193 Continued.  
EMPTY CYLINDERS FOR.

Detonators (complete with packing)	Flares.
(for all types) and Rectifiers.	Thunderflashes.
Gunshot Primer.	Primers.
Ctges S.A.R.G.	Tubes.
Fuzes.	Fuze Safety.
Ctges R.F.	

(b) Particular attention will be given to the recovery and return of Belts Ammunition Stripless, .303".

(c) The above instructions will be brought to the notice of all ranks by means of Formation and Unit Orders.

194. TENTAGE. D.R.O. 1126/40.

It has been noticed that unoccupied tents are being left standing with loose Guy ropes, etc. This practice is harmful to tents as they are liable to be torn and damaged in high winds. Tents R.D. are especially liable to damage and a number of cases have recently occurred.

Officers commanding units will arrange for standing tentage to be inspected daily to ensure that Guy ropes, etc., are properly tightened.

195. M.T. REPAIRS. D.R.O. 1127/40.

When proceeding to L.D's or A.A.S.C. workshop sections drivers WILL accompany their vehicles and assist where possible.

196. DRIVING ARMY VEHICLES. D.R.O. 1128/40.

Attention is drawn to the following extracts from Standing Orders A.I.F. (Pamphlet 3, paras 19 and 20)

19. Private Purposes. The use of Australian Military Vehicles for Private purposes is prohibited.
20. Officer's Driving Vehicles. Officers may drive Australian Military Motor Vehicles only in the following exceptional circumstances :-
  - (a) When the driver is incapacitated.
  - (b) In an emergency, or
  - (c) To afford relief to the driver on long journeys.

The above will be repeated in all unit orders.

197. PERSONNEL OF RUSSIAN ORIGIN. D.R.O. 1129/40.

Units will submit at earliest returns showing number of personnel of Russian origin on strength. Nil returns are NOT required.

198. SPEED LIMITS. D.R.O. 1130/40.

Ref D.R.O. 1077/40, cases are still occurring of 30-ewt lorries being driven at a speed considerably in excess of 30 m.p.h. Comds and all Officers will take more energetic action to ensure that speed limits set out in the above mentioned D.R.O. are rigidly observed.

199. EXCHANGE INDENTS (A.F.G. 1032). D.R.O. 1131/40.

When completing Exchange Indents (A.F.G. 1032) units must take care to fill in column marked 'for exchange' not column 'deficient', this column is for R.A.O.C. use only.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
 .....Capt.  
 Staff Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS

By

Brogadier S.G. Savige, D.S.O., M.C., E.D., Comd. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

No. 178

14 Dec 40.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

"G" SECTION.

189. CAMERAS: D.R.O. 1120/40.

Ref. G.S. I. No. 63 dated 7 Dec 40, Cameras will be stored by personnel with their surplus kit. Units will make arrangements to collect and store cameras at Surplus Kit Store for personnel who are not storing kit.

190. HEADINGS ON CORRESPONDENCE. D.R.O. 1122/40.

Units will discontinue including location with the unit and date in the headings of correspondence. Under NO circumstances is the unit name to be connected with the particular camp or area in which it is stationed.

191. A.I.F. CENSOR STAMPS. D.R.O. 1123/40.

Units holding A.I.F. Censor Stamps (issued in Australia) will return them to this HQ by 18 Dec 40.

*J. M. Smith Capt.*  
.....Major,  
Bde. Major 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

"A" & "Q" SECTION.

192. CAPTURED WAR MATERIAL. D.R.O. 1124/40.

The system of collection and disposal of captured war material is revised.

It will in future be handed in to the nearest Salvage Dump. Articles of an important nature will be handed over to the Officer Commanding or to a responsible N.C.O. of the Salvage Unit.

The Officer Commanding Salvage Unit will inform G.S. (1) of what has been handed in, and will ask for instructions as to disposal.

Technical reports required by G.S. (1) on any particular article will remain an Ordnance responsibility. Salvage will arrange for inspection of stores in conjunction with the local Ordnance representative.

193. AMMUNITION COMPONENTS: D.R.O. 1125/40.

(a) Ammunition components shown below are urgently required, and will no longer be treated as expendable stores. They will be recovered by units and returned to Base Ammunition Depots through O.O's i.e Ammunition Railheads.

S.A.A. & R.F.

Cartons .55", .303", .320",  
.380", and R.F. .22", Cyl-  
inders R.F. 22", "Tear Off"  
lids of linings (all S.A.A.  
boxes) Belts ammunition Strip-  
less .303". Bandoliers Cotton  
and Chargers.

GRENADES.

Gas Check Plates. )  
Base Plugs. ) Grenades  
Split Rings and Pins. ) No 36  
Keys. )  
Empty Cylinders for dets. )  
Cylinders for Cartridges SARG.  
for Nos. 36, 58, 59, & 63.  
Grenades.  
Protecting caps for Grenades 58, 59 & 63.  
Brassards from Grenades Hand.  
A.T. Type.

MORTAR AMMUNITION.

Fuze Caps.  
Tail covers and cups.  
Carriers.  
Tail unit, from recovered.  
Smoke.  
Bombs.  
Spare secondary charges.

CARTRIDGES ILLUMINATING. & SIGNAL.

Fired Cartridges.  
Tear Off Lids of linings,

GENERATOR SMOKE.

Lids.  
Striker Sticks.

GUN AMMUNITION.

Grummets.  
Fuze Caps.  
Fired Cartridge Cases.

P.T.O.

R/O 193 Continued.

EMPTY CYLINDERS FOR.

Detonators (complete with packing)  
 (for all types) and Rectifiers.  
 Gunotton Primer.  
 Ctges S.A.R.G.  
 Fuzes.  
 Ctges R.F.

Flares.  
 Thunderflashes.  
 Primers.  
 Tubes.  
 Fuze Safety.

(b) Particular attention will be given to the recovery and return of Belts Ammunition Stripless, .305".

(c) The above instructions will be brought to the notice of all ranks by means of Formation and Unit Orders.

194. TENTAGE. D.R.O. 1126/40.

It has been noticed that unoccupied tents are being left standing with loose Guy ropes, etc. This practice is harmful to tents as they are liable to be torn and damaged in high winds. Tents R.D. are especially liable to damage and a number of cases have recently occurred.

Officers commanding units will arrange for standing tentage to be inspected daily to ensure that Guy ropes, etc., are properly tightened.

195. M.T. REPAIRS. D.R.O. 1127/40.

When proceeding to L.A.D's or A.A.S.C. workshop sections drivers WILL accompany their vehicles and assist where possible.

196. DRIVING ARMY VEHICLES. D.R.O. 1128/40.

Attention is drawn to the following extracts from Standing Orders A.I.F. (Pamphlet 3, paras 19 and 20)

19. Private Purposes. The use of Australian Military Vehicles for Private purposes is prohibited.
20. Officers Driving Vehicles. Officers may drive Australian Military Motor Vehicles only in the following exceptional circumstances. :-
  - (a) When the driver is incapacitated,
  - (b) In an emergency, or
  - (c) To afford relief to the driver on long journeys.

The above will be repeated in all unit orders.

197. PERSONNEL OF RUSSIAN ORIGIN. D.R.O. 1129/40.

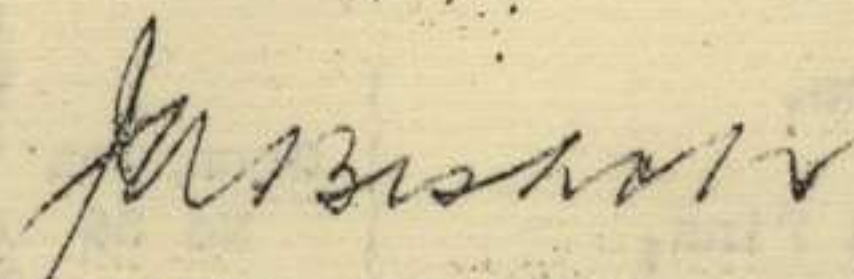
Units will submit at earliest returns showing number of personnel of Russian origin on strength. Nil returns are NOT required.

198. SPEED LIMITS. D.R.O. 1130/40.

Ref D.R.O. 1077/40, cases are still occurring of 30-cwt lorries being driven at a speed considerably in excess of 30 m.p.h. Comds and all Officers will take more energetic action to ensure that speed limits set out in the above mentioned D.R.O. are rigidly observed.

199. EXCHANGE INDENTS (A.F.G. 1032). D.R.O. 1131/40.

When completing Exchange Indents (A.F.G. 1032) units must take care to fill in column marked 'for exchange' not column 'deficient', this column is for R.A.O.C. use only.

  
 .....Capt.  
 Staff Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

ROUTINE ORDERS.

*War Day*

by Brigadier S. G. SAVIGE D.S.O., M.C., E.D., COMDG. 17 AUST. INF. BDE.

IKINGI MARYUT.

No. 177.

12 Dec. 40.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

"G" Section.

NIL.

*W. H. Brock*  
Major,  
Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

"A" and "C" Section.

176. BLACKOUT DISCIPLINE.

D.R.O. 1115.

All officers proceeding on leave to PALESTINE are informed that strict blackout regulations are in force in JERUSALEM and that disciplinary action will be taken in cases of non-compliance with local P.A.D. orders.

177. COURTS MARTIAL.

D.R.O. 1116.

The following sentences have been awarded by District Courts Martial and confirmed by C.O.C. 6 Aust. Div.

<u>Name of accused.</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Date of Offence</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Date of confirmation</u>
NX 4903 Sgt. John Hilton SPENCE. 2/3 Bn.	Conduct to the prejudice of good order & military discipline - using Govt. vehicle for private purposes.	7 Nov. 40	Reduced Ranks.	10 Dec. 40.
VX 3873 Pte. Basil George BLITZ. 2/6 Bn.	(1) Using in-subordinate language to his superior Officer (2) Striking his superior officer (3) A.W.L.	24 Oct. 40	42 days Detention	10 Dec. 40.
NX 8362 Pte. Victor James TONKS. 2/2 Bn.	Disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer	18 Oct. 40	28 days Detention	30 Nov. 40.
NI 1352 Pte. Donald MILLS. 2/2 Bn.	Disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer	15 Aug. 40	181 days Detention	30 Nov. 40
NI 2832 Pte. Walter Bernard JOHNSON. 2/2 Bn.	A.W.L. (two charges) total absence 30 hrs. 30 mins.	3/4 Nov. 40.	120 days Detention	30 Nov. 40.

The above will be promulgated in all unit orders.

P.F.O.

178. N.C.Os. - REDUCTION OF :

D.R.O. 1117.

In any case where application is made for the reduction of an N.C.O., the application will embody a certificate by the C.O. to the effect that A.M.R. & C. 224 has been complied with, and that the N.C.O. concerned is informed of the action that has been taken.

179. BLANKETS.

D.R.O. 1118.

Action is being taken to increase winter scale of blankets to four (4) per all ranks. Issue will be made as blankets are made available from Base Ordnance Depot, BARBARA.

Indent is being submitted by 6 Aust. Div. Units which hold any blankets in excess of 3 per all ranks will advise the excess number to D.A.D.O.S. immediately, in order to avoid unnecessary stocks being delivered.

180. ABSENTEES & DESERTERS.

D.R.O. 1119.

In order that accurate records of absentees and deserters may be kept, units will report as necessary to D.A.P.M. giving particulars of any man absent without leave for a period of 24 hours. This report will be submitted by telephone and confirmed in writing.

After absence for 7 days, a descriptive return (Form Bl24) will be forwarded to the D.A.P.M. in triplicate.

Notice will also be given to the D.A.P.M. immediately an absentee returns to his unit.

181. DRESS.

S.D. will be worn except when C.Os. consider that weather or working conditions warrant K.D., in which case all ranks must be dressed uniformly.

182. RETURNS.

(6 Aust. Div. A389 of 11 Dec. 40).

It is notified that <sup>copies</sup> copies of AFW 3008 and AFW 3009 are no longer required.

*J. Bishop, head*  
Capt.;  
S/Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES.

ROUTINE ORDERS

By

Brigadier S. G. Savige, D.S.O., M.C., E.D., Comd. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

IKINGI MARYUT.

No. 176

11 Dec 40.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

"G" SECTION.

NIL.

*M. S. A. C.*  
.....Major,  
Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

"A" & "Q" SECTION.

169. ORDNANCE VOUCHERS. D.R.O. 1107/40.

The spaces provided on Indents and Vouchers for 'Address for Stores' and 'Address for Vouchers' will NOT be filled in.

170. BLANKETS. D.R.O. 1108/40.

Units which have not been issued with the third blanket (Winter Scale) per man, will submit to this HQ statement of quantity required.

171. A.I.F. KIT STORE. D.R.O. 1109/40.

This establishment at No. 26 Rue Echelles Des Cereales, ALEXANDRIA, is now connected by telephone to ALEXANDRIA Sub-area (KOM EL DICK) exchange. Extention 55.

172. TANKS, WATER, 400 GALLON. D.R.O. 1110/40.

Units in possession of any of the above, from whatever source received, will submit returns to this HQ forthwith showing the number held, and whether fitted with taps for use from lorries or as standing tanks. If on loan to or from another Unit, this will be stated.

173. ROUTINE ORDERS - REPLICATION OF. D.R.O. 1111/40.

Units will not republish in their own orders paragraphs from the Orders of superior formations, e.g., Middle East, B.T.E., etc., unless such paragraphs have already been published in D.R.O's.

174. CLAIMS FOR LAUNDRY PAYMENTS. D.R.O. 1112/40.

Units should submit Form T.S.4, made out in favour of Commanding Officer, for amounts paid to laundry since 1 Nov, not exceeding the scale approved by R.O.1057. Claims must be supported by receipts, and must show the period of claim and the number of Officers, and of other ranks who have paid for washing over that period.

The maximum fortnightly scale for messes shall be :-

<u>NUMBER OF MEMBERS.</u>	<u>OFFICERS.</u>	<u>SERGEANTS.</u>
31 or more.	P.T. 75	P.T. 50.
21 to 30	P.T. 65	P.T. 40.
11 to 20	P.T. 55	P.T. 30.
10 or under.	P.T. 45	P.T. 20.

Where receipts for payment have been signed in a laundry book, the C.O. will certify that he has personally inspected the laundry book, and that the amount of the claim is substantiated by signature therein.

P.T.O.

Reimbursement of individuals and messes will be made by Unit Comds. who will obtain and file receipts therefore. One separate claim will be submitted in favour of C.O.'s for all messes in their Unit which have paid for washing, showing the period and the average number of Officers or Sergeants over that period and attaching receipts.

175. TRAFFIC CONTROL. D.R.O. 1113/40.

In order to check the unauthorised use of vehicles, a traffic control post has been established at the barrier on the ALEXANDRIA Road. Reports from this Post will be forwarded to Units for such action as is necessary.

*W. J. G. G. G.*  
.....Capt.  
Staff Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

NOTICE.

LOST: Between 2/6 Bn Lines and Bde H.Q. -

1 Haversack - containing K.D. Slacks, shirt, towel, 3 prs Sox, hair oil, etc.

Finder please return this H.Q.

*War diary*

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ROUTINE ORDERS.

by  
Brigadier S. G. SAVIGE D.S.O., M.C., E.D., COMDG. 17 AUST. INF. BDE.

KINGI MARYUT. No. 175. 9 Dec. 40.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

"G" Section.

NIL.

*[Signature]*  
Major,  
Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

"A" and "G" Section.

165. SMALL PARTIES OF TROOPS TRAVELLING BY TRAIN : D.R.O. 1103.

In order to avoid over-crowding as much as possible, and to concentrate troops travelling to certain trains, the following arrangements have been made :-

- (1) A train from Western Desert leaves MERSA MATRUH (HATAWA) at 1600 hrs. daily and runs to CAIRO, arriving at 0545 hrs. next day. Troops for Canal Zone will travel by this train and after breakfast at E.F.I. Canteen at BAB EL HADID Barracks will travel in a reserved coach by train leaving CAIRO at 0710 hrs.
- (2) In the return direction a train leaves CAIRO at 2200 hrs. daily, due at MERSA MATRUH (HATAWA) at 1130 hrs. next day. Troops from Canal Zone will travel by trains leaving Port SAID at 1840 hrs., SUEZ at 1720 hrs., and ISMAILIA at 1939 hrs.
- (3) Troops for stations between ALEXANDRIA and EL HAMMAM will travel from CAIRO by train leaving at 1230 hrs., changing at ALEXANDRIA into train departing at 1550 hrs., due EL HAMMAM at 1819 hrs.
- (4) Third class coaches are attached daily to trains leaving CAIRO at 0710 hrs., and 1830 hrs. to PORT SAID, and connecting train to SUEZ. Troops for PALESTINE will travel on 1830 train. A reserved coach is provided on the PALESTINE train.

All personnel travelling on these trains to be provided with 3rd. Class warrants and/or half fare vouchers for portion of journey not covered by leave warrant. At least 48 hrs. advice of small parties should be given to R.T.O., KANTARA, and H.Q. Movement Control, Canal Area, in order to make necessary adjustments at KANTARA. Any parties arriving without notice may be refused entrainment, or alternatively travel in the unreserved portion of the train and be subject to any consequent over-crowding.

(5) In all cases as much advice must be given as possible, certainly not less than 24 hrs., to ensure adequate arrangements. (G.H.Q. G.O. 320).

166. COOKERS PORTABLE, NO. 2 & 3 - SPARES FOR : D.R.O. 1104.

Sanction has been accorded for the issue of three spare Nuts, retaining - for securing pricker needles in jets of Cookers, Portable, No. 2 & 3 - to each Cooker, Portable, No. 2 and 3 held on charge.

Indents for numbers required will be submitted to D.A.Ds.O.S. (G.H.Q. G.O. 323).

P.T.O.



167. TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

D.R.O. 1105.

Many cases have recently occurred in which Commanding Officers have held drivers not to blame for collisions on the grounds that the vehicle with which they had collided was at fault. In many cases it is considered that the drivers could have avoided collision in spite of the bad driving of the other vehicle. Collisions have taken place when the W.D. vehicle has been overtaking another vehicle which has turned to the left without warning. The moment to pass another vehicle must be carefully and correctly chosen by the overtaking vehicle.

A large proportion of accidents are also due to excessive speed. Attention is drawn to D.R.O. 1077.

Risks cannot be taken with impunity in this country. The Military driver i/c of a W.D. vehicle is not entitled to assume that other drivers will always take the correct action in an emergency, and they should accordingly drive with corresponding care.

It must be impressed on all drivers that only in exceptional cases can a driver involved in a collision be entirely blameless.

C.Os. will in future give such cases the fullest consideration before deciding that the overtaking W.D. Vehicle is NOT to blame. If a driver is not considered blameless, it is the duty of the Commanding Officers to take disciplinary action.

It cannot be too strongly pointed out that an endeavour to save a few seconds or minutes in traffic may result in a vehicle being immobilised for days, or even weeks, with a consequent loss to the efficiency of the forces. The momentary carelessness of a driver may mean that reinforcements and supplies are not delivered to the fighting forces at a time when they may be urgently required, or that an essential vehicle is out of action.

168. WAR EQUIPMENT TABLES :

D.R.O. 1106.

All units will report forthwith, direct to A.D.O.S. 1 Aust. Corps, whether they are in possession of G.1098 War Equipment Tables. If in possession, the following information will be included : (Reports will be forwarded to Bde. H.Q.)

- (a) Serial Number.
- (b) Date.
- (c) Amendments held.

*[Signature]*  
S/Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Capt.

NOTICE.

LOST - STEEL HELMET.

A Steel Helmet marked NX 1129 Sigmn. LOCKYER H.H., was lost in 16 Aust. Inf. Bde. area during Div. exercise 3-5 Dec. 40. If found, to be returned to H.Q. Sigs. 6 Aust. Div.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE      ORDERS

By

Brigadier S. G. Savige, D.S.O., M.C., E.D., Comd. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

IKINGI MARIUT.

No 174

7 Dec 40.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

"G" SECTION.

NIL

*[Signature]*  
.....Major,  
Bde. Major, 17 Aust Inf. Bde.

"A" & "Q" SECTION

161. 2/1 C.C.S. - RETURN OF PERSONNEL TO UNITS. D.R.O. 1099/40.

The following procedure will be observed for movement of personnel back to Units when discharged fit from 2/1 C.C.S. :-

UNITS IN DIV AREA (other than BURG el ARAB).

2/1 C.C.S. will notify formations or units by signal through D.R. leaving approx. 1000hrs the previous day, quoting numbers by units.

Formations or units will arrange tpt to report 2/1 C.C.S. at 10.50 hrs to collect.

162. MAINTENANCE OF M.T. VEHICLES: D.R.O. 1100/40.

Damage has occurred to Big Ends and Main Bearings when vehicles have been parked in splinter-proof pits on steep slopes, in such a way that the oil has drained away from the oil pump. When engines have been started the bearings have run dry quickly.

This damage is to be avoided by providing gentle slopes in anti-splinter pits. Where this is not possible, vehicles will be parked so that oil runs to, and not away from, the pump.

163. MAILBAGS - IMPROPER USE OF. D.R.O. 1101/40.

A report has been received that Mailbags are being used by Units as Containers, floor mats, etc. C.O's will take disciplinary action in any case where a mail bag is detained or used in a manner contrary to the provisions of 6 Aust. Div. Adm. Inst. No 66.

164. BOUNDS MAPS - ALEXANDRIA. D.R.O. 1102/40.

These are being distributed to all units on list 'B'. Any Unit leaving ALEXANDRIA area will return the map to D.A.P.M., 6 Aust. Div.

*[Signature]*  
.....Capt.  
Staff Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

NOTICES :-

F O U N D.

During recent Div. Exercise :- One set web equipment and three (5) 'BOYS' MAGAZINES. This Equipment is at present held by H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

The 17 Aust. Inf. Bde., desire to acknowledge gratefully the receipt of toothpaste and Cigarettes from the Australian Comforts Fund.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ROUTINE ORDERS

By

Brigadier S. G. Savige, D.S.O., M.C., E.D., Comd. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

IRINGI MARYUT.

No. 173

6 Dec 40.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

"G" SECTION

Nil.

*S. G. Savige*  
Major,  
Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

"A" & Q SECTION

156. GENEVA CONVENTION: D.R.O. 1094/40.

Under the terms of this Convention, provision is made for the privilege of personnel employed exclusively in the care of the sick and wounded.

Attention is drawn to the provision of Sec. 68 of F.S.R. Vol. I., 1930, as amended up to 1939 in this connection.

Units will ensure that the following action is taken to provide for the protection of personnel enumerated:—

- (i) MEDICAL OFFICERS, MEMBERS OF A.A.N.S. & CHAPLAINS.  
Obtain through A.D.M.S. 6 Aust. Div. armllets and IDENTITY CERTIFICATES (AFW 3050) for individuals.
- (ii) Other Ranks of MEDICAL SERVICES.  
Obtain through A.D.M.S. armllets for individuals and make the following entry on P24 of A.B.W. F5. "Protected under provision of the Geneva Convention 1929 Articles 9 (Para 1) and 21 (Para 2)".
- (iii) OFFICERS or O/R's of Combatant Branches of the Service attached to Medical Units.  
Make the following entry on a slip gummed to P24 of A.B.W. F5. "Protected under the provisions of the Geneva Convention 1929 (Articles 17 (para 3) and 21 (para 2) whilst attached to this Unit)".
- (iv) REGIMENTAL STRETCHER BEARERS.  
Indent for Armllets bearing in RED the letters "S.B." on white drill. Make the following entry on a slip gummed to P24 of A.B.W. F5. —  
"STRETCHER BEARER"  
"Protected under provisions of the Geneva Convention 1929, whilst carrying out these duties. Articles 9 (Para 2) and 21 (Para 2).

The entries referred to above will be signed by or for the C.O. of the Unit of which personnel are members and the entries will be stamped with the Official Stamp of such Unit.

157. FIELD SECURITY SERVICE: D.R.O. 1095/40.

There have been instances of failure by Units to assist personnel of this service when asked to do so. It is emphasized that this is NOT a police service for locating and punishing military offences, but it operates for the safety of the whole force. Assistance will be given to members of the Service by all Units whenever requested. This order will be repeated in Unit and equivalent R/O's.

P.T.O.

158. SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE: D.R.O. 1096/40.

Officers and O/R's may claim 125 millimes per day when absent from camp on leave for two days or more. This amount, however, is not payable to personnel quartered at the premises conducted by the Australian Comforts Fund at ALEXANDRIA.

159. VEHICLE MARKING: D.R.O. 1097/40.

The changes in Unit signs set out in 1 Aust. Corps G.S. Inst Nom 30 will be carried out by Unit personnel assisted, where necessary, by L.A.D's.

Supplies of paint will be available shortly and the changes are to be completed by 17 Dec. 40.

160. RAILWAY CROSSINGS: D.R.O. 1098/40.

(a) Vehicles must not cross the E.S.R. Railway line except at recognised level crossings.

(b) Level crossings are not to be constructed without prior reference to Div. H.Q. who will arrange for the work to be done by the E.S.R.

.....Capt.  
Staff Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

NOTICE.

LOST: - During Div. Exercise 21/23 Nov. - <sup>empty</sup> One red-coloured Trunk with lock and key, and small chain underneath, together with large shovel.

Finder please return to D.A.P.M's Office, H.Q., 6 Aust. Div.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ROUTINE ORDERS.

by

Lt-Col. A.H.L. GODFREY M.C., E.D., ADMINISTERING COMD. 17 AUSTR.  
INF. BDE.

IN THE FIELD.

No. 172.

4 Dec. 40.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

"G" Section.

NIL.

*P. M. Harvey*  
Capt.,  
A/Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

"A" and "Q" Section.

149. TRAFFIC ROUTES - ALEXANDRIA. D.R.O. 1086.

Portion of the Rue Fouad el Ahwal between Rue Gerbel and the junction of Rue Sultan Hussein and Avenue Belgique, will be closed to all traffic for 20 days from 2 Dec. 40.

The following route has been laid down for and will be followed by all Military traffic moving to ALEXANDRIA or returning.

Rue BELGIQUE  
Rue ABDEL KADER  
Station Square - Cross over Rue NEBI DANIEL and KING  
OSMAN into  
Rue LER KHEDIVE  
Rue IBRAHIM LER  
Rue Koubri EL TARIKH  
Rue du MEX

Civil and Military Police will be posted at all important points to assist and direct drivers.

150 ATLANTIC HOTEL : D.R.O. 1087.

The Atlantic Hotel, ALEXANDRIA, is a hostel for other ranks only, and is out of bounds to Officers, except those who have duty with the Aust. Comforts Fund representatives who control the Hostel.

151. DISTRIBUTION OF COMFORTS. D.R.O. 1088.

The following supplied by Aust. Comforts Fund will be issued on Friday 6 Dec. by A.A.S.C. to all units excluding 19 Aust. Inf. Bde. as per ration strength 3 Dec.

One (1) tube Tooth Paste per man.  
One (1) pkt. Cigarettes per man.

152. FOULED GROUND. D.R.O. 1089.

All areas used as Latrine sites on bivouacs, exercises or security posts will be properly filled in on leaving with a seal of 6" of earth, oiled if possible, and clearly marked with an L of stones to denote fouled ground.

153. GIFTS TO NATIVES. D.R.O. 1090.

Cases have occurred recently of waste food, etc. being given as gifts to natives in camp areas. Emphasis is laid on the orders excluding natives from camp areas unless employed on Contracts and in possession of passes. Natives employed in camp areas will not be encouraged by gifts.

P.T.O.

154. RESPIRATORS, ANTI-GAS - HEAD HARNESS ; D.R.O. 1092.

Head harness of Respirators which has been in constant use becomes insufficiently strong and should be replaced immediately. Periodical inspection of Respirators will be made, particular attention being paid to the condition of elastic webbing. Webbing elastic  $\frac{3}{4}$ " is expendable and replaceable as a unit repair.

155. AMMUNITION - TAMPERING WITH : D.R.O. 1093.

In no circumstances will units attempt to break down ammunition. Any defective rounds which are found will be made the subject of a report to D.A.D.O.S. 6 Aust. Div.

*V. J. Schfield*  
S/Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

I.O.  
A.A.  
AUSTRIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ROUTINE ORDERS

By

Brigadier S. G. Savige, D.S.O., M.C., E.D., Comd. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

IKINGI MARYUT.

No. 171

2 Dec '40

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

"G" SECTION

146: TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS D.R.O. 1082/40.

The following instruction issued in 6 Aust. Div. circular 3507/G dated 7 Oct 40 is repeated :-

"When called, answer the telephone by giving your rank, name and appointment; the caller should then give you his for identification purposes, after which, the conversation should commence.

*S. G. Savige*  
.....Major,  
Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

"A" & "Q" SECTION.

147: DISCIPLINE: Soldiers under arrest: D.R.O. 1084/40.

Attention is drawn to A.M.R & O. 396 (i) which provides that :-

"In the Permanent Forces at all times, the cases of soldiers in arrest will be disposed of daily (Sunday, Good Friday, and Christmas Day excepted)"

If owing to circumstances beyond the control of the unit it is not possible to deal with cases daily, there must be a minimum of delay.

148: MEAT SAFES: D.R.O. 1085/40.

Units which are not in possession of Meat Safes will draw them immediately from R.E. Dump, AMIRIYA, to complete to scale.

*S. G. Savige*  
.....Capt.  
Staff Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

NOTICES

FOUND: Rifle Bolt E27351 was found in MATRUK train on 27 Nov. It is now in possession of D.A.P.M. 6 Aust. Div.

FOUND: During recent Div Exercise. Rifle No. 1573.  
Helmet Steel, marked 572.  
The above articles are now in possession of 2/2 Fd. Regt.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: The 17 Aust. Inf. Bde., gratefully acknowledge receipt from the AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND of Soap, boot polish, fruit, milk and library books.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ROUTINE ORDERS

By

Brigadier S. G. Savige, D.S.O., M.C., E.D., Comd. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

IRINGI MARYUT.

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H.Q., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
IKINGI MARYUT,  
2 Dec '40.

- 2/5 Bn.,
- 2/6 Bn.,
- 2/7 Bn.

On the forthcoming exercise the following advices are required to be sent to this H.Q.

- (1) SITREP - by message.
  - (a) Dawn report. )
  - (b) At 0600 hrs and at end of each two-hourly interval ) Nil reports
  - hereafter. ) Required.
  - (c) Any important information immediately. )
- (2) LOCATION REPORTS -  
Immediately following moves.
- (3) SHELLING REPORTS -  
As occur - but in absence of reports, NIL report at 1900 hrs.
- (4) AIR ACTION -  
As occur - Form :- Pro forma and headings for -
  - (a) Type of attack.
  - (b) Type of Aircraft.
  - (c) Effect obtained by AA fire.
- (5) AIR ACTIVITY -  
As occur - but in absence of reports NIL report at 1900 hrs.
- (6) GAS.  
As occur -  
Method of advice :-
  - (a) E.O. Message giving type gas used if known direct to Div rptd this HQ and Flanking Units,
  - (b) Detailed Report covering :-
    - (i) Method of attack.
    - (ii) Areas affected.
    - (iii) Concentrations.
    - (iv) Casualties.
    - (v) Description of gas and sample.
    - (vi) Method used to mark contaminated area.
- (7) DISPOSITION MAPS -  
As soon as **fixed** positions are occupied.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
.....Major.  
Bde. Major. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

War Diary

16

SECRET.

H. Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
IKINGI MARYUT.  
11 Dec. 40.

Security.

1. Brig. Comd. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. has been appointed Comd. of Zone B for general security.

2. Area of Zone B is bounded by -

East Rd. CAIRO - ALEXANDRIA to EL AMIRIYA - thence continuation of rd. to 49429303 - thence continuation to SEA.

West 48258840 - 48709040 - BAHIG - SEA.

South 51309000 - 48258840.

Note : Div. H.Q. is excluded from Zone B.

3. The particular responsibility of Units within the zone is in respect to :

- (a) Parachutist and air-borne troops.
- (b) Lights and signals that may guide hostile aircraft.
- (c) Reporting in detail air raids and the effects thereof.
- (d) The presence of unauthorized persons in their zones. Observation of the zone is the duty of existing A.A. posts and security guards.

4. (a) Information regarding para. 3 (a) will be reported immediately to Bde. H.Q.

On receipt of this information the zone Comd. may order the occupation of selected defensive positions as under:

(i) Outer perimeter defences. On receipt of this order :-

"A" Bn. remains on security duties.

"B" Bn. will occupy Coy. localities as under as a defended line of observation.

KNOLL "30" in 490920.

KNOLL 49209202.

ROUND KNOLL in 493918.

HILL "40" in 495918.

"C" Bn. in mobile reserve own lines.

Cav. Regt. in mobile reserve own lines.

A.A.S.C. in reserve own lines.

Fd. Regt. prepared to support any action by observed fire as ordered.

(ii) Inner perimeter defences. In the event of a surprise enemy attack when no time is allowed to implement the above plan, this order will be issued when :-

"A" Bn. remains on security duties.

Fd. Regt. will occupy line 49109218 - 49289204 incl.

"B" Bn. " " " 49289204 excl. - 49499205 - 49509210.

Sigs. " " " of contour 49559216 - 49609220.

Bde. H.Q., R.A.A., Pro. will occupy line of contour 49609224 - 49689230.

A.S.C. will occupy line 49689230 - 49849240.

A.F.W. " " " 49849240 - 49979240.

Cav. Regt. in mobile reserve own lines.

"C" Bn. in " " " " "

In this plan all units will muster maximum available S.A. weapons to hold the line indicated.

- (b) Information regarding para. 3 (b) will be reported immediately to Bde. H.Q., giving the following information :
- (i) Time seen.
  - (ii) From where seen (map ref.)
  - (iii) Bearing of light or signal.
  - (iv) Estimated distance from O.P.
  - (v) Location of light (if possible).
- (c) Information regarding para. 3 (c) will be reported immediately after an air raid by message beginning "SITREP" and franked "IMPORTANT", to reach this H.Q. by 1000 hrs. and full details on the approved form (appendix A) as soon as possible.
- (d) Unauthorized persons will be placed under guard and Bde. H.Q. informed.

5. Lights. Unit comds. will ensure that all lights, either Military or Civil, are obscured, but in the case of any suspicious lights, the persons operating them will be taken into custody and this H.Q. informed immediately in accordance with para. 4 (b).

*Snock*  
Major,  
Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

Distribution :

Copy No. 1	2/5 Bn.
2	2/6 Bn.
3	2/7 Bn.
4	6 Aust. Cav.
5	R.A.A.
6	2/1 Fd. Regt.
7	Sigs. 6 Aust. Div.
8	A.A.S.C.
9	2/2 A.F.W.
10	6 Aust. Pro. Coy.
11	2/1 Fd. Amb.
12	2/2 Fd. Amb.
13	6 Aust. Div.
14	Bde. I.O.
15	File.
16-17	War Diary.
18-25	Spares.

Hostile Air Action.

Report of \_\_\_\_\_ Bn. Post at \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

No. of planes \_\_\_\_\_ Markings \_\_\_\_\_

Type \_\_\_\_\_

Direction of Approach and withdrawal. \_\_\_\_\_

No. and description of bombs dropped. \_\_\_\_\_

Probable objective. \_\_\_\_\_

Casualties. \_\_\_\_\_

Damage. \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Unexploded bombs. \_\_\_\_\_

Action by post. \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

This return to be rendered in the event of any hostile Air Action.

H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
IKINGI MARYUT,  
9 Dec. '40.

NEWS SUMMARY No. 31

0600 hrs 8 Dec. to 0600 hrs 9 Dec.

GREECE:

Further success attends the Greek drive through ALBANIA. It was officially announced last night, that the towns of ARGYROCASTRO and DELVINO have now been occupied, thus constituting a line which extends right across Southern Albania.

General Metaxis, in a speech last night stated - 'One seventh of ALBANIA had been freed from ITALIAN control in addition to one quarter of its population.

It is reported that the Chief of the ITALIAN Navy has resigned - the fourth important member of the Italian Staff to resign within a fortnight.

The mystery surrounding the deaths of two further Italian Generals who were involved in an air accident at PIEDMONT on Saturday has succeeded in creating doubt in many Italian minds when they remember numerous similar incidents in the not too distant past.

The Italians are experiencing increasing difficulty during the progress of their retreat as all strategic points are occupied by the Greek forces. There are only two main roads which can be used by the Italians in their retreat towards VALONA and these are being continually harassed by the Greeks.

Italian sea planes yesterday bombed CORFU but no damage resulted from the attack.

Acting in conjunction with the Greek forces the RAF continue their attacks on Italian columns and bases. In addition a successful attack was made on an Italian ship off the coast of Albania yesterday by a plane from the RAF.

CAIRO:

The RAF bombed and did considerable damage to two supply dumps at ASSAR during a raid yesterday.

LONDON:

London was treated to a 'night off', last night. German bombers have not been so active during the last 24 hours as during the previous few days.

In attacks made by the RAF objectives were DUNKIRK, CALAIS, and the dockyard at BREST. Barracks were set on fire and considerable damage was done to warehouses.

An American source suggests that German output has been reduced by 30% as a result of RAF raids. Germans are working day and night to clear up the ruins. Hamburg has suffered severely and her industrial production is almost at a standstill.

Raids on DUSSELDORF yesterday lasted for over an hour during which period many military objectives engaged the attention of R.A.F. bombers.

The Carnarvon Castle which engaged a German raider at long range a few days ago will take about 72 hours to repair though the engagement lasted 90 minutes. Large sea and air forces are now actively searching for the raider which is said to be about 10,000 tons, fast and heavily armed.

British aid to SPAIN includes 6000 tons of manganese ore. Britain has also purchased the Spanish crop of bitter oranges. Arrangement for the purchase of the sweet orange crop are proceeding.

H. Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
IKINGI MARYUT.  
11 Dec. 40.

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  - West 48258840 - 48709040 - BAHIG - SEA.
  - South 51309000 - 48258840.
- Note : Div. H.Q. is excluded from Zone B.
3. The particular responsibility of Units within the zone is in respect to :
  - (a) Parachutist and air-borne troops.
  - (b) Lights and signals that may guide hostile aircraft.
  - (c) Reporting in detail air raids and the effects thereof.
  - (d) The presence of unauthorized persons in their zones. Observation of the zone is the duty of existing A.A. posts and security guards.
4. (a) Information regarding para. 3 (a) will be reported immediately to Bde. H.Q.  
 On receipt of this information the zone Comd. may order the occupation of selected defensive positions as under:
  - (i) Outer perimeter defences. On receipt of this order :-
    - "A" Bn. remains on security duties.
    - "B" Bn. will occupy Coy. localities as under as a defended line of observation.
      - KNOLL "30" in 490920.
      - KNOLL 49209202.
      - ROUND KNOLL in 493918.
      - HILL "40" in 495918.
    - "C" Bn. in mobile reserve own lines.
    - Cav. Regt. in mobile reserve own lines.
    - A.A.S.C. in reserve own lines.
    - Fd. Regt. prepared to support any action by observed fire as ordered.
  - (ii) Inner perimeter defences. In the event of a surprise enemy attack when no time is allowed to implement the above plan, this order will be issued when :-
    - "A" Bn. remains on security duties.
    - Fd. Regt. will occupy line 49109218 - 49289204 incl.
    - "B" Bn. " " " 49289204 excl. - 49499205 - 49509210.
    - Sigs. " " " of contour 49559216 - 49609220.
    - Bde. H.Q., R.A.A., Pro. will occupy line of contour 49609224 - 49689230.
    - A.S.C. will occupy line 49689230 - 49849240.
    - A.F.W. " " " 49849240 - 49979240.
    - Cav. Regt. in mobile reserve own lines.
    - "C" Bn. in " " " " " "

In this plan all units will muster maximum available S.A. weapons to hold the line indicated.

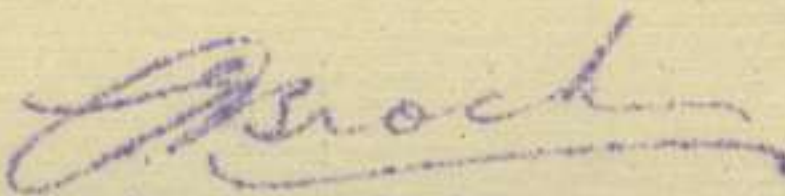
(b) Information regarding para. 3 (b) will be reported immediately to Bde. H.Q., giving the following information :

- (i) Time seen.
- (ii) From where seen (map ref.)
- (iii) Bearing of light or signal.
- (iv) Estimated distance from O.P.
- (v) Location of light (if possible).

(c) Information regarding para. 3 (c) will be reported immediately after an air raid by message beginning "SITREP" and franked "IMPORTANT", to reach this H.Q. by 1000 hrs. and full details on the approved form (appendix A) as soon as possible.

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5. Lights. Unit comds. will ensure that all lights, either Military or Civil, are obscured, but in the case of any suspicious lights, the persons operating them will be taken into custody and this H.Q. informed immediately in accordance with para. 4 (b).

  
Major,  
Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

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8	A.A.S.C.
9	2/2 A.F.W.
10	6 Aust. Pro. Coy.
11	2/1 Fd. Amb.
12	2/2 Fd. Amb.
13	6 Aust. Div.
14	Bde. I.O.
15	File.
16-17	War Diary.
18-23	Spares.

Hostile Air Action.

Report of \_\_\_\_\_ Bn. Post at \_\_\_\_\_

Date

Time

Place

No. of planes

Markings

Type

Direction of Approach  
and withdrawal.

No. and description  
of bombs dropped.

Probable objective.

Casualties.

Damage.

Location of  
Unexploded bombs.

Action by post.

Remarks.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

This return to be rendered in the event of any hostile Air Action.



H. Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
IKINGI MARYUT.  
13 Dec. 40.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Training Instruction.

1. With what time is available, and as circumstances permit, units will include in their current tng. programmes practice in dispersed movement.
2. The success of the recent operations in the WESTERN DESERT has only been possible because of the high standard of training reached after much practice. The approach march to within close distance of the enemy camps involved the movement of a large amount of MT by day and by night. This movement was NOT discovered by the enemy because by day vehicles moved well dispersed and slowly, without raising the dust, and by night without using lights. The Bde. Commander desires Bn. Comds. to practice this form of training and to develop a greater measure of skill and self-reliance in our Units.
3. Special attention is drawn to the following extract from WDF letter on "A method of Attack on an Entrenched Camp in the Desert."  
"Since the essence of the operation is co-operation at the point of entry, all troops taking part must be trained to such a pitch that their action is almost automatic. It is also important that MT drivers are trained in dispersed movement and movement in darkness. Infantry must be capable of getting quickly out of MT and the whole force should understand the technique of dispersing before dawn. In daylight vehicles should be 200 yds. apart. During mopping up, Inf. secs. should move well under control of their leader."

4. Training will cover :
  - (a) Transport :
    - (i) Movement in dispersed formation with vehicles 200<sup>x</sup> apart, by day.
    - (ii) Movement at night in finding direction by POLE STAR.
    - (iii) Movement by day and by night on compass bearing.
    - (iv) Movement by day at speed of 12-15 m.i.h. so that no dust is raised.
    - (v) Strict disciplinary action regarding movement at night with lights, which contravenes Standing Orders.
    - (vi) Increasing range of movement on compass bearing or direction by Pole Star by day and night.
  - (b) Troop Movement :
    - (i) Movement with sections dispersed at intervals of 100<sup>x</sup> minimum distances.
    - (ii) Dispersion of units at night to take up positions, "lying doggo" with sections at least 100<sup>x</sup> apart. It is essential that tps. be in position before "first light" and that there is NOT any further movement.
    - (iii) The evolution of a drill which will facilitate the rapid embussing and debussing of tps.

Distribution :

2/5 Bn. (2)	Bde. I.O.
2/6 Bn. (2)	L.Os. (3)
2/7 Bn. (2)	B.T.O.
Bde. Comd.	O.M.E.
B.M.	Sig. Co.
S.C.	

*Brook*  
Major,  
Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

H.Q., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
IKINGI MARYUT,  
13 Dec '40.

NEWS SUMMARY No. 35.

0600 hrs 12 Dec to 0600 hrs 13 Dec.

Operations in the western desert continue satisfactorily. Communiques report the capture of over 20,000 prisoners and a large quantity of materials. It is suggested that the number of troops captured represent about one tenth of Mussolini's North African Army.

The equipment captured should prove useful as it includes tanks, armoured cars, guns, lorries, and large quantities of ammunition.

The prisoners include three Commanders - Generals Gallina, Pescatore and Mezzari. This makes for a very difficult situation as far as the enemy is concerned as the replacement of these generals can hardly take place at short notice.

The fleet continues to shell the retreating Italians and their present bases at SOLLUM and BARDIA. No casualties have been suffered by our naval forces.

The RAF brought down nine more enemy planes on Wednesday thus bringing the total to 40 covering the three days fighting. During these three days operations only four British planes have been lost.

As a result of RAF raids many Italian aerodromes have been rendered unfit for use and upon hangers and grounded aircraft the hail of bombs has resulted in chaos as far as Italian aerial activity is concerned in this sphere of activities.

Mr Churchill in a speech to the House of Commons, spoke of the 'victory' in the Western Desert and the resultant blow dealt to Mussolini's hopes. The advance, he said, was similar to the German advance in France - a rapid encircling movement together with incessant bombing from the air which had completely demoralised the enemy.

The Greeks continued their advance along the front in ALBANIA yesterday. Great progress has been reported in the coastal sector. The Italians are in full retreat and general rain is contributing to their discomfort.

Berlin remains indifferent to her ally's plight. Communiques in German newspapers relating to the Italians engagement against the Greek forces have been relegated to back page news.

His Excellency the British Ambassador to the United States of America, Lord Lothian, died at the British Embassy, Washington, at 3 o'clock yesterday.

Lord Lothian was fifty-eight years of age and was very popular with Americans

German raids on England yesterday were conspicuous by their absence. The RAF on the other hand continued their activities over Germany. Their operations included the bombing of Dockyards and railway junctions of importance.

A German steamer, the RHEN, has been captured by a Dutch destroyer off CUBA. The crews attempt to scuttle the ship before capture was unsuccessful.

J. V. Schofield, Lieut,  
B.I.O. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

H.Q., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
IKINGI MARYUT,  
12 Dec '40.

NEWS SUMMARY No. 34.

0600 hrs 11 Dec 40 to 0600 hrs 12 Dec 40.

MIDDLE  
EAST:

Latest reports from the Western Desert state that SIDI BARRANI has been captured. SIDI BARRANI was the main advanced base of the occupying forces and contained large numbers of troops and much material.

Both troops (including three generals) and equipment (comprising tanks, lorries, armoured cars and field guns) have been captured by the advancing British forces.

M.E. Headquarters last night announced that advanced elements of our mechanised forces were operating westwards of BARRANI and further captures had been made. The prisoners captured at BARRANI are in addition to the 6000 captured in the earlier operation.

R.A.F. operations again covered the land force movements and ten enemy planes were destroyed during the operation. One British plane was lost. A squadron of Australian fighters accounted for four of the lost enemy machines. Eight of the enemy planes shot down were a new type of FIAT fighter of fast speed, but which, up to date, had been little used on this front.

Italians are evidently too busy in the Desert to take advantage of the full moon and thus continue their raids on ALEXANDRIA. Presumably all available aircraft are being used in an endeavour to stem the British onslaught.

It is suggested that Mussolini is calling on German aid and rumours to this effect are wide-spread throughout the BALKANS.

TURKEY has denied the AXIS propaganda implication that she would intervene as a 'peace-maker' between GREECE and ITALY. A report supporting the Turkish denial states that the Turkish Foreign Minister, M. Sarajoglu, was not nor has been in GREECE to act as a mediator or for any other reason.

A reported agreement between TURKEY and BULGARIA affecting an agreement which would forbid the passage of foreign troops through either country is rapidly gaining ground.

It is reported that the Soviet reply to the German threat to push troops through BULGARIA has resulted in a Soviet threat to occupy the Black Sea ports of BURGAS and VARNA if such a move was made.

The Greek advance continues despite bad weather. Positions in the neighbourhood of POGRADIETZ were taken at the point of the bayonet. Considerable gains have been made, particularly by the capture of material, including many guns.

Italian reaction to the present situation is nothing short of extraordinary. Broadcasts from that source state that the people are well-disciplined and that they were taking no notice of High Command changes. They were being charged to remember the Italian success in Ethiopia.

LONDON:

London spent another quiet night, air activity over the capital being very small in comparison to previous efforts on the part of the raiders. A few bombs were dropped in East Angliawhere only minor damage was done.

RAF continued their bombardment of targets in occupied territory and Western Germany where large fires were started in dockyards, railway junctions and aerodromes.

NEW YORK:

M. Paderewski yesterday criticised American help to Britain stating that Americans were under the impression that the present collaboration by them was sufficient. He said that the exchange of destroyers for naval bases should be considered as a deal rather than as a contribution - Contribution means sacrifice.

FRANCE:

Reports from French sources state that German troops in PARIS fired on Austrian troops who voiced their dis-satisfaction.

V. J. Schofield, Lieut,  
B.I.O. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.  
I K I N G I M A R Y U T.  
11 Dec. 40.

NEWS SUMMARY No 33.

0600 hrs 10 Dec. - 0600 hrs 11 Dec.

LONDON.

Air attacks on England have again fallen off, the only raid signal last night being ~~at~~ East Angles. The night before a few planes were sighted off the South Coast, but their activity was limited to reconnaissance. One of these planes was shot down in the North Sea.

Long range guns were engaged in a duel yesterday for a short time, and later guns on Cape GRIS NEZ were bombed by the R.A.F.

German industry and submarine bases were again heavily attacked by the R.A.F. Hundreds of incendiary and heavy bombs were dropped causing great destruction. Fires from the submarine bases were visible 50 miles away.

HERR HITLER'S SPEECH TO THE MULTITUDE. The multitude in this case was not very great and the howls and tirades of the Fuhrer were somewhat subdued. He made no mention of Italy's plight and in fact was silent on Italy's part in the war. Actually in this speech came the first hint of foreboding for the future. His first reference on this subject was that if Germany lost then it would be the end for everything Germans dreamed of. There was a half hidden hint to the workers that he would be calling on them for greater effort and then an outburst that he did not have any inferiority complex when opposed to Britain. In this respect he said he was determined to keep the spoils he had already gained and if Britain ventured to stop him then he would destroy her. The only problem confronting Germany, Hitler contended in his speech, was that of transport which greatly interfered with the work on hand.

Hitler contended that bombing raids on Britain by German planes were a reprisal for damage done by the R.A.F. to private property in Germany. He suggested in his speech that his own bombers were careful and ~~chase~~ only nights for operations when targets were visible so in order to spare civil populations as much as possible. Hitler's express policy was one of caution and as a cautious man considered the gains made by Germany worth while.

Hitler blamed Mr Churchill for starting the war, who he contended had planned subsequent events prior to the commencement of hostilities. Germany, he said, had not the slightest wish to start any trouble at all.

The remainder of the speech was devoted to his usual denunciation of the Treaty of Versailles - Applause on the part of the workers at the termination of the speech was hardly comparable to previous efforts.

LONDON.

It has been announced in London substantial increases are to take place in the strength of the Coastal Command thus enabling it to play a bigger part in the defence of Britain.

Allied shipping losses have been considerably reduced during the last few weeks. For the week ending Dec 1 the total tonnage lost amounted to approximately 52000 tons or 10000 tons less than the average lost during the calculating period.

Dr. Benes ex Prime Minister of Czecho-Slovakia in a speech yesterday gave reasons which, in his opinion, had already decided the war. 1. Germany's difficulties in occupied territory. 2. Internal economy. 3. Potential armaments output of Britain and the U.S.A. 4. The liability which Italy has proved to Germany.

It was announced in London yesterday that two German spies had been executed. They were convicted on the 22 Nov. after having been caught carrying small wireless sets each weighing about one pound together with a considerable amount of money. During their trial they suggested that they had been told they would be relieved by invading forces.

This is the first official pronouncement on the spy question since the beginning of the war.

GREECE.

The Greek struggle continues with success in the southern sector and also the centre region of activities. During advances made yesterday many important points were taken at the point of the bayonet. Though Italians destroyed some materials large quantities were nevertheless captured by the Greeks.

GREECE.

A report states that forces are gathering in the northern sector which makes it possible that a large battle is imminent.

The R.A.F. and Greek Air Force are harrowing the retreat.

MIDDLE EAST.

Operations in the western desert continued satisfactorily yesterday. The last communique issued yesterday stated 4000 prisoners had been taken together with a number of guns.

The R.A.F. raided dromes from DERNA to SIDI BARRANI destroying twentytwo planes. Three British planes were lost but two of their pilots were safe behind our lines.

The Navy is pounding bases along the coast and the advance continues.

Contact has been established west of SIDI BARRANI between the Navy and Army where, a report states, two Italian divisions have been cut off. These divisions are separate from the 4000 prisoners previously referred to.

LONDON.

The Prime Minister Mr. Winston Churchill in the course of a speech yesterday remarked that the position in the western desert is now being clarified. Previously neither the army or the Air Force were available in sufficiently large numbers to undertake an offensive; consequently a defensive role had been allotted to them. Now that the forces had been substantially augmented the offensive could be pushed ahead. This reinforcing program particularly applied to the Air Force which now held the whip hand; which was essential to the advance of land forces.

Asked whether he had any information whether the advance would be pushed still further west he said the time was not yet ripe for any more information to be passed on.

NEW YORK.

The Duke and Duchess of Windsor have arrived in New York, where the Duchess will undergo a dental operation.

CANADA.

It was announced yesterday that a destroyer of the Canadian Naval Forces had been torpedoed whilst engaged in the task of submarine hunting in the Atlantic. The destroyer made port with a number of casualties.

H.M. merchant cruiser CARNARVON CASTLE left Monte Video yesterday after repairs had been effected. The vessel left considerably inside her time limit.

*War Summary*

H.Q., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
IKINGI MARYUT,  
10 Dec '40.

NEWS SUMMARY No. 32

0600 hrs 9 Dec. to 0600 hrs 10 Dec 40.

GREECE: On the central and southern fronts in ALBANIA the Italians are still retreating to VALONA.

The latest Greek communique states that Greek forces have passed ARGYRO-CASTRO and are continuing to press forward. Reports also state that burning and pillaging by the retreating Italians continues.

The RAF together with Greek air forces continue to hammer the columns in their retreat and in addition are bombing ships in the harbour of VALONA.

LONDON: The Lord Mayor of London has opened a fund to help the Greeks who have been rendered homeless.

MIDDLE EAST: The RAF made a heavy attack in the Middle East yesterday when a town near TRIPOLI was raided. Eight planes were destroyed on an aerodrome and fires from hangers were visible 50 miles away. All our planes returned safely.

GREECE: The British-American Ambulance Corps have donated 25 ambulances to Greece. They will be sent from America shortly.

LONDON: The heaviest attack over Britain for some time took place last night. The raid was not as intense as those of September, which is interesting in view of the fact that the German radio announced that the raiders came from 'drones' in HOLLAND, FRANCE and BELGIUM.

The attack started soon after dark and planes came over singly. Flares were dropped followed by fire bombs, but the fire brigades assisted by civilians dealt with many of them before any damage could be done.

However a Convent, 5 hospitals, an orphanage and a nurses home were hit. There were some casualties at one hospital.

Two of the bombers were shot down. One of the defending 'Spitfires' was piloted by a Brisbane lad.

Two enemy planes were shot down over ESSEX yesterday in addition to those brought down during the night raid.

The German press admits the RHINE and RUHR districts are suffering from nightly attacks delivered by the RAF.

The RAF continued their night attacks when they bombed blast furnaces and steel works at COLOGNE and ESSEN.

MELBOURNE: Mr Hughes announced that plans had been completed for driving enemy raiders from Australian waters.

CAIRO: Successive communiques are arriving from the Western Desert, the first starting on Saturday. This first communique stated that there was a 'No man's Land' which consisted of eight miles of desert.

Mechanised units and infantry went forward within striking distance and waited. Enemy planes failed to locate them and the attack started at dawn south of SIDI BARANI - an entire enemy camp was captured together with 500 prisoners.

The British forces are extending their flank 20-30 miles from the coast and the situation is considered satisfactory.

The RAF are assisting by bombing behind the enemy lines. 20 tons of bombs were dropped on aerodromes in the rear areas.

General Wavell announced that an enemy commander has been killed and the 2 i/c taken prisoner.

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NEWS SUMMARY No. 31

0600 hrs 8 Dec. to 0600 hrs 9 Dec.

GREECE:

Further success attends the Greek drive through ALBANIA. It was officially announced last night, that the towns of ARGYROCASTRO and DELVINO have now been occupied, thus constituting a line which extends right across Southern Albania.

General Metaxis, in a speech last night stated - 'One seventh of ALBANIA had been freed from ITALIAN control in addition to one quarter of its population.

It is reported that the Chief of the ITALIAN Navy has resigned - the fourth important member of the Italian Staff to resign within a fortnight.

The mystery surrounding the deaths of two further Italian Generals who were involved in an air accident at PIEDMONT on Saturday has succeeded in creating doubt in many Italian minds when they remember numerous similar incidents in the not too distant past.

The Italians are experiencing increasing difficulty during the progress of their retreat as all strategic points are occupied by the Greek forces. There are only two main roads which can be used by the Italians in their retreat towards VALONA and these are being continually harassed by the Greeks.

Italian sea planes yesterday bombed CORFU but no damage resulted from the attack.

Acting in conjunction with the Greek forces the RAF continue their attacks on Italian columns and bases. In addition a successful attack was made on an Italian ship off the coast of Albania yesterday by a plane from the RAF.

CAIRO:

The RAF bombed and did considerable damage to two supply dumps at ASSAR during a raid yesterday.

LONDON:

London was treated to a 'night off', last night. German bombers have not been so active during the last 24 hours as during the previous few days.

In attacks made by the RAF objectives were DUNKIRK, CALAIS, and the dockyard at BREST. Barracks were set on fire and considerable damage was done to warehouses.

An American source suggests that German output has been reduced by 30% as a result of RAF raids. Germans are working day and night to clear up the ruins. Hamburg has suffered severely and her industrial production is almost at a standstill.

Raids on DUSSELDORF yesterday lasted for over an hour during which period many military objectives engaged the attention of R.A.F. bombers.

The Carnarvon Castle which engaged a German raider at long range a few days ago, will take about 72 hours to repair though the engagement lasted 90 minutes. Large sea and air forces are now actively searching for the raider which is said to be about 10,000 tons, fast and heavily armed.

British aid to SPAIN includes 6000 tons of manganese ore. Britain has also purchased the Spanish crop of bitter oranges. Arrangement for the purchase of the sweet orange crop are proceeding.



H.Q., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
IKINGI MARYUT,  
7 Dec 40.

NEWS SUMMARY No. 30.

0600 hrs 6 Dec. to 0600 hrs 7 Dec 40

ITALY: The Chief of the Italian General Staff, Marshal Badoglio, has been relieved of his duties at his own request. The move is considered to be a protest to Mussolini at the recklessness and uselessness of the attack on GREECE.

General Cavallero, 60 years of age, has succeeded 69 year old Marshal Badoglio.

GREECE: Late last night it was announced that the ADRIATIC supply port of SANTI QUARANTA had fallen into Greek hands. This was one of the ports used for landing Italian troops in preparation of their attempted invasion of GREECE.

The destroyer, earlier reported to have been bombed off the coast of ALBANIA is now stated to have been waiting to put into port at SANTI QUARANTA for the purpose of evacuating Italian Officers, the rest of the army marching back to VALONA to be taken off. It appears that these Italian Officers now run the risk of being caught in the Greek net.

The Greek advance continues. Prisoners are being captured in large numbers and the opinion is expressed that the Italian Army is in a bad way. The Greek advance is characterised by the systematic occupation of strategic points, thus compelling further withdrawals by the enemy.

RAF and Greek planes are continually bombing Italian troop concentrations and military barracks.

On Wednesday 10 Italian planes were shot down. Pilots who carried out raids on the Royal Arsenal and Fiat Works stated that the smoke from the resultant fires reached a height of 3000 feet.

6000 Italians from the Army in ALBANIA have so far been interned in YUGO-SLAVIA. An officer among them said that the troops did not want to fight and discipline was bad.

During raids by the RAF on Italian positions yesterday, opportunity was taken to take further photographs of damage done during previous raids on TARANTO harbour.

LONDON: Gifts to the Empire from Colonial Governments since the outbreak of war total 18 million pounds.

The Netherlands East Indies have also contributed in the form of 'Spitfires' - 23 in all.

In the House of Commons yesterday, a 'peace motion' was defeated by 341 votes to 4. Mr Atlee commenting on the result of the motion stated 'Impossible to negotiate with such men - Hitler's abominable dictatorship will not be tolerated.

YUGO-SLAVIA: The Yugo-Slavian Prime Minister stated yesterday that he was confident that his country would not be involved in the war. He emphatically added however, that should any foreign power attempt to intimidate the country they would find them prepared to meet any eventuality.

LONDON: The Admiralty released the following information yesterday: H.M. Armed Merchantman, 'CARNARVON CASTLE' was fired on yesterday by an enemy raider at long range. The fire was returned but the raider kept at long range and eventually made off at high speed to the north. It is not known whether the Carnarvon Castle inflicted damage on the raider or not. The merchantman was slightly damaged and there were a few casualties.

MIDDLE EAST: There is no change in the situation in the WESTERN DESERT, though enemy activity has increased slightly during the last few days.

There is an apparent sign of friction between the Army and the Fascist Party the cause of which is the dislike of the army to political intervention in army affairs.

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NEWS SUMMARY No 29

0600 hrs 5 Dec 40 - 0600 hrs 6 Dec.

Further Greek success in Central and Southern Sectors - In Central Sector six more  
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the RAF are attacking mechanised Units.

Two hits were scored on an Italian destroyer in the Mediterranean yesterday. A Greek  
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In AMERICA the enemy unsuccessfully tried to resist British Armoured Cars which charged  
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British oversea trade is improving. At present Britain have some 2500 ships at sea which  
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Addressing workers in Britain, Mr Churchill told them to put every ounce of energy into  
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The main air attack on England last night was centred on a coastal town. So good, however  
as the barrage set up that many of the raiders failed to get through; those that did drop  
air bombs quickly and left for home without delay. A Cinema and house were hit.

London had two early raids last night; on each occasions of only small extent. Daylight  
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Thirteen planes were shot down yesterday and another by AA - two British planes are missin  
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American opinion summing up the situation considers that Britain will pull through and win

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- LONDON : A naval battle took place yesterday at the Firth of Forth. Hits were scored on enemy ships but no results are yet known. The destroyer 'JAVALIN', with the King's cousin on board, was damaged but later reached port safely.
- ATHENS : In the Mediterranean, the Greek destroyer, 'ETOS' successfully engaged and sank an Italian submarine.  
The Greek airforce operating in ALBANIA raided enemy columns yesterday, using machine guns during the attack. The enemy quickly dispersed and fled.  
Italians are renewing resistance, but the Greeks have strengthened their position, particularly west of KORITZA. In the north of the town difficulty is being experienced on account of the heavy snow.  
The RAF continue to assist the Greek forces and yesterday seven Italian fighters were brought down in less than one minute.  
Air victims in GREECE total 604 killed (including 220 women and children) and 1070 injured.
- RUMANIA : The funeral of the late Prime Minister of RUMANIA took place yesterday. The Chief mourner was the head of the Government. Among the many wreaths was one sent by the Government of Austria. Although the funeral was kept secret, 6000 persons attended. The killing of the late Prime Minister has aroused disgust throughout the country.  
A message received through the HUNGARY wireless states that the situation in RUMANIA has gone beyond the control of the Government.
- FRANCE : 70,000 French have been expelled from their native land. They have had to abandon homes and personal associations because of their opposition to Nazi oppression.  
15,000 French workers have been conscripted and sent to GERMANY.
- BATAVIA : The Netherlands East Indies continue to resist Nazi bullying. They are hard and resolute in their determination. 'We will settle the account later' - say the Dutch.
- LONDON : Three planes were shot down over ENGLAND today. Only a few of the raiding machines succeeded in penetrating the British defences. Bombs were dropped in S.E. England and Home Counties. Little damage was done. A hospital was hit and two ambulance men were killed at their post. The RAF lost two planes during the engagement but both pilots are safe.  
After causing direct hits on military objectives over GERMANY all British planes returned safely to their bases.
- INDIA : Income Taxes in INDIA will be increased by 25% as from tomorrow. Postal and Telegraph rates will also be subject to an increase.  
A scheme is announced whereby Indian workers are to receive training in ENGLAND.
- THE SUDAN : An enemy patrol was successfully ambushed and a recon force was met with artillery fire from our troops.
- LONDON : The Prime Minister, Mr Winston Churchill, received congratulations from all parts of the world yesterday, on reaching 66 years of age. Among gifts received was one of £35,000 for the purchase of 7 'Spitfires'.
- INDIA : India has contributed and sent to Greece £3,750 in appreciation of their success against the common enemy.
- LONDON : H.M. Ship 'Oranta' was successfully launched in SYDNEY, Australia, today by Lord Gowrie.

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A scheme is announced whereby Indian workers are to receive training in ENGLAND.
- THE SUDAN : An enemy patrol was successfully ambushed and a recon force was met with artillery fire from our troops.
- LONDON : The Prime Minister, Mr Winston Churchill, received congratulations from all parts of the world yesterday, on reaching 66 years of age. Among gifts received was one of £35,000 for the purchase of 7 'Spitfires'.
- INDIA : India has contributed and sent to Greece £3,750 in appreciation of their success against the common enemy.
- LONDON : H.M. Ship 'Oranta' was successfully launched in SYDNEY, Australia, today by Lord Gowrie.

*V. F. Schfeld*  
.....Lieut,  
B.I.O., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

H.Q. 17th Aust. Inf. Bde.  
 IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE  
 18/0/32  
 No. \_\_\_\_\_

H.Q., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
 IKINGI MARYUT,  
2 Dec '40.

2/5 Bn.,  
2/6 Bn.,  
2/7 Bn.

On the forthcoming exercise the following advices are required to be sent to this H.Q.

- (1) SITREP - by message.
  - (a) Dawn-report.
  - (b) At 0600 hrs and at end of each two-hourly interval hereafter.
  - (c) Any important information immediately.
- (2) LOCATION REPORTS -  
 Immediately following moves.
- (3) SHELLING REPORTS -  
 As occur - but in absence of reports, NIL report at 1900 hrs.
- (4) AIR ACTION -  
 As occur - Form :- Pro forma and headings for -
  - (a) Type of attack.
  - (b) Type of Aircraft.
  - (c) Effect obtained by AA fire.
- (5) AIR ACTIVITY -  
 As occur - but in absence of reports NIL report at 1900 hrs.
- (6) GAS.  
 As occur -  
 Method of advice :-
  - (a) E.O. Message giving type gas used if known direct to Div rptd this HQ and Flanking Units,
  - (b) Detailed Report covering :-
    - (i) Method of attack.
    - (ii) Areas affected.
    - (iii) Concentrations.
    - (iv) Casualties.
    - (v) Description of gas and sample.
    - (vi) Method used to mark contaminated area.
- (7) DISPOSITION MAPS -  
 As soon as fixed positions are occupied.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
 .....Major.  
Bde. Major. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.



APPENDIX "D"

Copy No:

3 Dec, 40.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCEALPHABETICAL LIST

ABBA	Chief Umpire	REMA	43 LAD
ARED	2/1 Bn	REXI	46 LAD
ASKA	Rear HQ 6 Aust Div	RIBA	HQ Sigs 6 Aust Div
DICK	2/2 Fd Pk Coy	RITU	2/1 CCS
DOLO	Rear HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde	ROGE	16 Aust A Tk Coy
DORE	2/7 Bn	ROMP	6 Aust Div Pro Coy
HOME	40 LAD	RORO	2/8 Fd Coy
HOTI	2/1 Fd Regt		
HUPU	2/1 Fd Hyg Sec	RUCK	Adv HQ 6 Aust Div
JOKE	6 Aust Div Amn Coy	SADI	Sigs Adv HQ 6 Aust Div
JONA	HQ AASC 6 Aust Div	SARA	2/2 A Fd Wkshop
PART	2/2 Bn	SEKO	Umpire att 17 Aust Inf Bde
		SERT	45 LAD
FEWI	Adv HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde		
PILL	2/5 Bn	SITY	Sigs Adv HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde
PIRA	Sigs Rear HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde		
POPE	Director	SOAP	2/3 Bn
PRAT	18 LAD	SOMI	2/2 Fd Regt
PULU	Sigs Rear HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde	SUBA	HQ RAA 6 Aust Div
PUWE	2/2 Fd Coy		
RABI	Sigs Rear HQ 6 Aust Div	TAKE	2/6 Bn
RAMO	6 Aust Div Sup Col	TARA	Sigs Adv HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde
		TONK	HQ RAE 6 Aust Div
RAPI	AILO	TUDI	2/1 Fd Coy
RARU	Adv HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde	WITO	Umpire att RAA 6 Aust Div
RAXO	2/2 Fd Amb		
REDA	Umpire att 16 Aust Inf Bde	WONA	Rear HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde
REKO	HQ 6 Aust Cav	WINK	6 Aust Div Pet Coy
		ZUBA	C Squn 6 Aust Cav

6 AUST DIV MAP REFERENCE CODE No. 3.

Numerals will NOT be used, when giving map references. Instead the letters contained in the phrase "VERY MAD NOW" will be substituted for the figures 0 - 9 in their present order.

e.g. LETTER	V	E	R	Y	M	A	D	N	O	W
FIGURE	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Map ref: 47924190 will thus become MNWRMEWV.

Should units have any reason to suspect that the code has become compromised they will notify this HQ immediately.

NOTE for Cipher personnel:

This code will NOT be used in any cipher message.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE6 AUST DIV CODE LIST No. FCopy No.  
3 Dec, 40.HQs

<u>RUCK</u>	Adv HQ 6 Aust Div	<u>AAMC</u>	
<u>ASKA</u>	Rear HQ 6 Aust Div	<u>RAXO</u>	2/2 Fd Amb
<u>REKO</u>	HQ 6 Aust Cav	<u>HUPU</u>	2/1 Fd Hyg Sec
<u>SUBA</u>	HQ RAA 6 Aust Div	<u>RITU</u>	2/1 CCS
<u>TONK</u>	HQ RAE 6 Aust Div	<u>AAOC</u>	
<u>RIBA</u>	HQ Sigs 6 Aust Div	<u>SARA</u>	2/2 A Fd Wkshop
<u>FEWI</u>	Adv HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde	<u>HOME</u>	40 LAD
<u>WONA</u>	Rear HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde	<u>PRAT</u>	18 LAD
<u>RARU</u>	Adv HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde	<u>REMA</u>	43 LAD
<u>DOLO</u>	Rear HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde	<u>SERT</u>	45 LAD
<u>JONA</u>	HQ AASC 6 Aust Div	<u>REXI</u>	46 LAD
<u>CAV</u>		<u>PRO</u>	
<u>REKO</u>	HQ 6 Aust Cav	<u>ROMP</u>	6 Aust Div Pro Coy
<u>ZUBA</u>	C Sqn 6 Aust Cav	<u>AIR</u>	
<u>RAA</u>		<u>RAPI</u>	AILO
<u>HCTI</u>	2/1 Fd Regt	<u>MISC</u>	
<u>SOJI</u>	2/2 Fd Regt	<u>POPE</u>	Director
<u>RAE</u>		<u>ABBA</u>	Chief Umpire
<u>TUDI</u>	2/1 Fd Coy	<u>REDA</u>	Umpire att I6 Aust Inf Bde
<u>PUWI</u>	2/2 Fd Coy	<u>SEKO</u>	Umpire att I7 Aust Inf Bde
<u>RORO</u>	2/8 Fd Coy	<u>WITO</u>	Umpire att RAA 6 Aust Div
<u>DICK</u>	2/2 Fd Pk Coy		
<u>Sigs</u>			
<u>SADI</u>	Sigs Adv HQ 6 Aust Div		
<u>RABI</u>	Sigs Rear HQ 6 Aust Div		
<u>TARA</u>	Sigs Adv HQ I6 Aust Inf Bde		
<u>PULU</u>	SIGS Rear HQ I6 Aust Inf Bde		
<u>SITY</u>	Sigs Adv HQ I7 Aust Inf Bde		
<u>PIRA</u>	Sigs Rear HQ I7 Aust Inf Bde		
<u>Inf</u>			
<u>ARED</u>	2/1 Bn		
<u>PART</u>	2/2 Bn		
<u>PILL</u>	2/5 Bn		
<u>SOAP</u>	2/3 Bn		
<u>TAKE</u>	2/6 Bn		
<u>DORE</u>	2/7 Bn		
<u>ROGE</u>	I6 Aust A Tk Coy		
<u>AASC</u>			
<u>RAMO</u>	6 Aust Div Sup Col		
<u>JOKE</u>	6 Aust Div Amn Coy		
<u>WINK</u>	6 Aust Div Pet Coy		

No

RRV/MF.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

EXERCISE SECRET

Copy No:

3 Dec, 40.

6 AUST DIV EXERCISE No. 3

OFFRS' CODE LIST No. 3  
(For Use over R/T)

<u>Div HQ</u>	GOC	3	SOME	8
	ADC	35	DAPM	24
	G I	10	CAMP	26
	G II	14	Misc HQ CRA	21
	G III (O)	12	CRE	9
	G III (I)	37	CASC	23
	G III (CW)	5	SUP O	17
	LO I	19	SUPT SIGS	16
	LO II	7	AILO	20
	LO III	29		
	DIO	34	Bde etc HQ/Brig	2
	Cipher Offr	6	BM	28
	AA & QMG	33	SC	22
	DAQMG	4	IO	34
	DAAG	36	TO	31
	ADMS	18	LO I	19
	DADMS	30	LO II	7
	LSO	15	LO III	29
	Amenities Offr	27	Bn & Regt	
	DADOS	1	/HQ	
			CO	25
			2 i/c	11
			Adj	13
			IO	34
			QM	32

NUMERICAL LIST

DADOS	1	LO I	19
Brig	2	AILO	20
GOC	3	CRA	21
DAQMG	4	SC	22
G III (CW)	5	CASC	23
Cipher Offr	6	DAPM	24
LO II	7	CO	25
SOME	8	Camp	26
CRE	9	Amenities Offr	27
G I	10	BM	28
2 i/c	11	LO III	29
G III (O)	12	DADMS	30
Adj	13	TO	31
G II	14	QM	32
LSO	15	AA & QMG	33
Supt Sigs	16	IO	34
SUP O	17	ADC	35
ADMS	18	DAAG	36
		G III (I)	37

*Outgoing*

*F.P.V.*

RRV/MF.

EXERCISE SECRET

APPENDIX "D"

Copy No:

3 Dec, 40.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ALPHABETICAL LIST

ABBA	Chief Umpire	REMA	43 LAD
ARED	2/1 Bn	REXI	46 LAD
ASKA	Rear HQ 6 Aust Div	RIBA	HQ Sigs 6 Aust Div
DICK	2/2 Fd Pk Coy	RITU	2/1 CCS
DOLO	Rear HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde	ROGE	16 Aust A Tk Coy
DORE	2/7 Bn	ROMP	6 Aust Div Pro Coy
HOME	40 LAD	RORO	2/3 Fd Coy
HOTI	2/1 Fd Regt		
HUPU	2/1 Fd Hyg Sec	RUCK	Adv HQ 6 Aust Div
JOKE	6 Aust Div Amn Coy	SADI	Sigs Adv HQ 6 Aust Div
JONA	HQ AASC 6 Aust Div	SARA	2/2 A Fd Wkshop
PART	2/2 Bn	SEKO	Umpire att 17 Aust Inf Bde
		SERT	45 LAD
PEWI	Adv HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde		
PILL	2/5 Bn	SITY	Sigs Adv HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde
PIRA	Sigs Rear HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde		
POPE	Director	SOAP	2/3 Bn
PRAT	18 LAD	SOMI	2/2 Fd Regt
PULU	Sigs Rear HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde	SUBA	HQ RAA 6 Aust Div
PUWE	2/2 Fd Coy		
RABI	Sigs Rear HQ 6 Aust Div	TAKE	2/6 Bn
RAMO	6 Aust Div Sup Col	TARA	Sigs Adv HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde
RAPI	AILO	TONK	HQ RAE 6 Aust Div
RARU	Adv HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde	TUDI	2/1 Fd Coy
RAXO	2/2 Fd Amb	WITO	Umpire att RAA 6 Aust Div
REDA	Umpire att 16 Aust Inf Bde		
REKO	HQ 6 Aust Cav	WONA	Rear HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde
		WINK	6 Aust Div Pet Coy
		ZUBA	C Squn 6 Aust Cav

6 AUST DIV MAP REFERENCE CODE No. 3.

Numerals will NOT be used, when giving map references. Instead the letters contained in the phrase "VERY MAD NOW" will be substituted for the figures 0 - 9 in their present order.

e.g. LETTLR	V	E	R	Y	M	A	D	N	O	W
FIGURE	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Map ref: 47924190 will thus become MNWRMEWV.

Should units have any reason to suspect that the code has become compromised they will notify this HQ immediately.

NOTE for Cipher personnel:

This code will NOT be used in any cipher message.

RAMO

EXERCISE SECRET

EXERCISE SECRET

APPENDIX "D"

APPENDIX "D"

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

6 AUST DIV CODE LIST No. F.

Copy No. 3 Dec, 40.

HQs

RUCK Adv HQ 6 Aust Div  
 ASKA Rear HQ 6 Aust Div  
 REKO HQ 6 Aust Cav  
 SUBA HQ RAA 6 Aust Div  
 TONK HQ RAE 6 Aust Div  
 RIBA HQ Sigs 6 Aust Div  
 PEWI Adv HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde  
 WONA Rear HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde  
 RARU Adv HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde  
 DOLO Rear HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde  
 JONA HQ AASC 6 Aust Div

AAMC

RAXO 2/2 Fd Amb  
 HUPU 2/1 Fd Hyg Sec  
 RITU 2/1 CCS

AAOC

SARA 2/2 A Fd Wkshop  
 HOME 40 LAD  
 PRAT 18 LAD  
 REMA 43 LAD  
 SERT 45 LAD  
 REXI 46 LAD

CAV

REKO HQ 6 Aust Cav  
 ZUBA C Sqn 6 Aust Cav

PRO

ROMP 6 Aust Div Pro Coy

RAA

HCTI 2/1 Fd Regt  
~~SEMI~~ 2/2 Fd Regt

AIR

RAPI AILO

RAE

TUDI 2/1 Fd Coy  
 PUWI 2/2 Fd Coy  
 RORO 2/8 Fd Coy  
 DICK 2/2 Fd Pk Coy

MISC

POPE Director  
 ABBA Chief Umpire  
 REDA Umpire att I6 Aust Inf Bde  
 SEKO Umpire att I7 Aust Inf Bde  
 WITO Umpire att RAA 6 Aust Div

Sigs

SADI Sigs Adv HQ 6 Aust Div  
 RABI Sigs Rear HQ 6 Aust Div  
 TARA Sigs Adv HQ I6 Aust Inf Bde  
 PULU SIGS Rear HQ I6 Aust Inf Bde  
 SITY Sigs Adv HQ I7 Aust Inf Bde  
 PIRA Sigs Rear HQ I7 Aust Inf Bde

Inf

ARED 2/1 Bn  
 PART 2/2 Bn  
 PILL 2/5 Bn  
 SOAP 2/3 Bn  
 TAKE 2/6 Bn  
 DORE 2/7 Bn  
 ROGE I6 Aust A Tk Coy

AASC

RAMO 6 Aust Div Sup Col.  
 LOKE 6 Aust Div Amn Coy.  
 WINK 6 Aust Div Pet Coy.

*2130 Outposts take with for at front*

NOTE for cipher personnel

This code will NOT be used in any other message.

first light. Midday meal will be delivered in section lots in sandbags.

- 16. Blankets. Spare blankets will be rolled in section lots and picked up by ration vehicles at 0630 hrs. 4 Dec.
- 17. Medical. A.D.S. established at ROAD 48589163 (Det. only - for real casualties).
- 18. Bde. S.A.A. Res. HOUSE 48689177.
- 19. Supply. P.P., A.P. Cant. P., and S.P. will be signalled 4 Dec.
- 20. L.A.D. & B Ech. 200 yds. S.E. of HOUSE 48689177.
- 21. Evacuation of dead. A cemetery has been pegged 200 yds. SOUTH of RAILWAY at 48719168. Cemetery will be known as Kilo 45.

INTERCOMM.

- 22. Bde. H.Q. 48639166.
- 23. Signal for defensive fire - RED GREEN RED.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

- 24. All units will stand to from 0530 hrs. 4 Dec.

ACK.

Time of Signature <sup>2200</sup>.....hrs.

Method of Distribution : D.R.

*Anthony*  
Capt.,  
A/Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

DISTRIBUTION :

Copy No.	1	Sigs.
x	2	2/5 Bn.
x	3	2/6 Bn.
x	4	2/7 Bn.
	5	Pl. 17 Bde. A Tk. Coy.
	6	2/2 Fd. Regt.
	7	2/2 Fd. Amb.
x	8	16 Aust. Inf. Bde.
x	9	6 Aust. Div.
	10	Comd.
	11	S.C.
	12	I.O.
	13	Bde. T.O.
	14	Sup. Offr.
	15	O.M.E.
	16.	L.O. I
	17	L.O. II
	18	L.O. III
	19	Bde. Umpire
x	20-	21 File.
x	22-	23 War Diary.
24	24-	25 Spare
25	26	Div. L.O. - Capt. Tolstrup.

**TAKE**

1 Panel incl  
1 off.

Enemy tanks  
active  
that first round  
from strength  
approx 30  
direction MILL

Rt flank  
Enemy needed  
captured  
stations  
Enemy ran into  
& they took  
captured

Our front  
enemy  
partly  
giving  
Should have  
15  
at HQ

17 AUST. INF. BDE. EXERCISE.

2 Dec. '40, 0816 hrs to 1130 hrs

REF. MAP: ALEXANDRIA: 1/100,000.  
EL GHAYATA: 1/100,000.

OBJECT: (1) Object of the exercise will be to demonstrate and test inter-communication with support aircraft by the following:-  
(i) Ground Signal Codes.  
(ii) Message Picking Up.  
(iii) Message Dropping.  
(iv) Close Support indication by Ground Signal.  
(v) Receiving from and sending messages to aircraft by W/T.

PERSONNEL TO PARTICIPATE: (2) (i) 'I' Section, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.  
(ii) Det. 'K' Section Sigs.  
(iii) Dets 'I' and 'Sig' Sections :- 2/5 Bn., 2/6 Bn., 2/7 Bn.  
(iv) Three (3) Reps from each Company :- 2/5 Bn., 2/6 Bn., 2/7 Bn.

NARRATIVE: (3) WESTLAND has advanced along the coast and is moving towards main DELTA area. Opposition is encountered BURG el ARAB area and advance guard of main WESTLAND forces moves inland to attempt to cut off this force. When vanguard has reached hills 495918 it is cut off by small mobile force from main body of advance guard whose fwd troops have reached 493914.  
The main body of advance guard is shelled by Arty from the vicinity of IKINGI MARYUT where it is suspected a large EASTLAND force is now concentrated.  
A Tac R from WESTLAND Army Air Co-op Sqdn is sent out to :-  
(i) Locate position of vanguard troops cut off.  
(ii) Ascertain location of enemy Arty.  
(iii) Location of visible enemy strong points.

PHASES OF EXERCISE: (4) (i) Receipt of information from aircraft of the results of the Tac R by W/T to advance guard.  
(ii) Communications by isolated vanguard to aircraft by ground strip code and from plane to advance guard to W/T. (Vanguard will then retire under cover of fire from our Arty and aerial support to advance guard position.)  
(iii) Communications from advance guard to plane by ground strip code, (wireless having been destroyed by shell fire.)  
(iv) Picking up and dropping of messages by aircraft.  
(v) Use of ground signal for indicating where close support is required to assist in removing enemy opposition.

*Two vehicles*

ASSEMBLY AREA: (5) Unit parties will rendezvous 0815 hrs at Rly Crossing 49409199, 2/7 Bn. area.

TRANSPORT: (6) Units will supply transport for own personnel.

STORES: (7) Unit parties will bring :-  
(i) R.A.F. Signal Manual, Part V. 'Ground Signal Codes'.  
(ii) Ground Strips.

.....  
.....Capt.  
Staff Capt. for Bde Major. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

DISTRIBUTION: 2/5 Bn. 6 Aust. Div. (For information) 'I' Sec. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.  
2/6 Bn. A.I.L.O. (Via 6 Aust. Div.) War Diary.  
2/7 Bn. 'K' Sec. Sigs. File.

6 AUST. DIV. EXERCISE NO. 3.*War Diary*3 - 5 Dec. 40.GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS (Issued by 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.)

Ref Maps : EGYPT 1/100,000 Sheets 92/48, 88/42, 88/43.  
1/500,000 CAIRO.

OBJECTS.

1. (a) To exercise the Div. and to afford practice to Comds., Staffs and Services.
- (b) To practice rapid occupation of a defensive posn., with special reference to locality defence.
- (c) To practice maintenance of contact with the enemy by vigorous patrolling, raids and small attacks.

TOPOGRAPHY.

2. NE of GEBEL MARYUT ridge and parallel to it runs the 10 contour. It will be assumed that the sea runs parallel to and 200 yds. NE of this 10 contour, so that MALLAHET MARYUT and the main MATRUH RD. are part of the sea and are NOT to be used in the exercise.

3. The exercise will commence about 0800 hrs., 3 Dec., and conclude about 1000 hrs., 5 Dec.

4. Units to participate :-

- (a) H.Q. 6 Aust. Div.  
C Sqn. (less two tps) 6 Aust. Cav.  
H.Q. R.A.A. 6 Aust. Div.  
2/1 Fd. Regt.  
2/2 Fd. Regt.

H.Q. R.A.E. 6 Aust. Div.

Sigs. 6 Aust. Div.

H.Q. 16 Aust. Inf. Bde.  
16 Aust. A. Tk. Coy.  
2/1 Bn.  
2/2 Bn.  
2/3 Bn.

H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.  
One Pl. 17 Aust. A. Tk. Coy.  
2/5 Bn.  
2/6 Bn.  
2/7 Bn.

A.A.S.C. 6 Aust. Div.

2/2 Fd. Amb.

6 Aust. Div. Pro. Coy. less deta.

(b) Enemy :

19 Aust. Inf. Bde.  
Armd. Sqn. 6 Aust. Cav.  
2/7 Fd. Amb.

5. During the exercise, owing to shortage of A.A.S.C. tpt., maintenance of the enemy force up to and incl. delivery pts. will be on a peace time basis. A.A.S.C. coins. for the enemy force will be granted free passage through lines and vehicles will be distinguished by carrying a WHITE flag when so employed.



6. The exercise will be under the direction of G.O.C.,  
6 Aust. Div., who will exercise this direction through the Chief  
Umpire.

Chief Umpire - Brig. S.G. SAVIGE, D.S.O., M.C., E.D.,  
17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

7.

DRESS : Own forces - steel helmets.

Enemy - felt hats.

Pull-overs to be carried, greatcoats, and  
two blankets.

8.

TRANSPORT :

Details of allotment of vehicles already forwarded  
through L.Os.

9.

DISTINGUISHING MARKS - Six inch wide WHITE band on  
each arm :-

Director.  
Asst. Director.  
Chief Umpire.  
Umpires.  
Visitors.

WHITE flag on vehicle :

Cars of above.  
M.T. engaged on neutral maintenance duty.  
A.A.S.C. M.T. as set out in para. 5 above.

BLUE flag on vehicle :

Enemy Div. Cav. Regt.

10.

REPRESENTATION OF FIRE :

Rifle - blank.  
M.G. - mirror flashes.

11.

SECURITY OF CAMPS -

Each Bn. will leave equivalent of one pl. as camp guard.  
H.Q. and other units will leave camp guards on the same scale  
proportionate to their strength.

12.

SECURITY IN THE FIELD.

Each Bn. will take 5000 rds. S.A.A. into the fd. H.Q.  
and other combatant units will take S.A.A. on the same scale  
proportionate to their strength. This S.A.A. is for use in  
emergency only and must be retained under control of unit H.Q.

Other S.A.A. held will be left in camp. Action will  
be taken at the beginning of the exercise to ensure that no man is in  
possession of live S.A.A.

13.

BOUNDS.

(a) The following are out of bounds :

AMIRIYA Aerodrome.  
IKINGI MARYUT Aerodrome and AMES.  
BAHIG Petrol Dump.  
EL GHARBANIYAT Oil & Dump.  
BURG EL ARAS - Oil Dump.  
Amm. store, petrol, oil and R.E. depots  
and dumps.  
Camps 19 Aust. Inf. Bde. and att. units.

(b)

All nurseries and gardens.

(c)

NO wheels on any aerodrome.

(d)

Unit Camp lines, but NOT the main roads running through  
camps.

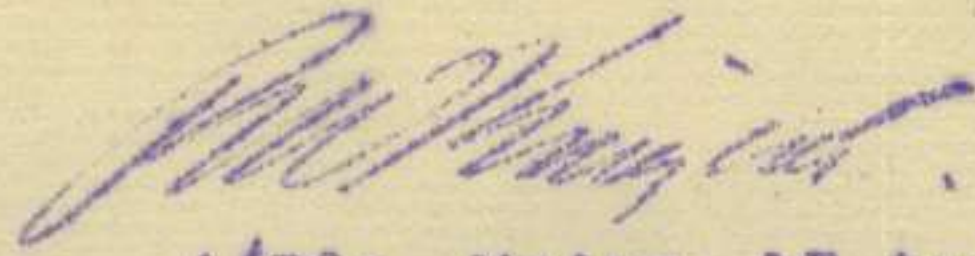
14.

COMPENSATION :

Each Bn. and equivalent unit will appoint an offr. to investigate and report on any damage to property resulting from the unit's activities during the exercise.

15.

Ack.



Capt.,  
A/Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

2 Dec. 40.

Distribution :

Sigs.  
2/5 Bn.  
2/6 Bn.  
2/7 Bn.  
Comd.  
S.Os.  
War Diary  
File.

6 AUST. DIV. EXERCISE NO. 3.

3 - 5 DEC. 40.

Ref. Maps : EGYPT 1/100,000 Sheets 92/48, 88/42, 88/48.  
1/500,000 CAIRO.

OPENING NARRATIVE.

1. An enemy force constituted as under and advancing N.E. astride the ry. line halted for the night 2/3 Dec. 20 miles West of EL HAMMAM.

One Div. Cav. Regt. - Appx "A"  
One Lorry-Borne Inf. Bde. Gp. - Appx "B"  
One Div. of three Inf. Bde. Gps.


Reports from reliable sources indicate that the role of this force is to seize the IKINGI and AMIRIYA aerodromes for further operations against ALEXANDRIA and that their attack is likely to be made in co-operation with dive bombing attacks and parachutists.

2. During afternoon 2 Dec. 6 Aust. Div. concentrated in the IKINGI - AMIRIYA area and at 1500 hrs. Comd. 6 Aust. Div. received orders, the gist of which was as follows :-

"Tomorrow you will occupy a defensive posn. to cover the aerodromes as far West as practicable. It is necessary that you should prevent the enemy from reaching these aerodromes. If heavily pressed you will avoid risk of defeat by using delaying tactics. By 1000 hrs. 5 Dec., 18 Inf. Bde. Gp. will arrive in AMIRIYA area."

3. Code names for units and map refs will be used during the Exercise. (Appx. "C").

4. Ack.

  
Capt.,  
A/Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

2 Dec. 40.

DISTRIBUTION :

Sigs.  
2/5 Bn.  
2/6 Bn.  
2/7 Bn.  
Comd.  
S.Os.  
War Diary.  
File.

APPENDIX "A".Organization of Div. Cav. Regt.

Regt. H.Q.  
 H.Q. Sqn. (Normal W.E.)  
 Armd. Sqn. of H.Q., two lt. tank tps. (each of three tanks)  
 and three carrier tps. (each of three carriers).  
 Two unarmed Sqns. each of M.G. Tp., and three L.M.G. Tps.

S E C R E T.

APPENDIX "B".Organization of Lorry Borne Inf. Bde. Gp.

H.Q.  
 Inf. Regt. of two Bns. - each of H.Q., H.Q. Coy., three rifle  
 Coys., and support Coy.  
 Searchlight Coy.  
 Inf. Gun Coy.  
 M.G. Coy.  
 Engr. Sp.  
 Arty. Gp.  
 Supply and Med. Gps.

APPENDIX "C".6 AUST. DIV. CODE LIST NO. 4.

<u>H.Qs.</u>	SABO Adv. HQ 6 Aust Div	<u>AAMC</u>	NIKU 2/2 Fd Amb
	BOJI Rear HQ 6 Aust Div		XITA 2/1 Fd Hyg Sec.
	TEKI HQ RAA 6 Aust Div		RONA 2/1 CGS.
	WORK HQ RAE 6 Aust Div		
	RODO HQ Sigs 6 Aust Div	<u>AAOC</u>	SELO 2/2 A Fd Wkshop
	LEDY Adv HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde		GUBI 40 LAD
	WUXO Rear HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde		MASO 42 LAD
	NIGA Adv HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde		RAXI 43 LAD
	GALI Rear HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde		SORI 45 LAD
	KUBI HQ AASC 6 Aust Div		RENT 46 LAD
<u>RAA</u>	KISI 2/1 Fd Regt	<u>PRO</u>	RUSE 6 Aust Div Pro Coy.
	TAGU 2/2 Fd Regt		
<u>RAE</u>	WUTI 2/1 Fd Coy	<u>AIR</u>	NALA AIIO
	MONA 2/2 Fd Coy		
	RUTA 2/8 Fd Coy	<u>MISC.</u>	LUDO Director
	GABU 2/2 Fd Pk. Coy		BART Chief Umpire
<u>SIGS</u>	SEBA Sigs Adv HQ 6 Aust Div		NUMA Umpire att 16 Aust. Inf. Bde.
	MURI Sigs Rear HQ 6 Aust Div		SIZO Umpire att. 17 Aust Inf. Bde.
	WOPO Sigs Adv HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde		WUVE Umpire att. RAA 6 Aust Div.
	MOPI Sigs Rear HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde		
	TAGY Sigs Adv HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde		
	LIKO Sigs Rear HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde		
<u>INF</u>	BOGU 2/1 Bn.		
	KUPA 2/2 Bn.		
	TADO 2/3 Bn.		
	LEKA 2/5 Bn.		
	WAVE 2/6 Bn.		
	GERT 2/7 Bn.		
	ROPY 16 Aust A Tk Coy.		
<u>AASC</u>	MUSA 6 Aust Div Sup Col		
	KIZO 6 Aust Div Ann Coy		
	WUZY 6 Aust Div Pet Coy		

APPENDIX "C".6 Aust. Div. Map Reference Code No. 2.

Numerals will NOT be used when giving map references. Instead, the letters contained in the phrase "QUIETLY MAD" will be substituted for the figures 0 - 9 in their present order.

e.g. LETTER Q U I E T L Y M A D  
FIGURE 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Map ref : 47924190 will thus become TMDITUDq.

Should units have any reason to suspect that the code has become compromised they will notify this H.Q. immediately.

NOTE for Cipher personnel :

This code will NOT be used in any cipher message.

-----  
6 AUSTRALIAN DIV. OFFERS' CODE LIST NO. 2.  
(for use over R/T.)

Div. H.Q.

GOC	7	SOME	14	
ADC	16	DAPM	8	
G I	17	CAMP	5	
G II	10	CRA	24	- <u>Misc. H.Q.</u>
G III(O)	23	CRE	12	
G III(I)	31	CASC	11	
G III(GW)	35	SUP O	33	
LO I	9	SUPT SIGS	36	
LO II	18	AILO	37	
LO III	3			
DIO	30	Brig.	19	<u>Bde etc HQ.</u>
Cipher Off	34	EM	13	
AA & QMG	25	SC	2	
DAQMG	6	IO	30	
DAAG	20	TO	15	
ADMS	4	LO I	9	
DAEMS	22	LO II	18	
LSD	21	LO III	3	
Amenities				
Offr.	1	CO	27	<u>Bn &amp; Regt HQ</u>
DADOS	29	2 i/c	28	
		Adjt	32	
		IO	30	
		QM	26	

H. Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.,  
 IKINGI MARYUT.  
 13 Dec. 40.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Training Instruction.

1. With what time is available, and as circumstances permit, units will include in their current trg. programmes practice in dispersed movement.
2. The success of the recent operations in the WESTERN DESERT has only been possible because of the high standard of training reached after much practice. The approach march to within close distance of the enemy camps involved the movement of a large amount of MT by day and by night. This movement was NOT discovered by the enemy because by day vehicles moved well dispersed and slowly, without raising the dust, and by night without using lights. The Bde. Commander desires Bn. Comds. to practice this form of training and to develop a greater measure of skill and self-reliance in our Units.
3. Special attention is drawn to the following extract from WDF letter on "A method of Attack on an Entrenched Camp in the Desert."  
 "Since the essence of the operation is co-operation at the point of entry, all troops taking part must be trained to such a pitch that their action is almost automatic. It is also important that MT drivers are trained in dispersed movement and movement in darkness. Infantry must be capable of getting quickly out of MT and the whole force should understand the technique of dispersing before dawn. In daylight vehicles should be 200 yds. apart. During mopping up, Inf. Secs. should move well under control of their leader."
4. Training will cover :
  - (a) Transport :
    - (i) Movement in dispersed formation with vehicles 200<sup>x</sup> apart, by day.
    - (ii) Movement at night in finding direction by POLE STAR.
    - (iii) Movement by day and by night on compass bearing.
    - (iv) Movement by day at speed of 12-15 m.p.h. so that no dust is raised.
    - (v) Strict disciplinary action regarding movement at night with lights, which contravenes Standing Orders.
    - (vi) Increasing range of movement on compass bearing or direction by Pole Star by day and night.
  - (b) Troop Movement :
    - (i) Movement with sections dispersed at interval of 100<sup>x</sup> minimum distances.
    - (ii) Dispersion of units at night to take up positions, "lying doggo" with sections at least 100<sup>x</sup> apart. It is essential that tps. be in position before "first light" and that there is NOT any further movement.
    - (iii) The evolution of a drill which will facilitate the rapid embussing and debussing of tps.

Distribution :

2/5 Bn. (2) Bde. I.O.  
 2/6 Bn. (2) L.Os. (3)  
 2/7 Bn. (2) B.T.O.  
 Bde. Comd. C.M.E.  
 B.M. Sig. O.  
 S.C.

*Brook*  
 Major,  
 Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS

By

Brogadier S.G. Savige, D.S.O., M.C., E.D., Comd. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

No. 178

14 Dec 40.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

"G" SECTION.

189. CAMERAS: D.R.O. 1120/40.

Ref. G.S. I. No. 63 dated 7 Dec 40, Cameras will be stored by personnel with their surplus kit. Units will make arrangements to collect and store cameras at Surplus Kit Store for personnel who are not storing kit.

190. HEADINGS ON CORRESPONDENCE. D.R.O. 1122/40.

Units will discontinue including location with the unit and date in the headings of correspondence. Under NO circumstances is the unit name to be connected with the particular camp or area in which it is stationed.

191. A.I.F. CENSOR STAMPS. D.R.O. 1123/40.

Units holding A.I.F. Censor Stamps (issued in Australia) will return them to this HQ by 18 Dec 40.

*J. B. Smith Capt.*  
.....Major,  
Bde. Major 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

"A" & "Q" SECTION.

192. CAPTURED WAR MATERIAL. D.R.O. 1124/40.

The system of collection and disposal of captured war material is revised.

It will in future be handed in to the nearest Salvage Dump. Articles of an important nature will be handed over to the Officer Commanding or to a responsible N.C.O. of the Salvage Unit.

The Officer Commanding Salvage Unit will inform G.S. (1) of what has been handed in, and will ask for instructions as to disposal.

Technical reports required by G.S. (1) on any particular article will remain an Ordnance responsibility. Salvage will arrange for inspection of stores in conjunction with the local Ordnance representative.

193. AMMUNITION COMPONENTS: D.R.O. 1125/40.

(a) Ammunition components shown below are urgently required, and will no longer be treated as expendable stores. They will be recovered by units and returned to Base Ammunition Depots through O.O's i.e Ammunition Railheads.

S.A.A. & R.F.

Cartons .55", .303", .520",  
.380", and R.F. .22", Cyl-  
inders R.F. 22", "Tear Off"  
lids of linings (all S.A.A.  
boxes) Belts ammunition Strip-  
less .303". Bandoliers Cotton  
and Chargers.

GRENADES.

Gas Check Plates. )  
Base Plugs. ) Grenades  
Split Rings and Pins. ) No 36  
Keys. )  
Empty Cylinders for dets. )  
Cylinders for Cartridges SARG.  
for Nos. 36, 58, 59, & 63.  
Grenades.  
Protecting caps for Grenades 58, 59 & 63.  
Brassards from Grenades Hand.  
A.T. Type.

MONITOR AMMUNITION.

Fuze Caps.  
Tail covers and cups.  
Carriers.  
Tail unit, from recovered.  
Smoke.  
Bombs.

Spare secondary charges.  
CARTRIDGES ILLUMINATING. & SIGNAL.

Fired Cartridges.  
Tear Off Lids of linings,

GENERATOR SMOKE.

Lids.  
Striker Sticks.

GUN AMMUNITION.

Grummots.  
Fuze Caps.  
Fired Cartridge Cases.

P.T.O.

R/O 193 Continued.  
EMPTY CYLINDERS FOR.

- |                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Detonators (complete with packing) | Flares.         |
| (for all types) and Rectifiers.    | Thunderflashes. |
| Guncotton Primer.                  | Primers.        |
| Ctges S.A.R.G.                     | Tubes.          |
| Fuzes.                             | Fuze Safety.    |
| Ctges R.F.                         |                 |

(b) Particular attention will be given to the recovery and return of Belts Ammunition Stripless, .303".

(c) The above instructions will be brought to the notice of all ranks by means of Formation and Unit Orders.

194. TENTAGE. D.R.O. 1126/40.

It has been noticed that unoccupied tents are being left standing with loose Guy ropes, etc. This practice is harmful to tents as they are liable to be torn and damaged in high winds. Tents R.D. are especially liable to damage and a number of cases have recently occurred.

Officers commanding units will arrange for standing tentage to be inspected daily to ensure that Guy ropes, etc., are properly tightened.

195. M.T. REPAIRS. D.R.O. 1127/40.

When proceeding to L.A.D's or A.A.S.C. workshop sections drivers WILL accompany their vehicles and assist where possible.

196. DRIVING ARMY VEHICLES. D.R.O. 1128/40.

Attention is drawn to the following extracts from Standing Orders A.I.F. (Pamphlet 3, paras 19 and 20)

- 19. Private Purposes. The use of Australian Military Vehicles for Private purposes is prohibited.
- 20. Officers Driving Vehicles. Officers may drive Australian Military Motor Vehicles only in the following exceptional circumstances:--
  - (a) When the driver is incapacitated.
  - (b) In an emergency, or
  - (c) To afford relief to the driver on long journeys.

The above will be repeated in all unit orders.

197. PERSONNEL OF RUSSIAN ORIGIN. D.R.O. 1129/40.

Units will submit at earliest returns showing number of personnel of Russian origin on strength. Nil returns are NOT required.

198. SPEED LIMITS. D.R.O. 1130/40.

Ref D.R.O. 1077/40, cases are still occurring of 30-cwt lorries being driven at a speed considerably in excess of 30 m.p.h. Comds and all Officers will take more energetic action to ensure that speed limits set out in the above mentioned D.R.O. are rigidly observed.

199. EXCHANGE INDENTS (A.F.G.1032). D.R.O. 1131/40.

When completing Exchange Indents (A.F.G. 1032) units must take care to fill in column marked 'for exchange' not column 'deficient', this column is for R.A.O.C. use only.

*J. B. ...*

.....Capt.  
Staff Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.



*War Diary*

ROUTINE ORDERS.

by Brigadier S. G. SAVIGNI D.S.O., M.C., E.D., COMMG. 17 AUST. INF.

IKINCI MARYUT.

No. 177.

12 Dec. 40.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

"G" Section.

*W. Brock*  
Major,  
Mde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

"A" and "G" Section.

176. BLACKOUT DISCIPLINE. D.R.O. 1115.

All officers proceeding on leave to PALESTINE are informed that strict blackout regulations are in force in JERUSALEM and that disciplinary action will be taken in cases of non-compliance with local P.A.D. orders.

177. COURTS MARTIAL. D.R.O. 1116.

The following sentences have been awarded by District Courts Martial and confirmed by G.O.C. 6 Aust. Div. :

<u>Name of accused.</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Date of Offence</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Date of confirmation</u>
NX 4903 Sgt. John Hilton SPEECE. 2/3 Bn.	Conduct to the prejudice of good order & military discipline - using Govt. vehicle for private purposes.	7 Nov. 40	Reduced to Ranks.	10 Dec. 40
VX 3873 Pte. Basil George BLITZ. 2/6 Bn.	(1) Using in-subordinate language to his superior Officer (2) Striking his superior officer (3) A.W.L.	24 Oct. 40	42 days Detention	10 Dec. 40
NX 8362 Pte. Victor James TONKS. 2/2 Bn.	Disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer	18 Oct. 40	28 days Detention	30 Nov. 40
NX 1362 Pte. Donald MILLS. 2/2 Bn.	Disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer	15 Aug. 40	181 days Detention	30 Nov. 40
NX 2832 Pte. Walter Bernard JOHNSON. 2/2 Bn.	A.W.L. (two charges) total absence 30 hrs. 30 mins.	3/4 Nov. 40.	120 days Detention	30 Nov. 40

The above will be promulgated in all unit orders.

P.T.O.

In any case where application is made for the reduction of an N.C.O., the application will embody a certificate by the C.O. to the effect that A.M.R. & O. 224 has been complied with, and that the N.C.O. concerned is informed of the action that has been taken.

179. BLANKETS.

D.R.O. 1118.

Action is being taken to increase winter scale of blankets to four (4) per all ranks. Issue will be made as blankets are made available from Base Ordnance Depot, BARBARA.

Indent is being submitted by 6 Aust. Div. Units which hold any blankets in excess of 3 per all ranks will advise the excess number to D.A.D.O.C. immediately, in order to avoid unnecessary stocks being delivered.

180. ABSENTEES & DESERTERS.

D.R.O. 1119.

In order that accurate records of absentees and deserters may be kept, units will report as necessary to D.A.P.M. giving particulars of any man absent without leave for a period of 24 hours. This report will be submitted by telephone and confirmed in writing.

After absence for 7 days, a descriptive return (Form B124) will be forwarded to the D.A.P.M. in triplicate.

Notice will also be given to the D.A.P.M. immediately an absentee returns to his unit.

181. DRESS.

S.D. will be worn except when C.Os. consider that weather or working conditions warrant K.D., in which case all ranks must be dressed uniformly.

182. RETURNS.

(5 Aust. Div. 4389 of 11 Dec. 40).

It is notified that <sup>EXTRA</sup> equipment AFW 3008 and AFW 3009 are no longer required.

*J. Bishop*  
Capt.;  
S/Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

AUSTRALIAN MATERIAL FORCES.

ROUTINE ORDERS

By

Brigadier S. G. Savige, D.S.O., M.C., E.D., Comd. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

IKINGI MARYUT.

No. 176

11 Dec 40.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

"G" SECTION.

NIL.

*M. S. Ock*  
.....Major,  
Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

"A" & "Q" SECTION.

169. ORDNANCE VOUCHERS. D.R.O. 1107/40.

The spaces provided on Indents and Vouchers for 'Address for Stores' and 'Address for Vouchers' will NOT be filled in.

170. BLANKETS. D.R.O. 1108/40.

Units which have not been issued with the third blanket (Winter Scale) per man, will submit to this HQ statement of quantity required.

171. A.I.F. KIT STORE. D.R.O. 1109/40.

This establishment at No. 26 Rue Echelles Des Cereales, ALEXANDRIA, is now connected by telephone to ALEXANDRIA Sub-area (KOM EL DICK) exchange. Extention 53.

172. TANKS, WATER, 400 GALLON. D.R.O. 1110/40.

Units in possession of any of the above, from whatever source received, will submit returns to this HQ forthwith showing the number held, and whether fitted with taps for use from lorries or as standing tanks. If on loan to or from another Unit, this will be stated.

173. ROUTINE ORDERS - REPLICATION OF. D.R.O. 1111/40.

Units will not republish in their own Orders paragraphs from the Orders of superior formations, e.g., Middle East, B.T.E., etc., unless such paragraphs have already been published in D.R.O's.

174. CLAIMS FOR LAUNDRY PAYMENTS. D.R.O. 1112/40.

Units should submit Form T.S.4, made out in favour of Commanding Officer, for amounts paid to laundry since 1 Nov, not exceeding the scale approved by R.O.1057. Claims must be supported by receipts, and must show the period of claim and the number of Officers, and of other ranks who have paid for washing over that period.

The maximum fortnightly scale for messes shall be :-

<u>NUMBER OF MEMBERS.</u>	<u>OFFICERS.</u>	<u>SERGEANTS.</u>
31 or more.	P.T. 75	P.T. 50.
21 to 30	P.T. 65	P.T. 40.
11 to 20	P.T. 55	P.T. 30.
10 or under.	P.T. 45	P.T. 20.

Where receipts for payment have been signed in a laundry book, the C.O. will certify that he has personally inspected the laundry book, and that the amount of the claim is substantiated by signature therein.

P.T.O.

Reimbursement of individuals and messes will be made by Unit Comds. who will obtain and file receipts therefore. One separate claim will be submitted in favour of C.O's for all messes in their Unit which have paid for washing, showing the period and the average number of Officers or Sergeants over that period and attaching receipts.

175. TRAFFIC CONTROL. D.R.O. 1113/40.

In order to check the unauthorised use of vehicles, a traffic control post has been established at the barrier on the ALEXANDRIA Road. Reports from this Post will be forwarded to Units for such action as is necessary.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
.....Capt.  
Staff Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

NOTICE.

LOST: Between 2/6 Bn Lines and Bde H.Q. -

1 Haversack - containing K.D. Slacks, shirt, towel, 3 prs Sox, hair oil, etc.

Finder please return this H.Q.

1.0

*Handwritten signature*

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ROUTINE ORDERS.

Commanding Officer has directed that the following orders be issued by  
by  
Brigadier S. G. SAVICE D.S.O., M.C., E.D., COMDG. 17 AUSTRALIAN INF. BDE.

IKINGI MARYUT.

No. 175.

9 Dec. 40.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

"Q" Section.

NIL.

*Handwritten signature*  
Major,  
Bde. Major, 17 Austral. Inf. Bde.

"A" and "Q" Section.

165. SMALL PARTIES OF TROOPS TRAVELLING BY TRAIN : D.R.O. 1103.

In order to avoid over-crowding as much as possible, and to concentrate troops travelling to certain trains, the following arrangements have been made :-

- (1) A train from Western Desert leaves MERSA MATRUH (HATANA) at 1600 hrs. daily and runs to CAIRO, arriving at 0545 hrs. next day. Troops for Canal Zone will travel by this train, and after breakfast at E.F.I. Canteen at BAB EL NADID Barracks will travel in a reserved coach by train leaving CAIRO at 0710 hrs.
- (2) In the return direction a train leaves CAIRO at 2200 hrs. daily, due at MERSA MATRUH (HATANA) at 1140 hrs. next day. Troops from Canal Zone will travel by trains leaving Port SAID at 1840 hrs., SUEZ at 1720 hrs., and ISMAILIA at 1959 hrs.
- (3) Troops for stations between ALEXANDRIA and EL HAMMAM will travel from CAIRO by train leaving at 1830 hrs., changing at ALEXANDRIA into train departing at 1550 hrs., due EL HAMMAM at 1819 hrs.
- (4) Third class coaches are attached daily to trains leaving CAIRO at 0710 hrs., and 1830 hrs. to PORT SAID, and connecting train to SUEZ. Troops for PALESTINE will travel on 1830 train. A reserved coach is provided on the PALESTINE train.

All personnel travelling on these trains to be provided with 3rd. Class warrants and/or half fare vouchers for portion of journey not covered by leave warrant. At least 48 hrs. advice of small parties should be given to R.T.O., KANTARA, and H.Q. Movement Control, Canal Area, in order to make necessary adjustments at KANTARA. Any parties arriving without notice may be refused entrainment, or alternatively travel in the unreserved portion of the train and be subject to any consequent over-crowding.

(5) In all cases as much advice must be given as possible, certainly not less than 24 hrs., to ensure adequate arrangements. (G.H.Q. G.O. 320).

166. COOKERS PORTABLE, NO. 2 & 3 - SPARES FOR : D.R.O. 1104.

Sanction has been accorded for the issue of three spare Nuts, retaining - for securing pricker needles in jets of Cookers, Portable, No. 2 & 3 - to each Cooker, Portable, No. 2 and 3 held on charge.

Indents for numbers required will be submitted to D.A.Ds.O.S. (G.H.Q. G.O. 323).

P.T.O.

167. TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

D.R.O. 1105.

Many cases have recently occurred in which Commanding Officers have held drivers not to blame for collisions on the grounds that the vehicle with which they had collided was at fault. In many cases it is considered that the drivers could have avoided collision in spite of the bad driving of the other vehicle. Collisions have taken place when the W.D. vehicle has been overtaking another vehicle which has turned to the left without warning. The moment to pass another vehicle must be carefully and correctly chosen by the overtaking vehicle.

A large proportion of accidents are also due to excessive speed. Attention is drawn to D.R.O. 1077.

Risks cannot be taken with impunity in this country. The Military driver i/c of a W.D. vehicle is not entitled to assume that other drivers will always take the correct action in an emergency, and they should accordingly drive with corresponding care.

It must be impressed on all drivers that only in exceptional cases can a driver involved in a collision be entirely blameless.

C.Os. will in future give such cases the fullest consideration before deciding that the overtaking W.D. Vehicle is NOT to blame. If a driver is not considered blameless, it is the duty of the Commanding Officers to take disciplinary action.

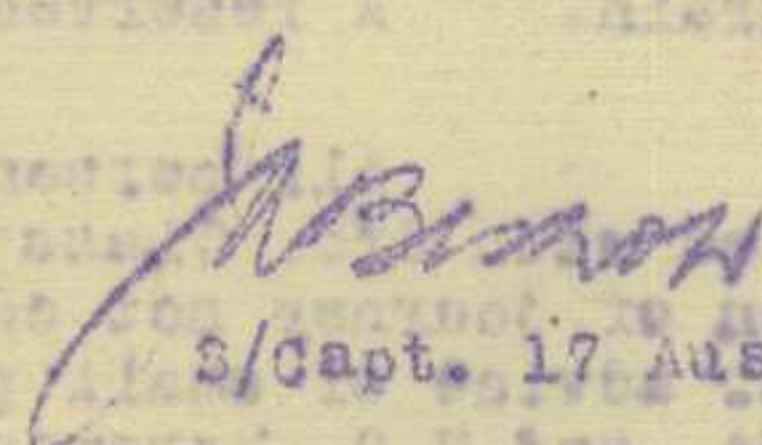
It cannot be too strongly pointed out that an endeavour to save a few seconds or minutes in traffic may result in a vehicle being immobilised for days, or even weeks, with a consequent loss to the efficiency of the forces. The momentary carelessness of a driver may mean that reinforcements and supplies are not delivered to the fighting forces at a time when they may be urgently required, or that an essential vehicle is out of action.

168. WAR EQUIPMENT TABLES :

D.R.O. 1106.

All units will report forthwith, direct to A.D.O.S. 1 Aust. Corps, whether they are in possession of G.1098 War Equipment Tables. If in possession, the following information will be included : (Reports will be forwarded to Bde. H.Q.)

- (a) Serial Number.
- (b) Date.
- (c) Amendments held.

  
Capt.,  
S/Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

NOTICE

LOST - STEEL HELMET.

A Steel Helmet marked NX 1129 Signm. LOCKYER H.H., was lost in 16 Aust. Inf. Bde. area during Div. exercise 3-5 Dec. 40. If found, to be returned to H.Q. Sigs. 6 Aust. Div.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ROUTINE      ORDERS

By

Brigadier S. G. Savige, D.S.O., M.C., E.D., Comd. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

IKINGI MARYUT.

No 174

7 Dec 40.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

"G" SECTION.

NIL

.....Major,  
Bde. Major, 17 Aust Inf. Bde.

"A" & "Q" SECTION

161. 2/1 C.C.S. - RETURN OF PERSONNEL TO UNITS. D.R.O. 1099/40.

The following procedure will be observed for movement of personnel back to Units when discharged fit from 2/1 C.C.S. :-

UNITS IN DIV AREA (other than BURG el ARAB).

2/1 C.C.S. will notify formations or units by signal through D.R. leaving approx. 1000hrs the previous day, quoting numbers by units.

Formations or units will arrange tpt to report 2/1 C.C.S. at 10.30 hrs to collect.

162. MAINTENANCE OF M.T. VEHICLES: D.R.O. 1100/40.

Damage has occurred to Big Ends and Main Bearings when vehicles have been parked in splinter-proof pits on steep slopes, in such a way that the oil has drained away from the oil pump. When engines have been started the bearings have run dry quickly.

This damage is to be avoided by providing gentle slopes in anti-splinter pits. Where this is not possible, vehicles will be parked so that oil runs to, and not away from, the pump.

163. MAILBAGS - IMPROPER USE OF. D.R.O. 1101/40.

A report has been received that Mailbags are being used by Units as Containers, floor mats, etc. C.O's will take disciplinary action in any case where a mail bag is detained or used in a manner contrary to the provisions of 6 Aust. Div. Adm. Inst. No 66.

164. BOUNDS MAPS - ALEXANDRIA. D.R.O. 1102/40.

These are being distributed to all units on list 'B'. Any Unit leaving ALEXANDRIA area will return the map to D.A.P.M., 6 Aust. Div.

.....Capt.  
Staff Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

NOTICES :-

F O U N D.

During recent Div. Exercise :- One set web equipment and three (3) 'BOYS' MAGAZINES. This Equipment is at present held by H.Q. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

The 17 Aust. Inf. Bde., desire to acknowledge gratefully the receipt of toothpaste and Cigarettes from the Australian Comforts Fund.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ROUTINE ORDERS

By

Brigadier S. G. Savige, D.S.O., M.C., E.D., Comd: 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

TRINGI MARYUT.

No. 173

6 Dec 40.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

"G" SECTION

Nil.

*S. G. Savige*  
.....Major,  
Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

"A" & Q SECTION

196. GENEVA CONVENTION: D.R.O. 1094/40.

Under the terms of this Convention, provision is made for the privilege of personnel employed exclusively in the care of the sick and wounded.

Attention is drawn to the provision of Sec. 68 of F.S.R, Vol. I., 1930, as amended up to 1939 in this connection.

Units will ensure that the following action is taken to provide for the protection of personnel enumerated, :-

- (i) MEDICAL OFFICERS, MEMBERS OF A.A.N.S. & CHAPLAINS.  
Obtain through A.D.M.S. 6 Aust. Div. armlets and IDENTITY CERTIFICATES (AFW 3050) for individuals.
- (ii) Other Ranks of MEDICAL SERVICES.  
Obtain through A.D.M.S. armlets for individuals and make the following entry on P24 of A.B.W. F5. "Protected under provision of the Geneva Convention 1929 Articles 9 (Para 1) and 21 (Para 2)".
- (iii) OFFICERS or O/R's of Combatant Branches of the Service attached to Medical Units.  
Make the following entry on a slip gummed to P24 of A.B.W. F5. "Protected under the provisions of the Geneva Convention 1929 (Articles 17 (para 3) and 21 (para 2) whilst attached to this Unit)".
- (iv) REGIMENTAL STRETCHER BEARERS.  
Indent for Armlets bearing in RED the letters "S.B." on white drill. Make the following entry on a slip gummed to P24 of A.B.W. F5. -  
"STRETCHER BEARER"  
"Protected under provisions of the Geneva Convention 1929, whilst carrying out these duties. Articles 9 (Para 2) and 21 (Para 2),

The entries referred to above will be signed by or for the C.O. of the Unit of which personnel are members and the entries will be stamped with the Official Stamp of such Unit.

157. FIELD SECURITY SERVICE: D.R.O. 1095/40.

There have been instances of failure by Units to assist personnel of this service when asked to do so. It is emphasized that this is NOT a police service for locating and punishing military offences, but it operates for the safety of the whole force. Assistance will be given to members of the Service by all Units whenever requested. This order will be repeated in Unit and equivalent R/O's.

P.T.O.



158. SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE: D.R.O. 1096/40.

Officers and O/R's may claim 125 millones per day when absent from camp on leave for two days or more. This amount, however, is not payable to personnel quartered at the premises conducted by the Australian Comforts Fund at ALEXANDRIA.

159. VEHICLE MARKING: D.R.O. 1097/40.

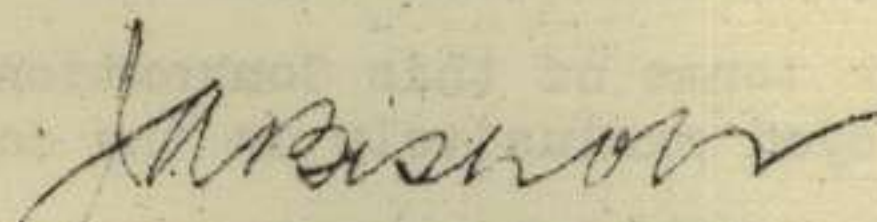
The changes in Unit signs set out in 1 Aust. Corps G.S. Inst Nom 30 will be carried out by Unit personnel assisted, where necessary, by L.A.D's.

Supplies of paint will be available shortly and the changes are to be completed by 17 Dec. 40.

160. RAILWAY CROSSINGS: D.R.O. 1098/40.

(a) Vehicles must not cross the E.S.R. Railway line except at recognised level crossings.

(b) Level crossings are not to be constructed without prior reference to Div. H.Q. who will arrange for the work to be done by the E.S.R.

  
.....Capt.  
Staff Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

NOTICE.

LOST: - During Div. Exercise 21/23 Nov. - <sup>empty</sup> One red-coloured Trunk with lock and key, and small chain underneath, together with large shovel.

Finder please return to D.A.P.M's Office, H.Q., 6 Aust. Div.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ROUTINE ORDERS.

by

Lt-Col. A.H.L. GODFREY M.C., E.D., ADMINISTERING COMD. 17 AUST.  
INF. BDE.

IN THE FIELD.

No. 172.

4 Dec. 40.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

"G" Section.

NIL.

*J.M. King*  
Capt.,  
A/Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

"A" and "Q" Section.

149. TRAFFIC ROUTES - ALEXANDRIA. D.R.O. 1086.

Portion of the Rue Fouad el Ahwal between Rue Gerbel and the junction of Rue Sultan Hussein and Avenue Belgique, will be closed to all traffic for 20 days from 2 Dec. 40.

The following route has been laid down for and will be followed by all Military traffic moving to ALEXANDRIA or returning.

Rue BELGIQUE  
Rue ABDEL KADER  
Station Square - Cross over Rue NEBI DANIEL and KING  
OSMAN into  
Rue LER KHEDIVE  
Rue IBRAHIM LER  
Rue KOUBRI EL TARIKH  
Rue du MEX

Civil and Military Police will be posted at all important points to assist and direct drivers.

150 ATLANTIC HOTEL : D.R.O. 1087.

The Atlantic Hotel, ALEXANDRIA, is a hostel for other ranks only, and is out of bounds to Officers, except those who have duty with the Aust. Comforts Fund representatives who control the Hostel.

151. DISTRIBUTION OF COMFORTS. D.R.O. 1088.

The following supplied by Aust. Comforts Fund will be issued on Friday 6 Dec. by A.A.S.C. to all units excluding 19 Aust. Inf. Bde. as per ration strength 3 Dec.

One (1) tube Tooth Paste per man.  
One (1) pkt. Cigarettes per man.

152. FOULED GROUND. D.R.O. 1089.

All areas used as Latrine sites on bivouacs, exercises or security posts will be properly filled in on leaving with a seal of 6" of earth, oiled if possible, and clearly marked with an L of stones to denote fouled ground.

153. GIFTS TO NATIVES. D.R.O. 1090.

Cases have occurred recently of waste food, etc. being given as gifts to natives in camp areas. Emphasis is laid on the orders excluding natives from camp areas unless employed on Contracts and in possession of passes. Natives employed in camp areas will not be encouraged by gifts.

P.T.O.

154. RESPIRATORS, ANTI-GAS - HEAD HARNESS : D.R.O. 1092.

Head harness of Respirators which has been in constant use becomes insufficiently strong and should be replaced immediately. Periodical inspection of Respirators will be made, particular attention being paid to the condition of elastic webbing. Webbing elastic  $\frac{1}{4}$ " is expendable and replaceable as a unit repair.

155. AMMUNITION - TAMPERING WITH : D.R.O. 1093.

In no circumstances will units attempt to break down ammunition. Any defective rounds which are found will be made the subject of a report to D.A.D.O.S. 6 Aust. Div.

V. J. Schfield  
S/Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

War diary

HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE

By gumming this Label across  
the Envelope instead of tearing Envelope

*War Diary*

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ROUTINE ORDERS

By

Brigadier S. G. Savige, D.S.O., M.C., E.D., Comd. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

IKINGI MARYUT.

No. 171

2 Dec '40

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

"G" SECTION

146: TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS: D.R.O. 1082/40.

The following instruction issued in 6 Aust. Div. circular 3507/G dated 7 Oct 40 is repeated :-

"When called, answer the telephone by giving your rank, name and appointment; the caller should then give you his for identification purposes, after which, the conversation should commence.

*S. G. Savige*  
.....Major,  
Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

"A" & "Q" SECTION.

147: DISCIPLINE: Soldiers under arrest: D.R.O. 1084/40.

Attention is drawn to A.M.R & O. 396 (i) which provides that :-

"In the Permanent Forces at all times, the cases of soldiers in arrest will be disposed of daily (Sunday, Good Friday, and Christmas Day excepted)"

If owing to circumstances beyond the control of the unit it is not possible to deal with cases daily, there must be a minimum of delay.

148: MEAT SAFES: D.R.O. 1085/40.

Units which are not in possession of Meat Safes will draw them immediately from R.E. Dump, AMIRIYA, to complete to scale.

*S. G. Savige*  
.....Capt.  
Staff Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

NOTICES

FOUND: Rifle Bolt E27351 was found in MATRUH train on 27 Nov. It is now in possession of D.A.P.M. 6 Aust. Div.

FOUND: During recent Div Exercise. Rifle No. 1573.  
Helmet Steel, marked 572.  
The above articles are now in possession of 2/2 Fd. Regt.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: The 17 Aust. Inf. Bde., gratefully acknowledge receipt from the AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND of Soap, boot polish, fruit, milk and library books.

H. Q. 2/6 Aust. Inf. Bn.  
12 December 1940.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

RECCE FORWARD AREAS.

Dec. 6 Arrived NAGAMISH position 16.45 and endeavored to locate Adv. Indian Div. H.Q. without success. As light was fading went on to Recce Camp arriving 17.45. Recce Camp still under construction. Consider work done in digging in and sandbagging tents rather elaborate, but worth while if area can be held as small Rest Area. All arrangements for rationing and accommodation satisfactory.

Dec. 7 With Lt-Col. Furnell, Major Arthur and Lieut. Schofield, I proceeded to Adv. Div. area but found a completely deserted camp but sufficient evidence to show they had moved out early on Decr. 6 on "exercise". Not desiring to recce areas without permission of Indian Div. went to Rear H.Q. which again was an empty camp. Proceeded to Western Desert Force H.Q. where we met Brigadier Allen and Col. Vasey. Col. Vasey informed me after consultation with "G" Branch Western Desert Force, that we could go ahead with our recce. No further information than the tracing in my possession was available. All officers proceeded on recce of Bn. areas, commencing 13.30 hrs. In my Bn. area posts were easy to locate along forward defences, but rear defences and Coy. areas difficult to locate. Bn. H.Q. could not be identified and finally proved to be about 1000 yards away from spot shown on trace

Dec. 8. A full day spent on recce and areas allotted. Defence based on a complete A.Tk. ditch with a wire belt in front. Two Companies disposed as in "beach" defence behind the obstacle - a further belt of wire about 400 yards to rear, behind which are disposed two reserve Coys., Bn. H.Q. and H.Q. Coy., the reserve Coys. also having a role of flank protection, the right Coy. seaward and the left Coy. adjoining 2/5 Bn. area.

POSITIONS.

Forward Coys. Obstacle well covered, all section posts being well sited, hidden or camouflaged, well constructed with, in all cases, alternative positions. A number of concrete pillboxes along front for A/Tk. guns and Brens. The Right Coy. covers the main line of approach along main road, whilst the left Coy. covers on it's right flank the Rly. line and approaches over fairly open ground to left. Right Coy. H.Q. in "front line" - left Coy. H.Q. back about 300 yards. No reserve Pl. areas, all Pls. of forward Coy. being forward.

RESERVE COYS. Pls. more widely dispersed and disposed to give flank and rear protection as well as support frontally. Forward Coys. not visible in most cases. Posts well constructed but dispositions will require to be checked.

BN. H.Q. and H.Q. COY. Suitable area with well controlled track system and good camouflage effect.  
SIGNALS. Lines laid and still in existence from Bn. H.Q. to Coys.

I7 Aust. Inf. Bde.

RECCE FORWARD AREAS.

CLEANLINESS. Area throughout covered with kero. and petrol tins, dugouts and shelters most untidy and in many cases dirty - occupants evidently left in a hurry and the conditions are no credit to them, most shelters being littered with "Siddi" whisky bottles, bits of food, and in Coy. H.Q. full identification of units could be obtained from messages and orders left around. Sanitary arrangements appear bad and will want considerable improvement. Fleas abound and if our troops are to occupy this area, suggest large advance parties sent forward to disinfect and fumigate dugouts.

Dec. 9. Further recce of area and surroundings. Contacted an officer of R.N.F. who had defence plan which agreed with the disposition we had discovered and have shown on attached sketch ( App. A.) *(Original only)*

Dec. 10. Moved to BAGGUSH Area. At Bde. H.Q. contacted an officer i/c Rear Parties. Disposition as given on sketch supplied by Bde. prior to recce accurate and area needed little recce.

POSITIONS. 3 Coys. forward on escarpment covered by wire belt. Posts more visible than in NAGAMISH area, necessitated by type of country. Escarpment divided into 3 Coy. areas by deep gorges. I consider all positions too close in to face of escarpment and defence could be simplified by going further out and occupying present forward areas by reserve coys. As there are a considerable number of pillboxes built to assist defence on present front I did not pursue this idea, but suggest if we are to occupy this position that consideration be given to some forward defences.

Rear Areas. Bn. H.Q., H.Q. Coy. and I Res. Coy. at foot of escarpment - very dusty area. Delivery of supplies and food necessitate carrying parties from cookhouses at foot of escarpment to forward Coys. All tracks very rough and transport will suffer considerably. The whole area is most uninviting, the top of the escarpment being very windy and cold, whilst beneath the dust is very bad and the going difficult.

CLEANLINESS. All dugouts and shelters in clean condition.

Dec. 11. Left area at 08.00 arriving back in camp at 12.00 hours

GENERAL.

If NAGAMISH area is to be occupied, no further recce required, as lack of information compelled us to move over every portion of area.

If BAGGUSH area is to be occupied, would suggest Q.M. goes forward to check up on accommodation and layout of Bn. H.Q., H.Q. Coy. and system of supply.

This area is partially occupied by rear parties of Indian Div. and parties arriving back from leave.

..... Lieut-Col.  
Commanding 2/6 Aust. Inf. Bn.

RWK/TG

S E C R E T

S/5041/G

Headquarters,  
6 Aust Div,  
IKINGI MARYUT.

6 Dec 40.

SECURITY GUARDS.

1. With reference to Appx "A" of 6 Aust Div Operation Instruction No. 9, dated 1 Nov 40, and circular S/4466/G of 17 Nov 40, 17 Aust Inf Bde will take over from 16 Aust Inf Bde by 1300 hrs 7 Dec 40 all security guard duties at present being carried out by the latter formation.
2. These consist of those set out in the above-mentioned circular, (less those being carried out by 19 Aust Inf Bde and 6 Aust Cav) with the following additional:-
  - (a) One pl at Pumping Station at ZAWYET ABD EL QADIR Ry Sta (50299258).
  - (b) One section at southern end of ry over MALLAHET MARYUT (50589330), for protection of the pipeline.
3. Orders for posts taken over by 17 Aust Inf Bde will be handed over by 16 Aust Inf Bde.

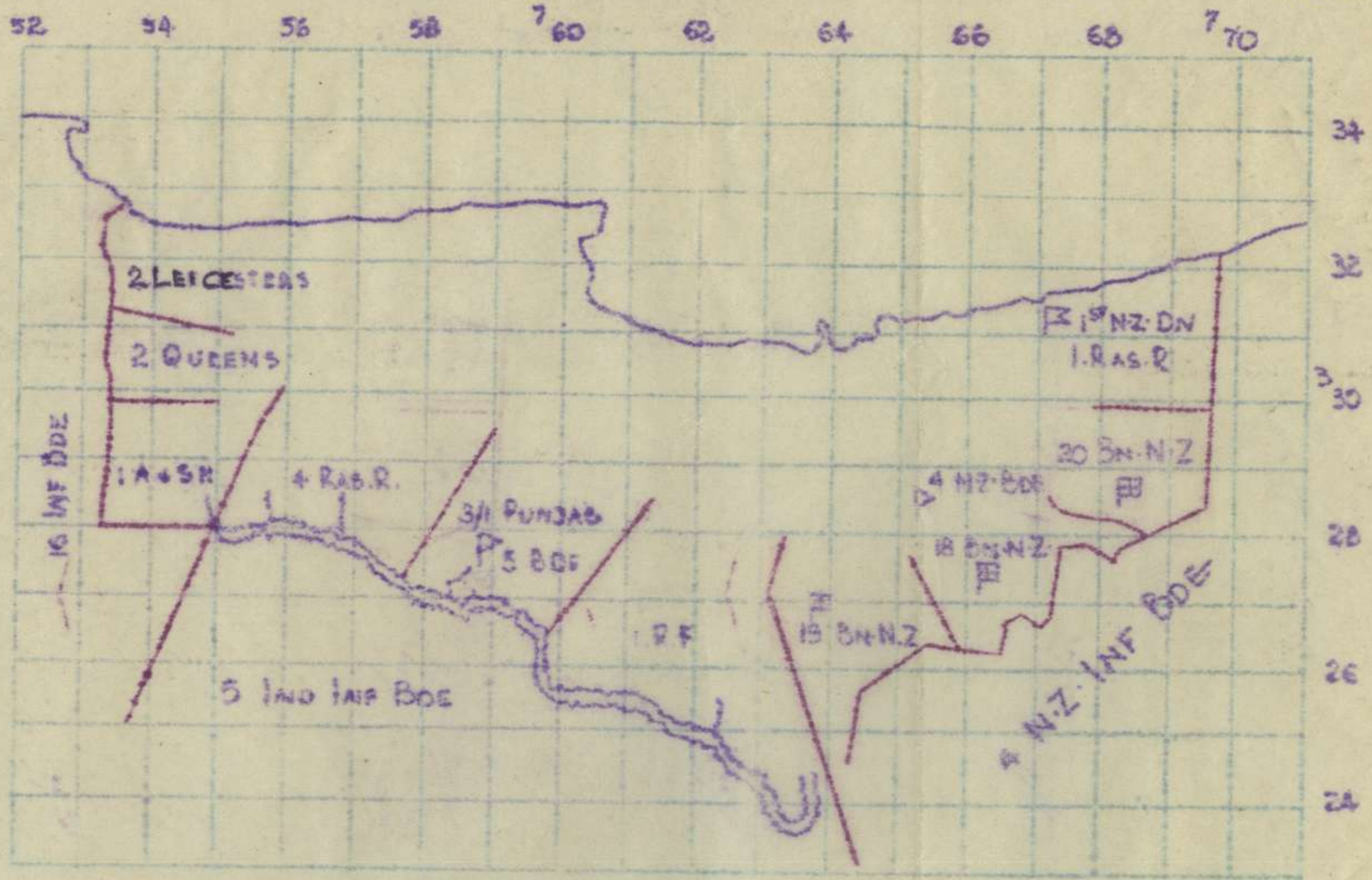
*J. W. Berryman* Colonel,  
GS 6 Aust Div.

Distribution -

16 Aust Inf Bde  
17 Aust Inf Bde  
19 Aust Inf Bde  
6 Aust Cav  
AASC 6 Aust Div  
Comd  
G  
Q  
Med  
File

Recd. 2045 hrs  
6 Dec  
*[Signature]*

APPENDIX 'B' TO 6 AUST DIV O INSTN No. 9 SECRET



LEGEND

DANNERT WIRE  
BOUNDARY

TO BE SUPERIMPOSED  
ON EGYPT 1:100,000

N. COAST RAS-EL-KANAYIS

H.Q. 6 AUST DIV

1 Nov 40 1150 hrs

DSN-B-C-



FHB/MF.

S E C R E T

Copy No: *2*

8 Nov, 40.

ADDENDUM No. 1 TO 6 AUST DIV OPERATION  
INSTRUCTION No. 9, DATED 1 NOV, 40

The secrecy of the above Operation Instruction will be carefully guarded and holders will NOT disclose the contents to anyone beyond those who must know.

Time of Signature: *0920* hrs.

Method of Distribution: Sigs, Train Courier.

<u>Distribution -</u>	<u>Copy No.</u>
16 Aust Inf Bde	1
17 Aust Inf Bde	2
<b>6 Aust Cav</b>	3
RAA 6 Aust Div	4
RAE 6 Aust Div	5
Sigs 6 Aust Div	6
Comp Coy AASC	7
Comd	8
G	9
Q	10
Med	11
Western Desert Force	12
1 Aust Corps	13
19 Aust Inf Bde	14
File	15
War Diary	16-17

*W. Bergman* Colonel,  
G.S., 6 Aust Div.

*W*

TG

S E C R E T

6 AUST DIV OPERATION INSTRUCTION No. 9

Copy No. 2

1 Nov, 40.

Ref Maps: 1/100,000 MATRUH and KENAYIS.

GENERAL.

1. To appreciate the probable roles of this div a general picture of the military dispositions and organization in north and NW EGYPT is necessary as a background. Operations are controlled by HQ B.T.E., and Western Desert Force (WDF) is responsible for operations against the enemy west of the DESERT Rd and their role is to defeat any enemy attack as far from the DELTA as possible.

WDF consists of:-

- (a) MATRUH FORTRESS garrisoned and provisioned to withstand any scale of attack.
- (b) NAGHAMISH NULLA Area between MATRUH and BAGUSH.
- (c) BAGUSH - BURBEITA Area.
- (d) Armd Div which can operate in conj with any of above posns or above the escarpment. For operations too far South to be supplied from the coastal L of C an alternate line of supply from CAIRO is possible.

East of WDF there are three sub-areas, each responsible for internal security and local adm within its area:-

ALEXANDRIA	Sub-Area
CAIRO	"
CANAL	"

ROLES OF 6 AUST DIV

2. (a) Defence of ALEXANDRIA and NW DELTA and L of C to excl EL DABA. Detailed instructions are contained in 6 Aust Div Op Instn No. 3, dated 26 Sep 40.

--- List of Guards on vulnerable pts are given in Appx "A".

- (b) Defence of BAGUSH - BURBEITA Area and L of C from BAGUSH to incl AMIRIYA.
- (c) Defence of NAGHAMISH NULLA Area and L of C from NAGHAMISH NULLA to incl AMIRIYA.

A combination of the above roles in part or whole is possible.

3.

BAGUSH - BURBEITA Area.

The defensive posn in this area is commonly called the BAGUSH Box. The general dispositions are shown in attached sketch, Appx. "B". Total extent of front is 30,000 yds.

(a) The front or western side of the box extends over a front of 4400 yds from the sea to the top of the escarpment, then 1800 yds back along the top of the escarpment, and is held by 16 Inf Bde. Between the sea and the bottom of the escarpment an A Tk ditch has been constructed. Most of the FDLs have pill boxes and the majority have a fair measure of defilade. Where NOT defiladed they are generally sited over 100 yds in rear of the obstacle so as to be out of range from flame throwing tanks.

(b) The left flank or southern side of the box runs along the top of the escarpment for 15000 yards, 12000 yds of which is held by 5 Ind Inf Bde. Except at the rear portion of this side the escarpment forms an A Tk obstacle.

5 Ind Inf Bde (at present in NAGHAMISH posn) is responsible for this sector and has disposed all three bns in the line, each bn having three coys forward. The FDLs are sited to deny the enemy observation of the coastal plain within the box, and are covered by two rows of triple Dannert wire, which is regarded as forming a partial A Tk obstacle. There are twenty-two concrete pill boxes, mostly for A Tk guns, in this sector. All FDLs are sited at least 200 yds from the Dannert wire, as a measure of protection against flame throwing tanks. A road capable of taking MT has been built down the escarpment in the rear centre of this sector.

(c) (i) The SE and eastern portions of the box are held by 4 NZ Inf Bde, which has an Ind Inf Bn and a MG Bn att. The front joins 5 Ind Inf Bde on the escarpment, runs along the escarpment for nearly a 1000 yds, thence runs NE to the sea. Extent of front 11,000 yds. The front is wired and an A Tk ditch is being constructed from the foot of the escarpment to the sea. The Pt 92 feature (696 290) commands most of the front between the coast and the ry line.

There are forty pill boxes on the NZ sector distributed as follows:-

UNIT	LMG or			TOTALS
	A Tk	A Tk Rifle	VMG	
Rt Bn	4	3	6	13 (A)
Centre Bn	2	3	4	9
Left Centre Bn	1 B	2	7	10
Left on Coast Bn	3	3	2	8
Totals	10	11	19	40

Notes: A 3 on escarpment.  
B There are good defiladed posns in this area.

3.

---  
(c) (ii) 4 NZ Inf Bde also has the role of Corps Reserve and is responsible for protecting HQ WDF and vulnerable pts on the L of C as shown in att table Appx "C".

(d) The BAGUSH Box contains important water supplies, installations etc, amongst which are:-

Wells at BAGUSH & BURBEITA  
two water sup coys  
Aerodromes  
SIDI HANEISH Ry Sta  
various dumps  
HQ Western Desert Force

4.

---  
NAGHAMISH NULLA.

(a) Dispositions are shown on att sketch Appx "D". Total extent of front is 31,000 yds. The front extends from the sea SW along the NAGHAMISH NULLA for 12,000 yds, then turns back along left flank for 9,000 yds, thence the rear face extends 10,000 back to the sea. The posn is held by 5 and 11 Ind Inf Bdes, C.I.H. (Central India Horse - Div Cav Regt) and a fd coy.

(b) An A Tk obstacle consisting of an artificial ditch or the nulla itself extends across the front. The left and rear faces of the posn are NOT covered by a continuous A Tk obstacle.

FDLs where possible are defiladed and a number are concreted. They are sited at least 120 yds in rear of the obstacle for protection against flame throwers. In front of the obstacle there is a single or double apron wire to prevent the enemy reccing the obstacle, whilst between the obstacle and the FDLs there is a belt of continuous thick wire.

Where the line turns to left rear our FDLs are overlooked from the front and arty observation is restricted, but this commanding ground outside our posn can be partially enfiladed from the next locality in rear. Pt 100 (310 329) about the left centre of the Area is regarded as the key feature of the posn.

(c) Four main routes marked by stones or petrol tins lead forward out of the posn and these routes have been selected as lines of possible counter attack or as lines of withdrawal for the outposts. Outpost localities are sited 1,000 yds and more to the front, whilst the line of observation is in continuation of the left front of the MATRUH posn 10 miles forward. The line of observation is manned by the Carrier Pls in MT, MT being used to save the tracks of the carriers.

5. The main attack against the Italians will be delivered in the MATRUH Area should a favourable opportunity occur. For this purpose tps in the BAGUSH-BURBEITA posn and possibly those in the NAGHAMISH NULLA posn would move Westwards and it would be necessary for other tps to occupy these posns. The concentration of British Tps West or South of MATRUH would reduce the scale of attack to which the BAGUSH-BURBEITA and NAGHAMISH posns would be liable and in consequence a smaller force should suffice to hold these posns. In this case our defence plans should be designed primarily to repel attacks by parachute or air-borne tps and by raiding parties of AFVs with or without motorized infantry.

6. In pursuance of the above roles, recces will be made on the basis of the following dispositions.

(a) BAGUSH-BURBEITA Posn and L of C.

(i) 16 Aust Inf Bde less one Bn - 16 Inf Bde Sector.

17 Aust Inf Bde less one Bn - ~~5~~ Ind Inf Bde Sector.  
 Tp 18-prs (6 guns) A Tk guns under comd. *Amend. 1. 6/11/40*

One Sqn 6 Aust Cav to provide line of observation. - 4 NZ Inf Bde Sector.

One Bn 17 Aust Inf Bde - Gds on vulnerable pts at present manned by NZ Inf Bde. (See Appx "C".)

(ii) RAA less one Tp 18-prs to cover 16 and 17 Aust Inf Bde Sectors and be prepared to cover the rear sector, i.e. 4 NZ Inf Bde Sector. Alternative posns will be necessary.

(iii) Reserve - one Bn 16 Aust Inf Bde. 6 Aust Cav less one Sqn, RAE 6 Aust Div.

(iv) Medical - 2/1 Fd Amb will provide  
 ADS to serve 16 Aust Inf Bde.  
 ADS " " 17 Aust Inf Bde.  
 MDS.

(b) NAGHAMISH NULLA Posn.

16 Aust Inf Bde - 11 Ind Inf Bde Sector.

17 Aust Inf Bde - 5 " " " "

Tp 18-prs (6 guns) A Tk under comd.

6 Aust Cav - CIH Sector.

One Fd Coy RAE - Fd Coy Sector.

RAA 6 Aust Div - RA 4 Ind Div and Second line A Tk defence.

7. Recces will be made in accordance with instructions which will be issued later. During recces particular attention will be paid to routes and land marks that will facilitate occupation of the posns by night. The order of priority for recces will be:-

(a) ALEXANDRIA and NW DELTA.

(b) BAGUSH - BURBEITA and L of C.

(c) NAGHAMISH NULLA posn.

8. ACK.

Time of Signature: 1100 hrs.

Method of Distribution: Sigs, Train Courier.

*J. H. Barryman* Colonel;  
G.S., 6 Aust Div.

Distribution -                      Copy No.

16 Aust Inf Bde	1
17 Aust Inf Bde	2
RAA 6 Aust Div	3
RAE 6 Aust Div	4
Sigs 6 Aust Div	5
Comp Coy AASC	6
Comd	7
G	8
Q	9
Med	10
Western Desert Force	11
1 Aust Corps	12
19 Aust Inf Bde	13
File	14
War Diary	15-16

S E C R E TCopy No: 2  
Headquarters,  
6 Aust Div,  
IKINGI MARYUT.S/4516/G.

18 Nov, 40.

SECURITY GUARDS

1. With reference to 6 Aust Div O Instn No. 9, dated 1 Nov, 40, an amended copy of Appx "A" - "List of Guards on Vulnerable Points Along L of C, Including Train Guards" - is forwarded herewith.

2. Would you please destroy your copy of the existing Appx "A".

*W. Berryman* Colonel,  
G.S., 6 Aust Div.

<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Copy No.</u>
16 Aust Inf Bde	1
17 Aust Inf Bde	2
19 Aust Inf Bde	3
6 Aust Cav	4
RAA 6 Aust Div	5
RAE 6 Aust Div	6
Sigs 6 Aust Div	7
Comp Coy AASC	8
Comd	9
G	10
Q	11
Med	12
Western Desert Force	13
1 Aust Corps	14
File	15
War Diary	16-17

APPENDIX "A" (amended)  
to 6 Aust Div O Instn  
No. 9

Copy No: 2

LIST OF VULNERABLE POINTS ALONG L of C  
INCLUDING TRAIN GUARDS

(A) GUARDS, POSTS and OPs.

Area	Posts	Approx Map Ref	Strength of Guard, OP or Post
AMIRIYA Aerodrome.	Distributed around aerodrome & barracks.	50239189	One coy.
IKINGI MARYUT.	AMES (one pl.) Aerodrome ) Coy HQ Pet dump ) & two Track lead- ) pls - ing to aer- ) Posts odrome. ) distrib- ) uted.	49409194 49859218 (Aerodrome)	One coy.
AMIRIYA.	Detector Post.	49489303	NCO & 10 men
AMIRIYA.	OP on hill near Detector Post.	49579307	One Sec.
BURG EL ARAB.	BAHIG - Pet dump (one pl.)	48049130	One coy plus one pl and one sec Carriers.
	EL GHARBANIYAT - Oil dump (one pl.)	47129087	
	BURG EL ARAB - RAF store depot (one pl)	47509119	
	BURG EL ARAB - timber dump near Sta (one sec.)	47509119	
	North of BURG EL ARAB - OP near ROMAN LIGHT HO. (3 men)	47309159	
	BURG EL ARAB Mobile Res - Coy HQ, two Secs (less 3 men at OP) & one Sec Carrier	47509119	
GHAZAL	RAF Pet & Bombs.	85263107	One pl.

PTO



(B) RAILWAY GUARDS.

Area	Posts	Approx Map Ref	Strength of Guard, OP or Post
DABA	Water & Pack trains.	85783148	Coy HQ & one pl.
SIDI HAN- EISH IKINGI MARYUT	Other trains.	75973293 49669212	One pl. One pl.

(C) MOBILE COYS, ETC. (To Repel raids and attacks)

AMIRIYA	Own camp lines.		One coy.
BURG EL ARAB	" " "		" "
AMIRIYA	" " " or at two hours' call.		One MG sqn (on wheels.)

RNK/MF.

S E C R E T

S/4466/G.

Headquarters,  
6 Aust Div,  
IKINGI MARYUT.

17 Nov, 40.

SECURITY GUARDS

1. With reference to Appx "A" of 6 Aust Div O Instn No. 9, dated 1 Nov, 40, these guards are at present being supplied by 16 Aust Inf Bde.
2. The following new allocation of security guard duties will take effect as from dates and times shown in the att schedule. It will be noted that in some instances the strength of guards, etc., differs slightly from that set out in the above-mentioned Appx. Those set out in the att schedule are to be followed, and an amended Appx "A" to O Instn No. 9 will be issued shortly.
3. A representative of 16 Aust Inf Bde will arrive at HQ 19 Aust Inf Bde at 1000 hrs on Sun, 17 Nov, 40, to carry out with a representative of the latter a recce (where considered necessary) of the posts, etc., to be taken over, and to discuss adm arrangements.
4. Both formations will advise this HQ when these duties have been handed over, stating dates and times.
5. Orders for posts taken over by 19 Aust Inf Bde will be handed over by 16 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution -

- 16 Aust Inf Bde
- 17 Aust Inf Bde
- 19 Aust Inf Bde
- 6 Aust Cav
- Comp Coy AASC 6 Aust Div
- Comd
- G
- Q
- Med
- File

*F.H. Barrington* Colonel,  
C.S., 6 Aust Div.

H.Q. 17 Aust Inf. Bde.

SEEN BY

Brig. ✓ Date Initials

R.M.

S.C. ✓

I.C. ✓

L.A.D.

L. 25

L. 26

L. 27

T.C.

A.S.G.

S.Q.M.S.

*gms*

*my*  
*W.S.*

SCHEDULE SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF SECURITY GUARDS - 6 AUST DIV

(A) GUARDS, POSTS and OPs

Area	Posts	Approx Map Ref	Strength of Guard, OP or Post	At present supplied by	To be supplied by	To be taken over by (Date & time)
AMIRIYA Aerodrome	Distributed around aerodrome & barracks.	50239189	One Coy	16 Aust Inf Bde	16 Aust Inf Bde	
IKINGI MARYUT	AMES (One pl). Aerodrome ) Coy HQ & Pet dump ) two pls Track lead- ) - Posts ing to aero-) distribut- drome. ) ed.	49409194 49859218 (Aerodrome)	One Coy	" "	" " " "	
" "	Detector Post	49489303	NCO & 10 men	" "	" " " "	
" "	OP on hill near Detector Post	49579307	One Sec	" "	" " " "	
BURG EL ARAB	BAHIG - Pet dump (One pl)	48049130 )	One Coy plus one Pl & one Sec Carriers	" "	19 Aust Inf Bde	1200 hrs, Mon 18 Nov, 40.
	EL GHARBANIYAT - Oil dump (One pl)	47129087 )				
	BURG EL ARAB - RAF Store Depot (One pl)	47509119 )				
	BURG EL ARAB - timber dump nr Sta. (One Sec)	47509119 )				
	North of BURG EL ARAB - OP nr ROMAN LIGHT HO (3 men)	47309159 )				
	BURG EL ARAB Mobile Res - Coy HQ, two Secs (less 3 men at OP) & one Sec Carrier	47509119 )				

Area	Posts	Approx Map Ref	Strength of Guard, CP or Post	At present supplied by	To be supplied by	To be taken over by (Date & time)
CHAZAL	RAF Pet & Bombs	85263107	One Pl	16 Aust Inf Bde	19 Aust Inf Bde	1200 hrs, 18 Nov.
(B) <u>RAILWAY GUARDS</u>						
DABA	Water & Pack Trains	83735148	Coy HQ & one Pl	" " " "	" " "	Commence taking over Mon, 18 Nov. Complete by 1200 hrs Wed, 20 Nov.
SIDI EL- EISH	Other trains	75973293	One Pl	" " " "	" " "	
IKINGI PAR- YUT		49669212	One Pl.	" " " "	" " "	
(C) <u>MOBILE COYS, ETC.</u> (To Repel Raids & Attacks)						
AMIRIYA	Own camp lines.		One Coy.	16 Aust Inf Bde	16 Aust Inf Bde	To be available as from 18 Nov.
DURG EL ARAB	" " "		One Coy.	" " " " (Therefore previously located at AMIRIYA.)	19 Aust Inf Bde	
AMIRIYA	" " " or at two hours' call.		One MG Sqn (on wheels).		6 Aust Cav	To be available as from 18 Nov.

S E C R E T

APPENDIX "C" to 6 Aust Div  
0' Instn No. 9.

BAGUSH - DABA AREA  
Vulnerable Points to be Guarded.

DABA Area

Bomb and Petrol Store East of DABA.  
Amn Dump.  
Supply Dump.  
Air Ministry Experimental Establishment.  
Aerodrome at QA TIFAYA (West of DABA).

FUKA Area

Aerodrome.  
Satellite Aerodrome.  
Amn Dump.

BAGUSH Area

HQ Western Desert Force.  
BAGUSH Aerodrome.  
BAGUSH Satellite Aerodrome.  
SIDI HANEISH Aerodrome.

SECRET

APPENDIX "A" to 6 Aust Div  
0 Instn No. 9.

LIST OF GUARDS ON VULNERABLE POINTS ALONG L of C  
INCLUDING TRAIN GUARDS

AMIRIYA AERODROME - One rifle coy.  
A.M.E.S. - IKINGI MARYUT  
OP (Coast) - One rifle coy.  
GHABANIYAT - RAF petrol dump - One rifle coy and Carrier pl.  
BURG EL ARAB  
BAHIG - ASC petrol  
GHAZAL - RAF petrol and bombs - One pl.  
Railway Guard Coy  
DABA - HQ and one pl.  
SIDI HANEISH - One pl.  
IKINGI MARYUT - One pl.

NOTE. - Pl at IKINGI MARYUT guards water and pack trains.  
DABA and SIDI HANEISH do the remainder.

Mobile Coys

Number - two.  
Location - camp lines.  
Task - repel ~~attacks~~, raids, etc.

Total: - Four rifle coys, one composite pl, one carrier pl.

5 Nov, 40.

AMENDMENT No. 1  
6 AUST DIV OPERATION INSTRUCTION  
No. 9

Ref para 6(a)

(a) BAGUSH-BURBEITA Posn and L of C.

(i) 17 Aust Inf Bde less one Bn.

Tp 18-prs (6 guns) A Tk under comd will  
 recce 5 Ind Inf Bde Sector.

(NOT 11 Ind Inf Bde Sector.)

Time of Signature: 1205 hrs.

Method of Distribution: Sigs, Train Courier.

Distribution -

16 Aust Inf Bde  
 17 Aust Inf Bde ~~—~~  
 6 Aust Cav  
 RAA 6 Aust Div  
 RAE 6 Aust Div  
 Sigs 6 Aust Div  
 Comp Coy AASC  
 Comd  
 G  
 Q  
 Med  
 Western Desert Force  
 1 Aust Corps  
 19 Aust Inf Bde  
 File  
 War Diary (2)

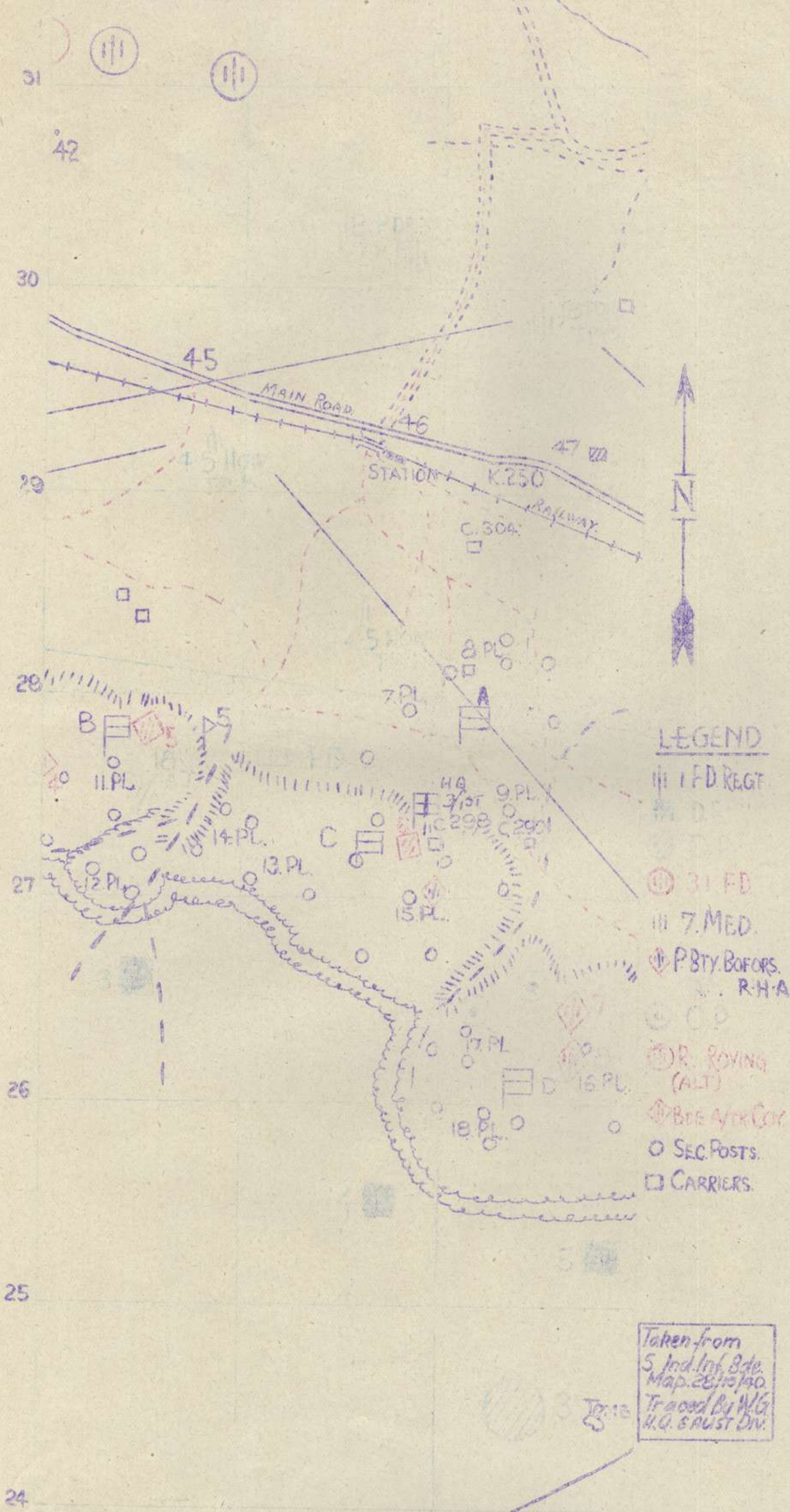
*J. H. Berryman* Colonel,  
 G.S., 6 Aust Div.

17 Aust Inf Bde  
Official War Diary  
Baqush  
Magammah P.O.

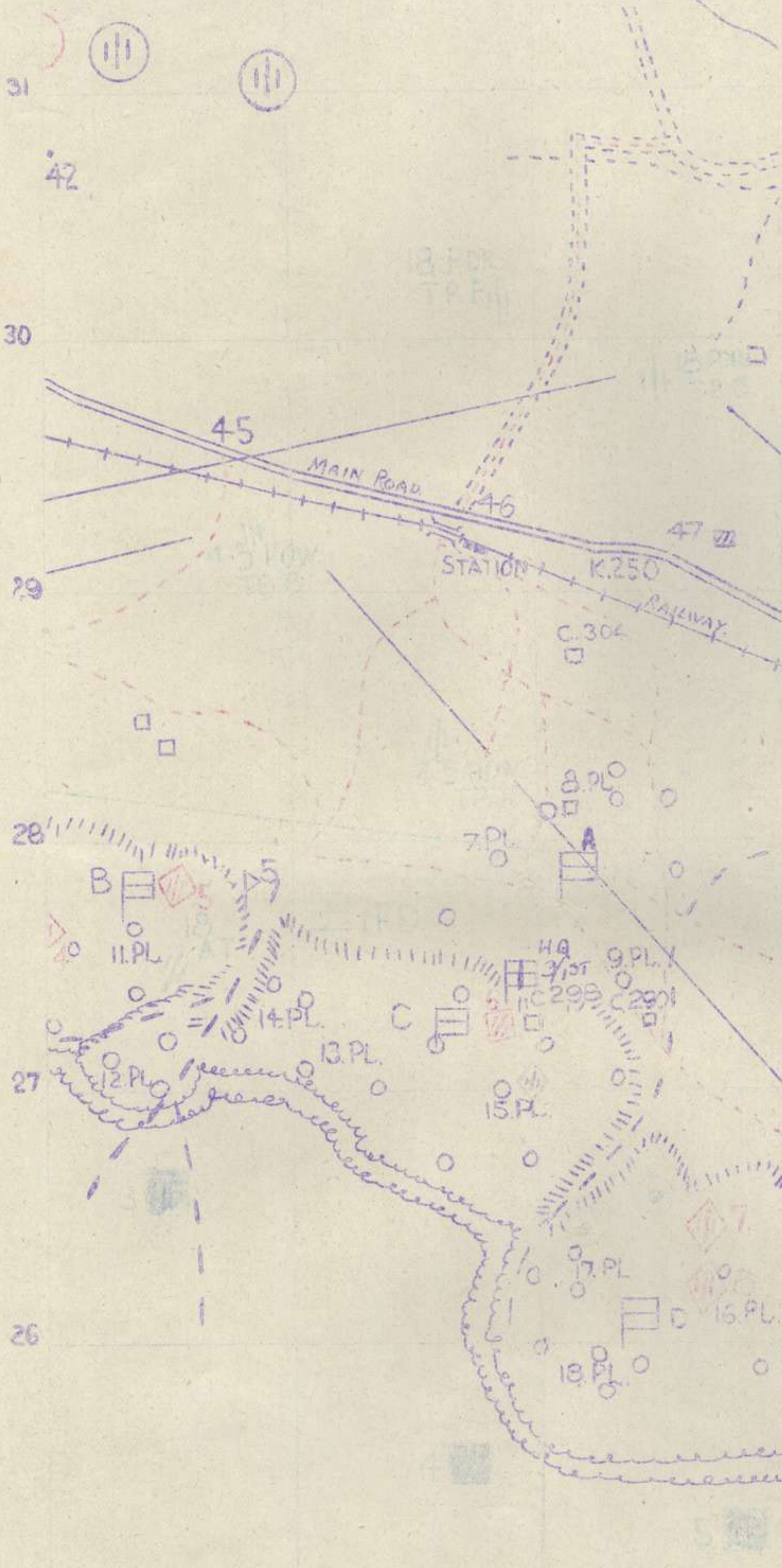
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DEFENSIVE POSNS. ← CENTRE.  
AT BAGGUSH.



DEFENSIVE POSNS = CENTRE  
AT BAGGUSH.

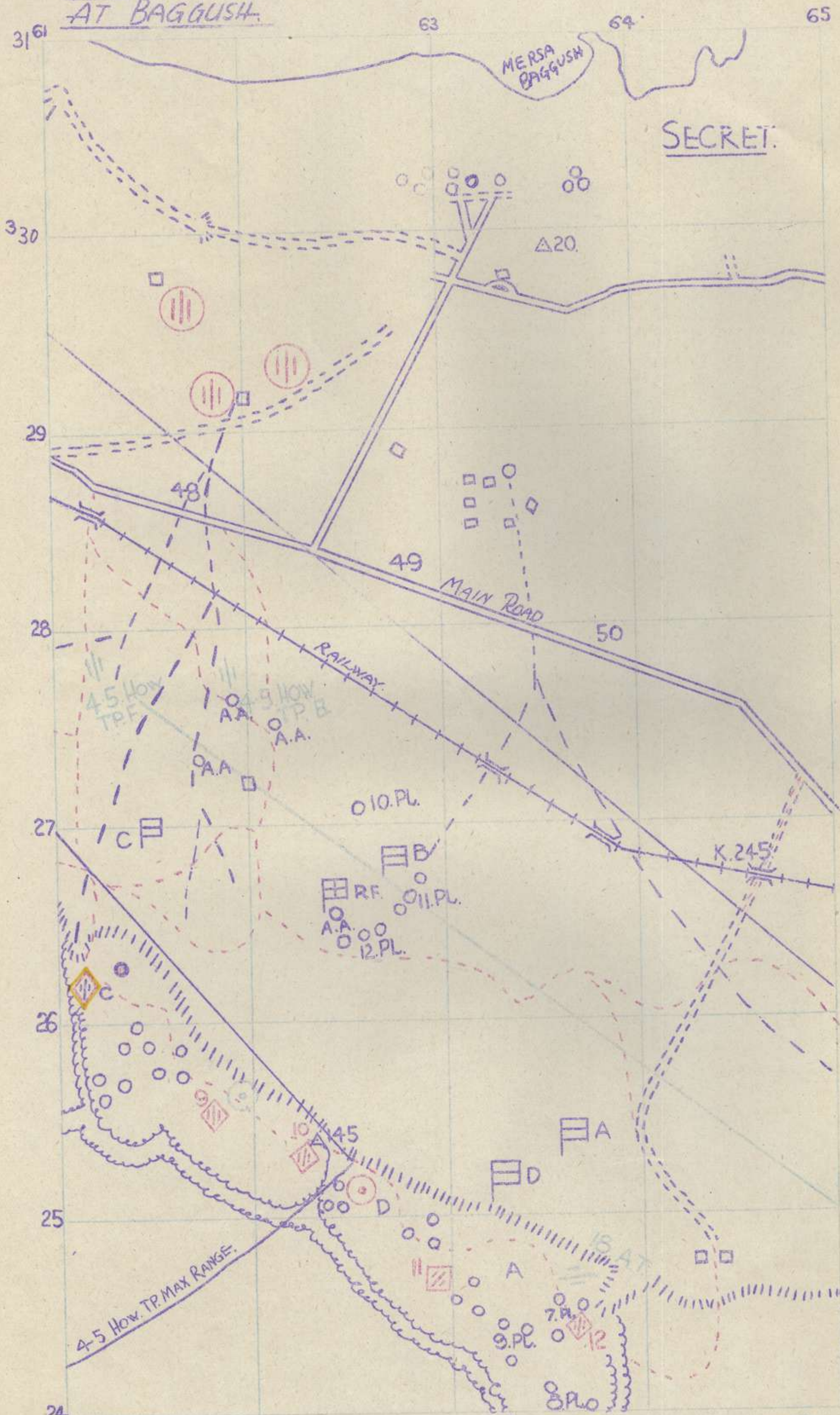


- LEGEND
- ||| 1 F.D. REGT
  - 31 F.D.
  - || 7. MED.
  - ◆ P. BTY. BOFORS. R.H.A.
  - R. ROYING (ALT)
  - ◆ BDE. ATK. COY.
  - SEC. POSTS.
  - CARRIERS.

Taken from  
S. Ind Inf. Bde.  
Map. 28/10/40.  
Traced by W/G  
H.Q. 6 AUSTR. DIV.

DEFENSIVE POSNS. — EAST  
AT BAGGUSH.

SCALE: 1:25000.

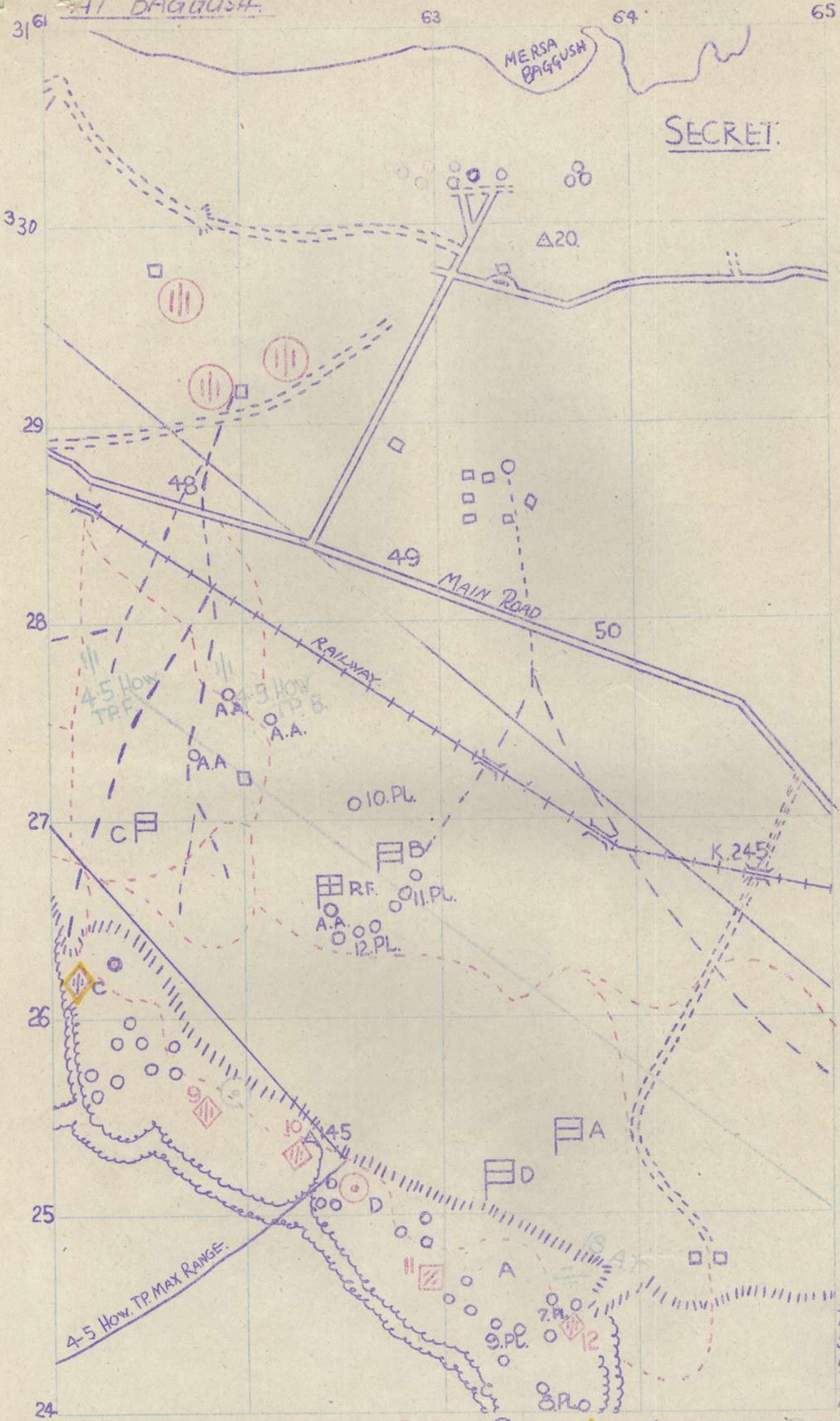


LEGEND: || 1 FD REGT. ■ DF ● C.P. (III) 31.FD. (II) 7 MED. (◆) P.BTY (BOFORS) RHA. (○) GP  
 (III) R. ROYING. (ALT) (◆) BDE. A/TRK. COY. ○ SEC POSTS □ CARRIERS.

Taken from  
5 Ind. Inf. Bde.  
Map 28/10/40  
Traced by W.G.  
HQ 6 Aust Div.

DEFENSIVE POSNS. — EAST  
AT BAGGUSH.

SCALE: 1:25000.



SECRET.



LEGEND: ||| 1 FD REGT. ■ DE. ● CP. ⊕ 31. FD. ⊕ 7 MED. ◆ P BTY (BOFORS) RHA. ○ OR  
 ⊕ R. ROVING. (ALT) ◆ BDE. A/TK. COY. ○ SEC POSTS □ CARRIERS.

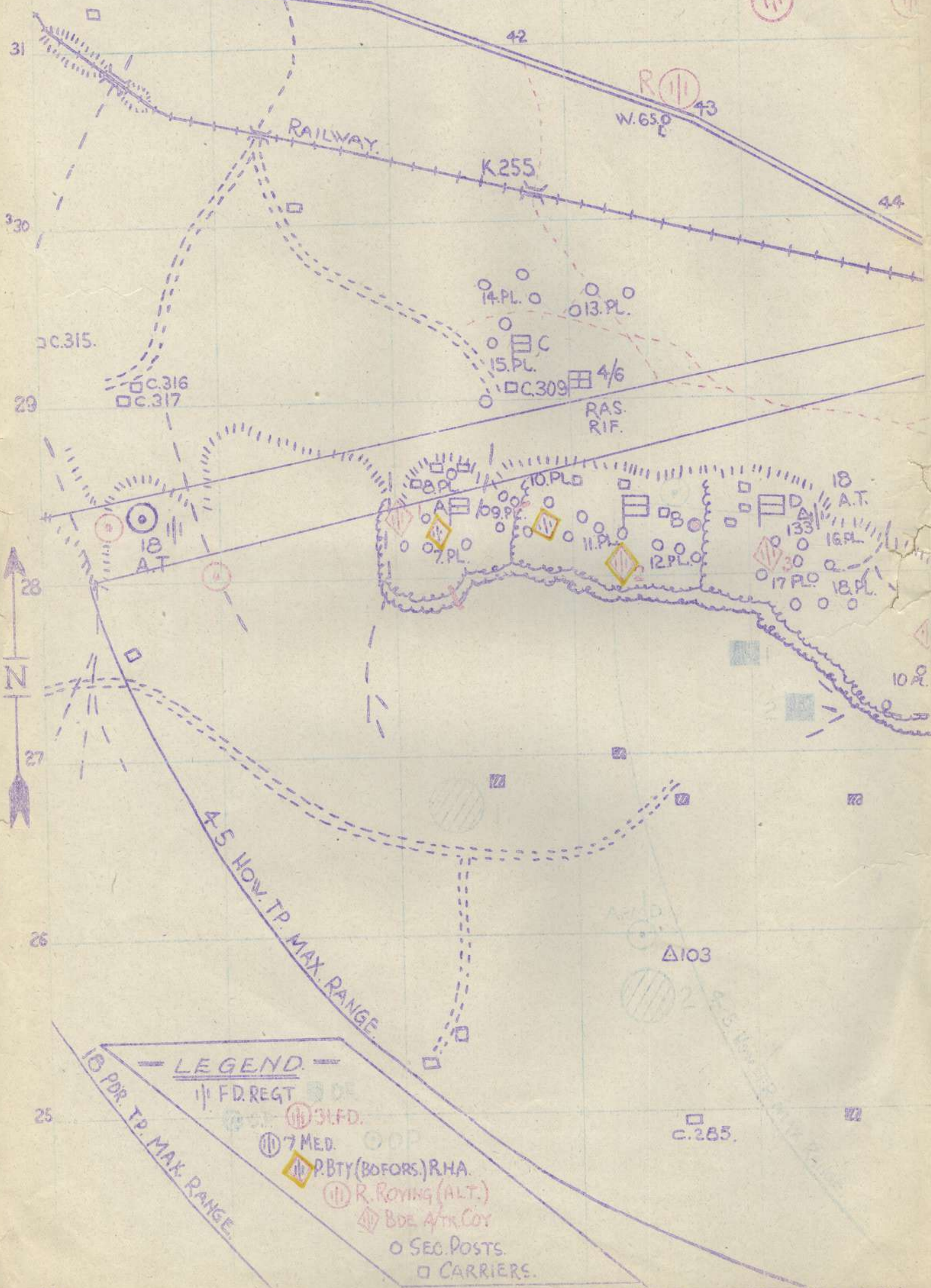
Taken from  
5 Ind. Inf. Bde.  
Map 28/10/40  
Traced by W/G.  
HQ. 6 Aust Div.

SECRET

SCALE 1:25000.

# DEFENSIVE POSNS. - WEST AT BAGGUSH.

39 MAIN ROAD 40



### LEGEND

- ||| FD. REGT
- ⊙ 31 FD.
- ⊙ 7 MED.
- ⊠ P. BTY (BOFORS.) R.H.A.
- ⊙ R. ROYING (ALT.)
- ⊠ BDE. ATK. COY
- SEC. POSTS.
- CARRIERS.

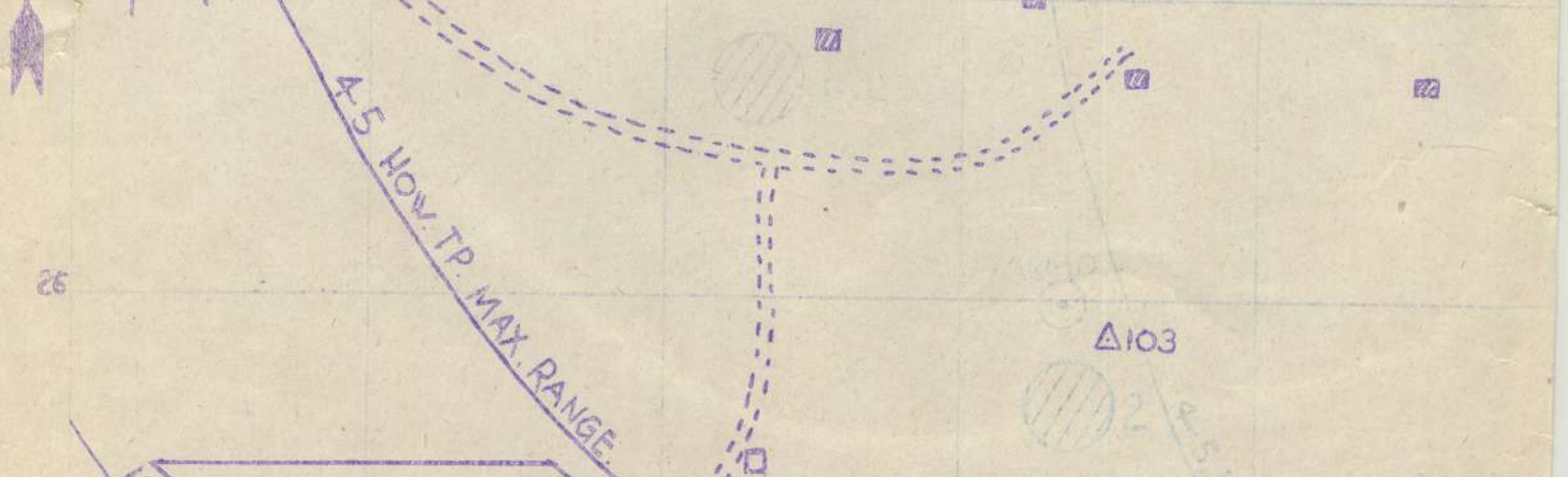
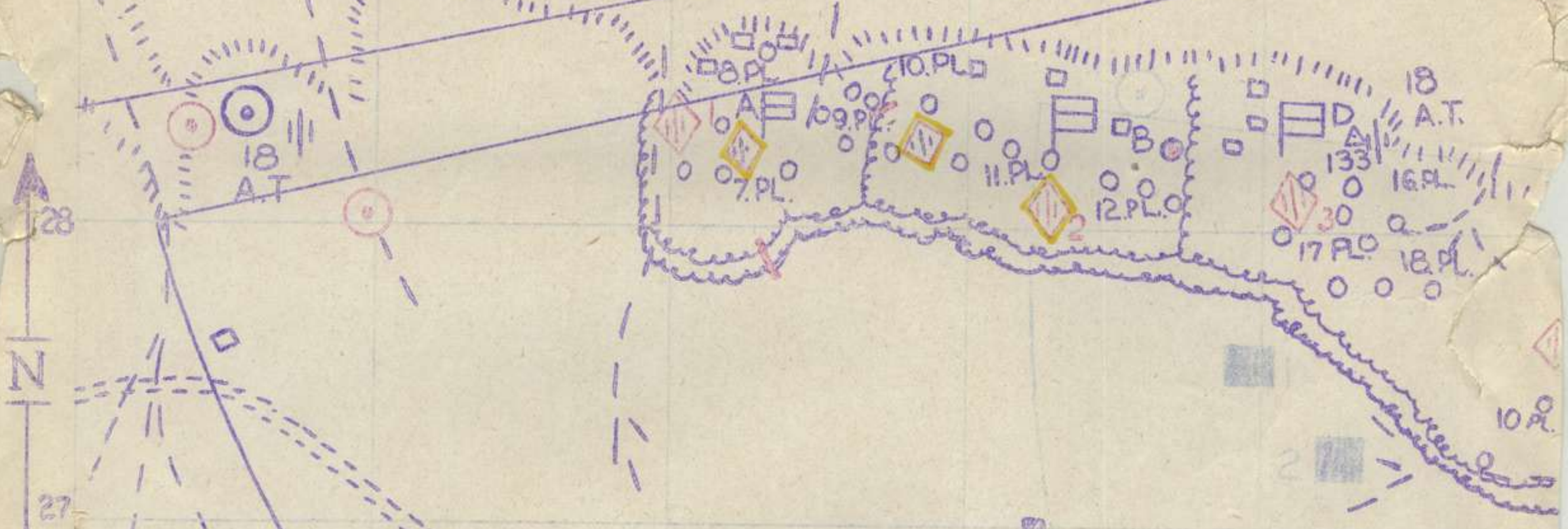
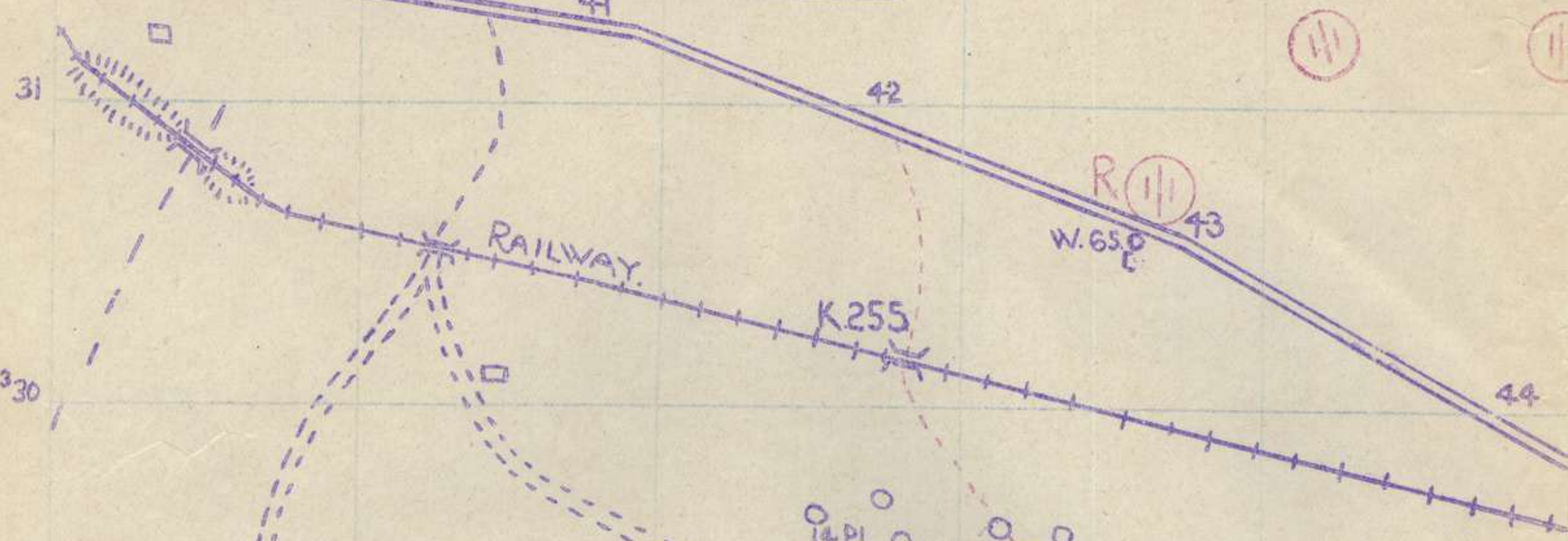
TAKEN FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> IND. INF. MAP. 28/11/40. E. R.N.N. BY W.G. H.D. GAUST. DIV.

SCALE 1:25000

SECRET

# DEFENSIVE POSNS. - WEST AT BAGGUSH.

39 MAIN ROAD 40



**LEGEND**

- ||| FD. REGT
- 31 FD.
- 7 MED.
- P. BTY (BOFORS) RHA.
- R. ROYING (ALT.)
- BOE. ATK. COY.
- O SEC. POSTS.
- CARRIERS.

TAKEN FROM S IND. INF. 11. 28/10/40 BY THE R. INF. 10. 28/10/40

174 AUST. INF. BDE

Appendices for attachment  
to Duplicate Copy  
of DEC. 40. Diary

Read by JH.

28 Dec 40.

Operation Instruction No. 1.

Dear Col. Godfrey,

follows :

Div instructions call for action by your Bn as

Night 28/29

- (1) You will secure and hold ground in the vicinity of Pt 125 in square 525386 to cover O.P. area Pt 65 in same square.

I concur with your plan covering strength and movement of party, and objective.

The primary role will be to take up a position in the area : N.W. bank of BIR-er-RAMLA and high ground Pt 125 of sufficient frontage and necessary strength to hold the area.

The secondary role will be to examine VADI el MUATERED on EASTERN extremity. You will NOT commit the party to any undue risk in loss of personnel or the hindering of its primary role in carrying out the secondary role.

- (2) You will examine the area Pt 171 in square 520384. Your primary role will be to secure the vital ground in this area and occupy it. You will subsequently prepare to occupy this area with a Coy.

The secondary role will be to ambush observers on the telegraph poles and examine the WESTERN portion of VADI EL MUATERED. Any action in carrying out the secondary role will NOT prejudice the primary role.

From night 28/29 to night 29/30.

You will arrange to reconnoitre the area of enemy post No 9 - 51983862, and obtain information covering the following:

- (i) The possibility of occupying the bend, as shown in air photo, approx 52023863 by a platoon to provide covering fire
- (ii) The practicability of gaining an entrance at :-
- (a) the passage S.W. of Post 9 as shown on air photo.
  - (b) the passage across the Tank obstacle WEST of Post 9 as shown on air photo and where road crosses the obstacle.
- (iii) The wire in the vicinity of (i) and (ii) above, particularly in the WADIS near the S.W. passage to POST 9.
- (iv) The location of POST 7.
- (v) Is the shadow marking on air photo in the vicinity of POST 7 a small ridge.
- (vi) The practicability of an attack on Post 9 from the vicinity of bend in WADI at approx 5202 3863.

- (3) The general patrolling of VADI el MUATERED other than the above, and as outlined in your proposals will be carried out as far as possible.

Distribution :

Copy No. 1 Lt-Col Godfrey MC, ED.  
2 Comd.  
3 File.  
4-5 War Diary.

Brig.,  
Comdg. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.



*File*

SECRET.

Copy No. 221.

28 Dec. 40.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. O. O. No. 1.

Ref. Maps : SALUM |  
SALUM (CYRINAICA) | 1 : 100,000.  
BARDIA ( " ) |

1. Information.

- (a) Enemy disposed as on I map green overprint.
- (b) 2/6 Bn. occupying Right Bn. sector, 2/7 Bn. 1000<sup>x</sup> S.W. of CAPUZZO.  
2/5 Bn. at BACCUSH. 2 Leicesters in reserve area SALUM.  
16 Aust. Inf. Bde. on our left.

2. Intention.

2/7 Bn. will take over from 2/2 Bn. and right fwd. coy. of 2/3 Bn. on night 28/29 Dec. 40.

3. Method.

3.

Boundaries

Inter Bde (incl 17 Bde) PT 177 at X-tracks 51375907 - PT 195 on road at 50993836.

Inter Bn (incl 2/6 Bn.) grid 517.

2/7 Bn. will relieve 2/2 Bn. and right fwd coy 2/3 Bn. during night 28/29 Dec and adjust dispositions to cover area during night 29/30 Dec. Relief will commence in daylight where possible.

4. M.G.

One coy 1 N.F. under comd 2/6 Bn.  
One coy 1 N.F. " " 2/7 Bn. when relief complete.  
One coy 1 N.F. in reserve sighted to cover gap between 2/6 and 2/7 Bns and to cover gaps on left front of 2/7 Bn.

5. Arty

2/1 Fd. Regt. in support 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

6. Liaison

2/1 Fd. Regt. will arrange for a L.O. with each of 2/6 and 2/7 Bns during hours of darkness.

7. Defensive Fire

Only BN Comds are authorized to call for D.F. at present.  
Rate : 3 r.p.g.p.m. for 5 mins.

8. Lights

No lights will be shown between 1730 hrs. and 0645 hrs. daily.

Admin.

9. As in Div. Admin. Instr. No. 90.

Intercomm.

10. Bde. H.Q. at CISTERNS 51683776.

11. Signal Plan.

L/T to each Bn.  
W/T listening set with each Bn.  
Wireless silence will hold.

Ack.

Time of Signature 1456 hrs.

Method of issue by Sigs.

Major,

Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

Distribution :

2/6 Bn.	Copy No. 1	I.O.	Copy No. 9	2/1 Fd. Regt.	Copy No 17
2/7 Bn.	2	S.O.	10	2/2 Fd. Regt.	18
2 Leicesters	3	Sup O.	11	2/5 Bn.	19
1 N.F. (MG) Bn.	4	T.O.	12	6 Aust. Div.	20
"J" Bty RHA	5	O.M.F.	13	16 Aust. Inf. Bde.	21
Comd.	6	LO 1	14	File	22
B.M.	7	LO 2	15	War Diary	23-24
S.C.	8	LO 3	16		

SUBJECT:- Appreciation of Service.  
-----

CR/Egypt/2/20207/A.

Headquarters,  
Western Desert Force,  
New Zealand Division,  
2 N.Z.E.F.  
5th Australian Division,  
No. 1 L. of C. District,  
Canal L. of C. Area,  
Cairo Base Sub-Area.  
-----

The following telegram from His Majesty the King is reproduced and circulated down to Units to be brought to the notice of all Ranks :-

" Following from Secretary of State for War to General WAVELL by Command of the KING I transmit the following message from His Majesty "Begins" Please convey to all Ranks of the Force under your Command my heartiest congratulations on the Victory in the Western Desert, skill in planning this complicated operation, for which the greatest credit is due to yourself and to the Commanders and Staff of all three Services, was equalled by the efficiency and dash of the troops in carrying it out, the whole Empire will I am sure be proud that contingents from the Dominions and India as well as those of our Free French Allies played a distinguished part in this supremely successful encounter with an enemy vastly superior in numbers - GEORGE R.I - end "

Headquarters,  
British Troops in Egypt,  
Cairo / December, 1940.

Colonel,  
Assistant Adjutant General,  
British Troops in Egypt.

Copy to:- List "A" Group "B".

Ref. Maps : BARDIA NORTH |  
BARDIA SOUTH | 1:50,000  
Green Overprint.

SECRET.

30 Dec. 40.

Operation Instruction No. 2.

Dear Col. Godfrey,

The following tasks will be carried out today and tonight as applicable.

- (1) Complete occupation of fwd Coy positions in localities selected by you within the general area laid down. In avoiding skylines, fwd slopes and awkward ground, platoons may be distributed in separate areas. You are free to use your discretion in making any reasonable alterations which daylight discloses should be made. It is important that moves should be completed tonight.
- (2) Continue patrolling, especially in the "WESTERN" corner area and in other points of WADI which previous patrolling warrants. Col Walker has placed an O.P. fwd for today to watch enemy activity and habits around Post 9. The high ground in Walker's area should facilitate.
- (3) In view of a report that enemy AFVs moved out from N.W. corner of perimeter yesterday, ensure your protection by anti-tank guns under comd.
- (4) Warn Coys that there may be instances of hoisting the white flag before any operations take place. If so, prisoners are to be encouraged to come across.
- (5) Should an opportunity present itself to clean up any pocket of enemy, do so at your discretion, providing risks leading to undue casualties are NOT taken. This will aid subsequent events.
- (6) Warn tps it is known that the enemy are laying "booby" traps. This applies to wine, beer, etc particularly. Officers and NCOs are to be instructed to maintain control of tps and prevent their wandering should the situation tend that way. There will NOT be any uncontrolled movement of tps in any circumstances.

Brig.,  
Comdg. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

Distribution :

Lt-Col Godfrey MC, ED.  
Comd.  
File.  
War Diary (2)

Ref. Maps : BARDIA NORTH |  
BARDIA SOUTH | A : 50,000  
Green Overprint.

SECRET.

30 Dec. 40.

Operation Instruction No. 3.

Dear Col Walker,

The following tasks will be carried out today and tonight as applicable.

- (1) Complete occupation of fwd Coy positions in localities selected by you within the general area laid down. In avoiding skylines, fwd slopes and awkward ground; Platoons may be distributed in separate areas. You are free to use your discretion in making any reasonable alterations which daylight may disclose should be made. It is important that moves should be completed tonight.
- (2) Carry out patrolling task tonight on main BARDIA Rd which was postponed. Initiate any further patrolling you deem necessary, but advise Bde HQ early to avoid a clash with right Bn.
- (3) In view of a report that enemy AFVs moved out from N.W. corner of perimeter yesterday, ensure your protection by anti-tank guns under comd.
- (4) Warn Coys that there may be instances of hoisting the white flag before any operations take place. If so, prisoners are to be encouraged to come across.
- (5) Should an opportunity present itself to clean up any pocket of enemy, do so at your discretion, providing risks leading to undue casualties are NOT taken. This will aid subsequent events.
- (6) Warn tps it is known that the enemy are laying "booby" traps. This applies to wine, beer, etc. particularly. Officers and NCOs are to be instructed to maintain control of tps and prevent their wandering should the situation tend that way. There will NOT be any uncontrolled movement of tps in any circumstances.

Brig.,  
Comdg. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

Distribution :

Lt-Col T.G. Walker E.D.  
Comd.  
File.  
War Diary (2).

EXTRACT FROM FIELD SERVICE REGULATIONS VOL II.

Chap. IX, Sec 92.

RELIEFS IN POSITION WARFARE.

The information to be obtained will include the following :-

- i. The defence scheme and maps, aeroplane photographs if available.
- ii. Information as to the enemy, his habits, snipers, machine gun and mortar positions, his wire and other obstacles, normal artillery, shelling etc.
- iii. Numbers of men and weapons (guns, machine guns, A/T. guns, Mortars, Light machine guns) in the sector and their distribution. Arrangements for artillery support.
- iv. The position of listening posts, artillery and infantry observation posts.
- v. The general condition of the defences, and of wire and other obstacles, work in hand and proposed, mining operations if any.
- vi. Dug out and shelter accommodation, positions of Aid posts or dressing stations.
- vii. Points specially liable to attack. Areas in sector under direct observation of enemy and danger points where fire is likely to cause casualties.
- viii. Arrangements for intercommunication, precautions against enemy interception of messages.
- ix. Light signals for artillery, defensive fire or for machine gun fire. The position of gas alarms and of anti gas defence stores.
- x. The position of Units on flanks and their headquarters.
- xi. The position of trench and ammunition stores and supply arrangements for water, rations and ammunition, .san
- xii Sanitary arrangements.
- xiii. The location of wagon or transport lines.

In infantry reliefs, the machine guns and mortars, the A/T. Platoon, Intelligence section and a proportion of signallers should, whenever possible, take over 24 hours in advance of the remainder of the battalion and during daylight. In artillery reliefs similarly observation parties and complete reliefs of signallers should take over 24 hours in advance and it is desirable that one section in each battery should also take over in advance.

Reliefs will as a rule be carried out under cover of darkness. Guides must be provided either by the outgoing unit or by the incoming unit from among the men who have been in the position since the previous day. The rules for march discipline by night, will be strictly observed. All ranks must be informed what their action is to be in the event of alarm or attack or of an aeroplane dropping a flare. Rifles will not be loaded but magazines will be charged. No firing will take place without orders. Absolute silence will be maintained, and no smoking striking of lights or use of electric torches will be allowed, except by permission of the commander of the force. The pace in front must be very slow when going by a communication trench or over difficult ground. Every relieving party must receive orders as to the action which it will take in the event of an attack by the enemy while the relief is in progress.

No posts will be evacuated until the relieving troops have taken over. Patrols will be sent out by the Unit being relieved before the relief begins and will remain out until the relief is complete.

Water bottles & all filled

Appar to be suspended for water

Key guide 0615  
5-3 hours  
1 30 avt.

Leave 0715

VTH 15

Water at Sibibani

Passive Defense

Key Cdr. in book

Immediately after the relief all men of the relieving Unit should be told off to their battle positions and should occupy them until their company (or battery etc). commander has been round and inspected the dispositions.

Officers handing over defences are responsible that all available information is given to the relieving troops and that defence schemes, maps, air photographs etc. are handed over. Superior authority will lay down distinctly what weapons tools and stores are trench stores to be handed over from one Unit to another on relief.

- iv. The position of listening posts, utility and infantry observation posts.
- v. The general condition of the defences, and of any and other obstructions, work in hand and proposed, mining operations if any.
- vi. Dig out and ~~locate~~ <sup>locate</sup> positions of old posts or dressing stations.
- vii. Points especially liable to attack. Areas in sector under direct observation, or enemy and danger points where fire is likely to cause casualties.
- viii. Arrangements for intercommunication, provisions against enemy interception of messages.
- ix. Light alarms for artillery, defensive fire or for machine gun fire. The position of gas alarms and of anti gas defence stores.
- x. The position of Units on lines and their headquarters.
- xi. The position of trench and ammunition stores and supply arrangements for water, rations and ammunition, etc.
- xii. Sanitary arrangements.
- xiii. The location of wagon or transport lines.

In entrenching parties, the machine guns and mortars, the A/T. Battalion, label their sections and a proportion of signallers should whenever possible, take over 24 hours in advance, or the remainder of the Battalion and during daylight. In artillery reliefs signallers observation parties and complete reliefs of signallers should take over 24 hours in advance and it is desirable that one section in each battery should also take over in advance.

Reliefs will as a rule be carried out under cover of darkness. Outposts must be provided either by the outgoing unit or by the incoming unit from among the men who have been in the position since the previous day. The rules for march discipline by night, will be strictly observed. All ranks must be informed that their section is to be in the event of alarm or attack or of an emergency. Signallers will not be loaded but magazines will be emptied, no firing will be allowed without orders. Ammunition stores will be maintained, and no smoking, striking of lights or use of electric torches will be allowed, except by permission of the commander of the force.

The pace in front must be very slow when going by a communication trench or over difficult ground. Every relieving party must receive orders as to the section which it will take in the event of an attack by the enemy while the relief is in progress.

No posts will be evacuated until the relieving troops have taken over. Patrols will be sent out by the Unit being relieved before the relief begins and will remain out until the relief is complete.

# Shelling Report

30 DEC 40

## ENG A B

30 DEC 40

Time	No. of shells.	Bearing.	Area Shelled.	Damage.	Nature.	No. of guns.	G or H.
0815	2	-	L. of Coy. lines.	Nil.	B	2	G
0950	5	-	" " " "	"	B	5	G
1005	4	-	" " " "	"	B	4	G
1006	2	-	" " " "	"	B	2	G
1006	1	55° approx.	Coy. lines	"	B	1	G
1455	1	-	Left & behind Coy. lines.	"	B	1	G
1510	4	-	" "	"	B	4	G [3 groups 1 off.]
1515	4	-	" "	"	B	4	G [3 groups 1 off.]
1650	30	-	Drop short	"	B		G
1700	30	-	" "	"	B		G
1702	49	-	" "	"	B		G
1704	2	-	" "	"	B	2	G
1708	13	-	" "	"	B	5	G
1710	6	-	" "	"	B	-	G
1711	12	-	" "	"	B	4	G [4 shrap.]
1713	12	-	" "	"	B	4	G [4 shrap.]
1714	8	-	Left behind [lines coy.	"	B	4	G [3 groups 1 off.]
1716	9	-	Drop short.	"	B	3	G [3 shrap.]
1717	1	-	" "	"	B	1	G 1 shrap.
1718	9	-	" "	"	B	3	G
1719	16	-	" "	"	B	4	G
20	5	-	" "	"	B	4-1	G [1 shrap.]
21	6	-	" "	"	B	6	G
1	7	-	" "	"	B	-	G [7 shrap.]
22	11	-	" "	"	B	5	G
31 DEC 40 0455	20	-	In Coy area and [behind]	"	B	-	G

Other cons. nil return up to 0830 hrs 31 Dec. 40.

*W. J. M. (C. M. M.)*

SZ

62  
63  
2

CCN

M 13

6

A M I C O





Conclusions.

It is apparent that the action last night that the enemy are becoming suspicious of our increased activity and movement and may be anticipating an attack from the south east. However there are no indications of preparations for any major offensive by the enemy.

Time of Signature 2250 hrs.

*V. Schfald*  
Lieut.  
B.I.O. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

DISTRIBUTION :

Copy No.	1	2/5 Bn.
	2	2/6 Bn.
	3	2/7 Bn.
	4	6 Aust. Div.
	5	16 Aust. Inf. Bde.
	6	File.
	7 - 8	War Diary.
	9	'J' Bty.
	10	2/2 Ed. Regt.
	11	Brigadier.

SHELLING REPORT.

31 Dec. 40.

ENGA B.

30 Dec. 40.

<u>Time</u>	<u>No. of Shells</u>	<u>Bearing</u>	<u>Area Shelled</u>	<u>Damage</u>	<u>Nature</u>	<u>No of guns</u>	<u>G or H.</u>
0815	2	-	L of Coy Lines	Nil	B	2	G
0950	5	-	" " "	"	B	5	G
1005	4	-	" " "	"	B	4	G
1006	2	-	" " "	"	B	2	G
1006	1	55° approx	Coy Lines	"	B	1	G
1455	1	-	L & behind Coy lines]	"	B	1	G
1510	4	-	" " "	"	B	4	G
1515	4	-	" " "	"	B	4	G
						(3 gp & 1 off)	
						(3 gp & 1 off)	
1650	30	-	Drop short	"	B		G
1700	30	-	" "	"	B		G
1702	49	-	" "	"	B		G
1704	2	-	" "	"	B	2	G
1708	13	-	" "	"	B	5	G
1710	6	-	" "	"	B	-	G
1711	12	-	" "	"	B	4	G
1713	12	-	" "	"	B	4	G
						(shrap)	
						(shrap)	
1714	8	-	L behind coy lines.	"	B	4	G
						(3 gp, 1 off)	
1716	9	-	Drop short	"	B	3	G
						(shrap)	
1717	1	-	" "	"	B	1	shrap
1718	9	-	" "	"	B	3	G
1719	16	-	" "	"	B	4	G
1720	5	-	" "	"	B	4-1	G
						(shrap)	
1721	6	-	" "	"	B	6	G
1721	7	-	" "	"	B		G
						(7 shrap)	
1722	11	-	" "	"	B	5	G
<u>31 Dec. 40.</u>							
0455	20	-	In coy area & behind	"	B	-	G

Other Coys. nil return up to 0830 hrs. 31 Dec. 40.

(Sgd) W.H. McCorkell

Copy.

TO TONY, HQA.

PATROL REPORT ON ROAD RUNNING NORTH TO BARDIA DEFENCES.

I proceeded on patrol on 30 Dec. at 2015 hrs. with 1 Sgt. and 12 G.Rs., and have to report as follows :-

The road from this area to BARDIA defences is passable to all traffic. There is plenty of clearance one side or other of all shell holes and abandoned vehicles.

A stone wall, ten to fifteen yards long and three feet wide (see sketch) has been erected across the road in line with angle of tank trap.

This tank trap runs EAST and WEST and turns NORTH at this point. It is approximately 14 feet to 16 feet wide and seven to eight feet deep.

Several vehicles and what appeared to be a plane were standing in the corner of the area formed by stone wall and NORTH-SOUTH line of trap. Personnel were working about them but it was impossible to distinguish vehicles or what the men were doing.

Eight of these men crossed the trap apparently by means of a bridge and followed the course shown in the sketch.

On the left of the road was an indistinct outline, probably wire, from which a sentry was heard to challenge and immediately afterwards an illuminating flare went up over our heads.

No firing took place and the patrol remained in this area from 0145 to 0215 hrs. No movement was seen or heard behind the wire, and the patrol reported back at 0320 hrs.

(Sgd) B. H. TINES Lieut.

31 Dec. 40.

77  
Ref. Map : SAMM |  
BARDIA | 1:100,000

SECRET.

29 Dec. 40.

PATROL REPORTS Night 28/29 Dec. 40.

Further Report Lieut. Sherlock Patrol.

Recced. to WADI BANIA last night. Struck off "carrier" wadi 52333842 200<sup>x</sup> from top on bearing of 9<sup>o</sup>, but small wadi 300 paces. Ranger with phone wire running out on coast side, probably our abandoned O.P. 1000 paces "carrier" wadi. Struck head small offshoot BANIA WADI 2000 paces. Travelled down it bearing approx 90<sup>o</sup>. 400 short paces met Frontier Post 8. Further 200 short paces met main WADI BANIA. Travelled NORTH and followed approx. 500<sup>x</sup> to frontier post 9. Then WEST approx 500<sup>x</sup> wadi very deep to this point and practically impassable. At this point a very deep hole and caves - WADI there gets shallower. Put troops in defensive posn. and took out recc. patrol. On NORTH bank wadi immediately above our posn. and 50<sup>x</sup> from edge is frontier wire running on bearing 247<sup>o</sup>, continued frontier post 17. Also stone building in heavily wired enclosure. Wire continues EAST to limit of vision. 500<sup>x</sup> WEST of frontier post 17 found frontier post 18 also on bank of WADI. Observed from high ground NORTH bank wadi at first light. No movement seen, but phone lines and buildings observed about 500<sup>x</sup> away. Will spend day in WADI below frontier post 17 and wait for return runners until 2030 hrs. If not back by then will leave small rear party there and recc. to bank WADI UNMAPPED and take up suitable posn, sending back new posn. to rear party. Send bully beef, sticking plaster for feet. Frontier wire appears to run considerably further towards coast than shown on map.

T.O.C. 0805

(Sgt) E. H. SHERLOCK Lieut.

War Diary

Ref. Page : BARDIA NORTH |  
BARDIA SOUTH | 2 : 50,000  
Green Overprint.


SECRET  
30 Dec. 45.

Operation Instruction No. 5.

Dear Col. Walker,

The following tasks will be carried out today and tonight as applicable.

- (1) Complete occupation of Fed. Coy. positions in localities selected by you with-in the general area laid down. In avoiding skylines, Fed. slopes and upward ground, Platoons may be distributed in separate areas. You are free to use your discretion in making any reasonable alterations which daylight disclosure should be made. It is important that moves should be completed tonight.
- (2) Carry out patrolling task tonight on main BARDIA Rd. which was postponed. Initiate any further patrolling you deem necessary, but advise Div. H.Q. early to avoid a clash with right Bn.
- (3) In view of a report that enemy A.P. Tro. moved out <sup>from</sup> corner of perimeter yesterday, ensure your protection by anti-tank guns under cover.
- (4) Warn Coy. that there may be instances of hoisting the white flag before any operations take place. If so, prisoners are to be encouraged to come across.
- (5) Should an opportunity present itself to clean up any pocket of enemy, do so at your discretion, providing risks leading to undue casualties are NOT taken. This will aid subsequent events.
- (6) Warn Gps. It is known that the enemy are laying "booby" traps. This applies to wine, beer, etc. particularly. Officers and H.Q. are to be instructed to maintain control of Gps. and prevent their wandering should the situation tend that way. There will NOT be any uncontrolled movement of Gps. in any circumstances.

  
Brig.  
Comd. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

Distribution :  
Lt-Col. R.C. Walker M.B.  
Comd.  
File.  
War Diary (2).



From British prisoners - Queens - captured dawn 25 Dec.

Sgt., Cpl. and 7 O.Rs. - patrolling in WADI el

MUATERED.

Were surrounded and captured; they say were taken to  
FORTRESS H.Q., BARDIA.

Location of H.Q. would seem to be S.E. of prominent  
loop in CAPUZZO RD. - approx Sq 516594 - see air photograph.

H.Q. in a deep WADI with dug-outs.

Interrogated on and off for 4 days. Kept in a tent  
about 200 yds from H.Q.

Questions asked :

1. Any information about 2" Mortar.
2. What certain CODE names were - in particular BEAM.
3. Wanted to know all organisations.
4. Did their arty do much damage.
5. What use we were making of captured lorries.
6. Where our gunners were - e.g. with MOSE.
7. Whether we were supplied through SALUM. They were  
told to say truthfully if they did not know answers  
to any particular questions.

With exception of a MALTESE with QUEENS - he speaks  
ITALIAN. Italians chained him - threatened to  
shoot him.

- i. They wanted to know if we have any A Tk rifles.
- ii. What the food was like.
- iii. What clothes we were.
- iv. Where petrol and amn dumps were.
- v. Asked where INDIANS were and RIFLE BRIGADE was and  
also where the A. & S.H. were.
- vi. Lot of questions about Arty types - range - etc.

Prisoners driven by lorry from where captured to H.Q.  
Passed through a lot of wire - saw no strong points at all.

At one stage Ities removed knife rest from road.

Saw NO concrete and NO tanks. NO guns anywhere but  
heard them.

Saw a lot of troops - no definite estimate - all Ities -  
Blackshirts and Metropolitans mixed.

At this H.Q. - troops dug in sides of WADI - our Arty on  
day unknown constantly passing just over.

Taken off on 28th - through BARDIA and downhill to harbour.  
Saw 4 Generals - 1 of whom seemed more important with beard and pot belly.  
Placed aboard 210 ton schooner named "ZINGARELLA - put into hold in  
company with 100 Itie Labour Corps.

Had gone about 4 hours when interrupted by Destroyer.  
MALTESE was taken to deck where he shouted that ENGLISH prisoners were  
aboard. Ities laid down their arms - prisoners now ship. Arrives  
SALUM last night. British prisoners then landed at SALUM.

From Itie prisoners :-

All LABOUR CORPS - being evacuated to regain their unit, who had pushed out of BARDIA when our advance began. Generally speaking a useless lot - poor specimens.

Information :

1. Supplies at BARDIA were effectively bombed on 12/13 Dec - confirmed by several - 5 different supply depots hit - as a result a food shortage. Water is good - no shortage evident.
2. Coastal schooners have been arriving each 5 days - 7 ships since 15th.
3. On 17th a schooner brought on 500 land mines.
4. Of 7 ships, Navy can account for 5.
5. Evacuation - about 500 by sea since 12th.
6. Strong points in defences are mainly open sangars.
7. Landing Ground at BARDIA - not being used.
8. Defence of harbour - only 2 M.C. All coast defence guns were taken to BARRANI - confirmed by gun boat.
9. On 16th. 50 tons of weed and 30 tons petrol and 50 tons Diesel oil were landed.
10. On 3rd. Dec. 150 tons supplies arrived.
11. Garrison - appears that following Divisions are in BARDIA -  
62  
65  
2nd. Blackshirt.  
All 3 Divs have been forward and relieved in confusion - minus rifles and equipment and are not able to re-equip.
12. A small portion of 1 Div. Blackshirts remained in TOBRUK.
13. Small portion of 64 Div.
14. General impression - morale poor - pepping up morale with talk of re-inforcements from ITALY.
15. Tanks - M13 Tanks in BARDIA 6 seen - perhaps a Bn (about 35). Particulars - pictures to come, arms 47 mm in revolving turret. Armour - not sure - about 730 mm ?  
Lt. Tanks - about 2 Bns. (about 70).



16. Comd. Fortress - AMICO

Late Comd. of 64 Div.

17. Gun which fires at SALUM is 149 mm.

Received by phone

2145 hrs 30 Dec.

From DEREK MEGU.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. O.C. No. 1.

Ref. Maps. SAHEL. )  
 SAHEL. (CYRENICA) ) 1: 100,000.  
 BARDIA. " )

1. INTRODUCTION.

(a)  
 (b)

Enemy disposed as on 'I' map green overprint.  
 2/6 Bn. occupying Right Bn. sector, 2/7 Bn. 1000x S.W.  
 of SAFUSO. 2/5 Bn. at BAKKUBH. 2 Leicosters in reserve  
 area SAHEL. 16 Aust. Inf. Bde. on our left flank.

2. INTENTIONS.

2/7 Bn will take over from 2/2 Bn and right sub coy of 2/3 Bn  
 on night 28/29 Dec. 40.

3. BOUND.

Boundaries.

Inter Bde (incl 17 Bde) BT 177 at X-track 51875937 - PT 195  
 on road at 50993333.

Inter Bn. (incl. 2/6 Bn.) grid 517.

2/7 Bn will relieve 2/2 Bn. and right sub coy 2/3 Bn during  
 night 29/30 Dec. Relief will commence in daylight where  
 possible.

4. H.F.

One coy 1 H.F. under comd 2/6 Bn.

One coy 1 H.F. under comd 2/7 Bn. when relief complete.

One coy 1 H.F. in reserve sighted to cover gap between 2/6  
 and 2/7 Bns and to cover gaps on left front of 2/7 Bn.

5. ARTY.

2/1 Pd. Regt in support 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

6. LIASON.

2/1 Pd. Regt will arrange for a L.O. with each of 2/6 Bn and  
 2/7 Bn during hours of darkness.

7. DEFENSIVE FIRE.

Only HQ comds are authorized to call for D.F. at present.  
 Rate : 5 F.O.C.D.S. for 5 minutes.

8. LIGHTS.

No lights will be shown between 1730 hrs and 0645 hrs daily.

9. ADMIN.

As in Div Admin. Instr. No. 90.

10. INTROUCH.

Bde. H.Q. at GIMBRES 51603776.

11.

Signal Plan

L/T to each Bn.

W/T listening set with each Bn.

Wireless silence will hold.

Ack.

Time of Signature 2400 hrs.

Method of Issue by Sigs.

.....Major.  
Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

DISTRIBUTION:

2/6 Bn.	Copy No. 1	I.O.	Copy No. 9	2/1 Pd Regt.	Copy No 17
2/7 Bn.	2	S.O.	10	2/2 Pd. Regt.	18
2 Leicosters	3	Sup. C.	11	2/3 Bn.	19
1 H.F. (HQ) Bn.	4	T.O.	12	6 Aust. Div.	20
'J' Bty RHA	5	C.M.S.	13	16 Aust Inf Bde.	21
Comd.	6	LO 1.	14	File	22
B.M.	7	LO 2.	15	War Diary	( 23
S.C.	8	LO 3.	16		(24

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. O.C. No. 2.

Ref. Maps : BARDIA Green Overprint.

OPERATION:

1. (a) Enemy as in Din. Int. Summary No. 4.  
(b) 16 Bde supported by Tanks and Engineers will attack enemy post and gain entrance between Posts 47-49. Attack will then turn right and roll up enemy positions to RD BARDIA. 16 Bde will then occupy def. line along rd BARDIA and high ground facing BARDIA. Following this phase 17 Bde will continue attack South rd BARDIA.  
R.S. will bombard North Sector prior to and on D.L.  
R.A.P. will bomb vital areas prior to and during attack and drop leaflets calling on garrison to surrender.  
Asst. Div. will prevent enemy escaping to N. and N.W.  
All Div. arty. and attached Regts will support attack.

REMARKS:

2. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. will co-operate in the capture of BARDIA.

NOTES:

3. Troops to carry out attack.  
17 Aust. Inf. Bde.  
2/3 Rd. Regt.  
1 H.P. (H.C.) Bn.  
\*J\* Bty R.H.A.  
1 sub Sec Regt.
4. Action of each Bn is set out in appendices A, B, and C.
5. M.H.C. One Coy under comd each Bn.  
One Coy in mobile reserve vicinity BNS HL.
6. Arty. Fire plan as effecting each Bn is shown in appendices.
7. A.Ht. One Tp \*J\* Bty under comd. each Bn.  
Pl. 17 Aust. A Tk Coy under comd 2/5 Bn. O.C. Tp of \*J\* Bty, with 2/5 Bn will comd Pl. 17 Aust. A.Ht. Coy also.
8. Zero. Div. attack zero 0500 hrs on D.L. (D.L. advised personally to Unit Comds.)

ADMINISTRATION:

9. See Appendices.

RECOMMUNICATIONS:

10. Bde H. Present location.
11. C.P. A battle C.P. will be established by 2/7 Bn manned by \*I\* Sec 2/7 Bn and one man Bde \*I\* Sec. \*K\* Sec Sigb will lay direct line from Bde H. to this C.P.
12. Aid. Each sub Coy H. will carry two strips of white calico 6' x 1'6". These will be laid out in the form of a cross to indicate position to the R and Arty R aeroplanes. To be shown only when halted after forward move commences or when called for by the R or Arty R sorties. The R sorties at 0700, 0900, and 1200 hrs on D.L. over BARDIA perimeter.
13.  Liaison. Capt. R. H. Kiddle, 2/6 Bn. will act as L.O. to 16 Aust. Inf. Bde.
14. Code The following code names will be used for comds on R/E and in texts  
Names. of

of messages only:-

Comd. 6 Aust. Div.	HAC
16 Aust. Inf. Bde.	TEDDY
17 Aust. Inf. Bde.	SAVAGE
19 Aust. Inf. Bde.	BOB
16 Inf. Bde.	BILL.

15. In the event of a general capitulation of the garrison of BARDIA, the code word STOP will be signalled. On receipt of this code word all bombardment of the area inside the BARDA perimeter will stop.

16. All units will be acquainted with the Italian phrases as under:-

*HANDS UP*	-	-	-	HAVE EN ALMO
*OPEN YOUR HANDS*	+	-	-	APRI LE MANI

17. No scavenging or looting of any description can be tolerated. Strict control must be maintained at all times as individuals straying from their sector may be shot. All units will be warned against booby traps.

18. In the event of the operation having to be postponed, the code word CRANE will be signalled.

19. Tank Flags Signals.

(a) Red, White and Blue Flags	-	-	Friendly tank coming out of action.
(b) Green and White Flags.	-	-	Come on Infantry.
(c) Red and Yellow Flags.	-	-	Tank broken down.
(d) Blue square Flag.	-	-	In Cond. Tank.
(e) Red Flag and Red Pennant.	-	-	Adjts Tank.
(f) 2 Yellow Pennants.	-	-	Sqn. Command.
(g) 1 Pennant, (various colours)	-	-	Tp. Cond.

20. Infantry Signals to Tanks.

(a) One hat on bayonet.	-	-	Infantry wants help.
(b) Two or more tin hats on bayonets, pointed towards objectives.	-	-	Indicates point or linear target.
(c) Individual placing himself in front of tank with hand to side of mouth.	-	-	Indicates speech with tank Cond. required.

21. Watches will be synchronised with Bde HQ at 2300 hrs on D-1.

Ack.  
Signed at 1945 hrs.  
Issued by L.O. & Sigs.

.....Major.  
Bde Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

DISTRIBUTION:

Copy No. 1	2/3 Bn.
2	2/3 Bn.
3	2/7 Bn.
4	2/2 Td. Regt.
5	4th Bty R.H.A.
6	1 H.F. (HQ) Bn.
7	R.A.F. 6 Aust. Div.
8	Cond.
9	B.H.
10	S.O.
11	L.O.
12	Sig. O.
13	Sup. O.
14	L.O. 1.
15	L.O. 2.
16	L.O. 3.

Copy No. 17	S.O.
18	C.H.R.
19	Aust. Inf. Bde.
20	S.O. 7 R.H.A.
21	6 Aust. Div.
22	L.O. Div.
23	19 Aust. Inf. Bde.
24	Lt-Col Cunningham S/1 Td. Bn.
25	File.
26	)
27	) War Diary.
28	)
29	)
30	) - spares.

## APPENDIX A.

Issued with 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. O.C. No. 2 dated 1 Jun.

Method. 2/3 Bn group.

Comd. Lt-Col. A. H. L. Godfrey M.B., E.D. - 2/3 Bn.

Groups. 2/3 Bn.

One Coy 1 N.F.

One Coy \*J\* Bty R.H.A.

One sub sec Reg will report on D.I.

- Roles.
- (1) To examine GAP vicinity Post 11 for mines. Clear tracks as required.
  - (2) One PL B Coy with one Sec REG to remain on right flank area. CARRIER BATT one Sec to protect Arty O.P., etc. of PL and sec REG to be in position to prevent enemy movement down coastline.
  - (3) Occupy WADI EL MASHRAH from Post 5 to Post 11 following lift of Arty from 2nd posts at 5 plus 15.
- Dispositions.
- Two Coy 1 N.F. Remainder less platoon on role (2) in BUGHAN and LITTLE WADI.  
In PL in LITTLE WADI.  
Success signal RED-GREEN-YELLOW.
- (4) Further roles may be ordered as follows. :-
    - (a) Advance to line of rd SIDI HADHRA from Post 5 to Post 10. Should the general situation develop sufficiently satisfactorily and there appears little likelihood of casualties, this action may be taken independently but not before 1300 hrs. D.I. Success signal as for (3).
    - (b) Map up guns vicinity of coast between WADIA EL DAMIA and BIR TUBAHHI.  
No independent move will be made north of rd SIDI HADHRA without orders, nor any setting up of guns without reference Bde. Hq.

Arty. Progress this area. Concentrations as follows. :-

3	- 3 plus	3	on posts 7, 9, 11, 13
3 plus	3 - 3 plus	10	on posts 4, 6, 8, 10.
3 plus	10 - 3 plus	15	on posts 7, 9, 11, 13.
3 plus	50 - 3 plus	60	two Regt bursts on gun posts 52100075.
3 plus	120 - 3 plus	150	two Regt bursts on gun posts 52100075.
3 plus	100 - 3 plus	500	observed fire.

Just prior to each lift the concentrations will be intensified.

APPENDIX B.

Issued with 17 Aust Inf Bde C.O. No 2 dated 1 Jan.

Method.

1. Comd. Maj H. Wrigley MC 2/5 Bn.

2. Troops  
 2/5 Bn.  
 'B' Coy 2/7 Bn.  
 one coy 1 NF.  
 one Tp 'J' bty RHA.  
 Pl 17 Aust A Tk Coy.

3. Phase I.

- (a) Approach march. 2/5 Bn group will move on D - 1 from present locations to rear assembly area - square 505386. No movement North of NW - SE rd before 1900 hrs.
- (b) After 1900 hrs 2/5 Bn will move fwd to second assembly area in square 507390.  
~~XXXX.~~
- (c) 2/5 Bn will move fwd not before 0545 hrs D1 to fwd assembly area in square 508393 on EAST side of rd to be in this posn by 0700 hrs.  
Note. Recce and piquet route before move.
- (d) Begin crossing bridges placed by Engs over A Tk ditch North of POST 39 at 0800 hrs.  
Note. Route and positions of two bridges to be Recce before move.
- (e) Occupy assembly area in cover of WADI SCEMMAS from S in SCEMMAS to its western extremity.
- (f) 'B' Coy 2/7 Bn will cross bridges over A Tk ditch South of POST 35 at 0935 hrs when they come under comd C.O. 2/5 Bn. They will occupy at once Right sector of line rd BARDIA from Pt 167 at 51553905 to rd June at 51563912.

4. Phase II.

- (a) 2/5 Bn will continue advance from S.L. - rd BARDIA crossing this rd at 1130 hrs (i.e. Z plus 360).
- (b) They will be preceded by tanks and will advance on two coy front.
- (c) Right coy down front edge of enemy defences.
- (d) Left coy directed on to high ground in rd triangle at 51863905.
- (e) Rear coys generally follow fwd coys.
- (f) Objective - POST 19 at 51793887 - rd at Pt 149 at 51853902 - rd June at 51863907.  
Right Coy will occupy high ground within triangle rds area 51863905 and observe to their front and left flank.
- (g) Rate of advance 100 yards in 3 minutes.

5. Arty

- (a) Preliminary bombardment -
 

Z plus 26	- Z plus 34	on post 26
Z " 34	- Z " 42	" " 27
Z " 42	- Z " 48	" " 24 and 25
Z " 60	- Z " 120	(Two Regt bursts on Posts 24 and 25 Two Regt bursts on Posts 26 and 27)
Z " 150	- Z " 180	Two Regt bursts on Posts 25 and 22
Z " 180	- Z " 360	observed fire.
- (b) Supporting fire concentrations as follows :-

Z plus 360	-Z plus 381	on Post 25
Z " 360	-Z " 372	" " 24
Z " 381	-Z " 399	" " 22
Z " 395	-Z " 405	" Wire Triangle at 51753906.
Z " 399	-Z " 417	" Post 20.

2.

Z plus 381	-	Z plus 405	on Post	23.
Z " 405	-	Z " 426	" "	21.
Z " 426	-	Z " 451	" "	19.
Z " 426	-	Z " 441	" "	18.
Z " 451	-	onwards	" "	17.
Z " 441	-	"	" "	16.
Z " 445	-	"	" "	14.

Arty will indicate lift from each target by added intensive fire on each just before completion.

6. Exploitation.

C.O. will be prepared to exploit with res Coys :

- (a) Line of POSTS R11 - R5 inclusive in squares 519389 and 520388.
- (b) Line of WADI from 51866395 - 52043904 and work down re-entrants to shoot up gun crews to the South.

The method and order of these tasks will be determined by Tanks available and morale of enemy.

7. Success Signal, when objective gained : Two greens.

APPENDIX C.

Issued with 17 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No 2 dated 1 Jan.

Method.

1. Comd. Lt-Col T. G. Walker ED 2/7 Bn.
2. Troops 2/7 Bn (less B Coy).  
One Coy 1 NF  
One Tp "J" Bty RHA.
3. Detachment.  
C.O. 2/7 Bn will detail B Coy to come under comd  
C.O. 2/5 Bn at 0935 hrs D1.  
C.O. 2/7 Bn will select an assembly area to the  
left flank of B Coy present posn under cover from enemy view  
and arrange for B Coy to move there on D - 1. No movement  
before 1815 hrs.  
They will disperse and dig slit trenches with "A"  
echelon vehicles dispersed at intervals of 300 yds.  
B Coy will move fwd on D1 and cross bridges  
laid over A Tk trench by Engrs South of POST 35 at 0935 hrs and  
then come under comd 2/5 Bn.  
O.C. B Coy will be responsible to recce the  
safest possible route to bridge.  
B Coy will take over fwd posn on line of Rd  
BARDIA from Pt 167 at 51553905 to rd junc at 51563912 and there  
remain pending further orders.
4. Carriers. C.O. 2/7 Bn will make available to C.O. 2/2 FA  
Regt one carrier if required by him.
5. Role. 2/7 Bn group will be Bde reserve and will remain  
in present locations.



APPENDIX "D".Administrative.

Issued with 17 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No 2 dated 1 Jan  
 -----

Rations. (a) All ranks will carry an iron ration consisting of 1 tin of preserved meat and 2 pkts of biscuits.  
 This will only be consumed on the orders of Coy Comdrs.

B Ech and ration points will remain at present locations until the issue of the battle is decided. A meal will be prepared at present cooking points ready to be carried forward.

(b) Supply Point will remain at present location until further orders, and units of 17 Aust Inf Bde will send guides to Supply Point. Attached units will continue to draw from Supply Column.

(c) An issue of rum will be made to units on 2 Jan. The Brigade Commander desires this to be issued at the discretion of Bn Comds.

Medical. (a) M.D.S. 51603747.

A.D.S's to be established by 0400 hrs D-1 day.

50453900 - 2/1 Fd Amb

50853850 - 2/1 Fd Amb

51903792 - 2/2 Fd Amb

(b) ADS at 51903792 will move under orders 17 Aust Inf Bde and that at 50453900 under orders 16 Aust Inf Bde.

(c) Walking wounded will be instructed to make for -

(1) BOUNDARY WIRE.

(2) CROSSROADS 51373907.

(3) STONEWALL outside enemy wire on ROAD CAPUZZO-BARDIA 51553899.

(4) Walking wounded of 2/5 Bn and B Coy 2/7 Bn who become casualties before crossing the S.L. will move to the opening in the wire through which the attack was launched between POSTS 47 and 49 and there seek directions.

(d) Cemetery at 51853750.

Ammunition.

(a) A Bde reserve will be established at rear of 2/7 Bn H.Q. 51463847 on D - 1 day.

All units will dump a reserve and refill vehicles. 2/7 Bn will detail one NCO to control dumping and remain in charge. During battle units will draw direct from dump or A.P.

(b) A.P. will be established as under by Z plus 120 on D1 day -

50483873

51403800

(c) 2/5 and 2/6 Bns will ensure that sufficient grenades are on hand to issue two to each man.

2 additional bandoliers will be carried by each man. Ammunition from wounded will be collected. Full scale plus all available additional wire cutters will be carried.

P.O.L. (a) A Ech vehicles will NOT repeat NOT carry spare petrol - tanks will be filled on the evening of D - 1 day.

(b) Petrol Point at 51733734 at 1400 hrs daily.

Water

W.Ps. will remain at present locations.

Water in enemy localities will not be used until examined by a Medical Officer and marked as fit for consumption.

Code for use LIAISON OFFICERS.

1. CEHA ON No. 2 Assembly area . . . . . HOME
2. CEHA on Adv Assembly Area within Perimeter . . . . . SHANTY
3. CEHA deployed and waiting Zero . . . . . SCATTER
4. Crossed start line (add Bn code name) . . . . . MOVE
5. Bn held up at (ref letter code) add Bn code name. . . . . BLOCK
6. Right coy held up at ( do ) " " " " . . . . . RIGHT
7. Left " " " " " " " " . . . . . LEFT
8. by Inf in position at (give map ref code) . . . . . FOOT
9. by M.G. fire " " " " " " . . . . . RATTLE
10. By Arty " " " " " " . . . . . BOOM
11. By TANKS " " " " " " . . . . . TRACKS
12. Firing from (add map ref code) . . . . . ORIGIN
13. Tanks seen at ( do ) . . . . . CRAWL
14. Objective gained (add unit code name) . . . . . HURRAH
15. Moving off to exploit ( do ) . . . . . CHASE
- xxx For CEHA (a) Right Flank :- Enemy positions along  
 Perimeter . . . . . DOOR  
 " " (b) Central : Enemy posns line of wire. CENTRE  
 (c) Left Flank : Along wadi to guns . . . . . CRECK
16. Exploitation objectives gained - . . . . . TIGER  
 (For (a) (b) (c) above add which ones).
17. Estimated casualties (Add Bn code name & give figures  
 in code) . . . . . WEARY
18. Estimated prisoners (figures added) . . . . . DAGO
19. We want (a) Water . . . . . DEW  
 (b) Rations . . . . . TUCKER  
 (c) Petrol . . . . . GAS  
 (d) S.A.A. . . . . . BRASS  
 (e) Grenades . . . . . KNOBS  
 (f) Mortar . . . . . BARREL  
 (g) Anti Tank Rifle . . . . . CLIP  
 (h) Anti Tank guns. . . . . SQUEAK  
 (i) Stretcher bearers . . . . . ROSE
- Note: Give unit code names and map ref in code in each  
 instance.
20. My Headquarters are at (add ref in code) . . . . . HEAD
21. Arty FOO with me . . . . . ARTHUR
22. Arty FOO gone . . . . . DEPART
23. I have insufficient artillery support . . . . . NIX  
 (give unit code name and map ref in code).

Appendix "D"  
(contd).

Prisoners.

(a) Units are responsible for escorting prisoners direct to P.O.W. cage at 51703770. It will be ensured that troops are warned not to fire on the enemy if he has offered to surrender.

Parties surrendering will be kept covered by L.M.Gs. at a reasonable distance to ensure that they cannot rush whilst they throw down their arms. They will be kept covered until parties have gone forward to search for concealed weapons.

Transport.

A Ech will move with units.

Dress.

Battle Order, Greatcoats and Groundsheets.

RWK/INF.

*Handwritten:* 1440 hrs 1 Dec. JMB

SECRET

6 AUST DIV (EGYPT)

LOCATION STATEMENT AS AT 0900 HRS 1 DEC 40

B.1.0.

HQ

HQ 6 Aust Div - Det "D" Sec Sigs	IKINGI MARYUT
Int Sec 6 Aust Div	IKINGI MARYUT
6 Aust Div Emp Pl	IKINGI MARYUT

Cav

6 Aust Cav - "C" Sec Sigs - 39 LAD	AMIRIYA
------------------------------------	---------

RAA

HQ RAA 6 Aust Div	IKINGI MARYUT
2/1 Fd Regt - "E" Sec Sigs - 43 LAD	IKINGI MARYUT
2/2 Fd Regt - "G" Sec Sigs - 40 LAD	AMIRIYA

RAE

HQ RAE 6 Aust Div less det	IKINGI MARYUT
42 LAD	IKINGI MARYUT
Det HQ RAE	GIANACLIS
HQ 2/1 Fd Coy	GIANACLIS
1 Sec	SIDI GHAZI
2 Sec	EUCALYPT CORNER
3 Sec	KOM EL HANASE
HQ 2/2 Fd Coy	IKINGI MARYUT
4 Sec	DIST EL ASHRAF
5 Sec	MENA
6 Sec	BURG EL ARAB
2/8 Fd Coy less one Sec	AMIRIYA
2/2 Fd Pk Coy	AMIRIYA

Sigs

HQ Sigs 6 Aust Div - 18 LAD	) IKINGI MARYUT
"A" Sec, "B" Sec, "D" Sec less dets	
"M" Sec	

INF

HQ 16 Aust Inf Bde - "I" Sec Sigs - 45 LAD	AMIRIYA
16 Aust A Tk Coy	AMIRIYA
2/1 Bn less duty dets	AMIRIYA
2/2 Bn	AMIRIYA
2/3 Bn less duty dets	AMIRIYA

HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde - "K" Sec Sigs - 46 LAD	IKINGI MARYUT
2/5 Bn less dets at Recce Camp	IKINGI MARYUT
2/6 Bn less dets at Recce Camp	IKINGI MARYUT
2/7 Bn less dets at Recce Camp	IKINGI MARYUT

HQ 19 Aust Inf Bde - "L" Sec Sigs - 79 LAD	BURG EL ARAB
2/4 Bn	BURG EL ARAB
2/8 Bn	BURG EL ARAB
2/11 Bn less duty dets and train gds	BURG EL ARAB

AASC

HQ AASC 6 Aust Div	IKINGI MARYUT
Sup Col	IKINGI MARYUT
Amn Coy	IKINGI MARYUT
Pet Coy	IKINGI MARYUT
No. 2 DID	IKINGI MARYUT
No. 3 DID less det	BURG EL ARAB
Det No. 3 DID	HELWAN

*Handwritten:* 17 Aust Inf Bde

AAMC

2/1 Fd Amb  
2/2 Fd Amb  
2/7 Fd Amb  
2/1 Fd Hyg Sec  
2/1 CCS  
3 Special Dental Unit  
4 Special Dental Unit  
5 Special Dental Unit

AMIRIYA  
IKINGI MARYUT  
BURG EL ARAB  
IKINGI MARYUT  
AMIRIYA  
AMIRIYA  
IKINGI MARYUT  
IKINGI MARYUT

AAOC

2/2 A Fd Wkshop, less two rec secs  
Two rec Secs 2/2 A Fd Wkshop

HELWAN  
AMIRIYA

Pro

6 Aust Div Pro Coy less two dets  
Det 6 Aust Div Pro Coy  
Det 6 Aust Div Pro Coy

IKINGI MARYUT  
CAIRO  
ALEXANDRIA

Postal

6 Aust Div Postal Unit

IKINGI MARYUT

Pay

6 Aust Div Fd Cash Office

IKINGI MARYUT

Misc

6 Aust Div Reception Camp

IKINGI MARYUT

6 Aust Div Recce Camp

RAS ALAM EL RUM

Distribution -

List "A" (All Div Comds)

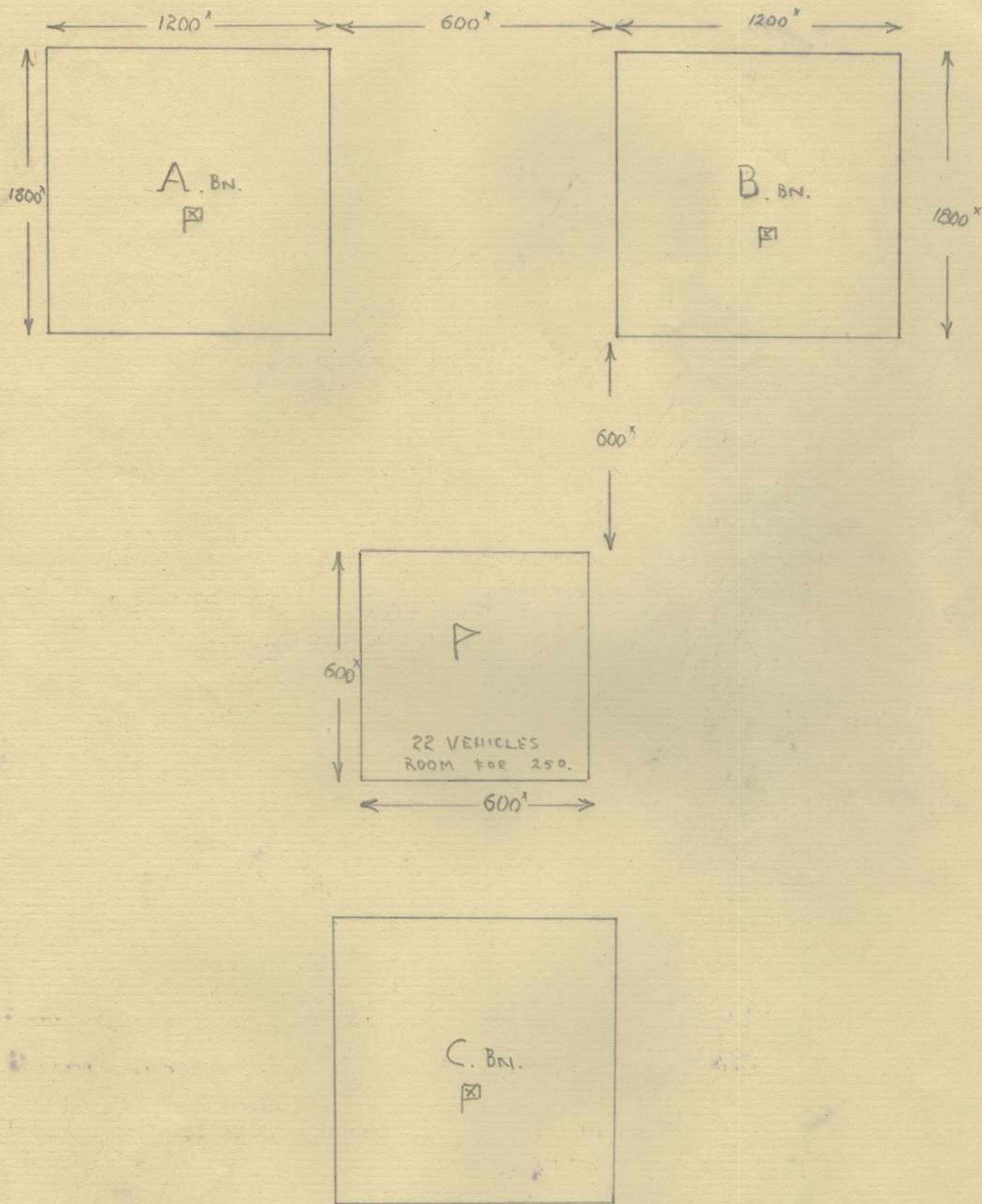
*St Berrigues* Colonel,  
GS, 6 Aust Div.

For Information-

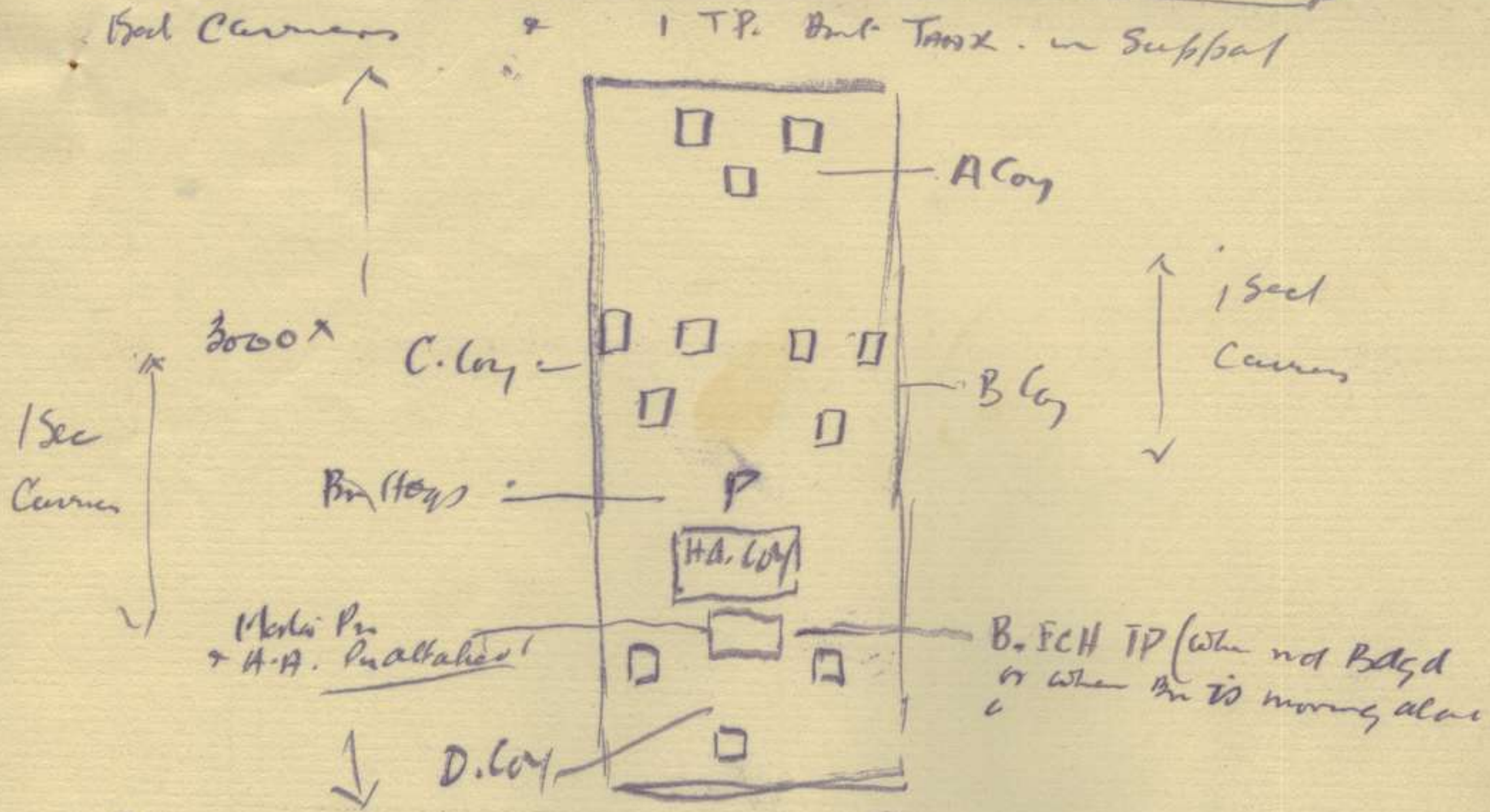
1 Aust Corps (2)  
BTE (2)



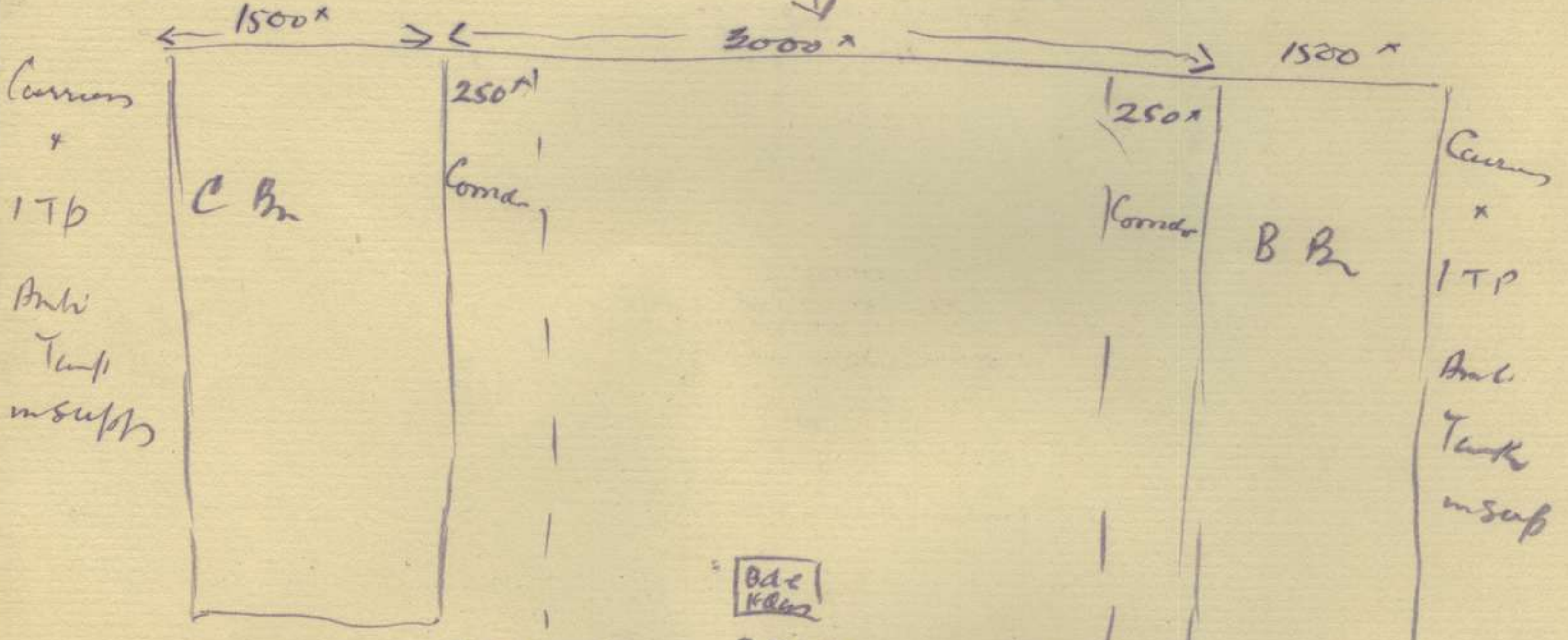
MOVE OF A BDE IN M.T. ROUTE. FOR ACTION.



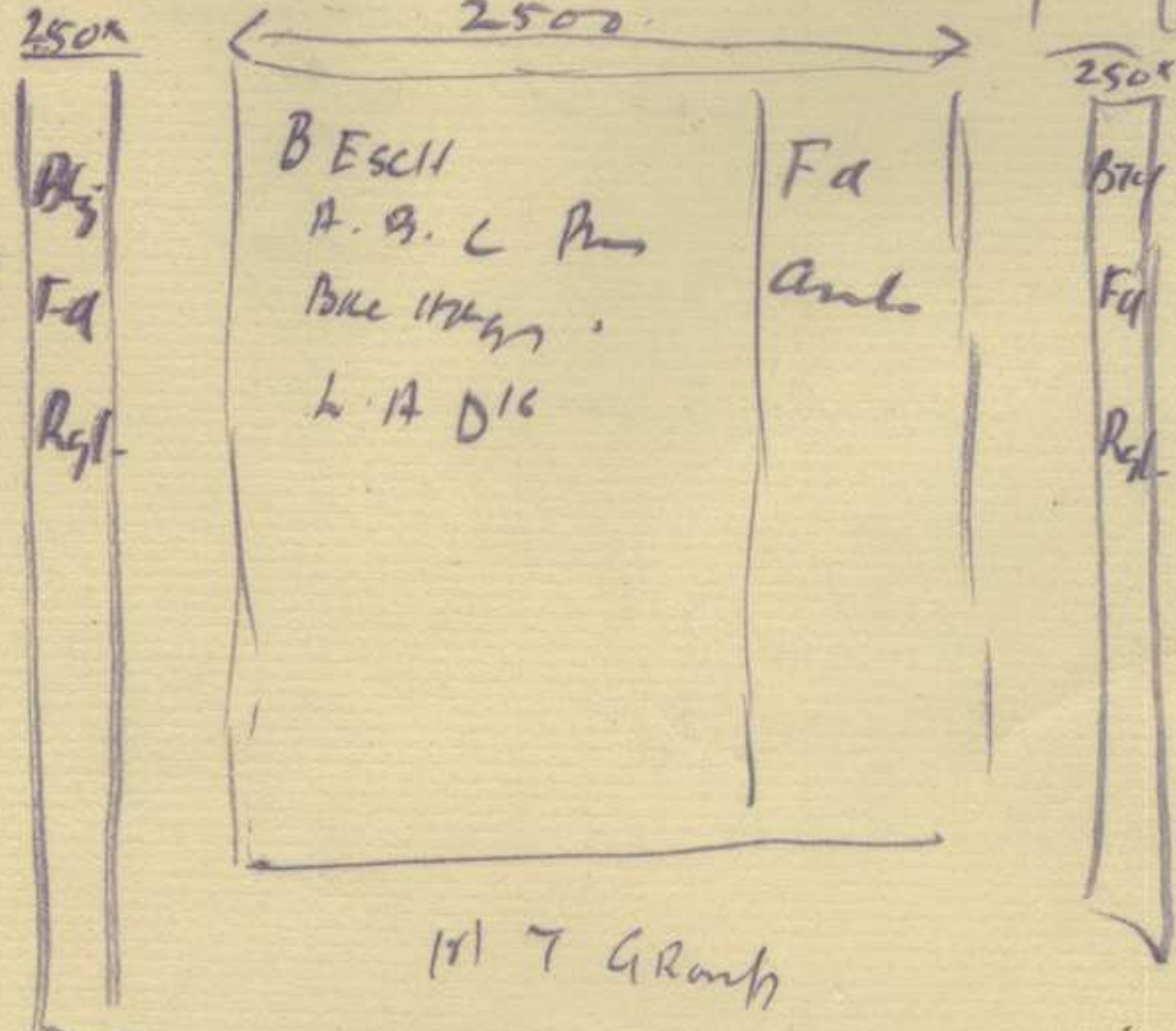
# Desert Formation of a Bde Sp



Altitude total brnldge Bde. 6000' x  
 depth 8000' x  
 Brnldge Tpt. 2500' x  
 depth " 3600' x  
 2000' x

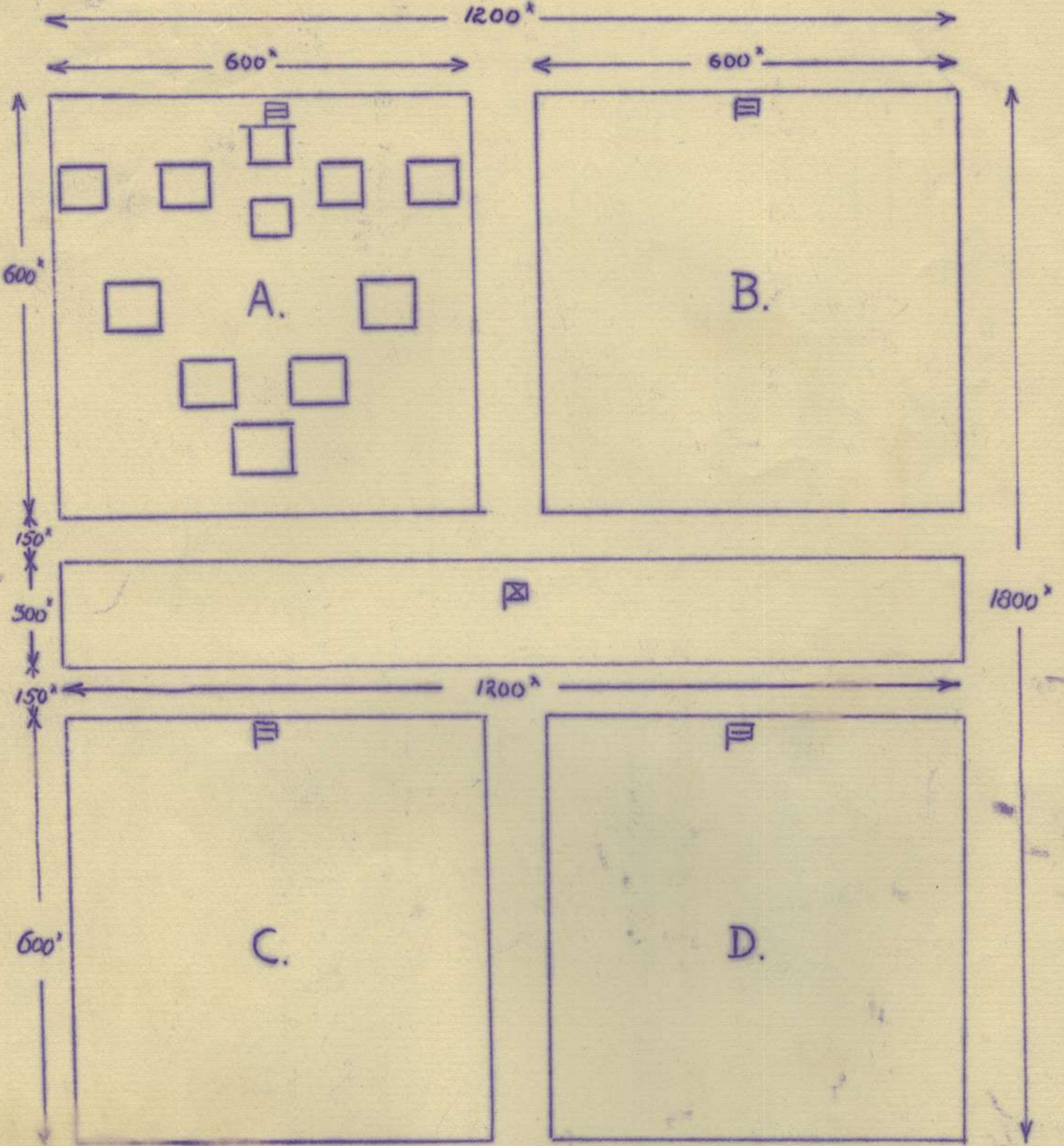


HT Cpt + Ad Ant  
 moves by bounds  
 under protection of  
 when sup. in foot  
 when whole Bde  
 moved by HT the  
 block will move  
 about 1000' in rear  
 of Fwd Bn





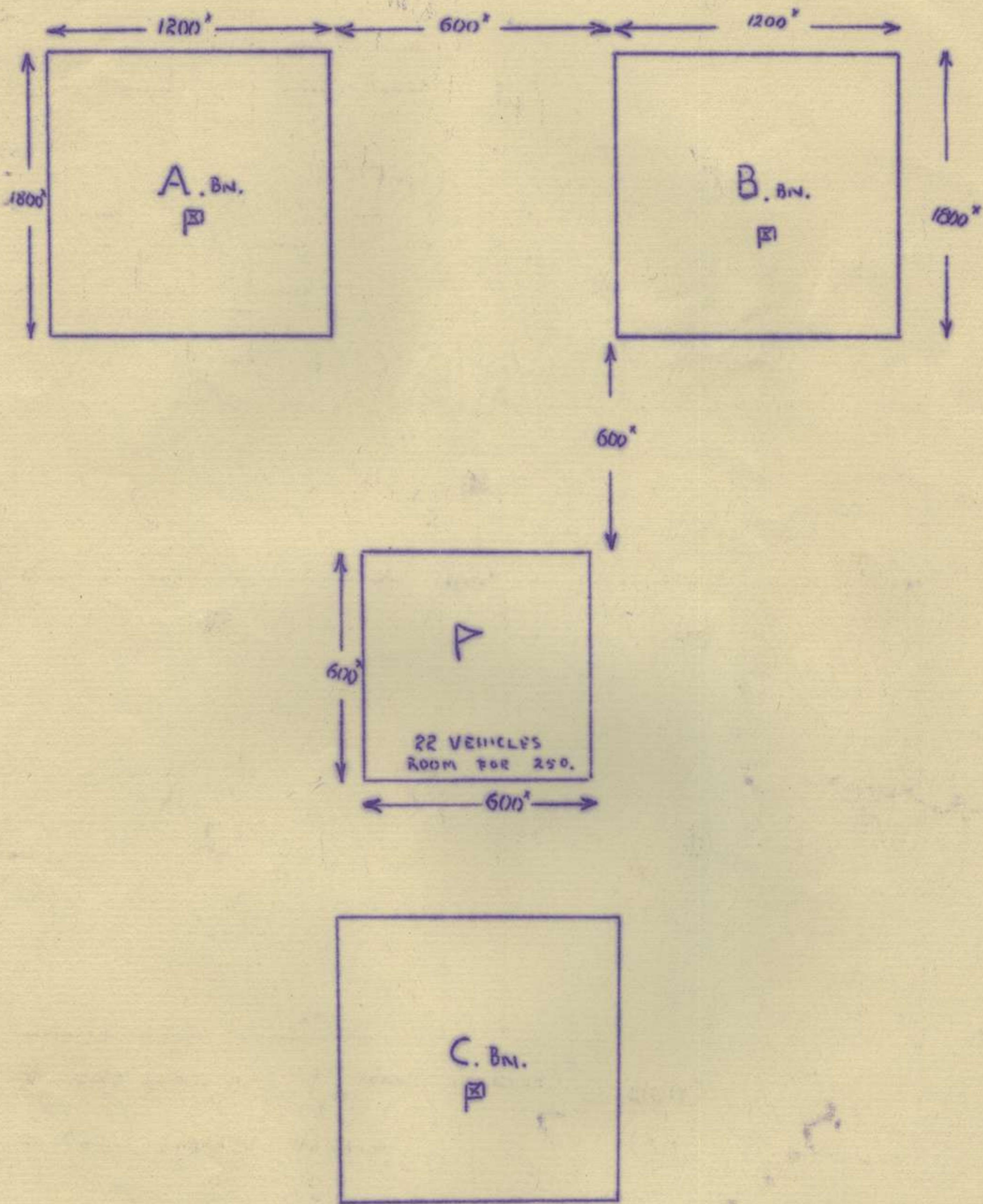
MOVE OF A BN. IN M.T. ROUTE READY FOR ACTION.



DISTANCE BETWEEN 1<sup>ST</sup> WAVE. OF COYS. = 600'  
 2<sup>ND</sup> " " " "

DISTANCE BETWEEN VEHICLES. 150'

MOVE OF A BDE IN M.T. ROUTE. FOR ACTION.



RL/IE

5/7/6

MOST SECRET

Headquarters,  
6 Aust Div,  
In the Field.

23 Dec, 40.

ENEMY WIRELESS ACTION

The following copy of War Office letter No. 32/Wireless/706(SDa) dated 6 Nov, 40, is forwarded for information:-

"I am commanded by the Army Council to inform you that direct evidence is forthcoming of attempts by the enemy to issue false orders to British units by wireless. Cases were reported in FRANCE, and, more recently, in the UNITED KINGDOM. In this latter case the station which transmitted the message continued working for some time afterwards and was located as being well inside GERMANY.

I am to say that all concerned should be warned to be on their guard against attempts of this nature and that messages and orders, especially those transmitted by radio telephony, should be treated as suspect unless the recipient is satisfied that they are genuine."

*Robert May*  
for Colonel,  
GS, 6 Aust Div.

16 Aust Inf Bde	5
17 Aust Inf Bde	4
19 Aust Inf Bde	4
6 Aust Cav	2
RAA 6 Aust Div	8
RAE 6 Aust Div	5
Sigs 6 Aust Div	1
Comd	1
G	1
Q	1
A	1
AASC 6 Aust Div	1
ADMS	1

*copy to each BN*

*W*

28 Dec 40.

Operation Instruction No. 1.

Dear Col. Godfrey,

follows :

Div instructions call for action by your Bn as

Night 28/29

- (1) You will secure and hold ground in the vicinity of Pt 125 in square 525386 to cover O.P. area Pt 65 in same square.

I concur with your plan covering strength and movement of party, and objective.

The primary role will be to take up a position in the area : N.W. bank of BIR-er-RAMLA and high ground Pt 125 of sufficient frontage and necessary strength to hold the area.

The secondary role will be to examine VADI el MUATERED on EASTERN extremity. You will NOT commit the party to any undue risk in loss of personnel or the hindering of its primary role in carrying out the secondary role.

- (2) You will examine the area Pt 171 in square 520384. Your primary role will be to secure the vital ground in this area and occupy it. You will subsequently prepare to occupy this area with a Coy.

The secondary role will be to ambush observers on the telegraph poles and examine the WESTERN portion of VADI EL MUATERED. Any action in carrying out the secondary role will NOT prejudice the primary role.

From night 28/29 to night 29/30.

You will arrange to reconnoitre the area of enemy post No 9" - 51983862, and obtain information covering the following:

- (i) The possibility of occupying the bend, as shown in air photo, approx 52023863 by a platoon to provide covering fire.
- (ii) The practicability of gaining an entrance at :-
- (a) the passage S.W. of Post 9" as shown on air photo.
- (b) the passage across the Tank obstacle WEST of Post 9" as shown on air photo and where road crosses the obstacle.
- (iii) The wire in the vicinity of (i) and (ii) above, particularly in the WADIS near the S.W. passage to POST 9."
- (iv) The location of POST 7.
- (v) Is the shadow marking on air photo in the vicinity of POST 7 a small ridge.
- (vi) The practicability of an attack on Post 9" from the vicinity of bend in WADI at approx 5202 3863.

- (3) The general patrolling of VADI el MUATERED other than the above, and as outlined in your proposals will be carried out as far as possible.

Distribution :

Copy No. 1 Lt-Col Godfrey MC,ED.  
2 Comd.  
3 File.  
4-5 War Diary.

Brig.,  
Comdg. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

Ref. Maps : BARDIA NORTH |  
BARDIA SOUTH | 1:50,000  
Green Overprint.

S E C R E T.

30 Dec. 40.

Operation Instruction No. 2.

Dear Col. Godfrey,

The following tasks will be carried out today and tonight as applicable.

- (1) Complete occupation of fwd Coy positions in localities selected by you within the general area laid down. In avoiding skylines, fwd slopes and awkward ground, platoons may be distributed in separate areas. You are free to use your discretion in making any reasonable alterations which daylight discloses should be made. It is important that moves should be completed tonight.
- (2) Continue patrolling, especially in the "WESTERN" corner area and in other points of WADI which previous patrolling warrants. Col Walker has placed an O.P. fwd for today to watch enemy activity and habits around Post 3. The high ground in Walker's area should facilitate.
- (3) In view of a report that enemy AFVs moved out from N.W. corner of perimeter yesterday, ensure your protection by anti-tank guns under comd.
- (4) Warn Coys that there may be instances of hoisting the white flag before any operations take place. If so, prisoners are to be encouraged to come across.
- (5) Should an opportunity present itself to clean up any pocket of enemy, do so at your discretion, providing risks leading to undue casualties are NOT taken. This will aid subsequent events.
- (6) Warn tps it is known that the enemy are laying "booby" traps. This applies to wine, beer, etc particularly. Officers and NCOs are to be instructed to maintain control of tps and prevent their wandering should the situation tend that way. There will NOT be any uncontrolled movement of tps in any circumstances.

Brig.,  
Comdg. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

Distribution :

Lt-Col Godfrey MC, ED.  
Comd.  
File.  
War Diary (2)

SECRET.

Ref. Maps : BARDIA NORTH |  
BARDIA SOUTH | 1 : 50,000  
Green Overprint.

30 Dec. 40.

Operation Instruction No. 3.

Dear Col Walker,

The following tasks will be carried out today and tonight as applicable.

- (1) Complete occupation of fwd Coy positions in localities selected by you within the general area laid down. In avoiding skylines, fwd slopes and awkward ground, Platoons may be distributed in separate areas. You are free to use your discretion in making any reasonable alterations which daylight may disclose should be made. It is important that moves should be completed tonight.
- (2) Carry out patrolling task tonight on main BARDIA Rd which was postponed. Initiate any further patrolling you deem necessary, but advise Bde HQ early to avoid a clash with right Bn.
- (3) In view of a report that enemy AFVs moved out from N.W. corner of perimeter yesterday, ensure your protection by anti-tank guns under comd.
- (4) Warn Coys that there may be instances of hoisting the white flag before any operations take place. If so, prisoners are to be encouraged to come across.
- (5) Should an opportunity present itself to clean up any pocket of enemy, do so at your discretion, providing risks leading to undue casualties are NOT taken. This will aid subsequent events.
- (6) Warn tps it is known that the enemy are laying "booby" traps. This applies to wine, beer, etc. particularly. Officers and NCOs are to be instructed to maintain control of tps and prevent their wandering should the situation tend that way. There will NOT be any uncontrolled movement of tps in any circumstances.

Brig.,  
Comdg. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

Distribution :

Lt-Col T.G. Walker E.D.  
Comd.  
File.  
War Diary (2).

S E C R E T.

Copy No.....

2 Jan. 41.

Op Instr No 4.

COs All Bns.

2/5 Bn.

- (a) "B" Coy 2/7 Bn will follow the tanks in their attack along front edge of perimeter.  
Objective Post 19 with exploitation to Post 15.
- (b) Zero hr arty 1125 hrs.  
Tanks followed by troops 1130 hrs.
- (c) FOO 6" Bty will report to you on ground.
- (d) A Coy 2/7 Bn will move into the perimeter and occupy posn vacated by "B" at 1400 hrs. No fwd move from assembly posn before 1300 hrs.  
Role - reserve Coy.
- (e) Exploitation. The signal to commence expl tasks will be arty lift, which at Post R11 will be 1315 hrs.
- (f) Consolidation will be along the line of Western rd.
- (i) Right Coy will cover Pt 152 and R5. Coys in succession to the left will cover.
- (ii) Pt 145.
- (iii) The Triangle.
- (iv) Pt 152 - Pt 153 in square 517391.
- (v) Pt 156 - A in SCMMAS in square 516392.
- 6 Aust Cav will rally between 156 and 164 sq 516392 and move out to refuel. C.O. will see they are relieved and the gap between 2/5 and 16 Bde is covered.
- (g) Engineers - Two sub-secs 2/1 Fd Coy will move with "B" Coy 2/7 Bn to Post 15 to clear mines. Then report to 2/6 Bn to clear mines from crossings near Post 11.

2/6 Bn.

- (1) B Coy 2/7 Bn, under command Major Wrigley MC, will continue the advance from the NORTH, supported by tanks, and will halt at POST 15. TANKS will continue to cross Rds at 51883869 and return to an area NORTH of Rd BARDIA to refuel.  
Further movement of 2/5 Bn Troops will NOT be SOUTH of Rd SIDI HASSEN.
- (2) 2/6 Bn Role will be -
- (a) At Zero a demonstration by fire will be made, but an attack will NOT be launched on WADI MUATERED.
- (b) ROWAN and LITTLE WADIS will be cleared of enemy.
- (c) As situation warrants the NORTH BANK of WADI MUATERED will be gained. There is NOT a time limit to gain this objective and C.O. 2/6 Bn will use his discretion as to its accomplishment.
- (d) Movement NORTH of main WADI will NOT be made until the TANKS reach POST 10.
- (3) Batteries in square 521367 will be bombed up to and at 1130 hrs.
- (4) Consolidation tasks will embrace the covering of MAIN WADI, EAST of and including POST 5, Rd Junction in square 520387, and at POST 10.
- (5) Prisoners. C.O. 2/6 Bn will make preparations to handle large numbers of prisoners.
- (6) Engineers. After B Coy 2/7 Bn reaches Post 15, a party of Engrs will report to 2/6 Bn to clear mines from crossings near Post 15. They have been instructed to report to nearest officer 2/6 Bn and then to get on with their task.

P.T.O.

2/7 Bn.

- (1) The move of B Coy will be in accordance with orders already issued.
- (2) A Coy will take over role of B Coy on Rd BARDIA at 1400 hrs.  
NO movement fwd from assembly area before 1300 hrs.

Distribution :

Brig.,  
Comdg. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

- Lt-Col A.H.L. Godfrey MC, ED.
- Lt-Col T.G. Walker ED.
- Major H. Wrigley MC.
- File.
- War Diary (2).
- Spare (2).