

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

Item number: 8/2/17

17 Infantry Brigade

January 1941, Reports, part 2 of 2

:- Naming of rds and sections of the TOBRUK defences.

2040/G.

7 Armd. Div.	Q	Sigs.
6 Aust. Div?	RA	ST
4 AA Bde.	RE	M
		OS
		Camp.

Ref Maps :- Composite TOBRUK Sheet 1/100,000.

1. The principal roads radiating from TOBRUK will be named as shown below :-

<u>Description</u>	<u>Name.</u>
(a) Road from TOBRUK harbour to road junction 41334266.	Harbour Rd.
(b) Road from road junction 41334266 to BARDIA	Bardia Rd.
(c) Road from road junction 41334266 to El ADEM	El ADEM Road.
(d) Road from road junction 41054343 - road junct. 40674502. - Pt 187 (39804302) - ACROMA (387430)	Acroma Road.
(e) Road from TOBRUK harbour - road junction 41054343 - thence due west	Derna Rd.

2. The area within the outer perimeter of the TOBRUK defences will be divided into sectors as follows :-

<u>Sector</u>	<u>Boundaries.</u>
"A"	Coastline from TOBRUK harbour to the East - include BARDIA Rd - Harbour Rd.
"B"	Excl. BARDIA Rd - incl El ADEM Rd.
"C"	Excl. Harbour Rd - exclude El ADEM Rd - incl Acroma Rd.
"D"	Excl. Acroma Rd. - incl Derna Rd.
"E"	Excl. Derna Rd - Coastline from TOBRUK harbour to the West.

3. The nomenclature in paras one and two above will be adopted throughout the Corps for reference in messages, orders, and reports whenever appropriate.

BARDIA DEFENCES.

Captured documents dated 26 Dec, 40. give details of BARDIA defences as follows:-

Garrison		Officers	2042		
		ORs	<u>42927</u>	<u>44969</u>	
Tanks	Light	serviceable	46	unserviceable	69
	Med	"	12	"	1
			<u>58</u>		<u>70</u>
A Tk Guns	Breda		41		
	Solothurn		26		
	47/32		<u>85</u>	<u>152.</u>	

SUBJECT :- Naming of rds and sectors of the TOBRUK defences.

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(c) Road from road junction 41334266 to El ADM	El ADM Road.
(d) Road from road junction 41054503 - road junct. 40674362, - Pt 187 (39804302) - ACROMA (397450)	Acroma Road.
(e) Road from TOBRUK harbour - road junction 41054545 - thence due west	Derna Rd.

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A Tk Guns	Breda	41	
	Solothurn	26	
	47/32	<u>65</u>	<u>152.</u>

(2)

AA Guns.	75/27 CK	4	
	75/46 AA	<u>22</u>	
			<u>26</u>

In f. Support Guns.			
	(65/17)		<u>41</u>

Fd. Guns.	75/27	105	
	77/28	<u>16</u>	
			<u>121</u>

Med Hy.	120/25	20	
	149/35	<u>7</u>	
			<u>27</u>

Hows?	105/28	35	
	100/17	<u>41</u>	
			<u>70</u>

(2)

A Guns.	75/27 CK	<u>4</u>	
	75/46 AA	<u>22</u>	
			<u>26</u>
Inf. Support Guns.	(65/17)		<u>41</u>
Fd. Guns.	73/27	105	
	77/28	<u>16</u>	
			<u>121</u>
Med Hy.	120/25	20	
	149/35	<u>7</u>	
			<u>27</u>
Howst?	105/28	35	
	100/17	<u>41</u>	
			<u>70</u>

War Diary

Rashid Bardia

UNIT.	KILLED		WOUNDED		MISSING.	
	OFFICERS	O.R's	OFFICERS	O.R's	OFFICERS	O.R's
2/5Bn	1	17	6	45		1
2/6 Bn	2	20	2	49		
2/7 Bn	2	13	6	55		
Bde H.Q.		1		2		
TOTAL	5	51	14	151		1

SUMMARY.

OFFICERS.

5 Killed 14 Wounded.

O.R's

51 Killed 151 Wounded 1 Missing.

TOTAL.

56 Killed 165 Wounded 1 Missing.

TOTAL CASUALTIES.

222.

26 Feb 41.

Information given by 2/7 Bn Pioneer Sgt and Cpl re AGHEILA
Fort and aerodrome and mining of road.

main

EL AGHEILA. The fort is on north side of road (X) B 1568 and is surrounded by a high wall composed of stones and drift sand piled up in places, with concrete in patches. Being situated on a high bank good observation is obtained from the fort. Near the eastern corner of the fort the village is situated and is composed of 40 small Arab houses. Outside the fort 3 or 4 posts have been constructed.

THE AERODROME. Is on South side of road XB1567, the concrete hangar being on side of road. The aerodrome has been made unfit for use as an L.G. by large petrol and oil drums and wrecked trucks being strewn over it.

Stores and supplies at aerodrome -

1. Petrol - approx 500 drums
200 cases
2. Quantity of bombs painted red with tail fins -
some bombs suspected to be Thermos type.
3. Many mines without explosives.
4. 2 new aero engines in hangar.
5. Portable motor and air compressor.
6. Approx 10,000 rounds of SAA (.303 type).

Mining of road. Enemy have mined one culvert (300 yds east of KP 18) and prepared another for mining just west of KP 18 in a box cutting west of AGHEILA.

We have mined the road in between these two culverts.

Report of action as known by Pioneers.

The enemy apparently came down road behind our patrol and remained in fort during night. In the morning when our patrol moved out it was fired on after passing fort, turned to the left off main road and manoeuvred around east back to main road.

FACTS WORTH THINKING ABOUT

15th. FEBRUARY, 1941

No. 12.

NOTE: *The number of copies is limited so please pass this on to a friend.*

A NORDIC FAIRY TALE.

No speech of the Fuehrer's would be complete without a repetition of the **old old story that Germany in the last war was not beaten in the field, but only betrayed from within.** In this respect, as in others, his latest effort was true to form. So at the cost of flogging a dead horse, it may be worth while to glance once more at the facts — **this time as the Germans themselves have related them.**

In 1919, the German Chancellor's office published a book called "Events Immediately Preceding the Armistice". Here, very briefly, is what it says about events in the Autumn of 1918.

- 1.—On September 30th., the German Foreign Secretary cabled Sofia as follows: "Entire situation forces us to approach America with offer of peace as soon as possible".
- 2.—On October 1st., the Imperial Chancellor cabled the German Foreign Office as follows: "General Ludendorf has just requested Freiherr Von Gruenau and myself in presence of Colonel Heye to forward to Your Excellency an urgent request that our offer of peace should be despatched at once. The troops are holding their own to-day; **what may happen to-morrow cannot be foreseen**".
- 3.—On October 2nd., the Imperial Chancellor cabled the German Foreign Office: "General Ludendorf declared to me that our offer must be forwarded from Berne to Washington at once. **The army could not wait another forty-eight hours**".
- 4.—On October 17th., Ludendorf at a full session of the German Government made this statement: "The Forty-First Division gave way completely on August 8th. **That was the black day in Germany's history**".
- 5.—**From August 8th. to November 11th., Germany lost 385,500 prisoners and 6,615 guns, representing a quarter of German man-power on the Western Front and more than half the guns of the German Army.**
- 6.—As will be seen from the above, the initiative in suing for peace came from the German High Command and not from politicians or civilians. One of the German plenipotentiaries at the Armistice, Erzberger, recorded that he was authorised by Hindenburg to accept any terms including unconditional surrender.

Germany in 1918 was beaten in the field.

PEGASUS A LA MODE.

"A traveller returning from Germany reports that horses are being tested daily for air-worthiness. Horses which bolt after landing from aeroplane flights are not taken into the army".

Social Demokraten, Sweden.

HANDBOOK OF RACKETEERS.

"Down with the British Plutocrats! with their vulgar diamonds and their rivers of champagne", screams Goebbels' radio.

"Where does he get his ideas?" Queries the astonished Englishman, and the answer is easy: They begin at home. To collect copy, Goebbels has only to visit the houses of his National-Socialist colleagues. He tells us that "Molotov mistook the noise of Berlin's anti-aircraft gun-fire for the popping of champagne corks".

Hitler, because he neither smokes nor drinks, **has achieved an undeserved reputation for asceticism.** His motto is "Moderation in Refinement", but his style of living makes Hollywood seem suburban. He has a yacht at Kiel, and a private train complete with cinema and cocktail bar. His palaces at Berchtesgaden and in the Wilhelmstrasse are equipped with every grandeur of marble and gilt, and many fine tapestries and paintings "borrowed" from museums, not only in Germany, but in the occupied territories.

Goering's income is about £100,000 a year less than Hitler's £200,000, so he does not have a train of his own, but he cuts quite a dash in his own way. From his forty-two motor-cars by way of his servants' white suède top-boots to the retinue of huntsmen blowing hunting horns at departing foreign journalists; from the solid gold bust of his first wife revolving on its marble pedestal to his three country castles and his palace, the former Prussian Ministry of Commerce, in Berlin, **he is an example to the young Nazi of the advantages to be reaped from the Party racket.**

Goebbels is more modest. He pigs it in a Berlin house of fifty rooms, and makes do with a mere couple of country estates. Oddly enough, it is Goebbels who has roused a protest. The German people put up with a great deal from their leaders, but even they were annoyed when the Minister of Propaganda treated them to a film of his life called "Daddy's Birthday". It seems that the contrast was too great; **the film was withdrawn.**

Ribbentrop — the only one who was rich before he joined the Party — tried to send his son to Eton. He failed, but the incident makes Nazi invective hurled at blue blood and the plutocracies look like a simple case of love locked out.

Where Does the Money Come From? The glib Nazi answer to this searching question is that the leaders are rendering the Reich such invaluable services that **"there can be no dividing line between their fortunes and that of the State".** In other words, the perquisites of office — official residences, expense accounts, entertainment allowances — are infinitely elastic. No payment, it seems, is too high. The Austrian owner of Schloss Fuschl, recently "acquired" by Ribbentrop, had died in Dachau.

What do the Germans Think of It? They may think volumes, but they can say nothing. **The Gestapo, the controlled press and the concentration camp see to that.** But now and then resentment bursts the bounds. The Viennese lately hissed Frau Goering when she appeared in ermine in their Burgtheater. Similarly when Dr. Ley, the "workers' friend" bought himself a fourth estate in Bavaria, price 100,000 marks, there was a protest. "Tell us, Ley, where did you get that 100,000 marks?" was posted on his gate, and when a reward of 100 marks for the culprit's name was offered by the outraged Socialist. "Tell us, Ley, where did you get that 100,100 marks?" appeared next day.

WHAT IT COSTS TO BE OCCUPIED.

The cost of maintaining the German troops occupying France is to be paid **by France**, of course, at the rate of 20 million marks a day under the terms of the Franco-German Armistice. At the rate of exchange of 20 francs to the mark

fixed by the Armistice Commission, this amounts to 146 million francs a year, practically 50% of France's pre-war national income. In view of the inevitable reduction of this income by the disasters of war, the real proportion is higher.

By comparison, the cost to Germany of the Allied armies of occupation after the last war was less than 1% of her national income.

PROVERBS TO PONDER.

The Italians, like all old peoples, have a rich fund of proverbs and familiar sayings. Here are some collected by the "Egyptian Mail" which seem to have a peculiar appropriateness at the present moment.

For the Fascisti:

Non e onore all'aquila il vincer la colomba.

(It is no honour for an eagle to vanquish a dove).

La guerra fa i ladri e la pace gl'impicca.

(War makes robbers, and peace hangs them).

For Mussolini:

Capo grasso, cervello magro.

(Fat head, lean brains).

Chi nel fango casca, quanto più si dimena, più s'imbratta.

(When a man has fallen into the mire, the more he flounders the more he fouls himself).

For the Italian Fleet:

Chi non vede il fondo, non passi l'acqua.

(Don't cross the water unless you can see the bottom).

Ritornan molti dalla guerra che non sanno raccontar la battaglia.

(Many return from the war who cannot give an account of the battle).

EXILES AND ALLIES.

The Polish eagle, the Czech lion, the Orange Tabs of the Netherlands, the Crimson Cross of Lorraine standing for Free France — in fact, **all the emblems and colours of our Allies are to-day familiar sights in Britain.** Each Sunday night, their national anthems sound in English ears.

They have in various parts of London their own "Downing Streets", their own military headquarters, and their own offices. They hold Cabinet meetings and even have their Parliaments in session. They have their own Treasuries but are not, of course, issuing any of their own currencies.

The Allied Governments have, however, been granted the necessary legal status to enable them to carry out their various Government tasks. **These Allied Governments carry on as in normal times.** The fact that they are on British soil and far from their own countries does not, in most cases, in any way affect their composition. They have their Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Finance Minister, Minister of the Interior, and especially their Minister of Defence. In most cases, the Minister of Defence is the Commander-in-Chief of their Fighting Forces. Though in the Polish Government General Sikorski is Premier and Commander-in-Chief.

There are only two Allied Parliaments in England. These are the Polish National Council, formed in France and transferred to London after the French collapse, and the newly-appointed Czech National Council. These Councils

are appointed by the Cabinets and are not elected but they are called upon to perform some of the normal functions of a Parliament. They do not pass laws, though they make provision for laws to be enacted when their countries become free again.

The Allied Cabinet meet in most cases twice and at least once a week in London and **the most ferocious Nazi bombing has not prevented these regular Cabinet meetings.**

GOEBBELS CALLS IT A FLOP.

"In London a few cinemas are kept open from noon to 9.00 p.m., but there are no audiences apart from one or two people who use the cushioned seats to have a good sleep".

German Radio.

Someone must have forgotten to tell Goebbels that "The Great Dictator" is playing to full houses in London's three biggest cinemas.

THE UNITED STATES AND OURSELVES.

We hear much in these days of the help that we are receiving or expect to receive from the great democracy across the Atlantic, and no one will deny that the future course of this war — and indeed the destinies of the whole world — will in no small measure be determined by the extent and promptitude of that assistance. It is particularly interesting, therefore, since we depend so much on the U.S.A., to realise that **the United States, now that their trade with most of Western Europe has ceased, depend to a very considerable degree upon us.**

Here are the remarkable figures given in a recent authoritative article.

In August last year the United States exports to Britain amounted to 85% of her total export trade as compared with 40% in August of the preceding years.

NAZI QUANDARY.

Goebbels cannot quite decide how to tackle the problem of American aid to Britain. First of all his radio stations belittled the quality of American-made aircraft, but when these machines proved themselves in action they had to adopt another line — that the planes would be sunk by U-boats before they reached Britain. Then came the news that British pilots were ferrying bombers across the Atlantic, each pilot making two trips every week.

So Goebbels has had to think up another story. He now says the United States are getting ready to bleed Britain while with post-war reparations, and attaches a sinister significance to the visits of Mr. Harry Hopkins and Mr. Wendell Wilkie to Britain.

For Germany, undoubtedly, these visits have a sinister significance, since both these distinguished Americans have declared themselves in favour of rendering all possible aid to Britain.

CROSS TALK.

Fuehrer (telephoning): "Hallo, Hallo! Benito! Aren't you in Athens yet?"

Duce: "What's that you say, Adolf? Why's the line so bad? Are you telephoning from London?"

Issued by G.H.Q., Middle East.

APPENDIX.CAPTURES.

1. The following is a summary of British Captures since 5 Dec. TOBRUCH figures are still only approx. SIDI BARRANI and BARDIA first estimate.

	<u>SIDI BARRANI</u>	<u>BARDIA</u>	<u>TOBRUCH</u>
Officers	1525	2041	
Ors.	23500	42827	25/30000
LIBYANS	13273	-----	
	<u>38298</u>	<u>44868</u>	<u>25/30000</u>

Approx. total 108/113000.

Med guns		7	
Fd. guns	214	216	all types 200
Hvy AA	21	26	
Inf guns	36	41	
A/T	63	78	Not yet assessed.
AT/AA	65	68	do.
Coastal Defence	2	26	do.
Tanks	76	150 (50 u/s)	At least 60.
MT	1048 (plus vehicles in use by fwd tps)	708	Not yet assessed.
M/Cs.		233	

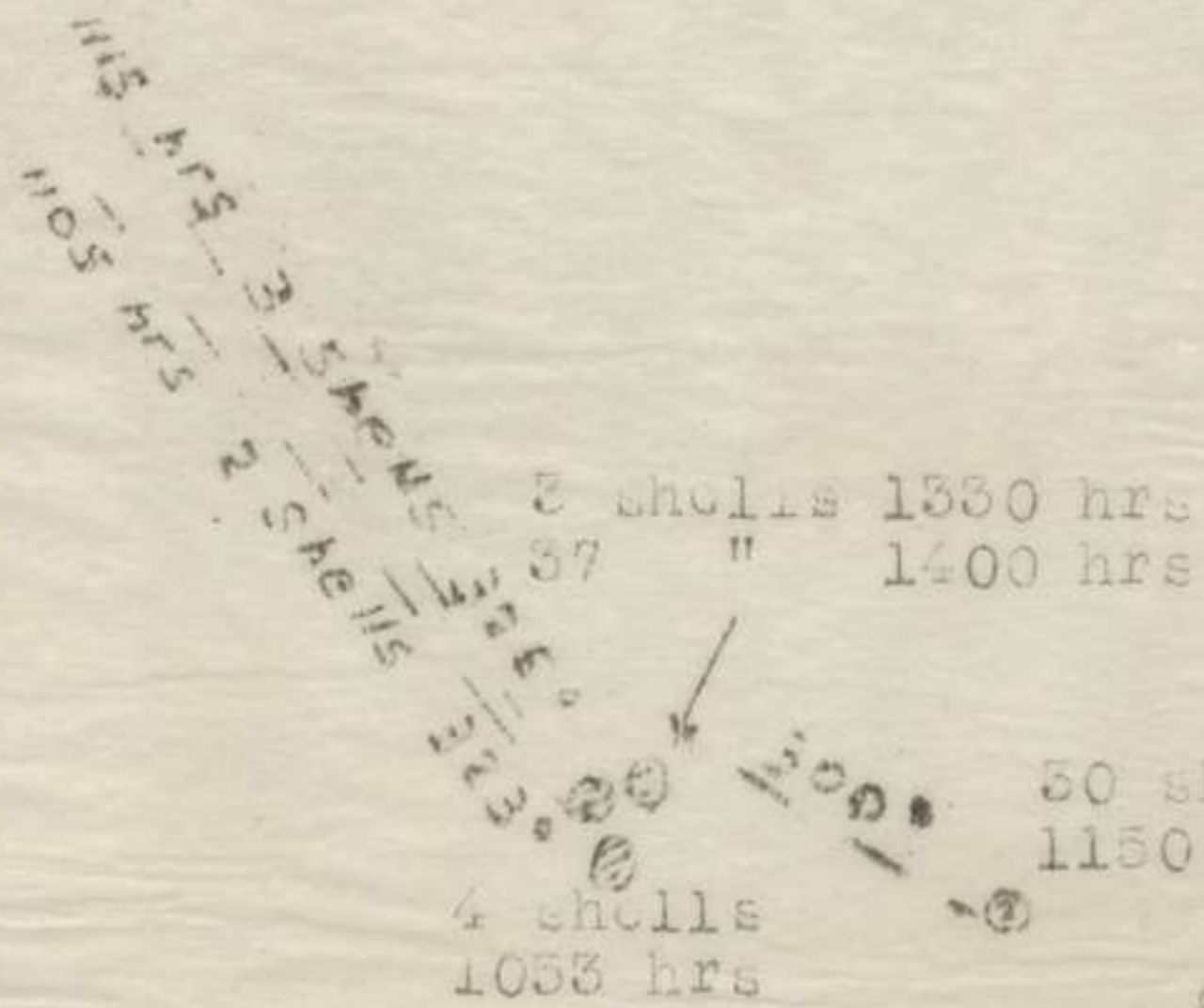
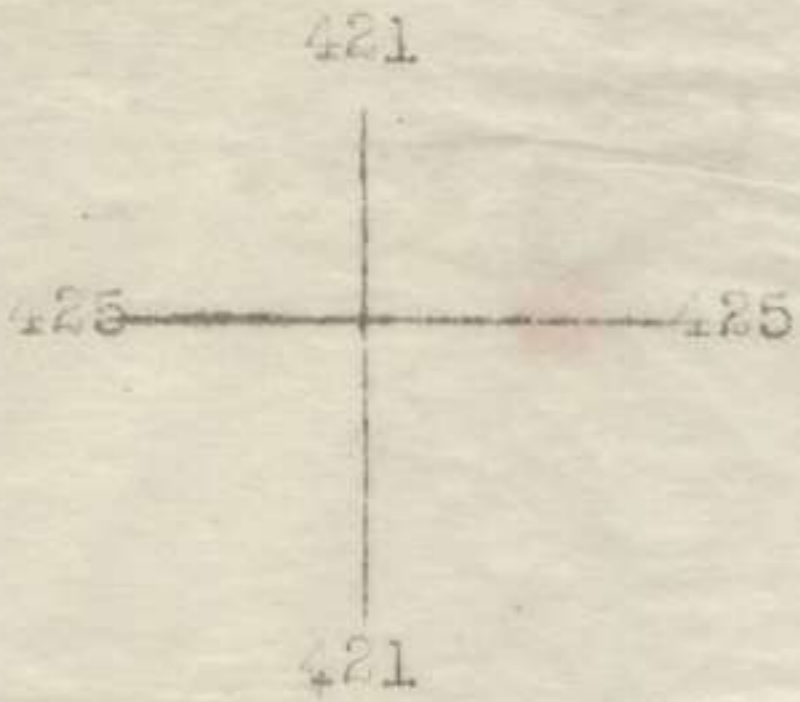
2. The following have been wiped out.

HQ XXI Corps.
 HQ XXII Corps.
 HQ XXIII Corps.
 HQ Group of Libyan Divs.
 61 SIRTE Div.
 62 MARMARICA Div.
 63 CIRENE Div.
 64 CATANZARO Div.
 1 "28 March" CCNN Div.
 2 "28 October" CCNN Div.
 4 "3 Jan" CCNN Div.
 1 Libyan Div.
 2 Libyan Div.
 MALETTI Force (equivalent to Div.)
 GAF (almost a div.)

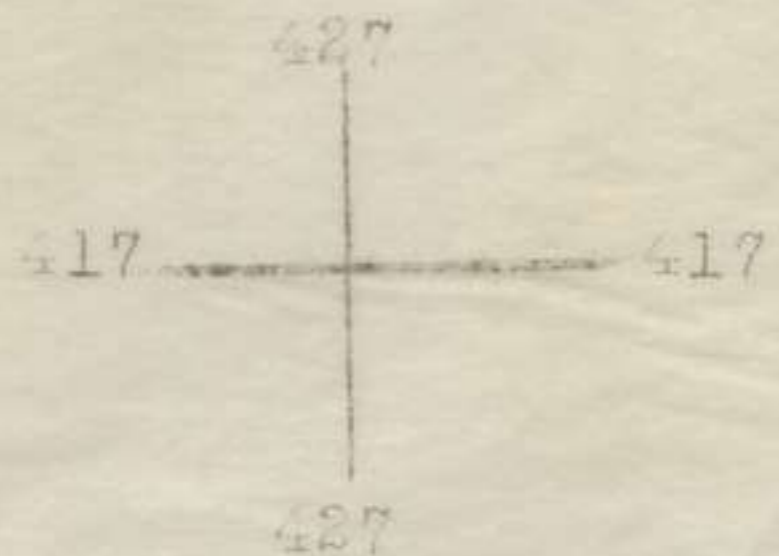
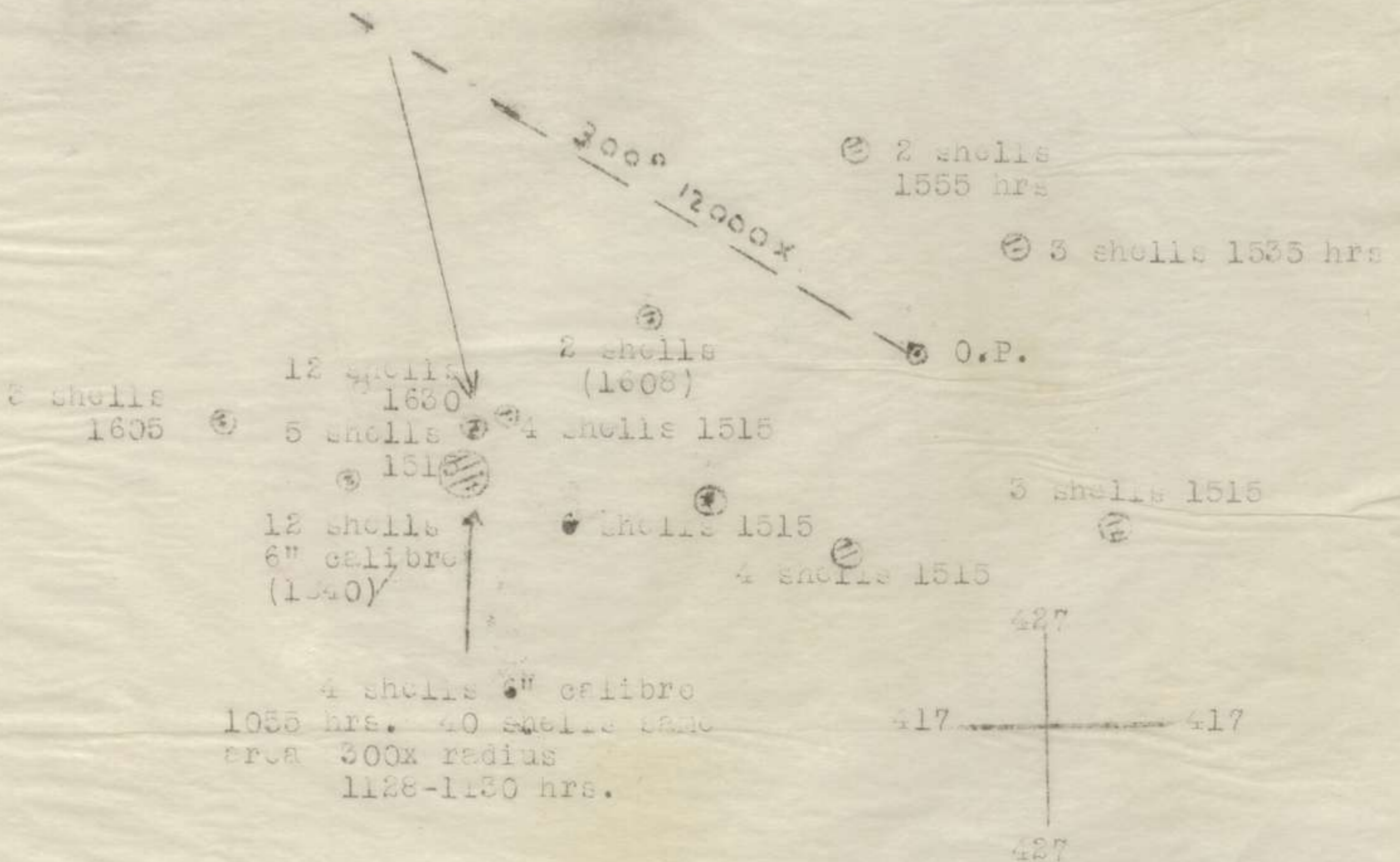
3. 15 General officers plus 1 Admiral have been either killed or captured.

Ref. Map. TOBRUCH red overprint.

SHELLING TRACE.



50 shells
1150 hrs
consistent shelling throughout morning.
1 shell
1206 hrs



SEAR "I" Sec.
19 Jan. 41.

Shelling Trace SEAR

To 16 Jan 41 1700 hrs

Ref TOBRUCH 1/25000

426

428

16-1-41

17 Shells landed
this area 1355
8 shells same area 1715 hrs

15-1-41

From 2200 - 2210 hrs
From 284° 8 shells in this area

16-1-41
0610 hrs - 0620 hrs 3 shells from 275°

0610 - 0620 hrs 5 shells from 270°
16-Jan-41

3 shells 1900 hrs 16-1-41
1 Dud

16 Jan 41 1000 hrs 9 shells from 325°

420

420

x 16 Jan 41 1405 hrs 1 shell

16 Jan 41 0400 hrs 4 shells
+ 15 Jan 41 2300 hrs 1 shell

16 Jan 41 1400 hrs 10 shells
255°

In R Sec

16 Jan 41

2000 hrs

LOCATION STATEMENT 1200 hrs 24 FEB 41.

17 Bde HQ		XB 7897
" " Rear HQ		SX 1030
2/7 Bn HQ		XB 5987
A Coy		XB 5987
B Coy		XB 5184
C Coy		XB 5585
D Coy		XB 5886
KDG HQ		XB 5581
B Ech		SW 8003
A Sqn		XB 8197
B Sqn		XB 5971
C Sqn		XB 3272
RAF A/C Sqn		XB 5581
No 1 A Tk Pl		XB 3272
No 2 A Tk Pl		XB 5987
Free French HQ		
1 Coy	AGEDABIA L.G.	SX 1225
1 Coy	area EL HAMAA L.G.	XB 8197
Det Flt 208 Sqn RAF	AGEDABIA LG	SX 1225
1 Lt AA Bty RA HQ		XB 8096
2/3 Fd Regt HQ		XB 8196
2/2 Fd Amb Staging Post		SX 1030
A.D.S.		SW 8900
Mob Sec		XB 7798
Mob Sec		XB 6393
S.P., P.P.		XW 8800

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

In ref to Man
ld as then known

LOCATION STATEMENT 0600 hrs 24 FEB 41.

17 Bde HQ		XB 7897
" " Rear HQ		SX 1030
2/7 Bn HQ		XB 5987
A Coy		XB 5987
B Coy		XB 5184
C Coy		XB 5585
D Coy		XB 5886
KDG HQ		XB 5384
A Sqn		KW 8102
B Sqn		XB 5871 SW B EL GINN
C Sqn		XB 26
RAF A/C Sqn		XB 58
Free French HQ		
1 coy	AGEDABIA L.G.	SX 1225
1 "	area EL HAMAA L.G.	XB 8197
Det Flt 208 Sqn RAF	AGEDABIA LG	SX 1225
1 Lt AA Bty RA HQ		XB 8096
2/3 Fd Regt HQ		XB 8196
No 1 A Tk Pl		XB 26
No 2 A Tk Pl		XB 5987
2/2 Fd Amb Staging Post		SX 1030
A.D.S.		SW 8900
Mob Sec		XB 7798
Mob Sec		XB 6393
SP, PP		XW 8800

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

Patrol report 17 Feb 41.

Unit D Coy 2/6 Bn
Maps BARCE, TECNIS 1/100,000.
Personnel. Lieut Stewart (OC), 1 WO, 1 Sgt, 2 Cpls, 13 ORs,
2 Int Sec.
Conveyance. 2 15-cwt Chevs.

Purpose - To investigate a report of cattle theft from Italian farmers by Arabs.

Events - Patrol left 17 Bde HQ ref 718177 at 1340 hrs, arriving at Kilo 12 at 1400 hrs, guided by an Italian settler. Patrol then turned off the main rd at 820163 and followed track for a distance of 1.6 miles from the rd before track branched. Proceeded along the right arm of the track for .4 miles until a large cattle shed was reached. Information was given that Arabs had stolen 10 cows plus calves at 1 am this morning. The direction in which the cattle were reported to have been driven was followed by the two sections with Brens and rifles, but there was no sign of the raiders. At 1440 the sections were recalled to the trucks and the guide followed along the track in the direction of the road. An Arab was questioned, but had no knowledge of the affair. An Italian farmer, who spoke broken English, informed the patrol that 5 cattle and a horse had been stolen from him. The guide directed patrol to an Arab encampment at 805136, where the inhabitants professed stout friendship towards the Italian settlers. The guide was taken to his home. Patrol then visited another home at 819160. Patrol then returned to 17 Bde at 1700 hrs.

Results. No sign of stolen cattle. Word was spread of presence of Australian soldiers, who would be patrolling this district, which information gave settlers great confidence, while instilling greater respect for settlers' property into the Arabs. Italian settlers were very friendly disposed ~~xxxx~~ towards our soldiers.

Private Diary

SUMMARY of PATROL REPORTS; SEAH.
Week ending 16. Feb. 41.

17. Feb. 41.

DATE.	UNIT.	REPORT.
10 FEB.	2/7 Bn.	Proceeded area 7928, thence 8228. Incident - 5 Italians, 2 Arabs on road. Approach of patrol Arabs fled into scrub. When stopped and searched bundles of clothing found, believed to be property Italians, otherwise quiet. Route Trace. Barce - 660110, Arty personnel contacted stated Arabs were ransacking houses. Investigation showed signs of looting in one house. Trace Route 2.
10 Feb.	2/7 Bn.	Camp-BARCE-rd NNW to 684258-along track WEST to 657236-BENGHASI Rd.-Camp. All quiet. Trace route 3.
10 Feb	2/7 Bn.	Camp BARCE-Main Rd. D4AMMUZIO. Information received that Arabs stole calf and clothing. Now recovered and returned. Offenders apprehended. Call made OBERDAN. All quiet; Trace route 4.
11 Feb.	2/7 Bn.	Camp Pt. 308116. Back to 685153 to 680140. Native encampments examined 700113 - 710142-track 693163-via rly track to 714194-to camp. No trouble this area. Trace route 5.
11 Feb.	2/7 Bn.	NORTH along rd from BARCE to village OBERDAN -North of MADDELINA. no trouble Arabs. 2/3 Fd; Regt in occupation in OBERDAN. Trace route 6.
12 Feb.	2/7 Bn.	Camp - Barce thence N. E. to 683257, thence 2nd class rd. S.E. to main Benghasi rd. 629197 and return to camp. Interpretation difficult. Inhabitants appear happy. All working, no complaints Arabs, none seen in area. Area mostly cultivated. Routes trace. 7.
12 Feb.	2/7 Bn.	Barce. F.S.S. report rape case. Darkness made immediate investigation impossible. When patrol reported House No. 69. morn. were informed that services were not required.
12 Feb.	+2/7+Bn+ Act. Town Major.	Reports received several shops broken into during night 11/12 Feb. Picquets unable supply inform. Local shop owners vague as to actual happenings. After invest. am inclined to disbelieve veracity of this.
13 Feb.	2/7 Bn.	Patrol - Barce, Oberdan district. All quiet. No fire arms carried by Arabs, Arab encampments seen.
13 Feb.	2/7 Bn.	Patrol No 2; Sector. All quiet. until reaching Pt. 374. where Arabs were entered molesting Italian settlers. They were reprimanded. Settlers most hosp.
14 Feb.	2/7 Bn.	Barce - Maddeleana - D'Annuzzio, to up bridge. South at Kilo 24. to mai Cirne -Barce Nothing to report. Trace Route No. 9.
15 Feb.	2/7 Bn;.	Along Tocra rd. pt. 5K. East of B. then to 559098 to railway. 630056 back to Tocra rd. Went East to then South to 645105. Returned along Rly. No sign of any trouble. Trace Route No. 10.
15 Feb.	2/7 Bn.	Barce - pt. 757302 -764283 - 68738314. No sign of trouble. Trace No. 11.
15 Feb.	2/7 Bn.	To Eastern Sector Barce. Visited Arab camps along escarpment 810220. No sign trouble. Trace

INTELLIGENCE : Enemy Air Tactics.
 - - - - -

IN THE FIELD.
 17 Feb. 41.

The following information is forwarded with reference to enemy dive bombing tactics :

1. Method of Approach -

Aircraft circles over the target at 12/10,000 feet to locate it.

2. Height at which dives commence -

When the target is located aircraft peel off individually into a spiral dive, which continues until 5000 - 4000 feet.

At 5000/4000 feet the aircraft commences a straight dive aimed at the target.

3. Height at which bomb is released -

Bomb is released at between 2000/1000 feet, but aircraft follow through on the same line of flight until pulling out of dive, between 1000/500 feet.

4. Method and height of retreat of aircraft -

Very low jinking continually.

5. Type of Aircraft and range -

(a) J.U. 87

This is a real dive bomber.

When carrying a full bomb load of 1540 lbs its range is 420 miles. Extra petrol tanks can be put in to increase the range to 900 miles, but it reduces the bomb load to 1100 lbs.

(b) J.U. 88

This is not specially built for dive bombing and therefore attacks the target in a shallow dive, but was built for the dual role of ordinary and dive bombing.

With full load of 6000 lbs its range is 600 miles. By putting on extra petrol tanks its range can be increased to 1200 miles, but in this case the bomb load is reduced to 3000 lbs.

It will therefore be seen that the maximum of action is 600 miles, which brings ALEXANDRIA in easy range of the DODECANESE.

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

H. Q. 2/6 Aust. Inf. Bn.
I4 Feb; I94I

H. Q.
I7 Aust. Inf. Bde.

Herewith report in duplicate
of O. C. BARCE Security Guard to
09.00 hrs I4 Feb. 4I.

[Handwritten signature]
.....Major.
A/Command 2/6 Aust. Inf. Bn.

REPORT OF SECURITY GUARD

BARCE.
I4 Feb. 1941

- I. Six posts maintained day and night :
- Post 1. Wheat silos and adjoining grain sheds
 - Post 2. Power station, water points and flour mill.
 - Post 3. Petrol point in town . This has now been taken off as supply there is exhausted.
- 3 Posts maintained on ration store.
2. Patrols go out at intervals, from Pl. on duty at ration store to firewood stack. Several shots were fired over heads of Italians and Arabs stealing this wood and so far no further trouble has occurred.
 3. It is proposed to hand to each man of 2/6 Bn. on duty in the town, a duty pass. This will save trouble with Provost.
 4. Piquets reporting from 2/2 Fd. Coy and 2/6 Bn. during the day are unnecessary and if town piquet from each unit as previously suggested reports, this will suffice.
 5. Nil reports of trouble from outside centers to 09.00 hrs. 14 Feb.
 6. No trouble occurred in town for 24 hours ending 09.00 Hrs. 14 Feb. Piquets report town very quiet during their tour of duty. Personnel recce at 22.00 hrs. on 13 Feb. verifies this.
 7. 13 Prisoners (convalescent) discharged from hospital and handed over to town guard on evening 13 Feb. Require blankets urgently. Present billets are much too small and arrangements are being made with billeting officer for larger billets.
 8. Salvage operations continue, i.e.; collection of S.A.A. and grenades, under salvage officer.
 9. A quantity of cognac and wine - total of 509 kegs at present in ration store. It is suggested that this be removed, carted into the country and destroyed.
- IO. Investigation of water situation taking place on arrival of L.O. from I7 Inf. Bde - the case explained to him.
- II. Some assistance has been rendered Sports and Amenities Officer for the Bde. but little is available. Have learned that Benghazi has much greater facilities.

Signed. J. H. ROWAN. Captain.
O.C. Security Guard.

COPY.

Bar ce.
15/2/41

To C.O.
2/6 Bn.

REPORT OF SECURITY GUARD TO 0900 HRS. 15 Feb. 41.

1. Guards at present maintained are as follows :
 1. Ration store
 2. Power Station, Water Point and Grain store.
 3. P.O.W. billets which are now situated $\frac{1}{2}$ mile West of Fascist Hall. BARCE.
2. Nil report from outlying districts.
 - (a) Deputation from area East of BARACA yesterday requiring arms for protection against raiding Arabs - referred to Lt. Harrison, Officer i/c Civil Administration.
 - (b) Requests for return of radios collected by Italians from local residents. Referred to N.C.O. i/c Field Security and Officer i/c of Civil Administration.
3. Town Piquet reports a shop broken into about 22.30 hrs. 14 Feb. Offender escaped before being apprehended. This has not yet been reported by local shop-keeper.
4. Town generally quiet, practically no troops of Units of 17 Inf. Bde. other than authorised piquets in town. Any trouble caused yesterday was by personnel from R.A.E. and A.S.C.
5. Ref. to laundry - enquiries are being made by Mjr. Palandri of 2/7 Fd. Amb., who speaks Italian fluently. No further information has been received from him. Will continue enquiries .
6. Herewith forwarded list of names of P.O.W. taken over on 13 and 14 Feb. also certificates handed over at same time.

Signed. J. G. ROWAN. Captain.
2/6 Bn.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Intelligence Summary No. 17.

Based on information received at this H.Q. up to 2000 hrs. 19 Jan.

Ref. Map TOBRUCH red overprint 1:50,000.
TOBRUCH (Composite) 1:100,000.

1. General.

Increased activity has been experienced by both fronts today.

2. Enemy Air Activity.

No hostile aircraft have been reported in this area today.

3. Patrol Reports.

ZEITUN SECTOR.

2/5 Bn. patrol confirms enemy M.G. position at 42434266, also reported M.G. 42434267.

SIDI DAUD SECTOR.

Patrol C Coy. 2/7 Bn.

Route - patrol left C Coy. H.Q. 42504205 on bearing of 303 deg. and proceeded to Post R75.

Enemy fire. Bursts of M.G. fire were encountered from the right and left along line of advance.

Wire and Booby Traps.

Although a careful search made along route in danger, no trip wires or booby traps were found.

General.

Talking was heard in Post R75.

Time patrol out 1830, time patrol in - 2215 hrs.

SUESI SECTOR.

Patrol A Coy. 2/7 Bn.

Route - Patrol left 42434189 on bearing 254 deg. to Trig 145 (42244187), then on bearing 332 deg. with intention of proceeding 300 yds. to wire, with a further 500 yds. to Post R70.

Enemy fire. At a distance of 2500 yds. from Trig. 145 (approx. 42134209) patrol fired on ever open sights by arty from the left. M.G. fire from Post R71 was brought to bear on patrol and although fire was sustained it appeared to be in all directions rather than aimed.

General.

Patrol forced to retire, but heard much excited talking and calling around Post R71 before leaving.

Time patrol out 2015, time patrol in 2305 hrs.

Patrol B Coy. 2/7 Bn.

Route - Patrol left 42234176 and moved out on bearing 320 deg. for 4200 yds. and then examined area from this pt to pt 400 yds. on bearing of 25 deg. thoroughly.

Mines and Booby Traps.

No mines or booby traps were seen in area searched in vicinity of Posts R67, R69, though what appeared to be dummy minefields were located.

Enemy fire. Heavy M.G. fire was encountered at approx. 42064196, apparently from Post R67.

General.

Enemy voices clearly heard at Post R67. A watchdog was located in vicinity of Post R69.

4. Enemy Shelling.

Enemy arty has been very active throughout the day, details reported are shown on shelling piece, though much shelling on both fronts was not reported in detail. The 6" shells landing in 2/7 Bn. area are apparently coming from a coastal gun. They are yellow inside with fairly thin casing, may be LYDDITE. Only a few burst well, most just cracking leaving large pieces of the casing intact. 2/5 Bn. reported large calibre shells falling in their area, burst leaving large clouds of white smoke. A Coy. 2/5 Bn. reported some shells landing in area, burst leaving strong smell of carbon bisulphide. This may have been mistaken for the LYDDITE smell.

5. Conclusion.

The greatly increased activity by the enemy arty, the alertness of enemy posts, the nervous talking heard when our patrols suspected or seen, and the wild firing of M.G.s. at no fixed targets indicate the enemy expects our attack at any time now.

Signed at 20:30 hrs.

Lieut.,

B.I.C. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

DISTRIBUTION :

As per No. 15.

Ref Maps: AGEDABIA
EL AGHEILA } 1/500,000
MARADA }

SECRET.

22 Feb 41.

17 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 20.

Copy No. 2111

Based on information at this HQ up to 1200 hrs 22 Feb 41.

PART I.

General.

Adv 17 Aust Inf Bde HQ arrived in AGEDABIA area on 18 Feb and took command of area from Frontier to AGEDABIA.

Enemy Dispositions.

From the most recent information received the Italian dispositions in TRIPOLITANIA are believed to be somewhat as follows :

Although the bulk of the remaining Italian forces are situated in the vicinity of TRIPOLI, GARIAN, JEFREN and GIADO with 2 Lib Militia Bns at MISURATA and both 2 Motorised Arty Regts and all or the majority of 17 MG Bn at SIRTE, it is possible that small fighting units of a recently formed "Motorized Raggruppamento" may be encountered in the area EAST of SIRTE. About 30,000 men in all, but very deficient in Arty, MGs and Tanks.

Particulars of these units are believed to be as hereunder:

(a) Mobile Nucleus. According to a PW these consist of three armd cars, one 8 mm MG lorry-borne, one 47 mm A Tk gun lorry-borne and an ammunition lorry. Total strength about 29 men. Some of the armd cars in use are believed to be our own captured material (one was re-captured at DERNA).

(b) Mobile Fighting Units. A MG Coy, six 20 mm Bredas, four 47 mm A Tk guns, two 65/17 guns and a bty of 75/27. Each unit has two R/T sets.

(c) Motor Cycle Patrol. About 25 Bersaglieri Motor Cyclists and two 20 mm Bredas.

Enemy Air Activity.

German aircraft are being used over this area for machine gunning and dive bombing targets.

Types identified - ME 110 - JU 87 and JU 86

ME110 - Twin-engined Multi-seat fighter. Dimensions - span 52 ft, length 40 ft, maximum speed 350 mph, cruising speed 303 mph.

JU 87 - Specially built for Dive bombing - single engined. Maximum speed 245 mph, cruising speed 213 mph. Span 45'3", Length 35'4". With bomb load 1540 lbs, range 420 miles. With extra petrol tanks range can be increased to 900 miles, but bomb load is then reduced to 1100 lbs.

JU 86 - Twin engine bomber - span 73'0", length 57'0", height 15'7".

JU 88 - Twin engine - span 56 ft, length 46', maximum speed 310 mph, cruising speed 260 mph. This may be used though not specially built for dive bombing, being built for dual purpose of ordinary and dive bombing. It attacks the target in a shallow dive. With full load of 6000 lbs its range is 600 miles, which can be increased to 1200 miles with reduced bomb load of 3000 lbs.

18 Feb. Machine gunned and bombed main rd and 2/7 Bn, KDGs. 8 E.A. brought down.

19 Feb. 1120 hrs 15 ME 110 and 9 JU 87 bombed and machine gunned MERSA EL BREGA. 2 confirmed, 2 unconfirmed EA brought down.

20 Feb. No EA observed in this area. 0530-0600 hrs BENGASI raided and one Heinkel 111 brought down. 2/4 Bn machine gunned from 50' after attack on BENGASI.

21 Feb. 1900 hrs one aircraft, thought to be an EA, flew over east of area at a very high altitude.

22 Feb. 0916 hrs one EA JU 86 bombed rd and EL HAMAH aerodrome area and B8198. 1047 hrs 3 ME110 and 2 4-engined bombers heavily bombed and machine gunned targets in all unit areas - started fire on AGEDABIA L.G.

TACTICS. The dive bombers circle at about 8-12,000' locating targets. - when located aircraft peel off individually into a spiral dive, which continues until 4000-5000 is reached, when aircraft commences straight dive aimed at target, pulling out of dive between 300-1000', having released bomb at 1000-2000'.

Retreats, altering direction continually.

The aircraft machine gunning have been observed operating individually on targets, vehicles being targets generally selected, flying very low 50-500', thus making AA gun fire most difficult. From formation they also peel off at greater heights (5000-10000') and machine gun the target as they dive.

Enemy Ground Activity.

Our armd car patrols report only isolated enemy armoured car patrols.

20 Feb. 1530 hrs 3 enemy armd cars, one truck carrying Breda gun attacked our patrol 22 miles west of EL AGHEILA, one enemy armd car thought to be FIAT-ANSALDO 611, knocked out with Boyes A Tk rifle.

1915 hrs. Our patrol fired on by Breda A Tk gun taken from truck to fire, 19 miles west EL AGHEILA

21 Feb. No enemy seen east of frontier. Air reports 0830 hrs column of 16 enemy MT 4 miles east Rm EL ALI. At least 3 thought to be armd cars of 8 wheeled type, though not identified. Crews appeared to be wearing light blue khaki uniforms.

22 Feb. Own ground patrols report no enemy sighted 29 miles west of EL AGHEILA.

Air reports 10 heavy type MT appeared to be armoured car type proceeding XA9669 westerly from M in MAGTAA. No other enemy movement observed as far as ARCH L.G. XA5885.

Conclusion.

It does not appear that the enemy contemplate any large movement by land against our forces.

The German aircraft appear to have been allotted the task of preventing us using the main road, attempting to reduce morale of our troops, and showing strength of German Air Force. Wide dispersions of vehicles and no movement during air attacks will minimize casualties, which, with no movement on road during daylight, will make these raids ineffective.

V. Schiffield
Lieut.,
B.I.C. 17 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION :

1 Aust Corps	Copy No 1
6 Aust Div	2
19 Bde	3
2/7 Bn	4
K.D.G.	5
2/3 Fd Regt	6
1 Lt AA Bty	7
155 Lt AA Bty	8
F.F. Bn.	9
Det Flt 208 Sqn RAF	10
2/2 Fd Amb (4 Coy)	11
2/3 Fd Coy	12
2/5 Bn	13
2/6 Bn	14
File	15
War Diary	16-18
Spares	19-22

PART II.

Recco Reports :

KDG's report on recco of the area EL AGHEILA - Mt GIOFER - EL ACCARIA - GARET EL GATIA, made by a patrol on 18 Feb 41 :

GENERAL REMARKS.

What roads there are, are in fair condition, apart from the road running from GARET EL GATIA to the Fork Road EL AGHEILA (Sheet 11 (X) B.0364), which has been cut at half mile intervals.

The going off the road is extremely bad and bumpy, making progress of vehicles very slow.

The salt marsh on the SOUTH WEST is impassable, and the sand dunes round Mt GIOFER are very steep and can only be crossed by light armoured vehicles and vehicles with independent four wheel drive. The road crossing the dune at Mt GIOFER is protected by a Fort and attacking enemy could be held up for a considerable time. There is a Fort and an aerodrome at EL AGHEILA. The road SOUTH of the Road Junc EL AGHEILA (sheet 11 (X) B.0364) is very strongly fortified and could be defended easily.

Map of CYRENAICA, Edition of 4 Feb 41, Sheets 4 & 4L the road Mt GIOFER - EL ACCARIA is non-existent.

ROADS. Road EL AGHEILA - Mt GIOFER is made of stone, partly covered with sand, suitable for single line traffic. Where the stone is not covered there is a good track by the road. The going off the road is extremely bad and bumpy, mainly large tufts of camel grass making progress slow and uncomfortable. The road is protected for first mile and a half by two road blocks composed of barrels and vehicles. The road ceases after 15 miles, although 12 miles from AGHEILA there are some wooden huts, two gravel dumps and large quantities of stone for making roads. The last 5 miles to Mt GIOFER is along a moderate track.

The Road from Mt GIOFER - GARET EL GALIA, although marked on the map, does not exist. There is no track, but a way can be found between the salt marsh and sand dunes which resemble an escarpment. The going is very bad, being steep and rocky and can only be passed by light armoured vehicles and vehicles with four wheel drives. Here again the map seems to be inaccurate as the salt marsh comes further NORTH than its position on sheet 4.

The road from GARET EL GALIA - Fork (AL AGHEILA) Sheet 4 (X)B.0364) is good, but it has been cut in many places. First class track by road. Going between road and salt marsh very bumpy, unsuitable except for light armoured vehicles. Aerodrome at EL AGHEILA is small and in good condition. Very near to the Fort and very obvious from the air.

FORTS. A Fort at EL AGHEILA in good condition. Road EL AGHEILA - Mt GIOFER is defended for a mile and a half by two road blocks of tar barrels and trenches on both sides of the road.

On the road AGHEILA - Rd Junc (X)B.0364 sites for two road blocks within half a mile of the fort.

Strong fort, trenches and barbed wire at Mt GIOFER guard the end of the salt marsh, valley and the only road over the escarpment. Enemy coming from SOUTH would have to cross the escarpment by road or go EAST and find difficulty in crossing the escarpment, or else go round the salt marsh. The road could be guarded at the top of the escarpment.

200 yards SOUTH of the forked road (X) B.0364 is a very strongly fortified position. Trenches and/or barbed wire extending 600 yds either side of the road. The road is cut and barbed wire across it and two thick lines of sand bags. On either side of the road by the sand bags are gun positions and sand bagged trenches.

COMMENT, It is curious to observe that the enemy should cut the road from GARET EL GALIA in so many places and yet leave a first class track beside it, and also have the road from EL AGHEILA to the fork.

IN THE FIELD.
22 FEB 41.

SECRET.

Admin Instr No. 3.

1. Restricted Road Traffic.

The main road will be closed to traffic between 0650 hrs and 1730 hrs daily, except when ground mist permits in the morning, when vehicles may proceed at 500x interval.

The ends described are AGEDABIA and Unit areas and traffic may proceed from each end before 0650 hrs and after 1730 hrs. A road pass will be issued at Rear HQ should an emergency arise necessitating the use of the road.

2. Concealment and Camouflage.

The orders of Cyr Comd are repeated :

- (A) "All MT vehicles will be dug in on dispersion areas to protect engine and vital mechanical parts and dispersed with 500x between vehicles. Slit trenches for personnel will be dug at least 50x from the nearest vehicles.
- (B) Only essential vehicles are to be permitted near troop areas and they must be dug in and camouflaged.
- (C) All sleeping quarters will be dug in and camouflaged where possible".

3. Supply. S.P., P.P., and L.P. will be established 2 miles S.E. of main road 36 Kilos SOUTH of AGEDABIA at 2000 hrs daily commencing 22 Feb.

The turn off will be marked S.P. and the route marked.

4. Protection of Supply Dump.

ENGA will supply one sec to guard -
(a) Stores.
(b) Light on road.

5. Water. W.P. is at present at AGEDABIA. On arrival of Engineers W.Ps. will be developed in forward areas.

6. Postal. Det 6 Aust Div Postal Unit is established at Rear HQ $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles WEST of main road $6\frac{1}{2}$ Kilos NORTH of AGEDABIA.

7. Medical. Temporary LDS established on track to SEAR HQ.

J. C. Bishop
Capt.,
S/Capt SEAR.

Wm. Dwyer

Re Maps : AGEDABIA
EL AGHEILA
MARADA
SIRTE
1/500,000

SECRET

Copy No.....

23 Feb 41.

17 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 21.

Based on information at this HQ up to 1200 hrs 23 Feb.

General. During night 22/23 Feb 2/7 Bn took over responsibility of MARSALA EL BREGA area and eastwards along main rd : KDGs area B EL GINN and approaches from South.

Enemy Air Activity.

Information obtained later yesterday gives clearer picture of EA raid.

After one enemy bomber had patrolled 17 Bde Gp area at 0915 hrs EA were very active over all areas from 1045-1110 hrs. Attacked Rear 17 Aust Inf Bde HQ (6 miles N of AGEDABIA) area at 1045 hrs, set fire to an enemy GHIBLI aircraft on AGEDABIA L.G. by use of incendiary bullets and shells and then apparently photographic damage. Attacked 2/3 Fd Regt area 1055 hrs, 2/7 Bn area 1055 hrs K.D.G 1115 hrs, also F.S.D. North of AGEDABIA. It is estimated that 20-25 planes were over the area during day. 2 planes were 4-engined bombers and 3 identified as ME 110. In all cases tactics were reported to be similar - dive bombing and heavy machine gunning. C Sqn K.D.Gs. were attacked by 5 ME 110 at 1645 hrs and heavily machine gunned. From all these attacks only 13 casualties (1 D.O.W.) resulted.

No EA have been reported over this area today.

Enemy Ground Activity.

No reports have been received from KDGs of any enemy activity this side of frontier.

Tac/R reports (TOO 1055 hrs) 4 armd cars facing east one with large gun mounted in front, observed 1 1/2 miles south of rd just east of frontier. They did not fire on our aircraft. No other movement seen in area. The plane may have mistaken one of KDGs patrols with one A Tk gun for enemy armd cars.

Strat/R report received 0100 hrs this morning states air reconnaissance of road BENGHASI-MISURATA 0000 hrs - 1130 hrs (22Feb) from height 15,000'. Four EA were seen on ground at MISURATA aerodrome at 0935 hrs - type not identified. At 1010 hrs 20 fighter monoplanes seen on ground at BOUERAT AL SOUK - three took off but did not intercept. At 1016 hrs 12 large twin engine bombers seen on ground at TAMET, 3 with engines running. 1025 hrs SIRTE - no machines, no activity of any kind. Report of road MISURATA - SIRTE, 5 miles North crossroads EL CHEDDAHIA 15-20 MT travelling North, 10 miles further North similar number MT travelling North, 15 miles South of MISURATA small convoy 5-6 MT travelling South, No further movement sighted.

Second recce report 0635 hrs-1320 hrs - three large ships, approx each 10,000 tons anchored in middle harbour TRIPOLI. Nine small approx 500 tons scattered N.W. and East of harbour, grey ships. Approx 5000 tons, possibly a naval auxiliary, half mile East of harbour, 5 seaplanes moored on South side of harbour. No activity on NALLALA aerodrome.

Conclusion. It is apparent that the enemy will harass us by air action, which can be expected to increase. It is therefore incumbent on Comds to ensure the strictest possible supervision of camouflage. It would now appear that there is little likelihood of offensive action by enemy AFVs beyond mobile sections and small units. It appears that the harbour of TRIPOLI is open to supply ships and the possible landing of reinforcements.

[Signature]
Lieut.,
B.I.O. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

DISTRIBUTION :

Copy No 1 K.D.Gs.
2 2/7 Bn.
3 2/3 Fd Regt RAA
4 1 Lt Lt Bn. RA
5 Free French Bn.
6 2/3 Fd Coy
7 Det AASC
8 2/2 Fd A.S.
9 Det Flt. 208 Gen RAF
10 Brig.
11 B.M.
12 S.C.
13 I.O.
14 L.O. 1
15 L.O. 2
16 1 Aust Corps
17 6 Aust Div
18 2/5 Bn
19 2/6 Bn
20 File
21
22 War Diary.
23

Ref Maps : AGEDABIA
EL AGHEILA
MARADA
SIRTE

1:500,000

SECRET.

Copy No. 21.

24 Feb 41.

17 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 22.

Based on information at this HQ up to 1200 hrs 24 Feb 41.

Enemy Air Tactics :

In the BENGASI area the most usual times of raiding are when the moon is at 30° at or before dawn and in the late afternoon. Bombers on daylight raids have an escort of Messerschmidt fighters at a considerable height and operate in threes, diving singly or all together from about 10,000 to 6000 ft. Night raids appear to be carried out by single planes operating in widely separated areas and diving very much lower.

On one occasion a bomber MG'd a camp with explosive tracer bullets from a height of approx 50' after it had finished its bombing dive. S.A. fire was opened on plane, which retaliated from its rear gun and also, it is reported, with MGs located on sides of plane operating to rear.

Missiles used in recent raids -

(a) Bombs used on recent raids have a loud piercing whistle, although they are not of whistling type. Fragmentation is good and portions examined appear to be A.P.

One bomb which dropped on firm ground penetrated deeply before exploding and made a crater 10' deep and 20' in diameter. Fragments fell 1500 yds away, but no effects were felt by tps sleeping above ground 50 yds from point of impact.

A bomb which fell on a metal roadway blew a large hole in a wall 10 yds distant.

(b) Parachute mines have been dropped in night raids. The parachute is 9 yds in diameter and the mine cylindrical 9' long, 1 ft 6" diameter. One which landed in shallow water exploded on contact - another which landed on a metal roadway did not explode for 10 hrs. Both threw projectiles a distance of 300 yds, and that on road made a crater 3 ft deep and 30 ft in diameter.

Enemy Aircraft :

FIAT G50 - a single seater low wing fighter with 4 M.Gs. firing forward and a bomb load of 318 lbs (small AP type). Top speed 299 mph, cruising speed 261 mph, ceiling 25,430 ft, endurance 40 min at 290 mph or 2 hrs 35 mins at 160 mph.

Enemy Ground Activity.

Patrols yesterday nothing to report. At 0842 "C" Sqn KDGs reported 17 enemy AFVs at AGHEILA fort. This force later recognised to be composed of 2 heavy tanks, 2 light tanks, 14 M/C combinations and 5 guns.

Officer i/c of A Tr Pl with "C" Sqn captured and one man killed, one truck captured.

KDGs reported 1002 enemy force forming up 1½ miles WEST OF EL AGHEILA with apparent intention of retiring. At 1100 hrs KDGs reported AGHEILA fort clear of enemy, who is retiring westward.

Enemy Air Activity :

Up to 1200 hrs today only aircraft reported were 12 unidentified flying in direction BENGASI at 1800 hrs 23 Feb.

Conclusion : It would be unwise to deduce enemy intentions until full details of today's raid by small mobile force are reported. It would, however, appear that previous appreciation that the enemy would attempt "hit and run" tactics was correct. The attacking force appears to be similar in composition to units of the recently formed "Motorized Reggiment".

DISTRIBUTION :

See back hereof.

Brook
Major,
Bde Major, 17 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION :

Copy No	1	KDGs
	2	2/7 Bn
	3	2/3 Fd Regt RAA
	4	1 Lt AA Bty RA
	5	Free French Bn.
	6	2/3 Fd Coy.
	7	Det AASC
	8	2/2 Fd Amb.
	9	Det Flt 200 Sqn RAF
	10	Brig
	11	B.M.
	12	S.C.
	13	I.O.
	14	LO. 1
	15	LO. 2
	16	6 Aust Div
	17	3 Arm'd Bde.
	18	2/5 Bn.
	19	2/6 Bn.
	20	File
	21	
	22	War Diary
	23	

Ref Maps : AGEDABIA
EL AGHEILA
MARADA
SIRTE
1: 500,000

SECRET
Copy No. 21
25 Feb 41.

17 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 23.

Based on information at this HQ up to 1200 hrs 25 Feb 41.

General : 6 Aust Div took over command of forward area from I Aust Corps at 1200 hrs 24 Feb 41.

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy air activity from reports received after 1200 hrs 24 Feb :

1145 hrs one enemy aircraft flew at 500 ft over AGEDABIA in southerly direction - no action.

1150 hrs 3 EA, thought to be ME 110, flew in westerly direction over 2/7 Bn and KDGs area. A Coy 2/7 report 4AIMG fire hit one machine. Smoke and pieces of burning material coming from plane. Three objects were dropped by parachute just west of EL BRAGA in sand hills. The objects, which are thought to be land mines were about shape and size of man, were black on one side, white on other. KDGs reported explosions from this area 1225 hrs; 2/7 Bn reporting MG fire from same area. Patrols failed to locate anything.

1545 hrs single twin engine bomber observed flying along main road in westerly direction at great height.

1723 hrs one twin engine bomber - HEINKEL 111 - flew west over Bde HQ at height of approx 7000 ft - no hostile action. Unconfirmed report from 1 Lt AA states they hit machine, which they believe came down.

25 Feb. 1125 hrs three enemy bombers, one observed having four engines, flew in westerly direction over the area. One plane machine gunned Coy Free French Bn at EL HAMAA aerodrome. Planes passed over 2/7 Bn area at 1152 hrs - no hostile action.

Enemy Ground Activity.

The raid by enemy mobile gp yesterday, composed of 2 heavy tks, 2 light tks, 14 motor cycle combinations, three guns towed behind, resulted in the loss of one armd car. The leading Armd car of KDG patrol, at 1030 hrs, turned off rd to get into suitable firing posn, and was engaged by enemy tanks. It became bogged on marshy ground at side of road. Two of crew escaped. Enemy later destroyed A/C by fire. Men who escaped were unable to give any definite identification of enemy tanks, except that heavy tanks appeared to be similar to our cruisers.

Our morning 24 Feb Tac/R reported - at approx 1200 hrs 10 large MT moving west, west of AGHEILA. 12 MT north of road 3 south of road and 11 west and south of there in area of MUGTAA salt flat. They were not able to identify owing to height and possibly latter group may have been camel thorn. The MT did not offer a good bombing target. No other movement seen as far as RAS EL AALI.

The evening Tac/R reported at (TOO) 1805 - two A/Cs probably our own, one mile east of frontier. Otherwise no movement seen 6 miles west of RAS EL AALI.

Tac/R morning 25 Feb reported 6 A/Cs, 1 staff car, probably our own, proceeding west two miles EAST of frontier by side of road. Otherwise no movement seen 30 miles west of AGHEILA.

Our ground patrols this morning report main road as far as frontier clear of enemy. No enemy sighted by patrols to MARTEN GIOFER XG2238 and patrol 0900 hrs to MN BETTALFAL XB8356.

OWN OPERATIONS.

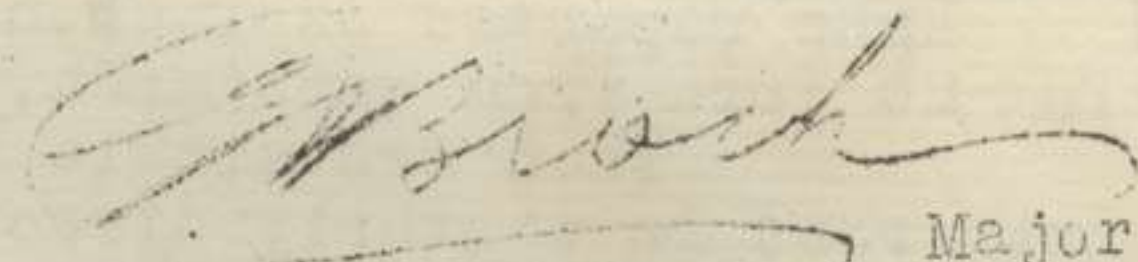
A mobile patrol, composed of armd cars, Sec Arty, 2 A Tk guns, and 2 Pls motorized infantry, was sent out this morning in search of enemy mobile force. No reports of contact with enemy as yet.

PTO

CONCLUSION :

Although hostile action by EA has not been heavy during the past 24 hrs, many aircraft, apparently on reconnaissance of back as well as forward areas, have been observed. Some attention appears to be paid to EL HAMMAA aerodrome and particularly MERSA BREGA on all these flights.

It appears that yesterday's raid by enemy mobile force was only a "hit and run" affair in the nature of a strong reconnaissance patrol to observe our forward forces.


Major,
Bde Major, 17 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION :

As for Int Summary No. 22

Ref Maps : AGEDABIA
AL AGHEILA
MARADA
SIRFE

1:500,000

SECRET.

Copy No. 23
26 Feb 41.

17 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No. 24.

Based on information at this HQ up to 1200 hrs 26 Feb 41.

Enemy Air Activity. 1140 hrs 25 Feb KDG report 3 EA flew West over their area. No action was attempted by EA.
1152 hrs 2/7 Bn report 3 EA flew West over the escarpment. No action was attempted by EA.
1130 hrs Rear HQ 17 Bde report EA flew in southerly direction over their area - no hostile action taken.
1400 hrs C Sqn KDG report that enemy planes flew over fwd patrol areas several times with apparent object of locating and identifying them. It would appear that a general recon has been carried out by the enemy as the planes covered the area completely and even when fired on, as in one case, no hostile action was attempted.

Enemy Ground Activity. Tac/R 1855 hrs 25 Feb shows 2, apparently, arm'd cars, 2 miles west of frontier. 8, probably enemy arm'd transport, 3 miles east of frontier. This was apparently our patrol bivouacked in that area.

Early morning 26 Feb C Sqn KDG report a "LAGER" of vehicles 8-9 miles south of road approx 40 kilos west of EL AGHEILA.
Enemy Action : 24 Feb.

The following information has been obtained from Pte McMillan, who escaped from EL AGHEILA following the capture of Lieut Rowley. He was in the vehicle with Lieut Rowley and travelling behind the leading arm'd car. When about 2 miles east of the fort and still on the main rd the leading vehicles were fired upon by a 2 pdr (approx) gun and small arms fire. The car was stopped and the occupants took cover, except the latman, who had been killed by a 2 pdr shell. Lieut Rowley saw what he described as a "crowd of prisoners gathered round an arm'd vehicle and went forward towards them. As he approached an officer, wearing a German steel helmet, blue grey uniform and black leggings, came forward and took him prisoner. Three of the crew of our leading arm'd car were also prisoners. The German officer then walked towards where Pte McMillan was lying near the truck, but apparently something distracted his attention, and he returned to his vehicle. Lieut Rowley and 2 others were marched off whilst the third man, wounded, was dragged for some distance, then dropped and left on the road. Our arm'd car was towed for some distance behind the fort, and destroyed by fire. Pte McMillan reports the enemy had two large tanks 4-5 smaller tanks and 20 to 30 motor cycle combination, with 2-3 Diesel troop carrying vehicles. He had seen the group of Italian AFVs on the road at BEDA FOMM and stated that the tanks used in the engagement did not resemble any of these in the dump.

No enemy troops were the same uniform as the officer. The troops appeared to be Italian.

Own Activities. 1200 hrs 25 Feb C Sqn KDG report that the road to frontier and road south from EL AGHEILA to GIOFER were both free of enemy.

Report by Pioneers of 2/7 Bn who recon the FORT and aerodrome at EL AGHEILA.

The FORT is on north side of main road (X) B 1568 and is surrounded by a high wall composed of stones and drift sand piled up in places, with concrete in patches. Being situated on a high bank, good observation is obtained from the fort. Near the eastern corner of the fort the village is situated and is composed of 40 small Arab houses.

Outside the fort 3 or 4 posts have been constructed.

PTO

The Aerodrome is on south side of road XB1567, the concrete hangar being on side of road.

The aerodrome has been made unfit for use as a L.G. by large petrol and oil drums and wrecked trucks being strewn over it.

Mining of Road. Enemy have mined one culvert (500 yds east of KP 18) and prepared another for mining just west of KP 18 in a box cutting west of AGHEILA. It appears to be old work.


We have mined the road in between these two culverts.

The KDGs carried out experiments with a piece of armour plating from a crashed German aircraft. At 300 yds a bullet from Boyes A Tk rifle penetrated the armour as if it were butter, whereas it was not affected by the .303".

Strat/R report 1600 hrs 25 Feb as follows :
Column 500 MT moving south and east on main road. Head HSUN, tail TAUORGA. 30 miles south MISURATA. 5000 ton ship, 10 EA, 200 infantry and huts at HSUN, 20 large EA, 100 tents area TAUORGA.

CONCLUSION :

Enemy Air Activity appears to be confined to recon as no large scale attack has been made for four days. His AFVs appear to be used for recon duties, and it is concluded that personnel are German, while supporting troops are Italian. Enemy activity appears to be directed towards stopping our further advance and to ascertain our positions and intentions.


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

DISTRIBUTION :

As for Int Summary No 23.

Ref Maps : AGEDABIA
EL AGHEILA
MARADA
SIRTE

1:500,000

SECRET

Copy No. 22

27 Feb 41.

17 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 25.

Based on information at this HQ up to 1200 hrs 27 Feb 41.

Enemy Air Activity. 1 EA flew over Bde HQ at 1350 hrs in southerly direction and was fired on at 1355 hrs when over KDG HQ area, and was seen coming down with smoke pouring from it approx 10 miles to NW.
1440 hrs 1 EA, apparently on recon, flew over area in westerly direction - no hostile action.

EL BREGA.

A Tk gun.

with bombs and MGs.
7 casualties.

1635 hrs KDGs reported 10 EA dive bombed MARSA

1700 hrs EA attacked fwd patrol, damaging one

1000 hrs 27 Feb 7 EA attacked our fwd patrol
3 A/Cs put out of action and 1 truck;

Enemy Bombs.

The bomb craters made by bombing attack 1645 hrs 26 Feb have been examined in vicinity of the road house on junction of main road and MARSA BREGA Rd (XB5285), about 1000 yds from B Coy 2/7 Bn.

On normal ground crater approx 12' diameter and 4' deep. Two bombs which landed on the edge of the metal road made a crater 4' deep, 4' diameter.

Fragmentation appeared poor as although one bomb landed 50 yds from road house only one shrapnel mark was visible thereon

Enemy Ground Activity.

Our patrols nothing to report.

Tac/R this morning reported seeing no movement east from RAS LANUF to the border. They saw one of our patrols EAST of the border.

SHORT REPORT OF TOPOGRAPHY AND WATER SUPPLY OF AREA BETWEEN AGHEILA AND TRIPOLI.

Distances.

AGHEILA - NUFILIA	93 miles.
NUFILIA - SIRTE	86 miles.
SIRTE - MISURATA	153 miles.
MISURATA - TRIPOLI	133 miles.

Topography. a. General.

As far west as MISURATA the country is open desert, hard and stony, intersected by wadis running North and South. From MISURATA westwards the country is open and cultivated.

b. The Coast Road.

The main road follows the coast. It is believed to be 15 feet wide with about two feet of earth shoulder each side. It is a good second class asphalt road, but information is not yet available as to its present condition of maintenance. For the greater part of the way it runs over open desert where transport can leave the highway. In several places, however, sand dunes restrict traffic to the actual road surface. The numerous wadis which cross the line of the road are not believed to be insurmountable obstacles to MT, given some preparation.

c. Desert Track.

About one hundred miles south runs the desert track MARADA - ZELLA - HON. At HON it turns North and rejoins the coast road East of MISURATA.

WATER. (a) On Coast Road.

Generally speaking water is scarce along the coast road. Between AGHEILA and NUFILIA (93 miles) the few wells are brackish and reported undrinkable. BIR MENDUMA well, 50 miles W.N.W. of AGHEILA (Long 18°12' E. Lat 30°25' N.) on the desert track to NUFILIA, is potable. At NUFILIA between NUFILIA and SIRTE, and at SIRTE, there are good wells. Between SIRTE and MISURATA (153 miles) there are wells at BURRAT EL HSUN (55 miles from SIRTE) and at GHEDDAHIA (85 miles from SIRTE).

PTC

2.

It is not until MISURATA that water becomes sufficient for the needs of a large force. At MISURATA are 14 artesian wells with an output of 300 cubic metres hourly EACH. From MISURATA westwards, water is abundant.

(b) Inland.

There is virtually NO water between the seacoast and the oasis of MARADA, ZELLA and HON.


(c) Desert Track.

Springs and artesian wells at MARADA and HON supply considerable amounts of good water. The supply at ZELLA is not known, but is probably similar to that at MARADA.

CONCLUSION :

It would appear that this morning's attack on our forward patrol was the result of observation by the enemy bombers when they returned from bombing attack on MARSA BREGA. Yesterday the patrol appears to have been the only target attacked.

As no further contact has been made by our patrols with the enemy mobile force it would appear that its role is reconnaissance. Enemy aerial activity continues to be mainly reconnaissance with heavy bombing on selected targets.


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

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Copy No. 22

28 Feb 41.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Intelligence Summary No. 26.

Based on information at this HQ up to 1200 hrs 28 Feb 41.

General. Arrival of 6 Aust Div in fwd area.

Enemy Air Activity.

Increased hostile air action was experienced in fwd area yesterday.

1403 hrs 4 EA, thought to be He 111, bombed Bde HQ area; apparently their intended target was the AA gun. No damage or casualties.

1530 hrs 12 EA, thought to be JU 87, dive bombed and machine gunned KDGs HQ area for 10 mins. They also attacked, for second time in day, fwd patrol - no casualties.

1530 hrs 4 EA bombed and MGd 2/7 Bn area - no damage and no casualties.

Further details of damage caused by attack on KDGs fwd patrol at 0830 hrs 27 Feb.

One A/C burnt, one A/C shot through engine, one A/C damaged - details not reported, one AA gun damaged, but can still fire, one 30-cwt and 2 15-cwt damaged. Total casualties 1 offr, 8 ORs.

Enemy Bombs. Bombs which were dropped in Bde HQ area varied in size and type. The large type, thought to be 100 kilo, made crater in sand 8' diameter, 3' deep. The fragmentation was good. The "grass cutter" type was effective in an area 70-100 yds from crater, cutting grass and bushes off to approx 4" from the ground.

Enemy Air Tactics.

In the attack on KDGs fwd patrol 0830 hrs 27 Feb planes circled overhead at height until targets located. They then dived and machine gunned troops, vehicles, water tins and ration containers on the ground. One plane remained at great height "spotting" until other planes finished diving. Then it dived on target.

In attack on Bde HQ planes flew over area at approx 7000', located target and dropped sticks of bombs for 1000x across target, not diving to drop.

Times of Hostile Air Action :

From reports received since this HQ came into the area it appears that his favourite hours for air attacks are : 0830 - 1200 hrs, and 1400 - 1700 hrs.

Ground Activity.

KDGs patrols report -
1045 hrs NMS area SUERA (X) B 56.
1050 hrs NMS area MN BETTAFAL (X) B 85.
1300 hrs NMS area MASTEN BELCLEIBAT (X) B 44.
Strat/R 26 Feb from 20,000 ft reported that enemy col reported earlier was not observed, but this may have been because enemy col dispersed. 400 inf were observed lining road vicinity EL HADDADIA SV 4500 at 1450 hrs. 10 EA observed on ground at SIRTE, approx 1000 ton ship seen at HSUN. No other shipping observed as far as MISURATA.

General Observations :

Careful observation of enemy air activities and methods leave no doubts that we can meet him with few casualties to ourselves and abnormal losses to him in comparison with the value of his object. The following notes are passed for information :

(a) Enemy Methods.

(1) He approaches from out to sea and relies upon defined guiding points to enter. He uses the rd for direction when flying over the land. His major strength enters at MAREBREGA, while approx 5 machines enter at EZ ZUFINA.

PTO

(2) The major group, up to 25 machines, generally concentrates on MARSA BREGA and fwd areas - rd inclusive. His smaller group concentrates on the rd with some attention to rear areas.

(3) His methods during the first three days favoured low altitude dive bombing and MG attacks. Our LMG and A Tk rifle fire resulted in his loss of 2 planes, and has kept him high.

(4) His general formations and tactics appear to favour working in groups of five in the attack. Four "peel off" and attack, while one remains high to protect against our air attacks. On completion of work by the four they rise, circle, and the watcher dives and drops his load of bombs, when they all retreat.

(5) He handles his machine with skill and courage and his MG and cannon fire is accurate. His bombing is accurate. His bombs are steel and approx $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick. Fragmentation is reasonably good. Some types are the "daisy cutter", while others make reasonably large craters. Though an area 70/100 yds from the crater shows cutting effects on low bushes, about 60% of the bomb fragmentation remains in the crater.

(b) Methods to Combat and Defeat enemy action.

(1) Common sense and simple methods have defeated, and continue to defeat, EA. They are based on the sound military principles of active and passive measures.

(2) Active measures :

Meet him with all the fire power at command within the range of available weapons. This has caused him the loss of up to 17 planes over 10 days. It has forced him to greater heights, with resulting less effectiveness on his part and a higher morale and keenness to engage him on the part of our tps.

(3) Passive measures :

Slit trenches, dispersion, and full use of local natural camouflage.

(a) This Bde has not yet suffered a casualty in the area of fwd tps, who have been attacked frequently. Neither have they when tps with whom they have been operating have suffered. Failure to comply with above quoted measures has brought the penalty of casualties. The answer is dispersion, slit trenches, and fire.

(b) The principle of keeping MT some distance from tp areas has paid. The digging in of vehicles has reduced vehicle casualties. EA appear to pick up vehicles rather easily, but find it practically impossible to locate men in camouflaged slit trenches, which also prevent casualties.

(c) The maintenance of a track circuit perplexes EA as to the real whereabouts of tps and HQ.

(d) The removal by day of unnecessary tpt from rds reduces his targets and wide dispersion on the ground makes his targets less profitable.

There is no doubt that we can successfully meet his attacks, cause him heavy casualties, and raise our own morale.

CONCLUSION : The increased air activity yesterday may have been caused by our patrol activities in the fwd areas, and by information taken back by enemy recon planes which were over the area continuously for three days before. It would appear that the enemy planes watched the movements of our fwd mixed patrol. The firing of a number of rds by our 25-pdrs just before they were withdrawn on the night of 26/27 Feb may have caused some apprehension in the mind of the fwd enemy Comd. The careful and sustained search by fire by EA rather indicates he was on a special mission about which he was informed.

DISTRIBUTION 3 for No. 22.

Bde Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

P. War Diary

S T C M

XXXXXXXXXXXX

11 Jan. 41.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

NEWS SUMMARY.

LONDON.

The three biggest motor car makers in U.S.A. are now to make parts for planes. These firms comprise Ford, Chrysler, and General Motors, all of which will work on standard patterns for latest class planes.

This follows on a statement in the House of Representatives that the motor industry would, in the near future, have to devote itself almost entirely to parts production, to assist democracies already fighting, together with themselves. The Lend and Lease Arms Bill, introduced by President Roosevelt, will continue through the House next week. No opposition is expected.

The German submarine bases at Brest and Le Havre were again heavily attacked last night for the fourth time in a week. Direct hits were observed on two large ships at the quay. The barrage was particularly heavy, but no planes are missing. Enemy occupied territory was raided yesterday, by a very large number of bombers escorted by fighters. They were practically unopposed, but 5 German fighters, which attempted an attack, were shot down. Much damage was done. This is the first large scale attack in daylight undertaken by British forces, and is a symbol of growing strength.

The Russian paper "Pravda" is now pointing out the advantages of the British force in the air. The repeated attacks on German bases are bearing fruit and German industry badly affected.

CAIRO.

The official communique from B.F.F. H. states the number of Italian prisoners and casualties at BARDIA as being 2041 officers and 42,027 men.

Much material captured has yet to be counted.

Vigorous patrols are continuing in SUDAN and ETHIOPIA.

12 Italian planes were destroyed at BENTINA yesterday.

BENGHASI and TORBUK are being bombed by day and night - considerable damage being done at BENGHASI.

NAPLES and PALERMO were also bombed, a battleship at NAPLES being hit. If this ship has been disabled, the ITALIANS are left with 1 battleship. At PALERMO 2 cruisers were also hit.

ALBANIA.

R.A.F. bombers attacked retreating Italian convoys after the GREEKS had defeated them at LUSURIA. This town was captured at the point of the bayonet by Greek forces 2 days ago.

The GREEK Army is now pushing E. and N.

In attacks on PORTSMOUTH last night GERMANS lost 8 of their raiders. They came over in two waves and caused considerable damage. There were some casualties. LONDON was again free from raiders.

The 36 age group is now being called up in ENGLAND for service at home or abroad. Men who have turned 20 since the last call are now registering.

Fighting between THAILAND and HINDO CHINA is continuing, both sides making counter claims of advances.

DISTRIBUTION:

2/5 Bn. (6)
2/6 Bn. (6)
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Spares (6)

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

CAIRO.

G.H.Q. B.T.F. announced today that more artillery and infantry were being moved up to TOBRUK in preparation for the final assault on the defences.

It was also emphasised that water shortage in TOBRUK would be a major problem, as it had to be shipped from DERNA. The Navy could be relied on to see that little water passed through. Supplies were unable to pass by land and consequently the fall was only a matter of time.

Air activity continues on intensive lines and latest reconnaissance flights show no movement on the part of Marshal GRAZIANI to reinforce the forces in CYRENAICA.

German press and radio comment shows that little is thought of Italian military strength as strong hints have been forthcoming that the whole of EASTERN LIBYA, or CYRENAICA would have to be written off.

In EAST AFRICA and THE HORN strong patrol activity continues and a strong raid on M'ERTRA resulted in heavy Italian casualties. It was pointed out that this activity is pinning down an Italian army just as large as the one already being destroyed in NORTHWEST AFRICA.

In ALBANIA the only news is that Greek pressure is continuing in the northern sector. Flight gains have also been made in the southern sector. 100 prisoners and large quantities of equipment were taken yesterday in the "hopping up" area around KUSIPA.

LONDON.

Daylight raids on a large scale were continued last night. Great forces of bombers, escorted by fighters, attacked ports on the SWAN and BRITAIN coasts. Barges and troop concentrations were soundly pestered, fighters also taking part by machine gunning the troops.

Night raids were also carried out on the same targets.

The ROYAL ARMYAL at TUNIS was singled out for a visit by a small bomber force. Hits were registered in the target area, fires being started. BARRACKS was raided last night by a large force of bombers and fires were started.

From these operations 2 aircraft are missing, but it is known that the crew of one of the craft is safe.

GERMAN raids on LONDON took the form of an attempt to set the city on fire. Large numbers of incendiaries were dropped, but the volunteer organizations effectively dealt with them. An explosive bomb penetrated a subway and killed a number of people sheltering there.

An air training corps for boys between 16 and 18 yrs has been started in ENGLAND. About 700,000 boys are eligible and the R.A.F. will then be able to draw on them for any capacity for which they have been trained.

GERMAN radio broadcasts have again made a great show of opportunism. It exhorts the German people to believe in Hitler, youth and Germany's greatness. The scriptures are dead, the German people need no legends or fairytales in their next national character. Following on this an appeal was made to the GERMANS to believe in the Reich and the piety of the German people. Dr. Goebbels evidently got a little mixed.

During the last 24 hours the German press and radio has given the spotlight on the RUSSIAN trade agreement. Dr. Goebbels announced the agreement as the greatest and most far-reaching pact the world had ever seen.

German and Baltic nationals are to be excluded under another clause of the agreement.

It is pointed out in London that transport difficulties would place an effective stop on this agreement as it had been on the previous one. The exchange was also considered too big and impracticable.

BANGKOK. Fire fighting is taking place and more French positions have been captured.

The German radio today refers to the old story of an invasion. The threat was issued in subtle form by the announcer when he stated that what does not happen in a war can happen in a moment, and it was intended to call attention to the fact that American hits could become effective.

DISCUSSION: As before.

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

LONDON: Day and night raids by the R.A.F. are now described as being particularly heavy and still increasing in intensity.

Yesterday's and last night's raids were specially directed on oil plants and ports in France, Belgium, Italy and Germany. Refineries were set on fire at a number of centres but the large refineries at OSTFND were subjected to a particularly heavy battering.

The aircraft ran into heavy anti-aircraft fire which was silenced by fighters, machine-gunning the positions from low levels. The bombers then proceeded about their job with a minimum of restriction.

In ITALY the oil centre attacked was, according to reports, completely burnt out. It was also learned that during the raid on the Royal Arsenal at TURIN earlier in the week particularly heavy bombs were used. The Communique adds significantly that these bombs appeared to have done their job very well. Night attacks by the coastal command were on ports in the occupied territory a power station, docks and warehouses being set alight by incendiaries, and then treated to a heavy battering by high explosives. One enemy air-base was bombed and a large number of planes destroyed by incendiaries. An offensive was carried out in daylight by four squadrons of fighters on the coastal ports. Troops were machine-gunned in their trenches; two supply ships were left in flames; and some small coasters were abandoned by the enemy. In all of these operations three fighters and one bomber were lost.

The Greeks have again caused Mussolini to shiver a trifle more than somewhat. El Duce has again changed his Commander in ALBANIA; General CABALLERO, replacing General SORDU.

General SORDU has only had two months in ALBANIA, but he succeeded in sustaining a series of defeats for his Master.

General CABALLERO who takes over the Command was appointed Chief of Staff after Marshal BADOGLIO resigned and still retains that post. General CABALLERO is at least an experienced soldier and unlike General SORDU has plenty of practical experience to back him up. It is difficult however, to see him turning the tide against the brilliant methods of General METAXIS and his Commander General PAPAGOS.

El Duce has now arrived at the stage where he has no leaders to Command his armies.

The Greeks are now getting closer to TEPELENE on the sixth day of what is described as their biggest offensive of the war. A continuous stream of prisoners is filtering back from the front which is now extending through the centre and cutting off communications between the two sectors on which the Italians are engaged. Greek artillery is keeping up an unceasing fire which has apparently demoralized the ITALIANS.

ITALY is continuing to violate all rules of decency by bombing civilians in GREEK towns. ATHENS commentators remark that this is surely not the way to win the war.

CAIRO: Concentration of troops and artillery continues at TOBRUK for the final assault. Enemy artillery appears to be wild, possibly due to the lack of spotter aircraft.

The R.A.F. has disabled all air-bases used by the ~~xxx~~ enemy up to 70 miles behind TOBRUK. In addition the sea plane base at BOMBA has been rendered useless.

The ITALIAN force which was threatening SIWA 180 miles South of TOBRUK has been completely cut off by forces in this area and their surrender is expected very soon.

HAILE SELASSIE, today, declared he would recapture his throne in the near future. The revolt of the Chieftains in ABYSSINIA was purely a matter of time.

Representatives from the Middle East Command were enthusiastically greeted in ANKARA today. Talks will commence with Turkish military leaders tomorrow.

LONDON: London was again raided by incendiaries last night. These were quickly extinguished, damage and casualties being small.

Bus' drivers in all of the main cities of England now carry bags of sand and have been instructed to stop and extinguish any incendiary bombs which might chance to land un-noticed.

The sub-way which was hit by a very heavy bomb earlier in the week is still being excavated for the casualties.

V. J. Schfield
Lieut.
D.I.O. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

103-134

SECRET

Copy No.

16 Jan 41.

NEWS SUMMARY No 52

LONDON:

A determined attack was made two days ago by ITALIAN forces on a British convoy passing through the Mediterranean. The attack was started by two Italian Destroyers one of which was sunk and the other escaped. A little time later two torpedo carrying aircraft were beaten off. One plane dropped a torpedo which passed through harmlessly through the wake of one of the ships.

One hour later a large force of Italian and German planes attacked the convoy. The German craft dived down in perfect formation and only straightened out 100 feet above the water. This attack was also beaten off.

At about sunset a force of German bombers attacked and fighters from the aircraft carrier 'Illustrious' took off. 12 enemy planes were destroyed in the subsequent engagement. The Illustrious, a destroyer and a cruiser were damaged in the engagement. The attack was the most determined one encountered in the Mediterranean and was possibly an attempt to frighten the British fleet from the Western basin.

Russian comment points out that no air power can oust or beat British sea power.

Mr Cordell Hull, in the American House of Representatives yesterday, said that all possible help must be given to Great Britain in her fight against totalitarian states. They should also prepare at home to do as much in the front line as her friends, otherwise if Great Britain was defeated, it would be only a matter of time before the war was carried into American territory.

Japanese propaganda was not of any consequence and was only designed to influence American views.

R.A.F. raids in ABYSSINIA are proving very heartening to the tribesmen, who are conducting a guerilla war with the Italian forces in that region. Increasing numbers of native troops are deserting, forming into bands with the tribesmen and then sniping passing convoys. Air force raids have been so successful of late that, together with Britain's Libyan successes, the rate of desertions has increased considerably.

In ALBANIA two counter attacks by Italian forces in the central sector were unsuccessful.

Following on these attacks the Italians withdrew to new defensive positions. Greek pressure is being maintained although bad weather is seriously interfering with operations. Snow has been falling and the weather is bitterly cold. Owing to bad weather air-force operations in ALBANIA were suspended yesterday.

It was pointed out in GREECE yesterday that Greek strength in the fighting line is nowhere near the maximum as yet. Only twelve classes have been called to the colours, whereas another eight can be called up in a very short space of time.

Air operations in the Western theatre were restricted to very small raids by bombers of the Coastal Command on occupied dromes in Norway. Direct hits were obtained on 'drome buildings at MUNDOW. Conditions in Norway were ideal for bombing but severe electrical storms were met on the way across. There were no German raids on England last night. Today single planes conducted hit-and-run operations. One plane dropped a stick of bombs on a village in South East England. Damage was small, casualties nil. Another plane machine gunned the main streets of two villages in Northern Scotland - there were a few casualties.

An M. gunner in England won the M.M. in a most unusual manner. A Court of Inquiry was instituted to decide the punishment to be meted out to the gunner, who had fired his gun without orders from his superior officer. His shot brought the plane down, and the finding of the Court was to award the gunner medal.

German authorities are perturbed at the resistance in CZECHOSLOVAKIA and NORWAY. A curfew has been enforced in NORWAY, all people having to be indoors by 8 p.m. Reinforcements have had to be sent to both states to keep order.

[Signature]
D.I.O., ~~SECRET~~

Lieut.

17 Jan '41.

B.B.C. NEWS SUMMARY # 34

- ADDITONAL: Dive Bomb attack. H.M.S. SOUTHAMPTON, hit, fires started could not be got under control. Navy rescued almost all crew and sank her. H.M. Aircraft Carrier ILLUSTRIOUS hit. 12 out of 15 German Dive Bombers shot down. An R.A.F. raid on SICILY aerodrome destroyed at least 40 bombers on ground as well as extensively damaging all buildings. One Italian destroyer sunk. British submarine sunk two Italian supply ships, each of 5000 tons.
- GERMANY: Naval base of WILHEMSHAVEN raided three times in one week, in all 40 raids on this base since beginning of war. Two fires started one on each side of the Base covered many thousands of acres individually and debris flew high into the air from violent internal explosions.
- BULGARIA: Increased resistance to Nazi pressure becoming steadily apparent.
- RUMANIA: Sporadic revolt breaking out in many parts of the country.
- ENGLAND: Two air-raid alarms over Britain during last 24 hrs.
- GERMANY: Naval authority just published a book in MUNICH, fully concurs with the American Naval Commissions statement 'An Island people can never be defeated whilst they maintain naval supremacy'.
- ABYSSINIA: Native revolt steadily growing. Arms and ammunition being supplied by Britain.

L A T E N E W S

- MALTA: A large scale raid was made on MALTA yesterday. British fighters brought down 5 C.R. 42's piloted by Germans whilst A/A fire accounted for 5 other machines. No military objectives damaged but there was some loss to civilian property.
- CAIRO: The position is unchanged. Patrols in N. Africa are active.
- GERMANY: As a result of raids made over a wide area in Germany last night five British bombers were lost.
- ENGLAND: A further contingent of New Zealand pilots, wireless operators and mechanics, drafted under the Empire Air Scheme have arrived in England. A raid was made on BRISTOL last evening - a church was damaged. Casualties were very light. 1 Bomber was brought down during the raid. It is reported that an element of jealousy has crept into the German and Italian versions of which were responsible in the greater degree for the raids on the convoy and Malta.
- JAPAN: The Japanese proposal to publish an official statement covering the content of Mr Cordell Hull's recent speech which was suggestive of greater help to Britain, has been abandoned. Nevertheless it is reported that the Japanese view Mr Hull's proposals with some concern.
- FRANCE: An important meeting of the French Cabinet will take place tomorrow. The Germans have indicated to M. Petain, the French President, that they will not countenance changes in personnel that may tend to endanger collaboration between the two countries.
- IRE: It is reported that 9 ships registered in IRE have been lost. It is pointed out by the IRE Minister for Commerce that the government of IRE would have to adopt measures for the protection of their trade in this direction, and thus rely on their own resources.

B.I.O. SEAR

Lieut.

P.W.D.

20 Jan;41.

NEWS SUMMARY No. 56 (BBC B'cast)

- ABYSSINIA: There has been a revival of the spirit that guided the famous 'Lawrence of Arabia'. This time the scene is in Abyssinia. It is reported that an English Colonel, disguised in native dress, has, for some considerable time been quietly but efficiently organising Abyssinian tribesmen and building them into an efficient fighting force whereby Italian aggression in that country may be combatted.
- GREECE: An Italian transport, the Cardinia, proceeding from the port of BOLOGNA was torpedoed by a Greek submarine. There were few survivors some of whom stated that as a result of constant RAF raids BOLOGNA was practically unusable as far as shipping facilities were concerned.
- FRANCE: There have been no press statements relative to the important French Cabinet meeting held yesterday. Two contrasting references however do appear in the French and German press which have bearing on the text of the meeting. From ESSEN, GOEBBES's newspaper states that the French people have one more chance to co-operate fully with the German administration. The Frenchmen ranged against Britain are not numerous at present but France must build up her Government about these people. Contrasting to this view a VICHY newspaper speaks of the profound effect American help to Britain is having on the French people. The more or less astounding statement is made that it is hoped American democracy will profit by the mistakes made by the French democracy in the past by long-winded discussions and bickering with the workers. Mention is also made of the close collaboration existing between America and Canada and who knows that we may yet see not Great Britain but the Anglo-Saxon world as one.
- ENGLAND: Long-range shelling of Britain from batteries situated along the French coast was again in evidence yesterday, four shells being dropped. The reply to this was effective.
- MONTIVEDO: Charlie Chaplin's latest screen play the 'Dictator' was recently released in MONTIVEDO. His speech as Dictator towards the end of the picture was warmly received by the audience with the exception of seven Italians who attempted to create a disturbance but were effectively dealt with by the audience, and then arrested.
- NORMY: A province of NORMY has been subjected to a fine of 24,000 in connection with sabotage occurring in the district. A curfew at the hour of 8 o'clock has been imposed and further acts of sabotage will be dealt with by imposition of the death penalty.

V. J. Seltsfield
Lieut.
B.I.O. SER.

21 Jan 41.

NEWS SUMMARY No. 36
(From BBC Broadcast)

SUDAN:

It is announced that KASSALA has been re-captured. With both KASSALA and GALLABAT now in our hands there is little chance of any attack on the ASWAN dam on the Blue Nile, or KHARTOUM. The Italians are retreating on all fronts and will probably make a stand in the higher rises some miles inland.

ENGLAND:

3800 persons met their death in England during the month of December as a result of air-raids on that country. 500 of the victims were children. In addition 5000 were injured.

Making a total of six since Wednesday two more night bombers were brought down in England yesterday.

MALTA:

15 planes further to those previously destroyed were brought down over MALTA yesterday. During the past five days 55 'dive bombers and pilots have been lost in the MALTA area against the loss of three British fighters, the pilot of one of which machines being saved. In addition to those machines already reported as having been destroyed during the enemy attack on the Mediterranean Convoy 12 others have now been accounted for as lost, and a further 40 machines destroyed on the ground in SICILY; making a grand total of 87 enemy machines lost in the last eight days.

EUROPE:

Rumours of an impending conference between Mussolini and Hitler are rife. It is known that Hitler has left BERLIN and Mussolini, ROME. This information causes no surprise in the English speaking world considering the tremendous difficulties encountered by the Axis leaders. Italian newspaper People d' Italia states that ~~xx~~ within seventy days an attack of unlimited proportions will be launched against Britain, as GERMANY has now all the arsenals of Europe working for her thus enhancing her striking power by double that of September 1939.

VICHY:

It is officially stated that Marshal Petain and M. Laval have overcome their differences. M. Petain stated that when he dispensed with the services of M. Laval on the 13 Dec he did so to avoid any danger of a split between the French peoples. Now all out-standing differences have been cleared up and M. Laval returns to PARIS.

CAIRO:

It is officially stated in CAIRO that the Mediterranean fleet and the RAF are co-operating with the Empire troops which are successfully engaging the Italians in the Western Desert. Reinforcements are moving up through the Western Desert and the work of ~~ix~~ repairing the Desert Road so badly damaged by our bombing attacks goes on. There is no sign of enemy air activity as far as DERNA and Eastern LIBYA is clear of enemy planes.

LONDON:

It is announced that the wife of England's former war time Prime Minister, Mr Lloyd George has died.

F. Schfield
B.I.O. SEAR

Lieut.

26 Jan '41.

N E W S S U M M A R Y No. 56.
(Compiled from BBC B/cast.)

CAIRO:

An Army communique issued in CAIRO last night indicated that our forward troops made contact with the enemy three miles East of DERNA. They destroyed four medium tanks and captured two. The number of prisoners captured at TOBRUCH is estimated to be just short of 20,000. Exceptionally large amounts of material were also taken over from the enemy. On all fronts in AFRICA the Italians are in retreat. In ERITREA 500 prisoners were captured including a Brigade Commander together with much transport. In ABYSSINIA our troops are now as far forward as NATELLA. In KENYA British forces are busy ejecting Italians who remain on British soil.

An RAF communique from Cairo states that enemy air-craft were bombed on the ground at DERNA and another aerodrome 45 miles from BENGASI and one at MARIUTA were also damaged.

In Italian East Africa a railway and river transport were attacked by our planes. On the Island of Rhodes large fires were started by our bombers. From all these operations one fighter only was lost and that in LIBYA.

ROME:

Italian communique now admits that resistance at TOBRUCH is at an end. 20,000 troops were in TOBRUCH and losses in material have been heavy, and urges the Italian people to make even greater efforts in face of these defeats.

WASHINGTON:

Lord Halifax and Mr Cordell Hull had a conference which lasted one hour after which the former stated 'we see things very much alike'. In answer to press reporters ~~who~~ he replied that Germany lost the war in June 1940 when she failed to take advantage of England's weakness. No doubt in the spring we should see a great German attack but we shall meet that with success. We need and expect all possible help from America. Britain's newest and most powerful battleship, George V which took Lord Halifax to New York left again within 24 hours to return to her base.

SINGAPORE:

Sir Charles Burnett, C in C of the RAAF arrived from Australia for a conference with the C in C of the Far East, emphasising the close co-operation existing various Empire forces.

BUENOS AIRES:

Attempted revolution has been sternly dealt with by General ANTONESCU who bitterly reproaches the Iron Guard for their treacherous behaviour. Thousands of lives have been lost and many more Iron Guards arrested. The firmness with which the rebellion was quelled has made a deep impression on the BALKAN countries. A curfew on all transport and public meeting places is in force. From now on all rebels will be shot on sight. General ANTONESCU made a speech in which he thanks his army for their assistance in crushing the rebellion, and is to form a new Govt. in which Extremists will be conspicuous by their absence.

AIR ACTIVITY.

There was no enemy air activity over England last night and only small scale raids during the day. R.I.F. patrols and reconnaissances were carried out and a submarine base bombed.

BERLIN.

From a neutral source comes the unconfirmed report that HITLER has demanded of Marshal PETAIN the use of TUNIS as a base for operations against the BRITISH in the Mediterranean, showing his growing anxiety for the fate of Mussolini's stricken Empire in the MIDDLE EAST.

(Sgd.) V.J. SCHOFIELD ^{lieut.},
B.I.O. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

LONDON.

There have been further widespread raids by R.A.F. on German Invasion ports and other important centres. Bombers, escorted by fighters, ranged far and wide delivering smashing blows. Cities attacked include DUNKIRK, DUEPPE, OSTEND, CHERBOURG and DUSSELDORF. Planes flew as low as 1000 ft. to deliver attacks. Our loss was 4 machines. Naval ports at BRIST were visited and the whole lay-out of the docks was clearly visible. Fires which were started suggested that oil tanks had been set alight. BORDEAUX was another objective and there is no doubt that more oil has been destroyed. BORDEAUX is the base from which four-engined FOKKER-WOOLF bombers set out on their raids over the ATLANTIC. This was one of the most satisfactory of the night's operations. GERMAN bombers attacked over the S.E. coast - 3 raiders are reported shot down and 3 more accounted for over the sea. In last night's raids hardly any enemy planes got through to their objective.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that the cost of reinstatement of churches destroyed by air raids on ENGLAND will be borne by the State. Some City of London churches might not be restored on their present sites, but re-built in the centre of other popular communities. Mr. Wendell Wilkie spent his last 24 hrs. visiting DUBLIN, where he interviewed DE VALERA. Subsequently he had audience with the King, and later visited BRISTOL to inspect the areas damaged in air-raids. In a brief impression before leaving he said "I have not seen everything I wanted to see, but I have certainly seen plenty. Anything I can do to help Britain I certainly shall do. British people have shown magnificent courage, keep your chins up". He paid a great tribute to the British Prime Minister.

Lord Lloyd died last night at the age of 61 years. He was the successor to Lord Halifax, recently appointed as American Ambassador. Devotion to the service of his country was the passion of Lord Lloyd's life. During the last war he was mentioned in despatches 6 times.

DUBLIN.

A German aeroplane crashed in County of Cork. 5 occupants were killed and the remaining 1 badly injured. De Valera reported to the DAEL that the German Government has intimated that it cannot accept responsibility for the sinking of the Lusk Ryan, which was attacked 40 miles N.E. of LANDS END under the plea that the vessel was outside IRISH Territorial waters.

CAIRO.

Enemy machines intercepted on a raid on MALTA, when 5 bombers were shot down and others severely damaged. There was slight damage to buildings. 1 British bomber and 1 fighter are missing.

ALBANIA.

Enemy forces at TEEALIN have been put to flight. This is a key point in Central Albania.

GREECE.

There have been further successful engagements by GREEK troops against the enemy during the last few days. Prisoners, arms, food and ammunition have been captured. Italian Posts, which the Italians regarded as indispensable have been occupied. The Italian Commander begged troops to save ITALY from greater disorder and ordered all who retreated to be shot.

BULGARIA.

It is reported that the Nazis are extending their pressure on BULGARIA with a view to arranging a pact. Bulgaria desires to maintain neutrality and considers that it would be against Bulgaria's interests to allow their country to become a theatre of war. It is clear that GERMANY is bent on playing the same game as with RUMANIA; merely invasion and domination leading finally to open control.

FRANCE.

Marshal PEAIN called a special meeting of his Cabinet at VICHY to consider the GERMAN demands handed to the French Minister for Marines yesterday. Earlier reports state that the demands included the reinstatement of LAVAL in the Vichy Cabinet. It is understood he will have far reaching powers if he returns to the Cabinet. The head of the German controlled war industries was received at VICHY today, but no official explanation of the visit has been given.

GERMAN occupation authorities in PARIS today published a decree entitling them to seize FRENCH property belonging to BRITISH subjects. Any JEWISH property will be confiscated outright, otherwise property will be placed under GERMAN administration pending adjustments.

AFRICA.

There was a general ITALIAN retreat in ERITREA. A trail of discarded material marks the path of the retreating force. On all fronts R.A.F. made repeated attacks.

In LIBYA the enemy is continuing its flight towards BENGASI. 400 stragglers have been left in BRITISH hands. R.A.F. has been along the route, heavy damage has been inflicted on transport halting between the coast and BENGASI. The railway station at BIRGA was attacked. Hangars have been hit and fires started on aerodromes. Several enemy bombers and fighters have been destroyed.

In ERITREA in the heart of the mountains attacks have been made by the Air Force. BIRANTI and BEARCUND have been heavily bombed. The enemy is fleeing eastwards through the mountains and the mountain parts are littered with war material and vehicles. In addition hundreds of prisoners are reported to have been captured. Whentere squadrons of the SOUTH AFRICAN Air Force attacked ITALIAN positions in DZZAI. 5 bombers were set on fire and buildings damaged. 2 more bombers were destroyed at TIRANI - one British bomber and 2 fighters were lost. ITALIAN fighters intercepted near ASMARA and bombers were damaged on the ground. The SOUTH AFRICAN force are tightening their hold on their particular front. In ITALIAN SOMALILAND British patrols are active. One Post 45 miles inside the Italian frontier has been captured. SOUTH AFRICAN Marines co-operating with the Army destroyed 1 fighter and 3 bombers in a single engagement.

AMERICA.

In WASHINGTON Lord Halifax saw Mr. Cordell Hall - United States Secretary of State. The interview was confined to a discussion on the general situation. According to news reaching LONDON, German agents in PRAGUE have complained at the large scale sabotage of fruit supplies intended for GERMANY. 3000 waggon loads of grain and 3000 tons of meat have been prevented from reaching their intended destination. Many hundreds of pigs, cows and cattle have been slaughtered.

No order for house inspections has been given as the GERMANS are afraid that this would result in more supplies being destroyed.

Schild
Lieut.,
B.I.O. 17 Inst. Inf. Bde.

THE MIDDLE EAST:

LIBYA: Advance elements of the armoured division have occupied AGHEILA, a small village near the border of TRIPOLITANIA.

ABYSSINIA & ERITREA The drive inland and along the Red Sea Coast continues with Indian troops playing an outstanding part in the operations.

EUROPE:

ITALY: The Italian press continues to rage concerning the naval bombardment of GENOA, which act it declares was a dastardly attack on schools and churches, with no damage to military objectives. A monument is to be erected in the centre of the town to commemorate the bravery of the Italian population on this occasion.

BELGIUM: A naval bombardment was carried out against OSTEND, in the early hours of the morning of 10 Feb. '41. Heavy damage was incurred on the shipping and docks where considerable building construction was being undertaken. Our warships returned to port after the engagement without damage or casualties.

BULGARIA: Bulgaria denies German troops in this country or of German control of aerodromes, but the fact remains that equipment and troops are proceeding through RUMANIA and taking up positions on the bank of the Danube facing BULGARIA. The British Legation, headed by Sir Samuel Hoare, has left RUMANIA as a protest against the German infiltration in this country. He was so instructed by the British Government. However on the other side of BULGARIA stands TURKEY with a well armed force ready to honor her pledges to Britain if the necessity arises.

FRANCE: Changes in the French Cabinet are not yet completed. It however seems likely that Admiral Darlan will be Minister for Foreign Affairs and will probably hold other important portfolios. Though no official communique has been issued to the effect it is reported that Marshal Petain who recently received a visit from General Franco's representative, Senor Suner, is to meet in conference in Italy, Mussolini and possibly Hitler.

SPAIN: It is reported that the Germans are attempting to bring pressure on SPAIN to permit the passage of troops through that territory into North Africa. The grounds for the request are stated to be two in number (1) help rendered during the civil war and (2) Latin racial affinity between Italians and Spanish peoples.

AMERICA: Col. Knox, Secretary for the U.S.A. Navy, has stated that America can allow no more destroyers to Britain at present as such action would weaken the balance of the American Navy. American citizens in JAPAN have been warned by the U.S.A. Government to have their business in that country in order as a precautionary measure against possible Japanese actions in the East.

V. F. Schepel

.....Lieut.
B.I.O., 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

- MIDDLE EAST: There was no communication from CAIRO when this news was broadcast, but it was indicated that the Island of RHODES had been visited by our bombers and in ERITREA the railway at KERRIN, motor transport and stores had been hit. Three drives were in progress, one along the RED SEA COAST, one inland and another from the South. Operations are proceeding satisfactorily.
- EUROPE:
- FRANCE: Marshal Petain was visited yesterday by General Franco and Senor Suner and other leading members of the Spanish Government and later left for SPAIN. Franco had been visiting Mussolini whose newspapers speak of the perfect identity of views of both leaders. It is noticeable that no concrete support of this view is in evidence in published articles.
- YUGO-SLAVIA: The Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs left for GERMANY at Hitler's request, presumably to discuss the situation in the BALKANS.
- RUMANIA: The Rumanian public learned for the first time yesterday that GREAT BRITAIN had broken off diplomatic relations with their country. Four members of the British Legation will leave on the Turkish steamer, ISMER, for ISTANBUL.
- BULGARIA: The government of BULGARIA states that she is following a programme of Neutrality and reports that there are no foreign troops on her soil, but preparations along her borders proceed apace, by the Germans.
- ENGLAND: Little air activity. H.M. Drifter, EAGER, brought down one bomber.
- NORWAY: Eight QUISLINGITE Judges have been found to replace the eighteen Judges dismissed from the Supreme Court. The Mayor of OSLO has refused to accept the position again. In many churches the old prayer for the Royal Family still continues to be rendered.
- BELGIUM: The BELGIUM Government in ENGLAND is calling up for service all available men in the BELGIAN Colonies.
- FAR EAST: The Australian War Council issued a statement in which it is intimated that a new stage in the world struggle has been reached. Mr Fadden, the Acting Prime Minister said, that the Council considered that the position is of the utmost gravity and there was the greatest need for watchfulness relative to the Far Eastern situation and every effort must be made to keep the Australian war-machine working at its highest pitch. American citizens have once more been urged to leave the Far East in their own interests as a precautionary measure. Germany is attempting to involve JAPAN in hostilities with BRITAIN and possibly AMERICA. Roosevelt had just lately stated that there was slight risk of AMERICA becoming involved in active warfare, but if she did the flow of war materials to BRITAIN would not slacken in any degree whatsoever. The Chinese Government would not stand idle if JAPAN acts and would be able to release many troops to aid the British in BURMA and the MALAY STATES.
- AMERICA:
- U.S.: The Lease and Lend Bill has been passed by 15 votes to 8. An amendment to restrict the amount of materials was defeated. The Bill is now ready for the Senate.
- CANADA: The Canadian air Minister has allotted a further £9,000,000 for constructing a chain of 'air-dromes' in CANADA.
- ARGENTINE: The British Government view with satisfaction the agreement made between the ARGENTINE and SPAIN relative to the proposed wheat shipments to the latter country, that is providing she does not become a granary for the GERMANS.

16 Feb. '41.

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THE MIDDLE
EAST.

MEDITERRANEAN:

The DODECANESI were again effectively bombed. Aircraft of the Fleet Arm successfully attacked four merchant vessels in the central Mediterranean, sinking one. A hospital ship was hit, three patients being killed and six wounded.

ERITREA:

The RAF continue to give considerable aid to land forces in the vicinity of KEREIN. At ASMARA two enemy fighters were destroyed.

LIBYA:

The count of materials shows that 103 Pd guns, 2 Heavy A.A. and 20 Lt A.A. were captured. Prisoners and War materials are still being counted and our pressure remains unabated on all fronts. The RAF are delivering smashing blows to vital communications, dumps and transport.

ABYSSINIA:

50,000 Italians are kept occupied trying to suppress Abyssinian patriot forces.

EUROPE

ITALY:

British parachutists were dropped in SOUTHERN ITALY, their tasks being to destroy irrigation works, damage the railway and water supply. The number dropped is not disclosed by the British authorities nor is the damage denied by the Italians. This remarkable action has been given great prominence in the American press and the moral effect of the raid is beyond all conception especially as it is noted that some of the parachutists have now returned to their bases.

ALBANIA:

The Greeks are attacking on an 80 mile front, supported by the RAF.

YUGO-SLAVIA:

The Prime Minister and Foreign Minister have returned to that country following a three hour talk with Herr Hitler.

ENGLAND:

Reports of Japanese intervention seem to have been greatly exaggerated mainly by German propaganda. Still the Dutch East Indies is quietly preparing for any eventuality and the governments of Britain, America and Australia are following the situation closely. Lord Halifax and Mr Casey met in Washington to further discuss the matter.

Raids over England were confined to the activity of single aircraft. British fighters soon however put these machines to flight. During the operations a Junkers 88 was brought down over Liverpool.

It is now required that all vessels with a capacity of over 1500 tons are to carry wireless installations capable of receiving DBC broadcasts.

FRANCE:

There is still no official statement available relative to re-shuffle of the Vichy Cabinet.

V. J. Saberton
.....Lieut.
B.I.O. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

AUSTRALIA:

Compulsory training periods of ninety days has been introduced in Australia in conjunction with the Militia scheme of compulsory service, thus bringing into line effectively all able bodied men.

The Australian Government is still watching with interest, the Far Eastern situation and are instituting effective means to deal with any possible suggestion of invasion by a foreign power.

JAPAN:

Varied reports appearing in Japanese newspapers suggest that while the international situation, so far as it affects Japan is concerned, has eased, there is, nevertheless a tendency to criticize severely, British help to China and a veiled desire to acquire French Indo China.

The Japanese Minister for Navy, has suggested that all Japanese merchantmen receive training in the naval forces so to fit them to better meet emergency.

SINGAPORE:

As a result of Far Eastern tension fortifications of Singapore have been increased during the last few weeks. The coastline has been mined and shipping is prohibited from using the waters without the consent of British naval authorities.

THAILAND:

The position in SIAM is still much the same. Guerilla warfare along the Siam-French Indo China border with occasional conflict between opposing air forces are the more visible signs of trouble between the respective countries.

DUTCH EAST INDIES:

Planes of the Dutch East Indies forces are co-operating with the RAF in the Far East. Java is preparing to meet any possible invasion.

SOMALILAND:

Considerable activity by British forces marks activity in Somaliland where opposing Italian forces have been pushed back and nearly 10,000 square miles of country captured together with large quantities of materials and prisoners.

ABYSSINIA:

The position in Abyssinia is becoming more clearly defined. The former Emperor is succeeding in co-operating the support of tribesmen to such an extent that the Italians are not only finding it extremely difficult to maintain order but have been forced to retreat at many vital points.

LIBYA:

Two raids were made on BENGASI yesterday. One early in the morning and the other at mid-day. During these operations three enemy planes were brought down whilst two of ours are lost though the pilots are reported safe. The enemy planes were HEINKEL III's. The RAAF took part in these operations and their machines were responsible for bringing down two of the three enemy craft destroyed.

ENGLAND:

Air raids on England have been scattered and few casualties and little damage has resulted. Guild Hall damaged during recent raids is to have its roof repaired at a cost of £8,000. Sir Hamilton Harty, the famous orchestral conductor has died in England.

MALTA:

Conscription has been introduced in Malta.

NEWS SUMMARY - BBC B'CAST 2200 HRS 21 FEB '41.

- SOMALILAND: British operations in Somaliland have given cause for great satisfaction. During recent operations over 6300 prisoners have been captured. This number includes a large number of officers one of whom was a Brigade Commander. The advance has so far covered an area of over 10,000 square miles, and comes at an opportune time as the 'rainy' season is due to commence early in March and thus operations will be somewhat impeded.
- LIBYA: More than 107 medium tanks were captured following the fall of Bengasi. Large quantities of materials and usable stores left by the retreating Italians are in process of being checked and counted. During a raid on Bengasi yesterday one enemy plane was shot down in flames as a result of A.A. fire.
- ERITREA: RAF planes continue to cause considerable damage to Italian defences in Eritrea. A number of enemy planes are reported to have been damaged on the ground at one drome bombed and at which place a petrol dump was also destroyed.
- ABYSSINIA: The Abyssinian Patriot Army led by South African Officers has made a further important advance and a large number of prisoners were captured as a result. The former Emperor is quickly consolidating the position as the advance continues.
- CAIRO: Mr Eden and the Chief of the Imperial General Staff arrived in Cairo. Their mission is to discuss future developments in connection with the Middle Eastern situation.
- ITALY: RAF fighters and bombers continue to raid successfully Italian bases and industrial centres. Large fires have been started at many places and following the successful parachutist adventure recently undertaken has helped considerably to weaken the Italian morale. In one instance our forces were met by 50 enemy fighters. Though the British forces were considerably outnumbered they succeeded in bringing down four of the enemy machines and then continued on to their target area. The remainder of the enemy dispersed. All our machines returned safely.
- ALBANIA: Three Italian aircraft were shot down by our fighters on the Albanian front yesterday. Operations in this centre still favour the Greek forces which are steadily driving the Italians back, capturing considerable material, guns, and personnel en route.
- ENGLAND: The Australian Prime Minister, Mr Menzies, has arrived in London. During the course of an address upon arrival he said that he had come to England to exchange ideas in connection with the joint enterprise upon which the Empire had embarked. He said that Australian production of munitions had during the last two years reached £120,000,000 whilst 20,000 pilots, gunners and mechanics had been fully trained for the air force. 51 ships would be built and completed in Australian shipyards during the next two years. All resources of Australia, manpower and material were at the disposal of the Empire in her hour of need.
- JAPAN: Mr Matsuoka, Japanese Foreign Minister made a statement yesterday in connection with the Far Eastern situation. He said that there had been a mis-construction placed upon Japanese intentions both in China and the Pacific. Japan, he said desired friendship with both Britain and America and suggested that differences of opinion could be settled. Nevertheless Japan was prepared to protect her interests if the necessity arose. Much of the misinterpretation had been caused, he said, by propaganda issued by other powers.
- U.S.A. The House of Representatives has facilitated the passage of the Lend and Lease Bill thus obviating the necessity of its return for Senate endorsement.

THE BALKANS:

BULGARIA. The position is still obscure. From YUGO-SLAVIA come reports of German staff officers, formerly stationed in RUMANIA, now seen in BUCHAREST in civilian clothes. Unconfirmed rumours arrive of citizens with pro-British sympathies being arrested, riots by students of the University and of German troops crossing the Danube. There are indications of German movement in the near future. AA guns are being mounted on the bds, bringing the realization of the position home to the people of Bulgaria. TURKEY states that she is following the situation intently, and expresses determination to resist aggression, as she expects Bulgaria also to do.

ALBANIA. Restricted activities by both sides.

AFRICA.

ERITREA. It is now revealed officially that units of the Free French have disembarked on the coast. These men left the Lake Chad district and had travelled overland 3000 kilos with their own vehicles, weapons, including trench mortars. This force is in charge of a Colonel who left Vichy in November. Not a vehicle was lost in the long journey to British territory from where they were transported to their present position.

ABYSSINIA. Patriot forces in the north continue to cause the Italians considerable trouble. They have made a strong attack in the GOUDAR area. Sudanese troops are also attacking in BLUE NILE territory, while in the south the S.A. military forces have succeeded in capturing a Bde staff, a Colonel and 600 prisoners.

ITALIAN SOMALILAND.

The Juba River has now been crossed. Our forces are now pushing on as fast as possible before the rains retard operations.

LIBYA. No communique to hand, except that the Air Ministry notes with satisfaction the fine record of a Squadron which has brought down 51 enemy planes with the loss of only 7 of its own.

MALTA. Three alarms, but no bombs, only fighters at a great height.

EUROPE.

ENGLAND. Little raiding - one bomber was brought down last night, making 4 enemy planes in the last 24 hours.

The butter ration is to be doubled from 10 March. Ration of fats for each month totals 32 ozs, comparing favourably with the Italian one of under 13 ozs a month.

Gen. de Gaulle has issued a warning to foreign powers to keep "hands off" French possessions, with particular reference to Indo-China. The Council of Defence would not consider encroachments made by force.

FRANCE. The Vichy Govt has stated that it could not accept the Thai terms, which gave Thai large portion of Indo-China, Japan being the mediator in this matter. The armistice expires tomorrow.

AMERICA. Mr Henry Wallace, in his first speech since becoming Vice President, said the more U.S.A. speeded up her production the sooner Germany would be defeated. Defeat of BRITAIN would be followed by attempted domination of America.

THE BALKANS.

TURKEY. M. Sarogoglu, the Foreign Minister, re-affirmed Turkey's attitude towards the Balkans situation. He stated that her pact with Britain was in no way altered by any events since it was signed in 1939. Armed resistance would be in evidence against any aggression. Relations with BULGARIA were very cordial, and the pact between them was a triumph for sane thinkers. A similar pact with other nations would be received with alacrity by Turkey, if it meant opposing aggressor nations.

BULGARIA. All points to an early occupation by Germany. Bridges over the Danube are being strengthened to take loads of 20 tons, implying the use of tanks in the operations impending. Germans with field telephones have been noticed operating from the Rumanian border, situating themselves in positions where large areas of frontier may be viewed. Bulgarian patriots are urging their peasant comrades to resist any invaders. German propaganda consists of showing Govt representatives a film of the German advance on the Western Front, which deeply impressed them. Yugo Slavia reports that it is not likely that the Germans will move - a strange statement compared with all other reports.

GRECO-ITALIAN FRONT.

The Greek Air Force brought down 2 enemy planes and 2 more are unconfirmed. One Greek plane was lost. The RAF destroyed three planes, bombed transport, dumps, and troops North of SEPPELINI. On the ground there are local artillery duels. The Greeks are mopping up areas recently gained, and have taken 50 automatic weapons, besides many prisoners. 7 enemy tanks have been destroyed or captured. Enemy aircraft action was confined to bombing an island in the AEGEAN SEA and a village in MACEDONIA.

AFRICA.

MALTA. Fighters and AA drove off two reconnaissance flights early Sunday morning, and later, bombers were driven away. No damage. The submarines ROVER, REGENT, TRUANT, UTMOST and TRITON sank 8 Italian supply ships. The TRITON was lost after accounting for two.

FREE FRENCH FORCES.

It is announced that among the Free French who landed on the Red Sea Coast are many from the French Foreign Legion, some of the toughest soldiers of today. They were from French Equatorial Africa. Gen CATROUC is to visit all Free French units on the African fronts.

ITALIAN SOMALILAND.

Now our forces have crossed the JUBA RIVER, the Italian position is considerably more difficult.

ERITREA. The Italiens are still holding KERU. The SAAF and RAAF are doing remarkable work in destroying enemy communications, stores and dumps. MASSAWA has been bombed continually. This town was the base for all operations in the Abyssinia War.

LIBYA. In an air battle on Wednesday, south of BENGASI, RAAF planes brought down one Junkers and one Messerschmitt.

EUROPE.

ENGLAND. RAF attacks on invasion ports succeeded in starting fires at CALAIS and BOULOGNE. Enemy activity was over a wide area, with very few bombs dropped, LONDON and towns on the NE and SE coasts receiving a few. Only one or two raiders during daylight.

Mr. Menzies, PM of Australia, speaking in England, stated that the British Empire and USA were only beginning their war efforts. Germany, with her enslaved Italians, was at the maximum of hers. Australia has pledged everything to victory for the Empire. The AIF has now 4 Divisions, plus Corps troops. Many men have been fully trained for the Air Force as pilots, wireless operators and gunners.

ITALY. Contrasting with Mr Menzies' confident speech, here are Mussolini's statements issued recently.

370,000 troops had been sent to LIBYA between Oct 1937 and Jan 1941. Since TARANTO the course of the war had been unfavourable to his cause. He said that BRITAIN and GREECE had 1,000,000 men against him and GERMAN help was very welcome.

RUSSIA. The Commander of the MOSCOW Military District has trained his troops, he states, under the most severe war conditions, to fit them for their army life.

A Danube naval flotilla has been included in the Russian navy. It consists of submarines, torpedo boats and river craft.

AMERICA. The Lend and Lease Bill should be passed completely within the next two days.

The liner "President Coolidge" is evacuating American women and children from JAPAN.

CANADA. An air liner, including Sir Frederick Bunting on its passenger list, has been missing since Friday. This eminent doctor was mainly responsible for the insular treatment of diabetes.

SINGAPORE. This is now a very strong fortress, besides a naval base of great importance. British, Indian and Australian troops are there to safeguard British interests in the East.

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THE AFRICAN FRONTS.

ABYSSINIA. Operations are proceeding satisfactorily.

ITALIAN SOMALILAND.

Consolidation of positions captured continues near the JUBA River.

RED SEA COAST. Our forces are grimly closing in on KERIN, which town is now in a precarious position. The final assault and capture is near. RAF, SAAF, and RAAF continue to play primary parts in operations on all fronts.

Free French. Units are in action on all African fronts. On the Libyan front the force there had participated in the advance from SIDI BARRANI to BENGASI, being among the forward troops all the way. In the SAHARA they have succeeded in cutting air communications between TRIPOLI and ABYSSINIA by denying Italy the use of landing grounds. With the patriot forces in Abyssinia they have made their presence felt. Now we find the latest arrivals from Equatorial Africa doing their share in Eritrea. These men marched or rode until reaching the Sudan, where they immediately demanded to be sent to the front. Their Colonel escaped from Vichy to fight because he saw the "systematic dismemberment of France" if Germany were victorious. Fine types of Senegalese troops were also in this force.

MEDITERRANEAN. German dive bombers made an attack on a British convoy in the Central Mediterranean and succeeded in losing 5 planes.

EUROPE.

THE BALKANS. On the Albanian front the Italians lost 9 planes yesterday, and 2 Greek planes are missing.

The Germans are directing overhauling of Bulgarian main roads, using a Bulgarian Labour Corps. Snow had previously held up operations. London does not regard the situation as improved. All nations are impressed by Turkey's firm stand. Turkey ironically thanks Von Papen for putting his own interpretation on the Bulgarian-Turkish pact, which he claims as a victory for Germany. The official newspaper of Turkey publishes an article in which appear these words - "Germany would not hesitate to tear up a pact if it did not suit her. We are not Germans".

VICHY. The new Government formerly decided on collaboration with Germany. Marshal Petain is still President; Admiral Darlan Vice-President, Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Navy; General Huntiger, National Defence; M. Bernaud, collaboration between France and Germany.

Radio Paris announces that all leave for army, navy and air force in Indo-China has been stopped, and the Far East Fleet is near the Thailand coast.

LONDON. Single bombers over wide areas. Large scale attacks may be expected when the weather improves, but there is not a German plane not known to Britain.

The Australian P.M., after a visit to Mr Bruce, was received by the King last night. Mr Menzies will attend all meetings of the British War Cabinet while he is in England.

AMERICA. Priority is being given to all orders for war machinery in American factories. The Lend and Lease Bill is being debated now, with the Isolationists dolefully shaking heads and mumbling that the moment the Bill is passed America is at war.

Press reports on Hitler's recent speech are not very gratifying to the Fuhrer as they point out that he makes his assertion of an increased submarine war exactly 4 months after Britain had begun warning her people about it; he does not repeat his January promise of peace and victory in 1941; the speech was mainly a preamble on the Nazi movement and the sufferings of the German people after the last war. He must also envisage another British force on the continent as he re-asserts that wherever Britain sets foot on the Continent, her troops will be flung back into the sea.

THE AFRICAN FRONTS.

The part played by Transvaal and Natal Regts in the crossing of the Juba River in Italian Somaliland is revealed. They crossed the river in collapsible boats in the face of strong MG and arty fire, then engineers quickly constructed a crossing for the armoured cars. From then on the progress has been rapid. Italian soldiers have been greeting them in many strongholds with white flags, many having their kits packed ready for the prison camp. The armoured cars are now 160 miles from the mouth of the river, and 160 miles from the capital of Somaliland. The last of the enemy have been driven from KENYA. The advance into ABYSSINIA continues on three fronts, from the North, south and West. In ERITREA we are steadily advancing on KERIN. Enemy air resistance will soon be smashed completely on the above battle fronts, paving the way for an even more rapid advance. The Italians are fighting without hope of further supplies. No less than 1000 Italian aircraft have been destroyed since Italy entered the war - all first line planes. The 20 and 21 year old classes in MALTA are being called up for home service - the only men who are sent abroad are those who volunteer for the R.N.

EUROPE.

THE BALKANS.

Mr Eden has arrived in TURKEY and will discuss with M Sarogoglu the Balkans situation. The British Chief of Imperial General Staff and the Turkish Chief of General Staff are also conferring. Turkey's policy has remained unchanged throughout the course of the war, and she will stand by her alliance to Britain.

ALBANIA.

In spite of adverse weather conditions both sides were active in the air. Italians heavily bombed Greek positions North of KORITZA. Greek and British planes replied with equally heavy raids on Italian dumps and transport. There were no raids over Greece itself. 20,000 Italians have been captured since the war began. Land operations have been restricted due to drenching rain.

RUSSIA.

One third of the budget is being allotted to defence.

ENGLAND.

Scattered raids again with little damage. One night Bomber shot down. In a daylight sweep of the Straits three enemy fighters were brought down.

As with Italy, harder and harder blows must be delivered against the heart of GERMANY. HAMBURG has been raided 82 times, COLOGNE 65, and BERLIN 35.

Sir Walter Citrine stated that British and American aeroplane production would exceed that of Germany by Sept. 1941. In July 78,000 were employed in American factories, in October 250,000, and next Sept 1,000,000 people will be employed. In CANADA 15 Hurricanes are constructed each week.

In ICELAND British troops have consolidated it to such an extent that an invasion would not have much chance of success. Roads, camps and defences are well constructed. Although the troops spent a hard winter they have now adapted themselves to the conditions with special heavy Arctic coats. Many of the soldiers are now proficient in using skis, also conversing in the native tongue.

U.S.A.

Mr Menzies said, in spite of our successes in Libya this war will be a long one. The Australian soldier wants to know "when do we get a crack at the real fellow?"

The new ambassador will leave for London by Clipper Service. He will replace Mr Joseph Kennedy, who resigned lately. America's affirmed policy is utmost aid to Britain. £60,000,000 is to be spent on fortifications on the bases leased by Britain and America.

PTO.

THE FAR EAST.

Mr Fadden, acting PM of Australia, in a speech yesterday, pointed out our willingness to live at peace with the Pacific nations. Notwithstanding, we will protest our rights against any infringements. Sir Frederick Stewart could see no valid reason why we should not have co-operation in the Pacific, only Japan's unfavourable reception of friendly overtures from Britain and America not so long ago, and her drifting into the pact with Germany, had created the present situation.

A Chinese station, broadcasting to the British Empire, congratulated Mr Churchill and the British people on their wonderful stand. China would not stand by if Japan acted, and will not lay down arms until the aggressor has been finally conquered.

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APR 3A.

ITALIAN SOMALILAND.

A Cairo military spokesman describes the campaign in Somaliland as "all over bar the shouting". The two main ports - KISMAYUT and MOSHABIBU, have been taken, serving the double purpose of preventing supplies reaching the Italian forces, and sea raiders from refuelling.

The collapse of the Italian resistance shows the weakness of static defence.

In ABYSSINIA and ERITREA operations continue.

MEDITERRANEAN. The War Office announces the capture of a small island of the Dodecanese group by our naval forces. The Italians were using this island for a sea-plane base. Most of the 20,000 inhabitants are Greeks.

Another attack on MALTA. AA fire brought down 5 planes, and fighters two, 6 others were damaged. A German Red Cross plane came over looking for survivors.

BALKANS.

ALBANIAN FRONT. Two Italian planes brought down by AA fire and 2 others damaged. 41 Italian planes have been brought down by fighters on this front, RAF accounting for 24. Ground operations - lively artillery duels. Operations hampered by snow and rain.

TURKEY. A tumultuous welcome was afforded Mr Eden and the C.I.G.S. Sir John Dill by the Turkish public. All newspapers give vivid descriptions of the arrival. Mr Eden, who called at CYPRUS en route to inform the Cypriots of the fine work of their Regiments in Africa, will confer with the Foreign Minister, while Sir John Dill and the British Embassy will exchange views with Marshal Chatmuk C.T.S.

BULGARIA. Very soon this country will lose its identity as a free nation. Although Germans vigorously deny these allegations the familiar play is on again, with Germany flinging wild charges concerning British secret service at work in the country and the finding of sensational documents. The next scene is the "protective occupation" by the fatherly Germans, but the final scenes to all these dramas have not been enacted as yet.

RUMANIA. The British protested to Rumania concerning the handing over to Germany of Polish prisoners for Labour Corps. Britain was informed that this was an internal matter and no concern of hers. The hampering of Britain by Rumania since Gen. Antonescu has been in power will not easily be forgotten, states an English newspaper.

FRANCE. Only two days old, the new Government is very unsettled by the German remarks that this Government is only a compromise with many unsuitable members to carry out the avowed policy of collaboration with Germany. Germany refuses to recognize this Government as the best for this purpose.

The invasion ports were again raided - BOULOGNE and CALAIS being the main objectives. One of our fighters was lost.

ENGLAND. Two alerts, some bombs. In WALES, waves of bombers but few bombs.

USA. 1, 533, 000, 000 dollars are to be spent on submarines, torpedo boats and seaplanes this year. More destroyers for Britain are inadvisable at the present time, but the position will be reviewed again when the situation permits.

THE FAR EAST.

JAPAN. In spite of the delicate situation Japanese newspapers continue their anti-British propaganda. They accuse Britain of stirring up anti-Japanese feeling in Thailand, and of provocative massing of troops on the Thai border. Prince Konoye is an exception to the rule - he is **trying** to convert Britain and America to the Japanese point of view.

PTO

2.

BURMA. Military authorities are certain that air operations against the Barma Road will not close it. The huge army of workmen can soon repair damages. Land operations only could close it, if successful.

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W. OPE.

THE BALKANS SITUATION.

The British Minister to Bulgaria, Mr George Rendle, stated that if that country submits to German demands, Britain must break off diplomatic relations. He would do all in his power to preserve Bulgarian neutrality as Britain had no desire nor intentions of violating any neutral's independence; and he would leave only if the country came under German domination entirely. He confirmed many of the statements made regarding German preparations for occupation, such as : hundreds and thousands of Germans in civilian clothes; supervision of bridge building and erection of telephone lines; the army largely under German control; pro-Axis Press; but despite these ominous signs for Bulgaria many prominent citizens are striving to keep their country from becoming involved in the present struggle. Heavy snow has held up any likely moves at present.

Mr Eden and General Sir John Dill regard their little conversations with the TURKISH officials as "extremely satisfactory". No further talks are necessary. The British Ambassador in Moscow is also visiting Mr Eden.

In GREECE the Greek A.F. has had another successful engagement with Italian planes. No details. A small Greek possession in the AEGEAN SEA has been bombed without effect.

ENGLAND. No night raids, but a few scattered-raids over the south. One raider brought down into the sea, and two more would probably not return to their bases.

Press comments on the Balkans situation express the fact that no matter what happens there we must not lose sight of the main issues in the present war - the defence of Britain from invasion, and submarine attacks on shipping.

Australia will have 48 naval craft built by the end of the year for combating submarines, and Canada is using all her seaboard and St Lawrence River docks for ship building.

ITALY. The Stefani news agency printed a speech by Mussolini, in which he estimates Italian help in the Spanish War to be \$61,000,000, which is to be repaid in 24 annual instalments. He complains that, while he was fighting the Abyssinian War and helping Spain, thus draining his resources, other nations had been preparing for war. While admitting Italian "prudent withdrawals" on African fronts, he announces that when the time comes for the Italian offensive the British will find themselves trapped like rats.

AFRICAN FRONTS.

ITALIAN SOMALILAND.

It is now just a case of rounding up the remnants of demoralized Italian forces here. Two hundred allied sailors have been released from a prison camp.

ERITREA. The push continues. Our forces are 200 miles from where they began their offensive.

ABYSSINIA. RAF raids on ADDIS ABBABA.

LIBYA. A report of a brush with German tanks, which were most likely sent at Mussolini's urgent request for machines to supplement his sadly depleted stocks. The enemy retreated when opposition was encountered.

MALTA. Conscription is now in operation in Malta, bringing the island into line with the United Kingdom. With Germans in Sicily a threat to the island is always a possibility, and the training of the 20 and 21 year old classes is a sound defensive measure.

PTO

THE FAR EASTERN SITUATION.

JAPAN declares that if her mediation between Indo-China and Thailand fails, all Japanese will leave the former country. The VICHY Government has announced that it has made the maximum concessions, and will not shift an inch further. Under the Armistice terms, France has the right to defend her colonies, and would, if necessary, do so. M. Petain and Admiral Darlan are studying despatches from Indo-China. Tokio has no official statement on where the deadlock is occurring.

U.S.A. President Roosevelt expects the early enactment of the Lend and Lease Bill. He also said that this Bill would make hemisphere defence much firmer; that it involves the future of democracy, which could not be smashed by force or fury of aggressors; that Dictators forget the Government officials are the servants of the people in democracies, not the masters.

Mr. William Bullitt, former Minister to France, believes that Germany's aim is world domination. America is urged to greater efforts to provide GREECE, BRITAIN and CHINA with materials and equipment.

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ROUTINE ORDERS.

by

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

IN THE FIELD.

No. 183.

28 Jan. 41.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

"G" section.

Nil.

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

"A" and "Q" section.

230. POSTAGE RATES. D.R.O. 21/41.

Commencing forthwith postage rates for mail matter posted in LIBYA by members of the A.I.F. to places within the British Empire will be as follows:

AIR MAIL. Letters and packets not exceeding 14 grammes - 9d (30 mils).
Articles exceeding 14 grammes - 1/6 (59 mils), for each 14 grammes or part thereof.
Postcards - 5d. (17 mils).

SURFACE MAIL.

Under 4 oz - Free
Over 4 oz - postage is calculated on the total weight of the article.
Letters - 1d per oz.
Printed matter - 1d per 8 oz.
Merchandise (under 1 lb) - 1d per 4 ozs.
Books, Periodicals, Newspapers - 1d per 12 ozs.
Parcels not exceeding

1 lb	6d	(20 mils).
2 lb	9d	(30 ").
3 lb	1/-	(39 ").
5 lb	1/3	(49 ").
8 lb	1/6	(59 ").
11 lb	1/9	(69 ").

Australian postage stamps will be affixed to postal articles. Army Seals may be used until supplies are exhausted.

231. PAY-BOOKS of Wounded Men. D.R.O. 22/41.

When a wounded man is evacuated his pay-book will NOT be removed from his possession.

232. SOAP. D.R.O. 23/41.

1. Arrangements have been made to supply saltwater soap as an alternative issue to carbolic toilet soap.
2. It is intended to fulfill unit demands for toilet soap by making the next issue saltwater soap.
3. In future units will specify on fortnightly indents the quantities of each type of soap required.
4. Saltwater soap is coloured green.

P.T.O.

233. VEHICLES.

D.R.O. 24/41.

1. Attention is directed to the necessity for units to report urgently to Rr. H.Q. details of all casualties of vehicles, including evacuations BEYOND E.A.Ds., or AASC Wkshops.

Otherwise it is not possible to earmark or provide replacements.

2. Losses by theft or neglect must be reported separately at once with full particulars, in order that urgent steps for recovering may be taken.

234. BIVOUAC SHELTERS.

D.R.O. 25/41.

1. Arrangements are being made for issue of bivouac ground sheets shelters with sticks and fittings. These may be replaced by tent shelters when available.

2. Scale is one shelter per two men.

3. Indents to be submitted to D.L.D.O.S., urgently, for requirements. Any ground sheet shelters or equivalents now held in units should be taken into consideration.

J. P. McKinnon
for Capt.,
S/Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

W/M 107

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ROUTINE ORDERS.

By

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

IN THE FIELD.

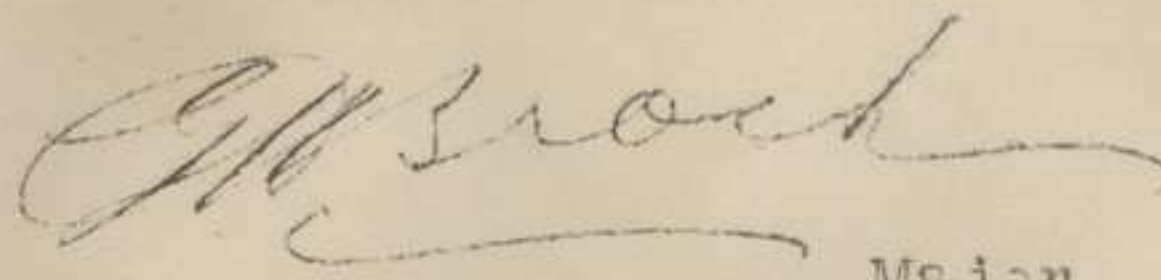
No. 134.

8 Feb. 41.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

"G" Section.

235. (i) 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. is occupying area of Barracks and Hospital South of BARCE.
- (ii) 2/6 Bn. is responsible for guarding the town and all vulnerable points, stores, etc. in the area.
- (iii) The town is out of bounds to all troops at present.
- (iv) The Bde. is likely to stay in this area for several days.
- (v) Present arrangements provide for all ranks being accommodated in buildings. Continuance of this arrangement will depend on the behaviour of troops in the area. Should this not be exemplary Division will order units to move further South and camp in the open.
- (vi) An hostel will be established on 9 Feb in Bde H.Q. area with writing facilities available under direction of Maj Palmer, Salvation Army.


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

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

ROUTINE ORDERS

By

Brigadier S. G. Savage, D.S.O., M.C., E.D., Comd. SMAR.

In the Field.

No. 185.

10 Feb. '41.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

"A" & "Q" SECTION

236. TRANSPORT: Units will receive dispersal areas for vehicles and will maintain a guard to prevent theft.
237. CAMP DUTIES: Normal Camp Duties will be resumed. Units will appoint an Orderly Officer and maintain a Quarter Guard.
238. INCINERATORS: Incinerators will be improvised in Unit Areas and all rubbish burnt.
239. SALVAGE: Licut J. A. Smith, 2/5 Bn., will act as Brigade Salvage Officer, and will co-ordinate the salvage work of the Units. Excess equipment including used clothing will be collected and taken in Unit transport with an inventory to Salvage Unit at BARMA V.
240. PRISONERS RATIONS: Bde S.O. will be responsible for the rationing of prisoners and the distribution of extra comforts to Q.M.'s.
241. SHOWERS: Showers have been repaired and a time-table for their use issued.
242. EXCHANGE: The Military Governor and Commander in Chief of LIBYA has proclaimed the rate of exchange at 400 lire to the Egyptian pound.
243. RECREATION ROOM: A Recreation and Writing Room is situated at the rear of the Post Office at Bde HQ. Major Palmer, Welfare Officer, is in charge and would appreciate the gift of any magazines or papers. Radio music is on the air from 1900 hours and a 'news' session at 2000 hours daily. Men are requested to bring their own dixies for coffee.
244. SPORTS: The Bde Sports and Entertainments Officer is arranging a series of concerts and sporting activities.
245. BOUNDS: All areas outside the Brigade boundaries including the hospital block are out of bounds to all ranks not on duty.
246. CONSERVANCY: Units must arrange their own seat latrines. Enquiries are being made as to the possibility of arranging for the disposal of night soil by a native contractor. Details will be promulgated when the matter is finalized.

S. G. Savage
.....Capt.
Staff Capt., SMAR.

LOST: One Haversack containing personal gear, shaving kit, etc., at or in the vicinity of Bde HQ. Finder return to Bde., Orderly Room.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ROUTINE ORDERS.

by

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

IN THE FIELD.

No. 186

13 Feb. 41.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

"G" Section.

NIL

R. Bushnell
Major,
Bde. Major, 17 Aust Inf Bde.

"A" and "Q" Section.

247. Wearing of Italian Clothing.

No man will be dressed in enemy clothing without the authority of a Coy. Commander, and only then when unit QMs are unable to supply Australian clothing.

J. A. V.
Capt.,
S/Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

NOTICE.

Church Services.

Mass and Holy Communion will be celebrated in the Concert Hall in Bde. H.Q. Block at 0900 hrs. on Sunday 16 Feb.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ROUTINE ORDERS

By

Brigadier S. G. Savige, D.S.O., M.C., E.D., Cond. STAR.

IN THE FIELD.

No. 187.

14 Feb. '41.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

"A" & "Q" SECTION

248. WATER: D.R.O. 21/8/41.
L.A.D.'s are authorised to draw an extra five gallons of water per day for radiators, re-filling of cylinder jackets, etc.
249. LOSS OF VEHICLES: D.R.O. 22/8/41.
Information is required as to the whereabouts of Morris 8-cwt 4135083 and Albion 30-cwt 4 wheeled lorry W.D. No. 4146601. Units in possession of these vehicles will notify this HQ.
250. BURIAL RETURNS: D.R.O. 23/8/41.
(a) A.F.W. 5314 will be rendered by the Chaplain or other officer performing the burial, direct to 2nd Ech. A copy will be rendered to this HQ for information. The map reference will invariably be given.
All concerned are reminded that A.F.W. 5314 is also necessary in the case of enemy dead.
(b) A.F.B. 105B (Nominal Roll of Enemy Dead) This return will be rendered in duplicate by O'S C search or burying parties, direct to 2nd Ech.
Units not in possession of this form will indent on the Printing and Stationery Department forthwith.
251. DISPOSAL OF EFFECTS OF DEAD. D.R.O. 24/8/41.
In the case of enemy dead, only those articles likely to be of value to General Staff Intelligence are to be forwarded to this HQ. Such articles include maps, orders, personal documents and identity cards (but not identity discs). These will be forwarded direct to G.S. (I) HQ., 6 Aust. Div, marked to show where and when found.
All other effects, whether of our own or enemy dead, will be forwarded direct to O.i/c 2nd Ech in the manner prescribed in F.S.R., Vol. I, App. VI - see also 6 Aust. Div, Adm. Insta. No. 94 of 6 Jan. 41.
252. HORTON MOTOR CYCLES - CUT-OUT AND VOLTAGE REGULATORS. D.R.O. 25/8/41.
(a) The practice of tampering with the 'cut-out' and 'voltage regulator' units on Horton Motor Cycles by drivers is strictly forbidden.
(b) A Nickel-iron battery must not be replaced by a Lead-acid battery, or vice versa, unless the 'cut-out' and 'voltage regulator' are changed at the same time.
(c) In future all adjustments will be made only by fully qualified, i.e., Electricians or recognised Unit Artificers.
253. INSTRUMENTS. D.R.O. 26/8/41.
Several instances have occurred of optical instruments, watches etc., having been tampered with by unauthorised persons before being handed into workshops for repair. This practice will cease at once. Repairs to instruments will be carried out only by Instrument Artificers.
254. CARTRIDGES. D.R.O. 27/8/41.
Cartridges (except C.D. or A.L.) filled with cordites M.D. and M.C. (Group Letter 'B') RDB (Group Letter 'D') or Mk 1 (Group Letter 'F') are to be fired at the first opportunity.
Immediate return will be submitted to this HQ showing quantities held by natures. Nil returns will be submitted. (OR/EGYPT/2/17025).
255. DEERTERS: D.R.O. 28/8/41.
When forwarding descriptive returns of deserters units will state when and where these were last seen.

56. RETURNS - CENSUS OF WARLIKE STORES. D.R.O. 29/8/41.
(a) All monthly returns will in future include in Appendix concerned, ALL optical stores (Establishment, In Possession and Efficiency) and not only those previously listed.
(b) The return is now overdue, and Units will submit same at earliest opportunity.
57. STERLING - DISPOSAL OF. D.R.O. 30/8/41.
(a) Sterling Bank Notes in no circumstances will be accepted or purchased from local inhabitants in LIBYA.
(b) Any Sterling notes offered by local inhabitants will almost indubitably be forgeries.
(c) Any individual found in possession of or offering Sterling Notes will be apprehended forthwith.
(d) Any attempt to unload Sterling Notes in appreciable numbers should be reported immediately to this HQ.
58. PETROL - WASTAGE OF. D.R.O. 31/8/41.
The practice of throwing petrol on the ground and setting light to it for cooking purposes will cease forthwith.
Disciplinary action will be taken in cases of contravention of this order.
59. INDENT FOR SUPPLIES. D.R.O. 32/8/41.
Commanding Officers will ensure that indents for Supplies (A.B.55) are rendered early each day to Supply Officer concerned.
60. OXYGEN AND ACETYLENE. D.R.O. 33/8/41.
Units will submit returns of Oxygen and Acetylene and compressed air bottles held, showing Reg. No. and capacity. Returns to reach HQ 6 Aust. Div. by 16 Feb. 41.
61. CARE OF EMPTY PETROL TINS - INSTRUCTIONS TO DRIVERS. D.R.O. 34/8/41.
(a) It is noticed that many vehicle drivers throw away empty Petrol tins after refuelling.
(b) It is essential that empty Petrol tins be preserved by all concerned for return to R.A.O. Depots and eventually refilling at Base Installations.
(c) Instructions will be issued to all Motor Vehicle Drivers that empty tins from which they re-fuel en-route between Depots are to be retained by them and handed in at the next Depot from which they draw supplies.
(d) Disciplinary action will be taken against Drivers who disregard these instructions.
62. CAPTURED BINOCULARS AND PISTOLS. D.R.O. 35/8/41.
Attention is directed to D.R.O. No. 2 para 8 of 7 Jan 41. C.O's will arrange immediately for the collection and return to D.A.D.O.S. of the above articles.
It will be considered an offence for other ranks to be in possession of binoculars and pistols unless authorization is included in W.R. tables for the issue of same. C.O's will take the necessary disciplinary action.
63. CONSERVANCY.
A Conservancy Contract under Bde Control will operate as from today, 14 Feb. Oway Pits have been constructed and a sanitary vehicle will call at Unit Lines each morning.
Unit sanitary personnel must supervise the work in their own areas.
64. WATER:
The town water supply is only capable of producing 50,000 gals daily. For this reason water is only able to be supplied between 0600 hrs and 1700 hrs daily. Units must draw extra requirements from the W.P. in the town. This well is not connected to the pipe system.

A. P. Smith
.....Capt.
Staff Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

NOTICES

- LOST: 15-cwt GS8 No 2/386081, stolen from approx. Kilo 88 Rd MATRUH-BARRANI 30 Dec.
Motor Cycle Norton No. 386612 stolen Kilo 52 Rd BARRANI-SOLLUM 5 Jan.
Haversack containing personal belongings Lt BELLAM, left truck (Unit unknown) which conveyed him from 2/1 F Amb. on 7 or 8 Jan.
Small brown leather attache case containing officers cap with 'Royals' cap badge.
About 8 Jan near frontier post No. 38 binoculars brown leather covered, marked owners name; the personal property of No. 7596965 Cpl. F.W.A. Bailey, R.A.O.C.

NOTICES (Continued)

LOST: On MAREUBA-GIOVANNI BIRBA RD., near BIR el CAIMUSA on Feb. 1. A locked square wooden box with Italian markings. Box contained letters addressed to P/O G.W. Hall 202 G.P.M.A.F. Photograph of wife and child and a Rolls Razor. Finder please return to H.Q., R.A.A. or give information as to previous disposal. Contents of great sentimental value to owner.

Lost on morning 22 Jan outside Southern brook in wire at TOBRUCH one 16" leather case containing "Q" papers I & R vouchers, messages, returns, etc., also personal papers. Clearly marked Lieut R. S. Wise, NX 142 on outside. Finder please return to D.A.A.G.

FOUND: Wrist Watch marked 'D. J. Morrison, EX 425, 23-3-40' Apply to H.Q. 6 Aust. Div.

CHURCH

SERVICES: Anglican Holy Communion will be celebrated at 1000 hrs on Sunday 16 Feb. '41 in the Welfare Building at Bde. H.Q.

War diary

(1) DISORDERLY AREAS AND CONDUCT.

- (a) The minimum distance between stationary vehicles will be 50 yds.
- (b) Garbage will be spread and swept and grass cut.
- (c) The minimum distance between sleeping quarters and stationary vehicles will be 50 yds.
- (d) Men will not congregate in groups of more than six at mess trucks or offices.

(2) TRUCK DISORDERLY.

All vehicles will travel on well defined tracks when proceeding to and from headquarters or to dispersal areas.

(3) PROTECTION.

- (a) All trenches will be dug close to all sleeping quarters, mess trucks and offices.
- (b) No lights will be shown or fires lit between 1800 and 0600 hrs.
- (c) All rifles will be kept where personnel are employed or when asleep, alongside sleeping quarters and no rounds of ammunition will be carried per man. NO rifle will be loaded.

(4) AIR RAIDS.

- (a) Two Air Raid sections will be maintained continuously at the A/A post.
- (b) Air raid alarm signal will be initiated at the A/A pit or by the first person to sight enemy aircraft, on the nearest vehicle horn.

<u>Alarm Signal</u>	(1) Dive bombing or ground strafing.	Succession of short blasts.
	(2) Parachute attack.	Succession of long and short blasts.
	(3) All clear.	Continuous long blast.

(c) Action on air raid alarm.

A/A No. 1.

- (1) All ranks will move to slit trenches immediately, taking rifles. From the cover of slit trenches fire will be directed on enemy aircraft by the senior man in each trench. No rifle will be fired except from cover of slit trench.
- (2) All ranks will immediately R.V. under cover of section load, at mess truck where Staff Capt. or Transport Officer will direct ensuing action. The air section and gun crew will remain at the A/A pit and engage low flying aircraft.

(5) MEALS

Breakfast	-	-	-	0600 Hrs.
Lunch	-	-	-	1200 Hrs.
Tea	-	-	-	1645 Hrs.
Light Dinner	-	-	-	1850 Hrs.

Duty Parties as arranged by section commanders.

(6) PARADES

Section Commanders will render parade states to Orderly Room at 0700 Hrs. daily.

(7) HIGH PARADES

High will parade at Orderly Room at 0900 and 1600 Hrs. daily.

Continued Page 2.

(8) DEFILATION.

- (a) French latrines 3' x 2' will be dug in selected positions in the vicinity of Offices and all sleeping quarters. They will be filled in on alternative days and another latrine dug to the right on the line longitudes. On leaving the area covered ground will be marked by the letter "L" forward of station.
- (b) Latrines may be fired before 1100 hrs.

(9) GUARD DUTY.

(In addition to Air sentries Cpl. of the guard will provide sentries as required.)

(10) UNIFORM.

All ranks will be properly dressed at all times and an eye certificate will be taken to check vision. Shorts may be worn whilst down D.O. is being worked.

(11) KIT.

Kits must be packed and kept tidy. Blankets must be folded and packed by 1100 hrs.

(12) BEHAVIOUR.

The previous firing of captured rifles and grenades or any other firearm or explosive is an offence which will be the subject of severe disciplinary action.

(13) USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

No vehicle here will be used west of main rd. for any purpose other than Air Aid stores.


Capt.
Major Captain J. B. Brown.

10 FEB 41.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ROUTINE ORDERS.

by

Brigadier S. G. SAVIGE DSO, MC, ED, COMDG 17 Aust Inf Bde.

IN THE FIELD

No 188

22 Feb 41.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

"G" Section.

NIL

W. B. Bishop
Major,
Bde Major, 17 Aust Inf Bde

"A" and "Q" Section.

265. LOSS OF VEHICLES.

Units in possession of the under-mentioned vehicles will report possession immediately to this HQ :

Norton M/Cs 3934533, 3934495.
Albion 30-cwt 4146681.
Morris 8-cwt P.U. 4135083.

266. BURIALS. Wherever burials take place in the field, a sketch will be made by the officer i/c of the burial party showing the layout of the graves with names of the bodies interred. The map will then be forwarded to O i/c 2nd Echelon together with A.Fs.W. 3314.

267. LOST VEHICLES.

Unit in possession of Bren Carrier Engine Assembly 79E.6000 CS, registered No 4615871, will report possession immediately to this HQ.

W. B. Bishop
Capt.,
S/Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

NOTICES.

LOST. (a) Tunic S.D., containing Paybook and wallet, on issue to VX15054, Dvr L.W. TIPPER. Finder please notify this HQ.
(b) Between MARTEN BAGUSH and the fwd area, rifle No S 48785.
(c) On main rd in fwd area, rifle No D 1000.
(d) In the fwd area between 21 & 25 Jan, Pistol .38 No 242 & rifle No N.K.
(b)(c)(d) - finders please notify APM 13 Corps.
(e) On 24 Jan on track BIR EL HALBZEIN-GAMBUT - one valise.
Colour - grey green.
Marking- PWS PERRY, 2/Lieut RASC in black letters fitted with light brown leather straps and edge of valise covered with leather. Contents : Blankets, Clothing and Kit.
Information to HQ 13 Corps.

FOUND. Money Belt, containing a sum of money - unmarked. Apply this HQ. Found at BARCE.

Wrist watch marked D.J. MORRISON, TX425, 28-3-40
Apply to C.E. Office HQ 13 Corps.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ROUTINE ORDERS.

by

BRIGADIER. S. G. SAVICE, DSO, MC, ED, COMD G & W, AUST. INF. BDE.

IN THE FIELD.

No 189.

26 Feb 41.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED.

"G" Section.

NIL

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

"A" and "Q" Section.

268. MT ENGINES - Fracture of Supports. DRO 37/41.

Instances are occurring of engine supports being fractured as the result of engine holding down bolts working loose. In order to avoid this, the weekly MT maintenance will include checking tightness of all engine mountings and bolts.

269. INDENTS FOR RATIONS. DRO 38/41.

Attention is directed to DRO No 5, para 9 1941. Commencing 17 Feb 41 indents for rations will be lodged with the officer i/c of the S.P. from which rations are drawn. Indents will be lodged 72 hours in advance.

270. DRESS. DRO 40/41.

Articles of enemy clothing e.g. Italian naval berets, will not be worn by members of 6 Aust Div unless in the opinion of the CO of the unit such are necessary to preserve decency or are for the comfort of individuals in extremes of weather.

271. FIELD CENSORSHIP - Casualties. D.R.O. 41/41.

The next of kin of all casualties is notified officially as soon as possible after the casualty occurs. It is earnestly desired to avoid the unnecessary suffering that might be caused to relatives through wrong information sent with the best intentions by individuals. Therefore private cables and telegrams from all ranks reporting individual casualties are forbidden. Details in regard to casualties may be given in letters.

272. MIDDLE EAST O.C.T.U. DRO 42/41.

1. The varying standards of knowledge of driving and maintenance possessed by cadets arriving at the Middle East OCTU is proving a hindrance in instruction in this subject.

2. Subject to the exigencies of the service units will have all prospective cadets taught to ride a motor cycle and to drive a truck before they join the O.C.T.U.

273. EFI - KANTARA. DRO 43/41.

Owing to the amount of cutlery etc being removed (by soldiers in transit) from the EFI Kantara, soldiers passing through Kantara whether on duty or on leave will use their own eating etc. utensils.

PTO

274. LOOTING. DRO 44/41.

(a) Cases have been reported of military personnel being in possession of Italian lira, taken from Prisoners of War or from Italian Government sources.

(b) Any appropriation by military personnel of Italian lira is looting, and severe disciplinary action will therefore be taken against any personnel found in possession of Italian currency.

(c) This order will be repeated in Unit orders and specifically brought to the notice of all ranks in Battle areas.

275. ISSUE OF FLOUR IN LIEU OF BREAD. DRO 45/41.

If required Units may draw flour in lieu of bread at a scale of 16 ozs Bread - 12 ozs Flour.

J. B. ...
Capt.,
S/Capt. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

NOTICE.

LOST. On 15 Feb 41 a Flying helmet was taken from a light biplane (Avro trainer) at Gt Bersio Aerodrome. (Sq Bill Barce Sheet) The helmet is marked with the name "Hosley" and had attached Gosport tubes and heavy flying goggles. This equipment cannot be replaced and will be returned to HQ 6 Aust Div immediately if in possession of any unit.

1 Jan. 41.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. O. O. No. 2.

Ref. Maps BARDIA Green overprint.

Information.

1. (a) Enemy as in Div. Int. Summary No. 4.
- (b) 16 Bde supported by Tanks and Engineers will attack enemy posn 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 of rd BARDIA.
R.N. will bombard North sector prior to and on D.1.
R.A.F. will bomb vital areas prior to and during attack and drop leaflets calling on garrison to surrender.
Armd. Div. will prevent enemy escaping to N. and N.W.
All Div. arty. and attached Regts. will support attack.

Intention.

2. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. will co-operate in the capture of BARDIA.

Method.

3. Troops to carry out attack.
17 Aust Inf Bde
2/2 Pz Regt.
1 M.F. (M.G.) Bn.
"J" Bty R.H.A.
1 sub sec Engrs.
4. Action of each BN is set out in appendices A, B, and C.
5. M.M.G. One Coy. under comd each BN.
One Coy. in mobile reserve vicinity BDE. H.Q.
6. Arty. Fire plan as effecting each BN. is shown in appendices.
7. A.Tk. 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 Tk Coy also.
8. Zero. Div. attack zero 0530 hrs on D.1. (D.1 advised personally to Unit Comds.)

Administration.

9. See Appendix D.

Intercom.

10. Bde. H.Q. Present location.
11. O.P. A battle O.P. will be established by 2/7 Bn manned by I sec. 2/7 Bn. and one man Bde. I Sec. "K" Sec. Sigs. will lay a direct line from Bde. H.Q. to this O.P.
12. Air. Each fwd Coy H.Q. will carry 2 strips of white calico 8' x 18". These will be laid out in the form of a cross to indicate position to Tac R and Arty R aeroplanes. To be shown only when halted after forward move commences or when called for by Tac R or Arty R sorties. Tac R sorties at 0700, 0930 and 1200 hrs on D1 over BARDIA perimeter.
13. Liaison. Capt. R. H. Kiddle, 2/6 Bn. will act as L.O. to 16 Aust Inf. Bde.
14. Code names. The following code names will be used for comds on R/T and in texts of messages only :-

Comd	6 Aust Div	MAC
	16 Aust Inf Bde	TUBBY
	17 " " "	SAVAGE
	19 " " "	BOB
	16 Inf. Bde.	BILL

15. In the event of a general capitulation of the garrison of BARDIA, the word STOP will be signalled. On receipt of this code word all bombardment of the area inside the BARDIA perimeter will stop.

16. All ranks will be acquainted with the Italian phrases as under :-

Hands up - - - MANI IN ALTO
 Open your hands - - APRI LI MANI

17. No souveniring or looting of any description can be tolerated. Strict control must be maintained at all times as individuals straying from their secs. may be shot. All ranks will be warned against booby traps.

18. In the event of the operation having to be postponed, the code word SEASE 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 ----- Bn. Comd. tank.
- (e) Red flag and Red pennant --- Adj't's tank.
- (f) 2 Yellow pennants --- Sen. Comd.
- (g) 1 pennant, (various colours)---Tp. Comd.

20. Infantry signals to Tanks.

- (a) Tin hat on bayonet) Infantry wants help
- (b) Two or more tin hats) Indicates point or linear target.
- on bayonets, pointed)
- towards objective)
- (c) Individual placing) Indicates speech with
- himself in front of) tank Comd. required.
- tank with hand to side)
- of mouth.)

21. Watches will be synchronised with Bde. H.Q. at 2200 hrs. on D - 1.

22. Enemy Signals, Movements and Grounds

Ack.

Signed at 1945 hrs.

Issued by L O + info

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

DISTRIBUTION :

Copy No. 1	2/5 Bn.	Copy No. 17	T.O.	
2	2/6 Bn.	18	O.M.F.	
3	2/7 Bn.	19	16 Aust Inf Bde	
4	2/2 Fd. Regt.	20	L.O. 7 R.T.R.	
5	"J" Bty. R.H.A.	21	6 Aust Div.	
6	1 M.F. (MG) Bn.	22	L.O. Div.	
7	R.A.E. 6 Aust Div.	23	19 Aust Inf Bde	
8	Comd.	24	Lt-Col. Cunningham, 2/1 Fd Amb.	
9	B.M.	25	File	
10	S.C.	26		
11	I.O.	27		War Diary
12	Sig. O.	28		
13	Sup. O.	29	Spares.	
14	L.O. 1	50		
15	L.O. 2			
16	L.O. 3			

APPENDIX A.

Issued with 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. O.C. No. 2 dated 1 Jan.

- Method. 2/6 Bn. group.
- Cond. Lt-Col. A.H.L. Godfrey M.C., R.D. 2/6 Bn.
- Troops. 2/6 Bn.
One Coy 1 N.F.
One Tp "J" Bty R.H.A.
One sub sec Reg. will report on D - 1.
- Roles. (1) Reg. To examine GAP vicinity Post 11 for mines.
Other tasks as required.
- (2) One Pl B Coy with one Sec M.M.G. to remain on Right flank area
GARRIER WADI, one sec. to protect Arty O.P., rem. of Pl. and
sec. M.M.G. to be in posn to prevent enemy movement down
coastline.
- (3) Occupy WADI EL MUJATIR from Post 8 to Post 11 following lift
of Arty ~~xxxx~~ from fwd. posts at 2 plus 15.
Dispositions. Two coys fwd. Remainder less Pl on role (2)
in ROMAN and LITTLE WADIS.
Bn. H.Q. in LITTLE WADI.
Success signal RED - GREEN - RED - GREEN.
- (4) Further roles may be ordered as follows :-
- (a) Advance to line of rd. SIDI HASSEN from Post 8 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 1150 hrs. DL.
Success signal as for (3).
- (b) Mop up guns vicinity of coast between MARSA JR RAMLA and
BIR TUBUWAHM.
No independent move will be made North of rd SIDI HASSEN
without orders, nor any mopping up of guns without reference
Bde. H.Q.

Arty. programme in this area. Concentrations as follows :-

Z - Z plus 5	on Posts	7, 9, 11, 13.	
Z plus 5 - Z plus 10	" "	4, 6, 8, 10.	
Z " 10 - Z " 15	" "	7, 9, 11, 13.	
Z " 50 - Z " 60	two Regt berets on gun posns		52103875.
Z " 120 - Z " 150	" " " " " "		"
Z " 180 - Z " 360	observed fire.		

Just prior to each lift the concentrations will be intensified.

SECRET

Issued with 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. O.O. No. 2 dated 1 Jan.

Net 1.

1. Comd. Maj. H. Wrigley M.C. 2/5 Bn.

2. Troops. 2/5 Bn.
 'B' Coy. 2/7 Bn.
 one coy. 1 N.F.
 one Tp. 'J' Dty. R.H.A.
 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 505586. 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 507590.
 - (c) 2/5 Bn. will move fwd. not before 0545 hrs. D1 to fwd assembly area in square 508595 on EAST side of rd. to be in this posn. by 0700 hrs.
 Note. Recce and picquet route before move.
 - (d) Begin crossing bridges placed by Engrs. 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 SCIMMAS from S in SCIMMAS to its Western extremity.
 - (f) B Coy 2/7 Bn. will cross bridges over A Tk ditch South of POST 35 at 0955 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. junc 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 330).
 - (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 ~~xxxx~~ high ground in rd triangle at 51863905.
 - (e) Rear Coys generally follow fwd coys.
 - (f) Objective - POST 19 at 51795887 - rd at Pt 149 at 51853902 - rd. junc at 51863907.
 Right Coy will hold ground from POST 19 to POST 18 inclusive.
 Left 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 & 25. " " " " " 26 & 27.
Z " 150	- Z " 180	Two Regt. bursts on posts 25 & 22.
Z " 180	- Z " 360	observed fire.

(b) Supporting fire concentrations as follows :-

Z plus 360	- Z plus 331	on Post 25.
Z " 360	- Z " 372	" " 24.
Z " 361	- Z " 399	" " 22.
Z " 395	- Z " 405	" Wire Triangle at 51753906.
Z " 399	- Z " 417	" Post 20.
Z " 381	- Z " 405	" " 23.
Z " 405	- Z " 425	" " 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 519589 and 520588.
- (b) Line of MADI from 51065905 - 52045904 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 M.D. 2/7 Bn.
2. Troops. 2/7 Bn. (less B Coy).
One Coy. 1 N.F.
One Tp "J" Bty R.H.A.
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 500 yds.
B Coy. will move fwd on D1 and cross bridges laid over A Tk trench~~es~~ by Engs. South of POST 55 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 BANDIA from Pt. 167 at 51553905 to rd JUNG at 51563912 and there remain pending further orders.
4. Carriers. C.O. 2/7 Bn. will make available to C.O. 2/2 Fd. Regt. one Carrier if required by him.
5. Role. 2/7 Bn. group will be Bde. reserve and will remain in present locations.

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.

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 Tch. 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 Pd. Amb.
 50853830 - 2/1 Pd. Amb.
 51903792 - 2/2 Pd. Amb.
- (b) A.D.S. 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) STOP AT ALL outside enemy wire on ROAD CAPURAO - 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/and proceed in the directions.
- (d) Cemetery at 51653750.

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 M.C.O. 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 D-1 day -
 50483875
 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 Tch. vehicle will NOT report NOT carry spare petrol - tanks will be filled on the evening of D - 1 day.
- (b) Petrol Point at 51733754 at 1400 hrs. daily.

Water.

W.P.s. 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.

Prisoners.

- (a) Units are responsible for escorting prisoners direct to P.O.'s cage at 51703770. It will be ensured that troops are warned not to fire on the enemy if he has offered to surrender.

Code for use LI LION OFFICERS.

1. " on No. 2 Assembly area HOME
2. " on Adv Assembly Area within Perimeter SHANTY
3. " 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 Coy " " " " " " " " LEFT
8. by Inf in position at (give map ref. code) FOOT
9. by M.G. fire " " " " " ") RATTLE
10. by Arty. in " " " " " " BOOM
11. by TANKS " " " " " " TRACKS
12. Firing from (add map ref. code) ORIGIN
13. Tanks seen at (" " " ") CRAWL
14. Objective gained (add Unit Code name) HURRAH
15. Moving off to exploit (do) CHASE
- ixx For " (a) Right Flank :- Enemy positions along
Perimeter DOOR
- " " (b) Central : Enemy positions line of wire CENTRE
- " " (c) Left flank : Along add to guns CRANK
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) GRENADERS KNOBS
(f) MORTAR BARNEL
(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. F.O.O. with me ARTHUR
22. Arty F.O.O. gone DEPART
25. I have insufficient artillery support NIX
(give unit code name and map ref. in code).

Op. Distr. No. 4.

2 Jan. 41.

C.Os. 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) F.O.O. 5" How 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 1500 hrs.
Role - reserve Coy.
- (e) Exploitation. The signal to commence expl. tasks will be Arty. lift, which at Post R.11 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 SCENMAS in square 516392.
6. AUS. Cav. will rally between 156 and 164 sq 516392 and move out to refuel. C.O 2/5 will see they are relieved, and the gap between 2/5 and 16 Bde is covered.
- (g) Engineers- Two sub-secs 2/1 Pd. 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 M.C., will continue the advance from the NORTH, supported by Tanks, and will halt at POST 15. TANKS will continue to cross Rds at 51885869 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 HASSAN.
- (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 521387 will be bombed up to and at 1130 hours.
- (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 11. They have been instructed to report to nearest officer 2/6 Bn. and then to get on with their task.

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.

1. Which the M.C. ... in this area ...

(a) To relieve 10 Aust. Inf. Bde.

(b) To relieve 15 " " " "

(c) To carry a reserve ...

St. ...
Brig.,
Comdg. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

Distribution :

Lt-Col. A.H.L. Godfrey M.C., R.D.

Lt-Col. T.G. Walker R.D.

Major H. Wrigley M.C.

File.

War Diary (2).

Spares (2).

Please report completion, ...

2/3 ... 2/3 ...
2/4 ... 2/4 ...
2/5 ... 2/5 ...

and report completion, ...

ac 2/7/47

2 3

1 2/3 ...
2 2/4 ...
3 2/5 ...
4 ...
5 ...
6 ...
7 ...
8 ...

17 AUST. INF. BDE. OPERATION ORDER No. 3

Ref. Maps :- (BARDIA
(GAMBAT - 1/100,000.
(MARSA ez ZEITUN

INFORMATION:

1. The remainder of 6 Aust. Div. is concentrating in an area East of TOBRUK defences.

INTENTION:

2. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde gps will move to an area East of TOBRUK on 9/10 Jan 41.

METHOD:

3. Recon Parties of Bde HQ, 2/5, 2/6, and 2/7 Bns, 2/2 Fd Regt and ^{2/7} Fd. Amb., will RV at rd Junc 51583924 at 0800 hrs 9 Jan and proceed to new area guided by B.M.

This party will meet incoming units and guide them to their areas.
Meeting Point on Main rd near Unit areas.

MOVE OF MAIN BODY:

4. Troop carrying M.T. will be met by Unit guides at 51583924 at 0700 hrs 9 Jan and be guided to Unit areas. 25 Lorries will report to each Bn.

S.P.

5. Rd Junc 51583973.

ROUTE:

6. Rd BARDIA - TOBRUK.

SPEED and DENSITY:

7. 10 m.i.h. and 35 v.t.m.

ORDER OF MARCH AND TIMES PAST STARTING POINT:

8. Hq 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. and Sig Sec.	-	-	-	1800 hrs 9 Jan 41.
2/5 Bn.)			1810 " "
2/4 Bn.)	less carriers.		1840 " "
2/6 Bn.)			1910 " "
2/7 Coy)	Fd. Amb.		1940 " "
46 L.I.D.)			1950 " "

ARMY:

9. 2/2 Fd. Regt will move independently on morning of 10 Jan 41.

CARRIERS:

10. Carriers all Bns will assemble on West side of BARDIA - GIUZZO rd vicinity 5157 3925 by 1400 hrs 9 Jan and await return of M.T. transporting 16 Bde Carriers when fifteen will be loaded and move fwd under comd. Lieut Warfe 2/6 Bn. Remainder, being those most road-worthy, will travel by rd under comd. Lieut Walker 2/7 Bn.

ADMINISTRATION:

11. Rations. Two days rations will be carried by all units.

12. Water: Maximum amount of water will be carried. Ration in fwd area is 1/2 gal per man per day.

13. Petrol: Each vehicle will carry two tins of petrol.

INTERCOMMUNICATION:

14. Bde HQ closes present location at 1730 hrs and moves at head of main column.

Ack.

Issued by Sigs.

Signed at 210/hrs.

M. J. ...
.....Major.
Bde Maj. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

DISTRIBUTION: (See over).

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2/5 Bn. Copy No. 1.
- 2/3 Bn. 2.
- 2/7 Bn. 3.
- 2/2 Md Regt. 4.
- 2/7 Fd. Amb. 5.
- Comd. 6.
- B.M. 7.
- S.C. 8.
- IPO. 9.
- Sig. O. 10.
- Sup. O. 11.
- T.O. 12.
- O.M.F. 13.
- L.O's 14 - 16.
- 6 Aust. Div. 17.
- File. 18.
- War Diary. 19 - 20.
- Spares. 21 - 25.

IV Aust. Inf. Bn. 10.5

For the purpose of this report...

1. List the names of the units in the following order...

(a) to collect the following...

(b) to collect the following...

(c) to collect the following...

(d) to collect the following...

2. In preparation for these units...

1/10 1/11 1/12

3. Please report completion...

1/10 1/11 1/12

4. All reports completion...

5. This will ensure that the units...

6. Units to collect...

Mr. Major, IV Aust. Inf. Bn.

DISTRIBUTION:

- Copy No. 1
- 2
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SECRET.

Copy No.....

11 Jan. 41.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Op. Instr. No.5.

Ref. Map TOBRUCH Composite Sheet.

1. Whilst the Bde. remains in Div. reserve in this area it may be called upon to fulfill any of the following roles :

- (a) To relieve 19 Aust. Inf. Bde.
- (b) To relieve 16 " " "
- (c) To occupy a reserve Bde. def. posn. along line of WADI on N.S. grid 430 and astride main rd.
- (d) To occupy a res. Bde. def. posn. along line of N.S. grid 425 or 425.

2. In preparation for these roles C.Os. will recce. unit areas in 1 (a) as follows :-

2/5 recce. 2/4 area.
2/6 " 2/8 " .
2/7 " 2/11 " .

Please report completion, then proceed with recce. of unit areas in 1 (b) as follows :-

2/5 recce. 2/5 area.
2/6 " 2/2 " .
2/7 Bn " 2/1 " .

and report completion, when next tasks will be detailed.

3. Units will ensure that the WADIS in their areas are combed clear of all enemy. 2/5 Bn. to extend this action West as far as grid 430 and 2/6 Bn. to East as far as grid 442.

2/5 and 2/6 Bns will maintain posts at their respective outer flanks to collect enemy straying along the beach front. 2/7 Bn. will maintain a post North of their area to cover the centre of the area. All prisoners taken will be sent back to the P.O.W. cage under escort.

G. Brock
Major,
Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

DISTRIBUTION :

Copy No. 1 2/5 Bn.
2 2/6 Bn.
3 2/7 Bn.
4 Comd.
5 B.M.
6 File.
7 - 8 War Diary.

SECRET

Copy No.

12 Jan '41.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Op. Instr. No. 6.

Ref. Map. TOBRUCH Composite Sheet.

- 1. Ref. Op. Instr. No. 5, para 1 (c). Units will recce areas for occupation of a reserve def. posn. as follows :-

METHOD. 3 Gruppo Fd Batteria.

- (a) Line F.D.L's VADI ESC SCEGHEILIE - 42904200 - 42654175.
- (b) Two Bns fwd - 2/5 on right - 2/7 on left.
- (c) 2/6 Bn in reserve.
- (d) Bn. Areas. 2/5 Bn. Line of VADI from sea extended to 42904200 incl. From sea to 43004250 to be held by patrols.
2/7 Bn. 42904200 excl. 42654175 with left flank refused.
2/6 Bn. area between grids 431-434 and 414-417.

- 2. Special attention is directed to Aust. Div. S/23/G of 11 Jan '41 - Rules for opening fire against aircraft.

- 3. Particular attention will be paid at all times to dispersion of tps and tpt and to ensure that all lights are obscured at night time. No lights will be shown by M.T. at any time.

- 4. Bde A.Tk Unit. DA second Pl. of this unit has now been raised with personnel of 2/6 Bn. These will remain as at present one with 2/5 Bn., and one with 2/6 Bn., under admin. cmd., of those units. They are however Bde troops and may be allotted to any Bn., in battle as the situation demands.

C.N.S. LUPIAETI GIOVANNI,
831 Legione C.C.N.N.
135 Battaglione,
2 Div C.C.N.N.

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

DISTRIBUTION:

2/5 Bn.	Copy No. 1.
2/6 Bn.	2.
2/7 Bn.	3.
Comd.	4.
File.	5.
War Diary.	6--8.

Leutente DAMILLI CAMILLO,
21 Reggimento Artigliere,
de Copps d' Armata,
3 Gruppo Fd Batteria.

MARESCIALLO CHIOME ARTURA
Quartier Generale,
1 Div. C.C.N.N.
23 March Class.

C.N.S. PASSARANTI LUIGI
231 Legione C.C.N.N.
135 Battaglione,
2 Div C.C.N.N.

C.N.S. Di MICHELE VINCENZO,
231 Legione C.C.N.N.
135 Battaglione,
2 Div C.C.N.N.

C.N.S. LUPIAETTI GIOVANNI,
231 Legione C.C.N.N.
135 Battaglione,
2 Div C.C.N.N.

Captured by 2/5th Bn paratroopers on beach

17 AUST. INF. BDE. OPERATION ORDER No. 4.

Ref. Map. :- TOBRUCH, Composite Sheet, 1/100,000.

INFORMATION.

1. (a) Enemy. As in Div. Int. Summary No. 9., of 13 Jan. 41.
- (b) Own Fps. No change.

INTENTION.

2. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. will relieve 19 Aust. Inf. Bde. on night 15/16 Jan 41.

METHOD.

3. Two Bns fwd 2/5 on right, 2/7 on left, each with three Coys fwd.
4. 2/5 Bn will take over front held by 2/4 Bn and 'D' Coy 2/8 Bn.
5. 2/7 Bn will take over front held by 2/11 Bn and 'A' Coy 2/8 Bn.
2/6 Bn will be in reserve in area between Grids 431 - 434 and Grids 414 - 417 as recce on 15 Jan 41.
6. Recce. 2/5 Bn R. gp will rv at Kilo 31 at 0830 hours 15 Jan where reps will guide fwd for recce.
2/7 Bn rear gp will rv at HQ 19 Aust. Inf. Bde at 0830 hrs 15 Jan where reps will guide fwd for recce.
7. Relief res Coys. Res Coys 2/4 and 2/11 Bns will be relieved by 1330 hrs 15 Jan 41.
8. Assembly Areas. Remainder 2/5 and 2/7 Bns will move fwd to assembly areas as under :-
2/5 Bn met by guides at 1630 hrs 15 Jan at Kilo 27 and move to Area 428422 from which guides will lead Coys fwd, at 1830 hrs.
2/7 Bn met by guides at 1600 hrs 15 Jan at HQ 19 Aust Inf Bde and move to Area 426417 from which guides will lead Coys fwd at 1830 hrs.
9. 2/6 Bn will be in position by 1500 hrs 15 Jan.

ADMINISTRATION:

10. All admin details will continue as at present.
11. 'B' Echelon will be Brigaded and report to Bde T.O. at present Bde Area by 1500 hrs 15 Jan.

INTERCOMMUNICATION:

12. Bde HQ closes present location at 1500 hrs and reopens at 43124198 same hour.
13. L/T and W/T to each Bn.
14. Wireless silence.

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

Ack.
Issued by L.O's and Sigs.
Signed at 21/15 hrs.

DISTRIBUTION:

2/5 Bn.	Copy No 1.
2/6 Bn.	2.
2/7 Bn.	3.
Comd.	4.
B.M.	5.
S.C.	6.
I.O.	7.
Sig. O.	8.
Sup. O.	9.
T.O.	10.
O.M.H.	11.
L.O's	12 - 14.
19 Aust. Inf. Bde.	15.
6 Aust. Div.	16.
File.	17.
War Diary. (3)	18 - 20.

SECRET
COPY No.
14 Jan. 41.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Op. Instr. No. 7.

INT. MAP - TOBRUCH Composite Sheet.

1. Patrol reports and Int. summaries indicate the probability of German troops or German influence being present in TOBRUCH.

Reports of 'dive bombing' and M.G. attacks on our troops and our patrols finding trip wires and 'booby' traps substantiate these deductions.

Units will ensure that all ranks are acquainted with the method of dealing with dive bombing attacks as illustrated in posters recently distributed and also with the types of 'booby traps' likely to be met as illustrated in drawings circulated yesterday.

It must be expected that 'booby traps' will be encountered in the attack on TOBRUCH. Unit Field Works Officers are acquainted with the method of dis-arming standard type traps and should pass their knowledge on to all ranks.

2. BROWNING GUNS -

As a result of experience gained in the recent battle, action will be taken to ensure that all Bren Guns and magazines are thoroughly cleaned with petrol and kept dry. Just before use a few drops only of G.P. oil will be applied to the bearing surface. In action each No 2 will carry a ground sheet folded under his equipment and whenever possible this will be placed under the gun each time it is fired, to prevent clogging by dust caused by drought when gun is fired.

3. BOYD'S A. Mk. RIFLE -

This rifle will also be cleaned with petrol and kept dry. Before use the bearing surface will be rubbed with a few flakes of dry graphite to ensure smooth working.

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

DISTRIBUTION -

2/5 Bn.	Copy No. 1.
2/6 Bn.	2.
2/7 Bn.	3.
Comd.	4.
File.	5.
War Diary.	6 - 8.

16 Jan 41.

17 Aust Inf Bde Op Instr No 8.

1. During the present period of preparation for the capture of TOBRUCH the following action will be taken :-

- (a) Fwd bns will carry out recce of enemy fwd defences including A Tk ditch, mines, wire, defended posts and O.Ps, and will submit daily by 1600 hrs their programme for the next night.
- (b) Prevent enemy from completing his fwd defences, especially the A Tk ditch.
- (c) Arrange for MMGs under comd to engage pole sitting O.Ps with their long range streamlined amm.
- (d) Provide escorts where required by FOOs with units to enable them to man any fwd O.Ps or bty posns.

2. Patrols. C.Os. fwd Bns will divide their fronts into sectors for patrolling. Each patrol will be given a set task to bring back answers to definite questions such as :

- (a) Location, dimensions and extent of A Tk ditch in sector.
- (b) Location of suitable crossing places or where crossings could be ~~expedite~~ prepared and extent of work required.
- (c) Location and extent of wire, and suitable places for cutting same, and for using bangalore torpedoes.
- (d) Location of mines in sector.
- (e) Location of defended posts and MG posns.

and other questions as C.Os. will determine on the ground.

In all cases care must be taken to give map refs of point from which observation is made as well as of point referred to and the bearing thereto.

Units will maintain shelling and patrolling traces and forward same with patrol reports each morning to reach this H.Q. by 0900 hrs.

No action will be taken which will involve unnecessary casualties.

3. Bangalore torpedoes. The first requirement for use of these torpedoes is the establishment of a covered posn for LMGs to be available to cover by fire the gap which is to be blown in the wire and so prevent repair by the enemy.

Units will report when their Pioneer Pls have complete training in handling bangalores or ask for any further technical assistance required.

4. The Cheshire Regt is relieving 1 NF (MG) Bn today and comes under comd this Bde. One coy under comd 2/5 Bn and one Coy under comd 2/7 Bn. One Coy will be in Bde res in area of 2/6 Bn.

5. Units will report to this HQ by 1700 hrs today the names of personnel of their comd with mining experience and the extent of their experience.

6. "P" Bty RHA (less one Tp) come under comd this Bde today. One Tp comes under comd 2/7 Bn and the other remains in Bde res area 2/6 Bn.

DISTRIBUTION :

Copy No 1	2/5 Bn.
2	2/6 Bn.
3	2/7 Bn.
4	Cheshire Regt.
5	"P" Bty RHA.

Copy No 6	
7	
8	
9 - 11	
12	

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

6 Aust Div
Comd.
File.
War Diary
Spare.

SEAR O.O. No. 5.

Ref. Maps. TOBRUCH red overprint.
TOBRUCH composite sheet.

Information.

1. Enemy as in Div. Int. summaries.
2. Own Tps. (a) 6 Aust. Div. and attached tps. will attack and capture TOBRUCH on D1 supported by R.N., R.A.F., R.A.A.F., 13 Corps and 7 Armd. Div.

The attack will be carried out in two phases.

(b) Phase I. PIPO (cmd. TUBBY) with NOWA under cmd. will break through perimeter between posts R55 and R57, supported by I tanks. Leading Bn. (CAMO) will cross S.L. at 0540 hrs. D1 and capture objectives as follows :

PEGO - Posts R77 - R76.
NOWA - Trig 121 at 42194250 - pt 116 in 420425.
AMAP - Area gun posns in 418424 - 417423.
IDIR - " " " in 416423 - 415422.
SAXO - " squares 414422 - 413421.
CAMO - posts R44 - R47.

(c) Phase II - HORA (cmd BOB) will cross S.L. at 0745 hrs. and capture objective area squares 416427 - 413427.

(d) Arty. CARI is in support of SEAR.

(e) Eng. will construct crossings at Posts R55 - R57, R65, R77 and R79.

Intention.

3. SEAR will co-operate in the attack on TOBRUCH.

Method.

4. (a) NOWA will move to assembly area in square 421413 after dark D - 1, coming under cmd. PIPO at 2200 hrs. D - 1 and will pass S.L. at 0655 hrs. D1 under orders PIPO to objective.
(b) UPOS (less sec.) will follow NOWA and place crossings at West of Posts R65 and R77 and East of Post 79.
(c) CARI will detail a F.O.O. with NOWA. CEHA will provide a Vickers carrier with driver to report to SEAR H.Q. at 1200 hrs. D - 1. This carrier will be at disposal of cmd. CARI for use of F.O.O.
(d) Cmd. NOWA will report cmd. PIPO for orders forthwith
5. Deception. (a) At 0540 hrs. D1, CEHA and ENGA will stage a demonstration by fire with M.M.Gs. and Mortars against ZEITUN, SIDI DAUD and SUEBI sectors. Comds. will receive posns from which this fire can be brought to bear on selected targets/ in xxxx these areas. CARI will support this demonstration.
Arty. Plan : Z - Z plus 15 posts Z81, R79, R76 and Z79.
Z plus 15 - Z plus 30 same posts plus Z85 and Z87.

Note. Fulfillment of this role will not prejudice later roles by tps. becoming closely engaged with the enemy.

(b) After our arty. bombardment has commenced CEHA will fire captured enemy flares from posns North of BARDIA rd. Details advised later.

6. ENGA will adjust Coy. dispositions during night D-1/D1 and will move through selected checking point in 420417 by Coys. from left in succession to enter perimeter near Post R67 as tanks and PEGO pass its front. ENGA will relieve PEGO on its objective in succession of Coys., right, centre then left.
7. Tasks ENGA (a) Take over objective gained by PEGO.
(b) Limit of exploitation area from which heads of WADI ZEITUN can be covered by Mortar and M.M.G. fire. The advance will be limited to avoid any semblance of close engagement whatever in WADIS.

8. Picks. One pick will be carried by a man of each sec. of ENGA behind the haversack.
9. Wire cutters. will be worn on lanyards.
10. Ladders. Two will be carried by each Pl. ENGA in case the crossing is incomplete.
11. Carriers. During initial stages, 3" Mortar vehicles and wireless van with one 2" Mortar vehicle per Coy. only will move with the Bn. BOPO and NIXE absolutely essential vehicles only.
"A" ech. vehicles ENGA will disperse in area present ENGA "D" at ready call.
A ech. vehicles CEHA in area selected by comd CEHA.
12. Command. After NOWA has gained its objective and after ENGA has relieved PEGO, comd. SEAR will become responsible for the sector held by these units, NOWA reverting at that time.
13. Reserve. CEHA will adjust dispositions to enable them to be readily available for any further role as discussed with comd.
14. M.M.G. Coys. NIXE will remain under comd. ENGA and CEHA. One Pl. res. Coy. will move with NOWA under its comd. Rem. Coy. in reserve.
15. A.Tk. One Tp. BOPO remains under comd. ENGA. Rem. Tp. comes under comd. NOWA on D - 2.
16. Zero. Phase I 0540 hrs. Phase II 0745 hrs.
17. D1 notified to comds. personally.
18. Prisoners of war will be called upon to surrender, handled and searched in the manner laid down in O.O. No. 3, which now becomes a Standing Order.

Administration.

19. Dress. Battle order - Respirators may be worn in along posn. and tied with the whipcord to retard movement.
20. Amn. (a) Each man will carry 100 rds. and 2 grenades.
(b) CEHA and ENGA will each dump in their present areas a Bde. sub-reserve of S.I.A. for their own use. Vehicles will be refilled at once. A man will be left in charge of each dump.
21. Rations.
(a) All ranks will carry an iron ration of bully beef and biscuits already issued. This will only be consumed on the orders of a Coy. comd.
(b) On D1 CEHA / ^{NOWA &} ENGA will have meals prepared in hot boxes by 1500 hrs. An officer from B Ech. of each unit will report to SEAR at that hour and wait information from DESMOND as to delivery of rations.
22. Water.
(a) W.P. will remain as at present.
(b) Water will not be delivered to fwd. units in bulk but each ration vehicle will carry a supply in 2 gal containers.
23. P.O.L. P.P. will remain as at present. A ech. vehicles will NOT carry spare petrol.
24. Sand bags. Each man will carry one under each shoulder strap if they can be procured.
25. Blankets etc. Blankets and spare gear will be dumped in present positions before fwd. moves, and left with a guard. Units will arrange for gear to be picked up by B ech.
26. Medical. A.D.S. at 43044202.
M.b. A.D.S. at 42854233 and 42494170.
27. Burials. Div. cemetery is located at 42854135. Units must provide own digging and burial parties.

28. Prisoners (a) P.O.W. cage will be notified.
 (b) Units are responsible for the escorting of prisoners until taken over by Prov. Coy.

Intercomm.

29. SEAR H.Q. remains present location until Comd. SEAR assumes cmd. of S.E. sector, when H.Q. will be established at Post 74.
30. Battle O.P.
 A battle O.P. will be selected by Comd. ENGA. This will be manned by 2 men of CEHA I Sec. and one from SEAR.
31. Sig. plan.
 W/T and L/T to each unit.
 Wireless silence until unit moves across its S.L.
32. Liaison
 Maj. G.E. Sell will act as L.O. with PIPQ, reporting there by 1700 hrs. D - 1.
 Unit comds. will mutually arrange for liaison.
33. Air. White crosses will be displayed by H.Q. of fwd. clys. when halted to indicate to air posn reached by fwd. tps.
34. Tac R. Sorties have been arranged for 0700, 0930 and 1200 hrs. D1.
35. In the event of postponement, the code word ABSOLOM will be signalled, followed by the number of hours by which this operation has been put off.
36. In the event of a general capitulation the code word STOP will be signalled, when all bombardment of the area inside the perimeter will stop.
37. Tanks. All captured tanks in use will fly either an Aust. ensign or a khaki flag with kangaroo painted thereon.
38. Synchronization.
 All units under cmd. will synchronize watches with this H.Q. at 2130 hrs. D - 1.

Ack.

Signed at 19 hrs.

Method of issue -
 Sigs.

G. E. Sell Major,
 Bde. Major, SEAR.

DISTRIBUTION :

Copy No. 1	CEHA.	Copy No. 14 - 16	Geoffrey 1 - 3.
2	NOWA.	17	CARI.
3	ENGA.	18	UPOS.
4	BOPO.	19	PITH.
5	NIXE.	20	ENID.
6	Comd.	21	Geoffrey of Enid.
7	San.	22	File.
8	Desmond.	23 - 25	War Diary.
9	Derrick.	26 - 30	Spare.
10	Vincent.		
11	Dudley.		
12	Patrick.		
13	Keith.		

SECRET. ²⁰

Copy No. 9..

19 Jan, 41.

SEAR Op. Instr. No. 9.

Ref. map TOBRUCH red overprint and O.O. No. 5.

1. For the Battle of TOBRUCH NIXE will be disposed as follows:
 - (a) NIXE H.Q. at present location.
 - (b) UBOP remains with CEHA. One Pl with a coy of CEHA in posn to protect our right flank North of rd BARDIA. Rem of UBOP in res with rem of CEHA.
 - (c) ASRO remains under cmd ENGA and moves with them.
 - (d) One Pl RANT comes under cmd NOWA at 0600 hrs. D - 1.
 - (e) After NOWA reaches its objective should Cmd NOWA need more M.G. support he will ask Cmd. ENGA for one or two Pls of ASRO.
 - (f) RANT (less one Pl) will follow in rear of ENGA after they have passed through Post 65 crossing. Cmd. RANT will ascertain the dispositions of ASRO and will disp the rem of his cmd. to ensure that each of NOWA and ENGA has the equivalent of a coy under cmd., regrouping Pls if necessary.
2. ENGA will cross perimeter where Engrs prepare crossing near Post 65, with Coy passing through checking pt in square 420416. Route to checking pt and from there to crossing pt will be recon and marked with guides placed along it. Crossing pt will be recon by patrols subject to arrangement with PIPO.
3. CEHA (less one Coy) and UBOP (less one Pl) will move on night D-1/D1 to area South of rd BARDIA as recon by Cmd CEHA. One Coy CEHA with one Pl UBOP will remain North of rd. BARDIA disposed to cover high ground East of WADI ZEITUN including pts. 103, 114 and 117 along WADI Bank. CEHA will provide protection for this Pl. of UBOP.

DISTRIBUTION :

Copy No.	1	CEHA
	2	NOWA
	3	ENGA
	4	NIXE
	5	Cmd.
	6	Sam
	7	EMID
	8	File
	9 -11	War Diary
	12	Spare.

J. Brock
Major,
Bde. Major, SEAR.

*Pwabi
Map Drawing*

1. SEAR Administrative Instruction No. 1.
Issued in conjunction with Operation Order No. 5.

Walking wounded.

1. ENGA will be responsible for marking W.W.C.Ps. and for the receipt and marking of routes referred to in Task II.
2. Task I. To establish and mark with sign post a W.W.C.P. on track at POINT No. 1 at 42234229.
3. Task II. (a) After ENGA has passed through the wire - receive the track running N.W. through squares 424416 and 423417. If this track does not extend to Post 70, mark with tape or direction arrows the line from POST 70 to the nearest point on the track.
(b) Establish and mark a W.W.C.P. at Post R70.
(c) Bridge or fill in ditch at 42104214 to enable two men to cross abreast.
(d) Mark with direction arrows the route marked ENGA ROUTE on track.
(e) Mark with direction arrows the route marked NOWA ROUTE on track.

Direction to Walking Wounded.

- (a) All walking wounded will be directed back along CEHA ROUTE until NOWA and ENGA routes have been marked by ENGA.
- (b) ENGA will arrange for guides to be stationed at Pt. No. 1 and POST R70 to direct walking wounded along respective routes.

Ammunition.

5. (a) In addition to Bde. sub-reserves, an A.P. will be established on D1 day at 43204195.

6. Petrol. Petrol Point will be established on D1 day and subsequent days between 1200 hrs. and 1400 hrs. in square 438417.

7. Water. On D-1 and subsequent days of battle Inf Bns are authorized to draw 20 gallons extra for use at R.A.Ps.

8. Enemy Dead. Enemy dead will be buried in unit areas under unit arrangements - the location being notified to ENID and Officer i/c 2nd. Echelon.

9. Ordnance. Position of running and derelict vehicle casualties will be notified as soon as possible to H.Q. SEAR.

10. Prisoners of War.

(a) A Bde. Prisoner of War Collecting Point will be established at 42504180. Units are responsible for escorting prisoners as far as this point, where they will be taken over by Provost Coy. CEHA may escort prisoners direct to Div. P.O.W. cages in square 427419.

(b) Capt. A.T. Rowan will detail a pl from Employment Details to guard prisoners at the point and to establish a straggler Post. He will ensure that stragglers are returned to their units as quickly as possible.

(c) Capt. A.T. Rowan will detail 1 pl for duty at the Div. Prisoner of war cages in squares 427419 and 408414. The guards must be in position from Zero hour plus 120 minutes onward.

11. Ambulance Traffic.

The road running North from M.D.S. at 42364102 to 42804135 and thence North to TOBRUK ROAD is reserved for Ambulance traffic only.

12. Salvage.

- (a) No captured vehicle or equipment of any description will be interfered with in any way.
- (b) All units are responsible for the collection of salvage in their own areas. Preference will be given to the salvage of our own arms and material, which should be placed in a central dump in each unit area, and guarded. Units will complete to their own W.E. as far as possible from those dumps, the balance being forwarded to Sup. points in returning vehicles.
- (c) Each unit will take an inventory of ALL stores etc. salvaged, showing disposal, i.e. "issued, to replace deficiencies" and "on hand, surplus to requirements". These inventories will be forwarded with salvage as it is returned.
- (d) Supply lorries will carry salvaged articles back to the salvage dump at 45254159 and hand them together with inventories over to the Div. Salvage Unit.

DISTRIBUTION :

Copy No. 1	CEHA
2	NOWA
3	ENGA
4	BOPO
5	NIXE
6	Comd.
7	SAM
8	DESMOND.
9	VINCENT.
10	PATRICK.
11	KEITH.
12	CARI.
13	UPOS.
14	PITH.
15	Capt. A.T. Rowan.
16	ENID.
17	File.
18 -20	War Diary

J. J. J. Capt.,
S/Capt. SEAR.

SECRET.

Copy No. *10*
19 Jan. 41.

SEAR Op. Instr. No. 9.

Ref. map TOBRUCH red overprint and O.O. No. 5.

1. For the Battle of TOBRUCH NIXE will be disposed as follows:
 - (a) NIXE H.Q. at present location.
 - (b) UBOP remains with CEHA. One Pl with a coy of CEHA in ~~posn~~ to protect our right flank North of rd BARDIA. Rem of UBOP in res with rem of CEHA.
 - (c) ASRO remains under comd ENGA and moves with them.
 - (d) One Pl RANT comes under comd NOWA at 0600 hrs. D - 1.
 - (e) After NOWA reaches its objective should Comd NOWA need more M.G. support he will ask Comd. ENGA for one or two Pls of ASRO.
 - (f) RANT (less one Pl) will follow in rear of ENGA after they have passed through Post 65 crossing. Comd. RANT will ascertain the dispositions of ASRO and will disp the rem of his comd. to ensure that each of NOWA and ENGA has the equivalent of a coy under comd., regrouping Pls if necessary.
2. ENGA will cross perimeter where Engrs prepare crossing near Post 65, with Coys passing through checking pt in square 420416. Route to checking pt and from there to crossing pt will be recon and marked with guides placed along it. Crossing pt will be recon by patrols subject to arrangement with PIPO.
3. CEHA (less one Coy) and UBOP (less one Pl) will move on night D-1/DL to area South of rd BARDIA as recon by Comd CEHA. One Coy CEHA with one Pl UBOP will remain North of rd. BARDIA disposed to cover high ground East of WADI ZEITUN including pts. 103, 114 and 117 along WADI Bank. CEHA will provide protection for this Pl. of UBOP.

DISTRIBUTION :

Copy No.	1	CEHA
	2	NOWA
	3	ENGA
	4	NIXE
	5	Comd.
	6	Sam
	7	ENID
	8	File
	9 -11	War Diary
	12	Spare.

Brook
Major,
Bde. Major, SEAR.

21 Jan. 41.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Op. Instr. No. 10.

Ref. Map TOBRUK red overprint.

In continuation of today's action, units will carry out the following roles on 22 Jan. 41.

1. 2/7 Bn. & attached tps. - will extend its front to the west relieving 2/6 Bn. Relief to be carried out commencing 0130 hrs. night 21/22 Jan. Frontage 2/7 Bn. will then be Wadi ZEITUN inc. to N.S. track in square 420426 exclusive.

2/7 Bn. will dispose fwd coys to cover the heads of Wadis in this area.

Commencing not before 0630 hrs. 22 Jan fighting patrols up to two Coys total will be sent out to clear enemy posts and gun positions in this area. These patrols will move on the Western side of Wadis which they patrol.

A F.O.O. from 2/2 Fd. Regt. will move with the patrol operating in square 421426 with the fire of one Bty. available at call.

These patrols will be accompanied by carriers as required by the nature of their task.

2. 2/6 Bn. & attached tps, - will be relieved by 2/7 Bn. commencing 0130 hrs night 21/22 Jan. 2/6 Bn. (less 1 Coy. and detachments as under) will, on relief, move to an assembly area in vicinity trig 139 in square 420422 and remain there pending further orders.

1 Coy. 2/6 Bn. with 1 pl 1 Cheshire Regt, 1 Mortar detachment and carriers as necessary all under comd. will move through area of 2/5 Bn. passing an east/west line through 41954257 at 0630 hrs 22 Jan to the edge of the escarpment about 41904238, and engage enemy bty positions in square 419430.

A F.O.O. from 2/2 Fd. Regt. will move with this coy, having 1 bty available at call.

Exploitation fwd from point 41904288 will be at the discretion of O.C. Coy. His objective will be the capture of the crews of these btys, but he must not involve his comd in the risk of undue casualties in attaining this objective.

3. 2/5 Bn. & attached tps. (less present detachments) will be responsible for the area from N/S track in square 420426 inc. to 17 vertical grid.line inc.

Roles -

i. To cover the heads of all Wadis in this area and the fwd edge of the escarpment running across their front.

ii. To support by fire where necessary the move of 1 Coy. 2/6 Bn. as detailed in para 2.

iii. Not before 0630 22 Jan. send out defensive fighting patrol along N/S Wadi in square 417428 to protect the left flank of 2/6 Coys fwd. move.

iv. If desired by O.C. 2/6 Coy send defensive fighting patrol along Wadi EL CHEITEA in square 419428 for rt flank protection of this Coy.

Note All patrols will move along the western side of Wadis.

v. A. Tk. protection of the front and left front of 2/5 Bn. area.

vi. In the event of 2/6 Bn. collecting prisoners on the way to its objective 2/5 Bn. will take over these prisoners and provide necessary escorts.

4. "C" Coy. 2/5 Bn. with attachments will remain on their present role protecting the eastern flank of the Bde. outside of perimeter and north of Rd. Bardia.


19 Aust. Inf. Bde.

The 19 Bde. continue the front from 2/5 Bn. left bdy and are holding the line rd junction square 41231 - Rd. junction square 410431 - Rd. junction square 40630. The latter reference is in process of capture.

The intention of this Bde. is to attack the Town of TOBRUK by a move north to area square 410435, thence east.

6. 16 Aust. Inf. Bde.

The 16 Bde. is establishing a line from the last reference for 19 Bde. to vicinity Post R17.


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

Distribution :

- | | | |
|----------|---------|---------------|
| Copy No. | 1 | 2/5 Bn. |
| | 2 | 2/6 Bn. |
| | 3 | 2/7 Bn. |
| | 4 | 2/2 Fd. Regt. |
| | 5 | 1 Cheshires. |
| | 6 | P Bty. R.H.A. |
| | 7 | 2/2 Fd. Amb. |
| | 8 | Comd. |
| | 9 | 6 Aust. Div. |
| | 10 | B.M. |
| | 11 | File. |
| | 12 - 13 | War Diary. |
| | 14 - 16 | L.Os. |

IN THE FIELD.
23 Jan. 41.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Op. Instr. No. 10 of 22 Jan.

(Given personally to L.O. 2/5 Bn., and B.I.O. at 1037 hrs.
22 Jan. to pass to 2/5 Bn. and C Coy. 2/6 Bn.)

C Coy. 2/6 Bn. (Capt. J.G. Rowan) after completion of last role, your next role is to move N.W. between sea and edge of escarpment mopping up to line WADI UMM ES SCIAUSC from 41784316 - 41664305.

Note. The approach in the vicinity of FORT MARCUCCI in square 415430 will be made with all due caution.

2/5 Bn. will extend the line made by C Coy. 2/6 Bn. to 41604300, thence S.E. to 41704257.

2/7 Bn. will shortly complete its task having found small numbers of prisoners only, they will then move into area vicinity NE/SW road from BARDIA Rd. to Trig. 139. When 2/7 completes its original roles C Coy 2/5 Bn. and attached tps. will move to rejoin 2/5 Bn. 2/5 Bn. will provide a guide to meet this party where Old BARDIA Rd. crosses perimeter, to be there by 1115 hrs.

DISTRIBUTION :

War Diary	3
Comd.	1
B.M.	1
File	1


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

Ref. Maps: TOBRUCH DEFENCES (12 Jan) 1/50,000
TOBRUCH, BENGHASI 1/500,000.
DERNA 1/100,000.
BOMBA 1/100,000.
MARTUBA 1/100,000.

S E C R E T.

Copy No. 7...

23 Jan. 41.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Op. Instr. No. 11.

1. Information.

Two forces designated Force A, comd. Maj. D. Macarthur-Onslow, and Force B, comd. Brig. H.C.H. Robertson D.S.O., will be ready to move forward to DERNA; the former from noon 23 Jan., and the latter from 24 Jan, with the view of occupying DERNA.

2. ENGA will arrange for 2 pls. to accompany Force B as far as SIDI BUAMAD in square 353443.

3. Transport. 4 30-cwt. lorries will be provided by A.A.S.C. ENID.

4. Task. To collect and take back to TOBRUCH any prisoners who may be picked up on the road by Force A or Force B.

5. Should the number of prisoners be greater than can be lifted in the M.T. available, they will be collected and guarded, and a message sent to H.Q. ENID, who will arrange additional transport as necessary.

6. H.Q. ENID will be given separately.

J. Macarthur-Onslow, Capt.,
for Major,
Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

DISTRIBUTION :

Lt-Col. Walker	Copy No. 1.
2/3 Bn. (for inf)	2.
2/6 Bn. (" ")	3.
Comd.	4.
B.M.	5.
ENID.	6.
File	7.
War Diary	8-9
Spare	10.

W/Dray

SECRET.

Copy No. 49...

28 Jan. 41.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Op. Instr. No. 12.

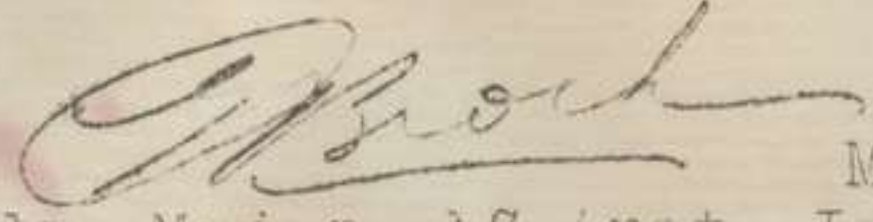
1. Recce Parties will leave for MACHILI area not before 1800 hrs. 28 Jan. 41 as under :

- 2/5 Bn. C.O., I.O., Lieut. Smith with one N.C.O. and 6 men skilled in handling A.Tk. mines. Pioneer party in 30 cwt. truck.
- 2/6 Bn. C.O., I.O., one Pl. with 3 A.Tk. rifles and personnel carried in 3 - 30 cwt. trucks.
- 2/7 Bn. C.O. and I.O.
- 2/2 Fd. Regt. recce party as reqd by C.O.
- P Bty. One officer and one sec.
- 2/2 Fd Coy C.O. and one offr.
- Bde HQ Brig, B.M., B.I.O., Sig Offr, 2 I pers. and Trans. Sgt.
- 2/7 Fd Amb One M.O. and one amb.

2. Transport. Units will provide own tpt.

3. R.V. Junc. Main rd and Bde. turn off.

4. Rations. Recce parties will carry unexpended portion of today's ration plus two days rations and water.

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

DISTRIBUTION :

All units under cmd.

SECRET.

Copy No. 12

30 Jan. 41.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Op. Instr. No. 13.

2/5 and 2/6 Bns.

1. Recce all roads and tracks in their areas and submit sketch of same to this H.Q. by 0900 hrs. 31 Jan. 41.
2. Recce for possible WADI crossings in their areas.
3. Recce for minefields and report location of same.
4. Show all sub-unit locations on above sketch.

2/7 Bn.

5. Dispose Bn. for left flank protection with one Coy. at head of Bde. WADI as indicated.
6. Establish O.Ps. as necessary to cover this flank.
7. Submit sketch of locality showing roads, tracks and dispositions by 1700 hrs. 31 Jan.

1 Cheshire Bn.

8. Allot one Coy. under comd. each of 2/5, 2/6 and 2/7 Bns.
9. Bn. H.Q. will be located at Bde. H.Q.

"J" Bty.

10. Comd. "J" Bty. will co-ordinate A.Tk. protection of Bde. area incl. 17 Bde. A.Tk. Pls. with particular attention to Left flank protection.
11. Bty. H.Q. will be located at Bde. H.Q.

Arty.

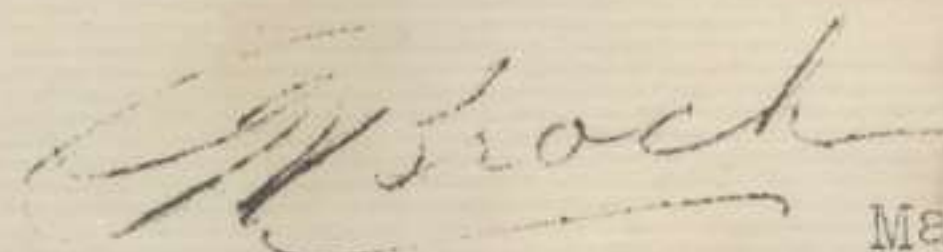
12. The CREM gp is in support of 17 Bde.
13. Units will advise this H.Q. of their requirements for D.F. or H.F. tasks.

General.

14. All officers and O.Rs. likely to use R/T during battle will practice R/T procedure in telephone conversations.
15. Fwd. patrolling policy will be discussed with comds. 2/5 and 2/6 Bns. by Brig. comd.

DISTRIBUTION :

Copy No.	1	2/5 Bn.
	2	2/6 Bn.
	3	2/7 Bn.
	4	1 Cheshire Bn.
	5	"J" Bty. R.H.A.
	6	Comd.
	7	B.M.
	8	2/2 Fd. Regt.
	9	File
	10-12	War Diary.


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

War Diary

SECRET.

Maps : CHAULAN, GIOVANNI BERTA 1:100,000

Copy No. 18...

2 Feb. 41.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Op. Instr. No. 15.

1. 2/7 Bn. with two Tps J Bty, one Coy Cheshire Bn., and one Sec. 2/2 Fd. Coy under comd, will cross S.L. at WADI in 0437 at 0300 hrs 2 Feb and move to line 967447 - 950430.
2. 2/6 Bn. (less one Coy and Mortar Pl) with one Coy Cheshire Bn. and two pls 17 Aust A. T. Coy under comd will pass S.P. on road at 020356, crossing at 0900 hrs 2 Feb. Axis of adv rd. from S.P. to occupy a line 932420 - 929400.
3. On occupation of these posns CRIM gp in support will register on enemy camp at rd junc in 9245.
4. If registration is completed in time 2/7 Bn. will attack enemy camp not before 1500 hrs 2 Feb, otherwise at First Light 2 Feb.
Zero will be signalled by code word BATTLE followed by the hour.
5. As 2/7 Bn. approach their obj 2/6 Bn. will move across and occupy a line astride CHAULAN rd at 912420 facing S.W. again disclosed enemy at 8938 and 8826.
6. A Sqn 6 Aust Cav will operate on our Left flank, patrol route of 2/6 Bn. and maintaining protection on that flank.
7. It is anticipated that further arty support will be available to fire on enemy posts to the S.W.
8. Probable roles 2/6 Bn.
 - (a) Adv to S.W. along line of rd to CHAULAN, which rd. is reported to be mined.
 - (b) Move N.E. through 2/7 Bn. to astride rd at 950485.
9. 2/5 Bn. will move during after 2 Feb to area 0637 and remain in res.
10. 2/5 Bn. will detail two carriers to report to 2/2 Fd Reg at 2/7 Bn turnoff at 042366 at 0300 hrs. 2 Feb.
11. Success signal. On capture of obj 2/7 Bn. will fire success signal 2 GREENS - pause 2 GREENS.
12. Liaison. 2/6 Bn. is responsible for Liaison with 2/7 Bn.
13. Bde. Op. H.Q. will move to area 9740 prior to Zero.

Administrative.

14. Dress. Battle Order - Respirators may be carried slung.
15. Rations: (a) Unexpended portion of day's ration will be carried. All water bottles will be filled.
(b) Ration vehicles carrying rations and water for 2 Feb. will R.V. on North of road at 042366 at 1600 hrs 2 Feb. Units will send guides to this point.
16. Ammunition. A.P. square 3732.
17. Petrol. P.P. will be established on 2 Feb in square 3732. A Bde. Gp. Petrol Reserve will be established at 155392 on 2 Feb. Units will draw double quantities of petrol and dump the surplus at this point.

18. Medical. (a) Mob. Secs will be attached to 2/6 and 2/7 Bns.
 (b) A.D.S. will be established in the vicinity of 044367.
19. Prisoners. (a) Units will be responsible for escorting prisoners to a Bde. Collecting Point on South of ROAD at 042366.
 (b) A guard at the Bde. Collecting Point will be provided by 1 Cheshires.
 (c) Staff Captain 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. will make arrangements with 6 Aust. Div. for disposal of prisoners.

W. Brock

Major,
 Bde. Major, 17 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION :

Copy No. 1	2/5 Bn.
2	2/6 Bn.
3	2/7 Bn.
4	"I" Bty. R.H.A.
5	1 Cheshire Bn.
6	A Sqn 6 Aust. Cav.
7	Sec. 2/2 Fd. Coy.
8	Comd.
9	B.M.
10	S.C.
11	I.O.
12	2/2 Fd. Regt.
13	19 Aust. Inf. Bde.
14	6 Aust. Div.
15	File.
16 - 18	War Diary.
19 - 25	Spares.

17 AUST. INF. BDE. OP. INSTR No. 16.

1. The advance of the Bde will continue on 4 Feb 41.
2.
 - (a) SLONTA force - Comd. Maj. S.H.W.C. Porter, 2/6 Bn.
 - (b) Troops.
 - 2/6 Bn.
 - One Coy. Cheshire Bn.
 - "P" Bty less two tps.
 - Two Pls 17 Aust. A.Tk Coy.
 - 4 Bty 2/2 Fd. Regt.
 - One Sec. 37 Lt A.A. Bty.
 - Two tps "A" Sqn 6 Aust. Cav.
 - Mob. Sec 2/2 Fd Amb.
 - (c) Role. To relieve det of 7 Armd Div at SLONTA. If det. 7 Armd Div. is not seen or not suitably placed, SLONTA force will occupy SLONTA. Cav. to be used to locate Armd. Div.
 - (d) Start Time. 0645 hrs 4 Feb.
 - (e) SLONTA will be occupied by 1100 hrs.
 - (f) Tpt for approx. 300 will report tonight.
 - (g) Remainder personnel will be lifted in unit tpt and ferried fwd.
 - (h) Order of March.
 - Cav. and 1 Tp "P" Bty.
 - 2/6 Bn. and 1 Pl. 17 Aust. A.Tk Coy.
 - Coy. Cheshire Bn.
 - Sec Lt A.A. Bty.
 - One Pl. 17 Aust. A.Tk Coy.
 - 4 Bty 2/2 Fd Regt.
 - Mob. Sec 2/2 Fd Amb.
3.
 - (a) SANOIA force comd Lt Col. R. H. King.
 - (b) Troops.
 - 2/5 Bn.
 - One Coy Cheshire Bn.
 - One Tp "J" Bty.
 - Mob. Sec. 2/2 Fd Amb.
 - (c) Role. To secure a line astride rd and track junc at 615542.
 - (d) Start Time. 0800 hrs.
 - (e) Lt F.O.O. from supporting Bty 234 Med. Regt. will report to Comd.
4.
 - (a) FAIDIA gp Comd. Lt Col. T.G. Walker E.D..
 - (b) Troops.
 - 2/7 Bn.
 - One Coy. Cheshire Bn.
 - One Tp "J" Bty.
 - (c) Role. To secure EL FAIDIA and a line astride rd at 648428.
 - (d) Start Time. 1000 hrs.
5. Cav. "A" Sqn 6 Aust. Cav. (less 2 Tps) with one tp "P" Bty will recon CIRENE and APOLLONIA on 4 Feb. and report direct to 6 Aust. Div.
6. Arty. One Bty 234 Med Regt is in support of the Bde front. 2/2 Fd Regt (less 4 Bty) in Bde res.

(2)

7. Eng. Sec 2/2 Fd Coy in Bde reserve.
8. All bns will use Reg Police for guard duties in towns. Other tps to be kept clear of towns. Div. has ordered that any looters or intoxicated men are to be placed under arrest at once.
9. Every opportunity will be taken by units to treat the feet of their men.
10. Maintenance of vehicles will be carefully enquired into by all C.O's personally.
11. Bde HQ will move to EL FAIDIA. Closes present location at 1200 hrs and reopening at EL FAIDIA at same time.
12. One 109 set will report to 2/6 Bn for direct comm to Div HQ. Report of occupation of SLONTA and normal situation reports will be sent direct to Div. and rptd to 17 and 19 Bdes.

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

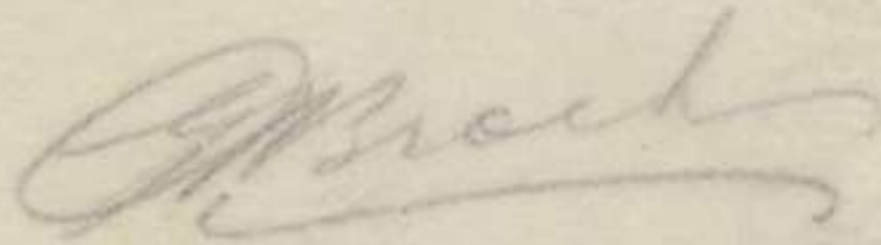
DISTRIBUTION.

2/5 Bn.	Copy No. 1.
2/6 Bn.	2.
2/7 Bn.	3.
Cheshire Bn.	4.
6 Aust. Cav.	5.
"I" Bty. RHA.	6.
"P" Bty. RHA.	7.
2/2 Fd Regt.	8.
Sec 37 Lt A.A. Bty.	9.
Sec. 2/2 Fd Coy.	10.
Comd.	11.
B.M.	12.
S.C.	13.
Sig. O.	14.
Bty 234 Med. Regt.	15.
19 Aust. Inf. Bde.	16.
6 Aust. Div.	17.
File.	18.
War Diary.	19 - 21.
Spares.	22 - 25.

5 Feb. 41.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Op. Instr. No. 17.

1. 2/6 Bn. gp will move passing a S.L. at 0800 hrs.
6 Feb.
2. This gp will take over garrison duties BARCE from
Bn 19 Bde.
3. Recce party will report to G1, 6 Aust Div at
TECNIS (92913) at 1000 hrs. 6 Feb.
4. Comd. Maj. S.H.W.C. Porter 2/6 Bn.
5. Troops 2/6 Bn.
"P" Bty less two Tps.
One Sec 37 Lt AA Bty.
One Coy 1 Cheshire Regt.
Two Pls 17 Aust A Tk Coy.
Mob Sec 2/2 Fd Amb.
6. Start time 0800 hrs.
7. Tpt. 2/2 Fd Regt will provide tpt for troops reporting
at 0750 hrs.
8. Speed and density. 15 m.i.h. and 20 v.t.m.
9. Time of arrival BARCE 1100 hrs.
10. Ensure correct dispersion both on move and when
halted.
11. Ensure that all tps under comd. are acquainted
with instructions re looting and drunkenness.
12. Garrison duties as per 6 Aust Div Admin Instr No
6 of 3 Feb 41.



Major,
Bde. Major, 17 Aust Inf Bde.

16 Feb. 41.

17 Aust Inf Bde Op Instr No. 18.

1. 2/7 Bn will move to AGEDABIA on 17 Feb 41, passing S.L. cross rds in 7118 at 0715 hrs.
2. Route - BARCE - BENGASI - AGEDABIA.
3. On arrival at destination the BN will be disposed in the area as recee by Lt-Col T.G. Walker.
4. Speed and Density. 10 v.t.m. and 20 m.i.h.
5. Special attention will be paid to dispersion during the move and at all times. In new location all vehicles will be dug in. It may be expected that German aircraft will be active in the area of the route covered and more particularly in the new location of the unit.
6. Arrangements for timing of halts will be made by C.C. column.
7. Three days rations will be carried with the unit.
8. One motor ambulance 2/2 Fd Amb will join the convoy near TOCRA and remain attached.
9. Troop carrying tpt is reporting to 2/7 Bn on afternoon 16 Feb.

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

DISTRIBUTION :

Copy No.	1	2/7 Bn.
	2	2/2 Fd Amb.
	3	Comd
	4	B.M.
	5	S.C.
	6	2/5 Bn.
	7	2/6 Bn.
	8	6 Aust Div.
	9	Cyr Comd.
	10	2/2 Fd Regt.
	11	2/7 Fd Amb.
	12	File
	13 - 15	War Diary.

16 Feb. 41.

17 Aust Inf Bde Training Instr No. 15.

1. On completion of the present syllabus C.Os. will direct the training of their units to include the following subjects :-
- (a) General repairing of weaknesses disclosed in recent ops.
 - (b) Anti gas tng.
 - (c) Delousing mines and booby traps.
 - (d) Use of compass, including marching on compass bearings both day and night.
 - (e) Grenade tng.
 - (f) Tank hunting.
 - (g) Musketry (ensure all reinforcements qualified)
Allotment of BARCE ranges (both field firing and classification).

2/5 Bn	Mon - Wed
2/6 Bn	Thu - Sat
 - (h) Adv gds and rear gds.
 - (i) Attack Pl and Coy in attack, both in encounter battle and against prepared def posns.
 - (j) Counter attack Immediate and staged attacks.
 - (k) Defence Rapid occupation of def posn.
Extension to prop def locality.
 - (l) Rapid moves.
 - (m) Open desert formations (as in Bde Tng Instr of 13 Dec 40).
 - (n) Drill Some close order drill for smartening up.
 - (o) Report writing (ensure inclusion of map refs of pts from and to, with bearing and est distances).
 - (p) R/T Tng in R/T procedure, adapted to rapid transmission of information.
 - (q) A.A. tng with special ref to dealing with dive bombers.
 - (r) M.T. Special attention to -
 - (i) Maintenance.
 - (ii) Driving on compass bearing day & night.
 - (iii) Road discipline.
 - (iv) Dispersion drill in column, in desert formation and when halted.
 - (s) Map reading.
2. N.C.O. classes will be continued,
3. Officer lecture classes, with every officer lecturing on some military subject, will be held.
4. Units will maintain normal guards and piquets.
5. Security duties.
- | | |
|---------------|--|
| <u>2/6 Bn</u> | one Coy guards on V.Ps. within BARCE. |
| | " " security of BARCE A.L.G. |
| | " " district patrols every second day. |
| | T.C.Ps. on escarpment road. |
| <u>2/5 Bn</u> | Guard on Hospital area. |
| | Rem mobile defence unit. |

PTO.

W. Mack
Major,
Bde. Major, 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

2.

DISTRIBUTION :

2/5 Bn.
2/6 Bn.
2/7 Bn.
Comd.
B.M.
S.O.
I.O.
T.O.
Lieut Eschen
6 Aust Div
File
War Diary (3)

25 Feb 41.

17 Aust Inf Bde Op Instr No. 19.

Ref maps : EL AGHEILA }
 MARADA } 1:500,000.
 AGEDABIA }

1. Information as in Int summaries.

Strat/R reports MT movement south of MISURATA.
 EA seen on L.Gs west of SIRTE. N.M.S. at SIRTE.

2. 17 Aust Inf Bde Gp will occupy a def posn along line of rd and track MARSA el BREGA - B el GINN - MN BETTUFAL.

3. 2/7 Bn with 3 A Tk guns under comd is responsible for front from coast to track junc at (X) B6478. The area north of main rd will be covered by fire - no troops to be disposed in this area. The Bn will be disposed to cover MARSA el BREGA, the main rd and ground between marshes, utilizing the protection given by these marshes. Defence to be in depth based on a series of Coy defended localities. The rear positions to be selected with a view to occupation by a BN and developed by each Coy to that extent. Seek and mark lines of approach leading to east of the marsh south of B el GINN, and from there fwd to the defended localities. Also mark where necessary and practicable lateral lines behind the F.D.Ls.

If Eng assistance is required submit request to this H.Q. Your orders in event of attack are to fight on line of your F.D.Ls. covered by your 3 A Tk guns. You have the immediate support of 5 Bty 2/3 Fd Regt (less one tp), whose primary role is A Tk defence to cover the front and Bay area and to give you support in depth. You will establish rd blocks in positions already fixed by K.D.Gs. and ensure that each is strengthened by mines and covered by fire. You will watch for the drying of marshes on your area and report should their surfaces become suitable for use as L.G. or for passage of AFVs.

4. K.D.Gs. will prolong the front from track junc (X) B 6478 excl B el GINN - MN BETTUFAL.

Retain one Sqn with 2 A Tk guns under comd at EL AGHEILA.

Role (a) Maintain regular recce fwd to the frontier between EL MUGTAA and AIN EL ZAUIA and to any point west along main rd as considered desirable.

(b) Visit WADI crossings at MAATEN GIOFER, MAATEN BELCLEIBAT and MN BETTUFAL and submit plans for blocking and mining same. Firm information is desired re possibility of WADI EL FAREGH, being an A Tk obstacle as far east as EL HASEIAT. Is there a track along its bed or sides.

(c) In the event of attack by AFVs on 2/7 Bn KDG to swing round south of marsh and come in in rear of enemy, penetrating between EL MNEIZLA and EL MZERRA.

Please submit your plan for this role showing routes and proposed action.

Arty support one Tp 2/3 Fd Regt is placed under your comd.

Routes Please advise which routes you require to be kept open in the fwd area.

5. Free French BN.

One Coy with one A Tk gun under comd to cover area cross rds in (X) B 89 and EL HAMMA L.G. Send regular patrols to track junc R EL GTAFIA (X) C 0085.

One Coy to protect AGEDABIA L.G. whilst RAF station remains there. When RAF moves this coy will move to area MELAH

BN NOGRA to support our front and cover the left flank.

Role - Mobile reserve.

6. Engineer Tasks.

(1) Recce for water within area up to the front line and for development of the supply.

(2) Marking of track B EL GINN - junction with main rd in

(3) W 80.

(3) Marking and development of tracks as required on 2/7 Bn front if they are unable to do so themselves.

Laying of mines at pts desired by C.Os. of fwd units and approved by Bde.

Development of shelters for comd gps.

C.O. 2/3 Fd Coy may use Pioneer Pl 2/7 Bn to assist in above tasks by mutual arrangements with C.O. 2/7 Bn.

7. Medical.

- (1) 2/2 Fd Amb will arrange for evacuation of sick and wounded as their resources permit. A mobile sec with each fwd unit and a nucleus ADS will be the minimum estab.
- (2) All water points found will be tested before developmental work commences, by mutual arrangement between Eng Offr and M.O. of unit concerned.

8. All patrols will report on the possibilities of water supply in the fwd areas covered by them.

9. Camouflage and Concealment.

- (1) There is to be no movement of MT on main rd in daylight.
- (2) No MT to be standing in fwd area during day.
- (3) All tpt to be dispersed away from areas occupied by tps.
- (4) Exercise greatest care to camouflage MT and guns.
- (5) In inf localities no more than 2 men in any slit trench.

10. All units to use every available means to produce maximum air defence by use of own weapons.

11. Air. A daily Tac/R flight will report on area between coast and CHOR SCEMMER as far west as line RAS LANUF - B SCEMMER (X) A 47. Each second day flight will go south to MARADA. A Strat/R has been asked for every 2nd day.

12. A.A. Defence.

The AA defence of this sector is being co-ordinated by Comd 1 Lt AA Bty.

The policy for protection is -

- (a) fwd tps and aerodrome.
- (b) H.Q. and reserves.

13. Technical advisers.

The undermentioned will join the staff of Bde Gp HQ and live at Adv HQ :

Lt-Col	Strutt	2/3 Fd Regt.
Major	Russell	1 Lt AA Bty.
"	Risson	2/3 Fd Coy.

14. Adv Bde HQ will remain at present location. Rear Bde HQ will remain where it is and establish a staging camp for reinforcements and others some distance away. S.C. will live at Adv Bde HQ.

15. Liaison The following officers will act on liaison duties as set out :

Lieut K. Walker	K.D.Gs.
" A.W. Gray	2/7 Bn.
" I.H. Lowen	RAF and rear installations.

16. Bde I.O. (a) Responsible for patrolling of routes and maintenance of markings along routes and turn offs from roads.

Note No rd or track is to stop at a HQ or installation, but is to be made on basis of a circuit from the main rd.

- (b) Supply and maintenance of daily bombing maps.
- (c) Rendering of sitreps and location reports on times and dates required by Corps, after submitting same to Comd and B.M.
- (d) Intelligence summaries.
- (e) Daily news sheet.

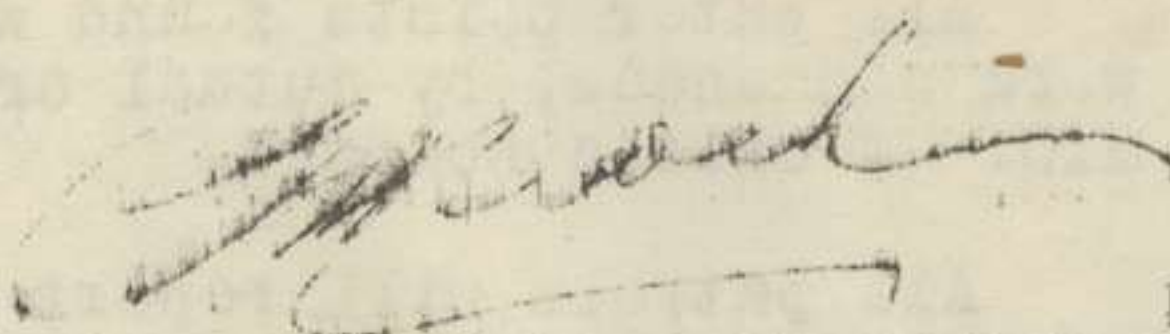
Supplies. All indents for supplies will be submitted to Bde HQ. Supplies will be arranged by Bde sup Offr. F.S.P. 2 miles south of kilo post 835 (36 miles West of AGEDABIA).

PTO

B.

18. Signalist

and sig 800 will lay line to KDG and 2/7 Bn.



Major.
Bde Major, 17 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION :

	COPY No.	
K.D.Gs:	1	
2/7 Bn	2	
2/3 Fd Regt	3	
1 Lt AA Bty	4	
Frnc French Bn	5	
2/3 Fd Coy	6	
2/2 Fd Amb.	7	
208 sqn RAF	8	
Brig	9	
B.M.	10	
S.C.	11	
I.O.	12	
L.Os.	13-15	
Sig O	16	
Sup O	17	
T.O.	18	
Det AASC	19	
Rear Bde HQ	20	
1 Aust Corps	21	
6 Aust Div	22	
3 Armd Bde	23	
File	24	
War Diary	25-27	
Spare	28-30	

Private
Draft

Ref. Maps : DERNA
GIOVANNI BERTA
MARTUBA
CHAULAN

1:100,000

SECRET.

Copy No. 17.

31 Jan. 41.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Op. Instr. No. 14.

1. Indications are that enemy is preparing to withdraw WEST towards GIOVANNI BERTA.
19 Aust. Inf. Bde. has occupied DERNA and holds the line of WADI running S.E. from 290555.
2. The role of 6 Aust. Div. is to secure DERNA against enemy arty fire, and gain control of Rd. GIOVANNI BERTA - MACHILI as early as possible.
3. 17 and 19 Aust. Inf. Bdes. will advance on 31 Jan to the general line SIDI BU HADIA 1362 - AIN MARA 1051 - Pt 407 0834.
4. Inter Bde. Bdy - incl. 19 Aust. Inf. Bde. Pt 557 0450 - Pt 390 2642.
5. A Sqn. 6 Aust. Cav will protect the left flank, and will establish patrols during the hours of daylight on Rd GIOVANNI BERTA - MACHILI South from rd. junction 970360.
6. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde. will advance astride WADI DERNA.
2/5 Bn. Gp. right, 2/6 Bn. Gp. left.
7. Right Group -
Comd. - Lt-Col. R.H. King.
Tps. under comd - 2/5 Bn.
1 Coy. Cheshires.
1 Tp. "J" Bty. R.H.A.

Tps. in support - 1 Bty. 4.5 Hows : To move with Gp. for close support.
1 Bty. 25 pdrs. : To support initial stages of advance from present positions then to follow in support.

Left Group -
Comd. - Major S.H.W.C. Parter
Tps. under comd - 2/6 Bn.
1 Coy. Cheshires.
1 Pl. 17 Aust. A. Tn. Coy.
1 Sec. 2/2 Fd. Coy. for clearing mines, and marking routes through minefield

Tps. in support - 1 Bty. 18 pdrs. following in close support.
8. During night 30/31 Jan 2/5 Bn. will est. one Coy. astride Rd. at 2342 and, after clearing NORTH bank of WADI DERNA, another Coy. astride Rd. at 2040.
During afternoon of 30 Jan. one coy. 2/6 Bn. will occupy WADI bend at 1936 and during night of 30/31 Jan under cover of a fighting patrol, will secure track crossing at 1639, or any other Rd. crossing EAST of that Pt. not shown on map.
9. 2/6 Bn. is responsible that this Coy. secures a bridge head on the NORTH BANK to cover the crossing.
10. 2/5 Bn. Gp. will advance via Rd. GIOVANNI BERTA North of W. DERNA.
Method : (a) Coy. at 2342 will advance to vicinity 1640 and cover advance.
(b) Coy. at 2040 will remain in position until all 2/5 Bn. Gp. have crossed WADI DERNA and will follow as a Rear Gd.
(c) 2/5 Bn. (less 2 Coys) will cross WADI by route SOUTH BANK - WADI CROSSING - thence whole Gp. to objective covered by an Adv. Gd.

11. (a) 2/6 Bn. Gp. (less 1 coy at bridge head) will move from its present position via N.W. track from 1929 to 1333 thence along WADI, left coy. leading.

(b) On leading coy. 2/5 Bn. getting into position, 2/6 coy. will withdraw to SOUTH BANK, WADI DERNA, and move to track junction in 1037 and cover Engineer party to objective.

12. C.O. 2/6 Bn. Gp. is responsible for contact with 2/5 Bn. Gp.

Should either Gp. be held by WADI Crossing or clearing minefields, the other will continue its advance.

13. 2/7 Bn. will be in reserve, and when ordered to do so, will move to area 1929. C.O. 2/7 Bn. is responsible for recon to this area.

14. Assembly areas:

2/5 Bn. (less fwd coys) in sqs 2336 and 2436.
2/6 Bn. " " 2330 and 2331.

Units will signal code word SET when in assembly areas.

15. Start Line -

N.S. track between E.W. grids 21 and 22 and prolongation to NORTH.

16. Zero -

Not before 1000 hrs. The code word FIGHTER followed by the hour will be signalled to advise actual zero.

Admin.

17. Rations -

The unexpended portion of day's rations will be carried

18. Water -

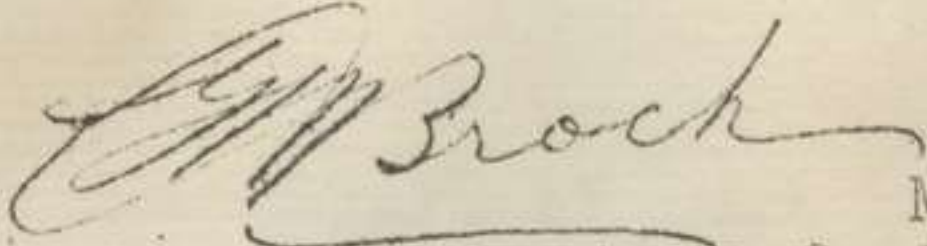
All water bottles filled.

19. Med:

(a) One amb. vehicle will accompany each gp.
(b) A mobile amb. sec. will be established in the vicinity of 165390 when 2/5 Bn. gp. passes that pt. This position will be well marked by amb. flags.

20. P.O.L. P4537.

21. Amn. Pt. P3732.


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

DISTRIBUTION :

Copy No. 1	2/5 Bn.
2	2/6 Bn.
3	2/7 Bn.
4	"J" Bty. R.H.A.
5	1 Cheshire Bn.
6	Sec. 2/2 Fd. Coy.
7	2/2 Fd. Amb.
8	Comd.
9	B.M.
10	S.C.
11	2/2 Fd. Regt.
12	19 Aust. Inf. Bde.
13	6 Aust. Div.
14	File.
15 - 17	War Diary.
18 - 20	Spare.

17 Aust. Inf. Bde. Intelligence Summary No. 17.

Based on information received at this H.Q. up to 2000 hrs. 19 Jan.

Ref. Map TOBRUCH red overprint 1:50,000.
 TOBRUCH (Composite) 1:100,000.

1. General.

Increased activity has been experienced by both fronts today.

2. Enemy Air Activity.

No hostile aircraft have been reported in this area today.

3. Patrol Reports.ZEITUN SECTOR.

2/5 Bn. patrol confirms enemy M.G. position at 42434266, also reported M.G. 42434267.

SIDI DAUD SECTOR.Patrol C Coy. 2/7 Bn.

Route - patrol left C Coy. H.Q. 42504203 on bearing of 303 deg. and proceeded to Post R75.

Enemy fire. Bursts of M.G. fire were encountered from the right and left along line of advance.

Wire and Booby Traps.

Although a careful search made along route in danger, no trip wires or booby traps were found.

General.

Talking was heard in Post R75.

Time patrol out 1830, time patrol in - 2215 hrs.

SUEBI SECTOR.Patrol A Coy. 2/7 Bn.

Route - Patrol left 42434189 on bearing 254 deg. to Trig 145 (42244187), then on bearing 332 deg. with intention of proceeding 300 yds. to wire, with a further 500 yds. to Post R70.

Enemy fire. At a distance of 2500 yds. from Trig. 145 (approx. 42134209) patrol fired on over open sights by arty from the left. M.G. fire from Post R71 was brought to bear on patrol and although fire was sustained it appeared to be in all directions rather than aimed.

General.

Patrol forced to retire, but heard much excited talking and calling around Post R71 before leaving.

Time patrol out 2015, time patrol in 2303 hrs.

Patrol B Coy. 2/7 Bn.

Route - Patrol left 42234176 and moved out on bearing 320 deg. for 4200 yds. and then examined area from this pt to pt 400 yds. on bearing of 25 deg. thoroughly.

Mines and Booby Traps.

No mines or booby traps were seen in area searched in vicinity of Posts R67, R69, though what appeared to be dummy minefields were located.

Enemy fire. Heavy M.G. fire was encountered at approx. 42064196, apparently from Post R67.

General.

Enemy voices clearly heard at Post R67. A watchdog was located in vicinity of Post R69.

4. Enemy Shelling.

Enemy arty has been very active throughout the day, details reported are shown on Shelling Trace, though much shelling on both fronts was not reported in detail. The 6" shells landing in 2/7 Bn. area are apparently coming from a coastal gun. They are yellow inside with fairly thin casing, may be LYDDITE. Only a few burst well, most just cracking leaving large pieces of the casing intact. 2/5 Bn. reported large calibre shells falling in their area, burst leaving large clouds of white smoke. A Coy. 2/5 Bn. reported some shells landing in area, burst leaving strong smell of carbon bisulphide. This may have been mistaken for the LYDDITE shell.

5. Conclusion.

The greatly increased activity by the enemy arty the alertness of enemy posts, the nervous talking heard when our patrols suspected or seen, and the wild firing of M.Gs. at no fixed targets indicate the enemy expects our attack at any time now.

Signed at 2030 hrs.

Lieut.,
B.I.O. 17 Aust. Inf. Bde.

DISTRIBUTION :

As for No. 15.