

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

Item number: 8/2/21

21 Infantry Brigade

June 1941



WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

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JUL 31 1941  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AFFULA	1 Jun 41.	96	<p>Coy Comds and equivalents in other arms were given outlines of the forthcoming task.</p> <p>The Bde Comd discussed the part of the Yeomanry with the CO, CHESHIRE Yeomanry and gave the latter his preliminary instns.</p> <p>The preliminary operation to be undertaken by 2/14 Bn was gone over in detail with the CO of that unit and 2 offrs and 30 men are being specially selected and given intensive night training.</p>	
	2 Jun 41.	96	<p>The Div Comd held a further conference regarding the job ahead at which many adm problems were settled. The CO (Lt-Col R R PEDDER) of a special service Bn "C" attended the conference and the Bde Comd indicated the part which he desired that bn to play.</p> <p>The general scheme of traffic circuits was agreed to.</p> <p>The Comd 25 Bde was given the outline plan of this Bde Gp.</p>	
	3 Jun 41.	96	<p>A conference was held at North SOMERSET Yeo HQ at which the assistance to be given by that Regt in the preliminary stages of the operation was arranged.</p> <p>The question of the standard of discipline was again taken up by the Bde Comd.</p>	
	4 Jun 41.	96	<p>A further conference was held by GOC, PALESTINE, at which reps of all services and forces involved in the forthcoming operations attended. Lieut-Gen Sir Thomas Blamey and Brigs Rowell and Bridgford of 1 Aust Corps were also present. The final details of the operations were discussed and dates and times fixed.</p> <p>Later in the day the Bde Comd passed on essential details to unit COs and the order for the move to the assembly area was issued.</p>	
	5 Jun 41	96	<p>5 Res MT Coy reported and the sec offrs were placed in touch with the bns they are to work with.</p> <p>Ops Instns for the preliminary tasks were issued.</p>	



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	5 Jun 41 Cont/d	96	<p>The Bde Comd visited Div and stressed the unsatisfactory posn regarding air photos, none of which have yet been provided.</p> <p>Various other pts concerning the ops were also taken up with the GSO I including the special task to be undertaken in BEYROUTH.</p> <p>Brig A S Allen CBE, DSO, arrived. He was to take comd of the Div in the very near future.</p> <p>2/4 Fd Regt and A Sqn 6 Aust Cav commenced the move to the assembly areas. They were pushed ahead because of their slower rate of travel.</p>	
	6 Jun 41	96	<p>Final preparations were made for the move of the Bde Gp from AFFULA to the lying up area South of the frontier at TARSHIHA - UMM AL FARAJ. The Bde Gp moved in four separate colns. Move commenced at 2030 hrs and by 0400 (7 Jun) all units were settled and in their respective areas. All units were ordered to reduce movement outside their assembly area to an absolute minimum and all vehs were effectively camouflaged.</p> <p>OO No 8 covering the adv of the Bde Gp into Syria was issued at 0745 hrs.</p> <p>British offrs detailed for duty as Interpreters arrived together with some Free French offrs.</p>	
	7 Jun 41	96	<p>Bde Comd called a conference of all units comds in the Bde Gp at 0900 hrs at which final planning was completed.</p> <p>During hrs of daylight tps rested in assembly areas and all eqpt, weapons, etc, were finally checked. The morale of the tps was the highest possible and it was very heartening to see the quietly confident look on every man's face as he checked over his weapons preparatory to the Bde's first action against the enemy.</p> <p>Guides were arranged for the party which was to endeavour to locate the ISKANDAROUN mine and for the parties to attack the frontier posts.</p> <p>News was received that the landing by the SS Bn would probably be impossible owing to weather</p>	

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	7 Jun	41	conditions.	
	Cont/d		Photographers and press representatives joined the coln.	
	8 Jun	41	<p>During night 7/8 Jun colns commenced move towards the SYRIAN border. DONCOL left the assembly area at 2400 hrs 7 Jun and moved to cross border at YAROUN and EL MALIKIYA. D Coy, 2/16 Bn, crossed border at 0400 hrs and advanced on YAROUN.</p> <p>At 0400 hrs, C Coy 2/16 Bn, crossed the border, formed a br head at EL MALIKIYA and then pushed on to AITAROUNE. Coy of 2/2 Pnr Bn commenced building a road from EL MALIKIYA to frontier rd on Syrian side to allow vehs of DONCOL to proceed via this route to the rd BENNT JBAIL - COAST.</p> <p>CESHIRE Yeo crossed the border at 0500 hrs and by 0640 hrs had cleaned up enemy frontier posts from ALMA CHAAB to REMEICHE. This Regt then moved on right flank of DONCOL as flank protection.</p> <p>The frontier posts were lightly held by SPAHI cavalry and offered very little resistance, withdrawing in front of our forces towards NABATIYE.</p> <p>At ALMA CHAAB the enemy resisted strongly but the posn was taken by A Coy, 2/14 Bn, at 0657 hrs.</p> <p>Owing to inaccurate infm regarding the location of the demolitions prepared on the Coast rd at ISKANDAROUN the specially trained party of 2/14 Bn who were sent to prevent this important demolition were unable to do so and the rd was blown at 0800 hrs.</p> <p>Unable to locate the mine, this special party turned South along the Coast rd and attacked the garrison of 60 in the village of ISKANDAROUN, destroying or capturing it, and opening the way for the Coast coln. Here Cpl Buckler, 2/14 Bn, was killed in a gallant effort to overcome an MG post - the Bde's first fatality in action.</p> <p>The demolition made the Coast rd completely impassable to MT. The 2/14 Bn were pushed fwd by</p>	

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	8 Jun		MT to this pt and then advanced on foot.	
	41			
	Cont/d		At 0615 hrs Bde HQ was established at RAS EN NAQOURA. Meanwhile DONCOL had taken all its primary objectives and were advancing towards TIBNINE, parallel with the coln on the Coast Rd. On the coast the high ground on the right ran down towards the coast rd forming excellent defensive posns for the enemy all along the route. The enemy withdrew along this rd fighting a delaying action on all these defensive posns, causing our force to fight the whole way.	
			At 0848 hrs, 2/16 Bn were held up at rd block and minefield one mile South of TIBNINE. By 1215 hrs DONCOL had entered TIBNINE and pushed on along the rd TIBNINE - Coast.	
			Meanwhile engrs were working on the demolition on the Coast rd and by 2000 hrs the rd was passable to MT. At 1600 hrs DONCOL were within two miles of TYR on the East with two coys of 2/14 Bn two miles to the South. Cav patrols of DONCOL were moving in adv of the coln.	
			TYR surrendered at 1709 hrs and a garrison from 2/14 Bn was left in the town. The Bde Comd entered TYR at 1800 hrs and proclaimed martial law. At dusk the Bde Gp was holding a posn two miles North of TYR. Bde HQ was established one mile North of MAQOURA during the afternoon. At 2100 hrs Bde HQ moved to posn just South of TYR.	
			PW were being sent back quickly from fwd bns and much valuable infm regarding enemy identifications, weapons and dispositions was obtained.	
			During his withdrawal the enemy destroyed all telephone lines but these were quickly repaired by linesmen and communications were maintained satisfactorily.	
	9 Jun		During the night DONCOL pushed on towards River LITANI but after passing BERGOULIYE were held up by heavy MG and mortar fire from the high ground on the right.	
	41			
			At 0945 hrs the br over the River LITANI was blown.	
			At 0430 hrs the SS Bn was landed North and South of the mouth of the River and immediately came under hy and accurate MG and mortar fire. It suffered a number of casualties.	

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	9 Jun 41 Cont/d		<p>Meanwhile 2/16 Bn were attempting to force a crossing over the river but met with very heavy mortar and MG fire and casualties were fairly heavy, especially among offrs.</p> <p>At 1100 hrs two French destroyers stood inshore and shelled the area of 2/16 Bn and the OP of 2/4 Fd Regt, damaging a gun of 170 Lt AA Bty. 2/4 Fd Regt replied to their fire and the enemy craft escaped under cover of a smoke screen. 2/16 Bn suffered 20 casualties.</p> <p>By nightfall D Coy and portions of A and B coys, 2/16 Bn, were over the river and had cleared up a number of enemy posts on right of rd and joined with SS Bn personnel.</p> <p>At 2130 hrs 2/16 Bn attacked and formed a br head over the river and exploited North and East to the higher ground and the Barracks rd.</p> <p>At 2230 hrs 2/6 Fd Coy commenced building a folding boat br with a working party of 2/14 Bn.</p>	
	10 Jun 41		<p>The br was completed at 0130 hrs and 2/27 Bn passed through the br head and seized the high ground North East of the main rd and West of Barrack rd.</p> <p>After passing through the br head 2/27 Bn with att and ancillary tps under comd took up the role as adv gd and pressed fwd as far as ADLOUN.</p> <p>CESHIRE Yeo which had moved on the right flank of DONCOL and then across via SRIFA and KAFR SIR made contact with the Bde Gp at QASMIYE.</p>	
	11 Jun 41.		<p>2/27 Bn attacked ADLOUN and INNISARIYE at midnight and the attack progressed satisfactorily in the high ground on the right of the rd but met with strongest opposition between the foothills and the Coast.</p> <p>At 0300 hrs a telephone message was received by the Bde Comd from Capt Fraser, LO with 2/27 Bn that enemy AFVs had come down the Coast rd and were threatening to cut off those portions of 2/27 Bn West of the foothills. He asked that additional A Tk weapons be sent fwd.</p> <p>CO 2/4 Fd Regt was ordered by telephone to get two 25 pdrs and four 2 pdrs ready by 0315 hrs</p>	

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	11 Jun 41	9/6	<p>and be prepared to go fwd himself with these weapons.</p> <p>The Bde Comd collected this party at 0315 hrs and moved fwd to about 1,000 yds in rear of the fwd inf. After discussion with the adjt, 2/27 Bn, the CO 2/4 Fd Regt took one 25 pdr right fwd, frightened the AFVs out, destroyed some enemy MT and, at the request of the fwd inf, shot up some MG posts which were delaying them. The 25 pdr was then withdrawn.</p> <p>It transpired later that Capt Fraser in bringing the news of these AFVs had come through heavy MG fire and at considerable risk to himself.</p> <p>The objectives were captured by daylight and 2/14 Bn was ordered to move fwd.</p>	
	12 Jun 41	9/6	<p>The adv of 2/14 Bn was held up at HASSANIYE by tanks in the low ground West of the rd and by strongly held posns on the HASSANIYE feature. 2/27 Bn were pushed in on the right flank and by noon had captured the posn. All told we secured 200 prisoners during the morning.</p> <p>The adv towards SAIDA was continued but was held up some two miles South of it by arty fire.</p> <p>One det of 25 pdrs <del>will</del><sup>which</sup> had been pushed well fwd on an A Tk role was shelled heavily and the offr commanding it killed and 2 ORs wounded. One gun was withdrawn but the other had to remain until nightfall.</p> <p>One enemy aircraft of a patrol of five DEWOITINE fighters was shot down by AA fire and fell just behind our adv gd.</p> <p>The Bde Comd received some slight scratches in the left arm from splinters of a .75 shell.</p>	
	13 Jun 41	9/6	<p>A conference was held at 0430 hrs to arrange for the attack on SAIDA. This was launched by 2/16 Bn at 0930 hrs but was not successful due to the action of the tanks and to the difficult nature of the country, viz, thick olive and banana groves.</p> <p>The truck carrying sticky bombs of 2/16 Bn which was being taken fwd by Maj Potts and Lieut Harper was blown up on the main rd by enemy action.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">C.E.A. 5/40. 50.000.</p>	



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	13 Jun 41		<p>One carrier of 2/16 Bn struck a land mine and was completely destroyed together with Lieut Sandison and the crew.</p> <p>Later that night the QM of 2/27 Bn (Capt J Price) was also killed when his truck struck a landmine after he had been wrongly directed through our FDLs.</p> <p>During the day two coys of 2/27 Bn had been directed to seize the high ground around Mye Oumye but no evidence of their activities had been seen throughout the day.</p>	
	14 Jun 41		<p>Little progress was made during the night in the direct attack on SAIDA and the balance of 2/27 Bn was then pushed in on the right but progress was slow because of the extremely difficult country through which the move was made and of the fact that a number of bombing attacks were delivered from the air.</p> <p>At 1630 hrs the enemy counter-attacked with tanks and inf but the commencement of the attack was seen by the Bde Comd from the Arty OP and arty concentrations were brought down immediately. This damaged two tanks and broke up the counter-attack.</p>	
	15 Jun 41		<p>2/27 Bn seized Mye OUMYE and the CO of that Bn entered SAIDA at 1400 hrs. At this stage the enemy had evacuated and 2/16 Bn were pushed through to the Northern edge of the town.</p> <p>At 1600 hrs the Bde Comd formally took over the town and proclaimed martial law.</p> <p>The feat of 2/27 Bn in reaching MYE OUMYE and capturing the French HQ, together with a number of prisoners and a substantial amount of eqpt, was a very fine one and compelled the evacuation of the SAIDA posn.</p>	
	16 Jun 41		<p>The Navy was withdrawn temporarily because of lack of air support.</p> <p>No further advance was undertaken owing to the fatigue of the tps but the posn North of SAIDA was consolidated just South of RMAILE.</p>	
	17 Jun 41		<p>C.E.A. 5/40. 50.000.</p>	



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	17 Jun 41	96	<p>A French sloop shot up some of our tpt South of HASSANIYE but was eventually chased out by 2/4 Fd Regt.</p> <p>Orders were received from Div not to continue the adv temporarily owing to the fact that the enemy had recaptured MERDJAYOUN.</p> <p>At 2200 hrs an order was received to send 2/14 Bn plus one tp of arty to JEZZINE immediately as it was feared by the Bde Comd there that a heavy attack was imminent. The necessary arrangements were made and, in view of the inexperience of the acting adjt of 2/14 Bn, Capt H B Challen, Staff Capt of the Bde, was sent to act as adjt during the move.</p>	
	18 Jun 41	96	<p>The disposns of 2/16 Bn fwd were inspected by the Bde Comd and found to be hopelessly inadequate and indicated a general lack of control. This matter was taken up on the spot with the bn comd who was ordered to considerably strengthen his FDLs.</p> <p>KORR arrived to replace 2/14 Bn and were ordered into the res posn about EL AALAYE.</p> <p>The first batch of recommendations for immediate awards was sent in.</p> <p>Brig Allen assumed comd of the div.</p>	
	19 Jun 41	96	<p>The Navy bombed targets at DAMOUR at 0530 hrs.</p> <p>At 0830 hrs our cav patrols met by MG fire at rd block near QADI EL ZEINI. Cav patrols and one coy 2/16 Bn under Maj Wain pushed in an attack on enemy posns in the wadi and gained a line of observation from QUADI EL ZEINI - JADRA in the face of stiff resistance. An A Tk gun cleverly concealed near the rd block scored two direct hits on one of our light tanks killing the offr and disabling the tank. The A Tk gun was quickly dealt with by the Boyes A Tk gunner in a carrier following in the rear of the tank.</p> <p>2/16 Bn moved fwd and held posns in the QUADI EL ZEINI area and D Coy 2/27 Bn moved to KAHR MAYA to watch that lateral rd.</p> <p>It was learned that 2/14 Bn would be temporarily under comd 25 Aust Inf Bde.</p>	



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	19 Jun 41		<p>Valuable infm was obtained from PsW, captured during the days ops, regarding enemy disposns at DAMOUR. The infm was passed to all units under comd.</p> <p>Bde Comd attended a conference at Div HQ at which the general situation was discussed. He again pressed for the bombing of BEIT ED DINE.</p>	
	20 Jun 41		<p>It was learnt that the attack by Brig Berryman's force on MERDJAYOUN was NOT successful and the G1 advised no further fwd mvt on this flank was to be undertaken until the posn on the right flank was secure.</p> <p>Bde Comd went fwd to 2/16 Bn HQ in SAIDA to discuss the situation with Col MacDonald.</p> <p>During the day patrols of A Sqn, 6 Aust Cav, got to RAS NEBI YOUNES and KAHR MAYA and reported no enemy seen.</p> <p>By dark 2/16 Bn had consolidated on a line of high ground East from RAS NEBI YOUNES. 2/27 Bn were astride all lateral rds from Coast to BEIT ED DINE and JEZZINE with a sqn of CHESHIRE Yeo astride rd NABATIYE to Coast. These lateral rds are the main reason why the adv of the Bde Gp has been held up during the last three days as they provide excellent means for the enemy to either attack our flank or come in on our rear, and no further adv can be made on this flank whilst the right flank is held up.</p> <p>At 1430 hrs the Bde Comd went fwd and discussed on the ground the posn of the fwd tps of 2/16 Bn with Maj Potts.</p> <p>Enemy aircraft activity during the day was nil.</p> <p>The organising of a mule pack train was continued and plans were put in hand to carry a sec of MGs and a det of 3" mortars by this means. This will be a great asset to any unit operating on the right flank where it is impossible to take MT. Support weapons such as MMGs and mortars have not previously been available.</p> <p>Lt-Col A B MacDonald was sent out for a rest and Maj A W Potts MC was placed temporarily in comd of 2/16 Bn.</p>	



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	21 Jun 41	9/6	<p>During early hrs 15 of our own planes flew over and accidentally dropped three bombs near 2/16 Bn HQ.</p> <p>There was still no change in the inf disposns and apart from patrols there was no activity during the day.</p> <p>Patrols of 6 Aust Cav located an enemy tank harbour at CHEHIM. The village was shelled by our arty during the night but the results have not yet been determined.</p> <p>Plans for the adv of this Bde Gp were discussed by the Bde Comd and the BM.</p> <p>During the evening it was learnt that 5 Ind Bde had captured DAMASCUS but it was not known at this stage whether this development on the right would permit of further advance by this Bde Gp. The situation at MERDJAYOUN and JEZZINE was reported normal.</p> <p>The Navy commenced harrassing the DAMOUR posns.</p> <p>Orders were received to adopt an aggressive defence role pending an improvement in the right flank posns.</p>	
	22 Jun 41	9/6	<p>Brig Baxter-Cox and Col Chapman attended a conference at Bde HQ and discussed the situation of 25 Aust Inf Bde at JEZZINE and of this Bde at SAIDA.</p>	
	23 Jun 41	9/6	<p>No further adv of this Bde Gp was permitted owing to the situation in the right sectors.</p> <p>Active patrolling was carried out North and East of our FDLs. Little enemy mvt was seen.</p> <p>The Bde Comd accompanied the Div Comd to HQ Berryman Force near Mettula and there discussed the posn with Gen Sir Archibald Wavell. The absence of 3" mortar amn was stressed with the GOC-i-C.</p> <p>Twelve Spanish deserters from the Foreign Legion came into our lines. Additional mules were captured and added to our mule train.</p>	



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	24 Jun	41	<p>Active patrolling was carried out in BARJA - BAASSIR - BAAQOUN area. No enemy was seen except in QASSOUBA area. Our arty engaged AFVs moving in QASSOUBA area and one was destroyed.</p> <p>Col WITHEY, Comd 2/25 Bn, arrived at Bde HQ at 2100 hrs and the general situation was explained to him by the Bde Comd. 2/25 Bn, less one coy which is at the LITANI River, will arrive and come under comd at 0800 hrs 25 Jun.</p> <p>3" mortar amn arrived at long last - 320 rds per bn.</p> <p>The Navy again shelled DAMOUR.</p>	
	25 Jun	41	<p>Patrols pushed fwd to area ED DALAMIYE to find suitable MG posns for firing on the DAMOUR defences. Patrols were also active in the area BARJA - BAASSIR.</p> <p>A patrol of Cheshire Yeo contacted the enemy at MAZBOUD.</p> <p>2/25 Bn, less two coys, arrived at 0800 hrs and were bivouaced in the American College area. The CO and coy comds went fwd to SEBLINE to make a recce for their attack on CHEHIM. The role of this bn is to close the lateral rd from BEIT ED DINE and thus form a safe flank from which a further adv of this Bde could be made.</p> <p>At 1845 hrs 2/16 Bn and A/Coy 2/27 Bn advanced towards the line QASSOUBA - ER REZANIYE. Enemy arty fire from about six guns swept the area of our adv but no casualties were suffered. The enemy at QASSOUBA withdrew towards DAMOUR and no resistance was encountered. All objectives were consolidated by 0400 hrs 26 Jun.</p> <p>One enemy Armd C was destroyed, making 9 tanks and 5 Armd Cs put out of action by this Bde Gp.</p> <p>Brig L Beavis DSO, DOS, AIF, visited Bde HQ.</p>	
	26 Jun	41	<p>2/25 Bn attacked CHEHIM and MAZBOUD during the early hrs and after little resistance took</p>	

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	26 Jun 41	9/6	<p>MAZBOUD. They were held up at CHEHIM by enemy Armd Cs and MGs but by vigorous tank hunting they had cleared the village by 1300 hrs and consolidated on high ground just East of the town. The men were very tired and it was decided to wait until 27 Jun before pushing on to AANOUT. Patrols kept contact with the enemy.</p> <p>2/16 and 2/27 Bns consolidated on the line QASSOUBA - ER REZANIYE and patrolled fwd to gain pts of observation on DAMOUR.</p>	
	27 Jun 41	9/6	<p>2/25 Bn advanced and captured the high ground East of CHEHIM at Pt 764.</p> <p>Lt-Col MacDonald resumed Comd of 2/16 Bn.</p> <p>FDLs were est on the high ground North of ES SADIYATT - ES SIYAR - ER REZANIYE.</p> <p>Brig C CLOWES, DSO, MC, CCRA, 1 Aust Corps, and Lt-Col Wells, GSO <u>II</u> Corps visited Bde HQ.</p> <p>A conference was held of COs to discuss future ops against DAMOUR.</p>	
	28 Jun 41	9/6	<p>Patrols 2/16 and 2/27 Bns gained pts of observation on DAMOUR defences. FDLs now on line ES SADIYATT - ES SIYAR - EL FESTEQANIYE - ER REZANIYE.</p> <p>There was increased enemy shelling along the whole front during the past 24 hrs, particularly against A Coy, 2/27 Bn. Suitable retaliatory measures were taken.</p> <p>Our arty and the Navy bombarded known enemy defences in DAMOUR today.</p> <p>2/25 Bn holding Pt 764 East of CHEHIM were in contact with the enemy.</p> <p>A patrol of enemy cav were seen moving from MEJDALOUNA to JAMLIEH about 1800 hrs. One pl 2/27 Bn and one tp A Sqn were now holding JAMLIEH. Offensive action will be taken tomorrow against enemy cav.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices
	29 Jun 41	/	<p>At 0530 hrs the Bde Comd went fwd to coys of 2/16 and 2/27 Bns and discussed the situation with the Comds on the ground.</p> <p>The BM left at 0700 hrs to observe the attack by 2/25 Bn on enemy posns East of CHEHIM. The enemy withdrew towards BEIT ED DINE and by 1300 hrs 2/25 Bn were in possession of DARAYA and AANOUT. By 1500 hrs 2/25 Bn had consolidated astride the rd CHEHIM - BEIT ED DINE just fwd of AANOUT.</p> <p>An enemy coln of MT, cav and inf were engaged by our arty on rd RHARIFE - HASROUT. The results are unknown.</p> <p>Five deserters from 1 Bn 6 Regt RLE gave themselves up to D coy 2/27 Bn this morning.</p> <p>2/16 and 2/27 Bns patrols were active in gaining pts of observation on DAMOUR defences.</p> <p>Enemy arty activity increased today but shells landed on areas not occupied by our tps.</p> <p>One recce plane flew over at 1550 hrs but dropped no bombs.</p> <p>Div Comd discussed plans for the attack on DAMOUR.</p> <p>Enemy guns were located at ABEY.</p>	
	30 Jun 41	/	<p>During the night C Coy 2/27 Bn captured Pt 394, 12551957, taking 5 PW.</p> <p>2/25 Bn consolidated astride the rd CHARIFE - AANOUT at approx 130188. Patrols were pushed fwd to HASROUT but were shelled heavily by a hostile bty and withdrew to AANOUT. A patrol to EL ZAAROUYE reported no enemy seen.</p> <p>One tp A Sqn 6 Aust Cav patrolled to MAZRAAT ED DEIR and reported enemy had withdrawn to EL JLEILIYE and EL MTOLE.</p> <p>Our arty continued harrassing fire on the DAMOUR defences.</p>	

C.E.A. 5/40. 50.000.



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

~~INTELLIGENCE~~ SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices
	30 Jun 41 Cont/d		<p>The Navy bombarded known enemy posns in DAMOUR during the night. Fires were started but further results are not known.</p> <p>Brig S Savige DSO, MC, Comd 17 Aust Inf Bde, visited Bde to discuss his part in the forthcoming ops at DAMOUR.</p> <p>To the end of June battle casualties in the Bde were - Offrs : 7 killed, 26 wounded. ORs : 38 killed, 290 wounded, 28 missing.</p> <p>The figures for the whole Bde Gp were - Offrs : 9 killed, wounded 29. ORs : 48 killed, wounded 324, missing 30.</p> <p>In the same period the number of prisoners passing through the Bde Collecting Post was - 26 offrs, 108 NCOs and 712 ORs.</p>	

*Jes Stevens Brig.  
comd. 21 Aust. Inf. Bde.*



S E C R E T

Copy No 24

4 Jun 41.

21 AUSTRALIAN INF BDE GP CO No 7.

Ref Map : HAIFA and BEISAN Sheets 1/100,000.

INFORM.

1. See 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp Int Summary No 1 issued in conjunction with these orders.
2. Aust Div Exporter Force moves to assembly areas general line ROSH PINNA 201264 - TARSHIHA 175268 - UMM AL FARAJ 161267.
3. Tps under comd -

Two tps ROYALS  
CHESHIRE Yeo (less one sqn)  
"A" sqn 6 Aust Cav  
2/4 Rd Regt  
6 A Tk Bty  
170 Lt AA Bty (less one tp)  
2/6 Rd Coy  
Det Sigs Aust Div Exporter  
2/6 Rd Amb (less HQ Coy)

INTENTION.

4. 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp will assemble in the general area TARSHIHA 175268 - UMM AL FARAJ 161267 - AZZIB 159272.

METHOD.

5. 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp will be divided into colns as under :

(i) Designated "DONCOL".  
Comd - Lt-Col A B MacDonald 2/16 Bn.  
Two tps ROYALS  
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav (less Lt Tk tps)  
2/4 Rd Regt (less one bty)  
Two tps 6 A Tk Bty (less two guns)  
One tp 170 Lt AA Bty  
2/6 Rd Coy (less one sec)  
2/16 Bn  
One coy 2/6 Rd Amb.

(ii) Designated "MOTCOL".  
Comd - Lt-Col M J Moten 2/27 Bn.  
Lt Tk Tps A Sqn 6 Aust Cav  
One bty 2/4 Rd Regt  
6 A Tk Bty (less two tps)  
170 Lt AA Bty (less two tps)  
One sec 2/6 Rd Coy  
2/27 Bn  
One coy 2/6 Rd Amb

Components of above colns come under comd 0900 hrs D - 2.

(iii) Cheshire Yeomanry.

(iv) 2/14 Bn (with special and res roles).

6. Assembly areas are allotted as follows :-

/DONCOL -



DONCOL - Area TARSHIHA 175268  
 MOTCOL - " UMM AL FARAJ 161267  
 Two coys  
 2/14 Bn  
 (less one  
 pl) - " AZZIB 159272  
 2/14 Bn  
 (less  
 above) - Wooded area 160265  
 CHESHIRE  
 YEO - ALKABRI 164268  
 B Ech (all  
 units) - UMM AL FARAJ (after departure of  
 MOTCOL).

7. The movement will be carried out by night in accordance with Movement Table att as Appx "A".
8. During the move absolutely no lights will be used after passing SHA'AR HA ANAQIM 160236.
9. Immediately on arrival in assembly areas all vehs and personnel will be placed under cover and camflg. The various cols will "lie up" during the day of D - 1. No mvt of vehs will be permitted and such personnel mvt as is necessary will be made under cover.
10. Outline instns have already been issued for the further actions of cols after leaving the assembly areas and cols will move to the assembly area in the order they will leave for their subsequent action to reduce mvt in the assembly area to a minimum.

ADM.

11. B Ech all units move on D1 to UMM AL FARAJ after MOTCOL has vacated that area.  
 The order of march of B Ech will be as follows -

(i)	All subunits "DONCOL"	} Comd - Capt R White, Bde Tpt Ofcr
(ii)	HQ Bde Gp	
(iii)	All subunits "MOTCOL"	
(iv)	CHESHIRE YEO	
(v)	2/14 Bn	

12. B Ech remains this area until ordered fwd.
13. 5 Res MT Coy reports 1200 hrs D - 2. Units will have guides detailed ready to report to HQ 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp as soon as signalled for.
14. Embussing Pts - Unit areas.
15. Further Adm Orders issued separately.

INTERCOMN.

16. Wireless silence during move and whilst in assembly areas.
17. HQ 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp closes present location 0130 hrs D minus 1 and reopens ALBAHJA 159260 at same time.
18. DR routes fwd from Bde HQ will be by track AL BAHJA - AL KABRI and rd TARSHIHA - NAHARIYA.  
 The main rd will NOT be used.

/19. Following -



19. Following dets Div Sigs are att from 1900 hrs D minus 3:

Three W/T Sets 109  
One Cable det  
Four MC DRS.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Maj.  
BM 21 Aust Inf Bde.

ACK  
Issued to sigs  
Signed at 2010 hrs.

<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
2/14 Bn	1
2/16 Bn	2
2/27 Bn	3
Sigs	4
59 IAD	5
A Sqn ROYALS	6
CHESHIRE YEO	7
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	8
2/4 Fd Regt	9
6 A Tk Bty	10
Tp 170 Lt AA Bty	11
2/6 Fd Coy	12

<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
2/6 Fd Amb	13
AILO	14
25 Aust Inf Bde Gp	15
Aust Div Exporter	16
Comd	17
LCs	18-20
Bde TO	21
File	22-23
War Diary	24-25
Spare	26-27.



MOVEMENT TABLE.

ROUTE : AFFULA - Rd JUNE 17762292 - SHIMRON 170234 - SHA'AR HA AMAQIM 160236 - Rd JUNE 15302438 - ACRE - NAHARIYA  
 159268 - TARSHIEA 17532687.  
 DISPERSAL PTS : Assembly areas as shown.  
 HALTS : 10 mins before every even hr (except DONCOL and MOTCOL).

Serial No (a)	Date (b)	Formation or Unit (c)	No of vehs (d)	Place		SP (g)	Time past SP (h)	Speed to SP (j)	Speeds and Densities		Remarks	
				From (e)	To (f)				min (k)	veh (l)		
1	D-3	"A" Sqn 6 Aust Cav	18	AFFULA	SHA'AR HA AMAQIM	Rd & Track June 17442292	2030	6 mih	6	30	Move to intermediate "lying up" area as already recd.	
2	"	2/4 RI Regt	103		160236	Rd June 17742246	2050					
3	D-2	"A" Sqn 6 Aust Cav	18	SHA'AR HA AMAQIM	Assembly Areas	Rd June 16102364	2030	6 mih	6	30		
4	"	2/4 RI Regt	103		DONCOL & MOTCOL							
5	D-2	2/14 Bn	19	AFFULA	AZZIB	Rd June 17762292	2215			30	On reaching AZZIB all vehs for these coys return to unit assembly area.	
6	"	2/14 Bn	57		NAHARIYA							
7	D-2	HQ Bde Gp	17	AFFULA	ALSAHIA	Rd June 17742246	2230	12 mih	12	30	g halts 10 mins before every odd hr.	
8	"	DONCOL g (incl Tyforce)	218		TARSHIEA	Rd June 16952340						2345
9	D-1	MOTCOL g	167		UMM AL FARAJ	" " "						0140
10	D-1	Vehs serial No 5 above	19	AZZIB	Wooded Area 160265	AZZIB	0340	12 mih	12	30	Vehs of 5vRes MT Coy which lifted 2/14 Bn report to 25 Aust Inf Bde as soon as this move complete.	
11	D1	2/6 RI Amb (less two coys)	20	AFFULA	AL BIRWA	Rd June 17742246	0800	20 mih	20	15		
12	D1	B Ech all units	147	AFFULA	NAHARIYA	Rd June 16952336	1200	20 mih	20	15		

CHESHIRE YEO moves to ass embly area across country under separate arrangements.



21 AUST INF BDE GP CO NO 8.

Ref Maps : BEYROUTH Sheet 1/200,000  
HAIFA and SAFAD Sheets 1/100,000.

INFM.

1. Vide 21 Aust Inf Bde Int Summaries Nos 1 & 2.
2. Exporter Force is to adv on D1 day into SYRIA and seize the aerodromes at BEYROUTH and RAYAK. 25 Aust Inf Bde Gp will adv on the right on the axis METULLAH 204298 - MERDJAYOUN 136159 - HASBAYE 145162 - RAYAK 175213.  
21 Aust Inf Bde Gp will move on the left on the general axis COAST Rd.
3. Inter bde boundary (all incl 21 Aust Inf Bde) - EL MALIKIYA 198271 - TIBNINE 188289 - HABBOUCH 126164 - JEZZINE 136179 - MOUKHTARA 139191 - BAROUCH 145196 - AINSORA 148207 - (all incl 25 Aust Inf Bde) HAMMANA 151210 - MROUJ 152219.
4. 5 Ind Inf Bde and Free French Forces are operating on the right of the 25 Bde Gp.
5. C Bn SS is landing near the mouth of the LITANI River at 0200 hrs D1 to secure a br head over that river and prevent the demolition of the br there and the br at ABU EL ASSOUD. This bn will remain in posn until DONCOL passes North of the river when it will withdraw from the op.

INTENTION.

6. 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp will seize the aerodrome at BEYROUTH.

METHOD.

7. 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp will be divided into the following cols :

(a) To be known as "DONCOL"  
Comd - Lt-Col A B MacDonald 2/16 Bn  
Two tps ROYALS (armd Cs)  
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav (less tk tps)  
2/4 Fd Regt (less one bty)  
Two tps 6 A Tk Bty  
One tp 170 Lt AA Bty  
2/6 Fd Coy (less one sec)  
2/16 Bn  
One coy 2/6 Fd Amb  
C Sec 5 Res MT Coy

(b) To be known as "MOTCOL"  
Comd - Lt-Col M J Moten 2/27 Bn  
Two tk tps A Sqn 6 Aust Cav  
One bty 2/4 Fd Regt  
6 A Tk Bty (less two tps)  
170 Lt AA Bty (less two tps)  
One sec 2/6 Fd Coy  
2/27 Bn  
One coy 2/6 Fd Amb  
D Sec 5 Res MT Coy.

Rear HQ 21 Aust Inf Bde moves in rear of MOTCOL.

- (c) To be known as TYR FORCE and to be utilised to garrison TYR after capture :

/Comd -



Comd - Capt S Howden 2/14 Bn  
C Coy 2/14 Bn  
Two carriers 2/14 Bn  
Two dets 3 Pl 2/14 Bn  
One gun 6 A Tk Bty

- (d) CHESHIRE YEO (less org sqn)
- (e) 2/14 Bn (less TYR FORCE)

8. Objective : Rd RAYAK - BEYROUTH west of AIN SOPAR (incl).

Intermediate Objectives : First, Rd MERDJAYOUN - HABBOUCH - COAST.  
Second, Rd JEZZINE - SAIDA.

A halt will be made on second objectives until contact has been made with 25 Aust Inf Bde Gp or permission to adv is given by Bde. Armd patrols will however be sent fwd of this objective during any period that the adv is delayed.

Pts of contact with 25 Bde Gp are  
HABBOUCH  
JEZZINE  
AIN SOPAR.

DONCOL is responsible for establishing contact at these pts.

9. Separate instns have been issued to the following units for the creation of br heads at the places shown :

(a) DONCOL : YAROUN 189276 - AIN EBEL 188279 - AITAROUNE 194280 - BENNT JBAIL 191281.

(b) CHE SHIRE YEO : KH JEREINE 172279 - RAMIET 179279 - AYTA ECH CHAAB 182278 - REMEICHE 185275.

(c) 2/14 Bn : ALMA CHAAB 167279 - LABOUNA 164277 - NAQOURA 163281 - ISKANDAROUN 166284.

10. As soon as the enemy posts YAROUN, AIN EBEL, AITAROUNE and BENNT JBAIL have been captured by DONCOL a track will be built by one coy 2/2 Pnr Bn from the PALESTINE frontier rd at EL MALIKIYA to join up with the French frontier rd. DONCOL will cross the frontier by this track at 0445 hrs and adv via TIBNINE 189289 and TYR 170296.

11. TYR FORCE will follow immediately after DONCOL and will be under comd until placed in TYR as garrison. Tpt for TYR FORCE will be drawn from extra vehs of C and D Sub-sections of 5 MT Res Coy.

12. CHESHIRE YEO, on completion of task in para 10 above, will adv via TIBNINE - TIERZEBNA 187295 - SRIWA 187298 to KAHR SIR 121154. It will be prepared to turn from the East any defences on the line of the R LITANI should DONCOL be held up South of the R. Any orders for this op will be given by DONCOL at rd junc 188294 South of TIER ZEBNA. If not required for this op, CHESHIRE YEO will proceed to area ZEBDEINE 124160 - HABBOUCH and provide flank protection astride the rds NABATIYE - ABOU EL ASSOUD 106159 and HABBOUCH - COAST during night D1/D2.

13. MOTCOL will move from Assembly Areas and halt with the leading elements of the coln at rd junc 15962680 at 0500 hrs and there await orders from Gp Comd. If the COAST Rd is passable, MOTCOL will send det to clear the rd as far North as RACHIDLIE 170293. Further adv of MOTCOL via the COAST Rd will only take place after TYR has been captured by DONCOL. The responsibility of advising MOTCOL of the capture of TYR rests with DONCOL.

14. Should the COAST Rd be rendered impassable, MOTCOL will be /diverted -



diverted by Gp Comd to follow DONCOL.

- 15. The action to be taken on arrival at BEYROUTH will be covered in an op instn to be issued but DONCOL must seize aerodrome and approaches between HSAIME 132214 and the COAST while MOTCOL seizes the Eastern and Northern entrances between ZAAJAR 134215 and ANTELIAS 137220.

ADM.

- 16. See Adm Instn No 1 issued separately.

INTERCOMN.

- 17. Ground to ground : W/T dets will be provided as under :

- (a) Adv Bde Gp HQ - 109 sets
- (b) DONCOL - 109 and 101 sets
- (c) MOTCOL - 101 set
- (d) 2/14 Bn - 101 set.

- 18. Ground to air :

- (a) RAF Tender with Adv Bde Gp HQ
- (b) Recognition strips.

- 19. Air to Ground : Color of day and message dropping (see supplementary code list issued separately). Sig layout diagram is being issued separately.

- 20. White square to indicate posn fwd tps and AFVs to be displayed on call from air by color of day or by aircraft flying a series of "S" turns.

- 21. Adv Bde Gp HQ at RAS EN NAQURA till ISKANDAROUN captured thence via COAST Rd. If rd destroyed at that pt, follows DONCOL. Wireless silence until zero.

- 22. Rear Bde HQ moves in rear of MOTCOL.

- 23. LOs with DONCOL and MOTCOL as from 2000 hrs D - 1.

- 24. Password in two parts :-

Question; Where is the KOCKABURRA  
 Answer, At CANBERRA.

ACK.

Signed at 0745 hrs.  
 Issued to sigs.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

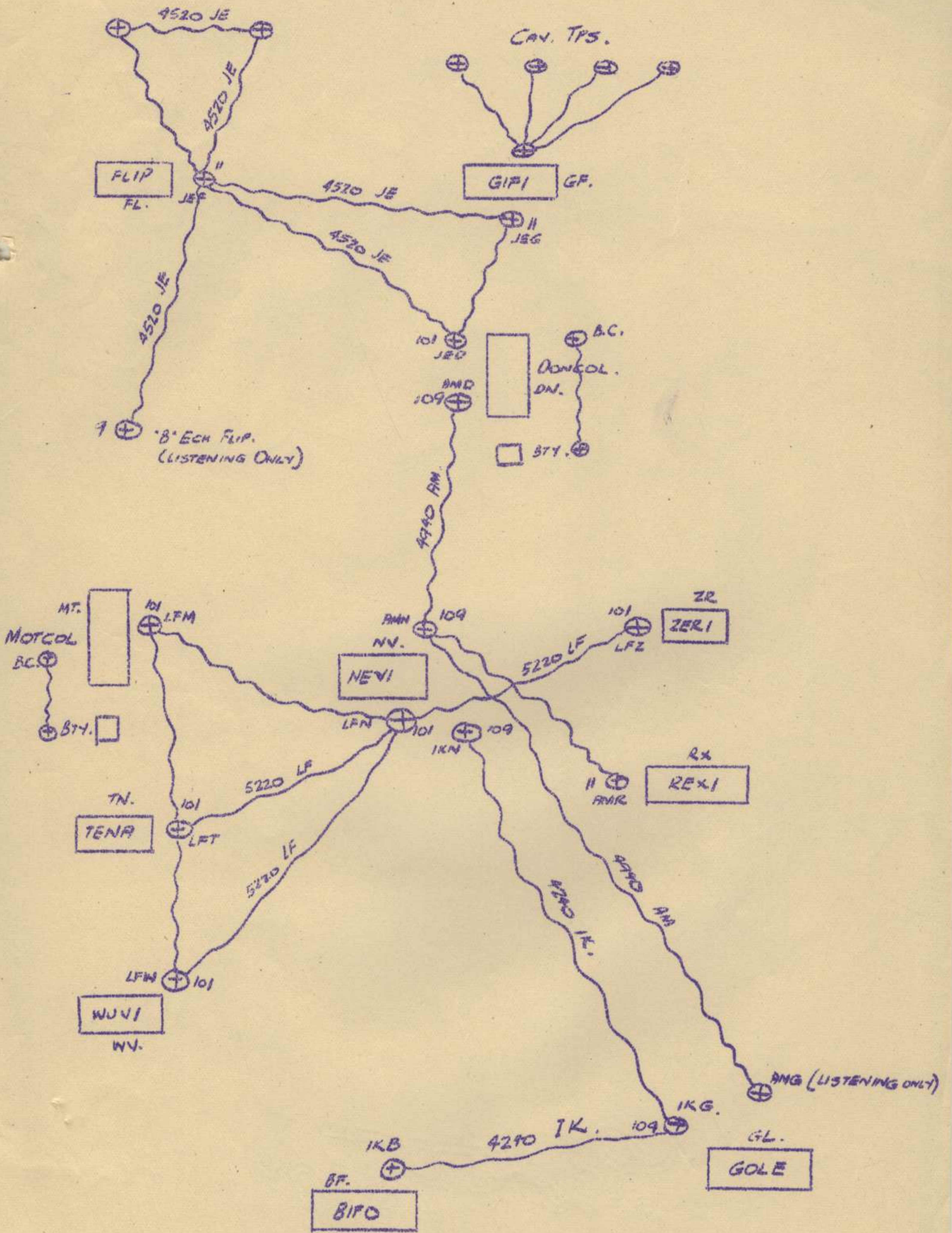
Maj.  
 BM 21 Aust Inf Bde.

<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
2/14 Bn	1
2/16 Bn	2
2/27 Bn	3
Sigs	4
59 LAD	5
B Sqn ROYALS	6
CHEESHIRE YEO	7
North SOMERSET YEO	8 (for infm)
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	9
2/4 Rd Regt	10
6 A Tk Bty	11
170 Lt AA Bty	12
2/6 Rd Coy	13
21 Aust Inf Bde Gp	
ASC Coy	14

<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
A Coy 2/2 Pnr Bn	15
2/6 Rd Amb	16
5 Res MT Coy	17
25 Aust Inf Bde Gp	18
Aust Div Exporter	
" " " (for AILO)	19-20
Comd	21
LOs	22
Bde TC	23-25
File	26
War Diary	27-28
Spare	29-32



LAYOUT OF WIRELESS COMMINS WITHIN NEVI FORMATION.



DRAWN AT 0700 HRS  
6 JUN 41.



21 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION GROUP.

10 JUN 41.

The forcing of the River Litani crossing was a feat of arms of which the Bde Gp can well be proud and I offer my congratulations to all ranks who took part in this operation.

In the face of well organized and brave resistance the determination shown by all ranks in pressing forward revealed a true appreciation of our job. The continual pressure exerted on the enemy has enabled us to get over this most difficult obstacle and move on toward our ultimate objective.

I am very grateful to all in the Bde Gp and am proud indeed to command it.

I would like Commanding Officers to pass on this message to everyone in their units.

DISTRIBUTION

2/14 Bn  
2/16 Bn  
2/27 Bn  
HQ 21 Bde  
K Sec Sigs  
59 LAD  
9 Pl Aust HQ Gd Bn  
CHESHIRE Yeo  
2/4 Fd Regt  
6 A Tk Bty  
170 Lt AA Bty  
2/6 Fd Coy  
14 Lt Fd Amb  
5 Res MT Coy  
Det ROYALS  
A Sqn 6 Div Cav  
2/6 Fd Amb  
21 Aust Inf Bde ASC Composite Coy

*Jes Herons* Brig.  
Comd 21 Aust Inf Bde.



# MESSAGE FORM.

<b>CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.</b>	IN	No. of Groups GR.	Serial No. OFFICE DATE STAMP
	OUT		

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO WUVI LUPA DASA RINA REXI GIFT RODU TETE DOBA DAXA GIRL FAFO ZERI

FROM NEVI	Originator's Number.	Date. <b>13</b>	In Reply to Number
-----------	----------------------	--------------------	--------------------

The	following	signal	has	been	received
from	Div	Comd	Maj-Gen	JD	LAVARACK
CB	CMG	DSO	⊙	The	Div
Comd	wishes	to	congratulate	the	21
Aust	Inf	Bde	Gp	and	their
Comd	on	their	magnificent	effort	since
the	adv	into	SYRIA	began	⊙

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS:	IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CYPHER.	ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY.	TIME OF ORIGIN
---	--	---	----------------

SIGNED  
(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

SYSTEM IN.	TIME IN.	READER.	SENDER.	SYSTEM OUT.	TIME OUT.	READER.	SENDER.	SYSTEM OUT.	TIME OUT.	READER.	SENDER.

T.H.I.  
T.O.R.



# MESSAGE FORM.

<b>CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.</b>	IN	No. of Groups GR.	Serial No. OFFICE DATE STAMP
	OUT		

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

**TO**

2.

<b>FROM</b>	Originator's Number.	Date.	In Reply to Number
The	move	to	the
the	bridging	and	the
River	in	the	face
opposition	and	the	subsequent
to	the	North	constitute
of	successful	operations	of
ranks	may	well	be
			LITANI
			of
			of
			fighting
			a
			which
			all
			strong
			adv
			series
			that
			River
			proud.

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS:

SIGNED

*Abunneen*  
*hent*

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CYPHER.

SIGNED

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY.

TIME OF ORIGIN

1155

SYSTEM IN.	TIME IN.	READER.	SENDER.	SYSTEM OUT.	TIME OUT.	READER.	SENDER.	SYSTEM OUT.	TIME OUT.	READER.	SENDER.

T.H.I.

T.O.R.



SECRET

Copy No 33

5 Jul 41.

21 AUST INF BDE GP 00 No 9.

Ref Maps : SAIDA 1/50,000 and DAMOUR 1/25,000 sheets.

INFM.

1. See 21 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No 7 and daily sitreps.
2. 17 Aust Inf Bde moves to area ER REZANIYE - DIAR EL MOUGHARA night 4/5 Jul.
3. Tps in support :

2/4 Pz Regt }  
2/5 Pz Regt } under comm  
2/2 Med Bty } CRA  
One bty 2/9 Pz Regt }  
2/6 Pz Amb

INTENTION.

4. 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp will capture enemy defences on the North side of R DAMOUR on 6 Jul 41.

METHOD.

5. Fwd tps :

Right 2/27 Bn and left 2/16 Bn.

Right flank gd :

Two coys 2/14 Bn.

Bde Gp res :

2/14 Bn (less two coys).

6. The op will be carried out in two stages :

(1) Preliminary op - Capture by 2/27 Bn of enemy posts on spur 12651958 and seizure by one coy right flank gd of Trig 567, 12831953 to cover rd BEIT ED DINE - DAMOUR.

(ii) Crossing by 2/27 and 2/16 Bns of R DAMOUR and capture of respective objectives.

7. Preliminary op - One coy 2/27 Bn will capture rocky spur 12651958 and destroy enemy garrison. One coy right flank gd will support the attack.

8. Right bn - 2/27 Bn (less coy detailed above) will cross R DAMOUR between track and creek crossing 12721957 and br 12551963 as already recd. An offr will be specially detailed by 2/27 Bn to coordinate and direct traffic at the river crossing.

Assembly area : vicinity EL BATTAL.

Route to forming up posn : EL LABIYE - Track to rd BEIT ED DINE - DAMOUR.

9. Forming up posn : Track from River NW to EL BOUM with left of attacking tps at Wadi crossing 12621967.

10. Startline : Track through forming up posn.

/11. Zero -



SECRET  
COPY NO  
11. Zero - 0440 hrs.

12. Objectives :

- First : Track from 12701975 to 12601974
- Second : Bend in track South of ER ROUMANE 12711984 - Pt 218 12621981

Third : Track June 12691991 - SW along track for 1000 yds.

13. 2/27 Bn will capture Pt 560, 12781980 as part of second objective. During the attack special attention is to be given to right flank protection.

14. At the same time as the movement of 2/27 Bn, Right flank gd under comd Capt P Rhoden will cross the Wadi South of Pt 12721951. One coy will seize the occupy Trig 567, 12831953 and cover the rd BEIT ED DINE - DAMOUR by 0440 hrs. An effective rd block will be constituted immediately at the most suitable pt in that area.

15. A Coy 2/14 Bn will assist 2/27 Bn in the preliminary op against enemy posts in area 12651958 and will hold this area after it is cleared of enemy.

16. Left Bn : 2/16 Bn.

Assembly area - in vicinity Pt 168, 12421962.

Forming up posn - river bed South of EL ATIQA posn.

Startline - Rd BEIT ED DINE - DAMOUR between bend at 12481970 and Pt 12431973.

Route to Startline - via ford on river at 12421969.

2/16 Bn will specially detail an offr to take comd at the forming up posn.

Objectives : (i) defended area EL ATIQA. Zero - 0440 hrs.

(ii) clearance of Southern end of Orchard area as far North as Northern edge of EL ATIQA defended posn.

Zero : 0615 hrs.

50 additional wirecutters have been issued to 2/16 Bn. Personnel will carry these by cord around the neck to avoid loss in initial stages.

17. 2/14 Bn (less two coys) will be bde res in area QASSOUBA ready to exploit success North from EL ATIQA or to adv Eastwards towards BEIT ED DINE in which case detached coys revert to comd.

18. On gaining its objective, the left bn will organize the defended area as a bridgehead.

19. Both bns are to be prepared to exploit to the line of the NAHR DAQOUN.

20. Arty fire plan will be shown in Appx A issued separately.

21. 2/6 Rd Coy (less dets below) will :

- (i) clear obstacles from the Coast Rd and the river in the Coast Rd area;
- (ii) repair -



- (ii) repair the damaged br on Coast Rd or construct new crossing at the most suitable pt in that area, whichever is the quicker.
22. As soon as this crossing is complete the following tps will cross in this order :
- (a) Two tk tps A Sqn 6 Aust Cav (captured French tanks)
  - (b) One carrier tp 6 Aust Cav
  - (c) Five A Tk guns 6 A Tk Bty.

23. Dets 2/6 Rd Coy will be under comd 2/16 Bn, 2/27 Bn and right flank gd for following purposes with the stores shown below :

	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Stores</u>
(1)	(a) 2/16 Bn	Supervision of climbing devices	Four miners' ladders
	(b) "	Defusing explosive obstacles	-
	(c) "	Destruction of enemy wire EL ATIQA and Orchard posns	Six Bangalore torpedoes
(ii)	(d) 2/27 Bn	Climbing devices; gen engr recce	Two miners' ladders
(iii)	(e) 2/14 Bn	Rd block at right flank gd	12 A Tk mines

These dets will report to units concerned with stores indicated at 1200 hrs 5 Jul.

24. The captured French tks will remain under comd A Sqn 6 Aust Cav and will be used primarily as mobile A Tk guns.
25. Three of the five A Tk guns detailed above will take up posns along the Coast Rd, from Northern edge of defended area EL ATIQA Southwards, for aggressive defence against tks. Two will move via rd BETT ED DINE to right flank gd.
26. Remaining available A Tk guns of 6 Bty will be in bde res in rear of QASSOUBA and be ready to move North across R DAMOUR when ordered.
27. MG support. One pl 2/3 MG Bn on mule pack moves under comd 2/27 Bn. OC, D Coy, 2/3 MG Bn, will liaise direct with Comd 2/27 Bn as to time and place of reporting. One sec 2/3 MG Bn from JEZZINE Rd garrison will move to NEBI YOUNES area by 1800 hrs 5 Jul and be ready to adv to EL ATIQA posn as soon as captured. It will come under comd 2/16 Bn on arrival in EL ATIQA.
28. One MG sec CHESHIRE Yeo remains in present location and supports 2/27 Bn in preliminary ops (para 7) and subsequently providing defensive fire in front of coy 2/14 Bn on Trig 567 from AAQLIYA posn.
29. One MG sec CHESHIRE Yeo occupies posn vicinity EL BATTAL to cover gap between 2/16 and 2/27 Bns.
30. MGs of carrier tps A Sqn 6 Aust Cav will support attack of 2/16 Bn at EL ATIQA by concentrations from posns in YERATE area on identified targets and by neutralising fire on Southern portion of orange grove area. OC, A Sqn, will arrange this direct with 2/16 Bn.



31. Naval Support : Ships will bombard enemy defences in EL ATIQA area, also bty posn North of Pt 250 on D - 1. On D1 they will engage opportunity targets North of an East - West line through LAMOUR and also high ground and Wadi East of the town.

32. Air Support : Fighter protection and bombing of identified targets, also ground strafing rds on right flank and to the North.

ADM.

33. Tpt. A and B ech will remain in present posns until further orders.

34. Sup. One day's ration to be carried on the man. Units will be prepared to send further rations fwd by mule.

35. Ann. An RAD will be est vicinity RMAILE. Exact location will be advised by signal.

36. Pwa. Bde CP at 11921871. 2/14 Bn will supply gd as per instns issued direct.

37. Burials. Burial Grounds - 12281961, EL BATTAL 12501959, 12401971.

INTERCOMM.

38. Pack W/T set accompanies 2/27 Bn. Time of reporting, etc, as arranged direct.

39. Sig diagram will be issued separately.

40. LOs with fwd units as from 1800 hrs 5 Jul.

41. Bde HQ remains present location.

42. Air to Ground : Call for recognition - wing flapping and Verrey lights.

43. Ground to Air : Unit identification strips.

44. Land to Sea : Own AFVs will identify themselves by frequent display seawards of air recognition strips over side of tanks or carriers.

45. Sea to Land : by NLO.

46. Success sig : Two reds on gaining final objectives.

47. SDF : Two whites by day, two greens by night.

ACK.

Signed at 0650 hrs  
Issued to sig and by hand

Maj.  
BM 21 Aust Inf Bde.

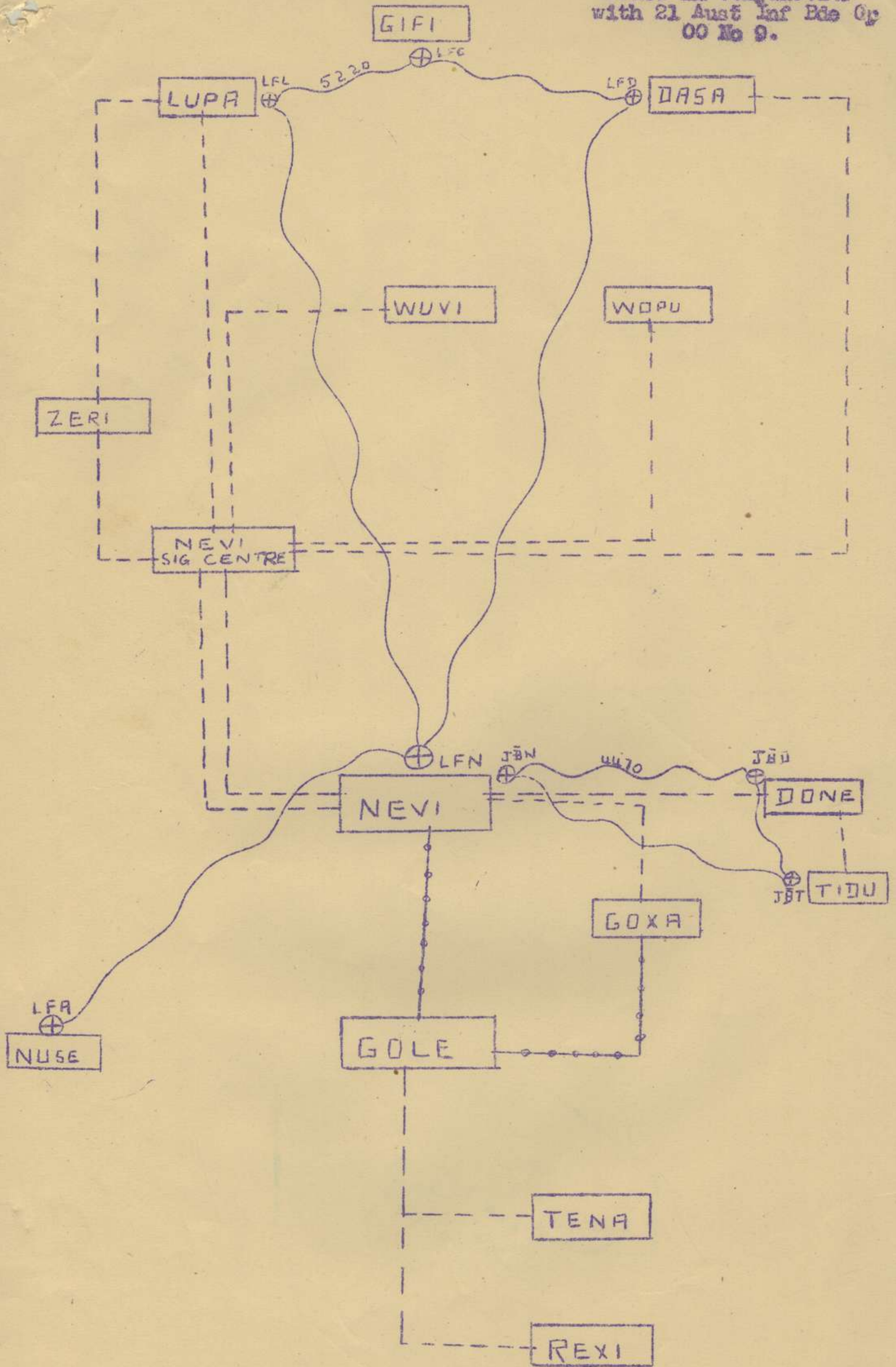
<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>Copy No</u>	<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
2/14 Bn	1	2/6 Rl Amb	17
2/16 Bn	2	21 Aust Inf Bde Gp ASC	18
2/27 Bn	3	25 Aust Inf Bde Gp	19
Sigs	4	7 Aust Div (one for	
59 IAD	5	NLO, one for AILLO)	20-23
9 Pl HQ Gd Bn	6	Comd	24
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	7	SC	25
A Sqn CHESHIRE Yeo		Bde TO	26
(one for MG Tp)	8-9	LOs	27-29
CRA	10-12	File	30-31
6 A Tk Bty	13	War Diary	32-33
170 Lt AA Bty	14	Spares	34-37
2/6 Rl Coy	15		
D Coy 2/3 MG Bn	16		



# NEVI SIG DIAGRAM

**SECRET**

Issued in conjunction with 21 Aust Inf Bde Op 00 No 9.



To be est by 1800 hrs.  
J.C. Watson  
5 JUL 41



**TARGET TRACE.**

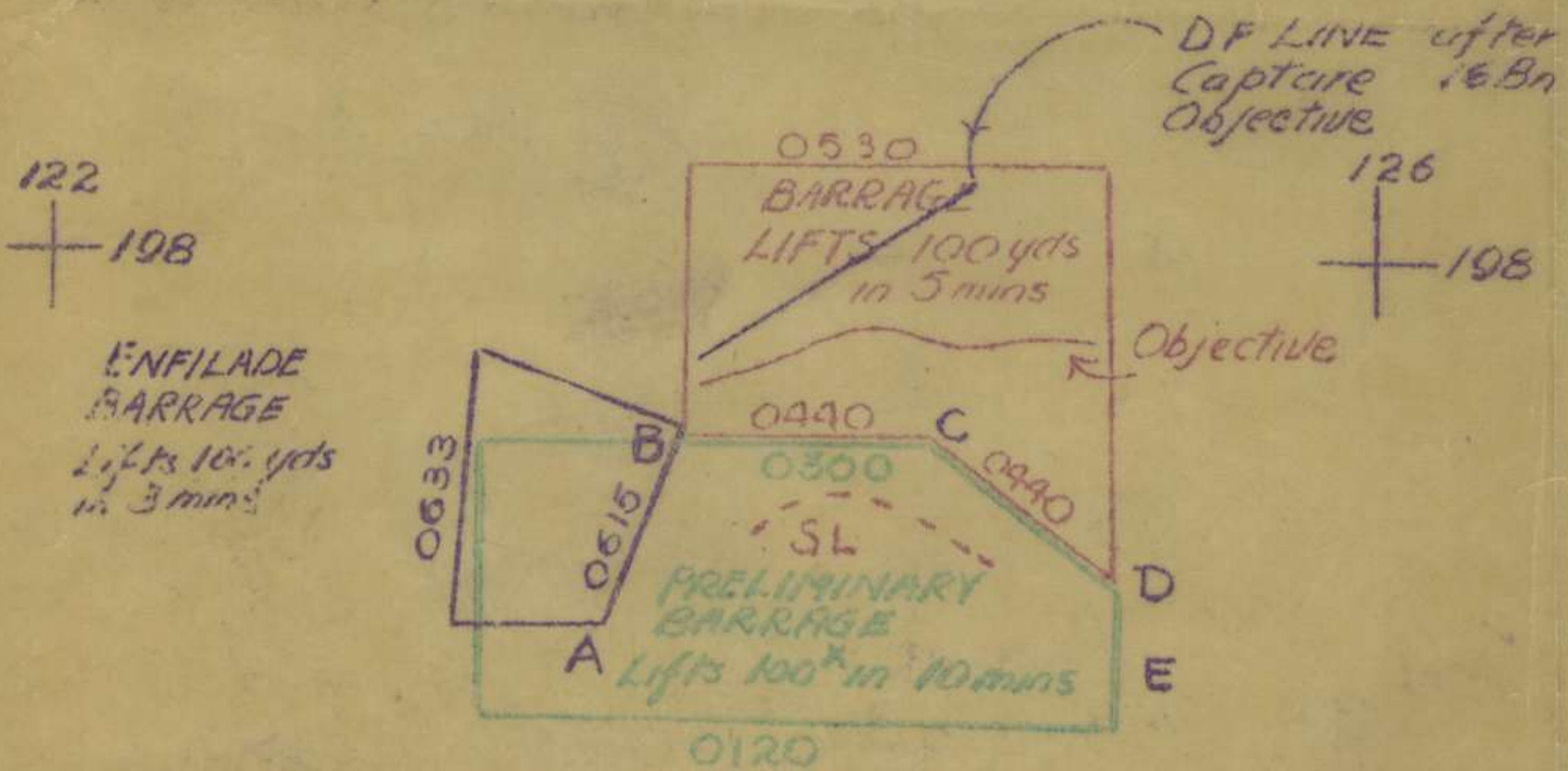
Date.....		No.....		Survey Co., R.A.		Ref. No.....	
Target .....							
Battery.....							
Post.	Computed Bearing.	Chart Bearing.	Range.	A. of S.			
Bty.							

TRACE "X" to Arty Appx "A"  
to 21. Aust Inf Bde O.O. N° 9

Secret

Copy N°.....  
5 Jul 41

Ref Map DAMOUR 1:25000



Barrages

- Preliminary GREEN 0120-0300 lifts 100\*/10mins
- Protective Box ABCDE 0300-0440
- Barrage RED 0440-0530 lifts 100\*/5mins
- Standing Barrage line A-B 0120-0615
- Enfilade Barrage PURPLE 0615-0633 lifts 100\*/3mins



TRACE "Z" TO ARTY APPX "A"  
TO 21 AUST INF BDE OO N°9

DATED 5 JUL 41

REF MAP "DAMOUR" 1 25000

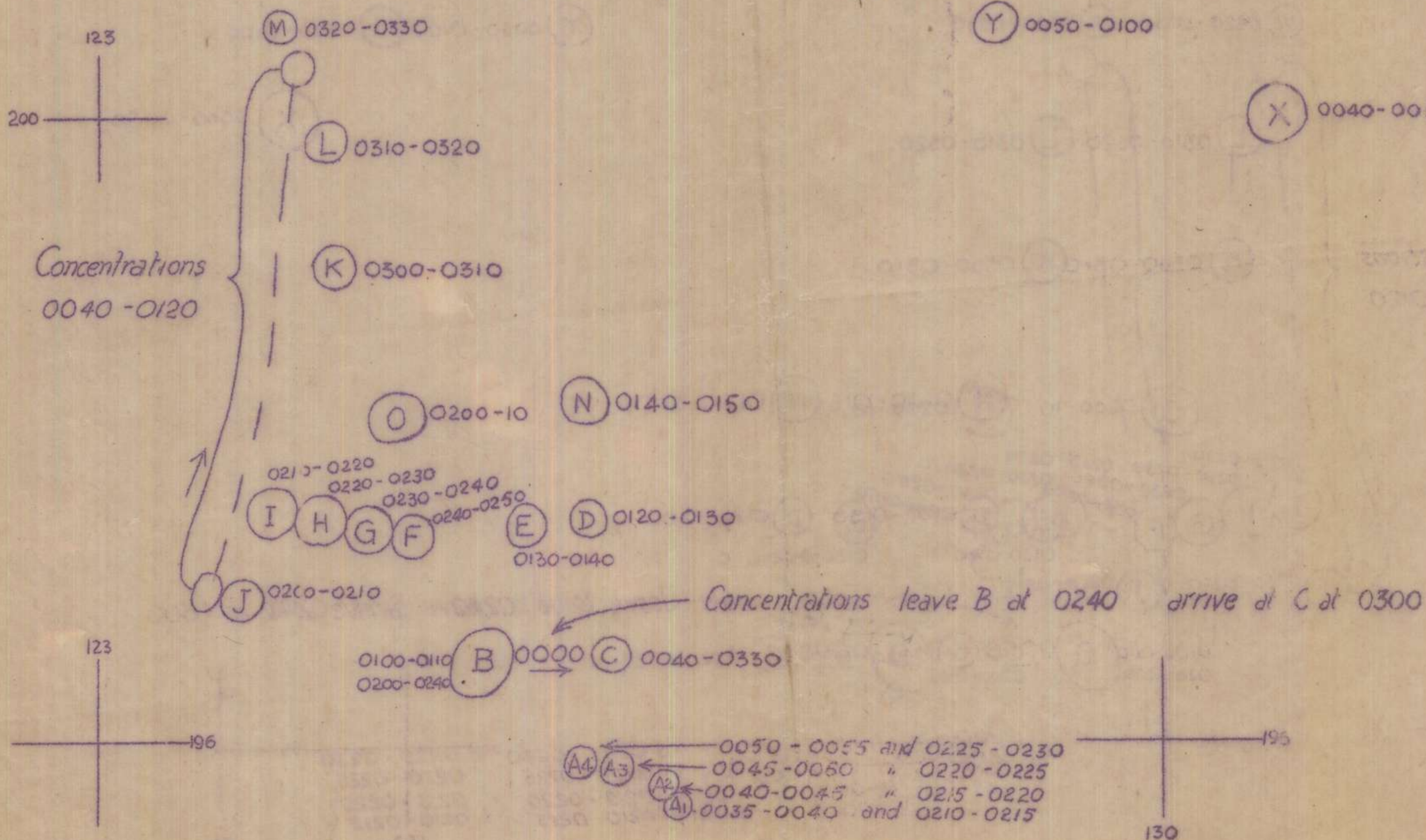
SECRET

COPY N° 4

○ Z 0010 - 0020

○ Y 0050 - 0100

○ X 0040 - 0050





S E C R E T

Copy No 6

4 Jun 41.

21 AUST INF BDE GP OP INSTN No 11.

Ref Map : BEYROUTH Sheet 1/200,000.

CHESHIRE YEO.

INFM.

1. The following garrison posts are est along the French frontier rd in the area in which Exporter Force is interested :- AITAROUNE (strength unknown), BENNT JBAIL (about 50 Spahis), AIN EBEL (strength unknown), YAROUN (about 15 Spahis), REMEICHE and AITA ECH CHAAB (strength unknown), RAMIET (strength unknown), KH JEREINE (strength unknown), ALMA CHA AB (about 50), LABOUNA, NAQOURA and ISKANDAROUN (strengths unknown). In each case, however, the garrison is small but the rd between posts is patrolled frequently. One report states that there is now no garrison at REMEICHE.
2. Exporter Force is entering SYRIA to capture the aerodromes at BEYROUTH and RAYAK. The force will move in two cols, the right coln via MERDJAYOUN to RAYAK and the left coln via EL MALIKIYA - TIBNINE - TYR to BEYROUTH. 21 Bde Gp is the left coln.
3. It is not known whether the French will oppose our adv and in the first place the opportunity for them to surrender is to be given (see separate notes on this aspect). Nothing, however, is to be permitted to delay our adv and the max force is to be applied immediately in the event of resistance.
4. As a preliminary to the adv of Exporter Force the frontier posts mentioned in Para 1 will be captured.
5. 2/16 Bn is dealing with the posts at AITAROUNE, BENNT JBAIL, AIN EBEL and YAROUN. 2/14 Bn is dealing with ALMA CHAAB, LABOUNA, NAQOURA and ISKANDAROUN and will seize these posts by 0430 hrs on D1.

PHASE 1.

INTENTION.

6. You will capture the posts at REMEICHE, AITA ECH CHAAB, RAMIET, and KH JEREINE on D1.

METHOD.

7. You will cross the frontier through HANITA at 0500 hrs D1.
8. The first essential in attacking the posts is to cut all telegraph and telephone wires leading into them.

ADM.

9. PW are to be taken to BENNT JBAIL and handed over to 2/2 Pnr Bn, AIF. One Lt Sec Pl Amb is placed under you comd as from 1900 hrs on D-5. The French frontier rd from NAQOURA to BENNT JBAIL will be available as an evacuation route from 0800 hrs D1.

INTERCOMM.

10. The completion of the op will be reported to me by W/T.
11. Code word for the op will be "CHEESE" and completion of the whole of it will be indicated by message "CHEESE RIPE".
12. Password will be in two parts, viz "OLD BULL" and "AND BUSH".  
/PHA SE 2.



PHASE 2.

13. On completion of Phase 1, you will move to BENNT JBAIL and report your arrival to me and to cmd DONCOL.
14. In the absence of orders to the contra ry, you are required to reach KAHR SIR (118155) as fast as it is humanly possible to do so. You will move via the rd TIBNINE - TYR to TEIR ZEBNA 187295, thence north through SRIHA 187299 to KAHR SIR.
15. You will NOT move on the rd TIBNINE - TYR until the tail of DONCOL clears BENNT JBAIL, but, if the country permits, you will push northwards parallel to the rd.
16. When on the rd, you will give right of way to all overtaking MF colns.
17. In the event of DONCOL being held up south of the LITANI R you will be prepared to take the enemy posns on north bank in reverse from direction of KAHR SIR. You will discuss the probable plan of action with Cmd DONCOL immediately.
18. Once the LITANI R crossing is made good you will move to the area ZEBDEINE 124160 - HABBOUCH and remain there during the night D1/D2. You will be responsible as from arrival there for blocking the rds HABBOUCH - COAST and NABATIYE - ABOU EL ASSOUAD 105160.
19. Probable role on D2 - further adv north on general line JEZZINE - RHARINE - BEIT ED DENE - AIN SOFAR 148208.

ACK.  
Signed at            hrs.  
Issued to Sigs.

*J. Stevens*  
Brig.  
Cmd 21 Aust Inf Bde.

<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>Copy No.</u>
CHESHIRE YEO	1
Cmd	2
File	3-4
War Diary	5-6
North SOMERSET YEO	7
(for infm)	



S E C R E T

Copy No 6

5 Jun 41.

21 AUST INF BDE GP OP INSTN No 12.

Ref Map : BEYROUTH Sheet 1/200,000

2/14 Bn.

INFM.

1. There are small garrisons in the French frontier posts at ALMA CHAAB, LABOUNA, NAQOURA and ISKANDAROUN. The approx strengths are ALMA CHAAB (about 50) and LABOUNA (about 15), the tps being mainly Spahis. No infm is available respecting the remaining two posts. Further to the East and generally along the line of the French frontier rd there are also garrisoned posts at KH JEREINE, RAMIET, AITA ECH CHAAB, REMEICHE, YAROUN, BENNI JBAIL, AIN EBEL and AITAROUNE. The French frontier rd is patrolled frequently.
2. Exporter Force is entering SYRIA to capture the aerodromes at BEYROUTH and RAYAK. The force will move in two colns, the right coln via MERDJAYOUN to RAYAK and the left coln via EL MALIKIYA - TIBNINE - TYR to BEYROUTH. 21 Bde Gp is the left coln.
3. It is not known whether the French will oppose our adv and in the first place the opportunity for them to surrender is to be given (see separate notes on this aspect). Nothing, however, is to be permitted to delay our adv and the max force is to be applied immediately in the event of resistance.
4. The COAST Rd between RAS EN NAQURA and pt North of ISKANDAROUN hugs the cliff and is prepared for demolition North of the latter place. Authority to blow the rd is given by an offr at NAQOURA and the mine is operated by someone located in a hut in the vicinity of ISKANDAROUN. The mine is operated by a 60 secs fuse and detonators. Telephone connection between NAQOURA and the operator is provided by means of a fd cable which is the lowest wire on the telegraph route on the COAST Rd. A special int summary has already been issued to you covering this matter.
5. As a preliminary to the adv of Exporter Force the frontier posts mentioned in Para 1 must be captured and every effort made to prevent the blowing of the rd.

INTENTION.

6. 2/14 Bn will capture the French posts at ALMA CHAAB, LABOUNA, NAQOURA and ISKANDAROUN by 0430 hrs on D1. Except for the ISKANDAROUN party, tps will not cross the frontier until 0200 hrs D1.

METHOD.

7. The strengths of the dets must not exceed the following without special permission of Bde Comd :

<u>ALMA CHAAB</u>	: one rifle coy plus two dets of mortars.
<u>LABOUNA</u>	: one rifle pl.
<u>NAQOURA</u>	: one rifle pl.
<u>ISKANDAROUN</u>	: 2 offr (incl one from 2/6 Fd Coy) and 10 ORS (incl two from 2/6 Fd Coy).

8. ALMA CHAAB, LABOUNA and NAQOURA must be surrounded and telephone wires cut before the attack is made. The former is to be approached via HANITA; LABOUNA from the direction of RAS EN NAQOURA, while the NAQOURA party will move in through RAS EN NAQOURA and turn North about a mile inland.

/9. The attack -



9. The attack on ISKANDAROUN will be in accordance with the plan already discussed with OC det.
10. North SOME RSET YEO are cooperating in the above op by :
  - (a) placing a cordon around EL BASSA and HANITA villages as from 2300 hrs D - 1.
  - (b) opening the frontier gate of the HANITA rd junc.
  - (c) providing guides for the dets attacking ALMA CHAAB and LABOUNA.
  - (d) taking over ALMA CHAAB, LABOUNA and NAQOURA after daylight on D1.
11. On relief, coy from ALMA CHAAB and pl from LABOUNA, will move to/ and, if the COAST Rd is in use, move via it to ISKANDAROUN in vicinity rd and track junc 166285 with pl which captured NAQOURA. If the COAST Rd is rendered unpassable these dets will be picked up at NAQOURA by unit tpt and brought back to Assembly Area. NAQOURA
12. If the COAST Rd is declared safe tps referred to in Para 11 together with ISKANDAROUN party will be ferried to TYR by vehs of TYRFORCE immediately MOTCOL clears TYR.
13. Remainder of 2/14 Bn is to be ferried fwd to TYR area in unit tpt on receipt of orders from Bde.

ADM.

14. Tps selected for the ISKANDAROUN op will wear sand-shoes or if these are not available will muffle their footwear. Any eqpt likely to make a noise is to be left off. Vehs will not be taken North of the frontier rd except those carrying the ISKANDAROUN party which may go as far north as HANITA.
15. PW will be moved under unit arrangements to cage at JUEILA CAMP on frontier rd near EILON 169275.

INTERCOMN.

16. The capture of each post will be reported by runner as follows:

ALMA CHAAB - to the North SOMERSET YEO post at HANITA from whence it will be passed back by W/T.

LABOUNA, )  
 NAQOURA, and ) - to the North SOMERSET YEO post  
 ISKANDAROUN ) at RAS EN NAQURA.

17. Code word for op will be "CANNON".

18. Password will be :

"BILLA"  
 "WHICH BILLA"  
 "BILLABONG".

ACK.  
 Signed at 0920 hrs.  
 Issued to Sigs.

*[Signature]*  
 Maj.  
 BM 21 Aust Inf Bde.

<u>DISTRIBUTION.</u>	<u>Copy No</u>	<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
2/14 Bn	1	File	4-5
North SOMERSET YEO	2	War Diary	6-7
Comd	3	2/6 Fd Coy	8



S E C R E T

Copy No 7

5 Jun 41.

21 AUST INF BDE GP OP INSTN No 13.

Ref Map : BEYROUTH Sheet 1/200,000.

2/27 Bn.

MOTCOL will be placed in order of march with leading veh immediately East of rd junc 159268 by 0500 hrs D1.

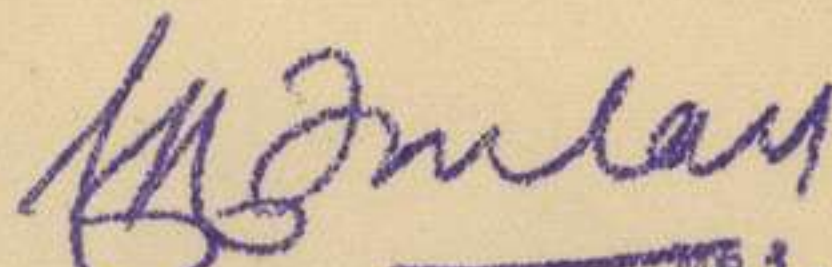
Comd MOTCOL is his own veh and with one MCDR will report to Bde Comd at 0500 hrs D1 at North SOMERSET YEO post at RAS EN NAQURA.

Lt Tks and one pl of inf in lorry from MOTCOL will arrive in area immediately North of rd junc 161276 at 0530 hrs D1 and await orders. If the COAST Rd is declared safe, they will be required to clear this rd of blocks and enemy posts between ISKANDAROUN and RACHIDLYE.

When DONCOL reaches COAST Rd, lt tks of MOTCOL will join DONCOL. Pl of inf referred to above will wait at RACHIDLYE and rejoin MOTCOL when latter arrives.

ACK.

Signed at 0921 hrs  
Issued to Sigs.

  
Maj.  
BM 21 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION

Copy No

MOTCOL	1
North SOMERSET YEO	2
Comd	3
File	4-5
War Diary	6-7



S E C R E T

Copy No 7

5 Jun 41.

21 AUST INF BDE GP OP INSTN No 14.

Ref Map : BEYROUTH Sheet 1/200,000.

2/16 Bn.

INFM.

1. There are small garrisons in the French frontier posts at AITAROUNE (strength unknown), BENNT JBAIL (about 50 Spahis), YAROUN (about 15 Spahis) and AIN EBEL (strength unknown). There are other posts to the west at REMEICHE, AITA ECH CHAAB, RAMIET, KH JEREINE, ALMA CHAAB, LABOUNA and NAQOURA. There is also a post at BLIDA on the front of 25 Aust Inf Bde Gp. The French frontier rd is patrolled frequently.
2. BENNT JBAIL is reported as being the HQ of the frontier garrison posts and may therefore be more strongly held than indicated above.
3. Exporter Force is entering SYRIA to capture the aerodromes at BEYROUTH and RAYAK. The force will move in two colns, the right coln via MERDJAYOUN to RAYAK and the left via EL MALIKIYA - TIBNINE - TYR to BEYROUTH. 21 Bde Gp is the left coln.
4. It is not known whether the French will oppose our adv and in the first place the opportunity for them to surrender is to be given (see separate notes on this aspect). Nothing, however, is to be permitted to delay our adv and the max force is to be applied immediately in the event of resistance.
5. The frontier posts mentioned in Para 1 must be captured as a preliminary to the main op. A track must also be built between the frontier rds at EL MALIKIYA and AITAROUNE.
6. The CHESHIRE YEO and 2/14 Bn are capturing the posts from incl REMEICHE to NAQOURA whilst 25 Bde Gp will capture BLIDA. 2/2 Pnr Bn will build the track EL MALIKIYA - AITAROUNE.

INTENTION.

7. 2/16 Bn will capture the posts AITAROUNE, AIN EBEL, BENNT JBAIL and YAROUN by 0430 hrs on D1, and cover the construction of the track across the frontier by one coy 2/2 Pnr Bn.

METHOD.

8. 2/16 Bn will not use more than two rifle coys with such mortar support as may be considered necessary.
9. The main essentials are :-
  - (a) to capture YAROUN early in the op so that the passage of MT on the frontier rd will not be so obvious,
  - (b) to destroy very early in the op the telephone wires leading to BENNT JBAIL from all directions,
  - (c) to carry out the op speedily and with as little noise as possible.
10. Garrisons are to be maintained at AITAROUNE and BENNT JBAIL until coy 2/2 Pnr Bn employed on track is available to take over.

ADM.

11. PW cage will be est by Div at EL MALIKIYA. Prisoners will be assembled at AITAROUNE and handed over there to coy 2/2 Pnr Bn /for escort



for escort to PW cage.

INTERCOMN.

12. The capture of each post will be reported by runner as follows :

YAROUN - to an offr of 2/16 Bn stationed at  
pt of entry across the frontier. This  
offr will then proceed to HQ DONCOL.

BENNT JBAIL, )  
AIN EBEL and ) - to HQ DONCOL at EL MALIKIYA.  
AITAROUNE )

13. Code word for op will be "DONALD".

14. Password will be "FORD"  
"WHICH FORD"  
"DAYLES FORD".

ACK

Signed at 0921 hrs.  
Issued to Sigs.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Maj.  
BM 21 Aust Inf Bde.

<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
2/16 Bn	1
2/2 Pnr Bn	2
North SOMERSET YEO	3
Comd	4
File	5- 6
War Diary	7- 8
25 Aust Inf Bde	9



7 Jun 41.

21 AUST INF BDE GP OP INSTN NO 15.

Evidence is mounting that the French tps in SYRIA will resist. The minimum time therefore is to be spent in parleying and the maximum force available applied quickly. In order to save unnecessary casualties to the civilian population of towns en route, the towns should be surrounded, telephone communications cut, and an offer with an interpreter, sent in under a flag of truce to demand an unconditional surrender.

2. It is not possible to forecast at this stage the trend of events after the frontier is crossed. It seems probable, however, that the first serious resistance will be encountered North of the LITANI River in which area a force of at least one bn of Algerians is reported. The leading elements of DONCOL when approaching this area therefore should be well covered by A Tk guns and by fd arty. It would be unwise for much lorry-borne inf to be pushed up with the fwd elements in view of their vulnerability.
3. Leading elements approaching QASMIYE and the LITANI River crossing must be forewarned of the presence there of the SS Bn and of the fact that enemy MGs are reported in posn on the north bank.
4. The protection of the LITANI River crossing by AA guns is essential. A permanent det of two guns may be placed there later.
5. In suggesting that the first opposition of note may occur at SAIDA the possibility of some trouble from TYR must not be overlooked as it tks, armd cars and inf, in addition to two 75 mm guns and two A Tk guns are reported there. An early recce for bty posns along the TIBNINE - TYR rd must form portion of DONCOL's plan so that arty fire may be quickly brought to bear on any centres of resistance at TYR.
6. Should a halt be necessary on the line of the rd JEZZINE - SAIDA to await contact with 25 Bde Gp, the following pts are to be borne in mind by DONCOL :
  - (a) Disposns to be in depth to facilitate dispersal of MF;
  - (b) Immediate recce to JEZZINE to contact 25 Bde Gp;
  - (c) Armd patrols fwd to the general line BEIT ED DINE - BAAKLINE - YUROTT.
7. In the adv north of the line JEZZINE - SAIDA the importance of four places en route to BEYROUTH must be borne in mind, viz :
 

KHALDE - four 75 mm guns.  
 CHOUIEFAT - pro-German settlement and garrison town.  
 ALEY (139208) - reported amn dump.  
 BHAMDOUN (about 143208) - reported petrol dump.
8. One source of infm indicates that there is a strong defensive posn between ALEY and CHOUIEFAT.
9. On this sec of the adv I may, after DONCOL has taken CHOUIEFAT, divert MOTCOL via the route CHEMLIN 135205 - ALEY and att to it additional mobile tps. MOTCOL after securing ALEY would have to leave a garrison there and move to the general line as laid down in OO No 8.
10. During the ops against BEYROUTH armd Cs will be required to patrol the rds BEYROUTH - RAYAK as far west as AIN SOMAR and BEYROUTH - TRIPOLI as far north as NAHR EL KELB.
11. The first action against BEYROUTH will be to isolate the town, destroy telephone comm unications leading from it and send in a



flag of truce. DONCOL will seize the aerodrome immediately, dispose tps for its defence and occupy posns between HSAIME and the COAST about BIR HASSEN 127214. MOTCOL will est posts on the rds from incl ZAAJAR 134215 and ANTELJAS 137220.

- 12. Special instns regarding entry into BEYROUTH and the pts to be taken first will be issued later but DONCOL and MOTCOL should make plans at this stage for organizing up to 4 colns of varying strength incl lt tks, carriers, A Tk guns and a coy or pl of inf.
- 13. The factors which have to be considered in devising any plan are :
  - (a) the strength and attitude of the garrison;
  - (b) the attitude of the French Navy, about six ships of which are in BEYROUTH HARBOUR;
  - (c) the desire of the British Navy to avoid shelling BEYROUTH unless absolutely necessary.
- 14. In broad principle, however, the plan will be to infiltrate small colns from DONCOL and MOTCOL to strategic pts such as :- Radio Broadcasting stations, Municipal offices, Power Station, Hotels Normandie and Metropole, Residence of High Comdr, Military and civil telephone exchanges.
- 15. The locations of all of these are shown on the map already issued. Arty will recce bty posns to enable it to take on the enemy bty posns and AA defences as shown on the enemy location map.
- 16. No special mission is being provided to administer the town when captured but certain people who are familiar with it will be available to assist me. British martial law will be imposed immediately on occupation and a curfew introduced.
- 17. The probable moves of 2/14 Bn during the adv will be to concentrate in TYR area, thence QUADI ZEINE area 118188 utilising the line of the rd to RHARIFE 134188 as a dispersal area. 2/14 Bn will take over the garrison of SAIDA on arrival and the dets of 2/16 Bn left there will rejoin their own unit without delay. Orders will be issued for these moves when the time is opportune for them to take place.

ACK.

Issued to sigs.

Signed at            hrs.

Brig.

Comd 21 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION

Copy No

DONCO L	1
MOTCOL	2
2/14 Bn	3
CHESHIRE YEO	4
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	5
ROYALS	6
2/4 Rl Regt	7
Comd	8
File	9- 10
War Diary	11- 12



ADDENDUM TO OP INSTN No 18.

After Para 2 insert new Para :

- 2A. PW reports one bn SENEGALESE 600 yds North of QASHIYA LOGIES,  
naval bombardment this area asked for, no firing after 2200  
hrs.

After Para 9 insert new Para :

- 9A. First objective : Rd MERDJAYOUN - COAST. Arm'd patrols may go as  
far North as Rd JEZZINE - SAIDA.
- 9B. Arty with CANCOL remain in present posn covering LITANI River  
till last possible moment.



**S E C R E T**

Copy No 31

9 Jun 41.

21 AUST INF BDE GP OP INSTN No 10.

Ref Map : BEYROUTH Sheet 1/200,000

INFM.

1. 2/16 Bn is held up on the line of the LITANI River with elements of two coys on the North bank and the remainder on the South bank. There are also some elements of an SS bn on the North bank.
2. The enemy defence is based primarily on MG and Mortar posts.

INTENTION.

3. 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp will capture the high ground immediately north of the LITANI River and continue the adv Northward on the COUSE Rd.

METHOD.

4. Commencing at 2130 hrs today 2/16 Bn will est a br head over the LITANI River in its present area and clear the high ground immediately to the North and as far West as BARRACK Rd incl. It will also capture the enemy posts on the shore on the North side of the River. D Coy 2/27 Bn is placed at the disposal of 2/16 Bn as a res.
5. 2/6 Fd Coy, with working party provided by 2/14 Bn under arrangements made by unit COs will construct a felling boat br over the LITANI River commencing as soon after 2130 hrs today as is practicable.
6. Immediately the br is completed 2/27 Bn will pass over the br head and occupy the high ground NE of the main rd and West of BARRACK Rd.
7. The above ops will be supported by 2/4 Fd Regt firing concentrations on known enemy posts from Zero to a time to be arranged mutually between the comds 2/16 Bn and 2/4 Fd Regt.
8. Assuming the enemy posns North of the LITANI River are cleared, 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp will continue the adv Northward with the following adv gd :

To be known as MOFCOL.

Comd : Lt-Col M J Moten 2/27 Bn  
Under comd : Two tps ROYALS  
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav  
2/4 Fd Regt less 7 Bty  
One tp 170 Lt AA Bty  
6 A Tk Bty less one tp  
One sec 2/6 Fd Coy  
Wireless det Div Sigs  
2/27 Bn  
B Coy 2/6 Fd Amb  
D Sec 6 Res MI Coy

All tps come under comd as from receipt of this order.

No vehs will cross River until 0430 hrs.

9. The main body will be known as CANCEL and will be constituted as under :

Comd : Lt-Col W G Cannon 2/14 Bn  
Under comd : 7 Fd Bty  
One tp 6 A Tk Bty



One tp 170 Lt AA Bty  
2/6 Fd Coy less one sec  
W/T det Div Sigs  
2/14 Bn  
B Sec 14 Lt Fd Amb  
C Sec 5 Res MT Coy

A Coy less lt sec 2/6 Fd Amb joins CANCEL after evacuating LITANI River area.

Rear Bde HQ will move in the rear of CANCEL.

- 10. 2/16 Bn will reorganise North of the LITANI River and occupy a defensive posn on the high ground astride BARRACK Rd.
- 11. 6 A Tk Bty will detach one gun for local protection Adv Bde HQ.

ADM.

- 12. Medical. ADS will remain at present location opposite KILO 27 post on TYR - BEYROUTH Rd.
- 13. B Coy 2/6 Fd Coy with MOTCOL. A Coy will remain to clear LITANI River area, then joins CANCEL with 14 Lt Sec Fd Amb.
- 14. Tpt. B Ech will remain at present location until further orders.
- 15. Other adm orders by sig message.

INTERCOMM.

- 16. Adv Bde HQ moves in rear MOTCOL.
- 17. LOs with units from Zero. LO 2/16 Bn rejoins Adv HQ when it crosses river.
- 18. Sig comms as per diagram att.
- 19. Ground to Air :

- (a) RAF tender with Adv HQ
- (b) Recognition strips

Air to Ground :

Colour of the day and message dropping

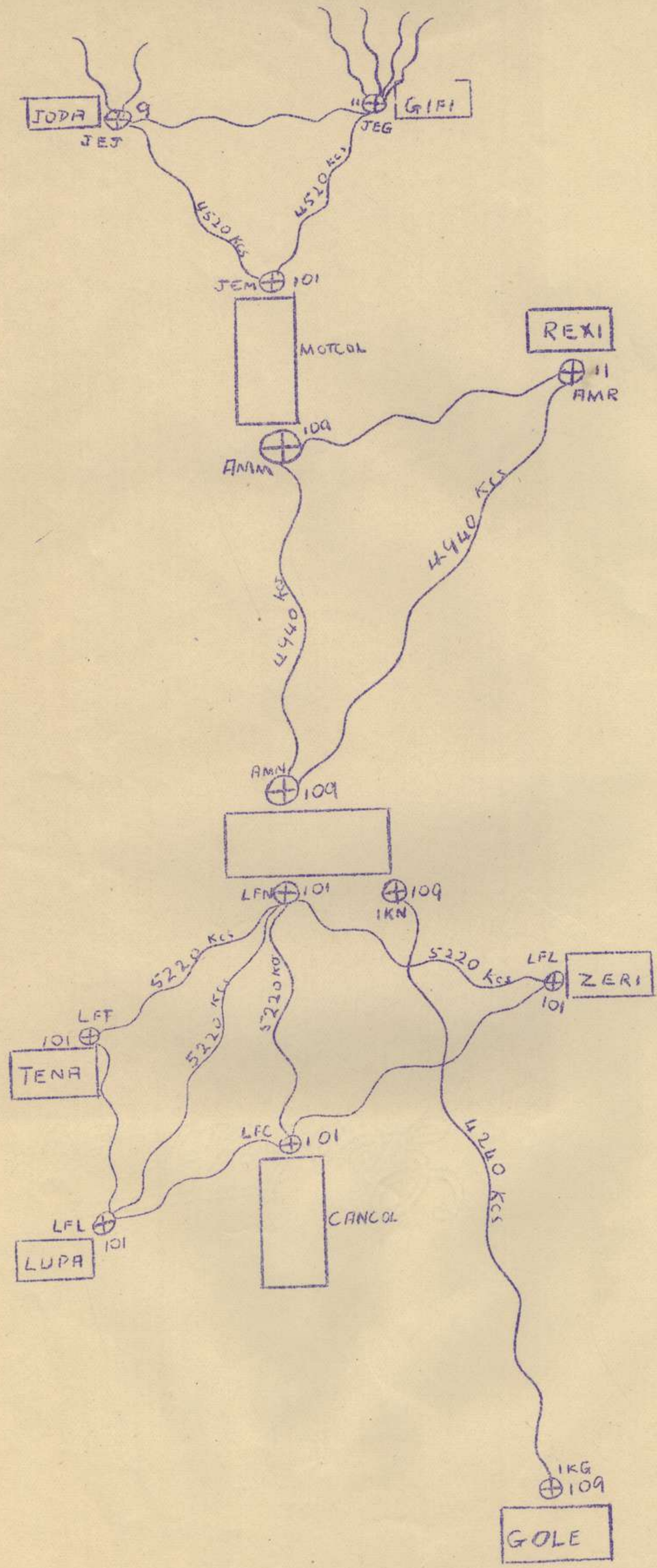
- 20. Password. See OO No 8 Para 24.

Maj.  
EM 21 Aust Inf Bde.

ACK.  
Signed at 1845 hrs.  
Issued to Sigs.

<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>Copy No</u>	<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
2/14 Bn	1	5 Res MT Coy	16
2/16 Bn	2	Aust Div Exporter	17 - 20
2/27 Bn	3	(1 AILLO, 1 INLO)	
Sigs	4	Comd	21
59 LAD	5	SC	22
9 Pl Aust HQ Gd Bn	6	LOs	23 - 25
Det ROYALS	7	Bde TO	26
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	8	Camp	27
CHESHIRE Yes	9	File	28 - 29
2/4 Fd Regt	10	War Diary	30 - 31
6 A Tk Bty	11	Spare	32 - 35.
170 Lt AA Bty	12		
2/6 Fd Coy	13		
2/6 Fd Amb	14		
14 Lt Fd Amb	15		





DRAWN AT 1835 H  
9 JUN 41



# MESSAGE FORM

Serial No.

**CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS**

IN

OUT

No. of Groups.

GR.

OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

SLID ONTO reptd WEAN VATA CHAR

FROM

VIBA

Originator's Number

0122

Date

9

In Reply to Number

Warning Order @ SLID prepare for ops against ABEY next fortyeight hrs @  
 SLID relieves ONTO Pt 512 area and takes over Pt 442 from SANG @ ONTO  
 relieves SLIDA and SLIDB at Pt 567 AIPEZM and all SLID will concentrate on  
~~reiter~~ general line NAHR DAQOUN @ Comd SLID to report completion @ Probable  
 axis of move on ABEY is EL QARQATE - DARTE XENAQL - Pt 656 ABREZM @ SLID  
 will send patrols fwd from Pts 442 and 512 to recce approaches to ABEY @  
 Times of above reliefs to be arranged between comds SLID and ONTO but will  
 be completed by 0800 hrs 10 Jul Ack

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS.

Sgd C H Finlay Maj

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER.

SIGNED

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

0920.

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

SIGNED											
SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER
Forms C2128/13. Wt. 36169/1798. 1,000M. pads. 12 /39. B.& S. Ltd. 51-5537.											

T.O.R.



21 AUST INF BDE GP OP INSTN NO 17.

Ref Map : BEYROUTH 1/200,000.

INFM.

1. The enemy are holding a strong defensive posn astride the COAST Rd at INNSARIYE 108165. Our fwd elements are immediately south of ADIDUN.

INTENTION.

2. 21 Bde Gp will capture the INNSARIYE posn and exploit to the high ground overlooking track running west through ESSAKIYE.

METHOD.

3. Fwd tps - 2/27 Bn.
4. Zero - 2400 hrs 10 Jun.
5. Arty support - 2400 hrs to 0200 hrs. First fire falls on line from INNISARIYE eastwards to the COAST Rd from 2400 to 2405 hrs - then lifts 400 yds for five mins and a further 400 yds for 10 mins. Five mins harrassing fire on track through ESSAKIYE from 0020 to 0025 hrs.
6. SOS - Green over green.
7. Arty SOS - line of WADI running East and West South of ESSAKIYE.
8. 2/14 Bn less two coys passes through 2/27 Bn at 0445 hrs 11 Jun and continues the adv to secure the br over the NAHR EZ ZAHRANI. Armd patrols will recce north as far as SAIDA.
9. The following tps come under comd 2/14 Bn as from receipt of this order :
  - A Sqn 6 Aust Cav
  - One bty 2/4 Rd Regt
  - 6 A Tk Bty less two tps
  - One sec 2/6 Rd Coy
  - One coy 2/6 Rd Amb
  - B Sec 14 Lt Rd Amb
  - W/T det Div Sigs.
10. 2/16 Bn plus two coys 2/14 Bn is responsible for the defence of the br head over the LITANI River and will be relieved by CHESHIRE Yeo on 13 Jun at 0001 hrs.
11. One tp 2/4 Rd Regt will be under comd 2/16 Bn as from 0500 hrs 11 Jun for defence of br head..
12. CHESHIRE Yeo will maintain a garrison of one tp in TYR as from 2000 hrs 10 Jun.
13. 2/27 Bn will dispose one coy as follows :
  - (a) astride rd NABATIYE - ABOU EL ASSOUD about 107159
  - (b) JEM JEM
  - (c) EL QUASTA
14. Bde Gp Res :

Two tps ROYALS.  
CHESHIRE Yeo.



15. 170 Lt AA Bty will be disposed to cover crossings over LITANI River.  
ADM.  
16. As necessary by Sig message.

INTERCOMN.

17. LOS with fwd bns from Zero.  
18. W/T vehs as per present allocation.  
19. HQ Bde Gp remains present location unless otherwise notified.

ACK.  
Signed at *2015* hrs.  
Issued to Sigs.

*[Signature]*  
Maj  
HM 21 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION

As per Op Instn No 16.



SECRET

Copy No. 29

11 Jun 41.

21 AUST INF BDE GP OP INSTN No 18.

Ref Map : BEYROUTH Sheet 1/200,000.

INFM.

1. Enemy continuing delaying action on coastal plain. Leading elements own tps have reached line of rd NABATIYE - COAST.
2. Right coln Aust Div Exporter captured MERDJAYOUN 11 Jun.

INTENTION.

3. Objective for 12 Jun is the rd JEZZINE - SAIDA. Armd patrols may exploit North to the line RHARIFE 133189 - QUADI ZEINE 119188.

METHOD.

4. Adv Gd :

Comd - Lt-Col M J Moten 2/27 Bn  
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav  
2/4 Rd Regt less one bty  
170 Lt AA Bty (less two tps)  
One tp 6 A Tk Bty  
One sec 2/6 Rd Coy  
W/T det Div Sigs  
2/27 Bn  
B Coy 2/6 Rd Amb  
One sec 5 Res MT Coy (to lift 2/27 Bn - time and place of embussing to be arranged between Comds.)

5. Van gd is to comprise A Sqn 6 Aust Cav, not more than one tp arty, carrier pl 2/27 Bn and recon party engineers.
6. Inf will be lorry-borne and held sufficiently far back behind the van gd to avoid small arms fire.
7. Adv gd will move at 0430 hrs through the fwd elements of 2/14 Bn.
8. The following tps will comprise the main body in order of march :

Comd : Maj J E M Calder 2/6 Rd Coy  
One tp 2/4 Rd Regt  
One tp (less one sec) 170 Lt AA Bty  
6 A Tk Bty (less two tps)  
2/6 Rd Amb (less B Coy)  
2/6 Rd Coy (less one sec)

Main body moves not before 0800 hrs : SP Rd junc 113174.  
Time of move confirmed by Sig message.

9. This coln will be joined later in the day by 2/16 Bn (lorry-borne) at which time comd of the coln will pass to Lt-Col A B MacDonald.
10. 2/14 Bn less one coy will be responsible for effectively protecting the right flank of the coln at the junc of the rds MERDJAYOUN - COAST and HAIBA - BEYROUTH. One sec 6 A Tk Bty placed under comd as from receipt of this order.
11. One coy 2/14 Bn will remain in the LITANI River area, clear the battlefield of our own and enemy dead and bury the bodies. It will rejoin the unit on completion of this task.
12. 2/16 Bn will be relieved by CHESHIRE Yeo at 0001 hrs 12 Jun and, less one coy, will concentrate in the area West of the main rd and North of the LITANI River. 5 Res MT Coy will lift this bn to the area ADLOUN commencing 1200 hrs. Time and place of reporting of MT by direct Liaison between two units concerned. One sec 6 A Tk Bty is placed under comd as from 1200 hrs.



- 13. One coy 2/16 Bn will be utilised as a flank gd at EL QUASDA, JEM JEM and astride the NABATIYA Rd near KARR BADA.
- 14. 170 Lt AA Bty will leave one sec under cmd CHESHIRE Yeo for AA and A Tk defence purposes at the IITANI River br.
- 15. CHESHIRE Yeo will maintain a garrison in TYR and the responsibility for public security measures will rest with the cmd of that unit.
- 16. Remainder of Bde Gp not detailed above will remain in Bde Gp res and move as ordered later.

ADM.

- 17. Issued separately by Sig messages.

INTERCOMM.

- 18. Adv Bde HQ remains present location, alteration if any notified by Sig messages.
- 19. Allocation W/T sets as at present.
- 20. Two LOfs with Adv Gd froa Zero.

Maj.  
HM El Aust Inf Bde.

ACK.

Signed at 2030 hrs  
Issued to sigs.

<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
2/14 Bn	1
2/16 Bn	2
2/27 Bn	3
HQ Corps Gd Pl	4
Sigs	5
59 IAD	6
CHESHIRE Yeo	7
A sqn 6 Aust Cav	8
2/4 RI Regt	9
6 A Tk Bty	10
170 Lt AA Bty	11
2/6 RI Coy	12
2/6 RI Amb	13
B Sec 14 Lt RI Amb	14
5 Res INF Coy	15
25 Aust Inf Bde Gp	16
Aust Div Exporter	17 - 18
Aust Div Exporter (for AILLO)	19
Cmd	20
SC	21
LOf	22 - 24
Bde TO	25
Comp	26
File	27 - 28
War Diary	29 - 30
Spares	31 - 35



S E C R E T

Copy No 29

12 Jun 41.

21 AUST INF BDE GP OP INSTN No 19.

Ref Map : BEYROUTH Sheets 1/50,000. and 1/200,000.

INFM.

1. Enemy forces have withdrawn to SAIDA which is based on a coy defence. It is reported that this force may be reinforced by a sqn of SPAHIS.
2. On right flank POD FORCE has reached area DNEIHE 14851685 - ZELLAYA 14271690. 25 Aust Inf Bde Gp is reorganizing in MERD-JAYOUN AREA.

INTENTION.

3. 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp will adv 13 Jun and seize the line HASSIR 123192 - NEBI YOUNES 121193.

METHOD.

4. Adv gd -

Comd : Lt-Col A B MacDonald 2/16 Bn  
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav  
2/4 Fd Regt less one bty  
One tp 6 A Tk Bty  
One tp 170 Lt AA Bty  
One sec 2/6 Fd Coy  
2/16 Bn  
A coy 2/6 Fd Amb  
One sec 5 Res MP Coy

5. Main body -

Comd : Lt-Col M J Moten 2/27 Bn  
One bty 2/4 Fd Regt  
6 A Tk Bty less two tps  
170 Lt AA Bty less one tp  
2/6 Fd Coy less one sec  
2/27 Bn -  
B Coy 2/6 Fd Amb  
One sec 5 Res MP

6. Flank gd : Rd NABATIYE - HASSANIYE.

Comd : Lt-Col W G Cannon 2/14 Bn  
One tp 6 A Tk Bty  
2/14 Bn / B sec 14 Lt Fd Amb.

Patrol one sec carrier pl and one A Tk gun under comd of an offr will be provided by flank gd to patrol rd NABATIYE - HASSANIYE and contact patrols 25 Aust Inf Bde Gp at HABBOUCH.

7. Bde Gp res -

CHESHIRE Yeo

8. Adv gd will move at 0430 hrs through fwd elements 2/27 Bn.

9. Inf will be lorry-borne and held sufficiently far back to avoid small arms fire.

10. Main body will be responsible for the security of the COAST Rd and will be prepared to picket the flank rds leading in from the east between DARB ES SIM 116177 and objective for the day.



11. Flank gd 2/14 Bn will be prepared to release two coys to garrison SAIDA in the event of other garrison not coming fwd.

ADM.

12. Issued separately by Sig messages.

INTERCOMN.

13. Adv Bde HQ remains present location, alteration if any notified by Sig messages.

14. Allocation W/T sets as at present.

15. LOs with Adv Gd and Main body from Zero.

*M. J. Mulcahy*

ACK.  
Signed at 1845 hrs  
Issued to sigs.

Maj.  
EM 21 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No

2/14 Bn	1
2/16 Bn	2
2/27 Bn	3
HQ Corps Gd Pl	4
Sigs	5
59 IAD	6
CHESHIRE Yeo	7
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	8
2/4 RI Regt	9
6 A Tk Bty	10
170 Lt AA Bty	11
2/6 RI Coy	12
2/6 RI Amb	13
B Sec 14 Lt RI Amb	14
5 Res MF Coy	15
25 Aust Inf Bde	16
Aust Div Exporter	17 - 18
Aust Div Exporter (for AILLO)	19
Comd	20
SO	21
LOs	22 - 24
Bde FO	25
Camp	26
File	27 - 28
War Diary	29 - 30
Spares	31 - 35.



SECRET

Copy No \_\_\_\_\_

13 Jun 41.

21 AUST INF BDE OP OP NOTES  
ON ATTACK ON SAIDA 13 JUN.

1. 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp will capture SAIDA and exploit to the line of the rd AIN MAYA - JOUN 124184.
2. Fwd tps - 2/16 Bn.
3. Axis of adv parallel with SAIDA - BEYROUTH Rd. Objective as indicated in Para 1.
4. Two coys 2/27 Bn now in possession of high ground to southeast of SAIDA will move along parallel with the adv of 2/16 Bn to EL AALYIE 118182 where they will halt and be responsible for flank protection on the rd JEZZINE - SAIDA.
5. 6 Aust Cav Sqn will protect the immediate right flank of the 2/16 Bn but will not move ahead of the fwd inf.
6. 2/16 Bn will indicate to the cav the position of their fwd inf by firing a red Verrey light after crossing the River SAITANI.
7. The Navy will support the attack by firing intermittently at olive groves and timber area immediately South and Southeast of SAIDA during the period 0800 - 0930 hrs. The Navy will bombard this area intensively from 0930 to 1000 hrs. Southern limits for naval tasks will be indicated at 0800 hrs by HE bursts fired by 2/4 Rl Regt as arranged verbally.
8. 2/4 Rl Regt will support the attack by concentrations commencing 1000 hrs and move fwd at the rate of 100 yds per minute.
9. The township of SAIDA itself will not be bombarded unless opposition within the area is encountered.
10. 6 A Tk Bty will send two guns fwd in rear of the cav and after the taking of SAIDA will place a further two guns at EL AALIYE.
11. 2/16 Bn will detach one coy plus two tps lt tks 6 Aust Cav to go through SAIDA and patrol the township area.
12. A political offr will be sent into the town immediately it is pronounced clear.
13. No tp carrying vehs will be used fwd of the NAHR EZ ZAHRANI.
14. 170 Lt AA Bty will maintain present posns until SAIDA is captured and will then dispose one tp to cover the Northern entrances to the town. OC Bty will report Bde HQ 1000 hrs for further orders.
15. Zero - 1000 hrs.
16. Bde HQ - reentrant 114174.

  
Maj.  
BN 21 Aust Inf Bde.

ACK.  
Signed at 0719 hrs.  
Issued to Sigs.

DISTRIBUTION.  
Same as for Op Instn No 19.



SECRET  
Copy No  
16 Jun 41.

21 AUST INF BDE GP OP INSTN No 20.

Ref Maps : BEYROUTH Sheet 1/200,000  
SAIDA Sheet 1/50,000

INTENTION.

1. The objective for the day will be the line due East from Cap SAHARE through EL RMAILEH 11951859.

METHOD.

2. Fwd Tps - 2/27 Bn on the right, 2/16 Bn on the left.
3. Inter-bn boundary - all incl 2/16 Bn Br at 11851840, NE to Western outskirts EL RMAILEH.
4. Bde Res - 2/14 Bn to occupy defensive posn at MEY OUMIYE and to dispose one coy astride the JEZZINE - SAIDA rd in the vicinity of EL AALYE.
5. A Coy reverts to comd 2/14 Bn, plus one pl MGS, 2/3 MG Bn.
6. One A Tk gun, 6 A Tk Bty, comes under comd 2/14 Bn for use on JEZZINE - SAIDA Rd.
7. The ops for the day will consist of :
  - (a) Clearing of the enemy posts between RMAILE 11971843 and the COAST Rd. 2/27 and 2/16 Bns will undertake this as already discussed. 9 Div Cav will cooperate and one tp 2/4 Rd Regt is available for support each bn. FOOs with fwd bns.
  - (b) On securing the line East from CAP SAHARE, fwd bns will occupy defensive posns in depth with FDLs overlooking WADI EL AKHDA R. 9 Div Cav will patrol Northwards in front of FDLs not further than the rd SEBLINE - QUADI EL ZEINI and ascertain location of enemy posts.
8. Confirming the instns already issued CHESHIRE Yec is responsible for the defence of the HASSANIYE Rd junc area, one pl 2/3 MG Bn under comd. The rd MERDJAYOUN - COAST is to be prepared for demolition and 2/6 Rd Coy will detail demolition party to stand by. Responsibility for blowing rd rests with Comd CHESHIRE Yec.
9. 2/6 Rd Coy will prepare for demolition bridges on the COAST Rd at 11771841 and across the river at 11851840. Responsibility for blowing the bridges rests with Comd 2/16 Bn.
10. When the adv is continued the Adv Comd will be Comd 2/14 Bn.

ADM.

11. 2/14 Bn will detail a burial party to dispose of enemy dead along the COAST Rd south of SAIDA.
12. No units other than ADS and the town garrison are to remain in SAIDA.
13. PW cage and burial ground already notified by signal.

ACK.

Signed at hrs.  
Issued to Sigs.

  
Maj.  
BR 21 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION Over.



DISTRIBUTION

Copy No

2/14 Bn	1
2/16 Bn	2
2/27 Bn	3
Corps HQ Gd Pl	4
Sigs	5
89 LAD-	6
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	7
A Sqn 9 Aust Cav	8
CHESHIRE Yeo	9
2/4 Rd Regt	10
6 A Tk Bty	11
170 Lt AA Bty	12
2/6 Rd Coy	13
A Coy 2/3 Bn	14
A Coy 2/3 MG Bn	15
5 Res MT Coy	16
2/6 Rd Amb	17
B Sec 14 Lt Rd Amb	18
25 Aust Inf Bde Gp	19
Aust Div Exporter	20 - 21
" " " (for Ailo)	22
" " " (for NLO)	23
Comd	24
Bde TO	25
LOs	26 - 28
Camp	29
File	30 - 31
War Diary	32 - 33
Spare	34 - 35

*[Handwritten signature]*

2/14 Bn

DISTRIBUTION OVER

ACK.  
Signed at  
Issued to Sigs.



S E C R E T  
Copy No \_\_\_\_\_  
25 Jun 41.

21 AUST INF BDE OP INSTN No 22.

Ref Maps : BEYROUTH 1/200,000  
SAIDA and JEZINE Sheets 1/50,000.

Comd 2/25 Bn.

INFM.

1. See 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp Int Summary No 4 and daily sitreps.

OBJECT.

2. You will clear the enemy from the area CHEHIM 127188 - DARAYA 129189 - AANOUT 129188.

METHOD.

3. After clearing the enemy from the above posns you will occupy a defensive posn astride the rd CHEHIM - RHARINE about pts 774, 13101870 - 781, 13081879 - 738, 13081880.
4. You will pay particular attention to your right flank in view of enemy disposns at MAZMOURA 129185 - MAZRAAT ED DAHR 130184.
5. You will occupy pt 832, 13201876 if it provide good observation fwd.
6. After consolidation you will patrol to EL ZAAROUYE 130187, EL MFOLE 132186 and HASROUT 131188 and report whether these areas are occupied or otherwise. Active patrolling in this direction and to other pts in the vicinity which you consider worth investigating will be continued.
7. You will provide an effective rd block with A Tk mines at a pt on the rd which can be covered by your fire from your defensive posn.
8. You will have under comd the following :  
One A Tk gun, 6 A Tk Bty,  
Det 2/6 Pz Coy,  
One W/T set, Div Sigs,  
B Sec 14 Lt Fd Amb.
9. One tp 2/4 Pz Regt will be in support and an OPO will be made available to you after you have cleared CHEHIM. Up till that stage arty support will be provided by the OPO already in posn SE of SEBLINE.
10. You will advise immediately the number of mules required to pack mortars and amm and SAA.
11. Tp carrying vehs are not to proceed East of SEBLINE.
12. A Bch vehs are not to proceed East of SEBLINE until CHEHIM has been cleared, when they may be moved at your discretion.
13. The time at which you commence this op will be decided in consultation with me after your recce.

ACK.

Signed at \_\_\_\_\_ hrs  
Issued to sigs.

Brig  
Comd 21 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION.

See over



DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No

2/25 Bn	1
2/27 Bn	2
Sigs	3
2/4 Fd Regt	4
6 A Tk Bty	5
2/6 Fd Coy	6
2/6 Fd Amb	7
B Sec 14 Lt Fd Amb	8
25 Aust Inf Bde Gp	9
Aust Div Exporter	10
Cmd	11
File	12-13
War Diary	14-15

2. You will clear the enemy from the area CHERIN 12188 - 12189.

METHOD.

3. After clearing the enemy from the above points you will report a definitive point outside the rd CHERIN - 12188 about 700 yds.
4. You will pay particular attention to your right flank in view of enemy dispositions at 12188 - 12189.
5. You will occupy rd 332, 12188 & it provide good observation.
6. After consolidation you will patrol to rd 332/12188. Active patrolling in this direction are occupied on other rd's. Active patrolling in this direction and to other rd's in the vicinity which you consider worth patrolling will be continued.
7. You will provide an effective rd block with A Tk mine at a pt on the rd which can be covered by your line from your defensive position.
8. You will have under command the following:  
One A Tk Gun, 3 A Tk Bty,  
One 2/6 Fd Coy,  
One 2/6 Fd Coy,  
One 2/6 Fd Coy,  
B Sec 14 Lt Fd Amb.
9. One of 2/6 Fd Amb will be in support and an OTO will be made available to you after you have cleared CHERIN.
10. You will advise immediately the number of mines reported to be in position and send BAA.
11. To carrying vans are not to proceed East of CHERIN.
12. A Bn vans are not to proceed East of CHERIN until CHERIN has been cleared, when they may be moved at your discretion.
13. The time at which you commence this op will be decided in command pattern with me after your report.

Cmd 2/5 Bn  
Sigs

Issued to atge.  
Signed at  
AOK.

DISTRIBUTION.  
See over



SECRET

Copy No 18

28 Jun 41.

21 AUST INF BDE GP OP INSTN No 23.

Ref Map : SAIDA Sheet 1/50,000.

INFM.

1. See 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp Int Summary No 6 dated 27 Jun 41 and Daily Sitrep.

INTENTION.

2. 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp will secure observation over the DAMOUR posn.

METHOD.

3. There will be no further adv beyond the present fwd posns except that 2/27 Bn will seize pts 412, 12521945 and 394, 12631947 to secure observation.
4. The inter-bn boundary which will also be the boundary for responsibility of infm is as under. "E" in EL ATIQA 124197 - Pt 168, 12411962 - ES SIYAR 12341952 (all incl 2/16 Bn) - EL HARAM 12321943 incl 2/27 Bn.
5. One sec MG Tp CHESHIRE Yeo will move to AAQLIYA area for right flank protection of 2/27 Bn and in such a posn that MG fire can be produced on rd BEIT ED DINE - EL ATIQA.
6. Particular attention will be paid to concealment of posns and the above guns will not open fire except in the case of counter-attack or for a profitable target moving along the rd.
7. In the fwd area the minimum personnel are to be kept in exposed posns commensurate with security.
8. The area not held between our fwd posns and the enemy FDLs will be denied to the enemy at night by active patrolling and recce patrols will gain all possible infm re approaches to river and crossing pts.
9. 2/27 Bn will retain post of one Pl on rd JOUN - SAIDA.
10. One Tp CHESHIRE Yeo at EL MGHAIIRIYA will be withdrawn and revert to cmd of sqn on MERDJAYOUN Rd.
11. 2/27 Bn will retain one coy astride lateral rd at SEBLINE.

*Jes*

*[Signature]*

ACK

Signed at \_\_\_\_\_ hrs.  
Issued to sigs.

MaJ.  
BM 21 Aust Inf Bde.

<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
✓ CHESHIRE Yeo	1
✓ A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	2
✓ 2/4 Fd Regt	3
6 A Tk Bty	4
170 Lt AA Bty	5
2/6 Fd Coy	6
Sigs	7
2/16 Bn	8
2/25 Bn	9
2/27 Bn	10

<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>Copy No</u>
21 Aust Inf Bde Gp	
AASC Coy	11
2/6 Fd Amb	12
B Sec 14 Lt Fd Amb	13
25 Aust Inf Bde	14
7 Aust Div	15-17 (One for AILO)
Cmd	18
NLO	19
File	20-21
War Diary	22-23



SECRET

Copy No 21

3 Jul 41.

21 AUST INF BDE GP OP INSTN No 24.

Ref Maps : SAIDA and JEZZINE Sheets 1/50,000.

INFM.

1. See 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp Int Summary No 7 and daily sitrep.
2. 2/14 Bn reverts to comd 2 Jul.
3. Following additional tps under comd on arrival in area :

2/2 Pnr Bn (less two coys)  
Dets 2/9 A. Rd. Coy

INTENTION.

4. 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp will capture RHARIFE.

METHOD.

5. Tps to carry out task :

2/25 Bn  
2/2 Pnr Bn (less two coys)  
Two tps 6 Aust Cav  
One tp 2/4 Rd Regt  
One tp 2/9 Rd Regt  
5 A Tk guns, 6 A Tk Bty  
Det 2/9 A Rd Coy  
Det 2/6 Rd Amb  
B Sec 14 Lt Rd Amb

6. In the initial stages the op will be carried out in two colns organized as follows :

(a) Northern Coln -

Comd : Lt-Col C B Withy MC 2/25 Bn  
2/25 Bn  
One tp 2/4 Rd Regt  
Three dets 6 A Tk Bty  
Det 2/9 A Rd Coy  
B Sec 14 Lt Rd Amb

(b) Southern Coln -

Comd : Lt-Col R F Monaghan 2/2 Pnr Bn  
2/2 Pnr Bn (less two coys) / Two dets 3 Pl 2/14 Bn.  
Two tps 6 Aust Cav  
One tp 2/9 Rd Regt  
Two dets 6 A Tk Bty  
Det 2/9 A Rd Coy  
Lt Sec 2/6 Rd Amb

7. Routes - The Northern Coln will adv via AANOUT - HASROUF.  
The Southern Coln via MAZRAAT ED DAHR and EL MTOLLE.

8. The op will be carried out in two phases :

Phase 1. Northern Coln will secure the high ground pts 832, 13201877 and 814, 13221863.

Southern Coln will secure pt 818, 13241862 and MTOLLE, and block the rd EL MTOLLE - BSABA.

Over.



Phase 2. Northern Coln will capture RHARIFE.  
Southern Coln will clear BEIZOUH area and capture Pt  
669, 13321877.

9. Timings.

- (a) For phase 1 as already discussed.
- (b) Phase 11 will not commence until Phase 1 is complete.

10. 2/6 Rl Regt is engaging targets East and South of a line through  
E in EL MADAOURA 134187 and first B in BSABA 133185.

11. Exploitation beyond RHARIFE will be limited to the high ground  
immediately covering RHARIFE.

ADM.

12. By sig message as necessary.

INTERCOMM.

13. Existing line to 2/25 Bn will be extended to AANOUT.

14. W/T comm diagram att.

15. LOs with coins forthwith.

16. Bde HQ remains present location.

Maj:  
BM 21 Aust Inf Bde

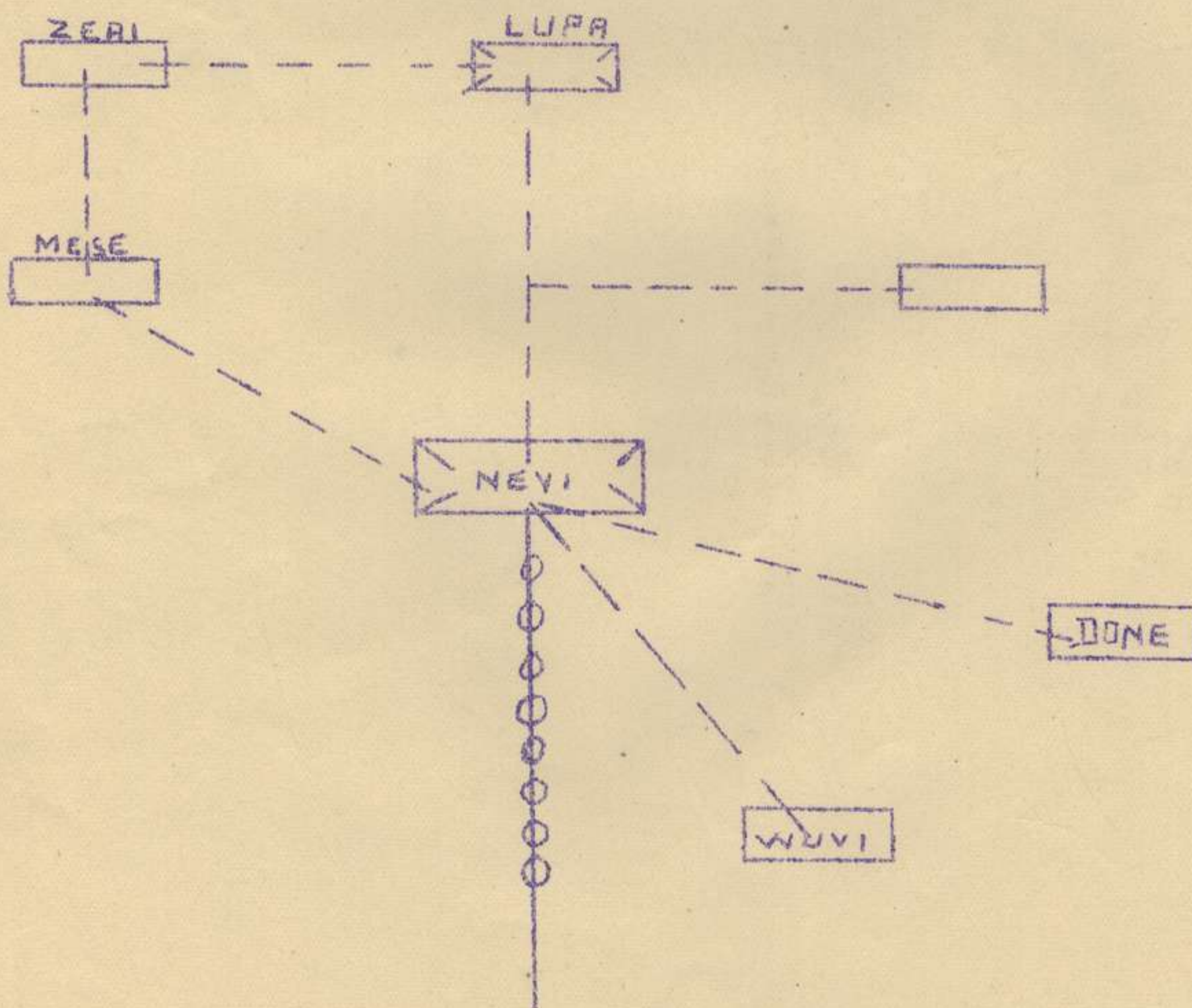
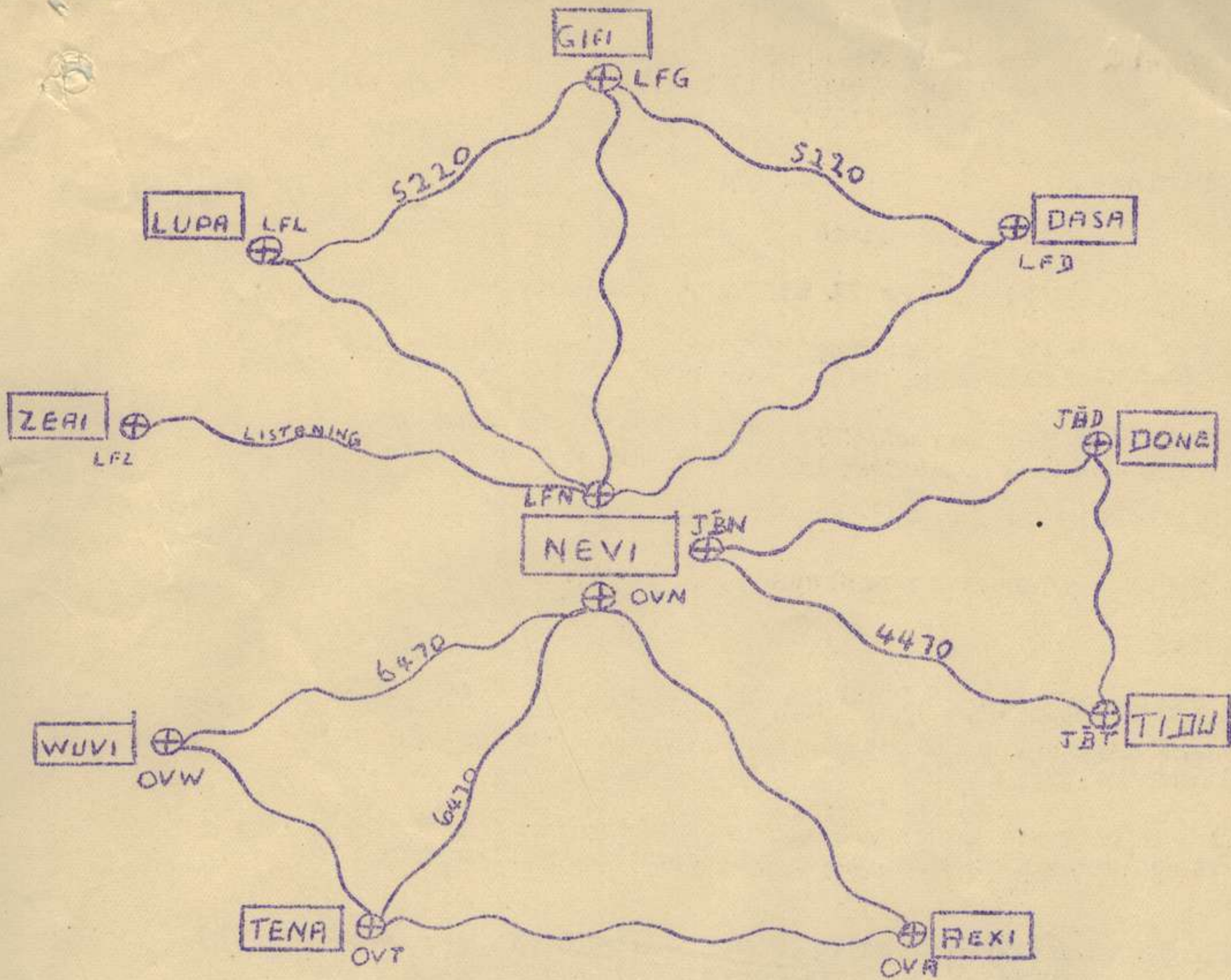
ACK  
Signed at 1223 hrs  
Issued to sigs and by LO

DISTRIBUTION

Copy No

2/25 Bn	1
2/2 Pnr Bn	2
2/14 Bn	3
CHESHIRE Yeo	4
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	5
2/4 Rl Regt	6
6 A Tk Bty	7
2/9 A Rl Coy	8
2/6 Rl Amb	9
25 Aust Inf Bde Cp	10-11 (one for 2/6 Rl Regt)
7 Aust Div	12-14 (one for AILLO)
Comd	15
SC	16
Bde TO	17
File	18-19
War Diary	20-21.





To be est by 1800 hr

3 July 41  
*J.C. Watson*



SECRET  
Copy No. 8  
6 Jul 41.

21 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BDE OP INSTN No 25.

Ref Map : SAIDA 1/50,000 sheet.

2/16 Bn.

INFM.

1. 2/27 Bn has captured second objective, moving on to third objective.
2. The wooded area West of the rd is to be subjected to arty fire throughout the afternoon and night, 6 Jul.
3. 2/14 Bn is passing through 2/27 Bn night 6/7 Jul to exploit to NAHR DAQOUN.

INTENTION.

4. You will :
  - (a) Withdraw all men of A and D Coys 400 yds from the wooded area and to the same distance East of br so that the Southern edge of the wood and the islands may be shelled.
  - (b) Organize and consolidate in the EL ATIQA posn on the line of original objectives. No ground in this area is to be given up.
  - (c) Put one coy astride the Coast Rd in the vicinity of YERAMBE to go against possibility of counter attack.
  - (d) Arrange that A Coy guards the left rear of EL ATIQA posn by occupying the Spur 400 yds east of the rd.
  - (e) After midnight send patrols into the wooded area to locate and destroy MG posts along to Southern wall. You will inform this HQ of the time these patrols will operate in order that arty fire may be stopped for that period.
  - (f) Inform this HQ as soon as possible of defensive fire required on call for the night 6/7 Jul.

ACK.  
Signed at 1530 hrs  
Issued by LO.

  
Maj.  
BM 21 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No

2/16 Bn	1
7 Aust Div	2-3
Comd	4
File	5-6
War Diary	7-8



SECRET

Copy No  
7 Jul 41.

21 AUSTRALIAN INF BDE OP INSTN No 26.

Ref Maps : SAIDA 1/50,000 and DAMOUR 1/25,000 Sheets.

INFM.

1. See daily sitrep.
2. 2/14 Bn passing through 2/27 Bn reached NAHR DAQUON at certain pts but is still engaged with enemy posts in that area. 2/16 Bn met with strong resistance from isolated enemy posts in EL HAMRA and MAR MIKHAIL area, also enemy occupying the orange groves to the West of BEYROUTH Rd. Right flank gd successfully held Pt 567 against repeated counter-attacks by AFVs and inf from the East.

INTENTION.

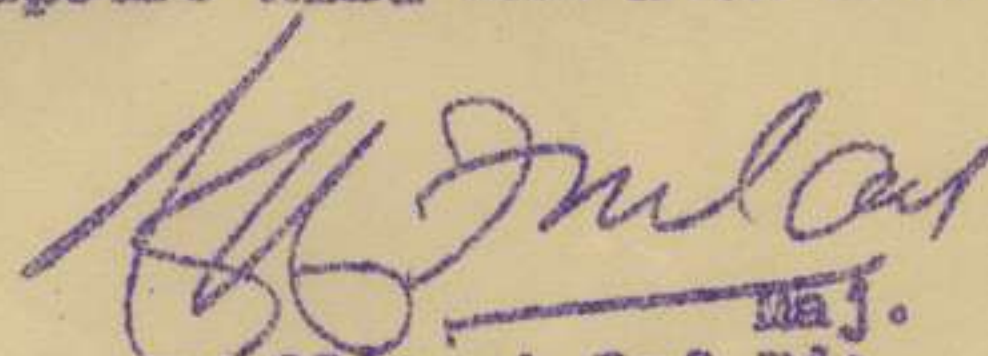
3. The following ops will be undertaken 8 Jul :

- (a) 2/27 Bn will clear enemy posts as far West as 126 Grid line and as far North as 199 Grid line. 2/27 Bn is responsible for the track DARAYA - DAMOUR.
- (b) 2/16 Bn will clear any enemy posts between 126 Grid line and Coast as far North as MAR MIKHAIL. 2/16 Bn will then consolidate in depth astride the BEYROUTH rd on the general line Pt 135 - Coast.
- (c) 2/2 Pnr Bn will mop up DAMOUR township and Orchard area West of BEYROUTH rd between MAR MIKHAIL and 200 Grid line. 2/2 Pnr Bn will then occupy a posn astride the BEYROUTH rd on the Northern edge of DAMOUR township.
- (d) 2/14 Bn, (less two coys right flank gd) will clear enemy posts in NAHR DAQUON and gain touch with 2/2 Pnr Bn on the Eastern edge of DAMOUR about 125200. 2/14 Bn is responsible for covering the East-West track from EL QARQATE to DAMOUR.
- (e) WINGS : One sec (pack) D Coy 2/3 MG Bn will be under comd each 2/14 and 2/27 Bns and one sec under comd 2/2 Pnr Bn on 8 Jul.
- (f) 2/6 RI Coy will undertake recce of all tracks leading East from BEYROUTH rd in direction of ABEY and KAHR MATTA as far North as EL BATTADIYE to determine whether they can be used for A Tk guns and A ech vehs. Report to reach these HQ by 1700 hrs 8 Jul.

4. WARNING ORDER.

On 9 Jul it is probable that 2/14 and 2/27 Bns, supported by 2/4 RI Regt, will be required to capture ABEY and KAHR MATTA.

ACK.  
Signed at 2207 hrs  
Issued to sigs and by IO.

  
Maj.  
BM 21 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION Over.



DISTRIBUTION

Copy No

- 2/14 Bn
- 2/16 Bn
- 2/27 Bn
- 2/2 Pnr Bn
- Sigs
- 59 LAD
- 9 Pl HQ Gd Bn
- A Sqn 8 Aust Cav
- MG Tp CHESHIRE Yeo
- CRA
- 6 A Tk Bty
- 170 Lt AA Bty
- 2/6 Rd Coy
- D Coy 2/3 MG Bn
- 2/6 Rd Amb
- 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp ASC Coy
- 17 Aust Inf Bde Gp
- 25 Aust Inf Bde Gp
- 7 Aust Div
- NLO
- AILO
- Cond
- File
- War Diary

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10-11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20-21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25-26
- 27-28

(a) The following will be distributed to the following units:

(b) The following will be distributed to the following units:

(c) The following will be distributed to the following units:

(d) The following will be distributed to the following units:

(e) The following will be distributed to the following units:

(f) The following will be distributed to the following units:

(g) The following will be distributed to the following units:

(h) The following will be distributed to the following units:

(i) The following will be distributed to the following units:

(j) The following will be distributed to the following units:

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten signature]*

DISTRIBUTION



21 AUST INF BDE GP ADM INSTN No 1.  
(Issued in conjunction with 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp  
OO No 7.)

Ref Maps : HAIFA Sheet 1/100,000  
SAFAD Sheet 1/100,000

1. AMN.

(a) Units will move to Assembly Areas with first line amn complete as follows :

(i) With man or gun -

Rifle	-	100
LMG	-	1000
.55 AP	-	200
T. SMG	-	250
3 in Mor HE	-	up to 75 if available.
3 in Mor Smok	-	45
2 in Mor HE	-	9
2 in Mor Smok	-	27

(ii) On A Ech vehs - the balance to G1098 scale. Normal replenishment will be carried out by units.

(b) Locations and times of opening of APs will be advised as situation develops, except for 2/4 Rd Arty, for which amn will be delivered by Bde Gp Comp Coy to Bty posns.

2. POL.

(a) All vehs will proceed to Assembly Areas with tanks full and res on vehs as follows :

Cars	-	8 gals
Vars	-	12 "
Lorries	-	16 "

(b) One veh from B Ech of inf bn in each coln will accompany its coln with sufficient pet to replace consumption during move to Assembly Areas. On completion of replenishment, these vehs will return to B Ech.

(c) Two pet vehs from own unit will accompany 2/4 Rd Arty, 6 A Tk Bty, A Sqn 6 Aust Cav, to Assembly Area, one of which will replenish their vehs and return to B Ech. The other veh will accompany the colns on D1.

(d) Location and times of opening of PPs will be notified.

3. SUPS.

(a) Four days hard rations and the unconsumed portion of the day's ration will be taken from concentration area and carried as follows :

One day on the man,  
One day with the tps in the tp carrying  
vehs for consumption in Assembly Areas,  
Two days in A Ech vehs,  
One day in B Ech vehs.

(b) One day's hard ration will be for consumption on D2 day and the remaining will be res.

/(c) Units -



- (c) Units will be maintained in the normal manner. Locations and times of MPs will be notified daily.
- (d) Indents (AB55) will be submitted to Bde by all units in Gp by 0830 hrs daily. Indents will be for rations for consumption on the third day after rendition.
- (e) Fully motorised units will carry the full four days rations plus the unconsumed days ration in their unit vehs from the Concentration Area.
- (f) Rations vehs of 2/14 Bn only will move fwd to the unit on D1 at a time and to a RV to be notified. They will be accompanied by water veh.

#### 4. Water.

- (a) The following res will be carried :

Cars	-	4 gals.
Vans	-	8 gals.
Lorries	-	16 gals.

- (b) Water tanks as under will accompany colns to the Assembly Areas:

From 2/16 Bn with DONCOL.  
" 2/27 Bn with MOTCOL.

All water bottles and water containers will be replenished to the scale shown in sub-para (a) before colns move out of Assembly Areas and the water tanks will then refill at the nearest WP to be notified later. On filling they will move fwd again and rejoin their respective colns.

- (c) Water tank of 2/14 Bn only will move fwd to the unit on D1 with ration vehs referred to in para 3 (d).
- (d) Water for filling radiators will be obtained from creeks, etc., so far as possible.
- (e) Any additional res in addition to that in sub-para (a) which can be carried without overloading vehs will be taken.

- 5. BLANKETS, GREATCOATS. Blankets will be placed in packs and greatcoats rolled outside and att'd to packs. Packs will be carried in pl vehs.

#### 6. MEDICAL.

- (a) A Coy 2/6 Fd Amb will accompany DONCOL and B Coy 2/6 Fd Amb will accompany MOTCOL. One Lt Sec plus one amb veh will be att'd to 2/14 Bn.
- (b) Evacuation will be by MAC direct from Fd Amb until MDS is est.

#### 7. REC.

- (a) LA DS will move with B Ech.
- (b) Second line rec posts will be located on D1 at AL BAHJA 15892612. Mainshop will be located at AD DAMON 16742534.

#### 8. TRAFFIC.

- (a) TCPs will be est under arrangements of DAPM Exporter.
- (b) Traffic circuits as shown in map already issued will be adhered to, except

(1) on day 1 from 0600 hrs until 2000 hrs routes A7, A8, B3, B4 will be one way routes running North.



(ii) On nights D-2/D-1 and D-1/D1 from 2000 hrs until 0600 hrs route B5 is res for 25 Inf Bde Gp traffic.

9. PW.

(a) Collecting centres will be est at :

TYR - Gd detailed by 2/14 Bn.  
SAIDA - Gd detailed by 2/16 Bn.

(b) PWs, under escort provided from above gds, will be sent back to cages est at MALIKIYA 198279 and JUEILA 170273. The actual cage to be used will be notified later when posn respecting COAST Rd is known.

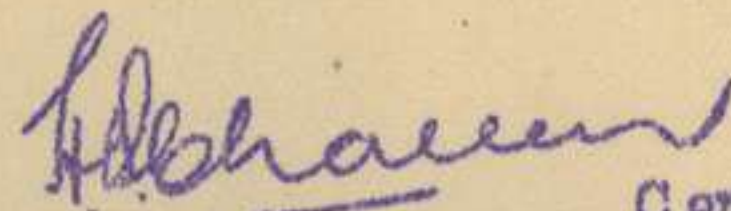
(c) Gds at cages will be provided by tps quartered at the frontier camps in these areas.

10. STRAGGLERS. DAPM will arrange line of straggler posts along the frontier.

11. TPT. B Ech will be bded under BTO as from 1800 hrs D - 2. It will remain in the present area until 1000 hrs on D1 when it will move to the Assembly Areas UMM AL FARAJ and await further orders.

12. BURIALS. Attention is drawn to Aust Div Exporter Adm Instn No 6 of 3 Jun 41 on this subject, distributed to all units 4 Jun 41.

ACK.  
Issued to Sigs.  
Signed at 12<sup>00</sup> hrs.

  
Capt.  
SC 21 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION

As for 21 Aust Inf Bde Gp CO No 7.



SECRET  
3 JUN 41.

MALARIAL AREAS IN THE LEBANON.

Ref Map : BEYROUTH sheet 1/200,000 LEVANT SERIES.

The following is the latest infm re malarial areas in the LEBANON. Adequate precautions against malaria must be taken when in these areas.

1. In the North the ORONTES Valley which runs from the sea North of BEYROUTH until it meets the BUKAA Valley.
2. The BUKAA Valley malarial area follows the line of the LITANI R from its rise in the area JDIPA 16002090 - MAALLAKA 16652112. The area narrows to approx 1 mile at MANSOURAH 15761934 and continues about this width along the LITANI R until it flows into the sea at AITENLYE 10401560.
3. The WADI QUARN from 16002728 to 18002695.
4. LAKE HUIA area bounded by the following co-ordinates 21362946 - 20902690 - 20302675 - 20302926.

NOTE. There are three factors necessary to spread malaria. These are-

1. Persons or animals infected with malaria such as the native Arabs of the LEBANON.
2. Mosquitos to carry the germ from the blood of the infected person to that of an uninfected person.
3. Uninfected persons to whom the mosquitos carry the germ.

Malarial areas are usually found in marshy districts or places where water is still.

Of the areas named above the WADI QUARN is least dangerous as there are very few malarial subjects on which the mosquitos can feed.

*S. Brown*  
Capt.  
SC 21 Aust Inf Bde.



S E C R E T

Copy No \_\_\_\_\_

24 Jun 41.

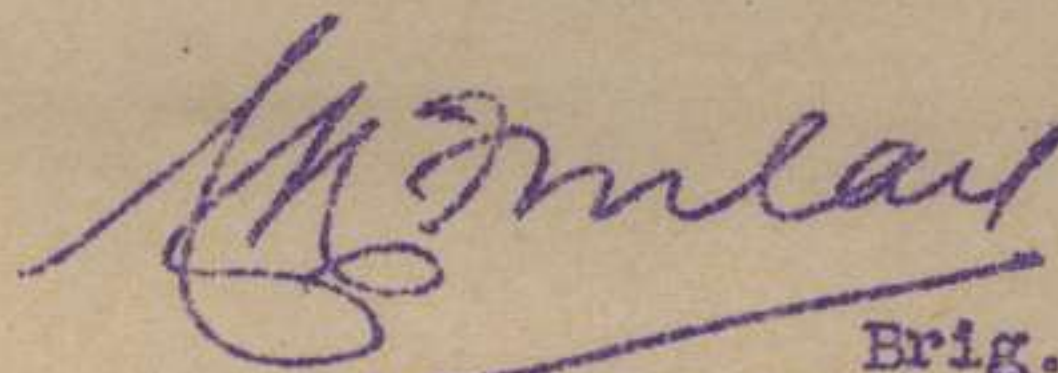
CHECHIRE Yeo  
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav  
2/4 Fd Regt  
2/16 Bn  
2/27 Bn  
C Coy 2/3 Bn

Ref Map : SAIDA Sheet 1/50,000.

Consequent upon the withdrawal of C Coy, 2/3 Bn, from garrison duties in SAIDA the following redistribution of tps under comd 21 Aust Inf Bde will take place.

- (1) One tp CHECHIRE Yeo will be withdrawn from MERDJAYOUN - COAST Rd garrison and will relieve C Coy 2/3 Bn as garrison in SAIDA.
- (2) One tp from JEZZINE-rd garrison will move to village EL MGHAIRIYE 124186 and remain in that area. patrol the tracks towards MAZBOUD 126186 and observe the rd MAZBOUD - CHEHIM.
- (3) B Coy 2/27 Bn will move one pl to the area of the rd block and demolition on the rd SAIDA - JOUN. This pl will take particular care to guard against outflanking. The OC will familiarise himself with all details of the demolition prepared and will be responsible for the firing of the demolition on receipt of orders from these HQ or if attacked in such force that it is clear that the pl cannot hold out.

ACK.



Brig.  
BM 21 Aust Inf Bde.



# MESSAGE FORM

Serial No.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS

IN

OUT

No. of Groups.  
GR.

OFFICE DATE STAMP

TO

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

RODU MORO DASA

FROM

NEVI

Originator's Number

0108

Date

25

In Reply to Number

one

A Tk

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is

to

be

available

to

accompany

MORO

in

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attack

on

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and

AAHQUT

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DASA

at

<sup>B</sup> REPLY

.

Please

arrange

for

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gun

to

go

with

MORO

when

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS.

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER.

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS  
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

SIGNED

SIGNED

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER

T.O.R.



War Diary

21 AUST INF BDE

SECRET

2 Jun 41

INF SUMMARY NO 1.

Based on infm recd up to 1 Jun 41.

i. HANDBOOK OF SYRIA - see Appx B.

All essential infm required on the following pts is included in this handbook.

- (1) Notes on French tps in SYRIA
- (2) SYRIA - routes
- (3) O of B - SYRIA
- (4) Report on water sup in Southern SYRIA
- (5) SYRIA - sup
- (6) SYRIAN political parties
- (7) SYRIAN tys
- (8) Notes on population of SYRIA
- (9) SYRIA - Geographical.

ii. OPS

Reliable infm indicates that French tps on the frontier are NOT being reinforced.

It appears however that defences are being strengthened in central SYRIA and this is probably where the strongest resistance can be expected.

A trace showing general disposns of French tps in the LEBANON area is attached - Appx A. In the DERAA area the defences are being strengthened. 400 to 500 MOROCAN Cav have arrived at DERAA and the aerodrome is being repaired and enlarged; 25 aircraft are expected there shortly.

iii. IDENTIFICATIONS

The comd of all French tps in SYRIA is Col BEUGLER.

Tps under his comd are shown in Appx B. A further O of B is expected shortly.

iv. NOTES ON FRENCH TPS IN SYRIA - Appx C

The attitude of the French tps is very uncertain and it is possible that in some instances French tps will surrender without fighting. Naturally they will surrender more readily if our force shows its determination to overcome quickly any resistance which may be offered. Whilst showing this determination an opportunity should be given them to surrender. If the "Olive Branch" is rejected, then the best course will be to strike hard and strike quickly.

DISTRIBUTION

AS FOR OO No 1

*J. Hunter* Lieut.  
10 21 Aust Inf Bde.



# MESSAGE FORM

Serial No.

**CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS**

IN

OUT

No. of Groups.

GR.

OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

2.

FROM

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

that

unit

passes

through

~~SHIBLIE~~

time

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arranged

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tonight

of

on

night

30/27

Jan

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT **AS WRITTEN** BY ANY MEANS.

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT **IN CIPHER.**

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS  
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

1450

SIGNED

SIGNED

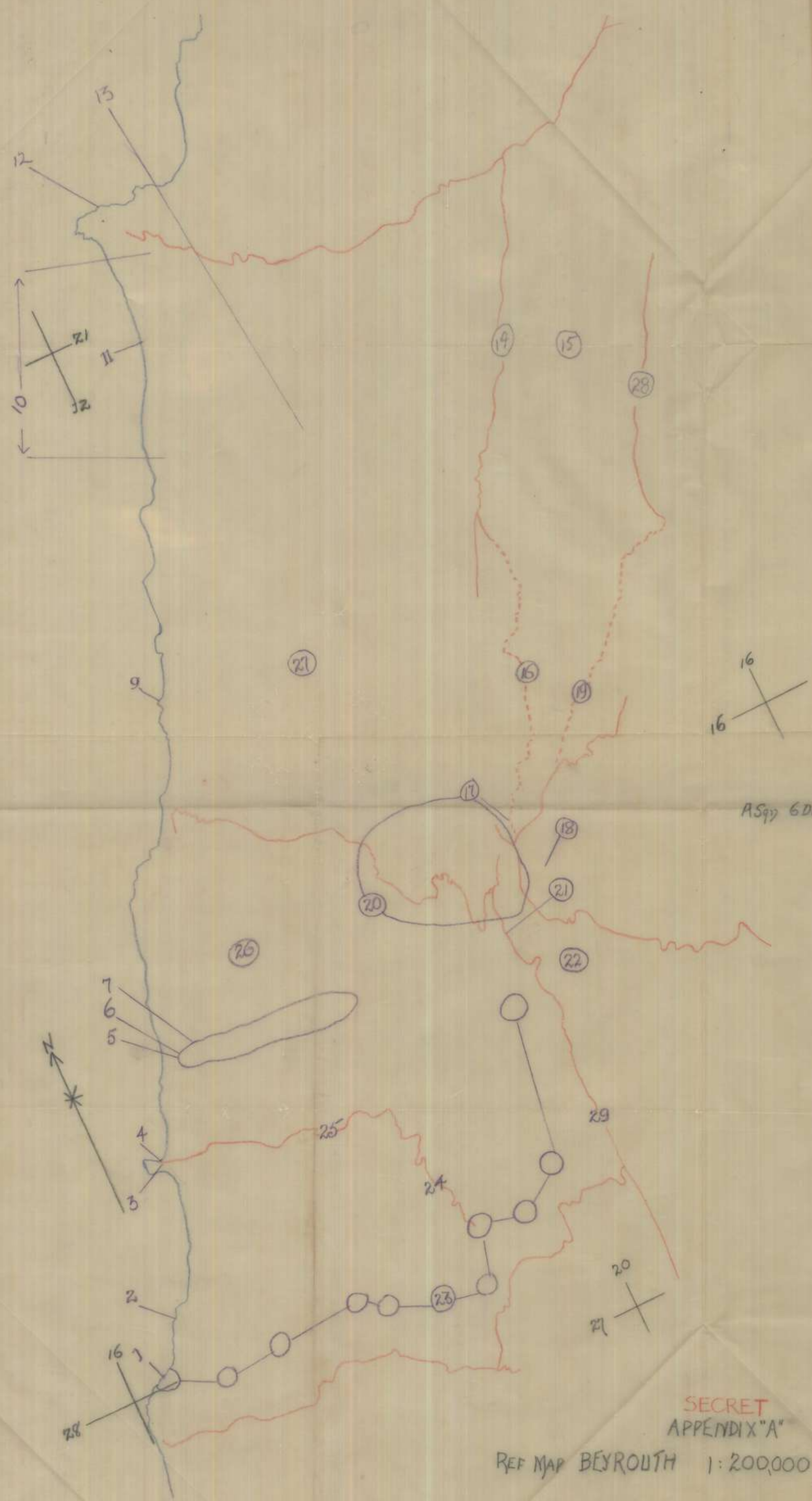
(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER
Forms C2128/13.	Wt. 36169/1798.	1,000m. pads. 12	/30. B. & S. Ltd.	51-5537.							

T.O.R.





ASqy 6 Div Cnv

SECRET  
APPENDIX "A"

REF MAP BEYROUTH 1:200,000



KEY TO TRACESECRET

1. CUSTOMS POST - suggested that alarm will be given here and demolition at (2) will then be blown.
2. Important demolition here on rd. Rd runs along cliff face and demolition will probably completely destroy making progress impossible
3. Last known garrison at TYR:
  - (a) Armd C unit - about 4 cars.
  - (b) Det Chasseurs Lebanese - poor tps.
  - (c) One coy Algerians - about 200 (reasonable fighters).
  - (d) Sec 75 mm A Tk guns.
  - (e) One sqn Spahis - good tps.
4. Rd defences TYR area - believed not extensive although recently renewed.
5. Two rd blocks - MIs sited on North bank of river covering these blocks and the bridge.
6. Br heavily mined - if demolished may be possible to detour and cross river by bridging on left of main rd - definitely NO detour to right as river runs through gorge up to 100 feet deep.
7. Reported some defensive posns on North bank of river.
8. Rd block.
9. One bn French inf believed to be at SAIDA.
10. Rd prepared for demolition. One coy inf and one coy Spahis reported along rd.
11. Four 75 mm guns at Khalde.
12. Garrison BEYROUTH usually about eleven bns, two gps APVs (each gp 2 sqns), some cav.
13. Armd Cs have been seen at BETT ED DINE - probably travel along rd from YAROUFI.
14. Tarred rd.
15. Good water all this area.
16. Metalled but probably rough.
17. Reported prepared for demolition.
18. One gun - reported 150 mm.
19. Non metalled. Not a good rd - probably track only.
20. Defences this area mostly wire with some trenches. In QLEAA-KHIRBE area it is reported there are trenches, wire, MI posts, some 25 mm A Tk guns and some 75 mm guns.
21. Lebanese Customs Post with rd blocks.
22. Good water this area.
23. Frontier posts - held lightly - probable HQ at HENET JHAIL. Last known frontier tps - 26 Regt Algerians, Chasseurs Lebanese (Native Cav), Tunisian Spahis. Rd along frontier (SYRIAN side) passable all weathers.
24. One agent reported some mines along this rd. No details.
25. Passable all weathers.
26. Passable all weathers.
27. Armd Cs use rd JEZZINE-SAIDA.
28. Good metalled rd.
29. First glass rd.

NOTE: It is reported there are no prepared defences North of Grid 15.



Fighting qualities: LEBANESE - native type - unreliable.

North African type - reasonable

SENEGALISE - good type - well trained - good fighters - anti British.

SPANISH - good type - anti Free French.

Last known positions at TIR:

- (a) Arab 0 units - about 4 units.
- (b) Det Chasseurs Libanais - poor type.
- (c) Det Coy Algerians - about 200 (reasonable fighters).
- (d) See 75 mm A TK guns.
- (e) One Coy Spahis - good type.

4. Rd defenses TIR area - believed not extensive although recently renewed.

5. Two rd blocks - one sited on North bank of river covering these blocks and the bridge.

6. Br heavily mined - if demolished may be possible to damage and cross river by bridging on left of main rd - definitely NO debris to right as river runs through gorge up to 100 feet deep.

7. Reported some defensive posts on North bank of river.

8. Rd block.

9. One bn French rd believed to be at BAHIA.

10. Rd prepared for demolition. One Coy Inf and one Coy Spahis reported along rd.

11. Four 75 mm guns at BAHIA.

12. Garrison BAHIA generally about eleven km; two Coy ALPS (each 2 Coy) some out.

13. Arms (6 have been seen at BAHIA RD BINE - probably forward along rd from BAHIA).

14. Tented rd.

15. Good water all this area.

16. Mined but probably traps.

17. Reported prepared for demolition.

18. One gun - reported 150 mm.

19. Non detailed. For a good rd - probably track only.

20. Defense this area mostly wire with some trenches. In GAMA-KHINE area it is reported there are trenches, wire, 100 posts, some 25 mm A TK guns and some 75 mm guns.

21. Japanese Gunners post with rd blocks.

22. Good water this area.

23. Frontier posts - held lightly - probably HQ at BAHIA. Last known Frontier type - 25 Coy Algerians, Chasseurs Libanais (Native Coy), Toussain Spahis. Rd along frontier (SYRIA side) possible all weather.

24. One agent reported some mines along this rd. No details.

25. Possible all weather.

26. Possible all weather.

27. Arab Co used 25mm anti-aircraft.

28. Good detailed rd.

29. Road along rd.

30. It is reported there are no prepared defenses North of GAMA.



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

Copy No .....

HQ Aust Div Exporter  
2 Jun 41

SGI/23/6/5

NOTES ON FRENCH ARMY IN SYRIA

The following notes of a conversation between GOC P & TJ Force and General de Gaulle on 29 May are forwarded. They indicate the line of action that should be taken during ops.

"The General stressed the psychological aspect of dealing with the French Army when contacted, and mentioned the following pts for consideration :

1. Vast numbers dislike the idea of firing either at the British or French.
2. The Army of Syria is a professional one and it is a question of their honour how they are approached. If entrusted to hold a posn, they will feel that they will have to defend it.
3. In order to persuade them not to fight, or to fight as little as possible, they must be given a pretext. The best pretext is for the occupying force to be extremely strong; failing that, to have powerful means at hand ready; to take a key pt. Such a key pt should be a place from which they have been in the habit of receiving orders, such as the seat of Government or the GHQ of the Army. Such a pt, once seized, would influence French forces a great deal, as any future proclamation issued from that place would be well received as they have been accustomed in the past to receive orders from there.
4. Where it is necessary to overcome resistance, air attack would be preferable to other means, though outflanking and encirclement would also help to provide pretext aforementioned. There must, however, be some form of bombardment, though air is preferable. Once resistance is encountered there must be no hesitation in producing bombardment either by air or from arty to give the necessary pretext.
5. Notes on the treatment of any French units that are either captured or surrender:
  - There must be immediate segregation in separate cages with no means of contact of
    - (a) senior offrs
    - (b) junior offrs
    - (c) NCOs and men.
  - The latter should be fed well, if possible with French food, bread, coffee and wine. It is possible that there will be no reaction for some time, in which case they should be left alone, as it may be at least a week before they express any wish either to join the Free French or to be repatriated."

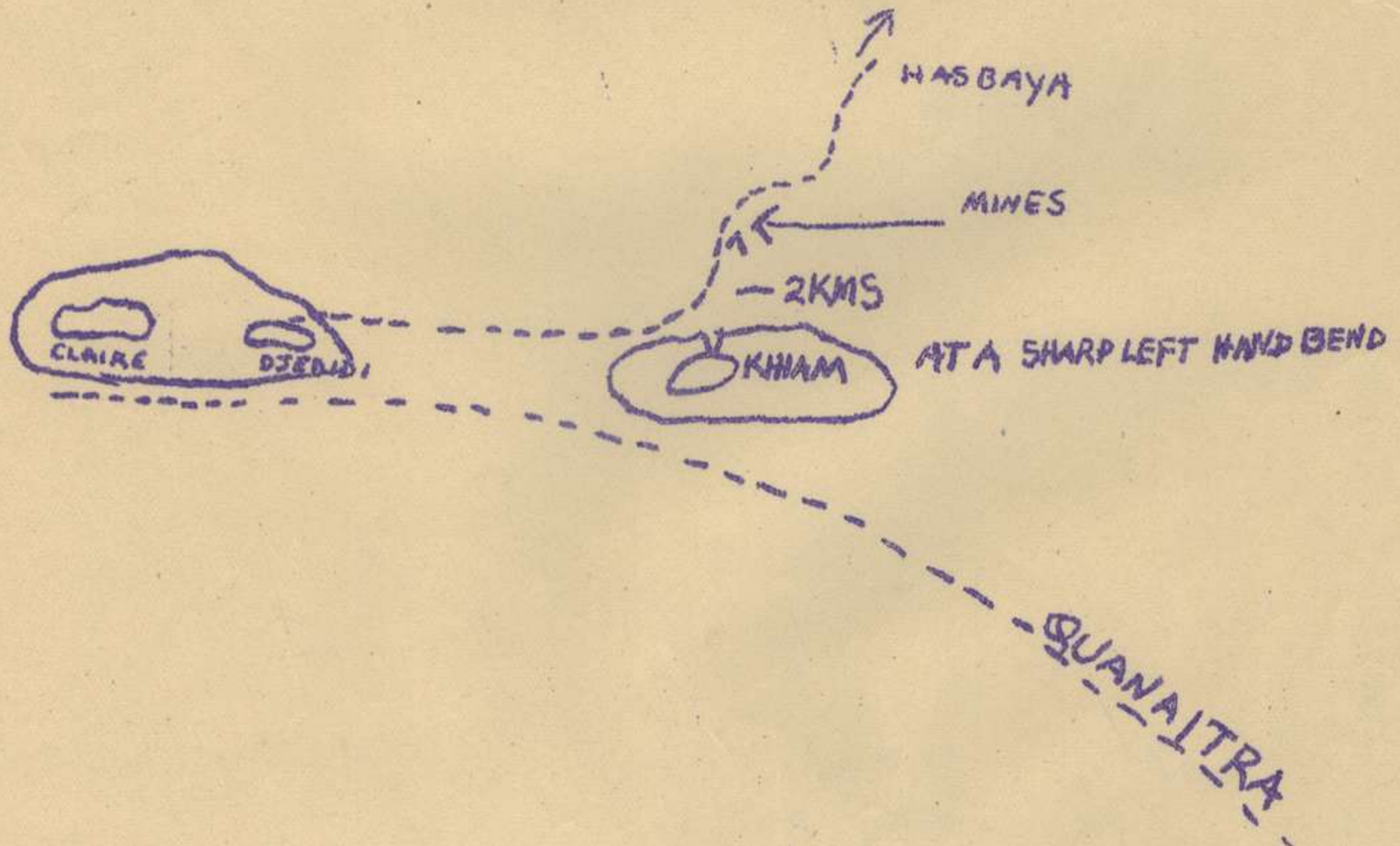
(Sgd) R G POLLARD, Maj for  
Col.GS Aust Div Exporter.ACK.



Subject :- Intelligence SYRIA

The following infm was obtained from a fairly reliable source :

1. It is reported that during the night of 2/3-6-41, a number of heavy trucks, estimated at about 80, arrived at HASBAYA and ABEL villages in LEBANON, carrying tps and amm.
2. More reinforcements have arrived in the DJEDIDI area, and are reported to have been placed East of DJEDIDI, and North of KHIAM.
3. A fairly large force of native tps are reported to have arrived last night in a wadi which is located between the track leading to ZAHLE and the track leading to HASBAYA. Both these tps and those mentioned in para 2, are reported to have machine guns.
4. It is reported, but cannot be confirmed, that last night about forty heavy lorries carrying light tanks arrived North of DJEDIDI.
5. The customs officials at TEL EN HASS (French Customs Post) have been withdrawn, and the post is now occupied by a force of 30 native tps. It was learnt that a certain GABRIEL KHOURY who is a member of the French Secret Service is also at this post.
6. It was learnt from a reliable source, that the track leading from DJEDIDI to HASBAYA via KHIAM, has been mined at a pt approx two kilometres North of KHIAM, where the rd is build up on the side of a steep hill. At this particular point, on the right hand side of the rd, there is a sheer drop of about 50 metres into a wadi. Were this particular spot on the track blown up, it would be impossible for traffic to make a detour.
7. French tps JEMEL JARNR instructed if necessary to withdraw to rally on ODEISSE and contact other French tps at HEFFINE.
8. Jewish population leaving METULLA.





INT SUMMARY NO 2

Based on infm received up to 3 Jun 41.

Ref Map BEYROUTH 1/200,000 LEVANT SERIES.

1. The following are some notes on the defence of SYRIAN towns and aerodromes. The infm contained in these notes was obtained from several different sources and, although the sources are considered reliable, must be treated with some res until confirmation has been received. The date of receipt is given after each item of infm.

(a) BEYROUTH

- i. AA practice takes place daily (14 May)
- ii. At MAR YUSEF (approx 133217) is the biggest gun in SYRIA and also 6 guns of smaller size. About 200 French and 150 native tps are in this area.
- iii. Stores of MCs are located in QUARTIER WEYGAND (approx 131218) (21 May)

(b) Forces defending the aerodrome.

- i. 21 lt tanks
  - ii. 20 armd Cs
  - iii. Two coys Senegalese tps (probably 2 BMPS)
  - iv. 3 bn of 17 RTS - stationed in the St. Elie and Joffre Barracks within two kilos of aerodrome (12 May)
- NB. This infm is NOT in accord with previous reports which showed the 3 bn of 17 RTS as being stationed at DAMASCUS.
- v. Four AA guns on cliff at BEYROUTH overlooking Kettanehe Service Sta and many in posn along harbour. (No details this location at this HQ) (3 Dec 40)
  - vi. AA guns located at ANIELEAS (3 Dec 40)
  - vii. 210 mm guns at pt where KEILB River enters sea (3 Dec 40)
  - viii. Bty of 75 mm at "Soap Works".
  - ix. Bty of 75 mm at BIR HASSAN (near aerodrome).
  - x. Bty of 75 mm at "Radio Levant" Sta at CHALDEA.
  - xi. Bty of 75 mm at Burough near St. Michel (approx 131218).
  - xii. Bty of 25 mm half near electric light coy (approx 131218). and half in the fort of BEYROUTH.

- (c) Work is being effected at night on the shore East of BEYROUTH Harbour. It is thought this might be for new coastal bty (17 Feb 40)

2. The following is further infm obtained relative to the LITANI River and various brs:-

(a) LITANI River

Little infm is available regarding the LITANI River. It is a perenial stream; its westerly course flows through a gorge 1000 feet high in places. There are no details of its width or current, although infm has been received that near QASMIYE it is slow, sluggish and deep, about 40 feet wide, with steep sides and cannot normally be forded.

(b) Br 105156 -



(b) Br 105156 - QASMIYE Br.

Crosses the LITANI River, carrying the coast rd BEYROUTH - NAQOURA. It is built of stone, has one single arch with a width of 60 metres and height of 10 metres. It will take loads of 20 tons. This br is mined and there are two rd blocks on the South side. It is protected by sangers and the rd is covered by MGs and A Tk guns.

(c) Br 106159 - JISR ABOU EL ASSOUAD.

No infm available except that it will take a 20 ton load.

3. French tps likely to be encountered in the frontier areas.

(a) The frontier area falls into four general sectors:

- i. JEBEL DRUSE - JEBEL TRNF.
- ii. JEBEL DRUSE.
- iii. METULLAH - JEBEL DRUSE.
- iv. The coast rd to METULLAH (SYRIAN - PALESTINE frontier).

(b) The SYRIAN native tps, particularly the native cav, do not form a very strong fighting force. The French colonial tps are fairly well trained, although the fighting potentiality of any det will depend on its offr. Generally speaking all tps are likely to obey their offr, whose personal sympathies are therefore important

The Senegalese offr are the most pro-Vichy and anti-British. Their rank and file are stupid and obedient.

The Spahi offr are probably anti-de Gaulle, though not necessarily anti-British. Their tps are well disciplined.

In the North African inf regts opinion amongst the offr is believed to be fairly evenly divided. The same applied to the Moroccans, who have not yet been reported in the frontier area, and to the arty. Discipline is probably fair.

The native SYRIAN regts include some native offr, who are likely to put personal advantage before patriotism.

In the Druse Cav discipline is not high. Whilst they would probably follow their offr, at least at first, it should be remembered that they have a traditional friendship with us. Their fighting value outside their own country is probably not high.

The Foreign Legion has a very high disciplinary tradition. The rank and file are of a higher standard of education and are drawn from many nations including a proportion of Germans. Here again they would probably follow their offr. If the latter were to decide on resistance the Legion would fight well.

The Bedouin Lt Desert Coys are officered by Frenchmen of a high professional standard. In the rank and file tribal loyalty comes before loyalty to SYRIA.

(c) Tps believed to be in the frontier area are as follows:-

Sector (iv) Native SYRIAN cav (Chasseurs Libanais)  
Algerian inf. Tunisian Spahis.

/ 4. Times of Sunrise,



4. Times of Sunrise, Sunset, Moonrise and Moonset in G.M.T. for latitude 32° 30'N, Longitude 35° E.

JUN 41.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunrise</u>	<u>Sunset</u>	<u>Moonrise</u>	<u>Moonset</u>	<u>Moon's phase</u>
1	0233	1642	0801	2122	
2	0233	1643	0901	2201	First quarter
3	0233	1643	1003	2240	
4	0232	1644	1106	2320	
5	0232	1644	1211	-	
6	0232	1645	1318	0001	
7	0232	1646	1426	0046	
8	0232	1646	1534	0135	
9	0232	1646	1640	0228	Full moon
10	0232	1646	1741	0327	
11	0232	1647	1835	0428	
12	0232	1647	1925	0530	
13	0232	1648	2009	0632	
14	0232	1648	2047	0732	
15	0232	1648	2122	0829	
16	0232	1649	2156	0924	Last quarter
17	0232	1649	2230	1018	
18	0232	1649	2303	1112	
19	0232	1650	2336	1204	
20	0232	1650	-	1257	
21	0232	1650	0012	1350	
22	0232	1650	0051	1442	
23	0233	1650	0133	1534	
24	0233	1651	0219	1624	New moon
25	0234	1651	0309	1713	
26	0234	1651	0402	1800	
27	0234	1651	0458	1843	
28	0234	1651	0556	1924	
29	0234	1651	0655	2004	
30	0235	1651	0757	2042	

NOTE: For PALESTINE Summer Time add three hrs to G.M.T.

5. Enemy O of B - LEBANON area - See Appx A.

ACX

*J. J. J. J.* Lieut.  
IO 21 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION

2/14 Bn	1	6 A Tk Bty	10
2/16 Bn	2	Tp 170 Lt AA Bty	11
2/27 Bn	3	2/6 Fd Coy	12
Sigs	4	25 Aust Inf Bde	13
59 IAD	5	Aust Div Exporter	14
A Sqn ROYALS	6	Comd	15
CHESHIRE YEOMANRY	7	File	16-17
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	8	War Diary	18-19
2/4 Fd Regt.	9	Spars	20-24



ORDER OF BATTLE FRENCH FORCES IN LEBANON

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Light Armoured Car Unit	TYR
22 Algerian Infantry	
1 Battalion + Bn. H.Q.	MERDJAYOUN
1 Coy	NABATIYE
1 Battalion HQ	SAIDA
2 Coys	MIYEMIYE
Battalion HQ	QASMIYE
1 Coy	TYR
1 Coy	ALMA ASHSHAB
Detachments	LABOUNA, KH. JEREINE, and RANIET
Lebanese Infantry	
Battalion HQ	MERDJAYOUN
2 Coys	KHIAM
1 Coy	QLEBA
1 Section 75 A/Tk	TYR
1 Section 75 A/Tk	MERDJAYOUN
1 Battery 65 (Mountain) guns	HASHAYA
Tunisian Spahis	
1 Squadron	TYR
1 Squadron	MERDJAYOUN
Lebanese Cavalry	
1 Squadron	MERDJAYOUN
1 Squadron	KHIAM

LEBANON AREA

2/6 Foreign Legion	
1st, 2nd, 3rd Bns. 9 Algerian Infantry	
1st, 3rd, 7th Bns Levant Infantry	
2 Battalions Senegalese Infantry	
3 Battalions Colonial Infantry	
2 Squadrons Syrian Cavalry	
Armoured Car Platoon	
1 Squadron Algerian Spahis	
Group Armoured Fighting Vehicles	
1 Battery 105 mm guns	TOTAL STRENGTH: 12 Inf Battalions 2 Cav Squadrons 1 Group A.F.V's 7 Batteries 4 A.A. Batteries
1 Battery 65 mm guns	
2 Batteries 75 mm A.A.	
5 Batteries 75 mm guns	
2 Batteries 25 A.A.	
Artillery	



APPX B to Int Summary No 2

Infm on rivers rd NAQOURA-BEYROUTH

The following is latest infm re rivers on rd  
NAQOURA - BEYROUTH:- (reported by Force HQ).

LITANI:

A fair flow of water at the mouth of the river even in summer. Official estimate dated 1919 minimum flow 50 million gallons per 24 hrs. Irrigation works since that date may have reduced this figure. Between QASMIYE br and the sea the country on both sides is comparatively flat and the banks low. Here the river could probably be waded by men on foot but would present serious difficulties for MT.

AWWALI:

The modern br and causeway is practically on the beach and the water is very shallow in summer. Fording on the seaward side should be easy except for the sandy surface of the approaches.

DAMUR:

Has a slight flow in summer. Towards mouth spreads leaving pebbly shoals with one or more shallow streams which should be easily fordable. The rd br is a considerable height above the stream and the southern approach runs first along a rocky promontory, then turns inland along the southern bank of the river on a high built up embankment turning sharp north immediately before the br. Official source states there is a ford at the mouth of the river, but informant has no knowledge of the approach to the ford from the South, which would be somewhat precipitous. The Northern bank would be practicable and the adjoining land is comparatively flat.



S E C R E T

Copy No 17

6 Jun 41.

21 AUST INF BDE GP INF SUMMARY No 3.

The following information has been received from an offr of the Free French Forces but the accuracy of it cannot be guaranteed.

- (a) There are five defensive lines between the frontier and BEYROUTH. The first is a line of posts on the French frontier rd; the second a fairly strong defensive posn north of the LITANI River; the third a line of posts on the rd MERDJAYOUN - HABBOUCH - COAST; the fourth from BAAKLINE to BARJA 123191 and the fifth from ALEY 140208 to CHOUEIMAT 131209.
- (b) This offr stated that garrisons as under were on our line of adv :
- BENNT JBAIL - one coy 22 Algerian Bn.  
TYR - one coy 22 Algerian Bn, two 75 mm guns,  
two A Tk guns and a number of armed cs.  
North of LITANI River - one bn less one coy  
Algerians.  
KHALDE - one bty 75 mm guns.
- There may be other garrisons of which he is unaware.
- (c) He stated further that light tks patrol the rd between TYR and BEYROUTH.
- (d) The rd MERDJAYOUN - HABBOUCH is reported to be mined in the vicinity of NADJARIYE 114173 for a distance of about one mile.

*J. Bunnell* Lieut.  
IO 21 Aust Inf Bde.



6 Jun 41

INFM SYRIA

The following are copies of messages received from Milpal and KAJU:-

5 Jun: Fairly reliable source reports 250 ANNAMITE tps withdrawn from MERDJAYOUN area to unknown destination in North. Comment. This may indicate withdrawal of tpt as ANNAMITES are usually tpt drs. Same source reports preparations for mining all tracks in MERDJAYOUN area. Also except for brs prepared for demolition no explosives have yet been placed in posn. Report requires confirmation.

Now considered possible French may have tank carriers as lorries were possibly converted 1939. French Military official in SYRIA hitherto honest but not pro-British asked interview district commissioner at METULLAH. He stated any British attack on LEBANON would be bitterly resisted and that French would ask for German assistance. Also that there were no Germans except air force personnel in SYRIA. Comment. Impression given that the story was a plant. Fairly reliable report now states 400 Germans arrived BEYROUTH in the CANADA. This is first confirmation BBC broadcast in this sense.

The following is extract from report by GSI British Forces in Palestine and Transjordan dated 4 Jun 41:-

SYRIA

Tps on the SYRIA-TRANSJORDAN and SYRIA-PALESTINE frontier areas appear to be being reinforced. Reports are received of reinfts in the MERDJAYOUN area and of considerable activity at QOUNEIPRA.

Gen de Verdillac, who recently succeeded Gen Fougere in comd of tps in SYRIA, is a personal friend of Marshal Petain. As colonel he was chief of staff of the VIME area near METZ in 1937. He commanded a division in the Battle of France. He is reported to have brains, but to lack drive and not to be particularly popular with the tps.

Infm re Renault R35 tanks in use  
by French

The following is copy of report received from Force HQ:-

"French reported to have some tanks type Renault R35 weight 11 tons armament one 37 mm gun, armour 40 mm. Distinguishing features 5 bogie wheels and three horizontal rubber suspension units. Large turrets with episcopes and periscope. No further details or photos".

*J. Bunnell* Lieut.  
IO 21 Aust Inf Bde.



S E C R E T

Copy No 20

18 Jun 41.

21 AUST INF BDE GP INT SUMMARY No 4.

(Infm up to 1800 hrs 17 Jun 41)

Ref Map : BEYROUTH Sheet 1/200,000.

The following infm has been given by a PW and has not been confirmed:

DAMOUR AREA.

1. Identifications.

2 Bn of 6 Regt Foreign Legion - This bn is at full strength and has recently arrived from TRIPOLI.

1 Bn of 24 Mixed Colonial Regt - This bn is FRENCH and tps are permanent soldiers. At present it is thought to be holding a posn along the River DAMOUR with one coy on either side of rd BEYROUTH - SAIDA.

2 Bn of 24 Mixed Colonial Regt - This bn is composed of SENEG-ALESE tps who are very poor fighters. This bn may also be in the DAMOUR area but this is uncertain. The bn was formerly stationed in TRIPOLI and has been reported to have moved from that area.

Arty - At least one bty of 75 mm guns is reported in DAMOUR area. The remainder of 3 Bty GDL which was at SAIDA may also be in that area although it will need more guns to bring it up to strength. PW also states that guns of a heavier calibre than 75 mm have been placed in the DAMOUR area.

2. Topographical.

(i) General - At YAROUTI the main rd bends slightly East and leaves a fairly flat plain on the West about 4 miles long and 700 yds wide. This plain is almost entirely covered with orange and fig groves similar to those about SAIDA. These groves are separated by stone walls which will provide good cover from small arms fire. The groves on this plain will probably prevent the enemy using tanks but they may be used further South.

(ii) Br over River DAMOUR - (Air Photo) Appears to be stone or concrete. Good approaches. On North side rd bends away slightly to the East with upward gradient. On South side the rd is fairly flat. Total length of br including approach wks is 120 yds. The span cannot be measured as no abutments are visible, but width of stream is 35 feet. At this time of the year the River is NOT very deep and should be fordable especially near the sea. The br is prepared for demolition and rd blocks have been constructed North and South of it.

3. DISPOSITIONS.

General dispositions are unknown but it is reported that enemy line of defence runs from BAROUK - BEIT ED DINE - EL AATIQA. MG posns (unconfirmed) have been reported at the following pts :

2 guns at 12491975 - covering br over River DAMOUR.

2 guns in orange groves West of rd EL AATIQA - DAMOUR covering rd blocks and approaches to br.

4 guns at 12341975 covering bend in rd at 12281965.

*J. Hussein* Lieut.  
10 21 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION (See Over)



DISTRIBUTION

Copy No

2/14 Bn	1
2/16 Bn	2
2/27 Bn	3
Corps HQ Gd Fl	4
Sigs	5
59 LAD	6
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	7
A Sqn 9 " "	8
CHESHIRE Yeo	9
2/4 Pz Regt	10
6 A Tk Bty	11
170 Lt AA Bty	12
2/6 Pz Coy	13
A Coy 2/3 Bn	14
A Coy 2/3 MG Bn	15
5 Res MT Coy	16
2/6 Pz Amb	17
B Sec 14 Lt Pz Amb	18
25 Aust Inf Bde	19
Aust Div Exporter	20-21
Aust Div Exporter (for AILD)	22
Aust Div Exporter (for NLO)	23
Comd	24
LOs	25-27
File	28-29
War Diary	30-31

3. Topographical

(i) General - At YARWORTH the main road bends slightly east and follows a fairly flat plain on the west side of the road. This plain is mostly covered with orange and red groves similar to those found in the area. These groves are separated by some small areas of open land. The groves on this plain will probably prevent the enemy from seeing the road. The road may be used to the south.

(ii) In the area River DAMOUR - (Air Photo) appears to be a concrete road. Good approaches on both sides of the road. The road is fairly flat. Total length of road including approach is 1.5 km. The open terrain is 0.5 km. No obstructions are visible, but width of approach is 35 feet. At this time of the year the river is very deep and should be fordable especially near the head. The bridge prepared for demolition and no blocks have been constructed North and South of it.

3. DISPOSITIONS

General Dispositions are unknown but it is reported that enemy lines of defence are from DAMOUR - DAMOUR - EL SAHAB. No posts (unconfirmed) have been reported at the following points:

2 guns at 12341275 - covered by river DAMOUR.

2 guns in orange groves west of EL SAHAB - DAMOUR covering 24 blocks and approaches to 24 guns at 12341275 covering head of 24 at 12341275.

10 21 1945  
10 21 1945

DISTRIBUTION (see over)



LUPA  
DASA  
MOVE  
GOLE  
WIVA  
ZERI  
DIPU

SITREP - COASTAL SECTOR.  
2100 hrs 17 Jun - 1900 hrs 18 Jun.

Time	Remarks
18 Jun 0500	Two coys WUVI with ancillary tps moved to JEZZINE.
0500	Two coys WUVI moved to JEZZINE.
0811	DIPU patrols report no enemy ground activity.
1106	DIPU report 2 armd Cs and 1 A Tk gun moving South on COAST Rd.
1144	Enemy armd Cs engaged by DIPU patrols - our guns scored direct hit - enemy withdrew.
1302	SYRIAN Doctor reports this area would be heavily bombed at 1700 hrs today.
1522	DIPU report NMS except along COAST Rd.
1606	DIPU report two warships believed FRENCH moving South with air support.
1615	ZERI report three French warships in sight moving South with air support.
1630	Report by REXI patrol on rd JEZZINE - SAIDA : B Sqn REXI in posn at HAMSIYE Enemy report to be concentrated North of JEZZINE about BETER and NIHA 139185 and shelling rd JEZZINE - HAMSIYE and Pt 212 but not with much effect.
1635	French warships turned North at full speed.
1740	11 unidentified planes passed over DASA area heading for JEZZINE.
-----	
Other than patrols no change in inf disposns.	

*J. H. ...* Lieut.  
10 21 Aust Inf Bde.



19 Jun 41

Ref Map - BEYROUTH 1/200000  
SAIDA 1/50000

The following info has been obtained from three PSW captured in the QUADI-EL-ZEINI area.

Each prisoner was captured at different times and interrogated separately. This info also confirms previous reports of enemy forces and dispositions in the COASTAL sector.

1. IDENTIFICATIONS

(1) QUADI EL ZEINI area  
7 Coy of 2 Bn 6 Regt Foreign Legion - Comd Capt PATE

(2) DAMOUR area - Comd Col BARRE  
5 and 6 Coys of 2 Bn 6 Regt Foreign Legion - Bn Comd Maj BRISE

2 Bn of 24 Mixed Colonial Regt

Portion of 16 TUNISIAN Regt has been seen in DAMOUR area.

3 GDL (Groupe du Levant) artillery bty is also in this area.

2. STRENGTH AND DISPOSITIONS - See trace att

UNIT	STRENGTH	DISPOSITION
2 Bn FOREIGN LEGION 5, 6 & 7 coys	Three inf coys One MG coy One HQ Coy Bn is not up to full strength although it is thought that recruits arrived 18 Jun. Each inf coy at present has - approx 90 men two 80 mm mortars 4 LMGs HQ Coy has - four 80 mm mortars other details not known MG coy has - 12 hvy MGS	7 Coy - QUADI EL ZEINI area This coy has been covering the road block at 11501882. Holding posn on high ground SE of JADRA 500 <sup>x</sup> from rd block. Has 4 hvy MGS and two 80 mm mortars. This coy has also been covering engr parties mining the rd between QUADI EL ZEINI and DAMOUR  5 & 6 Coys - area on hill at 12471976. This posn is heavily fortified and weapons are sited for all round defence. Very deep trenches have been dug in the olive trees on the hill and all weapons are dug in and protected by rock "sangers" Eight hvy MGS and four 80mm mortars in this area. On top of this hill is a single story red roof house with gable roof. 50 yds in rear of this house is the HQ of the 2 Bn Foreign Legion. Mortar posns unknown. The whole posn is surrounded by a triple concertina fence and a double apron fence. There is also a strong wire fence running from the mouth of the river DAMOUR at 1230-1973 across the front to 1250 1974.

5 & 6 coys .....



UNIT	STRENGTH	DISPOSITION
5 & 6 Coys (cont'd)		Four hvy MGs are sited on the edge of the olive grove on the western slope of the hill. Two of these fire along the front wire to the mouth of the river DAMOUR. The other two guns fire on the bridge over the river DAMOUR at 12371969 and also SE along the rd and river EL AATIQA - AIN MIKHAIL. The dispositions of the remaining 4 hvy MGs are not known but some of them will probably be sited for defence of EASTERN flank and the rear.
2 Bn 24 Mixed Colonial Regt	Approx 450 Weapons similar to 2 Bn Foreign Legion.	Disposed along coast from mouth of river DAMOUR to 12402018 to prevent landing of tps from the sea. Tps are well dug in and hidden in the olive groves near the coast. This Bn is composed of SENEGALESE tps who are not good fighters.

The number of 75 MM arty guns in the DAMOUR area is doubtful. It seems certain however that there are at least four 75 mm guns in DAMOUR area. The 3 GDL (Groupe du Levant) was at SAIDA and it is reported that nine of its twelve guns were damaged at SAIDA. However the gun repair workshops are at BEYPOUTH and this bty may have received new guns.

A Tk Guns - 25 mm (see trace att)

All rds leading to DAMOUR from the SOUTH and SE are covered by A Tk guns. As all AFV movement is confined to the rds owing to the thickly planted groves on the WEST and steep hills on the right of the COAST RD, attack by AFVs would meet hvy opposition.

TKs and ARMD Cs

Approx 7 lt tks (8 - 10 tons) and 4 armd Cs reported in the DAMOUR area. At present these AFVs are patrolling the rds leading from DAMOUR but could be used against tps in the orange groves as they were used at SAIDA.

MINEFIELDS

The following pts on the rd DAMOUR - SAIDA are believed to be mined.

Br over River DAMOUR at 12371969	Bridge is made of stone or concrete and including approaches is 120' long. It is 15' above the water level and has two arches. The centre arch contains the demolition charge. The br itself is NOT mined but mines have been laid 100' along rd SOUTH from br & 100' NORTH of br. It is not known whether mines have been laid along the river banks.
Br at 12061915	Mined on br and for 20' North and South. PWS state br not prepared for demolition.
Rd June 12111920	Mined at rd June and also for 150 yds along rd BARJA - NEHI YOUNES.
Rd June 11901882	Rd block covered by fire from JADRA at 11981888 7 Coy of 2 Bn Foreign Legion were ordered to lay mines at this rd June but it is thought mines have NOT yet been laid.

/River DAMOUR .....



RIVER DAMOUR

This river is about 35 yds wide near the br but wider further EAST.

The water is approx one or two feet deep near the br and becomes even shallower between the br and the coast.

The bed of the river is rocky.

The northern bank of the river is planted with banana trees and the banks on the Western side of the br are very low and passable to AFVs. EAST of br the banks become steeper and would not be passable to AFVs.

NAVAL TARGETS

All enemy posns mentioned above are visible from the sea.

PW states that the tps are very frightened of NAVAL fire and their morale is very low.

GENERAL

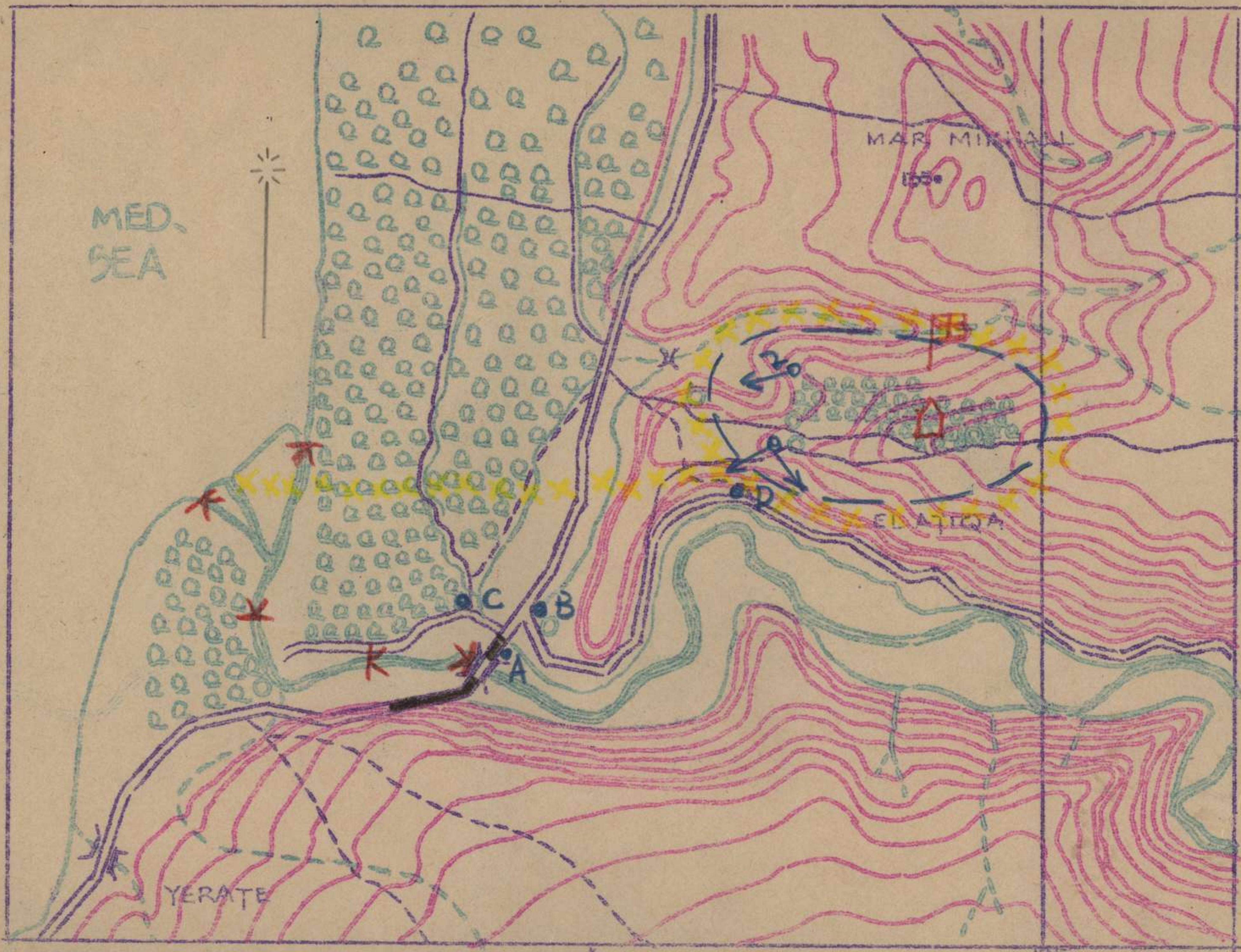
One PW stated that there are tps in the area SW of BARJA at 1207-1900 but this was NOT confirmed by the other PWs.

There are many lateral tracks running from the COAST rd and these will need careful recce to ascertain whether they will be passable to AFVs. PW states that tps from DAMOUR have been using these tracks but he knew little of their general condition.

The area held by 5 & 6 coys 2 Bn Foreign Legion is sited for all round defence but is more vulnerable from the EAST or rear than the front.

*J. Humman*  
Lieut  
IO NEVI





DISPOSITION LEGEND

- Two storied-red roof house.Used as Arty OP. one 75mm gun 10 yds SOUTH of house in trees and grass. **A**
- Triple concertina wire and one row Double apron fence. **X**
- Two heavy MG's. **→**
- Single story gable roof house. **□**
- 2 Bn HQ- 50 yds in rear of house. Trenches in olive trees. **▣**
- mines **—**
- 25mm A/Tk gun behind stone wall, on rd junc. **B**
- 25mm A/Tk gun in edge of trees. **C**
- 25mm A/Tk gun 20 yds NORTH of rd, dug in with umbrella top camouflage **D**
- River fordable here **K** banks very low.

REF SAIDA SHEET 1:50000

SCALE 4 3/10" = 1 MILE (APPROX)

125

---000---



21 AUST INF BDE

27 Jun 41

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 6

Based on infn recd up to 1300 hrs 27 Jun 41

REF MAPS :- BEYROUTH } Sheets 1/50000  
 SAIDA }  
 JEZINE }  
 DAMOUR } Sheet 1/25000

1. Enemy O of B DAMOUR - BEYROUTH sector Location

{ INF

- 1 Bn 24 RIC } Probably CHOUEDPAT
- 2 Bn 24 RIC } DAMOUR
- 3 Bn 24 RIC } ?
- 2 Bn 6 Regt Foreign Legion } DAMOUR
- 1 Bn 16 Regt Tunisians } DAMOUR
- 17 Bn Regt Tirailleurs Senegalese (2 coys) } DAMOUR
- HQ 3rd Levant & Bde } ?
- 2 Bn Chasseurs Libanais } ?
- 3 Bn Chasseurs Libanais } ?

{ CAV (horsed)

- 6/4 Spahi } ?
- 8 Spahi (one sqn) } ?

{ CAV (mech)

- 2/6 Regt Chasseurs d'Afrique } DAMOUR

{ ARTY

- 6 Arty Regt and 3 Btys (75mm) } DAMOUR
- RACL 3 Gp (coastal defence) 7 Bty 145mm } 2 guns DAMOUR
- 8 Bty 164mm } 2 guns KHALDE
- 4 Gp (AA) (10 Bty 75mm) } remainder BEYROUTH
- (11 Bty 75mm) } one Bty DAMOUR
- Lebanese Coastal Defence Bty (75mm) } ?
- 4/1 RAML 10 Bty (AA) (85mm) } ?

{ ENGR

- 1/33 Engr Bn } DAMOUR
- Special Engr Coy
- Telephone Coy

MISC

- 43 Comm Coy
- 631 Pnr Bn (A det only) } ?

2. DISPOSITIONS

DAMOUR AREA

(a)

{ INF

- see Infm PW No 5 of 25 Jun
- " PW of 23 Jun
- " PW of 19 Jun
- " Defences DAMOUR 20 Jun

- (i) Concentration of tps and tics in trees North and South of the DAMOUR RIVER at 12341972 and 12301970.
- (ii) ED DALAMME (12571955) - approx 400 tps reported this area 25 Jun. These withdrawn towards DAMOUR on night 25/26 Jun but now reported returned to ED DALAMME. This may be correct as A Coy 2/27 Bn was fired on from this area at 1400 hrs 27 Jun by approx one pl.

/(iii) Further concentration



- (iii) Further concentration of tps (probably 1 Bn 16 RTF) in trees NW of DAMOUR at 12422006.
- (iv) Previous info has been confirmed regarding disposals of 2 Bn 6 Regt Foreign Legion at EL ATIQA and 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn RIC in trees along coast West of DAMOUR. 24910

(b) ARTY

4 guns 75mm at 12451990  
 8 guns 75mm in area 12571974 to 12621974  
 4 guns 75mm in olive grove NE of EN NAAME at (12642018)  
 During the shoot by Royal Navy on DAMOUR 25 Jun our shells landed very near the guns at 12571974 but no guns were put out of action.

(c) COASTAL GUNS - (Ref Map DAMOUR 1/25000)

2 guns at 12902006 on hills East of (BAOUAROCHE)  
 These guns were at ABEY (13102000) on 24 Jun and fired on Royal Navy during their bombardment of DAMOUR. The range was too great and the guns have now been moved to their present posn. These coast defence guns are either 120mm or 155mm guns and have an approx range of 12000 yds. This means that they can now fire on any ship 6000 yds from the shore.

2 guns at KHAIDE - see sketch attached.

(d) AA GUNS

Four light AA guns on roof of church of St ELI at 12451993.  
 Two heavy AA guns in the church grounds  
 Light AA guns have also been placed on top of other buildings in the town.  
 AA guns also reported on roof of church at 12451983

(e) MINEFIELDS

In addition to hrs and rds previously reported mined the following mines have been laid :-

Br at 12442003 - The river under the br is dry at present and mines have been laid in the river bed and also on the br itself.

Mines have also been laid in nearly all other dry creek beds near the COAST RD where vehs would be forced to detour either by demolition or mining of hrs.

3. GENERAL

(a) AIR

Enemy air activity has increased slightly during the last three days.

The country is very suitable for low flying machine gun attacks as planes can approach by hedgehopping over the hills.

(b)

The civilian population of DAMOUR has been evacuated and tps are billeted in the town. Tks, Arm Cd and trucks are also in the town and are hidden in side streets.

(c)

Garrison of DAMOUR was reinforced 10 days ago by tps from the Turkish frontier. The extent of these refets is not known but being Algerian tps they are probably from the RIC (Regiment Imperial Colonial)

/ (d) General ARAIBOSSE.....



- (d) General ARAIBOSSE (said to be comd the "Troupes de L'Est") has inspected the defences of DAMOUR frequently during the last 10 days.
- (e) It is reported but unconfirmed that General ARAIBOSSE has mentioned the following lines of defense :-  
 First line - DAMOUR  
 Second line - KHALDE  
 Third line - CHOUEIFAT - ABEY - BHAIDOUN.  
 The extent of defences on the 2nd and 3rd line is unknown, but concentrations of tps and vehs have been seen in the olive groves near CHOUEIFAT 12992086.
- (f) It is reliably confirmed that Vichy French tp movements in SYRIA have been seriously hampered by petrol shortage. 5000 drums of motor spirit are said to be buried at TEL KALLAZH by sea under a thin layer of earth. At BEYROUTH at the SW corner of Shell Tank Farm, there is reported to be 500 tons of aviation spirit in tanks. Free French forces report that, upon their entry into DAMASCUS, the authorities informed them that there was in the city only sufficient to last until the night 22/23 Jun. Supplies are now being arranged. All MT in the town had already been requisitioned by the enemy. The ry is however said to be intact. Among captured documents is a Vichy French order, dated 13 May 41, ordering the tps to fire on our aircraft if and when identified. This order was signed by a Capt PAVREAU who commanded the "MERDJAYOUN Centre of Resistance". Other documents have shown that this area was always a key strong point in the Vichy defence scheme, but this is the first indication of special organ for this area. The quadrilateral TRIPOLI - IS BAAHEK - MERDJAYOUN - SAIDA is mentioned in another document as the area to which the enemy will withdraw in the last resort. Comment: Previous reports of this area have been received. These however have hitherto given BEIS as the NE corner of the quadrilateral.

NOTE

Above infm re tps and arty in DAMOUR has been obtained from Aziz GHRANEP proprietor of the AL MASSA newspaper in BEYROUTH. He is of good intelligence and is a friend of Col MEDOWAR (commandant of TMR). He has been in DAMOUR for the last 20 days and escaped this morning via DEIR EL QAHAR across the hills to BARJA. He appears to be very pro-British and is at present with Col MEDOWAR in TMR.

Further infm from a deserter in att as Appx "B".

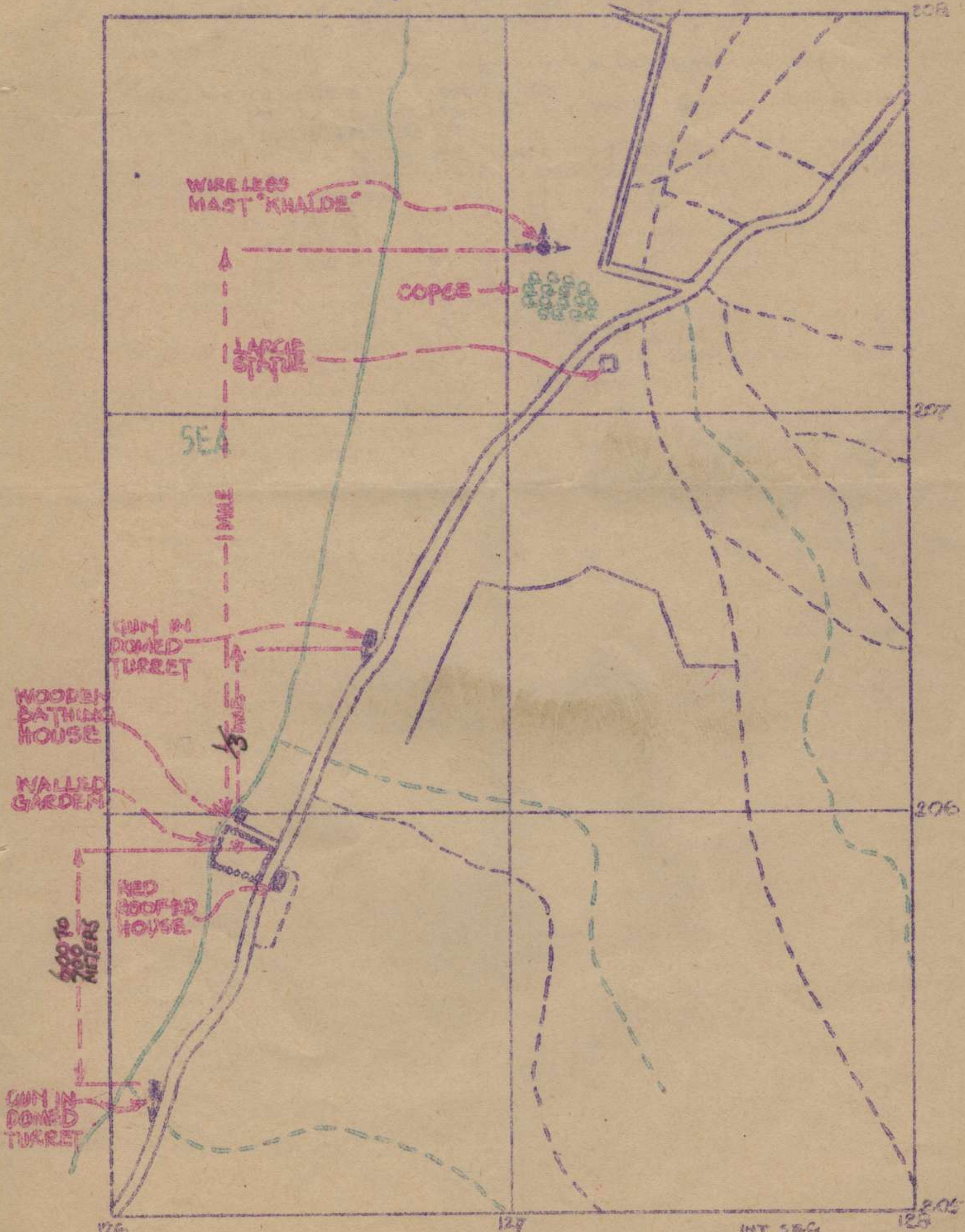
*J. B. ...*  
 Ident  
 10 21 Jun 41



# COAST DEFENCE GUNS

## — KHAILIDIE —

REF BEYROUTH SHEET 1:50,000



INT 582  
NEV  
27 JUN 41



Annex "B" to Intelligence Summary No 6 27 Jun 41

STATEMENT OF OSMAN KADDOURA

This sgt was interrogated this morning by Col FURLONGE who states that the man was very fed up with the French Army and his info seemed very reliable.

"I was a sgt in the French armoured corps. I deserted my unit which was stationed at BEIT ED DINE during the night 23/24 Jun following the shelling of CHEHIM by the British, which caused fatal injuries to 18 civilians and injuries to two others and two Lebanese soldiers.

When I deserted, eight other Lebanese soldiers of my unit also deserted during the same night.

Our pl was composed of six armoured cars, two motor-cycles, two trucks and a touring car.

Three arm'd Cs had French crews and the three others, Lebanese crews. There were four men in each arm'd C, totalling 12 French and 12 Lebanese. The pl was commanded by Capitaine MARTIN who was assisted by Lt GRANGO. To the best of my knowledge, the nine Lebanese soldiers which deserted the Arm'd Cs that night could not be easily replaced immediately. In addition to our mech pl there was at BEIT ED DINE some 120 soldiers of the Foreign Legion, who were equipped with MGs and two A Tk guns.

We arrived at BEIT ED DINE from BEYROUTH on the 25 Jun. We came from KHALDE to DAMOUR to DEIR EL QAMAR to BEIT ED DINE.

At KHALDE I saw a large force of Senegalese, Foreign Legion, Moroccians and others. The tps are all along the coast from BEYROUTH to KHALDE; they are chiefly inf.

At KHALDE there is a big gun which I believe is 9 metres long and has a range of 20 Kilos. Between KHALDE and DAMOUR there are many MG nests covering the area between the foot of the hills and the coast on both sides of the rd.

I did not see the br at DAMOUR because I went to DEIR EL KAMAR through the GHARIFA - CHEHIM rd, but I was told that the DA MOUR br has been mined. I also know that the following rds have been mined :-

CHEHIM to MAZBOUD

AANOUT - GHARIFE - BEIT ED DINE.

The mines have been placed across the rd some 10 metres before the barricades from the side of the British front.

There is another big gun North of KHALDE at a place called BIR HASSAN. This gun is as big and has the same range as the KHALDE gun. Between the two big guns there are MG nests all along area on both sides of the rd.

Near the CHAMP de TIR MILITAIRE which is immediately North of BIR HASSAN, there are 12 AA guns.

At RAS BEYROUTH near the light-house, there are 6 hy guns and another one at NAER EL KHELBE.

I did not see pill boxes on the coast but I saw barbed wire all along the coast from BEYROUTH to DAMOUR.

When I left BEYROUTH there were twenty 9 ton tks, some of which had taken part in the SAIDA battle, they were returned to BEYROUTH for overhaul when our Arm'd C pl came to the front to replace them, these were new tks. There is an equal number of old tks which are under repair.

We have 24 Arm'd Cs, 12 of which were sent to the DAMASCUS front, 6 came to BEIT ED DINE and 6 remained in BEYROUTH. There are others under construction in the "auto pk" at FURN EL SHUBBAK, between the forrest of FURN EL SHUBBAK and the SHAYAH FORREST.

When I came to BEIT ED DINE I found no guns nor any form of fortifications on the rd BEYROUTH - ALEY - BHAMDOUN - AIN SOFAR.

I saw AA guns at the following places on the BEYROUTH - BEIT MARI rd:-

DIEDER - DEKOUANE - SIN EL FIL.

*O. Kaddoura* Lieut  
IO 21 Aug Inf Bde



Sgt-Maj Pritchard, PSS, brought in a prisoner of war named Antoine Daravish, stating that the prisoner had driven his motor-cycle through the front line last night, 27 Jun 41, and surrendered to an officer who handed him over to an MP. In turn the MP handed him over to Sgt-Maj Pritchard on the morning of 28 Jun.

"Interrogation of prisoner, Antoine Daravish, Maronite, of Beyrouth:-

"I belong to the "6 Regt Chasseurs d'Afrique, 1 Sqn". I am a motor-cyclist and a military rider and hold the rank of epl.

"Yesterday morning, 27 Jun 41 I was at Chehim with my pl which was comd by Capt Martin. Our pl at Chehim consisted yesterday morning of four arm'd Cs, four motor cyclists and one side car, one truck and one small car.

"The strength of our pl consisted of the following :-

Capt Martin,  
Lieut St Trivier,  
Another young Lieut whose name I do not know, and  
24 ORs.

"In addition to our pl there was a sec of inf composed of two French NCOs and about 30 Senegalese soldiers. This sec had three MGs. There was also an OP in the citadel which is North of Chehim composed of a lieut and five ORs.

"At 5 am on 27/6/41 when all the pl was still asleep we were awakened by MG fire on our arm'd Cs. We got ready in no time and headed by Capt Martin the arm'd Cs moved in the direction of the British lines. After a distance of some 400 metres Capt Martin, Sgt Lauret and 6 soldiers were killed. I was instructed then by another Sgt to telephone for an ambulance. I found the telephone wires cut. I was then ordered to go on my motorcycle to BEIT ED DINE. On the way I met a civilian who advised me to desert, which advise I took. I rode on to the British lines and surrendered to a British officer who was very gentle to me and who gave me two packets of cigarettes.

"My pl arrived at Chehim on Monday, 23 Jun, and I followed from Beyrouth on Wednesday, 25 Jun.

"In the vicinity of Chehim there are the following forces :

- (a) A mechanized pl at DELHOUN consisting of the same strength as the CHEHIM pl which came to our rescue yesterday morning.
- (b) At GHARINE there were four motor cycles, three sidecars and a Chevrolet car belonging to Commandant LHER. In the prison yard at BEIT ED DINE there are ten ambulances and eight trucks for tpt of food to the front. Between the olive trees northeast of BEIT ED DINE there are about eight trucks loaded with amm.

"I came to CHEHIM from BEYROUTH via KHALDI, DAMOUR, KFARHIM, DEIR EL KAMAR, BEIT ED DINE, GHARINE, CHEHIM.

"On the way I saw the following :-

- (i) RAS BEYROUTH, near the light house, one big gun (75) and about 8 small guns (55)
- (ii) BIR HASSAN, one heavy gun (75) and three smaller ones (47)
- (iii) One gun (55) between DJEIDEH and JELL ED DIB.
- (iv) About seventy trucks are parked in one yard at EL HIADETH.
- (v) Red Cross post at KAFAR CHIMA.



- (vi) CHOUET RAT - post for repair of military vechs and a small garrison of Marocains.
- (vii) At KHALDE. There are two heavy guns (75 or 77) on which the French count very much to hold the British adv. There is a sec of Senegalese tps at KHALDE.
- (viii) At a spot two kilos southeast of KHALDE I saw a bn of "Chasseurs Libanais" comd by Lieut Semahia and possibly another Lebanese Capt.
- (ix) DAMOUR - A mechanized pl. Two Spahis secs with no horses. A gun ( 37)
- (x) DARAYA - I saw two guns (75) but I heard that the French are getting two more guns (75).

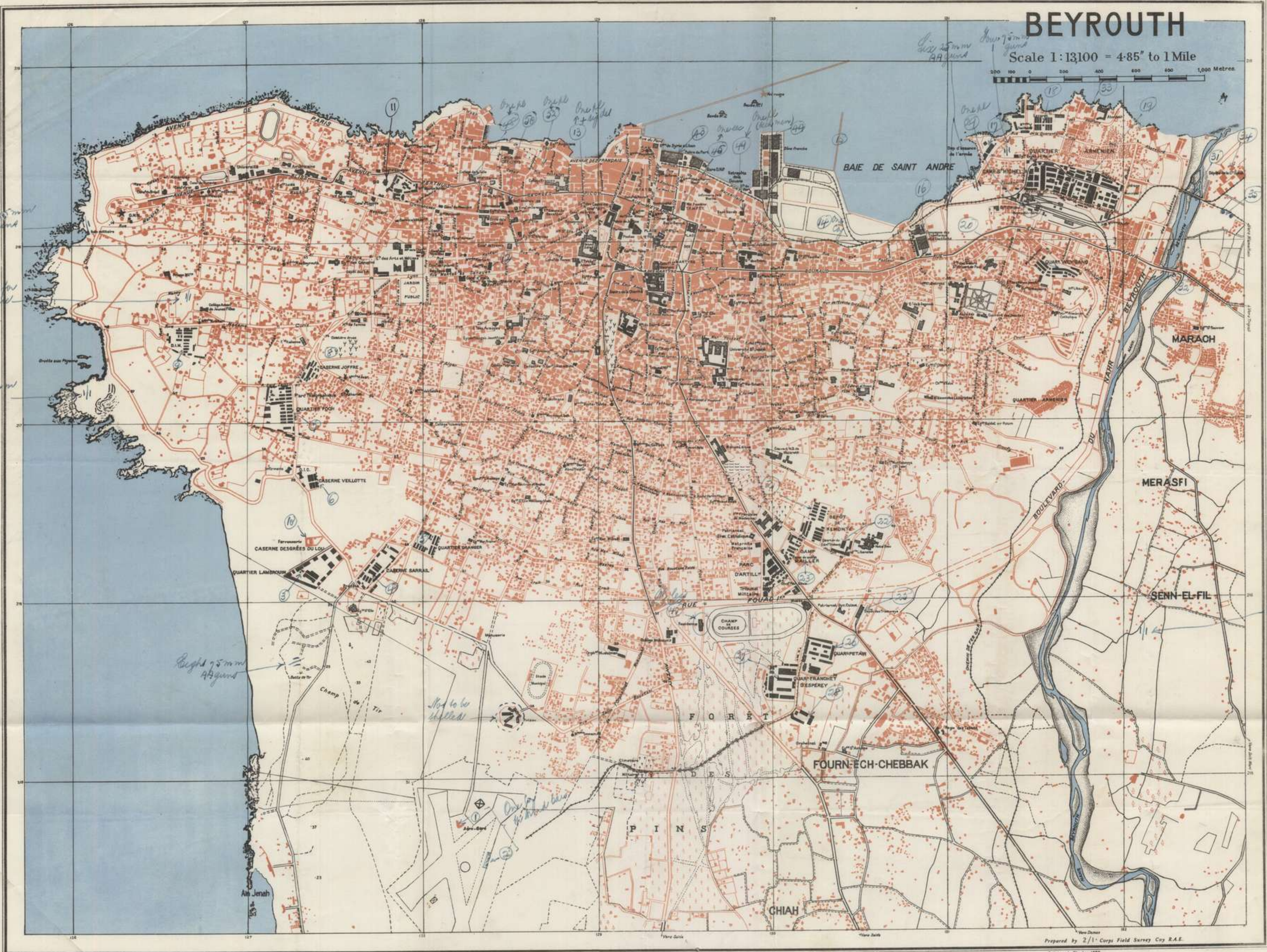
"I wish to join the British forces and I am sure I could be useful to them."



# BEYROUTH

Scale 1:13100 = 4.85" to 1 Mile

200 0 200 400 600 800 1,000 Metres



Two 75 mm AA guns

Right 75 mm AA guns

Not to be used

8 - 75 mm AA guns

Prepared by 2/1 Corps Field Survey Coy R.A.E.

Edition de Février 1928



**SECRET**

# BEIRUT

LAT. 33° 54' N. LONG. 35° 31' E.

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS

MILITARY PRISON

PRISON

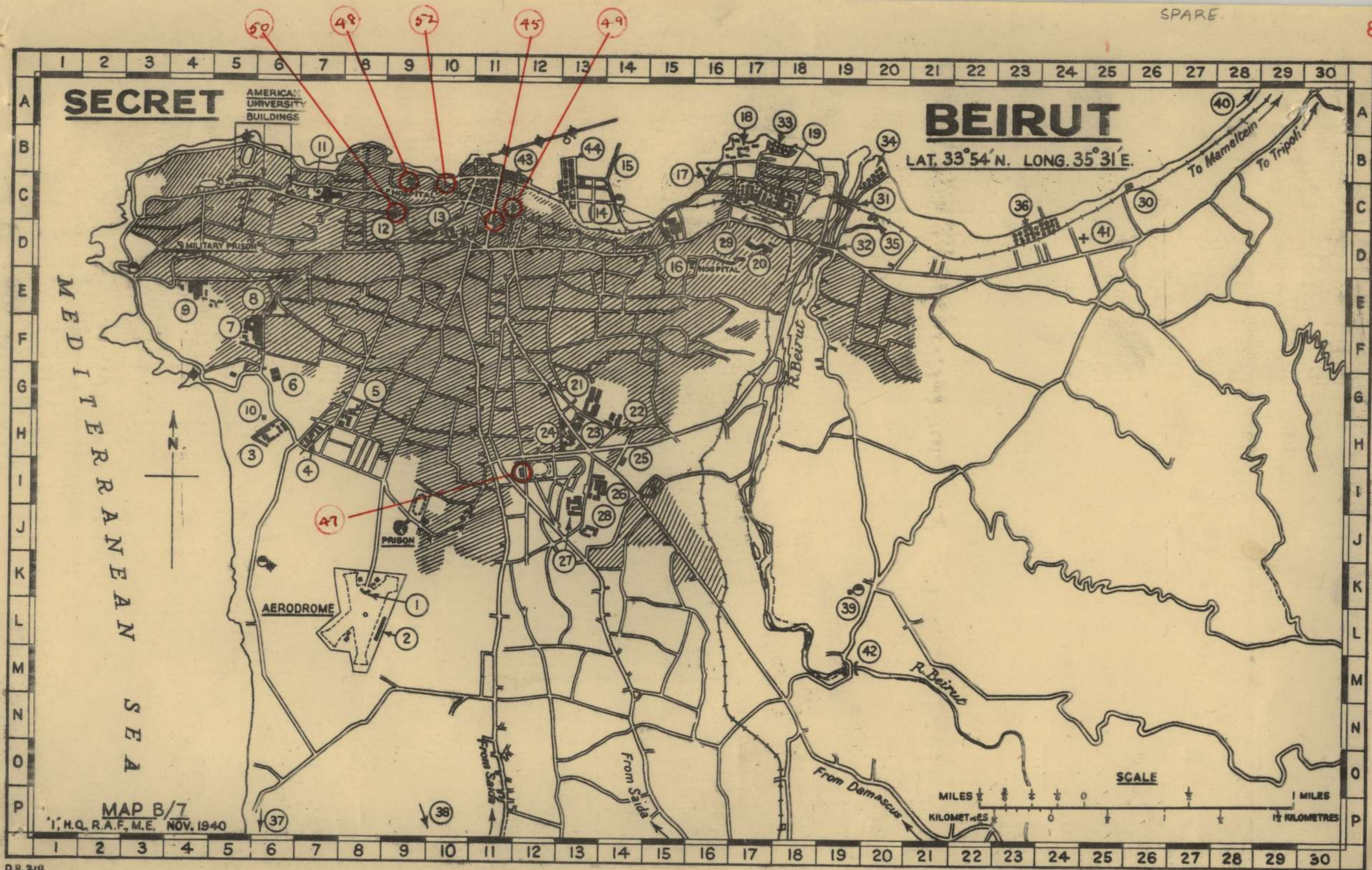
AERODROME

MAP B/7  
1, H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. NOV. 1940

SCALE

MILES 1 1/2 2 2 1/2 3 3 1/2 4  
KILOMETRES 0 1 2 3 4

Prepared by 2/1 Corps Field Survey Coy R.A.E.





BEIRUT

Reference to pin points on map B/7.  
NOT TO BE TAKEN IN THE AIR.

NOTE: Any corrections to pin points based on reliable information will be appreciated.

Half-blackened circle = A/A Guns, O.

Black circle with cross = C.D. Guns, O

Due to the small scale of the map, fuel tanks and buildings had to be shown in groups.

1. Aerodrome building and W/T.
2. Ammunition dump, position on the map is approximate.
3. Barracks (Desgrées du Dou).
4. Barracks (Sarraill)
5. Barracks (Quartier Granger)
6. Barracks (Veillotte)
7. Barracks (Quartier Foch)
8. Barracks (Joffre)
9. Barracks (D.I.M.)
10. Iron Works
11. Headquarters ?
12. Barracks (Gey)
13. Grand Serail
14. Naval Dockyard
15. Coal stocks on jetty
16. Tramway depot and power station.
17. Army petrol stores
18. Barracks (Lasaret)
19. Barracks (Camp St. Michel)
20. Barracks (Quartier Weygand)
21. Remount depot
22. Barracks (HQ of Commandant Trabaud)
23. Barracks (Camp Maillet)
24. Artillery Barracks
25. Tram depot
26. Barracks (Quartier Petain)
27. Barracks (Quartier Franchet D'espercy)
28. Barracks
29. Railway station with sidings
30. Railway station
31. Bridge
32. Bridge
33. Oil installations
34. Oil installations
35. Oil installations
36. Oil installations
37. To coast battery and W/T station  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles away.
38. W/T station  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles away.
39. Soap factory
40. C.D. battery  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles away
41. W/T station
42. Bridge
43. Customs and warehouses with full port facilities
44. Military base - full port facilities with railway sidings running to end of wharf
45. Military Telephone Exchange
47. Residence des Pins. (Residence of General DENTZ).
48. Hotel Metropole
49. Offices of Radio Orient
50. Surste
51. Hotel Normandy.



1 Jul 41

INT SUMMARY NO 7

Based on infm reced from 1300 hrs 27 Jun to 0900 hrs 1 Jul 41.

Ref Maps :- SAIDA )  
DJEZZINE ) 1/500001. GROUNDOUR OPERATIONS

- (1) FDLs 2/16 Bn and 2/27 Bn now on line from KARACOL (12101950) - ES SADIYATT (12231952) - ES SIYAR (12401952) - ER REZANIYE (12531947) with 2/27 Bn on right. Active patrolling to obtain pts of observation on DAMOUR defences. During night 29/30 C Coy 2/27 captured pt 394 (12551957) taking 5 prisoners. Our arty continues harassing fire on known enemy defences, particularly on hostile btys. 2/25 Bn captured DARAYA and AANOUT at 1400 hrs 29 Jun and have consolidated astride rd CHARIFE - AANOUT at (13001881). Enemy withdrew from MAZRAAT ED DAHR (12981847) at approx 1000 hrs 30 Jun. One tp A Sqn 6 Div Cav occupied this village which was then shelled by a hostile bty from the direction CHARIFE. 30 Jun 2/25 Bn patrols to HASROUT came under by enemy arty fire and were forced to withdraw to AANOUT. Patrol to EL ZAAROUIYE reported no enemy seen. Today 2/25 Bn are patrolling to HASROUT and to the high ground NW of EL MPOLLE. One tp A Sqn 6 Div Cav at MAZRAAT ED DAHR patrolling towards EL JLEILIYE.

ENEMY OPERATIONS

Enemy arty activity has increased during the past 48 hrs, much of which has fallen on areas not occupied by our tps. Enemy by guns (145mm) being used in conjunction with 75mm guns. During by shelling on A coy 2/27 Bn night 28/29 approx 200 shells were fired. 10% of shells did not explode. Lge percentage enemy amm is of 1918 manufacture and fragmentation is very poor due to impure explosives. Enemy defensive works continuing on North side of DAMOUR river but very little movement during day. Enemy force (approx 200) of MP, cav and inf consolidated in CHARIFE (13381890). Patrols A Sqn 6 Div Cav at MAZRAAT ED DAHR report enemy consolidating at EL MPOLLE in orange groves and also along WADI BEIZOUN.

2. AIR

Our planes have been active against concentrations of enemy tps and tpt. Enemy air activity has decreased. One recce plane flew over this area at 1550 hrs 29 Jun.

3. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

Five PWs captured during attack on pt (394) were far better type of legionaire than any previously captured and would NOT divulge any infm other than their name, rank and unit.

All were from 5 Coy 2 Bn 6 RLE.

No further identification yet obtained re garrison of DAMOUR.

4. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS(1) DAMOUR

Inf disposes as per Int summary No 6.

Defensive works being improved, extent not known.

Gaps in wire around 2 Bn RLE are all on the West side near the coast rd. The town of DAMOUR has been completely evacuated by civilians and enemy AFVs are hidden in the streets and buildings.

Arty : The number of guns in DAMOUR seems to have been increased

/and some by.....



and some by guns (145 or 155mm) have been located.  
HBs have been reported in the following posns.

Map Ref of HB DAMOUR SHEET 1/50000	No of Guns	Type	Have shelled Area at	Source of infm
12701969	1	HOW	South of EL HARAM at (12351940)	Observation
House at 12422006	1	75mm	"	Observation from OP at pt 171
12451990	4	75mm	No reports	Infm PW (uncon- firmed)
12581974	8 ? probably 4	75mm	Area NEBI YOUNES 12101922	(i) PW (unconfirmd) (ii) Guns evident ly firing at ex- treme range dur- ing 2/16. An att- ack on QASSOUBA
12642018	4	75mm	12341955	Observation
12892007	2	145 or 155 mm	fired on navy but shells fell short	Observation
13081999	1	155mm	South of EL HARAM 12351940	Night observation
13061992	1	155mm	"	"
Area near ABEY probably gun at (13061992)	2	by (155mm)	AANOUF	Sound bearing 75° and observation of flashes from OP at 12881898
AATRINE - approx 13451915	6	75mm	Rd at 130188	Sound bearing 71° from OP at 12881898
AATRINE - approx 13451915	3	75mm	OP at 12981875	Sound bearing 45° from OP.

## (11) AANOUF - BEIT ED DINE area.

Location	Date	Infm	Source
BEIT ED DINE	daily from 20-30 Jun	Tp concentration and MF movement HQ of enemy forces in COASTAL sector	TAC R and Infm PW
	28 Jun	Trucks loaded with amm in olive groves NE of BEIT ED DINE at approx 13641958	Deserter
DEIR EL QAMAR	27 Jun	MG nests in wadi at approx 13341949. North of the town in olive groves approx 13451964 there are some tks and Armd Cs	PW (unconfirmed)
BAAKLINE	27 Jun	tps and tks hidden in trees East of village.	Local Arab not very reliable)
	29 Jun	2 A Tk guns and 10 MGs at (13431940) covering rd to CHARIFE	Reliable
AIN DRAFIL (129202)	26 Jun	"Many" tps (French and Senegalese) and some vehs	Reliable source
		/DAKOUN (130199).....	



DAKOUN 130199	29 Jun	3 or 4 guns (75mm?) at Western exit of village.	Reliable
KAER HIM 131195	26 Jun	"Many" tps and vehs	Unreliable
CHARIFE or RIARIFE	29 Jun	Br at 13271949 has been destroyed	Reliable
MPOLLE or EL MPOLLE 13201865	26 Jun	Br at 13361940 prepared for demolition. 29 Jun - About 500 tps. Some cav located FONTAINE DE BAZOUN 2 1/2 km from CHARIFE on the rd to HASEOUT.	Reliable
MPOLLE or EL MPOLLE 13201865	29 Jun	Large force reported (approx 400) about 100 tps seen in this area.	Reliable
EL JLEILIYE (13081857)	30 Jun	Patrols A Sqn 6 Div Cav report enemy in this area	"
EL ZAAROUYE (130187)	1 Jul	Enemy consolidating in orchards and in WADI BEIZOUN.	Patrol 6 Div Cav
BEIKOUN	30 Jun	Patrols A Sqn 6 Div Cav report enemy holding this village. Probably tps withdrew from MAZRAAT ED DAHR at 1130 hrs 30 Jun	"
	30 Jun	2000 hrs patrol 2/25 Bn report no enemy seen.	Patrol
	28 Jun	About 300 tps with MGs and five guns of large calibre (75mm) Two of these guns located 600 metres West of village at approx 13541870.	Arab of good int.

(111) DAMOUR - BEYROUTH

It has previously been reported by a PW that Gen ARABLOSSE has mentioned the following lines of defence between DAMOUR and BEYROUTH :-

First Line DAMOUR  
Second Line KHALDE  
Third Line CHOUEIFAT - ALEY - BHAMDOUN

DAMOUR is known to be held very strongly and the defences have been strengthened during the past week.

No definite infm has been recd that the second and third lines have been prepared but concentrations of tps and vehs have been reported in those areas.

Other conflicting reports from PWs state that DAMOUR is the last line of defence between DAMOUR and BEYROUTH. However the country surrounding KHALDE and CHOUEIFAT lends itself to defence and it seems probable that if driven out of DAMOUR the enemy would make a further stand on either his second or third line.

The following infm has been recd during the past week on this area

KHALDE

Two 4 by coast defence guns ( see sketch in Dat summary No 6)  
A Tk guns sited to fire along main coast rd. ( See sketch att to PW infm of 19 Jun)

Inf

A deserter from the French Armd corps at BEIT ED DINE gave the following infm. 27 Jun.

"At KHALDE I saw a large force of Senegalese, Foreign Legion, Moroccans and others. The tps are all along the coast from BEIT BEYROUTH to KHALDE, they are chiefly inf. Between KHALDE and DAMOUR there are many MG nests on both sides of the rd covering the area between the foot of the hills and the coast.

Another deserter from 1 Sqn 6 Regt Chasseurs d'Afrique gave the following infm 27 Jun.

" At KHALDE there are two 4 by guns on which the French count very much to hold the British adv. There is a sec of Senegalese tps at KHALDE. At a spot two kilos SE of KHALDE (12752060) I saw a bn of "CHASSEURS LIBANAIS" comd by Lieut SEMAHIA and possibly another Lebanese capt.

/This infm although.....



This infm although unconfirmed seems to indicate that a line of defence is being prepared South of KHALDE but the reports must at present be treated with reserve.

CHOUEIAT

Tac R reports have frequently reported concentrations of vehs in this area.

PW infm 28 Jun

There is a post for repair of military vehs and a small garrison of Moroccans.

Tps are hidden in the gardens and trees East and West of the Coast rd.

BEYROUTH

Available infm re the town of BEYROUTH and surrounding defences is shown on the marked maps attached.

5. GENERAL

- (i) On 23 May 10 Germans went to SAIDA to organise the defences.
- (ii) The French Col who commanded the tps at QASMIYE on the LITANI has been arrested and imprisoned for not trying.
- (iii) On 16 Jun the Mufti of the Lebanon while trying to persuade Gen DENTZ to declare BEYROUTH an open town pointed out that the French seemed more ready to make a battlefield of BEYROUTH than of PARIS.
- (iv) About 150 Armcd Cs have been built in BEYROUTH. Their armour plate consists of two layers of plate with a layer of wood in between and is said to be effective. About 50 of these cars are armed with a 37mm gun and the remainder with MGs.
- (v) On the att map a prison in the outskirts of BEYROUTH is clearly marked. In view of the fact that the prison contains an American journalist and a number of anti-Vichy personnel it is desired that as far as possible it should not be subjected to shell fire.

*J. H. ...*  
 Lieut  
IO 21 Aust Inf Bde



PATROL REPORT DASA A 1 to 3 JUL

Patrol Leader - Lt Sims

Strength of Patrol - 1 offr, 1 RAE epl, 2 ORs.

Route - EL HARAM, then by same track as Lt Bell to EL LABIYE - track leading E to Rd and River. Along river 200 yds NW to Sandy Beach.

Times - Patrol departed 0830 1 Jul, returned 0230 3 Jul.

Report - Track running E from EL LABIYE is very difficult to locate and finally comes out in main rd 500 yds E of Br. Steep and very twisty in parts but can be negotiated by mules. River can be crossed at almost any pt. Banana orchards are all along river between river and rd. Country on Northern side of river opposite track junc is exceptionally steep (too steep to negotiate except on track to EL BOUM). Country also appears very steep from EL BOUM track junc to a pt South of EL ATIQA. Cover on these slopes is scarce West of EL BOUM track (rocks only). Re-entrants appear to be only means of approach to Square 126197 from South.

Enemy observed at - One MG fired from spur 12631964 exact location unable to be located. No enemy movement seen West of this pt to square 124197. In this area Enemy Posts were located at 12481973 (small orchard). Stone wall along Eastern side covers 3 MG Posts. At top righthand corner of orchard at what appears to be a gateway track leads to dug in position 100 yds to East. This post has at least 8 men. At 12491975 prominent group of pines with small orchard on Southern edge. This appears to be a HQ as all movement was between outposts and this pt.

At 12501976 two small rocky mounds with few trees, stone work can be seen which appears to hide MG posts. The no of men seen in this area approx 12. 70 yds further NE up spur round brick building appears to be AA post. At 12481974 red roofed house in trees. Tp movement seen but no actual posts located.

At 12441975 spur 2 enemy posts appear to be facing br on Coast rd. At 12481982 prominent knoll about K in MAR MIKHAJ Enemy post seen on northern slope which appears to be able to fire NE and NW up Re-entrant. Wire surrounds whole posn at EL ATIQA.

Patrol leader considers that movement of tps in area from EL LABIYE to Br would be very difficult without quite a bit of noise, especially in large numbers. Country is rough and rocky and gorge re-echos any noise. Best crossing of river appears to be at either side of br. Banks of river on norther side are steep and too high to be negotiated by men.

NB Lt Sims cut telephone line in several places at approx EL LABIYE to 12551963. The wire was VIR cable 6 strand and was running from ~~far~~ forward from house across track up slopes towards upper slopes of trig 394. Similar cable seen to be running along Western side of br.

Report of two men left in Observation by Lt Sims.  
These two men were left by Lt Sims at 1215 on 1 Jul and returned at 0830 2 Jul.  
Location Approx 12571961.

Report Patrol of approx 50 enemy seen moving down track from a small knoll SE of their OP which appears to be a continuation of hill 394. Also 1 enemy with mule seen on same track. Enemy seen to be mending wire where it had been cut by Lt Sims.



3 Jul 41

INF INFM

The following infm was received from a local inhabitant who has been in BEYROUTH for about a fortnight on special pro-Allied activities. He is of good int and appears to be a fairly accurate observer. He states that he served for two years in the Spanish Civil War. He is probably reliable.

Ref maps BEYROUTH 1/200000 - DJEZZINE 1/50000.

Observations were made on 30 Jun.

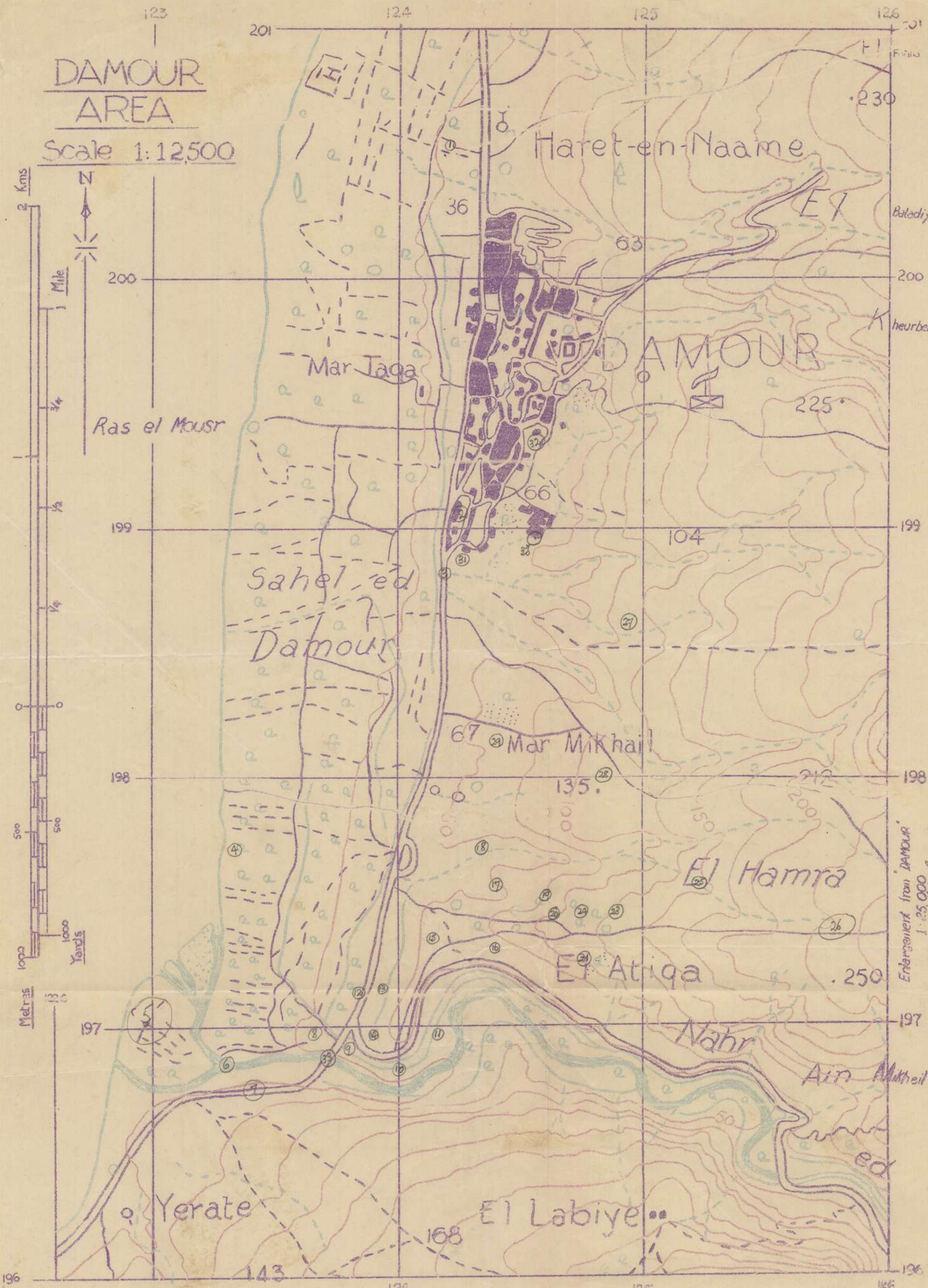
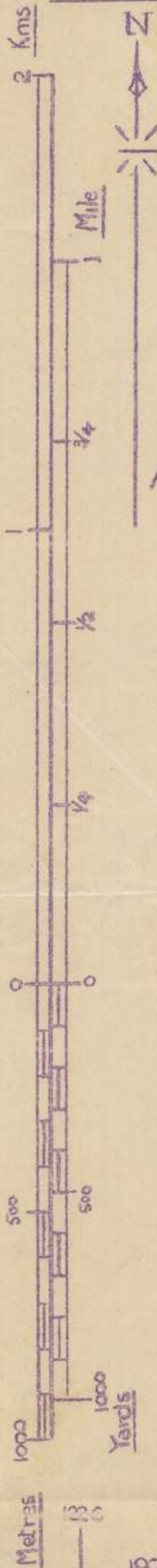
1. The JABAL EL MOUBARAKE (132185) is not occupied by the French.
2. The line of the NAHR BESRI is not defended or very lightly so.
3. MPOULLE (131186) observed at 1000 hrs, 30 Jun. Astride the rd MPOULLE - CHARIFE (133189) and about 600 metres from MPOULLE is one coy of Senegalese and some cav.
4. CHARIFE. Astride the rd CHARIFE - MPOULLE and about 1 kilo South of CHARIFE there were two sqns of Spahis and one coy of Senegalese. One bty of 75mm was about to be installed on the JEBEL KHALOUE. It appeared that they were going to be located fairly near the rd.
5. At the br at pt 669 (13311877) there were two arm'd Ca. The br is prepared for demolition, the exploder being located 15 yds West of the br.
6. The br at 13271948 is already destroyed.
7. The informant suggested that the destruction of the hrs at NAHR ES SAFA (147203) and JISR EL CADI would effectively cut the comm of the French. He understood that both hrs were prepared for demolition and were well guarded but suggested that air bombing might be effective in view of the presence of demolition charges.
8. The veh repair shops are located in the two most West-erly blocks of the QUARTIER PETAIN. See BEYROUTH 1/13100.
9. The guns at BASBA (BSATA) (13321845) are situated North of the rd and not South of it. The location is given as 600 metres NE of the village.

*J. J. J. J.* Lieut  
10 21 Aust Inf Bde



# DAMOUR AREA

Scale 1:12,500



Enlargement from DAMOUR  
1:25,000  
S.D. Lenthale G.P. 1941.



## AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

*Share*

SGI/28/1/39.

HQ 7 Aust Div,  
4 Jul 41.Supplement to enlargement - 1/12,500 DAMOUR Area.

1. The following list of enemy posns is compiled from infm gained from PW, agents and aerial photographs up to 1800 hrs, 1 Jul 41, and it is NOT intended that these posns should be accepted as being in ALL cases correctly plotted.

2. It must be realised all defensive posns are subject to periodic changes, in addition to which the reliability and accuracy of the infm gained from PW and agents depends entirely on the capabilities of the individual to indicate, on a map, what he has seen.

*RW Mill call*  
for Col.  
GS 7 Aust Div.

Distribution:

17 Aust Inf Bde	(10)	6 Aust Cav	(6)
21 Aust Inf Bde	(10)	1 Aust Corps	(1)
25 Aust Inf Bde	(10)	G	(3)
RAA7 Aust Div	(10)	AQ	(1)
RAE 7 Aust Div	(5)	Rear	(1)
Sigs 7 Aust Div	(2)		
ASC 7 Aust Div	(3)		

- 
- |    |             |   |
|----|-------------|---|
| 1  | 1242020052  | 75 mm gun behind wall.  |
| 2  | 1242419906  | Tank repair shop with amm dump and ration store on Southern side. |
| 3  | 1241919881  | Stone br - wadi approximately 30 feet wide.                       |
| 4  | 1233419770  | Four MGs.   |
| 5  | Area 123197 | Two AFVs and tps.   |
| 6  | 1233019685  | Shallow water and sand.   |
| 7  | 1234019675  | Mines on rd this area.  |
| 8  | 1236719696  | A Tk guns.  |
| 9  | 1238019690  | Large house.  |
| 10 | 12401968    | Three small houses.   |
| 11 | 1241519695  | Two houses.   |
| 12 | 1238319713  | House possible HQ.  |
| 13 | 1239319715  | A Tk gun.   |
| 14 | 1239019695  | 75 mm gun.  |
| 15 | 1241319735  | Trenches.   |
| 16 | 1243919731  | 25 mm A Tk gun.   |
| 17 | 1244019757  | Amm dump.   |
| 18 | 1243419770  | MG.   |
| 19 | 1246019752  | Two MGs.  |
| 20 | 1246419745  | Two MGs.  |
| 21 | 1247719727  | 63 mm mortar.   |
| 22 | 1269019640  | One 75 mm gun.  |
| 23 | 1248919745  | Three MGs.  |
| 24 | 1247519745  | HQ 2 Bn LE.   |
| 25 | 1252219757  | Two MGs.  |
| 26 | 12581974    | Eight 75 mm this area.  |
| 27 | 1249419860  | Mortars.  |
| 28 | 1248319800  | Trench.   |
| 29 | 1244019816  | Church with AA on roof.   |
| 30 | 1245619894  | Four 75 mm guns.  |
| 31 | 1242719887  | Suspected MGs in low trees.                                       |
| 32 | 1245719936  | Four lt AA guns on church roof plus two hy in church grounds.     |
| 33 | 1237119688  | Br blown (15 feet gap).   |

In addition to above the following are not shown on att enlargement:-

12632001	Four 74 mm guns.
12902005	Two coast defence guns, 120 or 155 mm.
13061991	Four 155 mm guns.



SECRET

Copy No. .... 23  
1 Jul 41

INT INFM NO 7

The following info has been received from an agent of good intelligence. He is considered reliable.

Ref Maps : BEYROUTH SAIDA JEZZINE 1 : 50000  
BEYROUTH 1 : 200000

1. There were three hy guns located at ABEY, of these one was knocked out by the Navy yesterday (2/7) at 1320.

The remaining two guns are sited approx 50 yds West of the most Westerly of the two churches in ABEY is about 13072001. These guns can fire as far as AANOUT 129186.

2. There is one gun "in some olive trees between the rd and the village". There are also 200 Algerian and Senegalese.

3. The three CD guns at KHALDE are situated about three Kms South of the wireless sta and to the West of the rd. There is a hut nearby for the gun crews. The guns are surrounded by wire and one of them is in concrete.

4. There are no tps at DEIR EL QAMAR.

5. The SERAIL at BEIT ED DINE is used as a general arm store. It is apparently situated at about 13551957. There is also a petrol store some little distance to the West of the SERAIL.

6. Demolitions are prepared on the rd South of BEIT ED DINE and on the rds leading to RHARIFE and MOURKELARA south of the fork at 13551947.

7. The br at JISR EL QADI is prepared for demolition with 250 Kgs of dynamite. The river banks are 25 metres high and if the br is blown it would be impossible to pass traffic across.

8. The French are using the rd BEYROUTH - ALEY - SOUK EL GHAF - CHEMLEN - HIASB JISR EL QADI - DEIR EL QAMAR - BEIT ED DINE for the tpt of material and stores.

9. The main arm and explosives dump of the country is situated about 200 metres West of the rd AIN SOMAR - HAKMANA and about 2 Kms North of the rd junction at 14972074. The arm is stored in about 50 round concrete pillboxes. To the west of the pillboxes are the huts for the gd and 200 metres further West still is the American Hospital marked with a Geneva Cross.

10. The large br at MAHR ES SAFA 147202 is not yet prepared for demolition. It is one of the few that is not.

*[Signature]*  
Lieut  
15 21 Anat Inf Bde



SECRET

21 AUST INF BDE

Copy No.....  
5 Jul 41

SITREP

GOLE reports from PW Sgt Maj of 7 Coy 2 Bn 22 RTA, 2 & 3 Bn have had casualties causing bns to be reformed into 2 Bn. At present in orange grove W of rd.

3 - 75mm guns close to rd N of DAMOUR strung out over one Km.

3 Tks in DAMOUR.

Between River DAMOUR and village E of rd 2 25mm A Tk guns Banana groves W of rd anti-personnel mines are laid in squares of 100 metres.

Bombing destroyed 3000 boxes of arty and SAA amn W of DAMOUR, in addition to the dump at ABEY.

ABEY guns

2 - 4 gun btys one of 105 mm, one of 155mm.

Area  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile square, 200 yds between btys 20 yds between guns.

105 Bty Situated 300 yds West of a pt 160 yds N of rd and water-course junction 13081997.

155 Bty 200 yds S of that posn 3 guns West of rd one East.

OP Pt 903 13171998 range finder 70 yds lower down.

AMN By motor convoy from HAMMANA leaving about 2030 hrs arrives 0420 hrs.

Bn between rd and coast disposn 5 Coy on right, 6 Coy on left about 400 yds in depth N from river; 7 Coy in reserve astride rd 12401985. In loop of rd about 80 Senegalese and 3 - 25mm A Tk guns. Total tps in area approx  $2\frac{1}{2}$  bns. 3 mortars at 12421998.

*for*  
Lieut  
IO 21 Aust Inf Bde



## OPERATIONS

788

FRONTIER  
CROSSED  
8 JUN Bde Gp moves from TARSHISHA and cross border at YAROUN and EL MALIKIYA. All objectives taken and TYRE surrenders at 1709 hrs.

LITANI RIVER  
9 JUNE Enemy blow bridge over river. S.S. Bn land north and south of mouth suffering heavy casualties from MGs and MORTARS. 2/16 Bn forces crossing and 2/6 Fd Coy commence bridging. French destroyers shell positions.

10-11 JUN Advance reaches ADLOUN on 10 June and attack on this and INNISARIYE launched at midnight. Towns taken.

SAIDA  
13-15 HASSANIYE captured by 2/14 and 2/27 bns and advance halted 2 miles south of SAIDA 12 Jun. Unsuccessful attack launched on 13-14 June. Failure due to enemy tanks and aerial activity. On 15 Jun 2/27 Bn seized MYEOUMYE and entered SAIDA to find it evacuated by enemy troops. Troops resting.

NAVAL  
FORCES which had been cooperating were temporarily withdrawn through lack of air support.

17 JUN 2/14 Bn to JEZZINE in anticipation of heavy attack. Coastal attack suspended because of recapture by enemy of MERDJ AYOUN. K.O. BR replaces 2/14 Bn 18 June.

19-20 JUN Advance to QUABI EL ZEINI 19 June. Decided against further fwd move because of failure to retake MERDJ AYOUN. 2/16 Bn consolidated high ground east from RAS NEBI YOUNES and 2/27 astride roads from BEIT-ED-DINE and JEZZINE to prevent enemy outflanking movement.

21-25 JUN News received of fall of DAMASCUS. Orders received for aggressive defence role pending improvement in right flank posns. 2/25 Bn (less one coy) comes u/cond.

CHEHIM &  
MAZBOUD captured by 2/25 Bn 26 June. Small opposition 2/16 and 27 bns consolidating line QASSOUBA - ER REZANIYE.

27-30 JUN Position almost static, with some minor gains. Navy shelling DAMOUR in preparation of our attack.

CASUALTIES of Bde during month were 47 killed 353 wounded 30 missing.

Ps. O.W. taken in this period 26 Off 820 O.Rs.

INTELLIGENCE Summaries on Syrian Campaign cover -  
French Order of Battle  
Psychology of Vichy Troops  
Enemy dispositions

MAPS BEYROUTH city.

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Should be 749



21 AUST INF BDE

SYRIA

INTELLIGENCE

CAMPAIGN IN  
SYRIA

Summaries on Syrian Campaign cover -  
French Order of Battle  
Psychology of Vichy Troops  
Enemy Dispositions

21 AUST  
INF BDE  
JUN 41

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*788*

*A 82*