

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

Item number: 8/2/26

26 Infantry Brigade

January 1944

HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde  
In the Field  
5 Feb 44

FEB 23 1944

WAR DIARY FOR MONTH OF JAN 1944

- Jan 1 New Years day - an uneventful commencement of 1944 with the Bde still in reserve.  
GOC 9 Aust Div accompanied by Brig WELLS BGS 2 Aust Corps visited Brig WHITEHEAD today.  
Arrangements made for commencement of series of Photo Interpretation courses for officers within the Bde.  
Lt-Col R AINSLIE 2/48 Bn visited Bde HQ.
- Jan 2 First of Photo Interpretation series commenced today. The course is of three day duration. Two offrs from each bn to attend.  
Lt-Col A B GILLESPIE 2/24 Bn visited Bde HQ.
- Jan 3 LO I Capt J TRAVIS with Bde Adv party proceeded to SANGA river to recce new Bde HQ site.  
Brig BROADHURST AA-QMG 2 Corps visited Brig today.  
Capt J SUMMERTON LO I this Bde during Battle of Alamein now G III Staff duties 2 Aust Corps spent afternoon at Bde HQ.
- Jan 4 BM proceeded to new site 0800 hrs.  
Bde HQ marching personnel commenced move 0730 hrs arrived new HQ 1300 hrs. Heavy vehicular traffic and lack of rain has made this area very dusty. The open KUNAI coastal strip is in direct contrast to the Jungle of SATELBERG -WAREO.
- Jan 5 HQ quickly settled into new area. The Surf beach adjacent to SANGA river mouth 200 yds from HQ provides us with welcome relief from the dust of this area. YMCA coffee stall established at beach is regularly attended by HQ personnel. Air Photo course concluded today.  
Reports from units show marked increase of PUO evacuations Bde HQ is similarly affected.
- Jan 6 An unpleasant day with high humidity. NW wind whipping up dust adds to unpleasantness. More evacuations with others "cracking hardy". Lt-Gen MORSHEAD Comd NGF Lt-Gen BERRYMAN Comd 2 Aust Corps and Maj-Gen WOOTEN GOC 9 Aust Div visited Brig today.  
Four more British offrs arrived to be attached to units of the Bde.
- Jan 7 Still no rain - as a result, clouds of dust. Brig -BM(L) visited 2/48 Bn.  
More PUO evacuations and larger attendances at RAP. Unit strengths very low.
- Jan 8 Second of Series "Air Photo Course" commenced today. Course is now to be of four day duration. Another sultry day without rain.
- Jan 9 Bde HQ personnel requiring Dental treatment attended 3 2/4 MDS. BM/2/23 Bn today visited
- Jan 10 LO I with Adv party left for DALLMAN river to recce new area. Lieut S A B MAZZUCHELLI LO 2 evacuated today with PUO. Lieut C DOUGLAS returned to unit from MDS.
- Jan 11 Much cooler today and working conditions more pleasant. 2nd Photo course concluded today.  
Strong breeze from North blew during afternoon Rain commenced to fall 1900 hrs.
- Jan 12 Heavy rain during the night has settled the dust. Bde HQ moved fwd and reopened on E bank of DALLMAN RIVER.

- Jan 12 Personnel were transported by MT thus accelerating the move.
- Jan 13 Site of HQ much healthier than SANGA river area. Evacuations to MDS during past week was 31. It is hoped there will be a sharp decrease from this area. Heavy rain fell accompanied by strong wind during night.
- Jan 14 Fine weather followed heavy rain of last night - the day is uneventful.
- Jan 15 Comd conference held at Bde HQ 1400 hrs. Bn Comds and Bde staff attended. Future trg policy discussed.
- Jan 16 Staff Capt evacuated to MDS with Malaria. Duties of SC taken over by Capt J O GEDDES SC(L) Comd 2 Aust Corps - GOC 9 Div visited Brig at 1730 hrs today.
- Jan 17 Capt VINES journeyed to Bde Dump at Coconut Beach. Distance covered was 120 miles - a reminder that we have advanced some 60 miles along the coast towards SIO.
- Jan 18 Bde HQ Adv party Capt D McNEIL and LO II and 12 ORs embarked KELANOA for movement to SONG river area where Bde is to concentrate. Bde (Australia) adv party assembled at KELANOA ref 232188.  
Brig Comds conference at 1400 hrs. Bn Comds & Bde Staff attended. All available data re move to Australia promulgated and Trg policy discussed.
- Jan 19 BM (L) left by jeep for new area to arrange preliminary Adm and selection of Bde areas. Lt-Col FARREL CO 2/4 Bn visited Bde HQ and stayed night.  
Little news of fighting from 20 Bde. The days are uneventful with troops gaining good rest.
- Jan 20 Marching personnel left area 0900 hrs for KELANOA beach. Embarked 1030 hrs and arrived SCARLET beach 1600 hrs. Bde is to take over 24 Bde area which has only partly moved. At present, area is therefore congested.  
Brig and BM made journey by Jeep and arrived 1730 hrs.
- Jan 21 Personnel engaged in cleaning up area and erecting adm tents. Rain fell during night followed by hot day.  
Brig visited 2 Aust Corps remained to lunch. Bm visited units.
- Jan 22 Efforts are being made to provide amenities for the Bde while situated in this area. Conference held at Bde HQ. BM Bn 2 i/c LO 2 to discuss local amenities. Cinema screenings. Musical programmes and swimming Carnival were arranged. Consideration was given to other sporting and recreational plans.
- Jan 23 Today Brig toured Battle areas with Comd 2 Aust Corps BGS and other senior officers. Following units arrived KILIGIA area and fostered by this Bde. 2/3 Fd Coy 2/3 Pnr Bn 9 Div Carr Coy 2/6 Sup Depot Coy 2/156 Gen Tpt Coy 2/8 Fd Amb Personnel of 24 Bde moved out of area today. A small rear party only remaining. Cinema screening NORTH HILL adjacent to Bde HQ was well attended. The show was interrupted several times by Air Raid alerts.
- Jan 24 Brig again toured Battle areas with Lt-Gen G K SMART Brig KING and other senior officers. Weather continues to be oppressive. A number of personnel have reported to RAP with heat rash. Scrub Mite are prevalent in this area and steps are being taken to prevent infection. Capt ST JOHN Bde Legal Officer evacuated to CCS with PUO. Further detachments from 2/3 Pnr Bn 9 Div ASC 2/3 Fd coy arrived KILLIGIA -SONG RIVER area.
- Jan 25 Brig BM accompanied by COs of units conducted tour of SATELBERG operations with party senior offrs. 2 Aust Corps. It has been decided to erect BATTLE FIELD signs to describe story of ops in this area. 26 Bde Signs were commenced today.  
Keen interest

is being shown in the forthcoming swimming Carnival.  
 Prospective champions are in training (?)  
 Capt GEDDES joined Australia advance party today Capt Vines  
 BM(L) assumed duties of Staff Capt.  
 Col FARQUHAR AQ 9 Aust Div called.  
 Cinema screening 2/48 Bn area again interrupted by air alerts  
 - very poor programme troops walked out in spite of show being  
 first in six months.  
 BM 4 Armd Bde visited HQ to discuss cooperation of Tanks with  
 Inf and Lessons from recent campaign.

- 26 Jan 4 Offrs 20 Bde arrived this HQ to conduct senior offrs 2 Aust  
 Corps over 20 Bde Battlefield areas. BGS and G I ops. 2 Aust  
 Corps visited Bde HQ today.
- 27 Jan IO with party of 10 ORs went to JIVEVANENG to reconstruct  
 SAND MODEL used for SATELBERG campaign by 2/48 Bn.  
 GOC 9 Div visited Bde HQ and the three units.  
 Lt-Col BLA CKWOOD AAME 2 Aust Corps Col HAYES of Aust Mil  
 Mission to WASHINGTON called to discuss American eqpt with  
 Brig and BM.
- 28 Jan Brig accompanied Brig V WINDEYER of 20 Bde and offrs on tour  
 of Battle field areas.  
 A heavy shower of rain fell during afternoon providing relief  
 from the heat.
- 29 Jan Hot wea ther continues - May HORDEN OC C Sqn 1 Aust Tk Bn visited  
 Bde to discuss lessons from Operations. BM visited SC at CCS.
- 30 Jan Brig again accompanied Brig WINDEYER to Battlefield areas. 20  
 Bde offrs return<sup>ed</sup> today.  
 Bde personnel attend Church Parade in 2/48 Bn lines.
- 31 Jan All Bde personnel paraded to disinfect clothing with "BETTY"  
 A kit Inspection was held and clothing shortages checked.  
 Bde HQ swimming carnival provided afternoons enjoyment. The  
 standard of swimming was surprisingly high.  
 Cinema screening at 2/48 Bn featured GARY COOPER in "THE  
 WESTERNER" - A good show.

Att hereto are the following :

Appendices

*A. Harkness Maj  
 Bm.*

- Appx "A" Training
- "B" Lessons from Ops
- "C" Trace of Ops. SATELBERG - WAREO
- "D" Tanks in Jungle Warfare
- "E" Jap Tactics
- "F" Field Returns
- "G" Confirmation AGENDA 26 Dec 43
- "H" Bde AIR PHOTO COURSE SYLLABUS
- "I" GS MEMO 23 Jan 44

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Appx. A.

NOT SECRET  
In the Field  
17 Jan 44

CONFERENCE NOTES - TRG CONFERENCE - 16 JAN 44

1. Present

Bde Comd  
Bn Comds 2/23 2/24 2/45 Asst Inf Pns  
BN  
BN (L)  
SC (L)  
Bde IO

2. Move from present area - latest info passed - indications that this Bde may commence move back to FINCHHAPER area within the next few days.

3. TRG General

- a. Directive NOT received from higher formation - assumed trg will be based on continuance of warfare against JAPS under jungle and mountain conditions - necessity to include trg in open warfare and with the
- b. Review of last trg period to select good pts and weaknesses in trg programme and methods.
- c. Necessity for careful and early thought to be devoted to trg problems, in order to anticipate difficulties and minimise disruption of trg programmes.

4. TRG Period

Arbitrarily fixed at three months - agreed that following apportionment of time will serve as basis - adjustments to be made later if practicable and considered necessary :

Individual trg	3 weeks
Sec ad pl trg	2 "
Coy trg	3 "
Bn trg	2 "
Bde trg (ie bde controlled on exercises)	2 "
<u>12 weeks</u>	

Trg period will NOT commence until after last state leave ops rejoin units.

5. TRG System

Agreed that individual trg can best be carried out on the bn "bullring" system - provides economy of instrs, uniformity in trg and enables all ops to be trained by the best available instrs.

6. Instrs.

Necessity for careful pretraining - considered selected instrs should be despatched on leave at least two weeks before main body, or alternatively, given travel priority to and from leave - necessity for high standard of instrs to retain interest and get results. Bn comds to submit suggestions as to the number of instrs required, the maximum number which can conveniently be sent on leave ahead of the main body, and a pre-training syllabus for instrs. Bde to examine possibility of obtaining services of outside instrs - bn comds to consider how, if outside instrs are NOT available, the necessary instrs can be obtained for the pre-training courses. Instrs must be carefully selected for their subjects - thoroughly trained and refreshed and then coached in their individual special subjects.

7. General TRG Required in the Bde

Considered that units must train to a sound jungle standard - specialist trg and trg in amphibious ops can then be readily superimposed as and when ordered.

Special pts to be emphasised in trg :

- i. Train junior leaders to exercise full functions of comd.
- ii. Teach self reliance in sub units, and ability to translate trg into practice - automatic drills to be really automatic.
- iii. Practice of sec and possibly pl contact drills in jungle courses where ball can be used.

...../6.

8. Size of Squads for Individual Trg

Main problem is to reconcile the size of squads with the number of instrs available - suggested that squads for drill practice, hardening training organised sport and certain other subjects could be of strength up to 100 permitting weapon trg squads to be reduced to the ideal maximum of 8 to 12 tps.

In order to consider :

- i. Analysis of tps into categories of trained and semi trained soldiers - essential that tps skilled in the use of certain weapons should NOT be tied down to the level of untrained or semi trained personnel. (Use of AB 83's of new reinfts).
- ii. Size of Squads for different subjects.
- iii. Employment of trained soldiers whilst remaining tps are being trained to the required standards.
- iv. Allocation of camp duties and gds.

Units to commence organ on these lines as opportunity permits in NEW GUINEA.

9. Medical Boardings - Reorgan of Units

To be completed before commencement of trg period - units to make a start on this whilst still in NEW GUINEA.

10. Check of Unit Stores and Expt

Also to be completed as far as practicable in NEW GUINEA - Bde to examine possibility of obtaining rifles for all ORs for trg period. Bde also to determine most practicable arrangements for zeroing of weapons.

11. Ranges

Suggested 30 yd ranges be provided on basis one per Coy - minimum 4 ranges for the bde - necessity for constant range practice throughout trg period - competitions - snaphooting.

12. Jungle Courses

Agreed that for scout trg a short course of approx 200 yds with only 2 or 3 targets preferable to more elaborate courses previously used - courses also to be constructed to allow secs and if possible pl practice fire and movement using ball am. to

13. Range Coaching

Unit teams of coaches must be trained - units to submit suggestions for composition of coaching teams.

14. Trg Stores

Units to submit requisitions to Bde HQ for collation and feeding to AMST with adv party.

15. Individual Trg - Offrs and NCOs

Unit comds to submit lists of essential subjects in order of priority and suggested allocation of time to each - composite pl trg cadre to be incl.

16. Selection and Trg - Potential NCOs

In order to submit suggestions as to scale and system of trg.

17. Trg of Specialists

- a. Specialist personnel to participate first in the general individual trg - specialist courses will then begin during the section and pl trg period - res of specialists of each category to be trained.
- b. Instrs for unit specialist courses must be given refresher courses.
- c. Courses of instrn in Intelligence, Signals, and MT driving and maintenance will be conducted initially on a bde basis - other specialist trg to be carried out by bns.
- d. Snipers to be trained in each Coy.
- e. Bde HQ to conduct course for regtl police.

...../18

18. Preparation of Syllabi

Alternative methods :

1. Allow pl comds to prepare syllabi themselves for submission and correction by senior offrs
11. Senior offrs to produce actual syllabi - junior comds to prepare syllabi as trg exercise for comparison.

Essential that instrs prepare their individual instructional notes - these must be vetted by senior offrs.

19. Offrs for Inf Bde

Ede Bn will investigate possibility of securing OTC graduates with previous service in engr fd coys.

20. Public Address System

Ede Bn will endeavour to arrange early delivery to units in trg areas.

21. Amplifier, Sport, Ede Bn Days

En S 1/co to be informed of unit comds policy and suggestions in preparation for committee discussion.

22. Amplifier, Sport, Ede Bn Days

Unit comds to consider limitations of employment of AASS facilities in inf units - AASS to be asked to provide relaxation and entertainment with education incidental only.

*Wm. J. Gray*  
(R. H. GRAY) for

BR 26 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION :

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i. Requirements of 30 yd ranges :

Minimum - 4 for the bde  
Maximum (ideal) - 6, on basis 2 per bn

ii. Div to be asked to supply early advice of ranges available in trg area,

alternatively

Div to be supplied with statement of this Bdes range requirements incl possibly one open classification range.

e. Jungle Courses

Resolved

i. Short course approx 200 yds long with only 3 or 4 targets considered the most suitable type. Basis - one per bn.

ii. Similar courses to be constructed for elementary trg of scouts and jungle movement. Basis - one per bn.

f. Personnel

Resolved

i. S<sup>c</sup> to submit plan for quick disposal of complete medical examinations, consultations and boardings.

ii. Unit Comds to reorganise subunits quickly and as far as possible on a permanent basis. This applies also to offr postings and postings of unit staffs and learners.

iii. (i) and (ii) above to be completed if practicable before commencement of individual trg.

g. Stores - Eqpt

Resolved

SC to submit plan for complete check and overhaul of unit stores and eqpt.

4. Trg Policy

a. General

i. Considered the bde can anticipate that trg will be based on continuance of warfare against the JAP under jungle conditions. The inclusion of trg in combined ops will be a matter for direction by higher formation.

ii. Considered the period for trg should be based on 3 months being available.

iii. Fd craft trg must include trg in open as well as jungle country.

b. Trg of Instrs

Resolved

i. To examine the possibilities of obtaining instrs from outside sources to provide courses of instrn for offrs and NCOs selected as instrs in bn cadres.

ii. Instrs for bn cadres to receive 2 wks course of instrn

.../incl

including up to 5 days general inf instrn (separate courses for offrs and NCOs).

c. Junior Leaders

Resolved

- i. Trg of junior leaders be undertaken during the 3 wks individual trg period.
- ii. BM(L) to prepare outline syllabus for course.
- iii. Trg of potential NCOs to commence in bns on the fourth week of the trg period.

5. Trg of Specialist Personnel

Resolved

- i. Specialist personnel will participate in the general individual trg of the first 3 weeks. Specialist courses will commence on the 4th week of the trg period.
- ii. Courses of instrn in int duties and sigs will be undertaken initially on a bde basis. Other specialists incl MT drs will be trained in units.
- iii. Specialist instrs to undergo refresher courses during individual trg period.
- iv. Trg of snipers in every coy to be incl in unit specialist trg programmes. SC to investigate possibility of issue of snipers rifles.

6. Sec and Pl Trg

Resolved

- i. Sec and pl trg should occupy 2 wks.
- ii. BM and LO 1 to prepare suggested syllabus to include  
out of camp trg  
load carrying  
operations in mountainous country.

7. Coy Trg

It was considered that coy trg should aim at teaching all rifle coys

- a. To move and exist as an independent subunit.
- b. To carry out all forms of attack, def and withdrawal incl night ops.
- c. To organise and carry out long range patrols.
- d. To co-operate in attack with tks and engrs.

Resolved

- i. Period allotted for coy trg will be 3 wks.
- ii. Exercises to be bn controlled.
- iii. BM and BM(L) to prepare suggested syllabus.

8. Bn Trg

Considered that the period allotted for bn <sup>to</sup> ~~trg~~ would have/be decided later when <sup>trg</sup> time available to the bde is known. In any case will be at least 2 weeks.

Resolved

- i. Bn trg will be conducted in bivouac trg areas and will incl the complete development and digging of a bn def locality.
- ii. Exercises will be set and controlled by Bde HQ. Seconds-in-comd from bns down to secs to be exercised in sudden assumption of comd.

...../iii.

iii. BM and BM(L) to produce suggested syllabus.

9. Bde Trg

As directed by higher formation.

10. Special Trg

Resolved

- i. To conduct sandtable TWTs at Bde HQ for bn comds and staffs and coy comds. Exercises will include, written appreciations and orders.
- ii. To conduct a Bde junior staff school. BM SC BM(L) to submit joint proposals for orgzn and syllabus. It was suggested either that the school be conducted on a half day per day basis or alternatively that unit potential staffs should take over in units, thus releasing normal staff for full time attendance at the school.

11. Miscellaneous Matters

a. Unit Signs

Definite patterns and specifications will be laid down by Bde HQ, together with instns as to -

- i. number of sets to be manufactured
- ii. distribution of sets within units.

b. Office eqpt in the fd

Committee composing reps from Bde HQ and each bn to meet, if possible in NEW GUINEA, to consider and submit standard specifications for the most practicable forms, of G office, orderly room and Int Sec eqpt for use in jungle conditions. The committee also to discuss and standardise layout and duties of personnel on bde and bn Hqs.

c. Sport and Amenities

Bn 2 i/cs to form committee and submit recommendations for

- i. organised competitive sport within the bde, and suggested allocation of sports periods. BM(L) to prepare terms of reference for committee.
- ii. organisation of amenities within the bde

d. Army educ service

Extent to which AES facilities can be usefully employed, to be discussed by Bde Comd with bn comds.

e. Long Service Personnel

SC to arrange confidential review of ORs with long service in operations, who have been wounded on two or three occasions, and who not appear to be suffering physical or mental exhaustion due to their service.

*W. H. Jones*  
Secretary  
7 Jan 44

Capt

Confirmed

Brig

Chairman

PROJECTED TRG PROGRAMME

General

- a. It is anticipated that this Bde will shortly be entering upon a period of reorganisation and trg.
- b. A preliminary conference has been held at Bde HQ with the following objects :
  - i. To determine the general trg necessary within the bde.
  - ii. To consider the problems arising from the varying standards of trg of personnel within units.
  - iii. To decide the system of trg to be adopted and the means of providing suitable instrs.
  - iv. To prepare outline syllabi of proposed trg and initiate the selection of offrs and NCOs to be trained as unit instrs.
- c. Bn comds will study the following notes of the discussions held and will be prepared to comment in detail at a conference to be held shortly.

1. Preparation of Trg

- a. Complete medical check of personnel. Bde HQ to arrange for consultations and boardings to be held as soon as possible after concentration.
- b. Units to be quickly reorganised as far as practicable on a permanent basis. Staff and understudies to be selected.
- c. Ranges and jungle courses - suggested these be constructed on the following basis :
  - i. 30 yd ranges - minimum 4 for the Bde  
Maximum (ideal) 6, on basis of 2 per bn  
Endeavour will also be made to obtain the use for the bde of any open classification ranges that may exist in the trg area.
  - ii. Jungle courses - suggested that short courses (one per bn) approx 200 yds long with only 3 or 4 targets are the most suitable. Similar courses to be constructed also for elementary trg of scouts and jungle movement.
- d. Unit stores and eqpt to be completely overhauled and repaired.

2. Trg Period

In the absence of any definite advice, the time available for trg has been estimated at 3 months.

It is suggested that this period be allocated as follows :-

Individual Trg	3 wks
Sec and Pl Trg	2
Coy Trg	3
Bn Trg	2
Bde Trg (i.e. bde controlled bn exercises	<u>2</u>
Total	<u>12</u> Weeks

Trg period will NOT commence until after the last State leave gps rejoin units.

3. Trg Policy

It is considered that the Bde can anticipate that trg will be based

.... / on

on continuance of warfare against the JAP under jungle and mountain conditions. Some attention must also be given to trg for open warfare and ops with tks. The inclusion of trg in combined ops will be a matter for direction by higher formation.

4. Trg System

It is suggested that -

- a. "bullring" system be adopted for individual trg in preference to trg by coys
- b. all personnel except offr and NCOs, but incl Specialists be classified by units for individual trg into two gps
  - i. trained soldiers, who are proficient in the use of all inf wpns and have previously been graded as first class shots
  - ii soldiers below this standard
- c. the individual trg of offr and NCOs, less those employed as bullring instrs, to be undertaken during this period of individual trg of the tps.

5. Provision and Trg of Instrs

- a. It is suggested that one third of the offr and senior NCO strength of each bn would be sufficient to provide necessary cadre of instrs for bullring trg.
- b. It has been recommended to higher formation that these selected unit instrs be despatched on leave at least two wks before the departure of the main body.
- c. At the conclusion of leave these instrs will require to undergo a refresher course of probably two weeks to prepare them fr their job. Bde HQ is investigating the possibility of obtaining suitable instrs from outside sources to assist with this course.

6. Trg of Potential NCOs

Suggested this be undertaken by cadre instrs during the period allotted for sec and pl trg.

7. Trg of Specialist Personnel

- a. Suggested that all bn specialist personnel should participate in the general individual trg of the first 3 weeks. Specialist courses will commence in the fourth week. Res personnel must be trained simultaneously.
- b. Instrs for unit specialist courses must undergo refresher courses during the individual trg period.
- c. Courses of instrn in Intelligence, Signals and MT driving and maintenance will be conducted initially on a bde basis - other specialist trg to be carried out by bns.
- d. Trg of snipers in every coy should be carried out. Bde HQ will examine the possibility of obtaining issues of snipers rifle.

8. Sec and Pl Trg

Suggested that this should include out of camp trg, trg in mountainous country and tps should carry normal operational "on the man" loads.

9. Coy Trg

Considered that Coy Trg should aim at teaching all rifle coys to

....a.

- a. move and exist as independent subunits
- b. carryout all forms of attack, def and withdrawal incl night ops.
- c. organise and carry out long range patrols
- d. cooperate in attack with tks and engrs

Coy exercises should be set and controlled by Bn HQ.

10. Bn Trg

Should be conducted away from camp in bivouac trg areas, and should include the complete development and digging of a bn def locality. Seconds in comd from bns down to secs to be exercised in sudden assumption of comd.

11. Bde Trg

Will comprise bde controlled bn exercises of the "HOTFOOT" variety and trg as directed by higher authority.

12. Syllabi

Following draft syllabi are being prepared and will be submitted for discussion by bn comds :

- i. Refresher course for unit instrs in inf weapons and specialist subjects.
- ii. Individual trg syllabi for :
  - Trained and untrained soldiers
  - Offrs
  - NCOs - senior - junior
  - Unit specialists
- iii. Sec and pl trg syllabus
- iv. Coy and Bn trg syllabi

Suggested organisation and composition of a bn trg team is also being prepared for comment and suggestions.

13. TEWTS

The tactical trg of offrs by means of TEWTS, together with sandtable exercises written appreciations and orders must be included in the general trg programme. A decision is required as to the most suitable stage for these exercises to be conducted.

14. Miscellaneous

a. Office Organisation and Eqpt

A committee comprising reps from Bde HQ and each bn will meet, if possible in NEW GUINEA, to consider the most practical forms of "G" office, orderly room, intelligence and sig office eqpt. The committee will also discuss and standardise layout of Hqs and duties of personnel on bde and bn Hqs.

b. Sport and Amenities

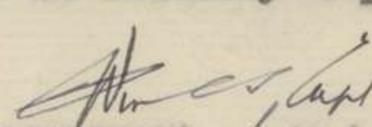
- Bn 2 i/cs will form a committee and submit recommendations for
- i. organised competitive sport within the bde, and suggested allocation of sports periods
  - ii. organisation of amenities within bns

c. Army Educ Service

Extent to which AAES facilities can be usefully employed is to be discussed with bn comds.

DISTRIBUTION :

2/23 Aust Inf Bn  
2/24 Aust Inf Bn  
2/48 Aust Inf Bn  
File War Diary

  
(K MACKAY) *ga* Maj  
EM 26 Aust Inf Bde

WD  
—

MOBT SECRET

HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde  
In the Field  
13 Jan 44

PROJECTED TRG PROGRAMME

suggested allocation of instrs for the individual trg period of 3 weeks, their trg and an outline syllabus for this trg.

1. It is considered that the maximum number of Ptes to be trained in each bn during the individual trg period will not exceed 400. This would involve approx 20 bull ring squads.

Instrs required	1 NCO per squad	:	20 NCOs
	1 Offrs " 2 squads	:	10 Offrs

2. Trg of offr and NCO instrs.

Suggested period 2 weeks. First week detailed weapon etc trg as per syllabus att.

Second week - range practices - preparation of notes and eqpt for commencement of individual trg.

It is suggested that the following be selected from within the bn to train the unit instrs :

1 snr offr (Major)	CI
3 offr instrs	) best available within bns
3 WO or NCO instrs	)
Outside instrs depending on further inquiries.	

Total offr and NCOs required from each Bn to undertake initial trg - 14 offr 23 WO or NCOs.

3. This system will provide in a period of 2 weeks sufficient instrs to carry out the individual trg period of 3 weeks.

The 3 offr and 3 WO or NCO instrs are then available during this 3 weeks period to conduct a similar refresher course for the remaining offr and NCOs of the bn who will have returned from leave with the main body of the bn. This course would take approx 1 1/2 weeks leaving 1 1/2 weeks for additional trg in preparation for the sec and pl and specialist trg.

*K. Mackay*  
 (K MACKAY) Maj  
 HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

2/23 Aust Inf Bn  
 2/24 Aust Inf Bn  
 2/48 Aust Inf Bn  
 File  
 War Diary

REFRESHER COURSE FOR UNIT INSTNS  
INF WEAPONS

1. The following syllabus gives an outline of subjects to be covered and an allocation of time to each. The syllabus is based on 6 days i.e. of the first week giving a total of 36 working hours.
2. While this course is a refresher it is essential to emphasise the method of instruction.

<u>SERIAL</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>ALLOTMENT OF TIME</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
1	Rifle	Care & cleaning - loading, unloading, holding aiming & firing - rules of aiming - aiming off for wind & movement use of tripod aiming rest - setting up exercises - coaching conduct of range practices TOET's Mutual instn	3 hours	essential to practice MI words of command and control of squads
2	Bayonet	Object of bayonet trg - point double point - point running & jumping in - use of trg stick - left parry and butt stroke - right parry and point - disarming opponent - assault course trg TOET's Mutual instn.	3 hrs	ditto
3	Grenades (a)	<u>NO 36 M Gren (hand)</u> Characteristics - inspection - mechanism and stripping - arming and disarming - throwing - use of booby traps - destruction of blinds - Conduct of gren throwing range TOET's	3 hrs	
	(b)	<u>No 36 M Gren (rifle)</u> Characteristics - preparation for firing loading and unloading - aiming and firing - change from rifleman to rifle - bomber TOET's		
4	LMG	Care and cleaning - mag filling loading, unloading - holding aiming and firing - mechanism & stripping - coaching - conduct of ranges practices TOET's mutual instn	4 hrs	sequence & method of instn is of particular importance.
5	OSME	Characteristics - care and cleaning - mag filling - holding, aiming firing - deliberate fire - firing with battle sight and from hip - mechanism and stripping. Mutual instn.	2 hrs	ditto
6	2" Mortar	Characteristics of mortar and gun - inspection, care and cleaning - preparation for firing - ranging high and low angle - firing - use of "Shuftiscope" - coaching - conduct of range practices - destruction of blinds TOET's - mutual instn.	3 hrs	

...../serial 7

<u>Serial</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>ALLOCATION OF TIME</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
7	Boys Tk A Rifle	Characteristics - care and cleaning - loading, unloading - holding, aiming and firing - range practices - TOST's mutual instrn.	1½ hrs	
8	Squad Drill	With and without arms. Marching incl slow march - turns on march - coy and bn parade formations. Saluting.	3 hrs	words of command general smartening up. Not more than ½ hr periods
9	Guards & Sentries	Duties - ceremonial gd mounting and dismounting - posting and relief of sentries - compliments.	2 hrs	ditto
10	Daily inspection	Methods of carrying out - standards to be attained	½ hr	thence daily checks on parades
11	P & RT	PT tables - games, organised sport	3 hrs	
12	Fd wks	Digging construction and camflg of weapon pits - fire lanes	2 hrs	uniform teaching and use of ground
13	Fd Craft trg	Elementary instrn in jungle and open warfare conditions - visual trg - fd formations (elementary) fd sigs - passing messages.	4 hrs	
14	Revision	At the discretion of CI	2 hrs	

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NOTE : Units will review their own libraries for the manuals required and bde Hq will undertake to obtain any additional requirements.

WD  
MOST SECRET

Hq 26 Aust Inf Bde  
In the Field  
14 Jan 44

PROJECTED TRG PROGRAMME

INDIVIDUAL TRG SYLLABI

1. Trained and Untrained soldiers.

The detailed syllabus for each of the above categories will be a modification of the syllabus outlined for the cadre of instrs.

The detailed allocation of time to each subject and the detail in which the subject is to be covered will depend entirely on the general standard of each category as deduced by bn comds.

Range practices should be carried out towards the end of the individual trg period. Coaching teams will be essential and what shooting is not done during this period must be completed in the sec and pl or coy trg under the supervision of coy comds.

Complete records of range practices and results must be kept and

2. Offrs and NCOs (necessary entries made in each soldiers AB 83)

During the 3 weeks individual trg period for Pte soldiers, all offrs and NCOs not engaged as cadre instrs could cover the following trg :

Refresher Course in inf weapons (similar to cadre instrs course)  
Range Practices  
Study and organisation for sec, pl and coy trg periods.  
Preparation of tactical exercises

Draft syllabus is att.

The unit instrs who trained the cadre teams will be available to direct the refresher course and range practices. The remainder of the trg will be done under supervision and direction of COs and senior offrs of bns.

3. Alternatives for offr and NCO trg

During the first 3 weeks of the trg programme the offrs and NCOs not required as instructors should spend 1½ weeks approx completing the refresher course and range practices. The remaining 1½ weeks could be spent in two ways :

- a. to assist the cadre instrs with the individual trg syllabus and if considered desirable changing from the bn "bullring" system to a coy basis
- b. to undertake further trg in preparation for the sec and pl trg with additional subjects as considered necessary as time to train offrs and NCOs will become more limited as the trg programme progresses. This would involve the continuance of the bullring system for the full 3 weeks with the original instrs.

4. Unit Specialists

Courses to be of two weeks duration (i.e. to be held during the period of sec and pl trg in rifle coys). The trg of the instrs for specialist trg must be completed before the 4th week.

DISTRIBN :

2/23 Aust Inf Bn  
2/24 Aust Inf Bn  
2/48 Aust Inf Bn  
File  
War Diary (2)

*K. Mackay*  
(K MACKAY) Maj  
HM 26 Aust Inf Bde

OUTLINE TRG SYLLABUS

OFFRS AND NCOs

Should the policy be to continue offr and NCO trg until the end of the 3rd week the following syllabus is suggested.

<u>SERIAL</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
1	Refresher crse inf weapons	As per syllabus issued	1 week	
2	Range Practices	Rifle OSMG, LMG Grenade and 2" Mortar	3 days	Range drill procedure coaching
3	Reorganisation		1 day	anticipated that one day at this period will be required by Coy & pl comds for this purpose
4	Sec and Pl Trg	Sec and pl contact drill - demonstration and exercise with class	2 days	Determine and fix the methods and standards to be reached in the sec & pl trg period

- 3rd Week :
- a. Sec and pl tactics demonstrations and discussions.
  - b. Preparation and setting of small scale exercises.
  - c. Map reading and selection of ground for subsequent trg.
  - d. Study of bn syllabus and preparation of trg stores and exercises for subsequent weeks.

SPECIALIST TRG

1. During the first 3 weeks it will be necessary to prepare instrs to undertake specialist trg commencing on the 4th week.

The following courses are suggested :

- a. Intelligence - bde course to train Bn IOs and NCOs who will subsequently train bn personnel.
- b. Signals - Bde course to train Bn Sig offrs and NCOs who will subsequently train bn personnel.
- c. Drivers MF - bde course to be supervised by bde TO and LAD to train drs to the standard of dr mechanics.
- d. Mortars )  
MGs )  
Tk A )  
Snipers )  
Stretcher Bearers )  
under bn arrangements

The trg syllabi for a, b and c above are being prepared and will be fwded to Bn comds later.

SECRET

HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde  
In the Field  
10 Jan 44

MAIN LESSONS FROM RECENT OPS

SATELBERG - WAREO

1. Tanks

During the recent actions army tks were used for the first time in jungle warfare in this theatre of ops. Based largely on this experience notes on the employment of tks in jungle warfare are att as appx A of this report.

2. Air photos

In jungle warfare it has been found that the best maps available cannot show the detail required. This particularly applies to probable areas held or defended by the enemy, cover and line of approach.

Air photos are considered invaluable on a scale of issue which will enable full benefit to be derived from them. The suggested scale is 10 stereo sets per bde. This allows one for bde, one for each bn HQ and six for fwd coys. It is essential for fwd coy comds to have photos and it is recommended that each bn be equipped with one large and four small stereos.

With a knowledge of enemy methods and tactics the limited photos available have been invaluable in determining and fixing posns, selecting lines of approach for both patrols and encirclements as well as the selection of ground for the employment of tks.

3. Patrolling

Where accurate and detailed information is hard to obtain, good patrolling is of vital importance and is practically the only answer to the problem. Air photos are essential for a detailed study of ground over a particular sector from which the patrol policy and plan can be formulated and the necessary routes and approaches can be selected. In all cases the patrol comds should be carefully briefed with the photos and stereo. If a photo is not available for the comd to take on the patrol an accurately annotated photo sketch must be prepared. The briefing must be detailed and exact and must be checked back. Attention to detail is vital to obtain the best information as one bad patrol may result in the waste of a day or incorrect deductions of that area.

Except in the case of immediate local protective or recon patrols, all patrols should be at least a pl strength with comms. Such patrols are able to deploy and fight for information, hold ground gained and where necessary form a firm base from which small recon patrols can operate. Good suitable comms are necessary to save time with information, call for sp or assistance if required and to hold ground gained.

In the case of distant patrols from 3 days to months duration, the strength, sups and comms must be carefully considered. Local guides such as ANGAU or PIB personnel are a great asset. It has been found that such patrols require a considerable number of carriers with the turn round involved and a safe supply route. The No 11 set using DC procedure provides satisfactory comms. Prearranged methods of reporting on fixed schedules with the minimum use of code is essential.

....A.

4. First Light Moves

During the ops it was found that valuable time was lost reestablishing contact from night perimeters. The following roster system was introduced and is considered a satisfactory method of ensuring a first light start. One coy per fwd bn is warned and prepared the previous day for a first light move with one pl of another coy on similar notice for patrolling. With this method one coy is ready to continue the adv as soon as it is light. Arrangements are necessary to pass other sub units through at a convenient time to give the leading tps a break for a meal and a clean up. With a good Q organisation breakfast can be prepared over shielded fires before first light.

5. Stripped Down Rifle Coys

Where possible it is advisable to "strip down" the rifle coys before a deliberate attack or encirclement to essentials i.e. weapons, amm, tools food and water. Detailed arrangements are then necessary amounting to a kit para in orders, to incl haversacks and bed rolls in the reorganisation stores as soon as circumstances permit. Native carriers or quite often a carrying party from HQ Coy or a res rifle coy will be required.

6. Testing Enemy Posns

When in close contact the problem of testing the enemy posns at first light to determine if he has withdrawn or in what strength he is holding will arise. The enemy is adept at camouflage and holding his fire necessitating a close examination to provide the required information. Further study and experiment is necessary to provide practicable answers. Some suggested methods are:

- a. Small night listening posts of up to 3 men to manoeuvre fwd close to the enemy FDLs at a suitable time during the night using lengths of sig wire as a guide to return.
- b. The attachment of wires to bushes and dummies rigged during the night as close as possible to the enemy FDLs to simulate aggressive movement at first light.
- c. Pre dawn and first light outflanking patrols.

7. Camouflage and Concealment

The enemys use of camouflage was good. In most cases his posns were most difficult to locate unless fire was drawn. Possibly due to our superiority in sp weapons particularly arty and mortars the enemy rarely disclosed his posns until an actual attack was mounted. This induced carelessness and a disregard of bitter lessons learned from previous campaigns. The main faults to be corrected are:

- a. The sacrifice of camouflage for convenience in that sleeping quarters were built well above ground level on ridges with little camouflage or dispersion.
- b. The obvious use of skyline tracks simply because the track ran along the top of a ridge. Detours are necessary and must be plied.
- c. Cooking in def posns and sleeping areas. Every effort must be made to reduce smoke to a minimum and where possible cooking should be done to a flank away from def posns.

...../d.

- d. Posns not properly dug or constructed. Some overhead cover is essential to reduce casualties from shelling and mortaring. The material for overhead cover should not be cut within the area as the natural camouglage is destroyed.
- e. Tendency to sun bake and sit about in groups in exposed posns with the knowledge that enemy posts are as close as 3 or 400 yds.
- f. Insufficient care with recces, map and photo reading.

#### 8. Information

The lesson that negative information passed regularly is valuable and essential has not been fully applied. In many cases this applies to the fwd subunit comds who must arrange for regular, at least hourly, sitreps to be passed back. The tendency to wait for good or positive news must be eliminated.

#### 9. Supporting Weapons

The siting of bn sp weapons in a perimeter requires a close study of the ground for lines of approach and targets to get the best value from them.

- a. MMGs. It is considered that a minimum field of fire of 40 to 50 yds is essential even on a loose traverse. Where possible the MMGs should form the basic fire plan of the perimeter and if sited fwd they must be adequately protected by the fwd tps and SA fire.
- b. Mortars. Particular care in siting is necessary to ensure the minimum firing over our own tps due to the danger of "drop shorts". With the 3" mortar it must be ensured that the minimum range allows close DF fire to be put down. Casualties have been inflicted on our own tps and many useless carries have been made due to damp charges. It is considered that the propellant charges for the 2" and primary and secondary charges for the 3" mortar should be packed independently of the bombs in small suitable sealed containers.

#### 10. Perimeters

In jungle warfare there is a tendency to form "tight" perimeters. The expression is misleading and should not be used. It has been found that weapon pits not closer than 10 yds apart in most cases was a satisfactory distance providing they were mutually supporting and fire lanes could be cut. If posts are too close the inner part of the perimeter becomes congested. Adequate dispersion within a perimeter is essential to allow internal freedom of manoeuvre and some alternative posns as well as reducing possible casualties from shelling and mortaring.

#### 11. Comms

On the policy of maintaining line comms wherever possible including patrols it is considered that the following types of wire are essential :

- a. Aust enamelled assault on the basis of 10 miles per bn with a satisfactory replenishment rate in contact to ensure that patrols have line comms.
- b. American twisted assault for coy deployments and encirclements down to and incl pls. This cable is stronger, more durable

.../and

and reliable than the Aust enamelled wire, which is ideal for patrols. It is recommended that this wire be made available on the same basis as the enamelled assault.

- c. D III cable has been in most cases the only wire available in the fwd areas. Reels No 1 ( $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile) are essential for all wire fwd of bde. The wire during recent ops was issued on reels No 5 (1 mile) which is too heavy and unwieldy for fwd inf. Many needless cases of physical exhaustion were caused by these heavy reels as well as serious inconvenience with coys and patrols moving over difficult terrain.

Different coloured cable would greatly assist the identification and repair of lines, particularly to the rear where breaks are made by engr eqpt and tks.

- d. Wireless. When line was not practicable wireless was used with satisfactory results providing adequate daily maintenance was performed under favourable conditions. The No 11 and 208 sets were used on long range patrols and gave satisfactory results on DC procedure in good weather. The use of SCR 536 (b) (Walkie Talkie) sets with tks is covered in Appx A. The 108 Mk II set is considered unsuitable.

It has been found that batteries for the lighter types of sets must be fwded to the user in sealed containers. With all sig eqpt dampness is ruinous and adequate precautions must be taken to keep instruments dry.

## 12. ARTY

During the ops arty fire was used to good effect in concentrations, DF and on harassing tasks. It was found that targets must be located accurately by patrols or from OPs to get satisfactory fire for effect. The enemy has used alternative posns and preliminary concentrations unless followed directly by an attack caused serious inconvenience until posns were again fixed by patrols.

Systematic and closely though irregularly timed harassing tasks were used and referred to as a "unit". The "unit" was based on a tp covering an area of approx 100 yds by 100 yds in depth. It is considered that only short bursts of fire, preferably salvo, are worth while. This timed "unit" system enables the fwd inf to know when the next rounds are due to fall. The 231 fuze and 149 cap on were used successfully on numerous occasions. The 231 was useful for harassing as it bursts approx 6 feet underground and has a distinct "jolt" or "tremor" effect. Both fuses at times were mixed in fire for effect with instantaneous HE to reduce tree bursts on close targets and give a destructive effect in well dug posns. The percentages varied according to the target though on some shoots 100% delay action was fired. The 75 mm mountain gun was not tested in a fwd role.

## 13. Track Development

The main lesson from this point of view was the use of open corduroy. It was found that 4" corduroy placed 9 inches to 1 foot apart bedded into soft earth with a tractor or heavy vehicle gave excellent results. This type of corduroy did not "buckle" or "kick up" and allowed the sun to dry the track.

Again it was found necessary to employ up to an inf bn with axes from the engr res widening the track to allow the sun in and preparing corduroy before mech eqpt arrived.

#### 14. Native Carriers

The control of native carriers by ANGAU personnel is essential for their successful and economical employment. An officer must be in charge of carriers allotted to a bde and it is considered that one ANGAU representative to every 20 or 30 natives is necessary. Even when unit representatives escort a supply train, it is difficult to ensure that all the loads arrive at the correct destination, particularly when two or more bns are using the same supply route.

It is estimated that 140 natives are required each day on a single lift to maintain an inf bn with sups, a minimum of amn, ord stores etc. In addition each ADs or light ADs attached to forward bns requires 36 native bearers when jeep head is further to the rear. If the natives are overworked the number of effective carriers decreases each day.

#### 15. Forward Dumping

The policy of establishing res bde dumps of up to 20 days all commodities well fwd proved very satisfactory. These dumps were a safeguard in the event of the enemy cutting the supply route or bad weather making further replenishment impracticable. As the adv continues these dumps become DIDs and APs. If circumstances permit, it is considered that every effort should be made to get 3 days res of all commodities to the fwd units as objectives are captured.

War Usage Rates of amn were not applied as it was found more practicable to calculate commodities according to the nature of the operation.

#### 16. Field Op Rations

The new type (O2) ration proved very satisfactory. The method of packing in a useful tin container was found to be economical and convenient, particularly for res rations and patrol work. The normal bulk rations are unsatisfactory for patrols due to their bulk and difficulty of break up.

#### 17. Packing of Sups

The present packing of sups is satisfactory while delivery to units can be made by jeeps, however with native carriers there is a considerable weight wastage. This is due both to the packing of commodities and the lack of suitable carrying equipment. The "Yukon" type carrier would be useful to handle bulky containers which are normally an awkward and uneconomical one man load. The native load is 35 to 40 lbs and considerable readjustment and partial breaking down into sandbag loads is necessary to minimise carrier wastage. The practice of packing commodities in 4 gall drums is considered satisfactory as the drums are waterproof and most useful when empty for cooking and hygiene purposes.

#### 18. Vehicles

The allotment of 16 jeeps is considered inadequate for the fwd maintenance of a bde. In addition to the daily maintenance from DIDs and APs to jeep head, jeeps are required to go back a considerable distance often beyond the rear bde and B ech area to collect ord stores, canteen issues and mail. Several jeeps are usually required to implement the fwd dumping policy and carry fwd reorganisation stores and res sups.

Considerable economy of time and vehs would be effected if the policy of delivering all of the fwd bde requirements to DIDs were implemented.

...../The

The going in fwd areas is often most difficult, particularly in wet weather, and tractors are frequently required to get jeeps through. This places a great strain on the vehs and experience has shown that the jeeps of a fwd bde should be replaced by new vehs after 2000 miles. Fwd bdes cannot afford the loss of time entailed for continual repairs and with breakdowns.

Until the tracks have been developed into reasonable roads, it is considered that 15 cwt and 3 ton vehs should not be used, particularly in hilly country, as they hold up jeeps and ruin the surface.

The following allotment of jeeps is recommended on a bde basis to be sub allotted as under :

Bde Comd	1
Bde HQ	2
Bde Sig Sec	3
Inf Bns each	6
Bde pool	6
Trailers Bde pool	8

The use of trailers will depend on the tracks and can be sub-allotted as required by the bde T.O.

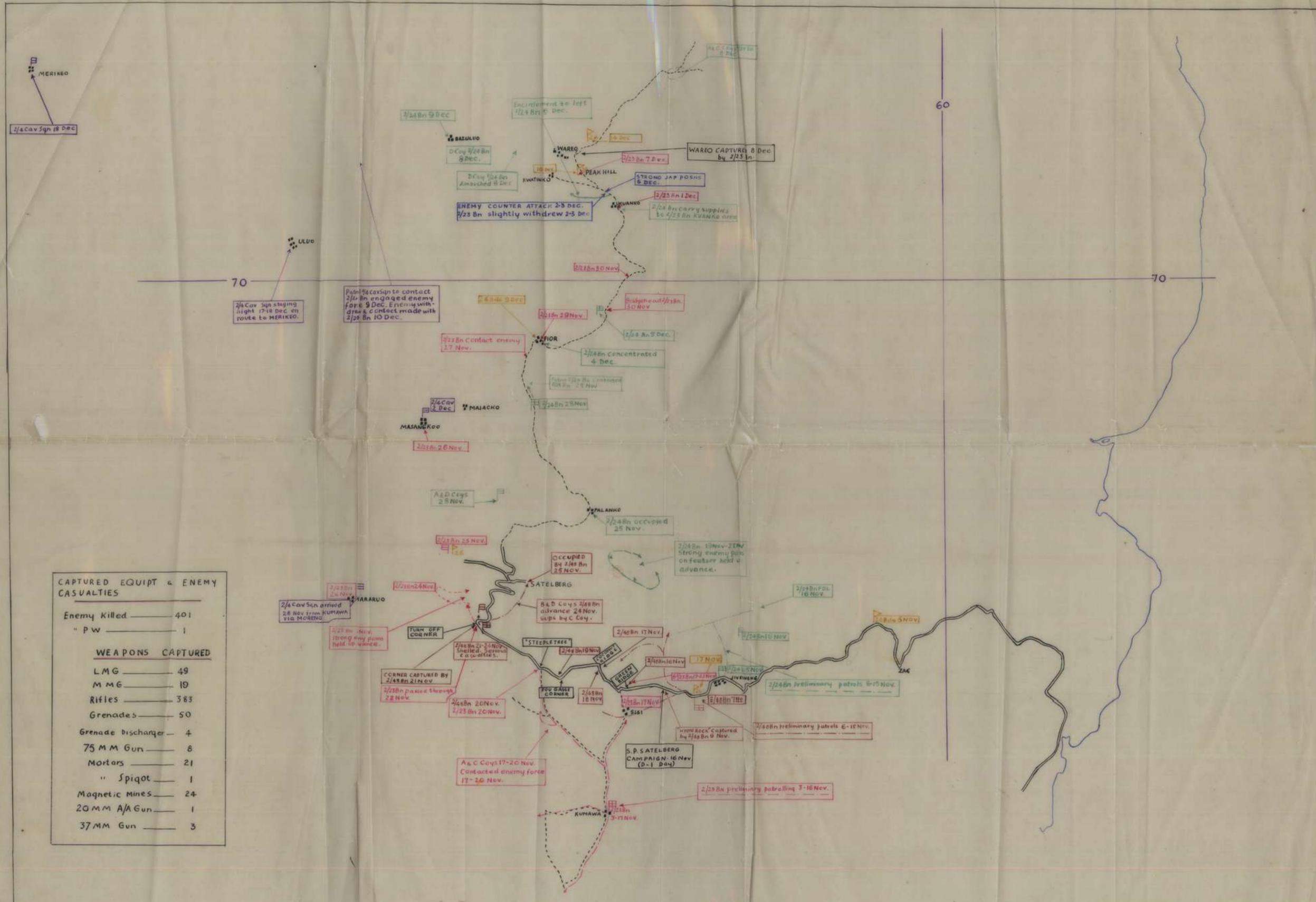
#### 19. Medical

Depending on the terrain and length of carry, sufficient bearers or native carriers must be provided for each ADS with the fwd bns to ensure that wounded get back to jeep head as soon as possible. With delays and long carries, the number of "Died of Wounds" increases, consequently speed in evacuation is vital.

All RAP and stretcher bearer personnel should be provided with morphia sachettes or ampoules. These are particularly necessary on long pl and coy encirclements.

# 26 Aust Inf Bde ... Operations SATELBERG WAREO ... Nov - Dec '43.

Ref Maps ... SATELBERG & WAREO R. WEST ... 1:25,000 2nd edition.



**CAPTURED EQUIP & ENEMY CASUALTIES**

Enemy Killed \_\_\_\_\_ 401  
 " PW \_\_\_\_\_ 1

**WEAPONS CAPTURED**

LMG \_\_\_\_\_ 49  
 M MG \_\_\_\_\_ 19  
 Rifles \_\_\_\_\_ 383  
 Grenades \_\_\_\_\_ 50  
 Grenade Discharger \_\_\_\_\_ 4  
 75 MM Gun \_\_\_\_\_ 8  
 Mortars \_\_\_\_\_ 21  
 " Spigot \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 Magnetic Mines \_\_\_\_\_ 24  
 20 MM A/A Gun \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 37 MM Gun \_\_\_\_\_ 3

Note - Tracks leading NORTH from KUMAWA as shown on 1:25,000 SATELBERG maps (2nd edition) are incorrect & do not compare with those as marked on this overlay trace.

27 MW  
 2/24 Bn  
 4491  
 425 09 90 M

R.F. 1:25,000

PRINTED BY THE SEC. 3/21 Aust Inf Bde. 21/2/44.

**NEW GUINEA  
FORTIFICATION  
POINT**  
SECOND EDITION

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES GRID  
SOUTHERN MEASUREMENT

REFER TO THIS MAP AS  
FORTIFICATION POINT 1:50,000 SERIES

**CONTROL:** Triangulation and Astronomical Fixation  
by 2/1 Aust. Army Topo. Survey Coy.  
at Salamaua Lat. 06°33'28.4"  
Long. 147°51'09.2"  
**PROJECTION:** Lambert Conical Orthographic  
**AIR PHOTOGRAPHY:** 8th. Photo Squadron  
9th. Air Force  
**MISSIONS:** 95a, 236 v, 259 y, 254 y  
**COMPILED:** 2/1 Aust. Army Topo. Survey Coy. A.I.F.  
**AND DRAWING:**  
**REPRODUCTION:** 2/1 Aust. Army Topo. Survey Coy.

**WARNING:**  
HEIGHTS ON THIS MAP OBTAINED FROM AERIAL  
PHOTOGRAPHY AND NOT FROM A  
TRIGONOMETRIC SURVEY



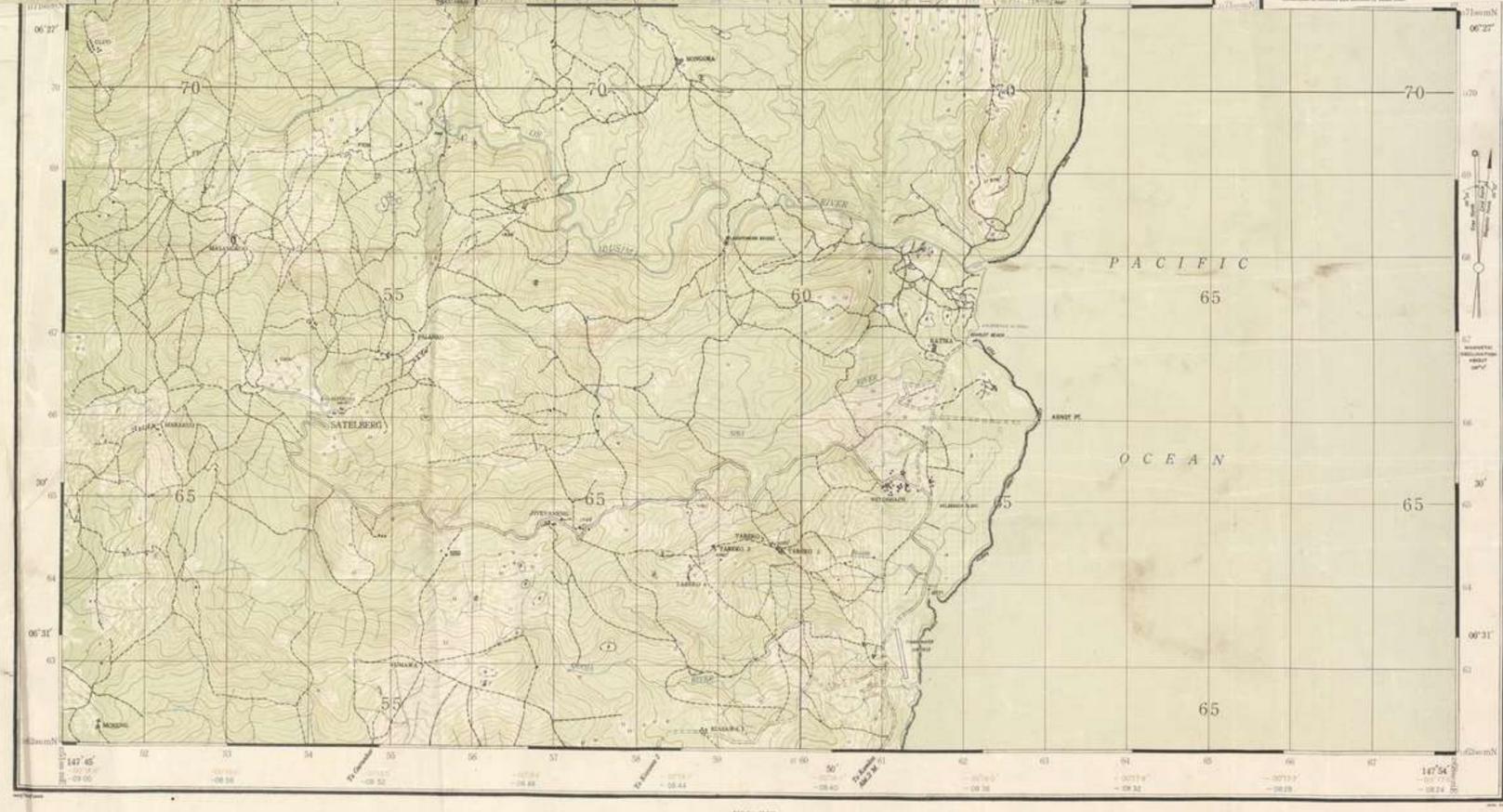
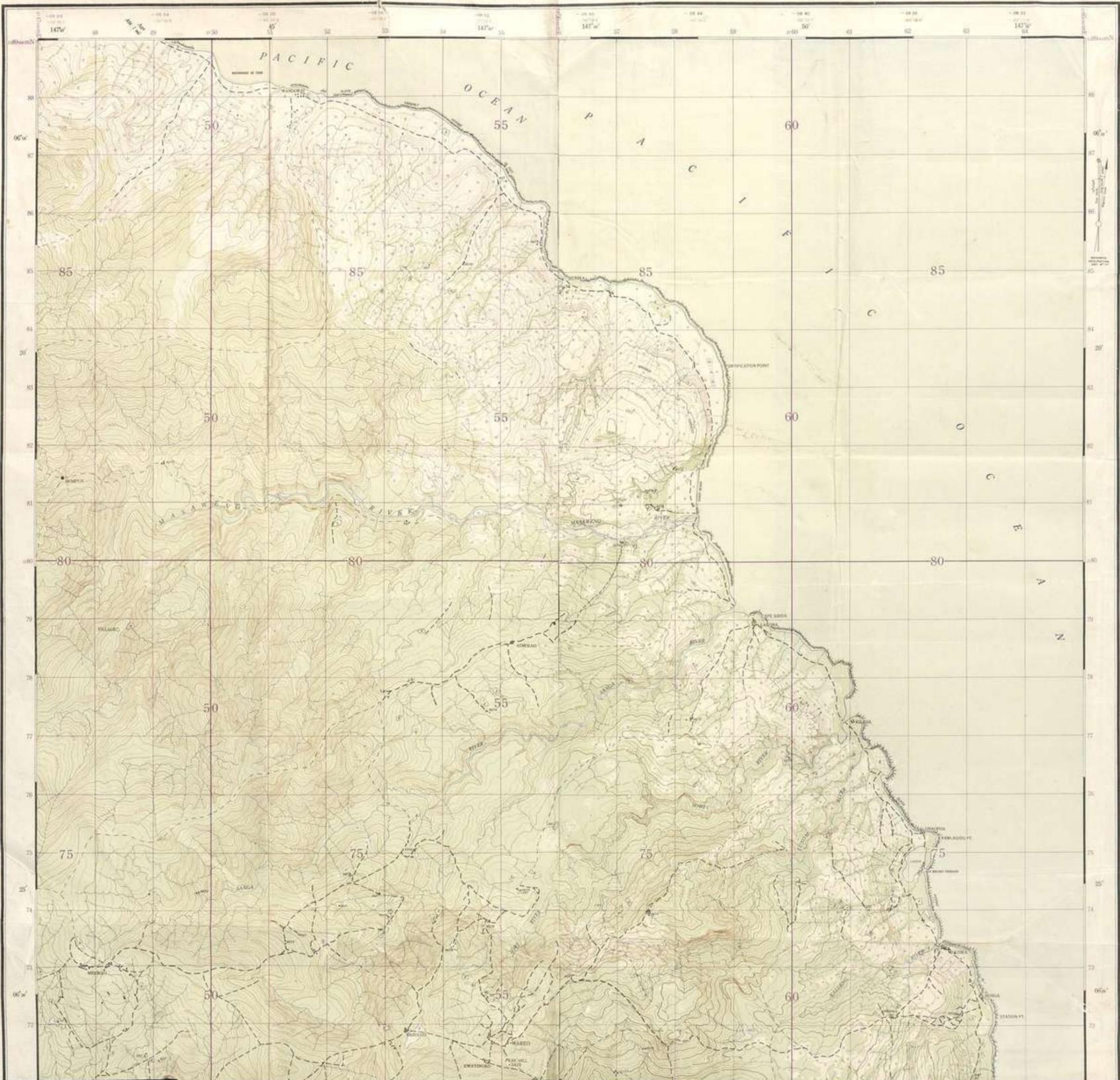
High	Low	Very Low	Very High
1000 ft	500 ft	200 ft	100 ft
500 ft	200 ft	100 ft	50 ft
200 ft	100 ft	50 ft	20 ft
100 ft	50 ft	20 ft	10 ft
50 ft	20 ft	10 ft	5 ft
20 ft	10 ft	5 ft	2 ft
10 ft	5 ft	2 ft	1 ft
5 ft	2 ft	1 ft	0.5 ft
2 ft	1 ft	0.5 ft	0.2 ft
1 ft	0.5 ft	0.2 ft	0.1 ft

Top	Side	Bottom
1000 ft	500 ft	200 ft
500 ft	200 ft	100 ft
200 ft	100 ft	50 ft
100 ft	50 ft	20 ft
50 ft	20 ft	10 ft
20 ft	10 ft	5 ft
10 ft	5 ft	2 ft
5 ft	2 ft	1 ft
2 ft	1 ft	0.5 ft
1 ft	0.5 ft	0.2 ft
0.5 ft	0.2 ft	0.1 ft

High	Low	Very Low	Very High
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50 ft	20 ft	10 ft	5 ft
20 ft	10 ft	5 ft	2 ft
10 ft	5 ft	2 ft	1 ft
5 ft	2 ft	1 ft	0.5 ft
2 ft	1 ft	0.5 ft	0.2 ft
1 ft	0.5 ft	0.2 ft	0.1 ft

Note: Contour Lines are intended to indicate shape of hill features and should not be taken as exact measurements.

The figures within the borders of this map are for arbitrary purposes. The figures shown are approximate and the blue figure shows correction in minutes and seconds of mean time.



High	Low	Very Low	Very High
1000 ft	500 ft	200 ft	100 ft
500 ft	200 ft	100 ft	50 ft
200 ft	100 ft	50 ft	20 ft
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50 ft	20 ft	10 ft	5 ft
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10 ft	5 ft	2 ft	1 ft
5 ft	2 ft	1 ft	0.5 ft
2 ft	1 ft	0.5 ft	0.2 ft
1 ft	0.5 ft	0.2 ft	0.1 ft

**CONTROL:** Astronomical Fixation at Salamaua  
by 2/1 Aust. Army Topo. Survey Coy.  
Lat. 06°33'28.4"  
Long. 147°51'09.2"  
**PRODUCTION:** 2/1 Aust. Army Topo. Survey Coy.  
**MISSIONS:** 95a, 236 v, 259 y, 254 y  
**COMPILED:** 2/1 Aust. Army Topo. Survey Coy. A.I.F.  
**AND DRAWING:** 2/1 Aust. Army Topo. Survey Coy.

High	Low	Very Low	Very High
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5 ft	2 ft	1 ft	0.5 ft
2 ft	1 ft	0.5 ft	0.2 ft
1 ft	0.5 ft	0.2 ft	0.1 ft

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High	Low	Very Low	Very High
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10 ft	5 ft	2 ft	1 ft
5 ft	2 ft	1 ft	0.5 ft
2 ft	1 ft	0.5 ft	0.2 ft
1 ft	0.5 ft	0.2 ft	0.1 ft

Apps. D.

SECRET

HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde  
In the Field  
13 Jan 44

THE EMPLOYMENT OF ARMY TANKS IN JUNGLE WARFARE

1. General

Ground has always been a limiting factor in the employment of tks. This has led to the designation of tk proof areas, where due to the nature of the terrain; its gradient, surface or covering it is considered that tks could not be employed.

At first sight tropical or jungle areas would for the greater part come under the category of tk proof country. A closer examination of the conditions prevailing in the NEW GUINEA theatre suggests a greater scope for the employment to tks than may at first have been considered possible.

The supply problem, unless operating close to a sea base, has and will dominate all jungle operations. Small arm weapons have become the predominant arm, because of the comparative ease with which they can be moved and maintained. The effectiveness of enemy SA fire, especially automatics, and the ability of the tk to deal with these weapons, suggests a more detailed study of terrain with a view to their wider employment. Many difficulties exist though a thorough knowledge of ground and the capabilities of tks will greatly assist in finding the answer.

The mere threat of tks puts an added burden on the enemy by forcing him to take certain defensive precautions. On many occasions full scale protection against tks would not be possible.

Tracks are developed along the best gradients and easiest going and consequently often follow the tops of razor backed features. Encirclement has to be made on a wide arc and is slow and difficult. The direct assault with inf is often slower and more costly. Tks can speed up and simplify this operation with their strong fire support. They are also an answer to the elaborately constructed "bunker".

The basis of success is a close study and appreciation of ground backed by a fully trained team capable of getting the best out of their weapons. To effect this, tactical groups must be trained to ensure the closest cooperation between inf, tks and engr. The work which can be undertaken by the engr with their mechanical eqpt and inf assistance may frequently determine the extent to which the tactical group can be employed.

The following notes are prepared from experience with army tks in recent operations.

2. Terrain

The ability of the tank to negotiate the varying types of ground with or without engr assistance will determine the scope of their employment. In all but extreme cases, or where enemy fire prevents engr work being done, many of these limitations can be overcome. The main limiting factors are grades, surface and density of heavy timber. With these the effect of rain must always be considered.

Under ideal conditions each type of tk has a limiting grade that is determined by a variety of factors. Just how close a tk can approach to this under practical conditions depends firstly on

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the nature and condition of the surface. If the slope of the ground is reasonably even and free from obstructions, steep grades can be tackled. The soil may enable the tracks to obtain a good grip or it may crumble away and fail to provide satisfactory traction.

The presence of rock or coral close to the surface will help. In jungle the soil is lightly packed and will soon become muddy unless subjected to a long spell of dry weather or opened out to allow the sun to penetrate freely. Where the top soil is deep, bogging or bellying are likely, and as a safeguard corduroying may be necessary. (Turning on a heavy grade will usually result in bogging).

All steep grades should be tackled in a straight run and it may be necessary to carry out some preliminary work to ensure this.

Initially all proposed approach routes should be carefully studied on air photos, preferably stereo pairs. Routes suggested by this study should be reced for confirmation with an estimate of engr work if required. This will call for a thorough knowledge of surface limitations. Where possible an engr offr should accompany the tk recce offr. If this is not practicable a sketch should be prepared showing location and type of work required.

No move should be made except over previously reced ground. Even when in contact much can still be done. A good knowledge of soil can be obtained from the ground already traversed and tk offr must be trained and prepared to move up to inf positions to recce the ground fwd. On occasions it may be necessary to send out special patrols to obtain the required infm.

In heavy timber on reasonably level ground little cutting may be required to provide a path for the tks. Undergrowth, secondary growth and small trees can be dealt with by the tk itself. However, heavy fallen trees across the axis selected for the tks may be hidden in the undergrowth and prove a minor obstacle. By a sound choice of route only a few trees need cutting. These must be cut sufficiently close to the ground to allow the tk to pass over. On steep grades requiring a straight run more work may be necessary.

In large native gardens, plantations and open kunai few difficulties may be expected and tks are able to adopt the more normal open formations.

### 3. The main characteristics of Army Tks in jungle warfare

In the jungle the essential characteristics of tks remain the same, namely armour, fire power and mobility.

#### a. Armour

Except for the tracks the Army Tk is proof against the lighter types of enemy Tk A guns. It is considered that the magnetic type of mine cannot penetrate the main armour, and when used singly in soil it will not seriously damage the tracks.

#### b. Fire Power

The Besa MG, 2 pr or 3" How which constitutes the fire power of the Army Tk are all very effective weapons against different types of targets. The height of these weapons and the short range at which they are used enables accurate concentrated neutralising or destructive fire to be put down.

..../The

The Besa MG can provide good covering fire as required on all types of targets and may be likened to the sp from the MMG to a flank.

The 2 pr is effective against most of the lighter types of constructed weapon pits with either HM or solid shot. Solid shot enables the inf to approach closer to the objective. In heavy undergrowth or bamboo the blast effect of the 2 pr is most effective.

The 3" How is more effective against the heavier types of bunker where deliberate destructive fire is required.

c. Mobility

While speed in itself is of no value, ability to move and manoeuvre with the fwd inf over difficult terrain is most important. Mobility depends largely on a knowledge of the ground and a high standard of trg on the part of crews and in particular the drivers. Tp Comds require expert judgment in the capabilities of the tks to negotiate ground. The power operated turret giving a 360° traverse adds considerably to the manoeuvrability of the tk, particularly when in close contact at from 8 to 10 yds.

d. Visibility

In the jungle a closed down tk is almost blind. Although the tk moves slowly, and in action in short bounds, both the tk comd and the driver have a very restricted field of view. Consequently most targets have to be indicated by the inf by wireless. The driver has some opportunity to study the ground in front of the tracks and should particularly look for mines or ground disturbance which may indicate their presence.

e. Comms

Movement in contact is slow and the distance between the inf and tk sets is rarely over 100 yds. Consequently, with proper netting, good speech comms can be maintained. Tk comds must use every opportunity to study the ground in anticipation of either seeing targets or having them quickly indicated by wireless. The standard of the comms may determine the standard of the sp provided.

f. The combination of weight, armour and mobility enables a tk to move into the enemy def posns where individual weapon pits can be crushed and neutralised. Heavy bunkers will withstand the weight of a tk, though a MG slit or opening could be blocked by the side of the tk while another target is engaged.

Using these characteristics to advantage the tks can be employed with the fwd inf to deal with enemy posns and strong posts in detail by fire and movement. The use of tks in this role saves many inf casualties.

4. Enemy Methods

Over varying types of terrain it appears that the Jap sites his defences on ridges or knolls covering the main line of approach which is usually a track or foot pad. In siting his fire posns he takes advantage of any heavy undergrowth or bamboo. This enables the enemy to concentrate what anti-tank measures he has available on the restricted lines of approach.

...../While

While the use of tks with our fwd inf must have some morale effect on the Jap rarely has he been noticeably demoralised and fights back with every weapon available. The tks appear to draw his small arms fire with little or no effect even when his amn supply is limited.

In jungle warfare the enemy has supply problems similar to our own and in difficult country his Tk A resources will be limited.

a. Mines

The present type of magnetic mine appears to be a general purpose explosive and is carried throughout subunits. This mine appears to have a delay action fuse which would require modification for use in the ground against tracks. However, used singly it is not effective against an Army Tk.

Improvised charges made from magnetic mines, explosives, mortar bombs or shells would probably be effective. The standard Jap anti-tank mine has been encountered, set in pairs close together with a connecting bar of wood. Used in this manner they could probably blow a track.

In many cases mines have been placed on tracks and approaches and have not been covered by SA fire. No anti lifting devices have so far been encountered.

Molotov type grenades were not used though their use can be anticipated and guarding against them is a fundamental of all tactical dispositions.

b. Guns

The 37 mm is ineffective at close range except against the tracks in front of the tk. His chances of using enfilade fire against the bogeys and suspension is very limited. While the enemy has used 70 and 75 mm guns, insufficient experience has been gained of their capabilities against tks. The new 55 mm has been reported and would probably be an effective Tk A weapon. However, the inf and arty plan must always undertake to neutralise enemy guns and this has been successfully done.

c. Tk Obstacles

The enemy dug anti-tank ditches across tracks though so far he has shown no particular ingenuity in their siting. Craters and prepared land slides were expected and arrangements were made to deal with them. Log barricades were not encountered, though the enemy was not allowed sufficient time to prepare and site elaborate obstacles. Tks came as a surprise and it is probable that the fwd tps were caught unprepared. In any case, these obstacles must be regarded in the same way as mines in that a quick inf operation is necessary to secure ground which will enable the engr and tks to work fwd.

5. The Tactical Group

The tactical group in jungle warfare is the inf coy, a tp of tks and a det of engr. The size of the engr det will vary depending on the country and mechanical eqpt necessary and available. It is considered that one bulldozer and at least one tractor will be essential to get the maximum assistance.

A second tp of tks is required well up to either go fwd and relieve the leading tp if this becomes necessary through fatigue or having to back out and replenish. It is also immediately available to outflank with another coy or exploit. In any event it is necessary

...../for

for either a tp comd or the tk battle comd to be on foot with the fwd coy comd to control and direct the action of the tks in the closest cooperation with the inf. It can be seen from this that every rifle coy should be trained to work with tks to ensure the utmost flexibility.

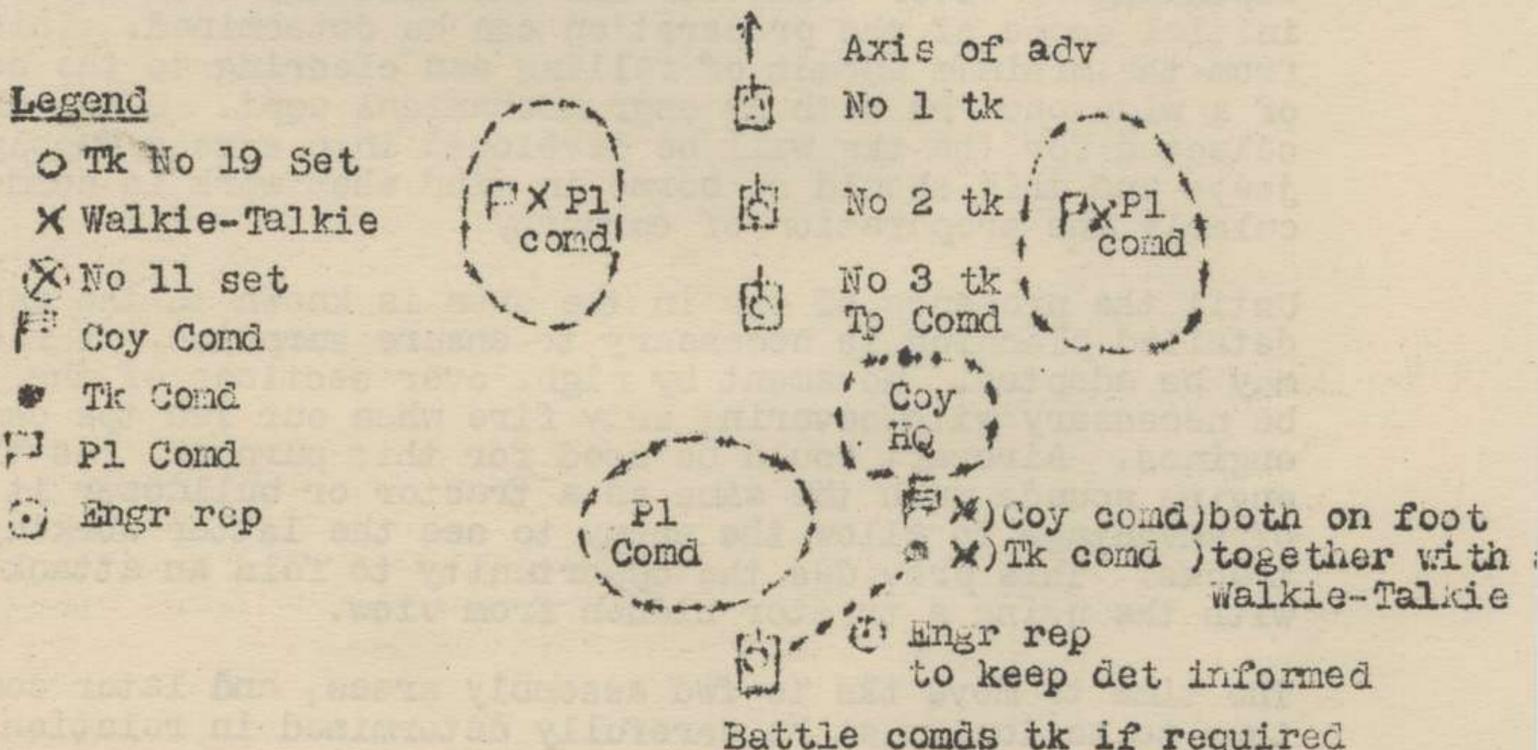
With the above tactical grouping and good comms the offensive can be maintained continuously until the enemy is defeated or forced to withdraw.

With mechanical eqpt well fwd a jeep track can be developed as the tks continue to advance. In some cases during wet weather when insufficient tps are available for corduroy and rd construction essential sups can be kept fwd by tractor and trailer. In any case it is desirable to maintain jeep head very close to if not at the scene of action.

The tactical gp with one pl working immediately with the tks for their local protection and two pls free for deployment gives a very strong fire power combination on a narrow front. In many cases in precipitous country where encirclements may take days, the inf and tks are able to assault the direct approach by close fire and movement. Examples of tactical handling are discussed later, however in principle the tk with its armour and fire power is able to work slightly in adv of the inf and can deal with each individual enemy posn in detail at close range. As each machine gun is pinpointed the fire of one of the leading tks can be directed on to it. The inf then mop up along the sides of the track and continue to press fwd. In razor back country the track is the key to the posns and when once gained the defences on the steep sides can then be taken in rear or from above. In some cases in heavy bamboo it may be necessary to blast a small area with 2 pr which though heavy in amn expenditure is effective. If the ground permits, the tk can move from the track and flatten the area by movement. As enemy MG posts are located a tk can provide neutralising fire to assist the inf fire and movement. If necessary, a tk could be used temporarily as a mortar OP for close shooting.

6. Communications

The Walkie-Talkie, SCR 536 (b), has proved to be an ideal link between the inf and the tks. The most practical and satisfactory system is shown diagrammatically.



⊗ No 11 set at bde HQ can intercept on most No 19 set frequencies working with the Walkie-Talkie net.

.../In

In the above layout, 5 Walkie-Talkie sets are required though 4 can be used by either the coy comd and tk comd using the one set or by taking the set from the res or protective pl. The No 19 set of each tk is netted to the Walkie-Talkie net before the action and the control of the wireless working was better done by one of the more powerful tk No 19 sets. Procedure should be cut to a minimum and with good discipline the net works well.

Quite often, the only traffic will be between the leading pl comd and the first tk. In this way the fire of the leading tks can be quickly directed to provide adequate neutralising and destructive fire. As required, both the coy and tk comds may issue instns and directions while all other sets remain on listening watch to be fully in the picture. The Walkie-Talkie can be easily recognised at short ranges and suggestions already put fwd to camflg or modify the set to make it less conspicuous should be fully tested.

Line should always be laid by the leading coy which provides a link to bn thence bdc. If necessary, details of the action can usually be obtained by intercept on a No 11 set. If bde HQ is some 1000 to 1500 yds behind the leading tps the Walkie-Talkie sets can be heard while the stronger No 19 tk set is easy to pick up.

The maintenance of sets requires detailed attention and close supervision to ensure their efficient working. As a general principle it is considered that three separate nets are required for each tp of tks and inf coy fighting. This gives one net in use, one net sealed in immediate res and one net being maintained. If possible, the sets should be changed at the end of each days fighting to allow the proper maintenance to be carried out. Every effort must be made to seal spare or res sets and batteries and those in use must be protected as far as possible from rain and damp. No sets should be sent fwd of bde unless they have been carefully checked and tested.

#### 7. Movement to fwd assembly areas

When a suitable line of approach has been selected, constructional work on the route should be commenced as soon as possible. Depending on cover from view and the distance from the enemy the initial scope of the preparation can be determined. This may vary from the minimum amount of felling and clearing to the construction of a wide open rd with hy engr mechanical eqpt. Often the route selected for the tks will be developed into a main supply line for jeeps and this should be borne in mind when work is commenced, particularly the preparation of corduroy.

Until the presence of tks in the area is known to the enemy, detailed planning is necessary to ensure surprise. Various methods may be adopted. Movement by night over sections of the track will be necessary with covering arty fire when our fwd tps can hear the engines. Aircraft could be used for this purpose. As the tk engine sounds much the same as a tractor or bulldozer it may be of advantage to allow the enemy to see the latter working on certain tracks. This provides the opportunity to feign an attack on a flank with tks using a tractor hidden from view.

The time to move tks to fwd assembly areas, and later committing them to action, must be carefully determined in relation to the

.... / terrain

terrain and local weather conditions. Quite often the track will stand a limited number of tks and jeeps before it must be closed for a time to allow the surface soil to drain or to allow further constructional improvements. It then becomes necessary to give essential operational requirements a priority depending on the scope of the action contemplated. To ensure that the quota of tks and vehs get through it will be necessary to dispose the engr and their eqpt on any bad sections of the track. In any event rigid track discipline and control is essential to get the best out of any tracks being used.

Once tks have reached their fwd assembly area they must be camflgd and protected. Daily maintenance and engine tuning can be arranged to coincide with arty or mortar shoots on that particular sector of the front.

### 8. Tactical deployment

The method of deploying the tactical gp will depend on the terrain and the type of posn the Jap is holding. To gain the necessary detailed information a period of active patrolling is essential and must be properly coordinated to cover the whole sector involved. Based on this information the deployment will probably come into one or more of the cases quoted below :

- a. Narrow razor back - fair or steep grade - sides usually covered with either secondary growth or bamboo. In such cases the enemy front will be narrow with prepared posns in considerable depth sited to cover the track and the sides of the razor back on limited approaches.

The most suitable formation is a tp in line ahead and the inf coy deployed with one pl fwd. The leading pl feels fwd abreast of the second tk and once close contact has been made the enemy posns are dealt with in detail. Depending on visibility from the tks, which is very restricted, their action will be :

- i. Blasting and clearing on either side of the track,
- ii. Inf working on either side of the track directing fire on located targets.

Target recognition is speeded up if the two leading tks are given a primary arc of fire on the left or right of the axis of adv. In any case the inf must advance by fire and movement and mop up on either side of the track as they progress.

- b. Track along the side of a feature or dominated to either flank by small features. The enemy in such country usually holds the high features with his main defences sited to cover the track.

The formation and tactics are similar until close contact has been made, then depending on the size of the feature the inf clear the high ground. Early recce is essential so that the tks do not go beyond a point where they cannot move from the track pn to the dominating flank. If the feature is large, speed will be gained if a second inf coy and tp of tks are immediately available to move to the flank in conjunction with the frontal attack.

- c. Attack up a slope to breach a main defended line and exploit.

Depending on the size of the feature or the extent of the vital ground to be held the enemy may develop a strongly held perimeter with local reserves for counter attack. The depth of the def's will depend on the number of tps available to hold the ground and adequately cover the main lines of approach. Such def's may be so disposed that flanking moves are impracticable.

..../One

One suggested method of attacking defences of this nature is by a frontal assault on a selected approach to pierce the perimeter and capture a bridgehead, from which to exploit to the flank and/or to the vital ground. Detailed plans and preparation will be necessary. Preliminary engr work will be necessary as such an attack would require three tps of tks. The exploitation to a flank or along the general line of the perimeter will depend largely on opportunities after the initial bridgehead has been secured.

speed, flexibility and close cooperation are essentials in an attack of this nature.

d. Covering fire when tks cannot move on to the objective

It has been found that the tks can be used to provide close accurate neutralising fire when they are not able to move on to the objective. The plan hinges on getting tks very close to the objective, into fire posns where at short range they are able to give covering fire with direct observation until the last second. By using besa tracer the tks can provide lanes of fire between which the inf can advance. By using 2 pr HE then solid shot as the tps get close, and finally besa directly into bunker openings, the inf can adv to the objective area before the neutralising fire is lifted. Accurate timing and a clear indication of the end of the covering fire programme is essential. The order to stop can be passed by Walkie-Talkie and a suggested indication is a short burst of besa and 2 pr AP at 45° above the objective. Depending on circumstances, the fire of the tks may be supplemented or extended with MMGs.

9. Tk in Defence

While inf tps are at all times responsible for the immediate close protection of the tks, the fire power and at times the mobility of the tks should be used in defensive posns. Their weapons should be given definite fields of fire in the def system and if ground permits they may be given a counter attack role with inf.

During an advance it is probable that a main axis and supply line will be developed which, as it lengthens, will become vulnerable from the flanks. As it is difficult to ensure the safety of such an axis, unless adequate inf tps are available, a defensive plan may be required based on the minimum number of tps.

Under these conditions it is considered that suitable dets of inf and tks, preferably tactical gps, working from prepared def areas approx 1000 yds apart could carry out the task. By a system of inf patrols with suitable comms a strong force of inf and tks are readily available for a quick counter attack. While it is possible for the enemy to infiltrate, or work a party to the rear, with the object of cutting the track, they will require a certain period of time to reorganise, prepare their posn and dig in. With adequate patrolling the enemy should be denied this time and could quickly be dealt with by the inf and tks working from the nearest patrol base.

10. Engineer Tasks

It is considered that a complete Fd Coy with an allotment of mechanical eqpt, depending on the terrain, is essential on a bde basis when tks are employed. Apart from detailing dets to complete tactical gps, continual supervision, work and maintenance is required further back to ensure the supply line to the scene of action.

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While the main engr task is the preparation and construction of tracks, they will be called upon to undertake many and varied smaller tasks of vital importance. To ensure close cooperation and speedier work it is necessary for the Fd Coy Comd to be fully in the picture, particularly with regard to the role of inf units, proposed actions, and the maintenance situation. Accurate anticipation is necessary based on detailed recces, to concentrate men and eqpt at the right place at the right time. It is essential that time estimates for tasks are accurate.

Some of the more important tasks carried out in recent operations are listed below :

- a. Engr advice, recces and the preparation of routes to fwd assembly areas.
- b. Felling, levelling and clearing with corduroy where necessary. The most suitable corduroy was found to be 4" logs 9" or 1 foot apart bedded in by tractor or with the leading tk.
- c. Building up or making safe, doubtful narrow sections of track or possible land slides.
- d. The siting of bulldozers or tractors on bad sections of tracks to assist the tks to negotiate them.
- e. Recovery of tks.
- f. Clearance of tk obstacles with facines, clearing and filling craters. If necessary engr should be prepared to blow a disabled tk clear of the track if it cannot be quickly recovered or bypassed.
- g. Mine clearing.

#### 11. Fwd area Trg

Fwd area trg as distinct from general trg with tks should be in preparation for the specific tasks involved in the proposed operation. For this reason it is essential to have air photos of the operational area from which large sand table models can be made and similar ground selected for trg exercises.

In this section it is intended to stress only the main points of the trg as the detailed notes are attached.

In fwd area trg it is essential for the tactical gps to be properly "married up" and the inf tks and engr should live and work together in order to fully understand their respective limitations and characteristics. In the trg seemingly impossible tasks should be attempted so that tk crews and the engr gain a better working knowledge of their equipment and are able to judge what really can be done in action. Tk crews particularly require this trg in preparation for close contact engagements where the inf will so often direct their movement and fire. From the engr point of view it is essential to gain experience in assessing the time factor for all tasks with tks, and by experiment to determine the best methods of assisting tks over difficult terrain with bulldozers and tractors.

#### 12. Suggested Tk Modifications

While the Army Tk proved satisfactory, certain modifications are suggested which may be of value in future operation.

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- a. speed is not required. Track grip and engine power are essential and it is considered that modifications may be made to the gear box or transmission with this in view. Minor faults which developed were in connection with the gear box and transmission.
- b. It was found that the 2 pr was a more effective weapon than the 3" how, mainly because of its blast effect at short ranges. In heavy bamboo particularly where visibility is limited to a few yds the blast of the 2 pr against foxholes and constructed posns with strong overhead cover was very effective. There is a possibility that a special shell and case could be produced to develop this feature. The use of a small shell to develop the pressure with magnesium or some type of electron metal behind it to increase the blast is suggested.
- c. Working along tracks and restricted approaches with inf, the enemy Tk A fire is mostly directed at the front of the tk. The tracks are vulnerable to the lighter types of weapons, particularly the 37 mm, and could be protected from the front by shields. The shields should be fitted so that they can be raised or lowered while the tk is negotiating difficult terrain.
- d. Attachments on the outside of tks which are not armoured are virtually useless as they are soon riddled by enemy SA fire at close range.

### 13. Cooperation

within

The closest possible cooperation/the tactical gp has been mentioned and is again stressed for the following reasons :

- a. At all times in action alternative plans must be made and put into execution with the minimum delay, to take advantage of the situation as the action develops with either inf alone, or tks and inf.
- b. The protection of the tks is an inf responsibility at all times. Therefore it is necessary to consider carefully the posn of each tk in a fwd coy perimeter to ensure that it is protected and at the same time plays its part in the general def fire plan. The tks must also be given counter attack roles, depending on the ground.
- c. If tks are temporarily out of action in a fwd area, they must be incl in a perimeter if possible or at least adequately covered by fire with necessary booby trapping and alarm trip wires. If the tk should be temporarily abandoned as in the case above, breach blocks etc should be removed and the tk locked down.
- d. In action and along tracks there is always a risk of Molotov type bombs being used at close range. To guard against this the second tk can largely protect the first in line ahead and in other formations inf must be detailed to remain close to each tk for its own immediate local protection.
- e. Tks staging on the L of C, moving at night to assembly areas or in the process of recovery, will require similar protective escorts and tk offrs must ensure that such escorts are provided when and where required.
- f. In action one axis will generally be used for the supply and maintenance of tactical gps. While priorities must be allotted,

....in

in general every jeep or tractor trailer load must be considered for the gp. The evacuation of wounded will normally be back through the bn RAP and any carrying parties necessary for any commodity required fwd will usually come from the bn.

- g. With practice and experience the tactical gp becomes a team with a team spirit which counts for so much in close fighting

SECRET

Appx "A" to the Employment of  
Army Tks in Jungle Warfare

TRAINING THE TACTICAL GP

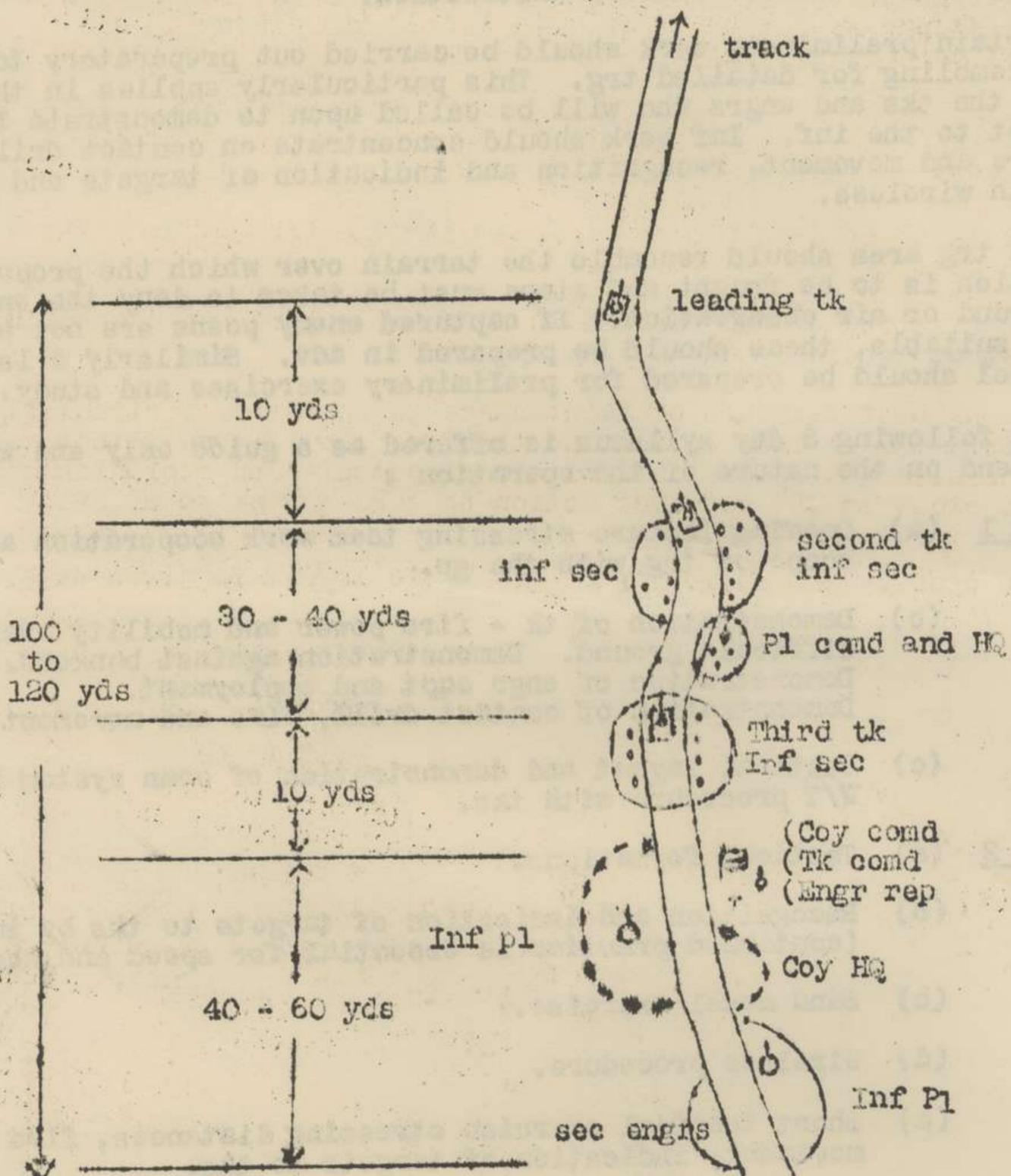
1. The detailed trg of the tactical gp in a fwd area takes from a minimum of three to seven days. With the tactical gp comprised of one inf coy, one tp of tks and a det of engr a bn can be trained in four gps depending on engr resources. From the outset it is essential to have a trained cadre with a prepared and coordinated programme to ensure uniform instruction.
2. Certain preliminary work should be carried out preparatory to assembling for detailed trg. This particularly applies in the case of the tks and engr who will be called upon to demonstrate their eqpt to the inf. Inf work should concentrate on contact drill, fire and movement, recognition and indication of targets and practice with wireless.
3. The trg area should resemble the terrain over which the proposed action is to be fought and steps must be taken to deny the enemy ground or air observation. If captured enemy posns are not available or suitable, these should be prepared in adv. Similarly a large model should be prepared for preliminary exercises and study.
4. The following 3 day syllabus is offered as a guide only and will depend on the nature of the operation ;
  - Day 1 (a) Opening lecture stressing team work cooperation and scope of trg with the gp.
    - (b) Demonstration of tk - fire power and mobility over difficult ground. Demonstration against bunkers. Demonstration of engr eqpt and employment. Demonstration of contact drill, fire and movement.
    - (c) Tactical layout and demonstration of comm system incl W/T procedure with tks.
  - Day 2 (a) Tactical formations.
    - (b) Recognition and indication of targets to tks by inf. (continued practice is essential for speed and accuracy).
    - (c) Sand model exercise.
    - (d) Wireless procedure.
    - (e) Short tactical exercise stressing distances, fire and movement, indication of targets to tks.
  - Day 3 Continuous all day exercise practicing line ahead formation along a track. Several separate "actions" can be fought involving the full deployment of the coy and tp of tks. Tk ditches and mines should be encountered in the adv.

Depending on time available the work should include repetitions of day 3 under varying circumstances to incl some or all of the following:-

.....formation

formation of perimeters  
 replenishment in action  
 passing through a second tp of tks  
 encirclements by pls and with another gp  
 formations over varying terrain  
 improvisations with comms and casualties both  
 to inf and tks.

5. The following diagrammatic layout is given only as a guide for an adv along a track. Distances will vary depending on the terrain.

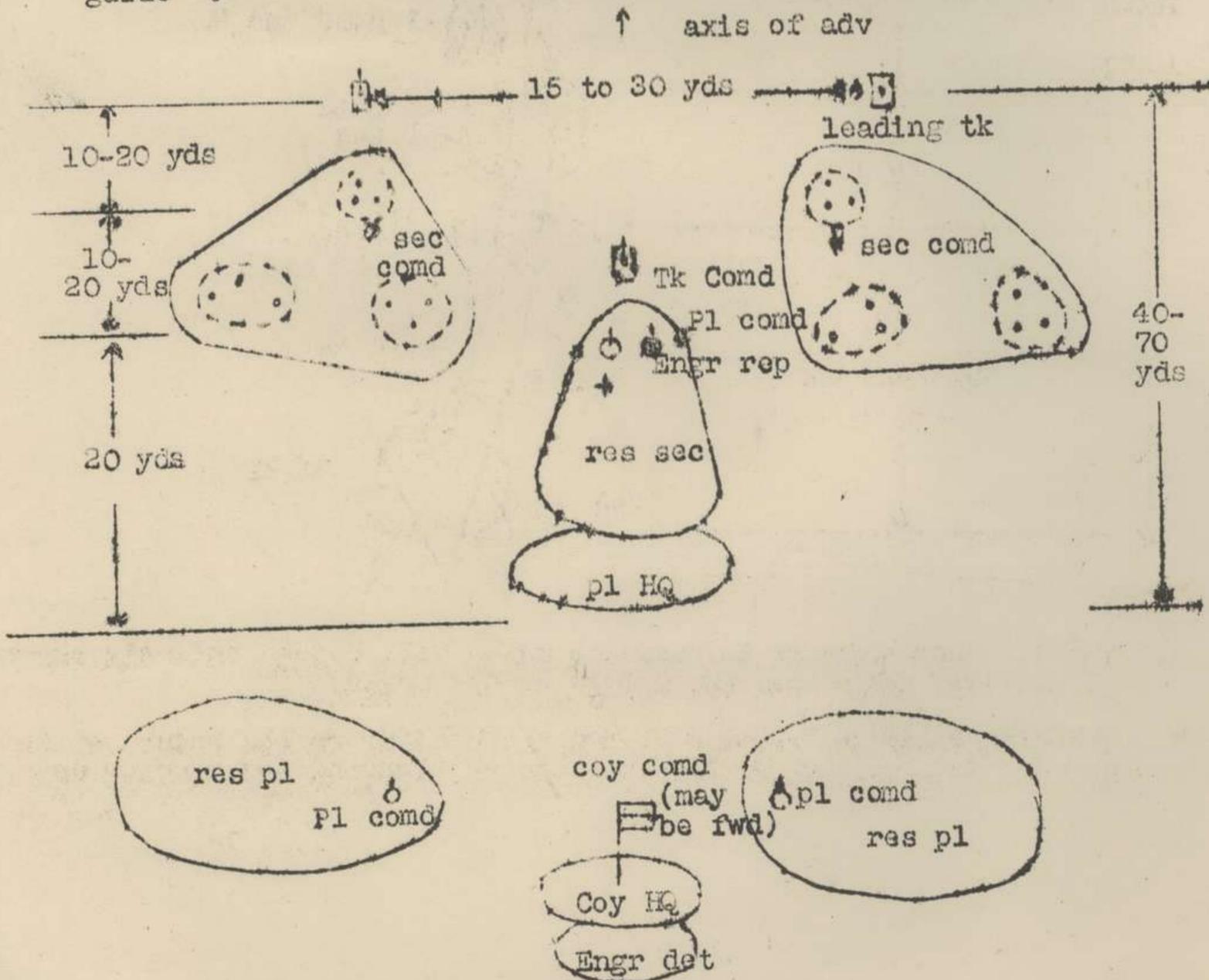


Notes

- a. The distance between tks and sub units will depend entirely on visibility, cover and the nature of the track.
- b. The diagram shows one inf pl fwd - depending on the nature of the ground, two pls may be fwd to speed up clearing and mopping up.

...../c.

- c. The leading tk should be 10 to 15 yds ahead of the second tk and fwd section. The leading tk is covered by the second and by inf fire. It is essential that the two leading tks have at least 180 degrees arc of fire without danger to our own tps.
  - d. The leading pl comd with wireless is well fwd to obtain early information and direct the fire of the tks.
  - e. Coy comd and Tk comd with engr rep are fwd to coordinate the action and make quick decisions.
  - f. The third tk is in a posn to move fwd if required or with the second can move to a flank with one or two pls which are immediately available for such tasks.
  - g. Sec of engr may move with stores at the rear of the coy or in any case would be on immediate call with the rest of the det working on the track behind the coy.
  - h. The tk tp comd should be on foot with the inf coy comd where he can best direct the tp.
  - j. The quantity of amn carried in a tk is limited and expenditure must be carefully checked by tp comds.
  - k. The highest standard of maintenance is essential particularly before tks go into action and tk ofrs should ensure that mechanics and specialists with replacements and replenishment are close to the scene of action to take advantage of every opportunity offered.
6. In open country the following diagrammatic layout is given as a guide :-



The essential is that while some inf tps are detailed for the close protection of the tks and must keep them in sight, the remainder can make better use of ground by fire and movement, and can cover more ground to a flank. In the above diagram (page 3) the leading secs are shown in three groups of which the leading one in each case would have the role of close protection for the tks.

With two pls fwd the dispositions would be similar depending on the extent of the open ground and mopping up required to the flanks. As a general guide the leading tks will be in adv of the leading inf and on a frontage which allows mutual support. The third tk in this formation is in a posn to support either of the two fwd tks.

JAPANESE TACTICS

JAPANESE LESSONS LEARNT IN RECENT OPS

1. Bulletin No 7 issued by Adv HQ Allied Land Forces SWPA on 16 Dec 43 summarizes JAP lessons from ops in NEW GUINEA and the SOLOMONS, as contained in a number of captured documents. These documents were all written by the enemy prior to the fall of SALAMAU, LAE and FINSCHHAFEN. Pts of interest from this bulletin are discussed under the following headings :-

- a. general weaknesses in our battle procedure and methods as indicated in the JAP documents.
- b. some of our tactical methods which the enemy has studied and appreciated
- c. JAP tactical principles.

It will be appreciated that this review is by no means exhaustive since its scope is limited to the aspects of jungle warfare mentioned in the JAP notes.

Where practicable deductions have been made from the enemys observations with a view to the development of counter measures. Further deductions should be made by units when this Bulletin is circulated to them.

2. Our Weaknesses

- a. "the enemy seldom if ever, attacks during the hours of darkness"

This statement is further substantiated by the absence of night ops during recent actions.

The Jap has taken frequent advantage of our lack of initiative to attack or withdraw during the hours of darkness. He appears to be more skilled than our tps in night movement, although in local actions he has usually had the advantage of operating over familiar ground and tracks.

From our pt of view offensive night movement in hy jungle will require considerable practice and experiment to develop suitable methods of approach and tactical formations.

With the development of open warfare in the present area, the possibilities of night advances, night patrols and attacks must be kept constantly in mind. The surprise effect produced by the sudden introduction of extensive night ops would probably be very marked and may at the present time seriously inconvenience the JAP withdrawal plans.

- b. "when both sides meet unexpectedly a few rifle shots and bursts from LMG will usually be sufficient to rout the enemy".

This statement is of too sweeping a character to have general application, and the word "rout" is rather too strong to apply even to our recce patrols which have been ordered to avoid a fight. There are, however several pts arising from the statement that are worthy of consideration :

1. The implication is that our tps have been surprised, since the enemy have been able to open fire first. Despite a high degree of skill and care in patrolling it is inevitable that our patrols will sometimes be surprised when the enemy sits in camflged def posns.

..../The

The problem then is how to minimise the effect of this surprise. It is suggested that the answer is in the formation of the patrol, and the mutual and automatic sp between the gps which comprise it. This quick sp must be constantly practiced in trg, and emphasised in the briefing instns to each patrol before it sets out in actual operations.

- ii. It has been observed that whenever he is able to open fire first, the enemy appears to gain a moral ascendancy due entirely to the fact that for the moment he has the initiative. This initiative must be taken from him by return fire and by manoeuvre, and again the ability of our tps to apply quickly the contact drill principles on the particular ground of the action will decide the issue.

It is appreciated that the practice of these principles is extremely difficult under certain conditions. Nevertheless the fact remains that patrols will, on occasion, be surprised and it is only by close study and trg and care in preparation for patrols that such surprise can be minimised and the initiative wrested from the enemy.

c. "the enemy security measures are NOT stringent"

This comment refers to front line security rather than to security of infm, and appears to be fully justified. AUST tps are notoriously casual in def posns when NOA in close contact and the enemy has been quick to appreciate this. In recent actions the following faults have been observed.

- i. Excessive movement in def localities in daylight, often in full view of the enemy
- ii. slackness on the part of sentries during the hours of daylight
- iii. careless siting of "doovers" and absence of any attempt at camflg
- iv. poorly dug weapon pits
- v. carelessness in the use of cooking fires
- iv. poor track discipline and destruction of natural cover in the def area.

The lessons of previous operations are soon forgotten, and junior leaders must exercise constant vigilance and control to prevent the reoccurrence of these faults. We shall NOT always be fighting the JAP under conditions where he has little or no arty, mortar or air sp. Quite apart from that, poor front line security frequently gives the enemy a clear picture of our intentions, destroys the chances of surprise and enables him to use his opportunity weapons to inflict casualties without loss to himself.

d. "the enemy carries out very little construction work"

This refers to def posns and NOT to rds and other forms of development, and the statement has been confirmed to a large degree in the present campaign. A principle of JAP defence is that the subunits and individual soldiers must never be satisfied with the condition of their defences, and must be constantly at work to strengthen and conceal them.

...../Our

Our shortcomings in this respect should be as obvious to us as they are to him, although it is conceded that in ops against the JAP this Div has NOT yet been required to prepare elaborate defs on a long term policy.

- e. "they have made use of buildings and native huts as observation posts" ....

"they also utilise native houses located on or near our L of C"

As native huts are always in clearings, it is frequently impossible to avoid them, as observation can NOT be obtained elsewhere. It must be remembered however that the enemy is fully aware of this, and will watch closely any movement in hut areas. Huts should never be occupied purely for the sake of shelter from the elements, particularly when they have recently been occupied by the enemy or by natives, owing to the high malarial possibilities. It is preferable to dismantle the huts and use the material for building purposes well away from the village area.

- f. In recent ops the enemy has been fighting a def action and has NOT been in a posn to exploit many of these weaknesses. It is significant, however, that he has noted them and will doubtless attempt to turn them to advantage when fighting under more favourable conditions. Most of these faults arise from carelessness and bad control and must be closely watched and corrected in future ops.

### 3. Our Tactical Methods

#### a. Searching fire

The enemy appears to be fully alive to the fact that we employ searching fire to provoke retaliation and cause him to reveal his posns. As recent actions have demonstrated, he is NOT easily drawn and in most cases shows excellent control of his fire until actually attacked. The accurate locating of the enemy's posns and ascertaining whether or NOT they are occupied are problems which constantly recur and to which we must find a satisfactory answer. It seems that searching fire alone will NOT give the required infm.

The first essential is a study of the normal def plan used by the enemy. From past experience and from the infm contained in this Bulletin it is known that his defs from sec posts to coy localities are usually constructed on the all-round defensive principle and on a generally triangular layout. The distance separating the three localities in the case of a sec post, depends upon the visibility in the jungle, the limiting factor being that the posts must be able to maintain visual conn. The same principle is applied in determining the distances between secs and pls in pl and coy localities. Applying this knowledge to the ground and having drawn fire from one pt, it is possible to deduce fairly accurately where the supporting posts are probably sited. Although better observation of the original post may not be possible, it is likely that a better view or approach to the supporting posns may exist. Alternatively, a demonstration may be possible against these posts, or a concentration of fire to render them untenable or to neutralise their sp. Other suggestions are the use of a one or two man patrol at night to creep slowly up to the enemy posns with assault cable or lawyer vine as a guide on which to return. This patrol, given almost unlimited time for movement during darkness, could approach to within easy listening distance and obtain infm of enemy posns and strengths. Such patrol could also give early indication of enemy withdrawal. The use of dummy figures or the movement of jungle by a series

...../of

of wires connected up during the hours of darkness also offer possibilities as a means of drawing fire and pin pointing posns.

This aspect of jungle operations requires careful study and a keen local appreciation of the posn from the enemy's pt of view. An accurate appreciation and the application of novel methods can save considerable losses of men, time and ammo.

b. Timings

The JAP notes mention that most of our ops do NOT commence until after breakfast and terminate in sufficient time to permit our tps to return to their posts or establish new posns before the evening meal. It is reasonable to assume that the enemy is especially vigilant during this period and probably relaxes to some extent at other times. Accordingly, ops conducted at times other than between breakfast and the evening meal probably stand a better chance of obtaining surprise.

c. Comms

The enemy comments several times on the efficiency of our line comms and inter alia mentions that our fwd posns are usually connected by line to the rear, and stresses the necessity for his tps to cut these comms wherever possible.

Whenever he is able to infiltrate into our posns, sig lines will provide excellent guides for him to our various localities. It is therefore necessary for us to consider :

- i. laying of cable away from tracks and careful concealment of lines
- ii. use of enamelled assault cable to OP's and listening posts
- iii. use of dummy lines to lead the enemy into prepared ambush posns.

d. Other comments on our tactics are confined to general remarks on :

- i. our skill in the use of automatic weapons, and the heavy fire we are able to bring to bear with our sp arms
- ii. our skill in silent approach and encirclement.

His tps are warned of these pts, but no lessons can be drawn from them, other than the knowledge that our tactics and employment of sp arms are apparently effective and along the right lines.

4. Enemy Tactical Methods

a. General

No new tactical methods are discussed in these JAP Notes which simply reiterate most of the enemy principles with which we are already familiar.

JAP tps are instructed to concentrate on such pts as silence, vigilance and camflg in fwd areas. Emphasis is laid also on the necessity for providing all round def in every post and mutual sp between posts. The following summarizes the pts covered in def and attack

...../D.

b. Def

- i. Posns MUST be held at all costs - to withdraw is to risk annihilation by automatic fire.

From this it would seem that the enemy refuses to consider withdrawal as a tactical possibility as we do, and therefore presumably does not include withdrawal in his trg. This statement must however be treated with some reservation, as recent operations have shown that he is quite capable of organising a successful withdrawal action :

- ii. Fire control - allow small parties to approach very close to the def area before opening fire and concentrate on personnel armed with automatic weapons. Large parties must be engaged before they approach within gren throwing range.

The enemy has consistently pursued this policy in recent actions and we must examine it closely to ascertain the extent to which it can be turned to our advantage. Firstly, it seems that a lone scout or possibly two scouts can sometimes gain more infm than a recce patrol of 6 or more since their movement, even if detected is not so likely to draw fire. Secondly it may be possible from this to assume that if the movement of a force of approx strength one coy can be skillfully simulated by a few tps, it may have the effect of drawing his fire at a comparatively long range. Thirdly, it emphasises the need for close co-operation between the gps of the leading sec and the secs of the leading pl during a general adv along a track or in any fighting patrol task.

- iii. fire lanes must be cut for a distance of 15 metres from each post, but care must be taken in so doing not to disturb natural camflg.

In other words the JAP stresses that fire lanes must be created by thinning out and this we can usefully apply in our def programmes.

- iv. immediate counterattack is the key to effective def. The counter attack must be concentrated on one flank of the attacking tps and in minor actions the most suitable force is considered to be a gp of two or three secs. When encircled the JAPS will attempt to envelop the attacking force by a wider encirclement on the same flank with tps from adjacent localities.

There are several lessons in this for us. In the first place we must expect and plan to meet a counter attack in any offensive operation undertaken, in the same way as we always planned to resist them in conditions of desert warfare. It is felt that too little emphasis is placed on the necessity for counterattack in our own def plans. The plans submitted by any cmd, from pl cmd upwards, to his superior MUST include :

- a. an appreciation of the pt at which attack by the enemy is most probable, and
- b. the steps taken or suggested to counter such attack, either with a res force or by covering certain ground by fire.

Our encircling tps must be constantly on the watch for any enveloping move and to avoid the possibility of this, deep

...../encirclement

encirclement is to be preferred to encirclement on a narrow arc.

The principle of operating always from a firm base, must NOT be forgotten, since the firm base NOT only offers a secure posn into which encircling tps may withdraw if unsuccessful, but also under most conditions provides a "stopper" against counter encirclement.

c. Attack

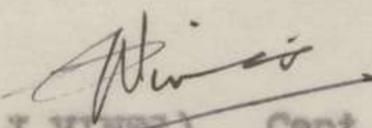
Tactics in attack are NOT considered in any detail in the JAP Notes. The following pts are mentioned :

- i. Dawn and dusk are considered the best times for attack, particularly during rain.

This obviously means that we must be extremely vigilant at such times. The practice of a dawn and dusk "standto" should be introduced as an automatic drill in all def posns, "stand down" to take place when the senior comd has decided that there are no indications of attack on any part of the sector.

- ii. Encirclement must be attempted wherever possible and attacking tps will endeavour to avoid direct frontal attack.

On taking up a def posn one of our first acts must be to examine the ground and approaches to the posn and appreciate the direction from which enemy encirclement is most likely to develop. The system of listening posts and outposts must then be arranged in accordance with this appreciation, which will also effect the siting of the counterattacking force and the general fire plan, incl DF tasks for the area.

  
(W J VINES) Capt  
for Maj  
BN 26 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION :

2/23 Aust Inf Bn  
2/24 Aust Inf Bn  
2/48 Aust Inf Bn  
File  
War Diary (2)

Apps F.

**FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS**

1/44 ...../..... (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 1 / 1 / 1944 (Unit)

W.E. 11/2 / 3 OFFRS. 12 O.R.'s. 66 + OFFRS. 6 O.R.'s. 13 ATT. BY W.E.

**PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.**

W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Rein'ts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'ts Required.
			1	Brigadier					
			1	Lieut.-Colonels	AACD	3			
	3		3	Majors	AASC	1		1	
	2		2	Captains	AADC	-		1	
				Lieutenants	AANC	-		1	
				Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
	5		7			4		2	

DETAIL.	A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL
A.	11									11
E. (1)										
E. (2)										

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.  
\*\* Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces

**PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.**

**OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK.**

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.

**OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.**

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
V136046	T/Capt	Matthews T H	2/23 Aust Inf BN	30 Dec 43	Det for duty

**PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. .... / ..... / 194.....**

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

1/4  
.....(Serial No.)

Unit

H. 26 Aust Inf Bde

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday...../...../194..... (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
Col T/Brig	WX376	Whitehead	D A	Comd	Yes		
Capt T/Maj	WX12365	Wackay	K	BN	"		
Capt	VX48312	Nathan	G S	SC	"		
Capt	WX2725	Geddes	J O	SC(L)	"		
Lieut T/Capt	VX36228	Travis	G B	LO(I)	"		
Lieut	WX1541	Mazzucchelli	S	LO(II)	"		
Lieut	VX3669	Rule	V H	AC	"		
<b>SERVICES</b>							
Capt	WX366	Tibbitts	H S	ABC offr	Yes		
Chap	WX3201	Kelly	J K	AACHD	No	Det 2/23 Aust Inf Bde	
Chap	WX21715	Farmer	S H	"	"	" 2/24	"
Chap	WX15809	Tiller	C C	"	"	" 2/48	"

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
Lieut T/Capt	VX50341	Vines W J		2/23	Aust Inf Bde Att as BN(L)
Lieut	WX3695	Nelson V H		2/48	" " " "
Mr	B/282	Bevis J V			IMCA representative
Mr	B/278	Norton S S			Salv Army

1 Jan 44  
Date of Despatch

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Commander



**PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 1 / 1 / 1944 .**

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.			Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)			Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)			Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)				
W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.		
			Surveyors, Engineering			Operating Room Assts.			G.P.O. Assistants				
			Surveyors, R.A.A.			Operator, Keyboard			Hammermen				
			Surveyors, Topographical			Operator, Line			Leather Stitchers				
			Surveyors, Trigonometrical			Operator, Signal			Orderlies, Nursing				
			Toolmakers			Operator, Switchboard			Orderlies, Nursing Mental				
			Turners			Operator, Wireless			Plate Layers				
			Watchmakers			Opticians			Rangetakers				
			Welders			Painters			Riveters				
						Panel Beaters			Roughriders				
						Photographer, Dry Plate			Saddlers				
						Predictor Numbers			Saddletree makers				
						Printers			Shoemaker and Boot Repairer				
						Radiographers			Stevadores				
						Riggers			Stokers, Staty. Engine				
			GROUP II.			Sawyers			Storemen, Technical				
			Armourers			Signallers			Tailors				
			Axemen			Signwriters			Textile Refitters				
	2	1	Bakers			Telescope Identfn. Numbers			Tinsmiths				
			Bty. Comd's. Asst.			Well Borers			Vulcanizers				
			Bollermakers			Wheelers			Wagon Erectors				
			Carpenters			Winchman			Whitesmiths				
			Carpenters and Joiners			Wireman							
			Cooks	3	3	Woodturners							
			Dental Mechanics										
			Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)										
			Driver-Operator										
			Drainers										
			Electricians										
			Electricians (Engineers)										
			Fire Control Operators			GROUP III.			DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.				
			Gun Operator			Battery Surveyors			CSM	1	1		
			Hatchman			Butchers			CCMS	1	1		
			Height Taker			Clerks	6	6	Water D	1	1		
			Helio Operator			Clerks, Supply			Hyg D	1	1		
			Instrument Operator	4	4	Clerks, Technical			Drs MT	15	15		
			Intelligence Duties			Coach Trimmers			Sig Ordls	6	6		
			Joiners			Concretors			Gen Duties	3	3		
			Lineman			Cooks			Batmen	13	9		
			Lineman, Signals			Dental Clerk Orderlies							
			Lithographers			Despatch Riders			ATTACHED BY W.E.				
			Machinists, Metal			Draughtsmen, Signals			AASC	3	3		
			Machinists, Wood			Drivers, H.T.			ASME	3	3		
			Masons			Driver Mechanics			AAMC	1	1		
			Masseurs			Driver Tpin. Plant			AACHD	3	1		
			Mechanics, M.T.			Engine Hands, I.C.			AIOC	2	1		
			Miners			Equipment Repairers							
			Moulders			Farriers							
			Nurses, Trained			Fitters' Mates							
			Observation Post Assts.			Gun Layers							
2	1	1		9	8	1	15	14	1	Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A respectively.	60	59	10NR
CARRIED FORWARD			CARRIED FORWARD			CARRIED FORWARD							

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.  
 (b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.  
 (c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.  
 (d) Where replacement not desired, note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."  
 (e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

1 Jan 44

Date of Despatch

Signature of Commander

# FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

...../.....(Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 29 / 1 / 1944 (Unit) HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde

W.E. 11 / 2 / 3 OFFRS. 12 O.R's. 56 + OFFRS. 6 O.R's. 13 ATT. BY W.E.

## PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Rein'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required.
			1	Brigadier	<del>SERVICE</del>				
			-	Lieut.-Colonels	AChD	3			
			1	Majors	AAFC	1			
	3		3	Captains	AAMC	-		1	
	2		2	Lieutenants	AACC	-		1	
				Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
	5		7			4		2	

DETAIL.	A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	••	TOTAL.
A.	11									11
E.(1)										
E.(2)										

\* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.  
 \*\* Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces

## PART B.—PARTICULARS OF OFFICERS JOINED OR QUITTED DURING WEEK.

### OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
HY132875	Chap	BRIDSON A W	AChD	22 Jan 44	Att to HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde and det to 2/23 Aust Inf Bn for duty (vice Chap KELLY J K)

### OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
OX53201	Chap	KELLY J K	AChD	22 Jan 44	Ceases to be att to HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde

## PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO ..... (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. .... / ..... / 194.....

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

..... Unit

21/44.....(Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 29/1/1944 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
Col T/Brig	WX376	Whitehead	D A	Comd	Yes		
Capt T/Maj	WX12365	Wackay	K	BN	"		
Capt	WX2725	Geddes	J O	SG(L)	"		
Lieut T/Capt	WX36228	Travis	G B	LO(I)	"		
" "	WX36046	Matthews	T H	IO	No	det to 2/23 Aust Inf Bn	
Lieut	WX10541	Mazzucchelli	S A B	LO(II)	Yes		
"	WX36609	Rule	W N	AO	No	det to 2/15 Aust Pd sub	
<u>SERVICES</u>							
WX6360	Capt	Tibbits	R S	XXXX ASC Offr	Yes		
WX130875	Chap	BRYSCK	A W	AACHD	No	det to 2/23 Aust Inf Bn	
WX67799	"	XXXX	S J	"	"	" 2/48	"
WX21713	"	FARMER	S H	"	"	" 2/24	"

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
Lieut T/Capt	WX50341	Vines W J	2/23 Bn	12 Dec 43	Att as BN(L)
Lieut	WX9095	Nelson V N	2/48 Bn	21 "	Att as IO
Capt	WX18056	St John E H	AALC 9	Aust Div	att as Legal Offr
MP	B/282	Revis J V	YMCA		Representative
MP	B/273	Horton S S	Calv Army Rep		

Date of Despatch 29 Jan 44

*Alvici* Capt  
Signature of Commander

9 Aust Div



**PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 29 / 1 / 1944.**

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, E.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammersmen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitches			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangefinders			
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Sivettors			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths								Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevedores			
Computers								Riggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical			
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers				Tailors			
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)	2	1	1	Bty. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Bollermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters				Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)				Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks				Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics		3	3								
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)											
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators											
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator											
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman											
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker											
Grinder, Precision				Heli Operator											
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator											
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties											
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners		4	3	1 NR							
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman											
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals											
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers											
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal											
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood											
Pattern Maker				Masons											
Pharmacist				Masseurs											
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.											
Photewriter				Miners											
Plumber				Moulders											
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained											
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.											
CARRIED FORWARD	2	1	1	CARRIED FORWARD	9	7	2	CARRIED FORWARD	15	12	3	Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	69	53	16

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.  
 (b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.  
 (c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.  
 (d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.E. in col. "Reints. Required."  
 (e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

29 Jan 44  
Date of Despatch

Capt  
Signature of Commander  
9 Aust Div

Appx. G.

was diary.

HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde  
In the Field.

26 Dec 43

CONFIRMATION OF NOTES FROM AGENDA 26 DEC 43

1. Information - role of bde.

At present no contact with enemy and it is possible after present delay that the next main contact will be with fresh tps.

20 bde is to move tomorrow 27 Dec to the following bn objectives :

2/13 Aust Inf Bn - line 496942 - 475937  
2/15 Aust Inf Bn - line 501923 - 490914  
2/17 Aust Inf Bn - line 523903 - 515896

26 bde will become responsible for the following sector as 20 bde moves :

WANDOKAI beachhead as far south as east-west spur in sq 5486, and rear of 20 Aust Inf Bde.

2/23 bn will move 27 Dec by LCVs as arranged and will take over the area with one coy at southern limit, small force on left flank (pl suggested) balance of bn WANDOKAI area with possibility of one coy to continue further north. Intercom and sups as arranged verbally. Personnel must be conserved - minimum to do a good job. Kunai to be avoided where possible - edge of kunai and timber a possible mite danger. Possible to use cover by day and sleep out by night remembering possibility of air attack. Avoid Jap or native occupied areas.

Next bn to move will be 2/48. In all moves deeper patrolling will be required further inland. Little has been done by coastal units to date.

2. Reports on ops - main lessons.

Reports from 2/23 and 2/24 bns required as soon as possible.

Main pts :

- a. The enemy was in prepared and organised posns until capture of SATELBERG and was beaten by inf assault with tks. His defeat became easier the faster the follow up, which reduced his time to reorganise and prepare posns. Separate memo on the employment of tks in jungle warfare is now being prepared.
- b. Movement - Essential for us to get ahead of the enemy's planned withdrawal schedule. Particularly in razorback country with the limitations of encirclement and direct assault, the decision to commence an encirclement must be made early. Then, if the direct assault is successful, the former may be recalled or stopped. Similarly, early decisions re encirclement on a bde level are necessary as they affect another bn. One essential is a first light move - rotation system as previously outlined - quick early information. Frequent appreciations of the time factor are essential.
- c. Patrolling - Generally requires more detailed planning and execution. Detail in many cases is overlooked and information is incomplete. Patrols must be capable of forming a base from which a recce can be made and must be strong enough to hold ground.  
The question of patrol boots was raised and will be taken up with Div.

...../3.

## 3. a. Trg Staff

Higher Authority will probably require 1 Major, 2 Captains, 3 Lieuts from this bde for a trg coy or part of a trg bn organisation. Names required as soon as possible, giving complete record of service, personal details and comments.

1 Major, 1 Lieut - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.  
 1 Captain, 1 Lieut - 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.  
 1 Captain, 1 Lieut - 2/48 Aust Inf Bn.

## b. Schools and Courses - 6 months survey.

As per notes taken by COs on own screeds.  
 Details as discussed will be fwded to Div.

/to It is considered that LHQ Schools are of most value immediately prior/or while in a trg area. While in ops, such personnel on return to their units have little opportunity to pass on knowledge and may become casualties or sick.

## c. Staffs.

Unit lists of postings and potential replacements will be kept up to date. Each bn will submit the names of 4 potential LOs to bde from which panel subsequent LOs will be considered.

4. LOB personnel.

LOB personnel will be changed and reconstituted as soon as possible. BM will notify units in order 2/24, 2/48 and 2/23 when unit LOB may be recalled and changed.

On present strength LOB figures will be 2/23 50, 2/24 45, 2/48 50. 2/24 will build up to 50 as strength increases. Basis of LOB will remain as per LOB screed.

In the area each bn will maintain an active LOB of a minimum of 3 offrs (incl one Major and one Capt) and 25 ORs. The balance to the total LOB required may be made up of sick within the Div area. As LOB gps are reconstituted, details will be submitted to bde.

5. sig Cable.

General shortage of DIII - economy and salvage stressed. Care will be taken to prevent damage to sig cable in kunai fires. The following enamelled assault wire will be issued: 2/23 bn 5 miles, 2/24 and 2/48 bns 10 miles, bde res 5 miles. Will be used only when necessary on patrols.

6. A and B Ech Stores.

Tendency to increase - must be reduced and kept within limits as detailed in Appendix "A" att.

OVER

7. Hygiene and Malaria control.

Unit comds will list tests which can be carried out and apply them to improve and maintain the highest possible standards. D.A.D.H. will lecture to all offrs on the Freon bomb and will be asked to carry out tests in unit areas.

Written reports will be submitted by all units when any move is completed certifying that all malaria precautions have been taken.

*K. Mackay*  
(K. MACKAY) Major,  
BM 26 Aust Inf Bde.

"A" AND "B" ECH STORES

Unit A and B Ech stores as listed below by categories will be carried on moves as ordered depending on tpt and facilities available.

A Ech Stores.

- Category A1 - On the man scales of weapons and amm to incl 2 3" mortars, 2 MMGs, 2 Boyes Tk/A rifles, 3 miles sig wire, sig and pnr eqpt which can be carried on the man. Office and I gear as necessary on the move. The unconsumed portion plus 1 day's ration.
  
- Category A2 - To accompany if possible by jeep or craft or carrier.  
 2 3" mortars (incl box cleaning and spare parts).  
 2 MMGs (incl spare parts box).  
 4 Boyes Tk/A rifles.  
 1 box office.  
 1 box I records etc.  
 Balance operational sig eqpt incl No.11 set and up to 3 miles DIII cable.  
 1 box pnr stores.  
 1 box armourer  
 1 tent roll for comd post etc (3 tents 2 man).  
 1 medical pannier.  
 1 roll stretcher.  
 1 roll blankets.  
 Malarial stores as required and available.  
 1 box lamps and kerosene.  
 Res rations as may be ordered.

Amm : In category 1, bn comds will carry mortar and MMG amm depending on strength of dets. In category 2, small bn res of amm will be carried as under and may be modified as ordered.

.303 etn (5 boxes) bandolier (1 box).....	7240
9 mm (3 boxes).....	9600
Grenades (12 boxes incl 2 boxes 7 sec).....	144
2" mortar incl proportion Smoke.....	150
3" mortar incl proportion Smoke.....	150
Stripless belts (20).....	5000
.55 (1 box).....	160

Total 130 carrier loads or 5 jeep loads.

- Category A3 - 2 3" mortars. (or 4 mortars if full WE is held by /unit)  
 1 tent roll.  
 1 box office or I as required.  
 Malarial stores.  
 Amm as ordered up to 10 jeep loads.

...../B Ech Stores.

B Ech Stores.

Category B1 - This category is based on an allotment of four jeeps to each bn and the complete move of Bn B Ech's to be completed in any one full day. The total number of jeeps held by this bde does NOT permit of an allotment of any jeeps to units for the move of B Ech's over a longer period than one complete day. B Ech's must be maintained as a mobile installation capable of moving as quickly as the bns themselves. The following stores and eqpt only will be carried :-

1. Cooking gear for B Ech personnel only.
2. Rations - One days maintenance and one days res - total two days to be carried (may be Fd Op or full scale dependent on availability and bn comds wishes).
3. 5% Clothing and Boots (to include all items) available.
4. 5% anti-malarial stores.
5. 10% blankets for emergency - to be carried only with authority of this HQ.
6. Boxes of unit records NOT carried in A Ech and to incl. box of "Q" Records.
7. All water containers in charge to units NOT carried in A Ech's.
8. Armourer and Pnr Kits as applicable.

This figure ( will NOT be ( increased ( without ref- ( erence to this ( Hq.

Category B2 - This category is the Bde Dump of Surplus Stores (i.e. COCONUT BEACH DUMP) consisting of surplus stores and eqpt NOT immediately required by bns. The Dump to remain static and to be moved on orders issued by this HQ and as circumstances permit. The following will be dumped :-

1. All blankets less one roll of medical blankets allowed for in A Ech, and 10% carried in B Ech when allowed by this HQ.
2. Surplus hy cooking gear.
3. Surplus pnr eqpt.
4. All packs or haversacks whichever is applicable.
5. 10% clothing and Boots (Scale as for B Ech).
6. 10% Anti-malarial stores.
7. Surplus medical stores.
8. Any other eqpt and/or stores held by units in present areas.

NOTE : There will be no bulk amn carried by Bn B Ech's.

Appx. 14.

War Diary

G200/17A/57

HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde  
In the Field  
1 Jan 44

BDE AIR PHOTO INTERPRETATION COURSE

1. Three day courses covering air photo interpretation as per schedule below will be conducted at Bde HQ as opportunity permits.
2. The object of these courses is to train Coy Comds, Coy 2 i/cs and Pl Comds to use air photos in the field.
3. Students per course 2 offrs per bn (with one batman). No 1 course will commence 2 Jan 44 and students will assemble at Bde HQ by last light 1 Jan 44.
4. Students requirements

Sketching materials - pencils and note books, chinagraph pencils, piece of take abd tracing paper if available.

*K. Mackay*

(K MACKAY) Maj  
BM 26 Aust Inf Bde

Distribn

2/23 Aust Inf Bn  
2/24 Aust Inf Bn  
2/48 Aust Inf Bn  
Bde HQ Circulation  
File  
War Diary

SYLLABUS

- Day 1      a.m    Introductory remarks  
                 Military uses of Air Photos  
                 Types of aerial photos - scale - Scale exercises
- p.m    TONE TEXTURE SHADOW with photographic examples  
                 Vegetation New Guinea - Types - Examples from photos  
                 Study of vegetation on ground with photographs.
- Day 2                    STEREOSCOPY Practice to obtain STEREO VISION
- CONTOURING by STEREO
- EXERCISE Annotation of PHOTO STRIP
- Day 3                    PLAN patrol route from photo  
                                 Prepare trace of route  
                                 Patrol by route plotted and submit patrol report

-----oOo-----

Appx. I.

Hq 26 Aust Inf Bde  
In the Field  
28 Jan 44

GS MEMO :

1. Duty offrs

At all times units will ensure that one of the unit Staff Offrs or an appointed duty offr is available. Care will be taken to ensure that signal operators are kept informed and are in a position to answer caller queries. During the night duty offrs may sleep providing a generator call on a phone will wake them immediately. During operations or when ordered by this Hq duty offrs will be on duty and awake and will pass hourly "test call sitreps".

2. Movements of senior offrs

Bn comds and 2 i/c's will as far as practicable not leave the unit at one time. Units will advise this Hq if bn comds intend moving out of unit areas for a longer period than half a day.

*a. Mackay*  
(K MACKAY) Maj  
Hq 26 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION :

2/23 Aust Inf Bn  
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