

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

Item number: 8/3/23

2/23 Infantry Battalion

March 1941

SECRET

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

Unit 2/23 BATTALION

Date and Time.—From 1 MAR 41 To 31 MAR 41.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
DIMRA	1	0900	Bn marched to Mouth HESI WADI via Trigs 75 and 18. Route home via HIRBYA. Practice in ev-bussing by Coys on home route. Weather cold, windy and wet. Bde Warming Order. Address to Bn by Lt Col B EVANS on imminent departure nearer front.	APPX. 1
"	2.	0900	Bn Church Parade & Div Band Contact unusable to be held owing to inclement weather. Weather - Heavy rain, cold and windy.	
"	3	0845	Further rain, and cold conditions. Syllabus 3-15 MAR. Inter-specialist & Coy parades. Bde Warming Order.	APPX 1C APPX 1A
"	4	0845	Bn exercise DIMRA to Trig 160 via GAZA per M.T. Very heavy rain from 1200 to 1500 HRS.	Appendix IB

Evans

SECRET

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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(Erase heading not required)

Unit 2/23 Bn

Date and Time.—From 1 MAR 41 To 31 MAR 41

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
DIMRA	5	0845	Weather: Fine & cool - Company parades	
"	6	0845	Weather: Fine & cool. Company. parades.	
"	7	0845	Fine and mild. A.C. 7 distribution Coy parades	
"	8	0845	Mild & cloudy. Bn defensive exercise	Appendix II
	9	0900	Fine & cool Bn church parade Inter-Unit Band Competition won by 2/24 Bn with 2/23 3rd position	
	10	0845	Cloudy - cool. Coy parades.	
	11		Bn move imminent. At 0750 HRS I.O. accompanied Brig. as advance party	
		2000	Capt. Graham & ORS left as second advance party	

Stewart

SECRET

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 2/23 Bn A.I.F.

Date and Time.—From 1 Mar 41 To 31 Mar 41

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
DIMRA	12	1630	Movement Order No III Part I issued	Appendix III
"	13	1950	Bn moved by M/T to GAZA Rly sta and entrained for MERSA MATRUH	
		2145	Departed ex GAZA	
EGYPT	14	0325	Arrived EL KANTARA. Had hot meal Crossed SUEZ CANAL on ferry and entrained	
	15		After experiencing, en route, very heavy sand storms Bn remained MERSA MATRUH 0515 HRS Embussed 0600 HRS and proceeded to barracks where Bn rostered	
	16		Bn rostered	
		2359	Movement Order No III Part II issued	Appendix IV

Stevens

SECRET

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 4123 BATTALION

Date and Time.—From 1 MAR 41 To 31 MAR 41

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
MERSA MATRUH	17.	0700	Bn embussed and proceeded via CONWAY VIA SIDI BARANI and SOLLUM to FORT CAPUZZO where unit bivouaced for night. Fuel railed	
FORT CAPUZZO	18	0700	Bn embussed and proceeded via BARDIA to TOBRUK	
TOBRUK	"	1145	Bn arrived WADI AUJA, debussed & rested	
"	"	1400	Brig TOVELL advised LT-COL EVANS that Bn would take over duties by 1700 hrs as follows:-	
			(a) POW. Cage (approx 14000 Prisoners) to which duty LT COL EVANS detailed A+C Coys under Command Capt SPIER	
			(b) TOBRUK Security, Gd incl Coast watching and small POW Cage of approx 700 Prisoners to which duty LT COL EVANS detailed B, D & dets of H.Q. Coy under Command Major PERRY	
			(c) A.I.F. Staging Camp to which Command LT COL EVANS detailed Major WALL	

Evans

SECRET

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118 (adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 2/23 BATTALION

Date and Time.—From 1 MAR 41 To 31 MAR 41

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TOBRUK	18	1700	A.C.B.D. & deto Hd. Coy disembarked at WADI AUDA to take over duties from 2/6 Bn as above.	
			B.H.Q. est in WADI AUDA. All personnel warned against handling enemy War material of which large quantities (especially Grenades, Mortar bombs & S.A.A.) were literally covering the ground.	
"	19	0900	all sub-units of Bn visited by LT COL EVANS and found well settled in their respective duties.	
"	21	2000	Pte BRENNAN of B Coy accidentally killed	
"	22	0900	26 Cont Sec Bde. Log instr NO G 11 (dated 20 Mar) issued. Weather fine - dusty.	APPX V.
"	23/25		Bn continues duties - occasional minor injuries from Grenades Mines etc. Weather fine	
"	26	1345	Bn Movement instr NO 4 issued - Unit temporarily	APPX. VI

Straw

SECRET

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 2/23 BATTALION

Date and Time.—From 1 MAR 41 To 31 MAR 41

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TOBRUK	26 (eta)		under Command 24 Aust Inf Bde	
"	27	1000	A+C Coy (relieved by two Coys 2/48 Bn) Commenced move to BARCE under command CAPT SPIER who will take over duties of Town Major on arrival.	
"	29	0900	LT-COL EVANS accompanied by Adjt, Q.O. & S.O. depart for DERNNA where it is proposed to estab BHQ. as Bn now disposed over a distance of approx 220 Miles	
"	30	0900	BHQ. Personnel & Supplies moving to DERNNA in numbers & quantities permitted by meagre amount of lift available.	
DERNNA		1130	Bn HQ. estab at DERNNA in Hotel Blago	
"	31	0900	Bn duties at TOBRUK & DERNNA	

Stevan

Q. M. H.

873/23

2/23 BN

DIMRA - LIBYA

MAR 41

movements (B)

TO LIBYA

12-18 Mar - DIMRA to TOBRUK
31 Mar, at DERNA

2/23 BN
MAR 41

SECRET.

RECEIVED

08.50 hrs. 7

Attended hrs.

By

From CO.

107/15

HQ 26 AUST INF BDE

1 Mar 41

WARNING ORDER.

MOVEMENT 26 AUST INF BDE ex DIMRA.

RATIONING OF TPS - TRAIN MOVEMENT.

1. Camp Site to MATRUH.

a. Unconsumed portion of days ration.

b. 2 days reserve ration.

not to be consumed except emergency Prepared by units.

c. Journey ration (1 meal)

2. a. Hot meal will be provided at EL KANTARA.

b. Hot water for tea will be available at ALEXANDRIA.

c. Hot meal will be provided at MATRUH.

3. WEST OF MATRUH.

4 days Hard Scale Rations for consumption only WEST of MATRUH.

Draw quantity calendar - delivery date.

[Signature]

Capt.
SC 26 AUST INF BDE.

Courtesy of Rations.

DIST.

- ✓ 2/23 Bn
- 2/24 Bn
- 2/48 Bn
- 26 A Tk Coy
- 78 LAD
- Sigs.
- File (3).

Offrs Baggage Detail holiday.

Mens. Kits

- 1. Problem feeding Kantara - Dumping Kits etc.
- 2. Tactical Train. Coy complete i offrs in PL carriage
air attack cc. lay down scheme A/A
When stop, A/A Defence
- 3. AA precaution on Rd move.

SECRET

200/1/155

RECEIVED

Page 2

HQ 26 AUST INF BDE

1 Mar 41

Attended _____ hrs. to

By _____ hrs.

WARNING ORDER.

MOVEMENT 26 AUST INF BDE X DIBRA.

APPROX SCALE OF TIMING:

4. GAZA	D		
KANTARA B	D plus 6½ hrs	6½	hot meal
" W	D " 9	2½	
ALEXANDRIA	D " 13½	4½	hot water —
BATRUH	D " 25½	12	hot meal

Journey Ration

5. Loading at GAZA
- (A) War Stores
 - (B) Tentage
 - (C) Kits etc.

March to GAZA.

[Signature] Capt.
S.C, 26 Aust. Inf. Bde.

RECEIVED

0830

hrs.

7

Attended

hrs.

from CO

108/15

AGENDA

BDE A & Q CONFERENCE

1 Mar 41

By

1. Movement Warning Order.
2. Tentage 87. R.D. ? Shk. Tent
3. Accommodation Stores. Return BOD
4. Probable take-over by BOD on Unit Area.
5. Tentage scale. Not to be exceeded
6. Cotton Singlets etc. + slots Q.M. + Reg. ?
7. Web Equipment.*
8. Re-inforcements - Replacements. **
9. Amn. Some rail. See. Tpt. ?
10. Tpt.
 - a Distribution Units - A Tk Coy. 1 Bu Tpt per Bde
 - b Loading & Weights + load 1 Ton light $\frac{2}{3}$ all vehicles.
 - c No personnel to travel Driver + 1 man per vehicle carried only
 - d Adms. - later
11. Rail Movement - Train GAZA - See SO: rail move. No by rail No by tpt.
12. Carriers. Not taken

Return re strength Bde. 2 hours ^{at}

→ No for training report

2/23 BN OPERATION ORDER NO 6

Ref Map GAZA I/100,000 Sheet 9.

INFORMATION.

- 1. Enemy adv on GAZA via BEERSHEBA rd. He is in possession of BEERSHEBA. Strength estimated one B de with air coperation Sqn. and AFV's. He is bombing all main rds. All other rds. impassable to Tpt.
- 2. Our Div Cav are holding enemy some 15 kilos this side BEERSHEBA. 26Bde is occupying defencive posn astride GAZA-BEERSHEBA RD with FDL's WADI SHERA.
- 3a. Under command 0830 hrs 54 Bde MT.

INTENTION.

- 3. 2/23 Bn will move immediately and take up outside posn on GAZA-BEERSHEBA RD on high ground fwd of TRIG 160 11280906 along the line of contour 150 and will straddle all rds and tracks likely to be used by enemy AFV's.

METHOD.

- 4. Akk coys move as per att table Appx A, in two convoys:- No I A and B, No " C and D, HQ and BHQ. A ech tpt will follow coy convoys. Carriers will protect convoys en route and will patrol WADI SHERA area on arrival. No I convoy will occupy intermediate post posn astride GAZA -BEERSHEBA rd on high grpund Contour 100 Map Ref ~~10450984~~ 10450984 and remain in posn for 20 minutes until convoy No 2 has passed through. No 2 convoy will move direct t o outpost posn.
- 5. Outpost posns will be co-ordinated by BHQ on arrival.

ADM

- 6. Mid-day ration will be carried by all ranks.
- 7. Dress-B attle order. Grd sheets carried.

RAP RD JUNC 11290916.

Intercomn.

- 9 BHQ-Presenr location till 0920, thence reports head convoy No 2 on arrival vicinit y pt 19 on rd at 11300911.

Ack

Issued by runner and signed at 0700 hrs.

Capt.

Ad jt 2/23Bn.

Dist

Copy	No	1	A Coy	Copy	No	8	T.O.
"	"	2	B Coy	"	"	9	R.M.O.
"	"	3	C Coy	"	"	10	File
"	"	4	D Coy				
"	"	5	HQ "				
"	"	6	CO				
"	"	7	2 1/C				

APPENDIX A ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH "2/23 O.O. NO 6.

4 Mar. 41.

Serial No.	Date	Unit	Place		Starting Pt.	Time	Route	Remarks.
			From	To				
<u>CONVOY NO 1</u>								
1	4.3.41	A.Coy	DIMRA	CONTOUR 100 10450984 left of rd	Cr GAZA-Camp RD.	0900	GAZA thence GAZA-BEERSHEBA RD	) Under comd Maj Perry.) Occupy intermed-) iate outpost posn) covering adv rem-) ainder of Bn.)
2	4.3.41	B Coy.	DIMRA	CONTOUR 100 10450984 rt of rd.	BHQ Building	0900	do.	
3	4.3.41	A Coy	CONTOUR 100 11400984	11400909 astride rd.	CONTOUR 100	20 min after No 2 Convoy passes through CONTOUR 100	do.	Occupy outpost posn and contact Coy on rt.
4	4.3.41	B Coy	do.	11370905	do.	do.	do.	Occupy outpost posn and contact Coys on rt.
<u>CONVOY NO 2</u>								
5	4.3.41	C Coy	DIMRA	11330 900	Cr GAZA-CAMP RD	0930	do	Occupy outpost posn and contact coy on left
6	4.3.41	D Coy	DIMRA	11250901	BHQ Building	0930	do.	do.
7	4.3.41	HQ Coy	DIMRA	11250901	do.	0930	do.	Under comd Maj Wall.
8	4.3.41	BHQ	DIMRA	11250901	do.	0930	do.	

BUS TABLE 4 MAR 41

Appendix B issued in connection with 2/23 Bn No. 6

Serial No	Unit	Bus Numbers	Load	Time tpts due at Embussing pt	Time of Start	Density	MIH
Convoy	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
1	A	1 - 6	9 Details	0850 hrs	0900 hrs	10 VTM	20
	B	7 -19	10 "				
		20 -27	18 "				
2	C	28 -33	9 Details		0930 hrs	10 VTM	20
	D	34 -46	10 "	0920 hrs			
	HQ BHQ	47 -53	18 "				

APPENDIX I

2/23 BN TPT EXERCISE- 4MAR 41.

Ref Map GAZA 1/100,000 Sheet 9.

OBJECTS - To practise rapid moves of Bn and teach embussing and debussing.

An enemy force of "Free" insurgents has moved into PALESTINE from TRANS-JORDIA and after various adventures have seized BEERSHEBA. Air recce reveals they consist of a well equipped Bde with an air co-operation Sqn and a fair supply of AFV's. Our Div Cav patrolling along the GAZA-BEERSHEBA rd sent a message to 7 Div HQ at 0600 hrs today stating that they were holding a further adv of the enemy on high ground astride the main rd some 15 kilos on the GAZA side of Beersheba. They indicated their need of urgent assistance and that the longest they could hold out unaided would be 24 hrs. The weather has been so bad for the past month that all native tracks and roads are impassable to tpt with the exception of the GAZA-TEL AVIV rd and the GAZA-BEERSHEBA rd, both of which were recently strengthened by Labour Bns.

NARRATIVE:

7 Div ordered 26 Bde to occupy a hasty defensive posn astride the main GAZA-BEERSHEBA rd with FDL's along WADI SHERA (bottom edge GAZA sheet) and to stop a further enemy adv towards GAZA at all costs. Occpn to be completed by 1500 hrs today.

Brig 26 Bde made a rapid appreciation and decided to move 2/23 Bn immediately in all available MT (apart from Unit Tpt) to seize and hold an outpost posn astride a spur GAZA-BEERSHEBA rd fwd of TRIG 160 Map Ref 11280906 and to move the remainder of Bde by forced march via DIMRA-HUJ-AL MUHARRAQA-GAZA-BEERSHEBA RD, sending all Unit tpt round by the main rd. By sending one Bn rapidly to hold TRIG 160 area, he considered he would be safeguarding the essential ground in time to make further recce and occupation of the Div area assured.

Earlier reports indicated that the enemy air sqn was searching out convoys and bombing them incessantly on the main rds. In his orders the Brig required the 2/23 Bn to move not later than 0930 hrs and be responsible for its own protection. Also, the Bn was to man all rds and tracks leading to TRIG 160 area to prevent AFV's driving through. Warning order to 2/23 Bn was issued at 0700 hrs:- "Bn will be tptd to occupy defensive posn astride GAZA-BEERSHEBA RD. Dress- Fighting Order. All kits to be packed and stacked ready for return to QM store. Iron ration for three days to be carried. No move before 0830 hrs."

UNIT 2/23 Bn. PLACE DIMRA BEERSHEBA DATE 4 Mar 41

SERIAL NO	TIME	SOURCE OF INFORMATION	E V E N T	ACTION TAKEN.
1	0935	Seen	1st Convoy moved off.	
2	1005	Seen	2nd Convoy moved off.	
3	1055	Seen	2nd Convoy moved through A and B Coy occupying outpost 10450984	
4	1110	Seen	2nd Convoy debussed 10930950 Took cover from hostile aircraft.	
5	1150	Seen	2nd Convoy embussed.	
6	1155	Seen	2nd Convoy passed through to Coy 11240925.	
7	1209	Seen	2nd Convoy debussed 11280916	
8	1220	Seen	B.H.A. est 11300911	
9	1230	Message D1	D Coy. H.A. est 11220905	
10	1240	Message PS 1	A Coy in posn and contacts Coy on right.	
11	1415	Seen	2nd Convoy embussed to return to Camp.	
12	1515	Seen	2nd Convoy debussed at Camp.	

KEPT BY J.S. Henderson (Pte)

APPENDIX IB
(cl)

SECRET

MESSAGE LOG

OUT

OUT

UNIT 2/23 Bn PLACE DIMRA DATE 4 MAR 41

SERIAL NO	DESPATCH TO TIME OF	TEXT	REMARKS
A1	All Coy. 1305	Convoys to move to DIMRA from 112109Z at 30 min intervals. 1st Convoy 1330 HRS	To Liaison

KEPT BY Thornick

SECRET

MESSAGE LOG

I N

I N

UNIT 2/23 Bn PLACE DIMRA DATE 4 MAR 41

SERIAL NO	TIME Recvd.	ORIGIN FROM	TIME OF	TEXT	ACTION TAKEN
D1	1242	MALO	1230	In position 1230 HRS Coy S.G. 11220905	Maj Mad informed
P.S.1	1248	SIRO	1240	SIRO in position 1240 HRS. PIRO contacted on Right.	"

KEPT BY

Thompson

MESSAGE LOG

IN

IN

UNIT 2/23 Bn PLACE DIYRA DATE 4 MAR 41

SERIAL NO	TIME Recvd.	ORIGIN FROM	TIME OF	TEXT	ACTION TAKEN
D1	1242	HALO	1230	In position 1230 HRS Coy N.G. 11220905	Maj Mac inform A
P.L.1	1248	SIRO	1240	SIRO in position 1240 HRS. PIRO contacted on right.	"

KEPT BY M. L. ...

200/1/155

RECEIVED

APPX 1A

SECRET.

1900 hrs. 3

Attended to C.O.

hrs.

By

HQ 26 AUST INF BDE

3 Mar 41.

100/15

WARNING ORDER.

No. 6. Q DETAILS PENDING.

Items.

Remarks.

- a. Sandbags - 20,000 To be drawn from RE forward area.
- b. Tentage In accordance with ME "B" Scale
1 Offr per tent
2 OR " "
To be picked up by Unit tpt AMARIYA
- c. Accommodation Stores. To be returned BOD. Except that BOD will arrange to accept balance of Accom. stores, D day provided appropriate papers are available.
- d. Kits OR & EXCESS OFFRS GEAR Subject to alteration will be lifted by 1st line Unit Tpt to Kit store - ALEXANDRIA.
- e. Gas Equipment. To be issued to Units by BOD BARBARA.
- f. Weapons. Expected to be drawn here. Otherwise from Ordinance, AMARIYA by 1st Line Tpt.
- g. Amn. 100% to be issued here, loaded on the man, balance per tpt train.
AT Rifle Amn & fireworks issued AMARIYA
- h. Web eqpt. Balance outstanding issued by BOD, BARBARA during the next 3 days.

M. J. ...
Capt.
SC 26 AUST INF BDE.

DIST.

- ✓ 2/23 Bn
- 2/24 Bn
- 2/48 Bn
- 26 A Tk Coy
- 78 LAD
- Sigs.
- File (3)

Q
BB
Q

2/23 BN SYLLABUS

PERIOD - 3-15 MAR 41.

Date	Time	Nature of Trg		Remarks
(1) Mon 3 Mar (Bn Duty C)	0900-0945	Bayonet trg	TEWT	TEWT under Int Sec
	0945-1030	Lecture & Demonstration guards and sentries	Pl Comds & NCO's	
	1030-1230	DEFENCE - occupn of posn	Map reading and prismatic	
	1400-1630	Bren, Boyes and Grenade recapitulation	TEWT Pl Comds & NCO's night operation	
	1900-0700 Tu.	Night march by compass outpost and patrol exercise		TEWT under direction Maj Birch Exercise and references as per syllabus 17/18 Feb
	2000-2300	Coy NIGHT ATTACK		Exercise directed by Maj Birch
(2) Tues 4 Mar (Bn Duty D)	0900-0945	Bayonet trg	TEWT Pl Comds	TEWTS as above
	0945-1230	Bren, Boyes and Grenade recapitulation	Map reading & prismatic	
	1400-1630	Decontamination lecture and demonstration by pioneers	TEWT as above night operatns)	
	2000-2300	DEFENCE: Occupn of posn	B & D	
(3) Wed 5 Mar (Bn Duty A) (Hill 95 C)	0900-1230	Bren, Boyes & Grenade recapitn	TEWT Pl Comds & NCO's: Bat- tle procedure	TEWT directed by Capt Malloch
	1400-1630	Decontamination lecture and demonstration by pioneers		
	2000-2300	DEFENCE: Occupn of posn and reliefs	A & C	Tactical occupn and reliefs on Bn defensive posn
(4) Thurs 6 Mar (Bn Duty B) (Hill 95 D)	0900-0945	Bayonet trg	TEWT Pl Comds	TEWT directed by Capt Spier
	0945-1230	Decontamination lecture and demon- stration by pioneers	& NCO's: Bat- tle procedure	
	1400-1630	Bren recapitulation	A	
	1900-2300	Coy in withdrawal	D		Exercise under direction Maj Wall

APPX TC

Date	Time	Nature of Trg	Remarks
(5) Fri 7 Mar (Bn Duty C) (Hill 95 A)	0900-0945	Bayonet trg	
	0945-1230	Decontamination lecture and demonstration by pioneers	TEWT Pl Comds) & NCO's bat-) B tle procedure)
	1400-1630	Bren recapitulation	B & D
	2000-2300	DEFENCE: Occupn and reliefs	A & B
(6) Sat 8 Mar (Bn Duty D)	B N	E X E R C I S E	Tactical occupn and reliefs in Bn defensive posn A B & C
(7) Mon 10 Mar (Bn Duty B)	1000 Mon	BIVOUAC: Hasty occupation of defensive posns, outposts and patrols	) A & D
	1600 Tues		
	0900-1230	Bren, Boyes and Grenade recapitulation	) C
	1400-1630	PAD	
	2000-2200	DEFENCE: Occupn of posn	B
(8) Tues 11 Mar (Bn Duty C)	0900-0945	Bayonet trg	) B
	0945-1030	PAD)
	1030-1230	Bren recapitulation)
	2000-2200	DEFENCE: Occupn of posn	A & B
(9) Wed 12 Mar (Bn Duty D)	1000 Wed	BIVOUAC: Hasty occupation of defensive posns, outposts and patrols	B & C
	1600 Thur		Directed by B n HQ
	0900-0945	Bayonet trg	) A
	0945-1030	PAD)
	1030-1230	B ren recapitulation)
(10) Thur 13 Mar	0900-0930	Bayonet trg	) D
	0930-1230	Bren Boyes and Grenade recapitulation)
	1400-1630	DEFENCE: Occupn of posn)
	2000-2200	DEFENCE: Wiring localities	C

Date	Time	Nature of Trg	Remarks
(11) Fri 14 Mar	0900-0945	Bayonet trg	) A and C
(Bn Duty B)	0945-1230	Bren, Boys and Grenade recapitulation)	
(Hill 95 D)	2000-2200	DEFENCE: Occupn and relief of posns		A and D
(12) Sat 15 Mar		B N EXERCISE	B and D
(Bn Duty C)			
(Hill 95 A)			

2/23 BN DUTIES SYLLABUS

3-15 MAR 41

Coys will prepare to mount duties at 1600 hrs on day preceding that indicated in syllabus.

LEGEND :-

Day (long)	0900-1630
" (short)	3 hrs.
Night (long)	1900-0700
" (short)	According to syllabus
Bivouac	1000-1600 hrs following day.

Date	Bn Duty	Hill 95 Duty	Bn Showers	Trg time available	
March					
Sun 2	B			Bn Parade - Band competition	
Mon 3	C			DAY	NIGHT
				A Long	Long
				B Long	Long
				C Duty	Short
				D Short	Duty
Tues 4	D			A Free	Duty
				B Free	Short
				C Long	Duty
				D Duty	Short
Wed 5	A	C	A Day	A Duty	Short
			B Day	B Short	Duty
			C Late	C Duty	Short
			D Early	D Long	Duty
Thurs 6	B	D		A Long	Free
				B Duty	Free
				C Short	Duty
				D Duty	Short
Fri 7	C	A		A Duty	Short
				B Long	Short
				C Duty	Free
				D Short	Duty
Sat 8	D			Bn Exercises A, B and C	
Sun 9	A		Showers		
Mon 10	B			A)	Bivouac Day and Night
				D)	
				B	Duty Short
				C	Long Duty
Tues 11	C			A	Bivouac (day) Short
				D	Bivouac (day) Duty
				B	Short Short
				C	Duty Free
Wed 12	D			B)	Bivouac Day and Night
				C)	
				A	Short Duty
				D	Duty Free
Thurs 13	A		A Day	B	Bivouac (day) Duty
			B Late	C	Bivouac (day) Short
			C Late	A	Duty Free
			D Early	D	Long Duty

Date	Bn Duty	Hill 95 Duty	Bn Showers	Trg time available	
				DAY	NIGHT
Fri 14	B	D	A B C D	Short Duty Short Duty	Short Free Duty Short
Sat 15	C	A		Bn Exercises B and D	
Sun 16	D	B			

SUMMARY - Sun 2 Mar to Sun 16 Mar 41

<u>Coy</u>	<u>Day Long</u>	<u>Day Short</u>	<u>Night Long</u>	<u>Night Short</u>	<u>Bivouac</u>	<u>Bn Duty</u>	<u>Hill 95 Duty</u>	<u>Sat Exer</u>	<u>Nights Free</u>
A	2	1	1	3	1	3	2	1	2
B	2	1	1	4	1	4	1	2	2
C	2	2	-	3	1	4	1	1	2
D	2	2	-	3	1	4	2	1	1

2/23 BN OPERATION ORDER NO 7

EXERCISE SECRET

COPY NO 15

8 Mar 41

Ref maps - DIMRA def posn enlargement.
GAZA 1/100,000 Sheet 9.

INFORMATION :

1. The enemy is moving south from JERUSALEM towards GAZA. His fwd elements have been observed by our Div Cav along the line BARBARA - BEIT TIMA.

2. 26 Bde is relieving 20 Bde in the def posn along the WADI WALLYA with dispositions as follows :-

Right - 2/24 Bn
Centre - 2/23 Bn
Left - 2/48 Bn

3. 20 Bde are withdrawing to res posn BEIT HANOUN area.

INTENTION :

4. The 2/23 Bn will relieve the 2/13 Bn and will occupy a def posn astride GAZA-JERUSALEM railway line south of WADI WALLYA.

METHOD :

5. The bn will move to assembly area 10751079 8 Mar.

6. Adv gd. Comd Capt Spier
A Coy
one sec carriers

7. Main body in order of march -

B HQ
B Coy
C "
D "
HQ "

8. Route DIMRA - TRACK CROSSING 10861063 - BEIT HANOUN - ROAD RAILWAY CROSSING 10691074 - ASSEMBLY AREA.

9. Start time 0930 hrs.

10. Start line main drain 50 yds WEST hardstanding.

11. Def posn limits - right incl main drain to left excl main GAZA road.

12. Covering tps - A Coy
one sec carriers

13. Fwd coys - B Coy right
D " left

14. Inter-coy boundary, incl B Coy. Line break in WADI - TANK TOWER.

15. Supporting coy C Coy 400 yds rear D Coy posn astride railway.

16. Res Coy A Coy when withdrawn from covering posn.

17. Routes. B Coy via CAMP VILLAGE to TOVELL TERRACE. D Coy follow WEST side RAILWAY LINE. C Coy follow EAST side RAILWAY LINE.

18. Comd. Lt-Col EVANS will assume comd at 1230 hrs of def posn. Reliefs will come under comd Lt-Col Burrows res coy area at 1115 hrs until relief completed at 1215 hrs.

Fire Plan.

19. Arty. (a) 10 Pz B ty on SDF def fire zones and in front FDLs ORCHARD RAILWAY LINE - GAZA RD all in front A Coy locality, otherwise DEIR SUNEID village. Fire by observation.

(b) A Tk guns -

One - Junction CAMP RD - GAZA RD
 One - A Coy area Junction RAILWAY LINE - CAMP RD
 One - Junction MAIN DRAIN - CAMP RD
 One - Reserve Coy area.

3" Mortars.

One det (with covering tps) to remain with D Coy for counter attack role. Secondary task on SOS thicken def fire on BUSHY AREA on left front of B Coy. 40 rds to be reserved for primary role. One det def fire on left front B Coy.

20. Carriers. Two secs carriers will remain in res camouflaged in A Coy's area. Role counter attack. One sec role co-operation with covering force until relief completed thence standing patrol through WADI TRACK JUNC 11271113 - B EIT JIRJA - HIRBYA.

21. Stand to 0515 hrs and 1730 hrs. Stand down 0645 hrs and 1900 hrs.

22. Liaison. After occupation the two fwd coys will immediately make contact with the Bn on the right and left respectively.

23. Protection pl. One sec in each fwd coy area. One sec tpt. One sec att covering force and will withdraw when relief completed to BHQ.

24. Fieldworks. Coys will continue improvements to def works. Pioneer Offr will detail tasks to be carried out. Improvements to wiring are especially indicated.

ADM :

25. Bn SAA res 100 yds in rear of BHQ.

26. Medical. RAP located behind CAMP VILLAGE near CAMP RD.

27. Rations. One dry ration will be carried by all personnel for mid-day meal.

28. Tp t. A Ech tpt will not move fwd of assembly area, and will return to B Ech tpt.

29. Dress. Battle order, shorts, shirts.

INTERCOMN :

30. BHQ 100 yds WEST Bde hardstanding.

31. Password. Password will be communicated separately.

32. Reliefs. Completion of relief will be reported to BHQ by sending the following message - "LIFE IS JUST A BOWL OF CHERRIES."

ACK.

Issued by runner and signed at 0800 hrs.

[Signature]
 Adjt 2/23 Bn

Capt

Distribution :

Copy No 1	HQ Coy	Copy No 9	IO
" " 2	A "	" " 10	RMO
" " 3	B "	" " 11	QM
" " 4	C "	" " 12	TO
" " 5	D "	" " 13	26 Bde
" " 6	CO	" " 14	War Diary
" " 7	2 I/C	" " 15	" "
" " 8	Adjt	" " 16	File.

APPENDIX II A (2A)
 Pages 1-4

SECRET

MESSAGE LOG

IN

No. 1

REF GAZA 1/100000

IN

SERIAL NO	TIME Recvd.	ORIGIN FROM	TIME OF	TEXT	ACTION TAKEN
UNIT 223 Bn PLACE DIMIRIA DATE 8 MAR 41					
1	1143	SIRO	1143	Enemy sec contacted in Wadi 10821095	Boo advised
2	1147	HAWO		Occupation completed	Boo advised
3	1207	O.P. 2		O.P. est in slit trenches 150x EAST of I.O.	
4	1210	O.P. 2		B Coy moving to Dimir Sugout	
5		O.P. 2		M.T. moving WEST toward DEIR SUNED 20 mph	
7	1215	O.P. 1	1154	A.F.V. approaching 20 mph from N.E. 10921088	
8	1215	O.P. 1	1154	O.P. est 10781085 1150 hrs	
9	1219	O.P. 2		movement seen at 10801092	
10	1230	SIRO	1205	Enemy at White House 10851085. Dislodged by mortar fire. Spl in ponds Wadi Rt of Ry. Bn. then sent to Wadi opposite White House	
11	1237	MALO		Life is just a bowl of cherries. Request further 5000 rds SAA & 100 2" mortar bombs H.E.	
12	1237	Pero		Life is just a bowl of cherries.	
13	1243	MALO	1240	Have contacted left Bn @ ponds quiet	

KEPT BY L. P. [Signature]
 VX 4015

MESSAGE LOG

IN

Nov

IN

SERIAL NO	TIME Recvd.	ORIGIN FROM	PLACE TIME OF	TEXT	DATE	ACTION TAKEN
14	1241	HAWO		Refuel completed withdrawing to support area		
15	1255	SIRO	1208	Enemy report enemy aer along rd 10881085 am neutralising area with mortars		
16	1315	SIRO		Asking ref of BHO. had no request for runner to report there		
17	1317	Bel's				
17	1327	O.P.		A Coy withdrawing along rd to resume posn		
18	1355	MALO		No sign enemy activity on MALO front. Now standing patrol forward of GAZA - JERUSALEM rd.		
19	1400	PERO		Contact gained with unit on rt flank and MALO on left flank.		C.O. advised
20	1405	O.P. 2		Enemy estimated 1 pl + 1 A.F.V. seen at		
21	1410	PERO		Trig 33. at 1340 hrs DRAKE GA P 51X27702 P.O.W.		
22	1412	O.P. 2		Smoke seen on Wadi 10781086		
23	1417	MALO	1401	Enemy sighted left by rd. Estimated strength 1 pl.		
24	1417	MALO	1409	A.F.V destroyed 10721095 water wheel house		
25	1418	O.P. 2		AA posns notified one at each end pl one at flank		

KEPT BY Lt. Warborn & K.F. Poppy
 VY 4015V

MESSAGE LOG

IN

No 3

REF GAZA 1/100000

IN

SERIAL NO	TIME Recvd.	ORIGIN FROM	TIME OF	TEXT	ACTION TAKEN
26	1422	PERO	1415	Reporting movement on MALO's area uncertain whether gas is used	
27	1423	MALO		will advise later A Coy will rest till 1445 hrs and then protect its flank against penetration	
28	1443	MALO	1419	ford pt area captured casualties being immediate assistance	
29	1435	MALO	1415	Enemy attack appears developing on MALO R flank enemy movement seen vicinity by sta. MALO now being attacked.	
30	1424	PERO	1424	Enemy patrol located on its front.	
31	1430	PERO	1430	Attack on left flank successful MALO withdrawing	
32	1437	OP		Semaphore in use on left flank.	
33	1430	MALO	1430	Being duty coy unable spare runner. BNC. This had not been overlooked	
34	1440	D.P.2		C.O. Fatally wounded Major WALL to be acting C.O.	
35	1445	HAWO	1445	Left ford locality captured 1430 hrs.	
36	1433	PERO	1433	Gas was used. Not now persistent	advised acting C.O.
37	1442	PERO	1443	Coomb's attack MALO area taken place enemy retreating in disorder	advised acting C.O.

KEPT BY

Poppley R.S.F.

SECRET

MESSAGE LOG

OUT

REF GAZA

OUT

1100000

UNIT 5/23 Bn PLACE DIMRA DATE 8 MAR 51

SERIAL NO	DESPATCH TO	TIME OF	TEXT	REMARKS
03	HAWO repld BAKO	1235	Your role is deliberate counter attack against the left fwd locality. You will make your plans and communicate same to BHO by 1330 hrs. On receipt of message reading "Bash them" your counter attack must be launched immediately. One det mortars under your command 1315 hrs. Ack.	
07	HAWO	1430	Bash them	
08	PERO	1426	Penetration MALO by enemy HAWO counter attacks. Watch flanks.	
1	HAWO	1250	Your role is deliberate counter attack against the left fwd locality. You will make your plans and communicate same to BHO by 1330 hrs. On receipt of message reading "bash them" your counter attack must be launched immediately. One det mortars under your command 1315 hrs.	

KEPT BY

J.S. Henderson

SECRET

MESSAGE LOG

OUT

OUT

UNIT BOLO. PLACE DIMRA. DATE 8 MAR 41

SERIAL NO	DESPATCH TO	TIME OF	TEXT	REMARKS
09	SIRO	1327	Normal procedure coy runners reporting BHA @ SDF 3 rockets on Coy comdros over only @ Password Balls. ack.	
010	PEROMALO HAWO BAKO	1328	Password BALLS @ ack	
76	SIRO.	1315	Ref for runner 10751080.	
011	MALO	1400	Enemy estimated one pl. and one AFV seen from at TRIG 33 at 1340 hrs from Bolo O.P.	
012	HAWO MALO SIRO	1407	There shd be two of your runners at BHA	
013	MALO	1412	All picks and shovels to be returned SAA res forthwith.	
014	MALO report PERO	1418	Reports indicate enemy likely approach WEST railway line through orchards.	
015	SIRO	1450	HAWO now left fwd coy @ SIRO move support Coy area forthwith @ role hole counter attack for HAWO area. @ signal for counter attack LETTERGO.	
016	TOVO	1455	Col. EVANS killed 1445 Maj Wall now commanding.	
017	PERO	1456	Expedite return your casualties	
018	SIRO PERO HAWO MALO	1500	Br will withdraw and move to BHA. @ Present line to be denied the enemy until 1530 hrs @ thinning out to commence 1515 hrs @ Routes PERO direct HAWO MALO Railway fence GAZA Rd SIRO GAZA Rd @ Ack	
019	PERO	1508	Advise member Blue Light outfits on hand 15 Feb	
020	PERO.	1510	No alteration withdrawal orders.	

KEPT BY J Henderson

To be kept in DUPLICATE - ONE COPY
to be handed to RELIEVING OBSERVERS

SECRET

REF. GAZA 1:100,000 OBSERVER'S LOG O.P.2.

OBSERVERS NAMES : J.A. ERSWELL PTE VX 27827, PADDLEY K.E. PTE VX 27697

UNIT : 2/23 BN From 1205 hrs - Date 8 MAR 41

O.P. REF : 10771079 To 1300 hrs - Date 8 MAR 41

SERIAL NO	TIME	OBSERVATION	DEDUCTION (if any)	ACTION TAKEN
1.	1208	B. Coy adv to take defences post		delivered I.O.
2.	1210	Enemy M.T. seen moving WEST towards DEIR SUNEID along track 10861092 at 20 MPH		do.
3.	1219	Enemy movement seen 10801092		
4.	1234	Sec of enemy tps observe moving along rd 1088 1092		do
5.	1238	Sec of enemy tps seen at 1085 1082		
6.	1244	Sec enemy tps moving towards DEIR SUNEID. 1099 1091.		
7.	1247	enemy AFV moving towards DEIR SUNEID 1099 1091.		
8.	1248	Sec of enemy tps moving towards DEIR SUNEID 1099 1091.		
9.	1251	Sec enemy tps moved to WHITE HOUSE 1095 1093	enemy H.Q.	
10.	1255	Enemy AFV stopped 1095 1093.		
11.	1308	Enemy MT moving from DEIR SUNEID on main rd to SUAL SUM.		
12.	1310	MT turned off to WHITE HOUSE.		
13.	1311	Enemy AFV moving from WHITE HOUSE to DEIR SUNEID.		
14.	1315	AFV returned to WHITE HOUSE		
15.	1318	ENEMY tps on crest of hill 1090 1097.		

DESPATCHED by RUNNER at 1320 hrs

Signed J.A. ERSWELL PTE.

RECEIVED by L.P. WENBORN PTE at 1321 hrs

RECORDED at HQ by L.P. WENBORN PTE

To be kept in DUPLICATE - ONE COPY
to be handed to RELIEVING OBSERVERS

SECRET

REF GAZA 1:100 000 OBSERVER'S LOG O.P.2

OBSERVERS NAMES : _____

UNIT : 2/23 Bn

From 1322 hrs-Date 8 MAR 41

O.P. REF : 1077.1079.

To 1420 hrs-Date 8 MAR 41.

SERIAL NO	TIME	OBSERVATION	DEDUCTION (if any)	ACTION TAKEN
16	1330	Enemy sec seen on ridge behind WHITE HOUSE		
17	1342	Enemy movement observed behind WHITE HOUSE		
18	1342	Enemy M.T. moving from WHITE HOUSE to DEIR SUNEID at 25 MPH.		
19	1345	2 enemy sec moving to DEIR SUNEID from WHITE HOUSE.		
20	1347	Enemy A.F.V. moving WEST to DEIR SUNEID. 1"		
21	1351	Enemy sec's at 1082 1092		
22	1353	Enemy MT moved from WHITE HOUSE to DEIR SUNEID.		
23	1355	Enemy sec moving in direct front at 1089 1094		
24	1359	Enemy sec went to cover behind ORCHARD 1089 1091		
25	1415	Smoke screen laid EAST of by or 1078 1086		

DESPATCHED by RUNNER at 1425 hrs

Signed J A ERSWELL

RECEIVED by _____ at _____ hrs

RECORDED at HQ by _____

To be kept in DUPLICATE - ONE COPY
to be handed to RELIEVING OBSERVERS

SECRET

REF GAZA 1:100000

OBSERVER'S LOG O.P.I.

OBSERVERS NAMES : K.I. BENSON A.E. CURRIE.

UNIT : 2/23 Bn

From 1150 hrs-Date 8 MAR 41

O.P. REF : 1078 1085

To 1430 hrs-Date 8 MAR 41

SERIAL NO	TIME	OBSERVATION	DEDUCTION (if any)	ACTION TAKEN
1	1150	O.P. est 1078 1085		
2	1206	AFV moving from N.E. towards WADY	enemy recon Patrol	
3	1213	Coy moving into R.T. fwd trenches.		
4	1226	C. Coy being relieved.		
5	1245	Sec of tps seen immediate front adv towards HILL 95.		
6	1312	Enemy appr single file along ry line.		
7	1316	Second sec following first.		
8	1323	Boy moving into left fwd trench.		
9	1342	A. Coy being relieved. One enemy Pl adv to pt 500 X NORTH of our FDL		
10	1410	Enemy attacking FDL at ry lv. Smoke screen laid at 10751087.		
11	1416	Enemy bayonet charge on left fwd sec.		
12	1417	Enemy use "flaming onions" and H.E grenades.		
13	1419	Enemy in possession of left fwd area.		

DESPATCHED by RUNNER at 1515 hrs

Signed K.I. BENSON Pt.

RECEIVED by _____ at _____ hrs

RECORDED at HQ by _____

2/23 BN MOVEMENT ORDER NO 3

REF MAPS - VARIOUS

SECRET
COPY NO 18

12 Mar 41.

INFORMATION :

- 1. Enemy air activity is to be expected WEST of ROMANI.

INTENTION :

- 2. 2/23 Bn as part of 26 Inf Bde will move to MERSA MATRUH en route for CYRENAICA.

METHOD :

- 3. Adv Parties -
 - (a) Road - Report Bde HQ 0750 hrs 11 Mar - IO and batman
 - (b) Rail - Report Bde HQ 2000 hrs 11 Mar - Capt Gahan, 4 OR per coy.
- 4. Main Body -
 - (a) Road - TO and 36 Dvrs.
All wheeled vehicles carrying light loads.
 - (b) Rail -
 - Phase I. MT move from DIMRA CAMP to GAZA rlwy stn as per Appx A. Embussing assembly area - between white posts on road indicated at conference.
 - Convoy echelons will move at 5 min intervals.
 - Loading will be from rear to the head of convoy.
 - Embussing at CAMP only will be carried out under order of Coy Comds
 - Phase II. Train A. Comd Lt-Col B. EVANS.
2/23 Bn.
Details Bde HQ.
Bde Protection Pl

Coys will be debussed at GAZA Stn at 5 minute intervals and Traffic Offrs will direct to portion of train allotted by Entraining Offr. Train will be apportioned in accordance with SO for Tactical Train issued separately.

- 5. Light Baggage - All light baggage, i.e. all Offrs valises, suit cases, blankets, rations, will be handed over to Baggage Offr at Q store by 0900 hrs 13 Mar. Baggage Offr will proceed to station and load baggage on to train independently.
- 6. Protection - The following weapons will be carried :-
 - (a) Road - On man - Rifle and 50 rds SAA.
Per gp of vehs One LMG AA mtg 1000 rds SAA.
 - (b) Rail - On man - Rifle and 50 rds SAA.
Each pl - One LMG AA mtg and 1000 rds SAA.

ADN :

- 7. Veh markings - Vehs will be numbered consecutively prefixed with gp letter B. The number will be affixed to the near side bottom of windscreen.
- 8. Rations -
 - (a) Rail party only - A hot meal will be provided at KANTARA (for which personnel will provide own mess gear) and hot water at a point SOUTH of ALEXANDRIA.

All ranks will carry haversack rations for consumption between KANTARA and MATRUH.

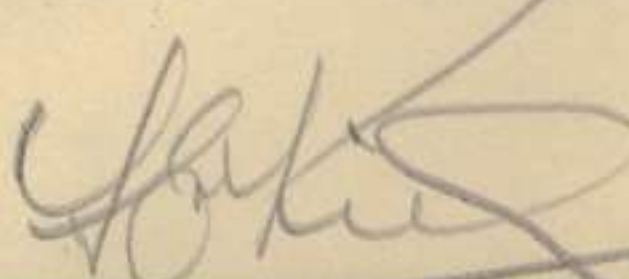
- (b) Road party only - Three days' rations (hard scale) for consumption EAST of MATRUH.
- (c) Following will be carried for both road and rail parties :-
 - 4 days journey rations (for consumption WEST of MATRUH.
 - 2 days reserve rations (for use in case of interference by enemy action.
- 9. Cooking Fuel - Six gals will be carried for each burner and refilled en route as required.
- 10. Water -
 - (a) Water bottles will be carried full.
 - (b) All vehs will carry 8 gals res.
- 11. POL -
 - (a) Sufficient for journey DIIERA - ISMAILIA will be carried.
 - (b) Min res in addition to full tanks will be 8 gals.
- 12. Medical -
 - (a) One ambulance car with a medical offr and orderly is to accompany road party.
 - (b) RMO and RAP staff and eqpt will proceed by train.
- 13. PAD - Train crews have instns to move train out of station immediately air alarm is sounded and not to stop until cover is reached. Therefore -
 - (a) ALL instns contained in SO Tactical Train will be strictly adhered to.
 - (b) Absolutely no personnel will leave train unless ordered.
 - (c) If, however, train is moved from station in air alarm personnel both on and off train will take action in accordance with SO Tactical Train.
- 14. Train and MT discipline - Coy comds will ensure that tps are warned against :-
 - (a) Leaning out of windows, boarding or leaving trains in motion.
 - (b) Removing or altering globes or causing damage of any sort to Railway property.
 - (c) Riding on sides or tailboards of MT.

INTERCOIN :

- 15. The time BHQ will close at present location and report centres thereafter will be advised later.

ACK.

Issued by runner and signed at 1630 hrs.


 _____ Capt
 Adjnt 2/23 Bn

<u>Distribution -</u>	Copy No	Appx A
A Coy	1	1
B "	2	1
C "	3	1
D "	4	1
HQ "	5 & 6	2
CO	7	1
2 I/C	8	1
Adjnt	9	1
IO	10	1
QM	11	1
RMO	12	1
26 Bde	13 & 14	2
26 Bde Sigs	15	1
26 Bde Prot pl	16	1
War Diary	17 & 18	2
File	19 & 20	2

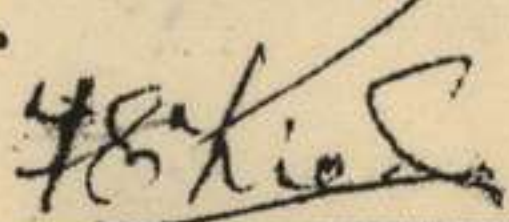
APPX "A"

(Issued in conjunction with 2/23 Bn Movement Order No 3).

MT MOVEMENT TABLE

<u>Serial</u>	<u>Sub-Unit</u>	<u>Convoy Block</u>	<u>Vehs</u>	<u>Men per Veh</u>	<u>Offr</u>	<u>No to Travel O/R</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	BHQ HQ Coy	A A	1 - 3 4 - 12	18 18	6 6	49 151	55 157
2	A "	B	1 - 8	15	5	109	114
3	B "	C	1 - 8	16	4	122	126
4	C "	D	1 - 8	15	5	114	119
5	D "	E	1 - 8	15	5	111	116
6	Bde HQ " Sigs	F F	1 - 5 1 - 5	17 17	1 1	3 25	4 26

Baggage Offr, 1 Sgt and 20 OR will move independently to station with baggage.


Adjnt 2/23 Bn

Capt

SECRET

COPY NO 17

2/23 BN MOVEMENT ORDER NO 3 PART 2

INFORMATION :

1. (a) Enemy air activity is to be expected at any time. Low flying attacks may be anticipated even during early morning hrs.
2. (b) Personnel must be warned against handling Italian grenades or likely booby traps. In particular grenades painted red or having a bright detonator cover are likely to explode if picked up.

INTENTION :

3. 2/23 Bn as part of the 26 Bde and att tps will move from MATRUH to TOBRUK en route for CYRENICA.

METHOD :

4. The move will be carried out as follows $\frac{1}{2}$ -

Stages - (a) 17 Mar MATRUH to LEAGUER AREA.
 (b) 18 Mar LEAGUER AREA to TOBRUK.

5. AA DEFENCE :

- (a) An pl will improvise AA mountings on four 1-ton trucks as allotted.
 - (b) One detachment will report for duty during the journey to Bde HQ at 0645 hrs 17 Mar. This detachment will be replaced in Unit convoy by one from the composite carrying coy, which will report at 0635 hrs.
 - (c) On air raid warning being sounded drivers of vehs have orders to disperse off the road if possible, and then to halt. Personnel will then disperse and take appropriate action.
6. LIGHTS : No fires or lights (except such T lights as are permitted by SO) will be shown during hrs of darkness or before 0645 hrs.

ADJ :

7. ALLOTMENT OF UNIT VEHS :

	<u>30 cwt</u>	<u>1 ton</u>	<u>15 cwt</u>
BHQ	1	1	1
HQ Coy	1	2	1
A "	1	-	-
B "	1	-	-
C "	1	1	-
D "	1	-	-
RAP	-	1	-
QH	-	1	-
AA	-	4	-
LAD	-	-	1

8. KITS : All personal kits and bedding will accompany personnel into vehs.

9. REPAIR AND RECOVERY :

(a) Vehs which cannot be repaired by unit personnel will be dealt with by 78 LAD.

(b) Vehs repaired by 78 LAD will rejoin the unit only during halts.

10. SUPPLY : Four days' journey rations (hard scale) will be carried.

11. PETROL : In addition to full tanks minimum reserve 12 gallons.

12. WATER : Vehs will carry eight gallons reserve.

13. MEDICAL : 2/3 Fd Amb will provide one amb car reporting 0600 hrs 17 Mar.

INTERCOLN :

14. Bn HQ will close present location 0630 hrs, thence reports during move BnHQ truck in rear of A coy.

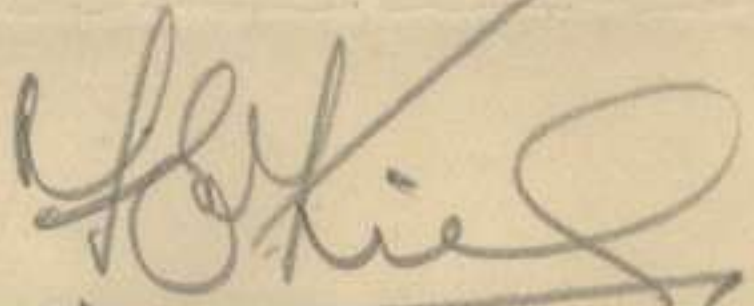
15. CODE NAMES : Bde HQ HOBO
(during move) 2/3 Fd Amb DELA
2/23 Bn LICE
Coy code names will remain the same.

17. REAR PARTY : OC Bde Rear Party - Capt Ghan.
Unit Rear Party - Sgt. McDonald and 7 ORs. Pioneer Pl

The above party will remain present location and be responsible for the transport of unit equipment from the pack train fwd. Four days' rations will be retained.

ACK.

Issued by runner and signed at
2359 hrs



Adjt 2/23 Bn Capt

Distribution

HQ Coy	Copy No	1
A "	"	" 2
B "	"	" 3
C "	"	" 4
D "	"	" 5
CO	"	" 6
2 I/C	"	" 7
Adjt	"	" 8
IO	"	" 9
RMO	"	" 10
QM	"	" 11
TO	"	" 12
AA Pl	"	" 13
Comp Carrying Coy	"	" 14
26 Bde	"	" 15
War Diary	"	" 16 & 17
File	"	" 18

MOVEMENT TABLE - ANNEX A

Issued in conjunction with 2/23 Bn Movement
Order No 3 Part 2

1. ROUTE : MATRUH, SIDI BARANI, BUG BUG, HELL FIRE PASS.

Note Under no circumstances will personnel enter SOLLUH owing to the presence of time bombs.

2. STARTING POINT : SOLLUH-MATRUH RD JUNCTION. Approx 1 1/2 miles from barracks.

3. SPEED & DENSITY ; 20 MPH 15 VTM 5 min interval between Coys.
(Care must be taken that at no time is a speed of 25 MPH exceeded except in emergency).

4. HALTS : Will be observed as follows :-

10 minutes	at	0850 hrs
10 "	"	0950 "
30 "	"	1150 "
10 "	"	1350 "
10 "	"	1550 "

Note - Personnel may debuss at halts but must be embussed ready to move two minutes before the hour.

5. DISPERSION : Vehs will NOT close up when halted on road. When halted off the road vehs will be dispersed at 100 yds intervals.

6. EMBUSSING POINTS : Coy lines.

7. EMBUSSING TIME : 0640 hrs.

8. HELL FIRE PASS START POINT : Head 0700 hrs. Tail 0732 hrs.

9. CO-ORDINATION : Lieut Clarke will be responsible for co-ordinating the move of unit convoy to starting point.

10. ORDER OF CONVOY :

A Coy	6 Personnel Vehs
	1 Unit 30 cwt
	1 Comp Carrying Coy
BHQ	1 Personnel Veh (Adm etc)
	1 Unit 15 cwt
	1 " 20 "
	1 " 30 "

Order of convoy (continued)

Five minute interval

C Coy	6 Personnel vehs
	1 Unit 1 ton
	1 " "

B Coy	7 Personnel vehs
	1 Unit 30 cwt
B	1 " AA.

Five minute interval

Five minute interval

D Coy	6 Personnel vehs
	1 Unit 30 cwt
	1 Unit 1 ton (RAF)
	1 Personnel (stretcher bra)
	1 Comp Carr Coy 3 ton (Water)
	1 Amb Car 2/3 Ed Amb.
	1 Unit 15 cwt L&D

HQ Coy	9 Personnel vehs
	1 Unit 30 cwt
HQ Coy	1 " 1 Ton
	1 " 15 cwt
HQ	1 3 Comp Carrying Coy 3 ton
	1 Unit 1 ton
	1 Unit AA.

Five minute interval

APPX V.
I.O.

26 AUST INF BDE

TNG INSTNS NO G 11

BDE HQ
20 Mar 41.

1. PERIOD.

This instn covers the period to 31 Mar 41.

2. GENERAL.

The Brig wishes particular attention paid to:

a. Tng of Bn & Coy Hq, with special reference to:

Dispersion

Air Defence

Communications.

b. Fd Craft in relation to local conditions

c. Protection against air attack and observation, both at rest and on the move.

d. Protection against AFVs, particularly small raiding patrols.

3. TAC TNG.

a. It is desired that, in general, tac tng be confined to the coy, or equivalent sub-unit. Simple exercises involving co-operation between coys and of coys with "specialist" pls should, however, be undertaken.

b. The tng of Bn Hq and the sig pl can best be effected, at this stage, by skeleton exercises.

4. WEAPON TNG.

a. A number of captured weapons have been distributed and more will become available shortly. These weapons are issued primarily for firing practice and it is not intended that they be treated as an alternative war eqpt to our own.

b. It is particularly desired that the max use be made of such amn, enemy and our own, as may become available.

c. Units will arrange the selection and construction of their own ranges. In general, these should be sited so that the ultimate recipient of any stray bullets is the sea.

Ranges must receive Bde approval after construction and before use. It is recommended that the site also be referred before work is commenced, to avoid clashes with other units.

5. MT.

The recent move will have disclosed some defects in convoy running and leaguering. As far as the limited eqpt will permit, attention is to be given to

Veh density

Maintenance of station.

Movement into and out of deviations.

Movement into and out of leaguer areas.

6. INITIATIVE.

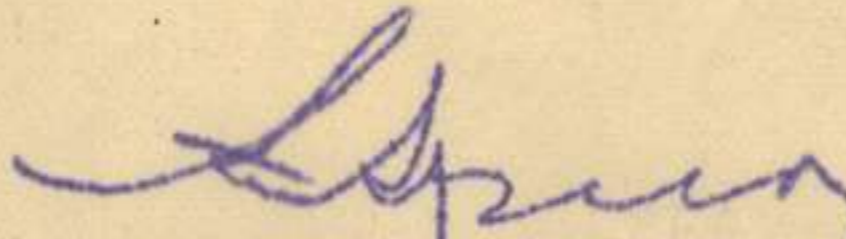
Some offrs and NCOs are not showing the initiative which is to be expected of their rank. While bull-at-a-gate methods are to be depreciated, those in authority must be able to look after themselves and their men without too much dependence upon higher authority. Two instances, while not entirely illustrative of the defect, are of interest -

i. A C.MS called at Bde at MATRUH on the first night and complained that he had insufficient rations in hand to feed all his men and asked advice as to what he should do.

ii An offr, faced with a lack of drinking water, could think of no alternative but to wait for Bde to provide it.

7. NOTES FROM THE SUDAN.

The attention of all concerned should be drawn to appx A.


Capt.
BM 26 Aust Inf Bde..

DIST.

2/23 Bn	15
2/24 Bn	15
2/48 Bn	15
78 LAD	1
Bde Sigs	2
ND	2
File	

Our Diary

APPX VI

SECRET

COPY NO 16

2/23 BN MOVEMENT INSTN NO 4.

26 Mar 41.

INFORMATION :

1. 2/23 Bn comes temporarily under comd 24 Aust Inf Bde on evening of 26 Mar 41.

INTENTION :

2. The Bn will take over further security duties DERNA and BARCE areas.

METHOD :

3. (a) HQ Coy and B Coy will remain at present TOBRUK security duties.
 (b) A and C Coys relieved by 2/48 Bn on morning 26 Mar 41, will move to BARCE, commencing afternoon of 26 Mar to take over PW gd from adv party 2/48 Bn.
 (c) Capt Spier will take over duties of Town Major BARCE forthwith.
 (d) D Coy will remain in TOBRUK until relieved by 24 Bde (probably morning of 27 Mar) when it will move to DERNA and relieve the coy of 2/48 Bn already there.

4. Tp Carrying Tpt : As soon as tpt becomes available 3-ton vehs from 26 Bde will report POW Camp, allotted as under :-
 12 Personnel
 2 Stores

In order to leave sufficient space for other stores in these vehs all personnel kit will be carried in personnel vehs.

ADM :

5. Unit tpt is allocated as follows and will report forthwith :-
 A and C Coys 1 30-cwt
 D Coy 1 1-ton
 QM 1 30-cwt.
6. Small Arms Automatic weapons allotted as follows :-
 7 Bren LMG's 1 Breda (Italian) per rifle Coy, balance HQ Coy.
7. Boys Anti-Tk Rifles - two per rifle coy, balance HQ Coy.
8. Mortars : Italian mortars allotted as follows :-
 2 per rifle coy, balance HQ Coy.
9. Medical : A and C Coys - 1 NCO, 4 stretcher bearers
 D Coy - 1 NCO, 2 stretcher bearers
10. Returns : All returns, stores, etc. will obtain and will be forwarded to BHQ as rapidly as possible.

INTERCOMN :

11. BHQ will remain at present location until further notice.

ACK.

Issued by DR and signed at 1345 hrs.


 Adjnt 2 /23 Bn. Capt

Distribution :

Copy No 1	A Coy	Copy No 11	RMO
" " 2	B "	" " 12	QM
" " 3	C "	" " 13	26 Bde
" " 4	D "	" " 14	24 "
" " 5	HQ "	" " 15	9 Div
" " 6	CO	" " 16 & 17	War Diary
" " 7	2 I/C	" " 18 & 19	File
" " 8	Adjnt	" " 20	TOBRUK Area Comd
" " 9	IO		
" " 10	TO		

INTENTION

1. The Bde (less 2/23 Bn) will move fwd to the BARCE area as tpt becomes available.

METHOD

2. 2/24 Bn.
 - a. Will move fwd commencing about midday 26 Mar.
 - b. The Bn will make as rapid progress as possible.
 - c. An offr will be sent fwd from the leaguer area on the morning of 27 Mar to arrange with CYRENAICA Comd HQ for a guide to the unit destination (This is in accordance with a verbal instn from B.G.S. CYRENAICA Comd)
3. 2/48 Bn.
 - a. TOBRUK Sub Area has made arrangements for the two coys in TOBRUK to take over duties of two coys of 2/23 Bn forthwith and to remain until relieved by 24 Aust Inf Bde (probably on morning of 27 Mar.)
 - b. One Coy now in DERNA will remain there until relieved by a coy from 2/23 Bn (probably late on 27 Mar)
 - c. The bn, less the coy at DERNA, will move fwd as soon as possible after tpt becomes available and will pick up the coy at DERNA in passing.
4. 2/23 Bn
 - a. Will come under comd 24 Aust Inf Bde on the arrival of that Bde at TOBRUK.
 - b. HQ coy and one rifle coy will remain in TOBRUK.
 - c. Two rifle coys relieved by 2/48 Bn on morning 26 Mar will move to BARCE commencing afternoon of 26 Mar to take over PW gd from adv party 2/24 Bn at present there. The best speed possible must be made. O.C will report to Town Major on arrival.
 - d. With these two coys will be :
 - (i) An offr plus one clerk and one batman to take over duties of Town Major BARCE.
 - (ii) A small det of pnrs for constructional work at PW cage.
 - e. One rifle coy will remain in TOBRUK until relieved by 24 Bde (probably on morning 27 Mar) when it will move to DERNA and relieve the coy of 2/48 Bn now there.
5. Unit Tpt
 - a. 2/23 Bn will hand over to 2/24 Bn ALL tpt on charge except one 30 cwt and one 1-ton veh.
Tpt for internal adm at TOBRUK will be made available by the Area Comd TOBRUK.
 - b. 2/48 Bn will hand over to 2/24 Bn ALL tpt not actually required for internal adm at GAZALA and DERNA.
Tpt in TOBRUK will be provided by the Area Comd TOBRUK.
 - c. Transfers will be completed by 1100 hrs 26 Mar.
6. TP carrying Tpt

As it becomes available after reporting to Bde HQ, 3 -ton vehs will be allotted as follows:

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Stores</u>
2/23 Bn (two coys)	12	2
2/24 Bn and details 20 Bde	34	5
L Sec Sigs	2	2

In order to leave sufficient space for other stores in these vehs, ALL personal kit will be carried in personnel vehs.

ADM

- a. See Appx A issued 25 Mar.
- b. MEDICAL para is cancelled.

INTERCOMN

- a. Bde Adv HQ will move in rear of 2/24 Bn and will open in new location on arrival.
- b. Bde Rear HQ (for movement control only) will remain present location for time being.
- c. W/T silence will be observed pending further orders.

ACK

Alpen Capt.
BN 26 Aust Inf Bde.

Signed at hrs 26 Mar
Issued by special DR.

Distribution :

Copy No 1	2/23 Bn
2	2/24 Bn
3	2/48 Bn
4	L Sec sigs
5	78 LAD
6	Sigs 9 Div (for info)
7	2/23 Fd Amb (for info)
8	Comd
9	B.T.O.
10-12	Spare
13-14	File
15-16	WD

SECRET.

SECURITY OFFICERS WEEKLY REPORT.

UNIT. CAMO

SECURITY OFFICER

Amickay Lieut

Report for ² week ending 24 Mar 41

Serial No. 13

INFORMATION.

1. Political Nothing to report

2. Morale (a) Troops Excellent

(b) Neighbouring Public None

3. Subversive Security No literature distributed or literature made

4. Security of (a) Information Street Censorship + all reqs completed work.

(b) Personnel Wide dispersion + Sangars on Slet trenches used.

(c) Material & Equipment Widely dispersed - all vehicles Camouflage Painted

5. Lectures 18 Mar } by Corp re danger of handling enemy war material.

6. General Remarks } One (1) Casualty by Italian Automatic Pistol - accidental. Several minor injuries from Italian Grenades. Comprehensive Security Instructions + evols re conduct of Brit. P.O.W. issued 24 Mar 41

Amickay

Amickay Lieut.
I.C. 2/23 Bn. A.I.F.

SECRET.

SECURITY OFFICERS WEEKLY REPORT.

UNIT. **2/23 BATTALION**

SECURITY OFFICER

Aln McKey Lieut

Report for week ending **10 MAR 1941**

Serial No. *12*

INFORMATION.

1. Political *Nothing to report*

2. Morale (a) Troops *Excellent*

(b) Neighbouring Public *Very good*

3. Subversive Security ✓

4. Security of (a) Information *No disclosures attempted
Street Censorship*

(b) Personnel *All visits completed with*

(c) Material & Equipment *" " " "*

5. Lectures —

6. General *During the past week numerous Security
systems have again been distributed
throughout unit.*

Boon

Aln McKey

Lieut.

I.O. 2/23 Bn. A.I.F.

SECRET.

SECURITY OFFICERS WEEKLY REPORT.

UNIT. *2/23 Battalion* SECURITY OFFICER *A. N. McKoy, Lieut*
Report for week ending *3 Mar 41*
Serial No. *11*

INFORMATION.

1. Political *Nothing to report*
2. Morale (a) Troops *Excellent*
(b) Neighbouring Public *Good*
3. Subversive Security *—*
4. Security of (a) Information *Strict censorship*
(b) Personnel *all insets complied with*
(c) Material & Equipment *.....*
5. Lectures *—*
6. General *—*

W. Brown

J. A. Hutchinson Lieut.
for I.O. 2/23 Bn. A.I.F.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCEFor Official Use OnlyHQ 2/23 Bn AIF,
6 Mar 41.ROUTINE ORDERS

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS, Commanding 2/23 BnR/O Part 1 - No 62/4041

1. BAND CONTEST : It is advised that the band contest postponed Sun 2 Mar will take place on Sun next 9 Mar 41. All instns as set out in R/O No 61/4041 of 27 Feb (Paras 5, 6, 7 and 8) will apply.
2. UNIT MAGAZINE : All ranks are advised that the second issue of "MUD & BLOOD" is available at Coy HQ.
3. ACT OF GALLANTRY : Following are details of an act of gallantry by NX 16593 Gnr H THOMAS 2/5 Fd Regt:-

Gnr Thomas was on convoy duty in ALEXANDRIA on 16 Jan 41 when he saw a 30 cwt army truck on fire. The veh was standing unattended and contained 200 gallons of petrol in 4-gallon tins, and a quantity of SAA. Although the fire had gained a good hold and some of the amn was exploding, Gnr Thomas leapt on to the truck and removed two rifles and the petrol and amn. Then noticing that the drs seat had burst into flames, he smashed the rear door of the locked compartment, and regardless of personal danger, crawled through into the compartment, opened the door from the inside, and extinguished the fire with his hat and hands. By his cool and determined action Gnr Thomas saved an army veh and valuable army stores from destruction by fire.
4. SUNBURN : Tps are warned against the danger of sunburn. To develop a protective tan the parts of the body usually covered should be exposed for a period not exceeding half an hour a day. Provided there is no harmful reaction this time may be increased ten minutes each day until a suitable tan has developed. Neglect of these precautions will entail disciplinary action.
5. OUTPATIENTS TO HQPS: Personnel attending Hosps as outpatients or for consultation will take cut lunches with them if it is likely that the period away from camp will extend over the mid-day meal.
6. PROTECTION OF TENTAGE :
 - (a) At this time, when the most economical use of all available shipping space is of vital importance to the prosecution of the war, particularly in the ME, any action which deprives the Army of essential stores is comparable with "Fifth Columnist" activity and this aspect of such losses should be brought to the notice of all ranks by Coy Comds.
 - (b) It has become apparent that insufficient attention is being given to the important duty of guarding tentage.
 - (c) Sufficient gd will be maintained at all times to ensure that tents, whether occupied by personnel or for use as stores, are adequately safeguarded against possible theft, or damage to tent walls, poles, pegs, etc.

(Signed) F. E. KIEL, Capt
Adjnt 2/23 Bn

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

For Official Use Only

HQ 2/23 Bn AIF,
28 Mar 41.

ROUTINE ORDERS

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS, Commanding 2/23 Bn AIF

R/O Part 1 - No 65/4041

I.O.

1. BOOBY TRAPS : Tps are warned against a new type of booby trap found. Details are as follows :- Short length of iron pipe fitted with a loosely fitting wood block which can slide along the axis. This block is fitted with steel dowels both sides. Ends of the pipe are plugged with explosive charge from hand grenade with detonator facing inwards. When the pipe is lifted the wood block slides down to either end where the steel dowel contacts detonator and fires the charge.
2. LOSTING : The attention of all ranks is drawn to the following extract from CRO 283 of 8 Mar 41 :-
 - (a) Cases are prevalent of the removal and appropriation of -
 - (i) Spare parts, accessories etc from captured enemy vehs.
 - (ii) Weapons, amm, eqpt, effects etc captured from enemy.
 - (b) This practice will cease forthwith and infringements will be dealt with as a disciplinary matter.
 - (c) In no circumstances will vehs, spare parts, accessories, weapons, amm, eqpt etc., whether captured enemy or British property, be removed except on the express authority of a Staff Offr of the HQ of the Area concerned, or b personnel of units when actually on duty clearing up the battle field under the orders of the Area Comd concerned.
3. TROPHIES OF WAR AND OTHER CAPTURED MATERIAL : Captured material which may be claimed by Coys as trophies of war will be notified to BNQ for submission to GHQ., ME, with particulars of the circumstances of the capture. If the material claimed cannot be retained by the Unit, it will be clearly marked with the unit's name and evacuated through Salvage channels to be taken charge of by the Deputy Controller of Salvage in accordance with Field Service Regulations Vol 1, 1939, Sec 157, para 5. Captured material required for issue for further use will not as a rule be regarded as trophies of war, e.g. revolvers, rifles, amm, optical stores, tech eqpt, etc and other items which are clearly of value.
Disciplinary action will be taken against all ranks committing a breach of the above instructions.
4. ENEMY MUNITIONS AND EXPLOSIVES : The attention of all ranks is drawn to the following instra issued by HQ 9 Aust Div :-

"It has been brought to notice that some individuals have in their possession captured enemy material of an explosive nature, and that such material is sometimes being tested or experimented with by unqualified personnel. Possible deterioration or damage to such material, and particularly unqualified interference therewith, can only result in the possibility of serious accident. The retention of such material by unauthorised personnel is forbidden, and any now held is to be handed in to BNQ for appropriate disposal."

(Signed) F. H. KIRK, Capt.
Adjt 2/23 Bn

2/23 BATTALION

Unit.

Army Form W. 3009
(page 2)

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009.

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.					REMARKS.		
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers															
Butchers															
Carpenters and Joiners															
Clerks															
Despatch Riders															
Draughtsmen (topo)															
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.															
Electricians															
Farriers															
Fitters															
Masons															
Painters and Decorators															
Plumbers and Gasfitters															
Saddlers and Harness Makers															
Signallers															
Storemen technical															
Vickers Machine Gunners															
Cooks															
General duty personnel								17							(Part of 1st REINF)
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)								17							

2/23 BATTALION

Unit.

J.A. Hutchinson Lieut

Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch

1 MAR 41

26 Bde 7 AVS DIV.

D.3459.

Bde., Divn., Area, &c., with which unit is serving.

War Diary

TO BE MADE UP TO AND FOR SATURDAY IN EACH WEEK.

Army Form W.3008.
(Page 1.)
(Adapted.)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

2/23 BATTALION

(Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels ...			
Majors ...			
Captains ...			
Lieutenants ...	25		
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...			
TOTALS ...	37		

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known)
apt	Brown M B		H. P. B. I. E. Base

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.
(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1st Lt	42973	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42974	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42975	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42976	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42977	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42978	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42979	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42980	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42981	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42982	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42983	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42984	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42985	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42986	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42987	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42988	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42989	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42990	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42991	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42992	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42993	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42994	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42995	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42996	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42997	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42998	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	42999	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43000	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43001	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43002	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43003	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43004	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43005	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43006	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43007	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43008	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43009	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43010	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43011	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43012	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43013	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43014	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43015	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43016	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43017	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43018	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43019	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43020	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43021	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43022	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43023	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43024	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43025	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43026	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43027	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43028	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43029	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43030	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43031	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43032	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43033	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43034	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43035	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43036	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43037	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43038	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43039	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43040	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43041	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43042	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43043	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43044	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43045	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43046	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43047	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43048	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43049	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43050	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43051	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43052	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43053	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43054	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43055	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43056	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43057	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43058	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43059	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43060	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43061	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43062	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43063	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43064	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43065	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43066	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43067	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43068	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43069	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43070	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43071	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43072	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43073	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43074	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43075	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43076	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43077	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43078	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43079	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43080	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43081	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43082	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43083	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43084	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43085	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43086	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43087	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43088	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43089	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43090	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43091	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43092	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43093	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43094	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43095	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43096	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43097	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43098	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43099	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...
1st Lt	43100	W. J. ...	...	Yes	...

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
1st Lt	43101	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43102	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43103	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43104	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43105	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43106	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43107	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43108	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43109	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43110	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43111	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43112	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43113	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43114	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43115	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43116	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43117	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43118	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43119	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43120	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43121	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43122	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43123	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43124	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43125	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43126	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43127	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43128	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43129	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43130	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43131	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43132	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43133	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43134	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43135	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43136	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43137	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43138	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43139	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43140	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43141	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43142	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43143	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43144	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43145	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43146	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43147	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43148	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43149	W. J. ...	...	...	...
1st Lt	43150	W. J. ...	...	...	...

2/23 BATTALION

(Unit.)

(Signature of Commander.)

(Date of Despatch.)

(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

..... (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
	*		
	*		
Lieut.-Colonels ...			
Majors ...			
Captains ...	7		
Lieutenants ...	25		
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...	1		
TOTALS ...	37		

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
LT COL	V147814	EVANS R	21/3 Bn	YES	COND 21/3 Bn
MAJOR	V147897	BIRCH H R	2/23	YES	21/3 Bn
	V147859	WALL R E		YES	O.C. 21/3 Bn
	V147864	DERRY H W		YES	O.C. 21/3 Bn
CAPT	V147814	HAYWORTH W C		NO	IN HOSPITAL
	V147840	KIEL F E		YES	ADTT
	V147839	SPIER F E		YES	O.C. 21/3 Bn
	V147864	MALLEN G L		YES	OLD CNY
	V147854	MORRIS E G		YES	QUARTERMASTER
	V147854	BRUNNART G F		YES	21/3 Bn
	V147837	CAHAN S D		YES	21/3 Bn
	V147844	JACKSON H M S		NO	IN HOSPITAL
LIEUT	V147896	MARSHALL H T		YES	PL COND
	V147837	SHELDON G A		YES	
	V147834	BALCH-MOORE H		YES	
	V147832	BARKER W F		YES	
	V147834	BROWN W F		YES	
	V147837	BOWDEN J R		YES	
	V147837	BROGAN R B		YES	
	V147837	DIETHYER T D		YES	
	V147837	HEVENOR R D		YES	
	V147837	HEVENOR T O		YES	
	V147837	HERRI F H		YES	
	V147844	FALLON J E		YES	
	V147852	JESS C R		YES	
	V147834	GARDNER G		YES	
	V147837	HUTCHINSON J A		YES	ADTT
	V147852	JAMES R W		YES	PL COND
	V147837	HUGHES A T		YES	
	V147837	HARDING W C		YES	SK OFFER
	V147850	ANDERSON C G		YES	PL COND
	V147837	RATRAY R		YES	21/3 Bn
	V147850	ORR T H		YES	Pioneer Corp
	V147809	CLARKE H C		YES	TO
	V147837	MCMASTER H C		YES	PL COND
	V147816	WILTON H A D		YES	
	V147837	HEKBY A D		YES	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
CAPT	V147855	AGAR J M D	AAFC	11-9-40	RMC
CHAP	V147862	MORRISON R H	ARMY CAMP DEPT	1-1-41	DAD RE

(Unit.)

(Signature of Commander.)

(Date of Despatch.)

(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

2/23 Bw AIF Unit.

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009.

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.		TOTAL.
Bricklayers															
Butchers															
Carpenters and Joiners															
Clerks															
Despatch Riders															
Draughtsmen (topo)															
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.															
Electricians															
Farriers															
Fitters															
Masons															
Painters and Decorators															
Plumbers and Gasfitters															
Saddlers and Harness Makers															
Signallers															
Storemen technical															
Vickers Machine Gunners															
Cooks															
General duty personnel															
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)															

2/23 Bw AIF

Unit.

16 MAR 41

Date of Despatch

D.3459.

[Handwritten Signature]

Signature of Commander.

26 Bde 7th Div

Bde., Divn., Area, &c., with which unit is serving.

War Diary

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

423 Bn of J. F. (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels ...	1		
Majors ...	3		
Captains ...	7		
Lieutenants ...	24		
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ... <i>20/12</i>	1		
TOTALS ...	36		

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
	<i>CAPT JACKSON WMS</i>	<i>1110th</i>	<i>4/12/18</i>	<i>Transferred to 1st Bn.</i>

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known)
<i>4/12</i>	<i>Barnes H R</i>	<i>423 Bn</i>	<i>423 Bn</i>

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
LTCOL	V147819	Evans D.	2/23 Bn	YES	COMD 2/23 Bn.
MAJOR	V147997	SIRCH H.R.			2/23 2/23 Bn
	V148254	WALL R.R.			OC. HQ Coy
	V148599	PERRY H.W.			OC. B Coy
CAPT	V148690	KIEL F.E.			ADJT
	V148348	SPIER P.E.			OC. A Coy
	V148694	MALLOCH H.C.			OC. B Coy
	V148309	MORRELL R.G.			Q.M.
	V148358	URQUHART G.P.			2/23 B Coy
	V148379	GAHAN S.M.			2/23 B. Coy
LINUT	V148566	MARSHALL H.J.			PL COMD
	V148319	SHELDON R.G.A.			
	V148334	BYRON-MOORE H.C.			
	V148331	BARKER W.F.			
	V148350	BROWN W.F.			
	V148341	CROGAN D.B.			
	V148650	FETHVEN J.M.			
	V148977	NEUENDORF R.O.			
	V148783	NEUENDORF T.O.			
	V148791	MURRAE E.H.			
	V148664	FALLAN T.F.			
	V148702	JESS C.M.			
	V148321	HUGHES B.T.			
	V148674	GARDNER G.			
	V148642	HUTCHINSON J.A.			
	V148551	JAMES R.W.			
	V148914	HARDING W.L.			
	V148627	RATTRAY R.			NJOC Coy
	V148660	ODD J.H.			PL COMD
	V148709	CLARK R.L.			
	V148314	DEMASTER R.V.			
	V148616	WILTON M.A.D.			
	V148704	MC KAY A.H.			I.O.
	V148760	ANDERSON G.G.			OC. COMD
	V148357	DOWNEN J.H.			
CAPT	V148314	HAWORTH W.L.			OC. C. Coy
	V148743	BROWN M.R.			(in hospital)

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt	V148595	Adams J.H.S.	H.A.M.C.	17/1/41	R.M.O.
Major	V148652	Whitford R.H.	117 Bde	1/1/41	Parade

2/23 Bn of 27.

(Unit.)

22 MAR 41

(Date of Despatch.)

[Signature]

(Signature of Commander.)

26 Bde 7th Div

(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

2/23 Bn A 27 Unit.

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009.

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.		TOTAL.
Bricklayers															
Butchers															
Carpenters and Joiners															
Clerks															
Despatch Riders															
Draughtsmen (topo)															
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.															
Electricians															
Farriers															
Fitters															
Masons															
Painters and Decorators															
Plumbers and Gasfitters															
Saddlers and Harness Makers															
Signallers															
Storemen technical															
Vickers Machine Gunners															
Cooks															
General duty personnel							7	7							
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)							7	7							

2/23 Bn A 27 Unit.

[Signature]
Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 23 MAR 41.
D.3459.

26 Bde 7 Aust Div.
Bde., Divn., Area, &c., with which unit is serving.

2/23 Bn AIF Unit.

Part D. Detail of Surplus or Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009.

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.					REMARKS.		
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers															
Butchers															
Carpenters and Joiners															
Clerks															
Despatch Riders															
Draughtsmen (topo)															
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.															
Electricians															
Farriers															
Fitters															
Masons															
Painters and Decorators															
Plumbers and Gasfitters															
Saddlers and Harness Makers															
Signallers															
Storemen technical															
Vickers Machine Gunners															
Cooks															
General duty personnel															
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A.)															

2/23 Bn AIF Unit.

[Signature] Capt
Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 1 April 41
D.3459.

26 Bde 7th Aust Div.
Bde., Divn., Area, &c., with which unit is serving.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

723 15th AIF (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels	1		
Majors	2		
Captains	8		
Lieutenants	24		
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters <i>capt</i>	1		
TOTALS	37		

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO THE UNIT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED.

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known)
<i>vt</i> 47903	<i>Brown W. R. Capt</i>	<i>723 15th AIF</i>	<i>leave 2.9.4 Base New</i>
<i>vt</i> 47814	<i>Harwood W. Lt</i>	<i>723 15th AIF</i>	<i>leave 2.9.4 Base New request return from unit</i>

HQ 2/23 Bn AIF,
1 Apr 41.

NOTES FOR WAR DIARY - MONTH OF MARCH 41.

The month has been one of movement, the unit having left PALESTINE on the 13 Mar 41. Up to this period the month was spent in completing existing exercises, issuing and checking stores, and packing up on a coy basis ready for active service.

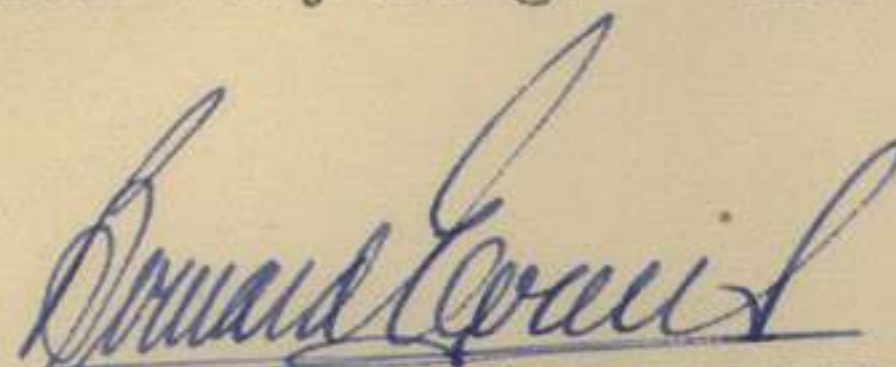
The move to LIBYA was made an exercise and was very well carried out. The Bn is now quite capable of rapid moves at very short notice without any disorganization. All coys carry their own stores and are capable of functioning independently.

On arrival in LIBYA the Bn split up into various detachments at two hours notice and took over the whole of the duties connected with TOBRUK Base Sub-area. This included the management of 14,000 Ps OW, traffic control, general gd duties, and the running of the AIF Staging Camp. Overnight the Bn became a series of detachments, and the unit was carrying out its first serious job of work since its formation.

Towards the end of the month we lost all our tpt, and for some unknown reason we were attached to the 24 Bde, and our coys further distributed on the L of C stretching from TOBRUK to BARCE. I moved HQ to DERNA to be in the centre of the line, thus enabling me to visit either TOBRUK or BARCE and return in the one day. The moving of HQ to DERNA involved great ingenuity in the tpt question, and was finally made in a series of lifts by using an enormous old Italian trailer with an ancient Italian artillery tractor in front. This moved at the rate of 10 miles per hour and struggled along with some 10 tons of stores. Another very ancient motor bus was got going after great difficulty and also pressed into service, as was a more or less worn out Diesel truck; but for the work of the MV fitters the moving of BHQ with specialist Offrs and Sigs, totalling some 74 rank and file, would have been very difficult indeed.

This splitting up of the show will probably be a great test of the unit as a whole, as no training of any description can be carried out, the duties absorbing every man. I feel our men, through not having been able to fire or shoot to any great extent, must be a little "gun shy" and I had hoped to have used a tremendous number of Italian bombs and hand grenades, and general small arms ammunition in setting up some realistic exercises to get all ranks used to the violence of battle. We are endeavouring to do this with odd small parties temporarily relieved from duties.

Otherwise, and in conclusion, the men are now very steady and generally quite capable, with the limited amount of eqpt that has been available to them. We have still never been able to allot platoon trucks as we can never keep our tpt for very long. The Bn is now completely immobilised.



Lt-Col

Comd 2/23 Bn

HQ 2/23 Bn AIF,
1 Apr 41.

2/23 BN - RMO's REPORT FOR MARCH 41.

In this month the Bn moved to the forward area in LYBIA with consequent disorganization of the normal routine.

SICKNESS : Before leaving DIMRA the sick parades were slowly decreasing. URTI and diarrhoea were the two most prevalent complaints, the diarrhoea being probably due to the onset of the fly season.

During the move to LYBIA there were practically no personnel reporting sick. It was practically a week before we settled down again, and during that period there were a few diarrhoea cases and one case of syphilis.

In this area the Bn is split up by Coys, each with a medical orderly, and in one Coy - at the POW Camp TOBRUK - diarrhoea was prevalent. Many minor injuries from Italian hand grenades occurred and one man was accidentally killed.

FOOD : The army diet has been liberally supplemented by Italian delicacies.

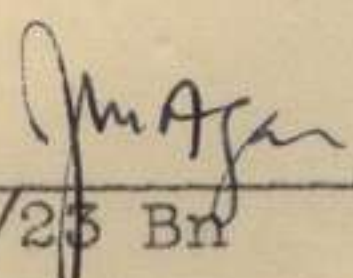
HYGIENE : Since leaving DIMRA we have been in billets or camped in Wadis. Those in billets have had no trouble, and in the Wadis we used bivouac latrines and cook houses.

TRAINING : There has been excellent training for the medical orderlies, who have been out on their own and have learnt to stand on their own feet. The SB's, on the other hand, have had no training; they have been used for Security duties in the TOBRUK areas.

TRANSPORT : This has been the greatest difficulty; at no stage in the move was it considered that the medical equipment was an essential part of the Bn, and it was with great difficulty that enough space was obtained to bring it with us. It appeared as though the Bn thought my equipment should have come later - a most dangerous proposition.

Again, at TOBRUK, no transport was available, and it was impossible for the RMO to visit the Coys at regular intervals.

GENERAL : The RAP is now established at DERNA, with A and C Coys 100 miles WEST, and B and HQ Coys 100 miles EAST. I shall be able to visit each area once or twice weekly.


RMO 2/23 Bn

Capt