

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

Item number: 8/3/23

2/23 Infantry Battalion

June 1941

SECRET

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Army Form C. 2118.

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

Commanding Officer - Lt-Col B. EVANS.

Month & Year - JUN 1941.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices
TOBRUCH EAST.	1	0800	During night 31 May/ 1 Jun, 3 patrols penetrated up to 3500 yds into enemy territory, but did NOT make contacts. Slight Arty activity by enemy, upwards of 60 shells falling in D Coy area but no casualties or damage. Weather warm and clear.	Int Summary No. 6. Appx 1.
	2		A Coy patrol located further enemy disposns and drew fire from WEST bank of BELGASSEM WADI. Deep patrols were carried out to SE and useful infn gained. Enemy shelling slight.	Int Summary No. 7.
	3		Considerable enemy air attacks over TOBRUCH continue. Planes approach from EAST. Only 14 Enemy shells fell throughout the day. The Bn front was well patrolled, including 2 fighting patrols, but no contacts were made.	Int Summary No. 8.
	4		2 patrols by Bren Carriers led by Major Wall, penetrated up to 3 miles into enemy territory and gained valuable infn, and only returned when enemy ran to man 3 tks. Slightly increased shelling on our right Coy Sector. 4 fighting patrols during night 3/4 June did not encounter enemy. Observed MT movement decidedly less. Weather hot.	Int Summary No. 9.
	5		4 patrols carried out, and although no close contacts were made, additional disposns were located. Again only slight shelling, and enemy keeping well away from observation. Despite hot weather & a not too plentiful water ration, all the tps in excellent spirits and morale high. A patrol on the Centre Sector discovered enemy minefield astride BARDIA rd for approx 1000 yds South and 1200 yds NORTH.	Int Summary No.10.
	6		4 patrols were made, but no contacts with enemy. Only very slight shelling and little movement seen.	Int Summary No.11.
	7		Increased shelling - 1 enemy bty located and numerous disposns located as result of continued patrol activity.	Int Summary No.12.
	8		Light shelling, and as usual, no damage or casualties. 5 patrols were made, making the total 55 since taking over the Bn Sector on night 21 May.	Int Summary No.13.

W. H. S. Capt.
Adjt

B. Evans Lt Col

WAR DIARY

PAGE 2

Army Form C. 2118.

or

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~~INTELLIGENCE~~ SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices
	9		No less than 8 patrols carried out, including a very successful raid by C Coy under Capt R. Rattray M.C., when 20 casualties inflicted on the enemy and 1 ITALIAN captured without loss to ourselves. Much useful infn gained by patrol, whilst the POW did not hesitate to disclose comprehensive infn regarding his own and other Units disposns, strength, losses, eqpt etc.	Int Summary No. 14
	10		Vigorous patrolling by 5 parties penetrated deeply, but could not make contact with the enemy, who has evidently discontinued patrols fwd of his main defences in face of the continued activity on our part. This state of affairs is gaining infn of universal value to us, and at the same time denying it to the enemy. It is conclusive evidence that the initiative gained early by our patrols is not only being maintained, but promoted still further. His Arty is inactive, and seldom does he offer a target to our gunners. A Coy went fwd 800 yds and prepared and occupied a Pl defensive posn overlooking the WADI WEDDON.	Int Summary No. 15
	11	1200	6 more patrols made establishing additional enemy disposns on left sector, and deep on our right flank, where a Carrier patrol drew A Tk fire but were not hit. Only 2 shells fell in our area and scarcely any movement observed in daylight.	Int Summary No. 16
	12	1200	Further active patrolling - 5 made during the 24 hrs, but little activity by the enemy. Weather hot but tps thoroughly acclimatized and sun tanned.	Int Summary No. 17
	13	1200	A total of 7 patrols were made but no contacts with the enemy, who allows our Carriers to penetrate 3/4 miles to the SE and only opens fire if they approach a strong point in his defences.	Int Summary No. 18
	14	1700	26 Aust Inf Bde Op Order No 9 received setting out the offensive planned to coincide with the attack on the Frontier near SOLLUM.	Appx 2
	15	0411 1015 1600	2/23 Bn Op instn No 4 issued. 2/24 Bn Op instn No 2 received. 104th Regt RHA Op Order No 23 received. Our activity on the front was confined to standing patrols and no movement seen or heard.	Appx 3 Appx 4 Appx 5 Int Sum No 19
	16		Enemy arty showed increased activity in our area, but shelling wide and not associated with any particular target. Our planes seen attacking enemy posns EAST & SOUTH.	Int Summary No. 20

*John
adjt capt*

*Shawel
Lt Col.*

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

PAGE 3

or

~~INTELLIGENCE~~ SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices
	17		4 patrols were carried out without incident. News of the British attack on the SOLLUM area received indicating a heavy battle between tks. Considerably increased enemy arty activity on our Sector and most parts of the TOBRUCH Perimeter. The SOLLUM offensive has doubtless put him on guard at TOBRUCH.	Int Summary No. 21
	18		No news of the Frontier battle, so patrolling resumed on our Sector. Enemy arty not so active.	Int Summary No. 22
	19		No less than 7 patrols made during the 24 hrs. D Coy made contact and inflicted 1 casualty without loss to our patrol. News of many enemy losses at Frontier, but enemy reinfts prevents a break-through by our Forces. 2/23 Bn Op Instn No 5 issued.	Int Summary No. 23 Appx 6
	20		We made 4 patrols without contacting enemy. Sector generally quiet. Weather very hot.	Int Summary No. 24 Appx 7
		0930	26 Aust Inf Bde Op Instn No 5 received.	
	21	1100	104th Regt RHA Op Instn No 36 received. We carried out 6 patrols building up further infn about the enemy posns.	Appx 8 Int Summary No. 25
	22		Active patrolling over 5 routes was carried out - D Coy made contact in the SE silencing 2 MG posns and inflicting 5 casualties on the enemy. It is interesting to note that no less than 130 patrols have been made during the 1 month we have held this EASTERN Sector. Remembering that the unit did not commence active patrol work until 25 May, the average is 4½ patrols in every 24 hrs.	Int Summary No. 26
	23		Situation quiet and little enemy activity during the day. Our patrols did not make contact with the enemy.	Int Summary No. 27
	24		Increased enemy arty fire on centre and right Coy sectors, but no damage or casualties. Situation generally quiet. Weather hot.	Int Summary No. 28
	25		A fighting patrol of 5 Carriers went to Trig 146, then SOUTH & engaged 2 gps of enemy with MMG fire and returned safely despite enemy arty fire. 5 other patrols were made which located further enemy posns to the SW. Shelling was light. Weather very hot.	Int Summary No. 29

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

White
Adj. Capt

Stewart Hol.

WAR DIARY

or

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices
	26		Light shelling and little movement by the enemy, but active patrolling was continued by us. Following our practice of observing from high telephone poles, the enemy erected no less than 9 towers overnight on our Sector alone.	Int Summary No. 30
	28		7 patrols over the 24 hrs but no contacts, and very little movement observed. C Coy manning an ITALIAN 75 mm Gun only a few hundred yds from our FDL's brought accurate harrassing fire down on the enemy fwd posns astride BARDIA rd, which naturally brings a reply from his arty. Situation generally quiet.	Int Summary No. 32
	29		Patrols comprised 6 inf and 1 by Carriers. A Coy patrol engaged 20/30 enemy at close range but darkness prevented the claiming of casualties. We had 1 OR minor casualty. The Carriers could only see 2 enemy when they went out on a fighting patrol. There was considerably increased MT movement to the SOUTH and EAST, but well beyond the range of our arty.	Int Summary No. 33
	30	1835	Enemy arty was active against C Coys gun and knocked it out temporarily at 1010 hrs, firing the amn also. 2/24 Bn Op Instn No 7 received. Patrolling was on a smaller scale than usual, but since taking over the sector on 22 May 171 patrols have been made. It has required considerable organisation and constant effort on the part of all ranks, but has been fruitful indeed - maintaining the initiative, and gaining infn about the enemy. The weather has been very hot during the day time, but nights are cool.	Int Summary No. 34 Appx 9

OTHER APPENDICES.				
Casualty Returns 10: Routine Orders 11: CO's Report by Lt-Col BERNARD EVANS 12				
RMO's Report by Capt J. M. AGAR 13: Regt Publication "MUD & BLOOD" 14.				
IN Message Log to 12 JUN 15: Out Message Log to 12 JUN 16: ACTION DIARY 17				
OBSERVERS LOGS 18: PATROL REPORTS 19:				

*Amey's report
50-1*

*White Capt
adjt*

Shoan Lt Col

2/23 INF BN

TOBRUK

SPECIAL MESSAGES

FROM H.M. KING
to W.D.F.

Wishing luck in operations; routine
orders 16 Jun.

2/23 BN
JUN 41

MEDICAL - DISEASES & WOUNDS

INFECTED
SORES

chronic. Accounting for 309 sick
parades.

2/23 BN
JUN 41

UNIT JOURNALS

"MUD &
BLOOD"

Daily paper, TOBRUK.

2/23 BN
JUN 41.

2/23 INF BN

TOBRUK

JUN 41

OPERATIONS

PATROLS IN
ENEMY AREAS

nightly. 171 patrols carried out in five weeks.
Enemy showed no inclination to engage patrols,
firing only when strong points near. Casualties
inflicted POW's taken.

TELEPHONE
POLES AS OP's

Enemy erected 9 towers in one night, Jun 26,
to counteract our observation from high telephone
poles.

EA ACTIVITY

40 JU 87's with fighter escort raided TOBRUK; EA
dropped white cylindrical objects by parachute in
sea, Jun 2.

ENEMY
SHELLING

spasmodic, and mostly ineffective.

DECORATIONS

approved by CIC for one off and 5 O.R's. 4 Jun.

REINFORCEMENTS

badly needed. Strength below 500.

UNIT
ORIGINAL
WAR DIARY

2/23 Inf Bn

Jun 41.

APPX 1

SECRET

2/25 BN. A. I. F. - INT. SUMMARY NO.6

COMPILED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 1200 HRS 1 JUN.
REF. MAP: TOBRUK 1/50,000.

OUR GROUND ACTIVITY: ON NIGHT 31 MAY/1 JUN ACTIVE PATROLLING WAS CONTINUED WELL OUT INTO ENEMY TERRITORY AS SHOWN ON ATTACHED TRACE - APPX "A". "C" COY RIGHT PATROL SAW FRESH TRACKS OF HY TKS AT 42254204 - THESE PASSED OVER TRACKS MADE BY OUR CARRIERS ON MORNING 31 MAY. PATROL CONTINUED TO 4230 4196 BUT COULD NOT FIND ENEMY O.P. TOWER IN THAT VICINITY. NO MOVEMENT SEEN OR HEARD.

"C" COY CENTRE PATROL FOLLOWED OLD COURT RD TO 42434220 and RETURNED VIA 42354212 WITHOUT SEEING OR HEARING ENEMY.

"A" COY LEFT PATROL WENT TO 42454244 THEN TO 42504235 FROM WHERE THE ENEMY WAS HEARD DIGGING AT APPROX 42544234. WHILST RETURNING VIA 42474244 ENEMY FIRED A SHOT AND PUT UP RED FLARES.

ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY: AT 0720 HRS. 5 ENEMY SEEN AT ~~RKX~~ TWIN COLUMNS 42424246 MOVED BACK INTO SANGARS 42494245. SLIGHT MOVEMENT CONTINUES NEAR "TALL" HOUSE. TAC R ON ~~XX~~ 30 MAY REVEALED HEAVIER CONCENTRATIONS OF ENEMY M.T. - APPROX 870 VEHs WERE IN EL ADEM AND ACROMA AREAS.

ENEMY ARTILLERY: 1140/1150 HRS TO-DAY 30/40 SHELLS LANDED IN AREA ~~RKX~~ POST KK TO 41924215 AND AT 1200 HRS A FURTHER 16 SHELLS WERE PUT DOWN ON THE SAME AREA. ON 31 MAY A TP OF ENEMY GUNS AT 42384172 WERE NEUTRALISED BY OUR ARTY.

ENEMY DISPOSITIONS: 48 BN. CARRIER PATROL REPORTS CONSIDERABLE EARTHWORKS AND SANGARS IN SQUARE ~~RKX~~ 423417 ALONG A FRONTAGE OF 1000 YDS TO A DEPTH OF 1500 YDS - THIS CONFIRMS OUR OWN CARRIER PATROL'S REPORT BUT PLACES ENEMY DISPOSITIONS SOME 500 YDS FURTHER S.E.

GENERAL: DIV REPORTS THIS MORNING THAT ENEMY HEAVILY SHELLED AND KNOCKED OUT OLD PUMPING STATION (PRESUMABLY ON WESTERN PERIMETER NEAR DERN A RD) FIRING 900 RDS IN 30 MINS AND CAUSING 16 CASUALTIES. 5 ENEMY TKS WERE OBSERVED ON EL ADEM ESCARPMENT AT 2030 HRS 31 MAY. AT 0400 HRS TO-DAY A LIGHTER WITH PETROL CARGO CAUGHT FIRE.

A. M. K. LIEUT.

APPX "A"



420 ———

420 ———
420 ———



2/23 BN A.I.F INT SUMMARY No 7

(COMPILED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 1200 hrs 2 JUNE).

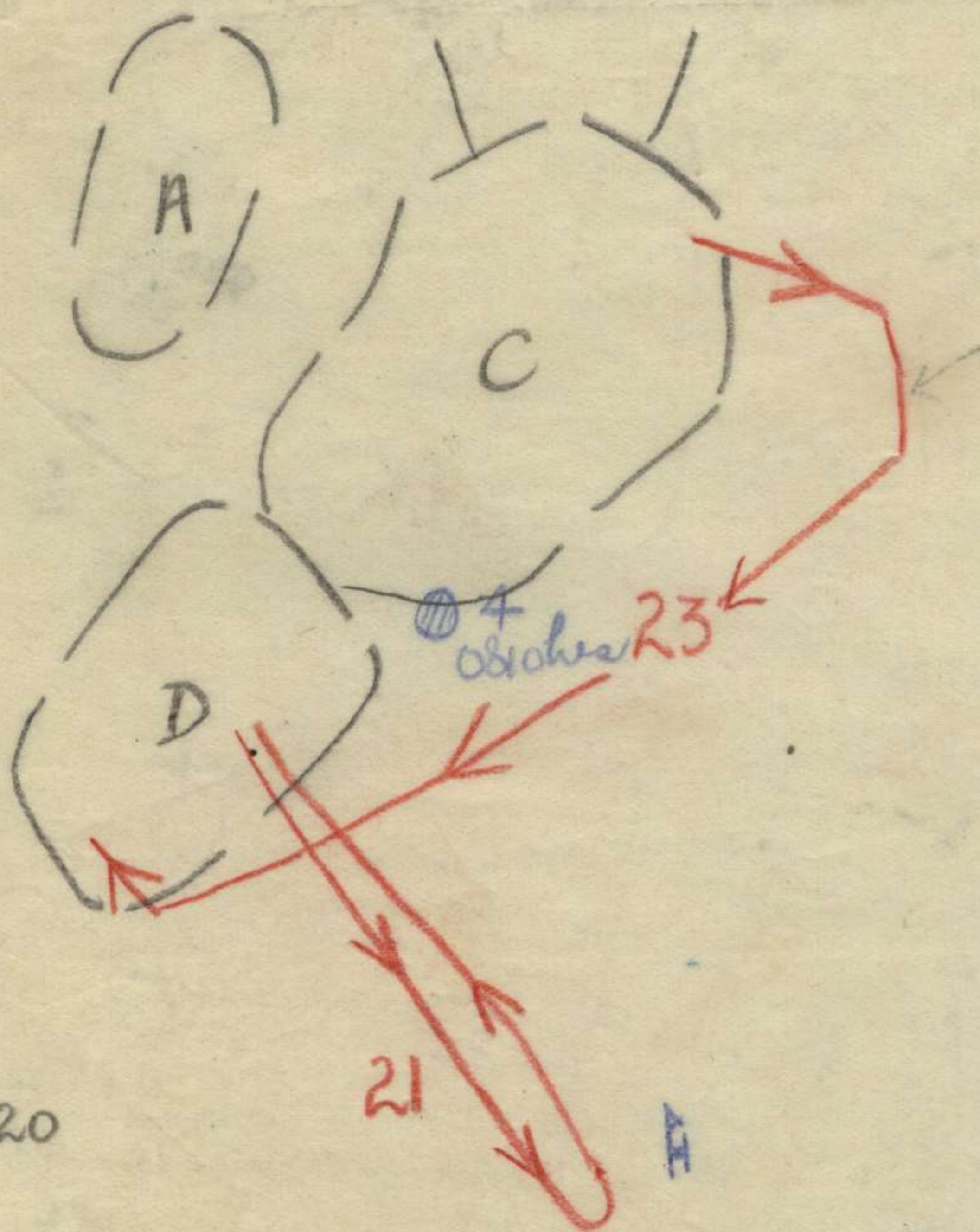
1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY. Our Carrier PATROL 1330 TO 1545 HRS REPO. FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS FROM 42304195:- ENEMY OBSERVATION TOWER IS APPROX 42424191 AND APPEARS TO BE OCCUPIED. 4 MT WERE STATIONERY AT 42444197 WHILST A TK IN A CAMOUFLAGED PIT WAS DETECTED AT 42334199. ENEMY DIGGINGS TO THE SW WERE NOT VISIBLE AND NMS.
 "A" COY RECCE PATROL MOVED ALONG WEST SIDE OF EADI WEDDAN FROM 424258 TO 42444253. ENEMY FIRED ON PATROL FROM SANGARS 42494250 where MOVEMENT WAS SEEN.
 "A" COY STANDING PATROL 500X OUT FROM PERIMETER THROUGHOUT NIGHT 1/2 JUNE REPORT NMS OR H. PATROL ROUTE AS PER TRACE APPX "A".
2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY. SLIGHT BUT PERSISTENT MOVEMENT CONTINUES AT TALL HOUSE WHICH IS SUSPECTED AS BEING A REGT HQ. AT 0722 HRS 2 ENEMY SEEN MOVING SW TOWARDS SANGARS AT 42424245. AT 0840 HRS 2 ENEMY APPROACHED WADI ZEITON OPPOSITE POST Z80 WHO OPENED FIRE AND ENEMY FLED. EXAMINATION OF THE AREA THIS MORNING REVEALED FOOTMARKS MADE BY SAND SHOES 10 ENEMY MT WERE SEEN STATIONERY? DISPERSED IN VICINITY 42374193 AT 0948 hrs UNFORTUNATELY THE BHA WERE ENGAGING OTHER TARGETS AND ENGINEERS COULD NOT BRING FIRE ON THE AREA WITHOUT ALTERING THEIR GUN POSN? SO THE TARGET WAS NOT ENGAGED.
 TAC R 0800 HRS 1 JUN REVEALED 100 MT SW OF ACROMA 600 MT BETWEEN ACROMA AND ELADEM 220 MT SIDI BUAMED AND 100 MT AT GAMBUT WITH ONLY SLIGHT MOVEMENT ON MAIN ROAD.
3. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY. AT 1630 HRS 1 EA FLEW VERY LOW SOUTH ALONG WADI ZEITON TO Z82, TURNED ANTICLOCKWISE AND FLEW OUT TO SEA AGAIN. 40 JU 87's WITH FIGHTER ESCORT TOOK PART IN THE TOBRUK RAID AT 1900 hrs TEMPORILY PUTTING 1 OF OUR AA GUNS OUT OF ACTION AND CAUSING MINOR INJURIES - 2 PLANES CONFIRMED DOWN. AT 2000 HRS LOW FLYING EA DROPPED WHITE CYLINDRICAL OBJECTS BY PARACHUTE IN THE SEA 55 degs FROM 42324262 - OTHER OBJECTS WEREDROPPED 150 X FROM SHORE 43 degs FROM Z97.
4. INFORMATION REQUIRED. DIV THIS MORNING EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION OF THE VALUABLE INFORMATION RE EA BEING FURNISHED BY 2/23 BN. ALL POSTS ARE URGED TO SUPPLY THE FOLLOWING PARTICULARS PROMPTLY:-
 - (a) DIRECTION OF APPROACH.
 - (b) ALTITUDE.
 - (c) WHETHER BOMBERS OR FIGHTERS.
 - (d) UNUSUAL ACTIONS (IF ANY)
 - (e) DIRECTION OF DEPARTURE.
5. ENEMY ARTILLERY ETC. SLIGHT SHELLING DURING PAST 24 HOURS AS PER TRACE (APPX A) DOING NO XXXX DAMAGE AND CAUSING NO CASUALTIES. NEW SANGARS AT 42244190 IS OCCUPIED BY 2 MEN AND IS BEING USED AS A MORTAR POSN WHICH CAN FIRE ON OUR RIGHT FLANK.
6. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS: FURTHER DISPONS LOCATED ARE AS SHOWN ON TRACE ATTACHED AND REFERRED TO IN PARA 1.
7. MINES, BOMBS ETC. IT IS REVEALED THAT "THERMOS" BOMBS WERE DROPPED IN AREA 408426 to 418426 ON NIGHT OF 1/2 JUNE.
8. OUR DISPOSITIONS. ALTERED DISPONS ARE AS PER TRACE.

Amesley
 1

HPPX A

+ 426

J.



420
+ 420

21

H

OP

21 CARRIERS
23 ACOY

S E C R E T

3 Jun 41.

2/23 Bn Int Summary. No 8.

(Compiled from infn received up to 1200 hrs 3 June 41.)
Ref Map TOBRUK 1/50,000.

1. OWN GROUND ACTIVITY.

On night 2/3 Jun the following patrols were carried out.

C Coy fighting patrol, out from R77 to 42474217 thence to 42494228 returning through post Z83. No enemy seen or heard which indicates that previously reported movement in vicinity of derelect tk and carrier have been nothing more than small recce patrols.

A Coy fighting patrol, out from Z83 at 2130 hrs to 42364238 where a freshly dug trench 12 x 2 x 2 feet was found with signs of other diggings near by. Then to 43284242 when enemy whistle sounded and 2 white flares sent up in vicinity of twin columns. Patrol concluded that its presence had been detected and returned by same route at 0200 hrs.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Slight but continuous movement continues to be observed at tall house. At 0800 hrs 2 men left 42404240 and went 250 x SE, 4 men returning ~~to~~ 5 mins later. At same time 4 men were observed to leave sangars 42494242, walk 300x SE and return a few minutes later. Several hy slow moving vehs joined Regent Street from SW at approx 42654217 and moved EAST. They were fired on by OPLE K but no direct hits were registered.

3. ENEMY ARTY.

1840 hrs 10 shells fell in vicinity 42134235.
1830 hrs 4 " " " " 42234219.

4. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

Nothing to report.

5. GENERAL.

Fairly considerable air activity continues over TOBRUK, attacks being delivered from the EAST. At 0941 hrs 2 EA (ME 108s) dived low over Post R72 and fired 2 short MG bursts - no casualties or damage.

Amey

I.O. 2/23 Bn

Lieut

2/23 Bn INT SUMMARY No 9.

(Compiled from info received up to 1200 hrs 4 Jun 41)

Ref Map: TOBRUK 1/50,000.

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

During the past 24 hrs extensive patrolling was carried out on the Bn front as per Appx "A".

(a) Information Carrier patrol route No 29A led by Major WALL discovered approx 10 enemy doubling towards 3 Med or Hy tks at 42254175. The tks endeavoured to encircle our carriers but these then withdrew. It is ~~not~~ considered that enemy are not in any strength in the vicinity of Trig 145 but it is probable that the area is a tk post.

(b) Carrier patrol No 29B again led by Major WALL penetrated to Trig 146 (42514196) this was found to consist of a 4' stone cairn with a 20' pole in the centre and is not an O.P. as previously reported. Ground in this vicinity was thoroughly examined and 6/8 men in sq 426418 were the only enemy seen. A well defined track runs from Trig 146 to Bardia Rd at a bearing of 70 degs. O.P. tower thought to be at 42424192 does not exist and old earth works at 424418 and 425419 are not occupied. Contrary to earlier info this patrol reports that the enemy is not in any strength at 424418 and 425419 or anywhere in the vicinity of Trig 146.

(c) Fighting patrols by "C" "A" "D" & "J" Coys did not make any contact with the enemy and returned reporting NMS of H.

(d) Carrier patrol No 3A reports enemy dispositions as per para 4 SAA & A Tk fire was encountered from these.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Only slight isolated movement was observed on our Bn sector - mainly NORTH of REGENT St.

3. ENEMY ARTY

Shelling as per APPS B on our Sector. No casualties or damage reported.

4. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS As per para 1. Enemy trenches located from 42664220 to 42654215, these straddle REGENT ST 300x on the NORTH side of 200x on the SOUTH.

On 3 Jun Tac R at 0920 hrs revealed enemy dispositions as follows

ACROMA	(60 MT north of LG.	ACROMA to EL ADEM 100/150 MT.
	(60 MT to SE.	Area 414418
EL ADEM	32 MT south of LG	BU AMUD
	(incl 12 large MT)	85 MT.

The above figures show a decided decrease in numbers of MT in TOBRUK area. No change of any movement has been observed in this Bde's area. Enemy at 41304140 do not appear to have increased in strength. 8 1 and men were seen in vicinity 407415 and 3 small & 2 large tks 417041 6 large MT and some tps were observed at 42004146 and 10 men and 3 mt or by tks at 42254175. Patrol was fired on at 421415 by bty of 75 guns - posn of HB not known.

5. OUR ARTY reported having shelled an enemy OP tower in sq 424419 completely demolished it at 1921 hrs.

6. MINEFIELDS (THERMOS BOMBS)

On 4 June at 0610 hrs thermos bombs were dropped in area 419042

7. ENEMY AIR ACTION. 2/23 Bn reported following movements of EA their area on 3 June

0850 hrs 3 EA approx 6 miles east turned NW and flew out to sea

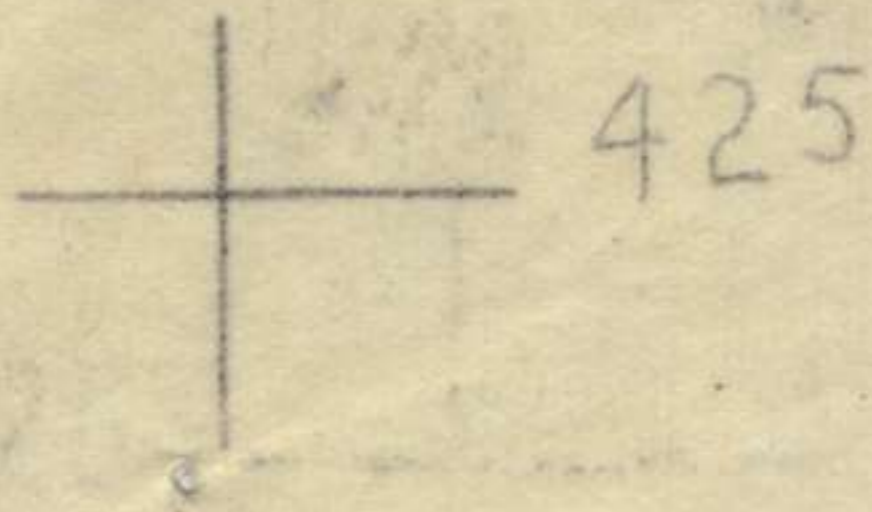
0935 hrs 2 ME 109s dived low and lnd near post 273.

2230 hrs 2 EA flew from direction of TOBRUK over Pet 283 and flew out to sea - one of these appeared damaged.

SHELLING TRACE 1200hrs 1200hrs

3/4 JUN

420

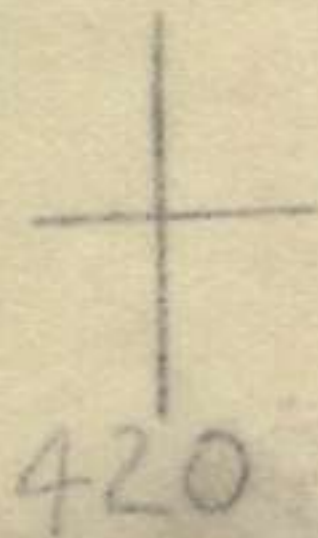


APPX "B"

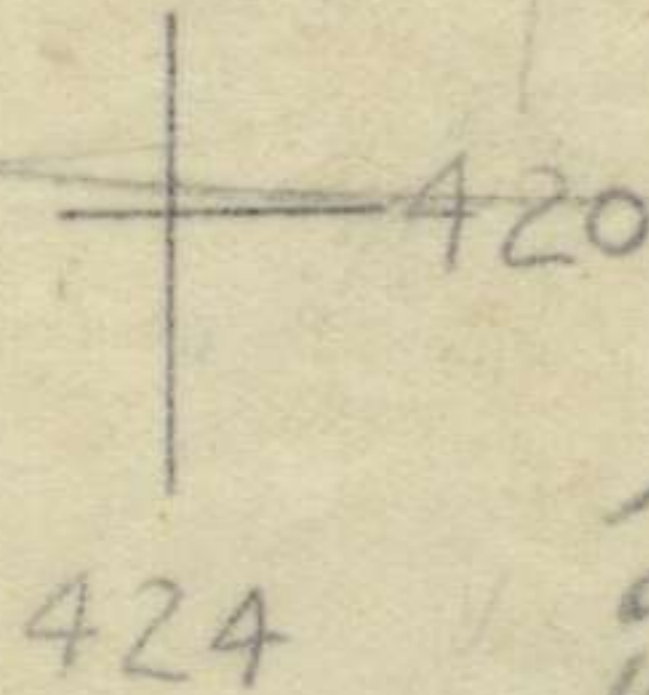
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3/4 JUN



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Location	Map Ref.	Type of Saltpore	Features of Saltpore	Map Ref.
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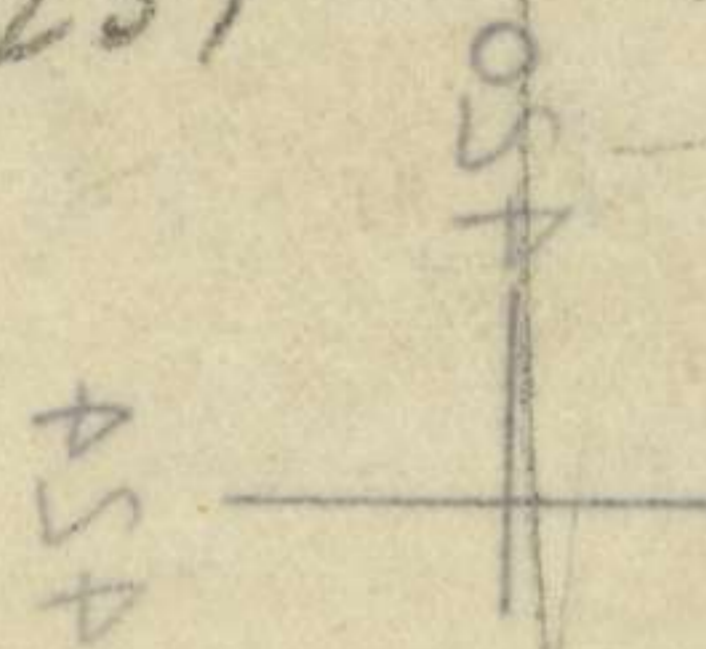
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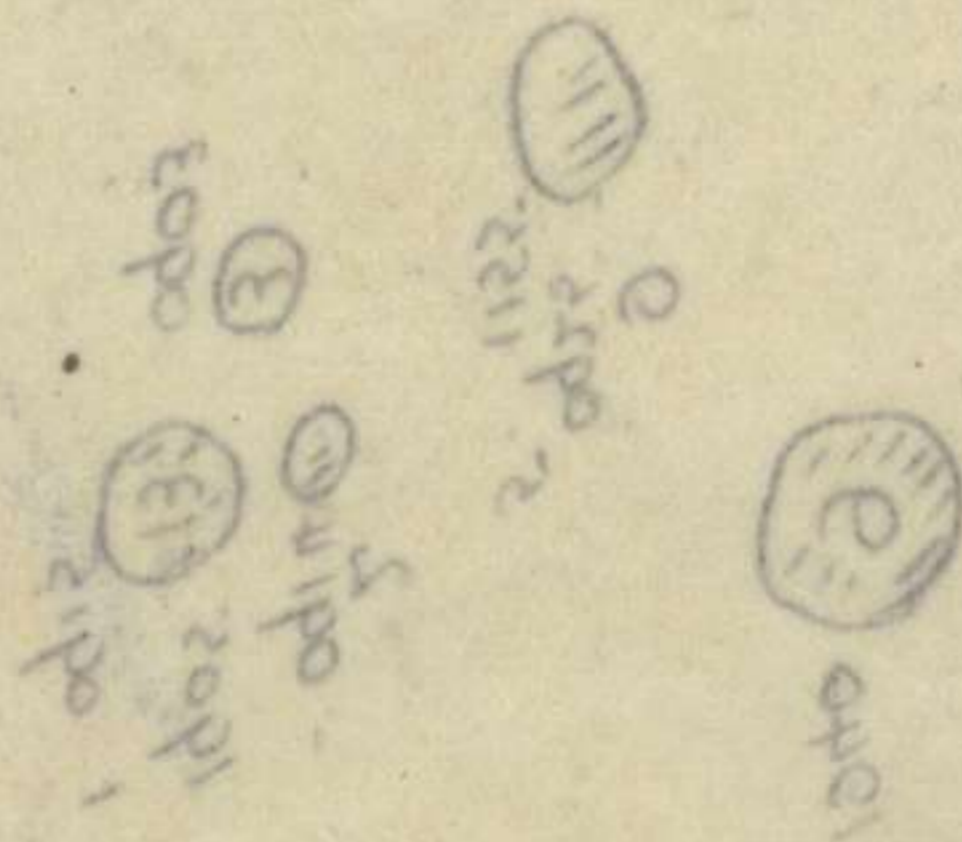
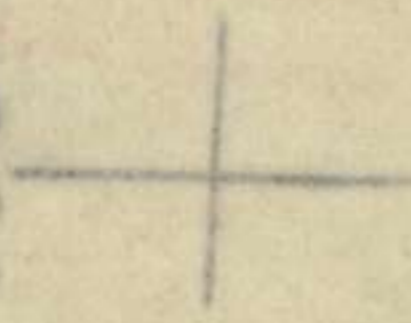
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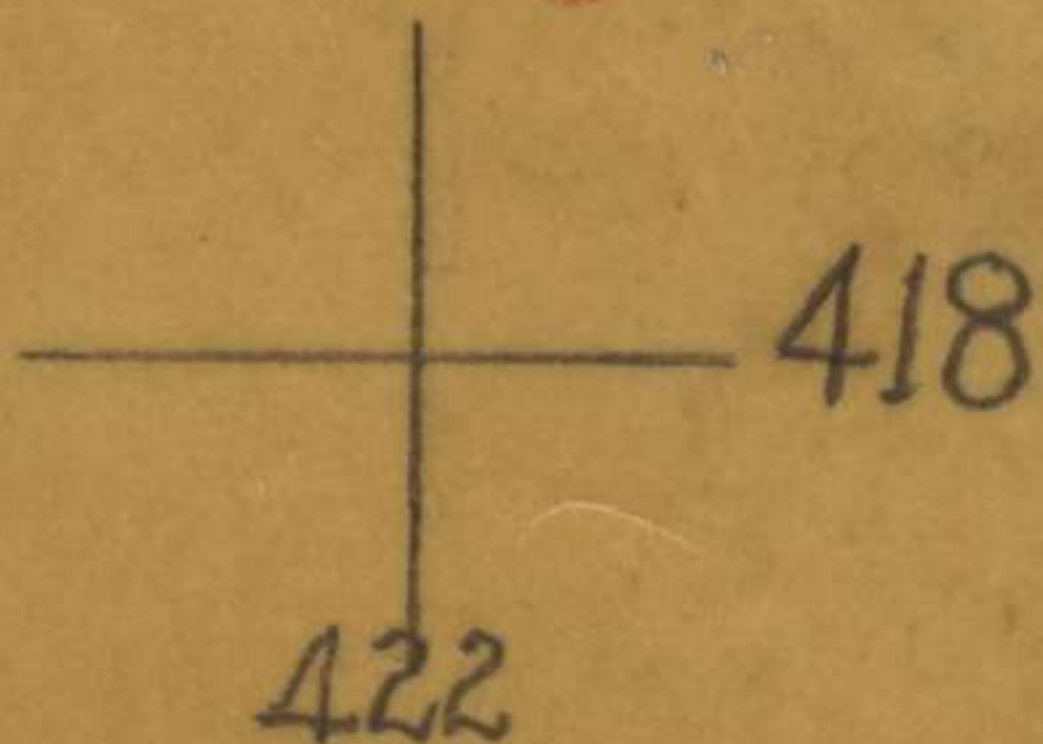
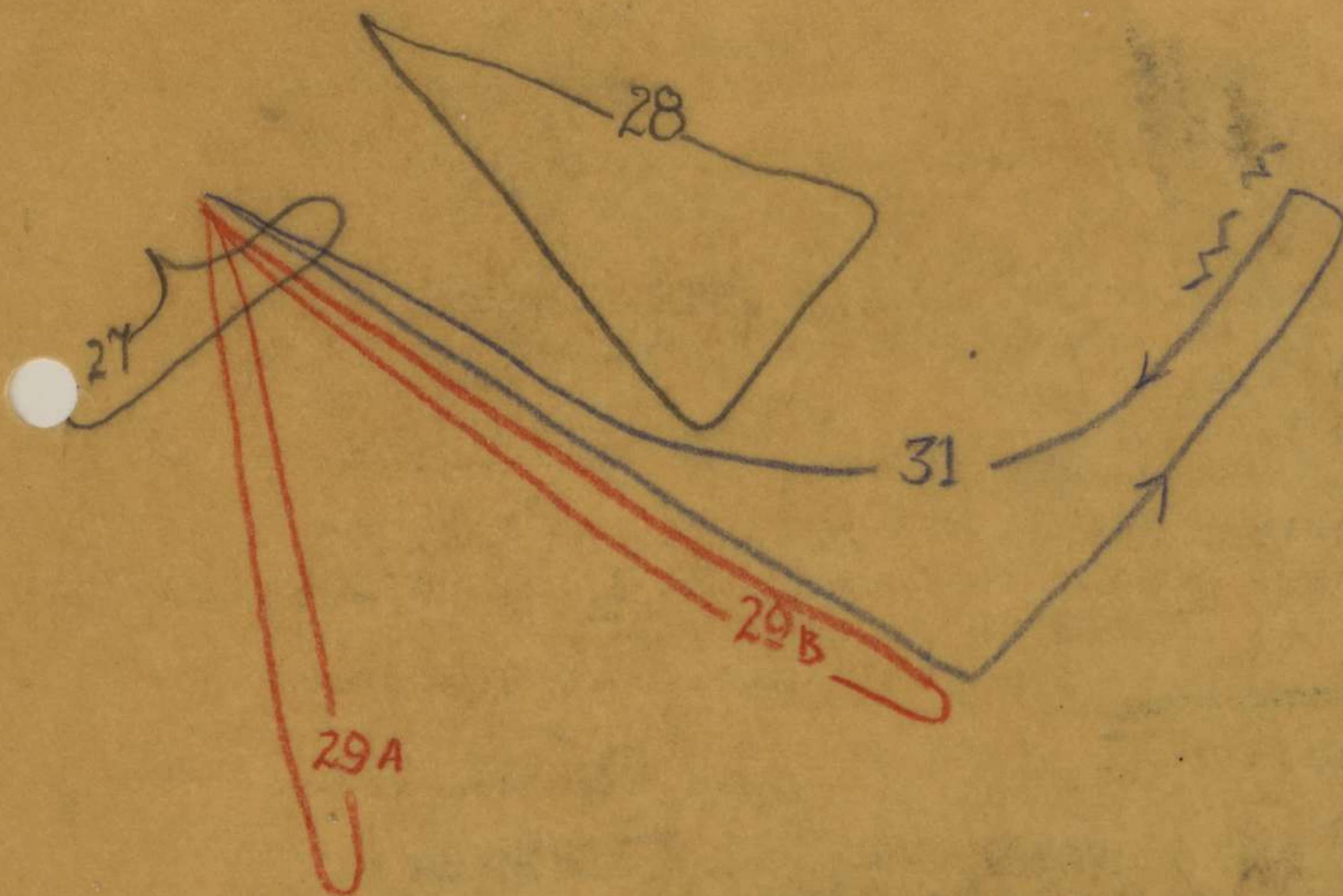
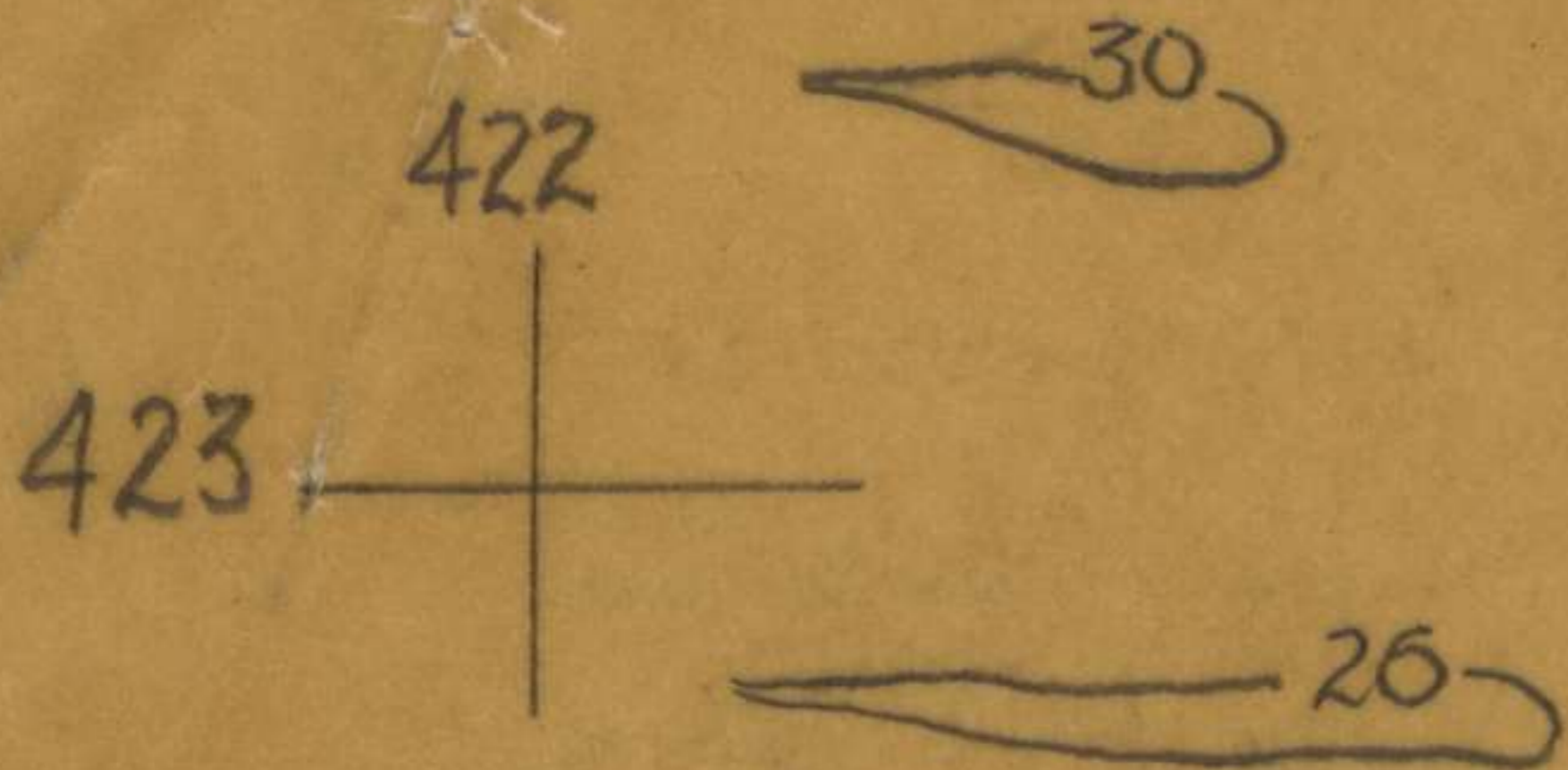
SHIPPING

APPX "A"

PATROL ROUTES

- CARRIERS - 3 JUN.
- " " - 4 "
- FOOT - 3/4 "
- ~ ENEMY TRENCHES

Ref: TOBRUCH: 1:50000



INDIGO

SECRET

2/23 Bn Intelligence Summary No 10.

(Compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs 5 Jun 41).

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

During the past 24 hrs patrolling was carried out as per Appx "A". No 35 D Coy patrol reported 4 enemy seen at 42164198 moving SOUTH. Considerable tracks marks of Hy Tks were seen vicinity 42214190 and 42304196.

Nos 33 & 34 J Coy. Both patrols report NMS or H. No 36 OPLE GOLD with C Coy covering force placed derelect I Tk & located enemy minefield as per para 4. Several enemy seen moving about earthworks at 42514226 at 1200 hrs

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Slight movement seen around derelect I Tk. Movement of a small party of men each morning continues vicinity 42464243. Slight movement at TALL HOUSE. Hy Tk and MF tracks were reported at 42214190, 42224209 and 42304196. Further investigations are being made regarding these tracks, which are not considered normal.

3. ENEMY ARTY.

Shelling as per Appx "B" on our sector. 1030 - 1130 hrs 2/48 Bn carrier patrol encountered by A Tk and arty fire when in area 42224189 - Fire inaccurate. No casualties or damage reported.

4. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

The derelect I Tk is at 42494224 and burnt-out Carrier at 42444227. These were carefully placed by patrol No 36 from pt 133 sq 424421. A carefully recon of pt 133 area revealed:- 1 deep cave 42444215 capable of hiding a pl and another larger cave at 42454215 capable of hiding a Coy of men. Sq heap stones 16' x 16' x 5' (hollow in centre) at 42474216. A recently ~~xxx~~ laid mine field of double row B2 ITALIAN mines close spacing but roughly put down from 42464216 to 42454216 thence 42454218 from where it appeared to continue in a general lint to Regent St at 42484225. Three weapon pits were observed at 42224191.

5. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS CNTD.

4 Jun

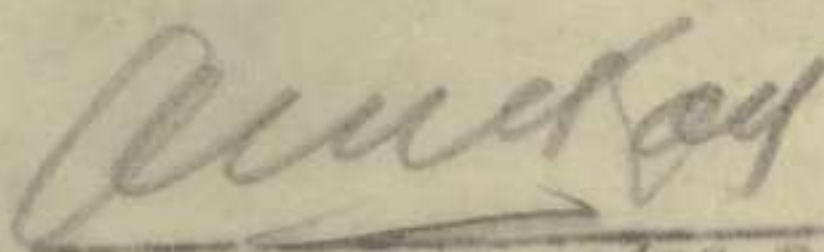
The following enemy concentrations were observed during Tac R at 1245.

rg GAZALA - TOBRUK	200 MF
North ACROMA	200 "
SE of ACROMA	350 "
East of EL ADEM	
(i) below escarpment	150 "
(ii) above escarpment	170 "
BU AMUD	150 "
Area square 425417	50 "

Approx 100 inf were encountered, dug in at 42354175 from which area, by A Tk, SA and arty fire was experienced by patrol. Cairn at 42224189 was occupied by 3 men. Enemy posn was observed at 42674224221 with trenches straddling BARDIA rd from 4267 to 42654216.

5 Jun.

Two guns flashes were seen in vicinity 42564225.



Lieut

I.O. 2/23 Bn.

4 Jun

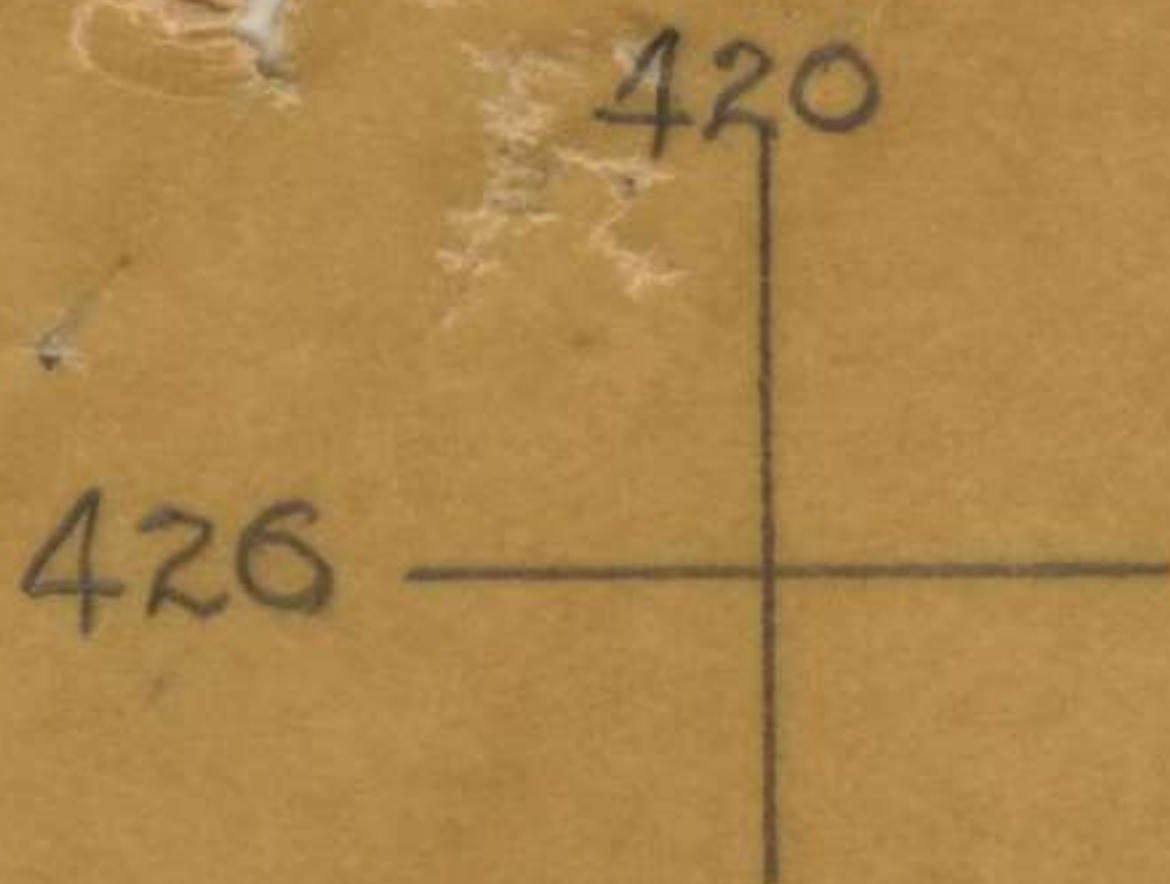
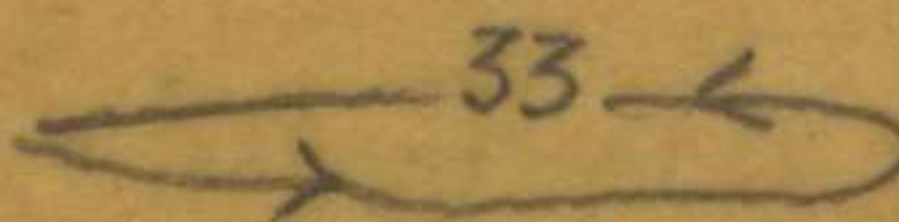
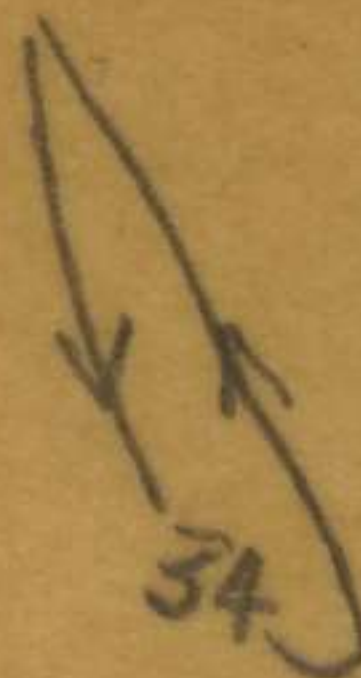
APPX : A

PATROL ROUTES


Ref: TOBRUCH:

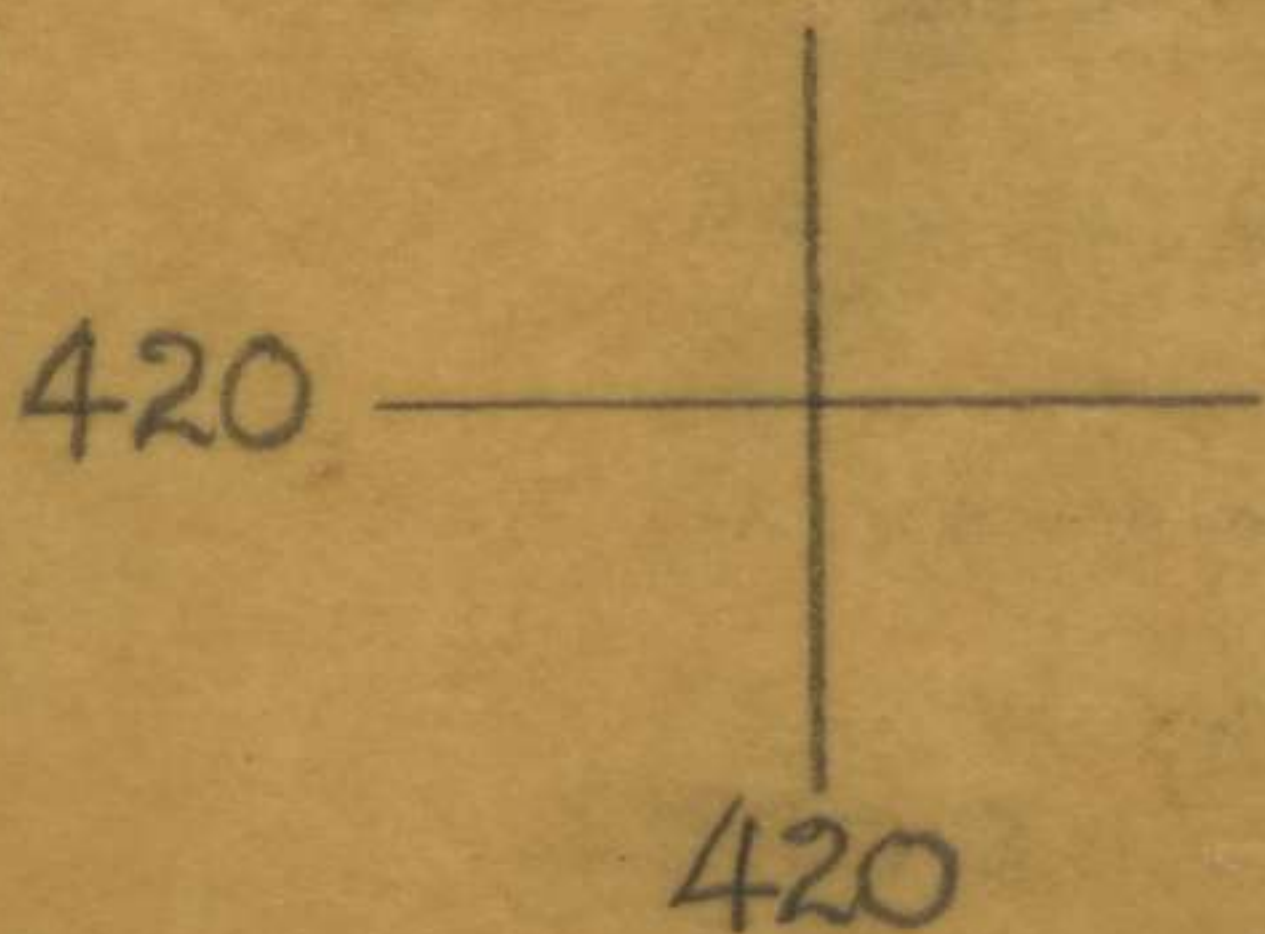
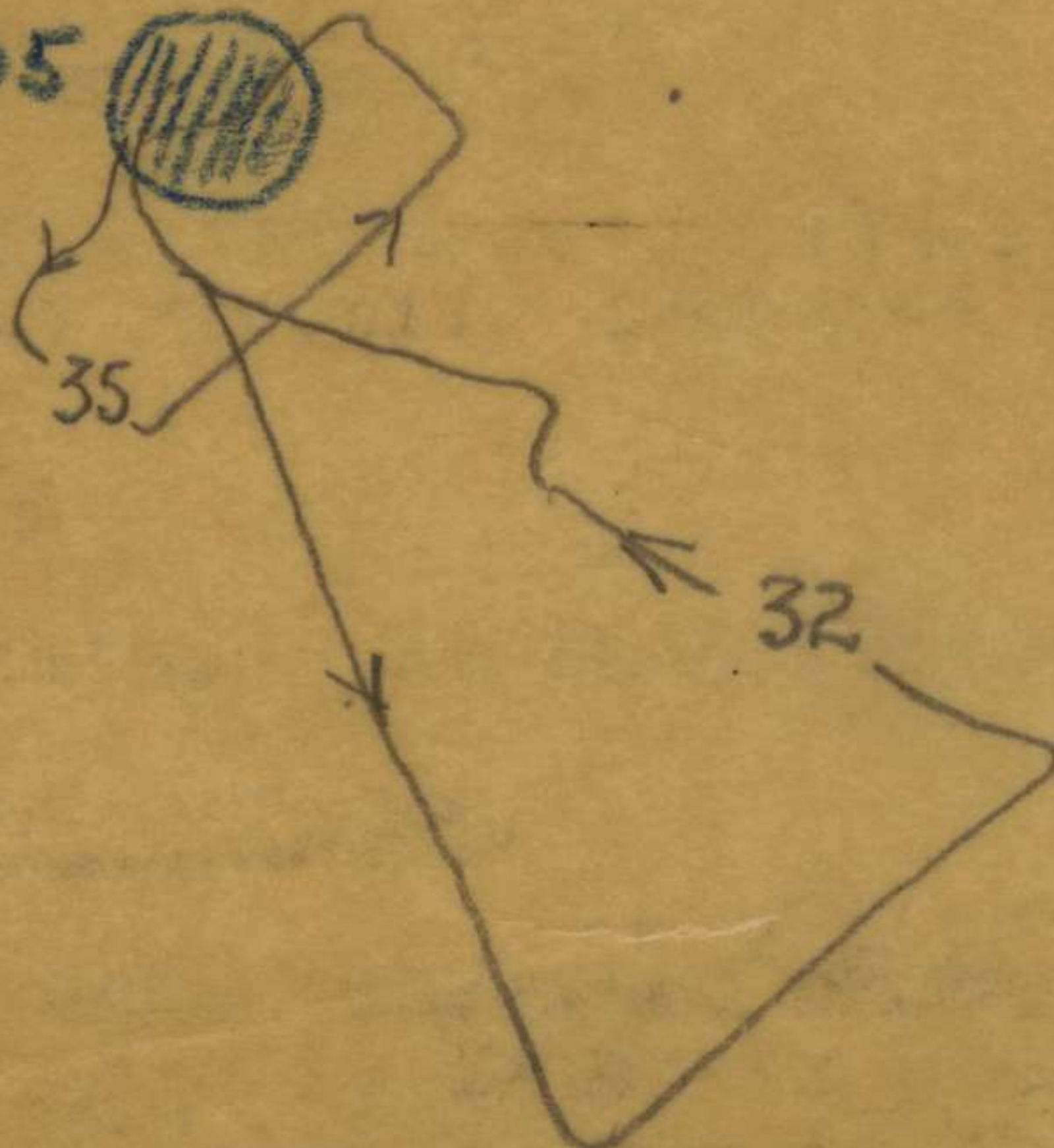
1:50000

FOOT 4/5 JUN.



4 Shells
1247 

5 Shells } 1905
12 



2/23 Bn Intelligence Summary No 11.

(Compiled from info received up to 1200 hrs 6 Jun 41).

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

Patrols as per appx "A" were carried out during the past 24 hrs.

(a) Patrol 38 reports NMS or H.

(b) Patrol 39 reported sound of M/C on REGENT ST, from Pt 42344204 the patrol moved along a track to 42344288 from here enemy movement and MT were heard to the SOUTH but no contact was made.

(c) Patrol 40 reports NMS or H.

(d) Patrol 41 combed area for mine fields - reports area clean.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Only slight movement of isolated enemy tps was reported. Several enemy seen vicinity 42494244 between 0611 and 0754 hrs.

3. Enemy Arty.

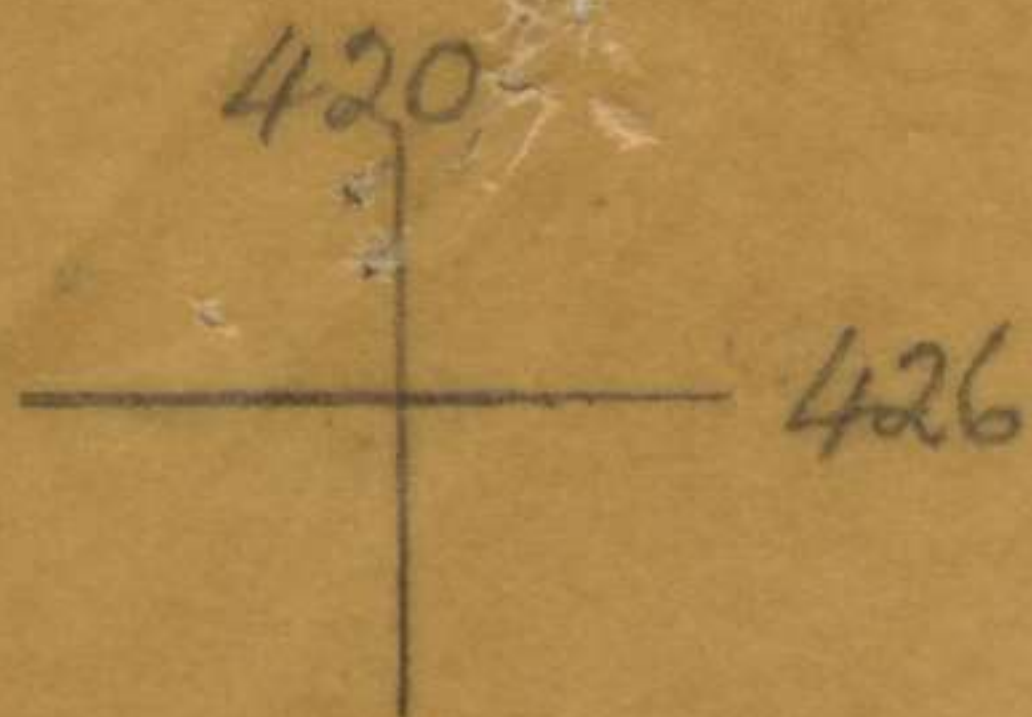
As per trace. No casualties or damage reported.

4. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

Tac R reveals increased number of enemy MT in TOBRUK area. Little change in frontier posn. Negligible movement in back areas. No change in the local situation. No fresh enemy ground dispositions located. Slight movement continues in vicinity of TALL HOUSE ref 42904248. One man observed on pole at 42564233 is suspected as OP. 12 enemy were observed in sangar 50 x from derelict inf tk at 42494244.

Amel Kay
I.O. 2/23 Bn

Lieut

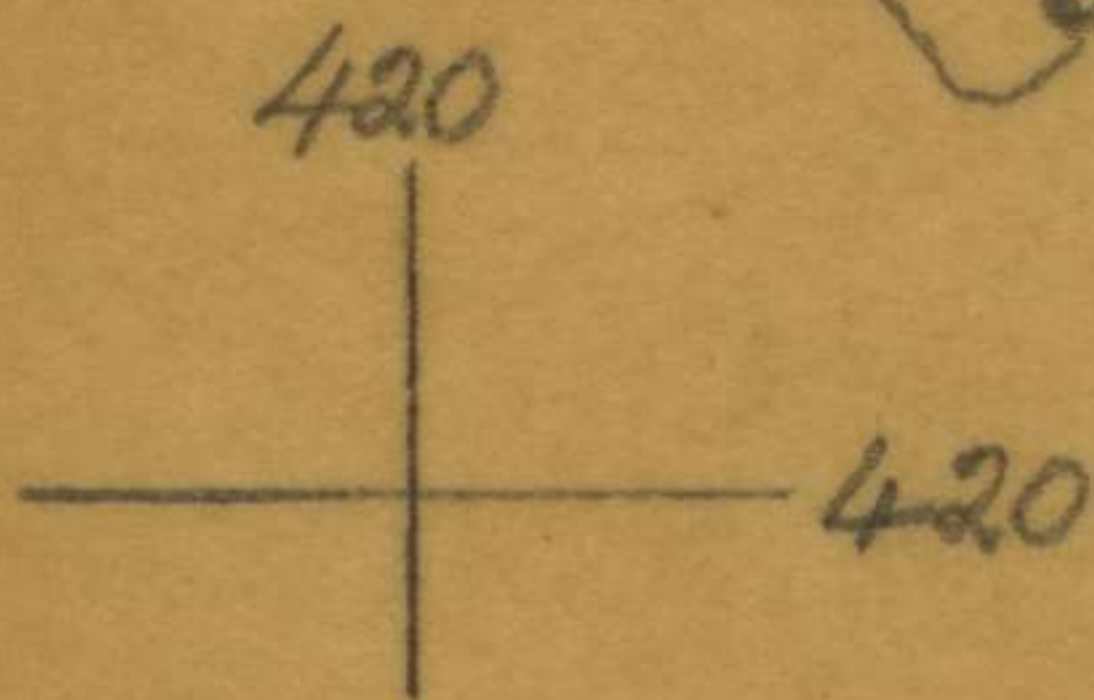
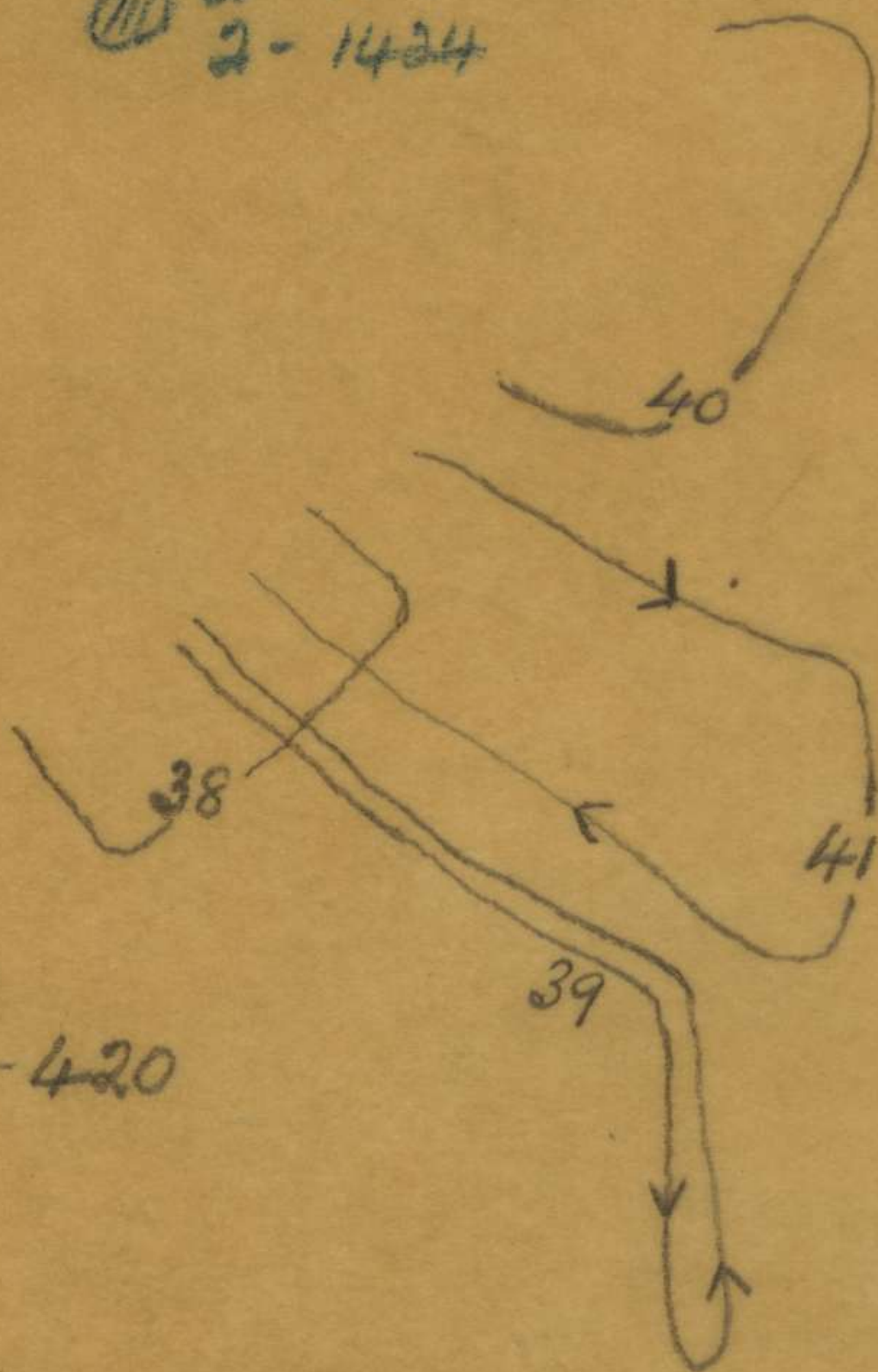


APPX: A
PATROL ROUTES

— FOOT 5/6 JUN
 Ref TOBRUCH 1:50,000

6
 2,000 (Hatched circle) (Hatched circle) 3 SHELLS
 1504

(Hatched circle) 2 - 1410
 (Hatched circle) 2 - 1424



(Hatched circle) SHELLING

2/23 Bn INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 12.

(Compiled from Infn received up to 1200 hrs 7 Jun 41.)

Ref Map TOBRUK 1/50,000

1 OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

PATROLS AS PER APPX "A" WERE CARRIED OUT DURING THE PAST 24 HRS.

- (a) PATROL 42, OBSERVED A LINE OF ENEMY STRENGTH APPROX 2 PLS FROM 42474227 TO 42494237. AN ENEMY M.G. POSN WAS LOCATED AT 42514236 AND A PREPARED POSITION FOR MINES FROM 42484231 TO 42424234. AN O.P. BUILT OF DRUMS AND EARTHWORKS IS AT 42414232.
- (b) PATROL 43, FIRED ON BY ENEMY AT 42424246 FROM M.B. POSNS AT 42434244 AND 42444247.
- (c) PATROL 44, FIRED ON BY ENEMY AT 42424253 BY LMG FROM 42494251 SANGARS AT 42444262 WERE NOT OCCUPIED AND NO SIGN OF ENEMY WAS SEEN IN WADI WEDDAN FROM 42454255 TO COAST. NMS AT SANGARS VICINITY 42494259.
- (d) PATROL 45, AREA PATROLED CLEAR OF ENEMY BUT ON EACH OF 5 OCCASIONS PATROL APPROACHED SIDE BEL GASSEM AREA IT WAS FIRED ON FROM 42504224 & 42524238. RED AND WHITE FLARES WERE PUT UP BY THE ENEMY 3 ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO CAPTURE M.G. POST AT 42524236 BUT THESE ATTEMPTS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL OWING TO BRIGHT MOONLIGHT.
- (e) PATROL 46 ENEMY HEARD NEAR I TK AT 0025 HRS, PATROL DECIDED TO ATTACK BUT MOONLIGHT ELIMINATED SURPRISE AND M.G. FIRE COMPELLED A WITHDRAWAL TO 42454215.
PATROLS, 48, 49, 50 N.M.S or H.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY. ISOLATED MOVEMENT IN VICINITY OF I TK AND TRIG 146 OBSERVED DURING DAYLIGHT 6 JUN AND HEARD NEAR "I" TK ON NIGHT 6/7 JUN. SLIGHT ENEMY MOVEMENT CONTINUES IN VICINITY 42484244. NO ENEMY PATROLS ENCOUNTERED.

3. ENEMY ARTYZ SHELLING TO 1200 HRS 7 JUN AS PER TRACE-ISOLATED MORTAR FIRE. HB LOCATED AT 42674245 BY CROSS BEARINGS. ENEMY ARTY SHOWED INCREASED ACTIVITY, AND TO COUNTER THIS WE MUST HAVE IMMEDIATE INFORMATION GIVING EXACT TIME AND FEARING OF FLASH AND (IF POSSIBLE) TIME IN SECONDS BETWEEN FLASH AND SOUND. IF ALL RANKS WILL REALISE THAT MANY ACCURATE BEARINGS WILL ENABLE OUR ARTY TO PIN POINT THE ENEMY, MORE INFORMATION SHOULD BE OBTAINED.

4. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS. 2 PLS ENEMY REPORTED IN OCCUPATION OF AREA 42474227 TO 42494237 MG POSNS REPORTED 42514236, 42494251, 42434244 42444247, and 42514239 and A PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MG POSN AT 42504225 WAS CONFIRMED BY LAST NIGHTS PATROLS. 3 SANGARS AT 42274192 - CENTRE SANGAR OCCUPIED AND IS THOUGHT TO BE AN ARTY OP. MG POSNS 42514236, 42434243, 42444245 and 42494251. AT 42224189 a circular gun pit 4 FEET IN DIAMETER AND 3 FEET DEEP WAS LOCATED WITH DUGOUT 6 FEET x 3 FEET x 2 FEET DEEP LEADING OFF THEREFROM. INDICATIONS WERE OBSERVED BY PATROL THAT GROUND AT 42484231 TO 42424234 WAS BEING PREPARED FOR POSSIBLE LAYING OF MINES. ATTACHED IS A TRACE PREPARED FROM AIR PHOTOS AND SUPPLEMENTED BY THE VALUABLE INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY PATROLS. IT IS STRESSED THAT MANY OF THE APPARENT SANGARS OR DUGOUTS MAY NOT BE OCCUPIED AND MANY MAY HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED BY OUR OWN TROOPS DURING EARLIER OPERATIONS.

Ruekey

LIEUT

I. O. 2/23 BN.

PATROL ROUTES and
AREAS SHELLED

REF: TOBRUCH 1/50000


7 JUN 41.

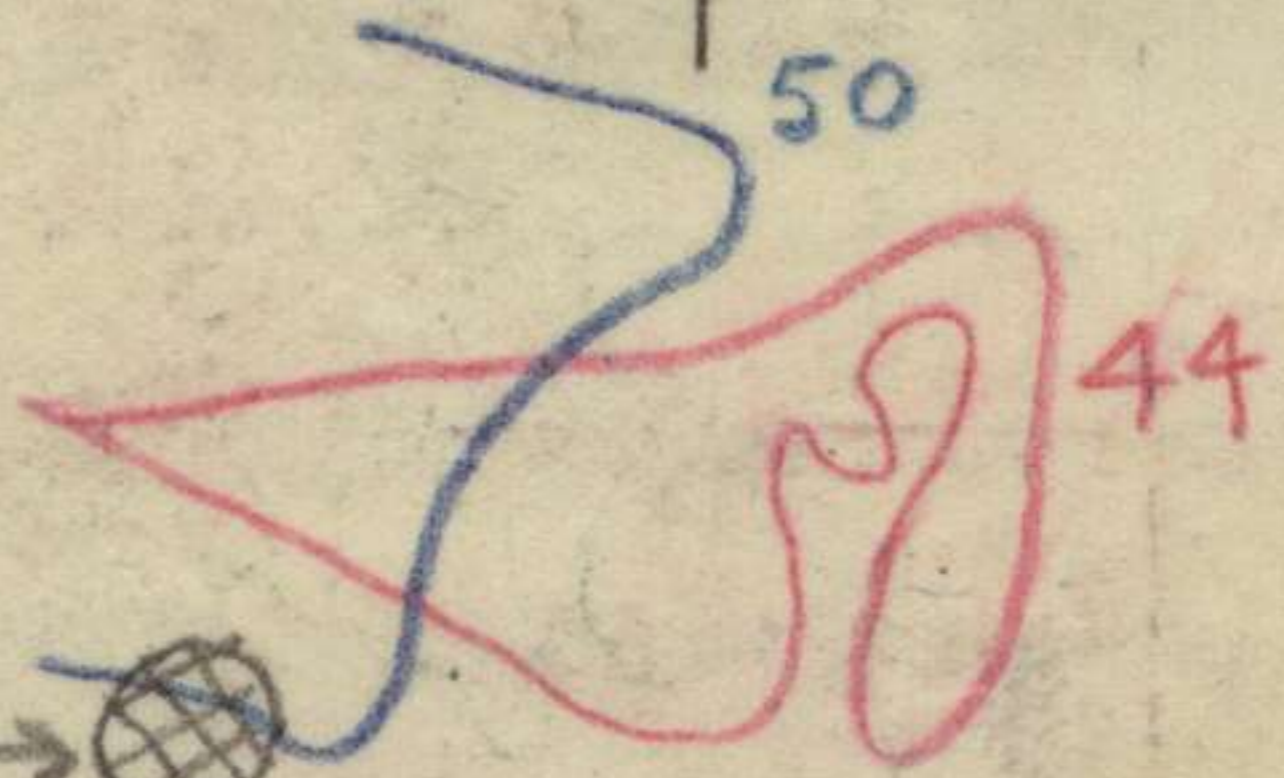
424

+ 427

50

44

0036 hrs → 



12-1857 hrs

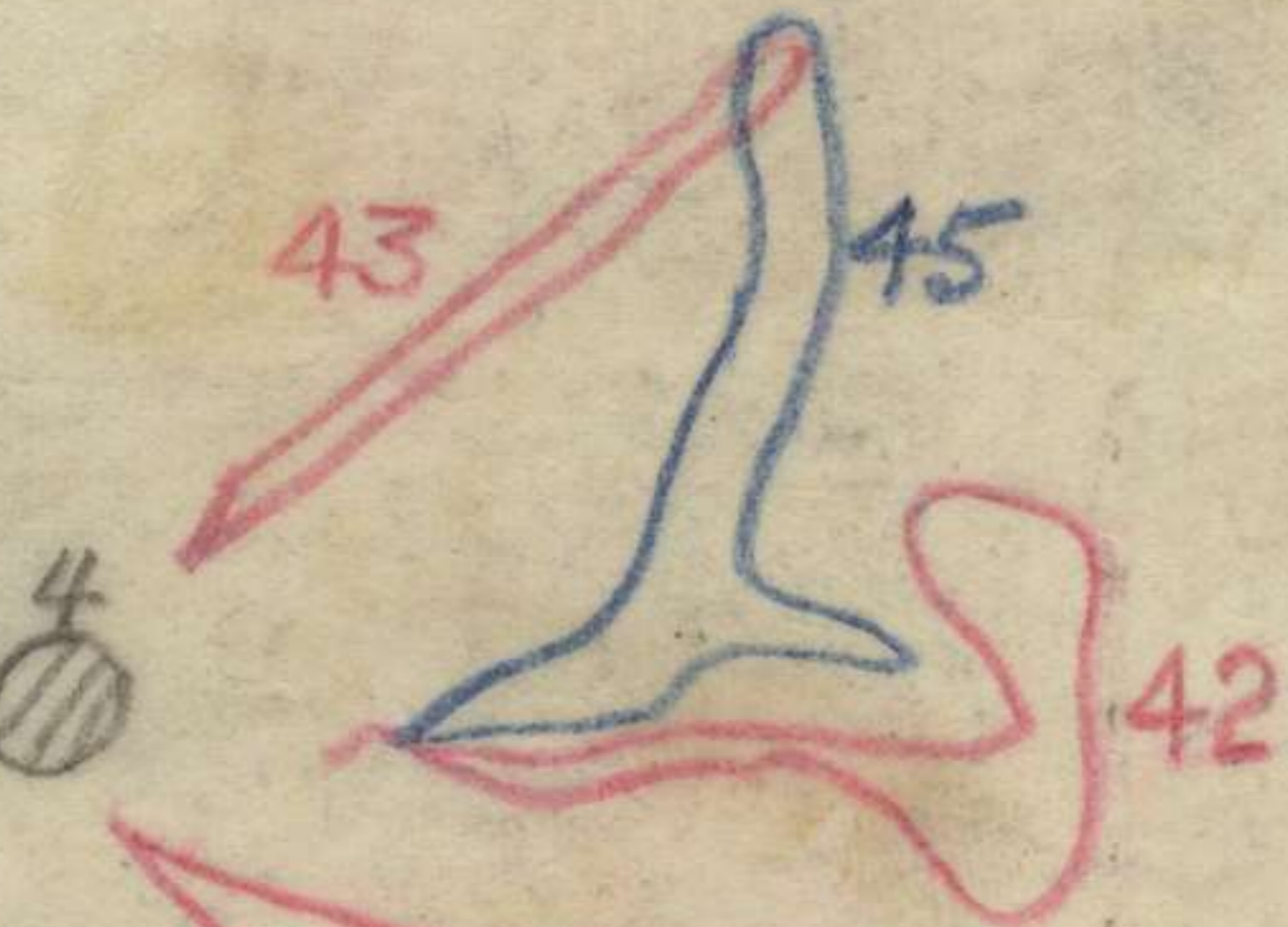


0050 hrs →

20



12:17 hrs →



0029 to
0035 hrs →

15



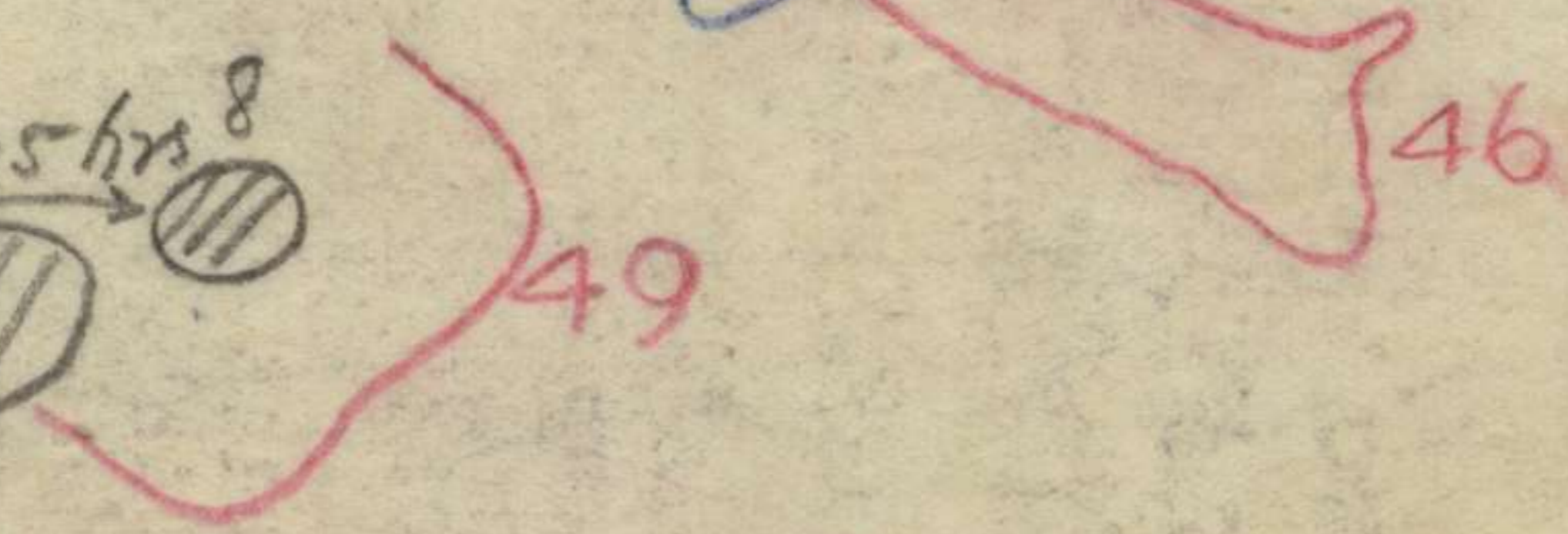
2005 hrs →

8



0055 hrs →

20



+ 420

424

SECRET

8 Jun 41.

2/23 Bn INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 13

(Compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs 8 Jun).

Ref Map TOBRUK 1/50,000.

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

During the 24 hrs under review 5 more patrols have been made:-

NOS 51 TO 55 - ALL OF WHICH REPORTED NMS. NO 52 REPORTED SOUNDS OF ENEMY MT MOVEMENT SOUTH OF TRIG 146 WHICH CORRESPONDS WITH SIMILAR REPORTS FROM FWD POSTS DURING EARLY PART OF NIGHT 7/8 JUN. ROUTES FOLLOWED BY THE PATROLS IS SHOWN ON APPX "A" ATTACHED.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

NO MOVEMENT OBSERVED AT TALL HOUSE BUT SEVERAL ENEMY SEEN IN AREA 42494240/3 WHICH IS BELIEVED TO BE OCCUPIED BY 1 or 2 PLS OF ENEMY. POLE-SITTER OBSERVER LOCATED ON TELEGRAPH POLE REGENT ST 42524223 THIS MAY BE A DUMMY BUT POLE NOT OCCUPIED AT 0646 HRS, WHEREAS IT WAS BEING USED AT 0820 HRS. AT 1945 HRS 2 ENEMY WERE OBSERVED IN VICINITY OF BURNT-OUT CARRIER. NO ENEMY PATROLS REPORTED. AN UNCOMPLETED TRENCH 12' x 12' "T" SHAPE HAS BEEN LOCATED AT 42334190.

3. ENEMY ARTY.

ONLY VERY SLIGHT SHELLING HAS BEEN REPORTED AS PER TRACE APPX "A". NO FRESH BTY POSNS LOCATED.

4. OUR ARTY.

AT 2300 hrs AN ENEMY TK WAS KNOCKED OUT BY OUR ARTY IN THE EL ADEM SECTOR.

5. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

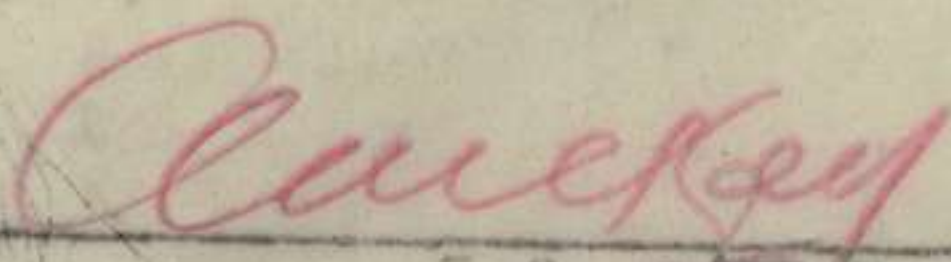
NOTHING FRESH TO REPORT.

6. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

AT LEAST 6 ATTACKS BY EA SINGLY AND IN PAIRS DURING THE NIGHT WHEN A NUMBER OF BOMBS WERE DROPPED BUT DIV REPORTS NO DAMAGE.

7. GENERAL.

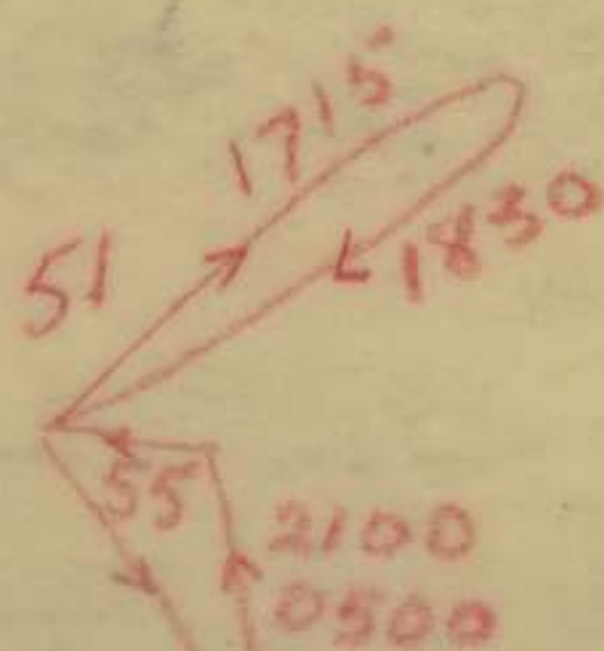
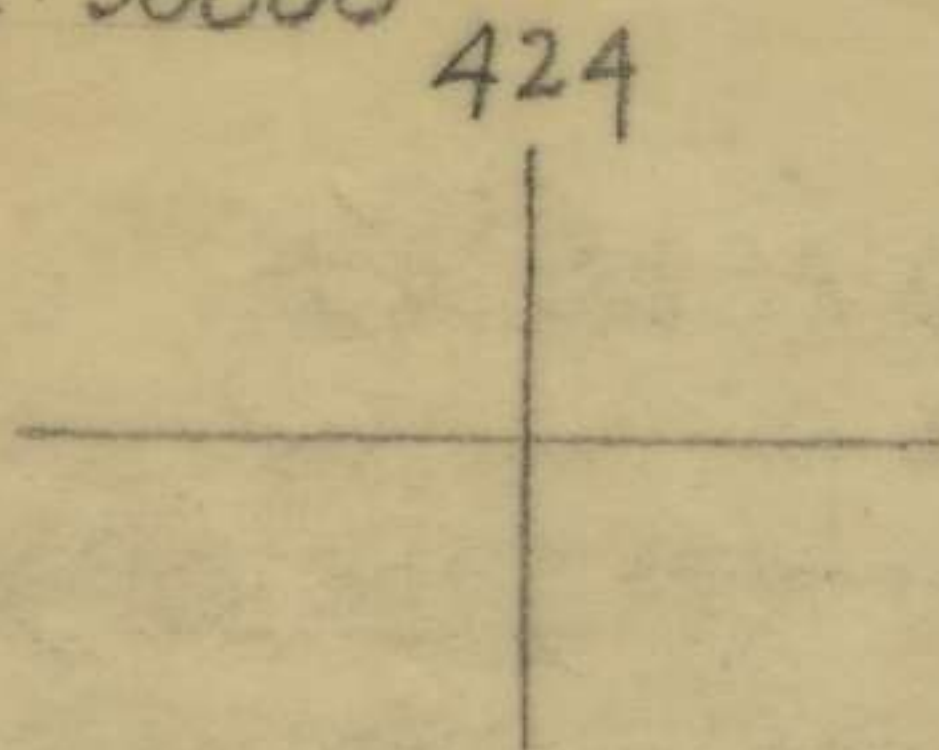
DIV REPORTS GROUND SITUATION UNCHANGED.


Lieut.
I.O. 2/23/Bn

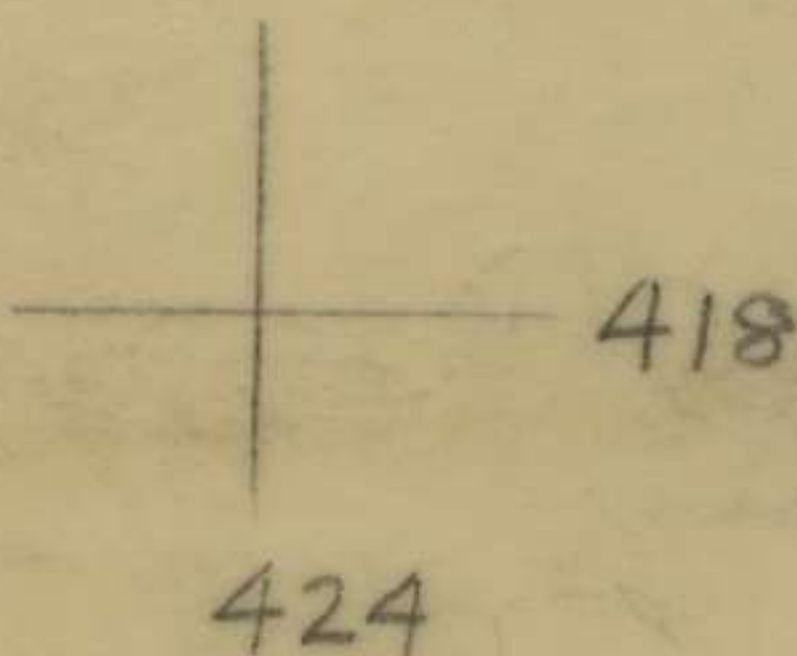
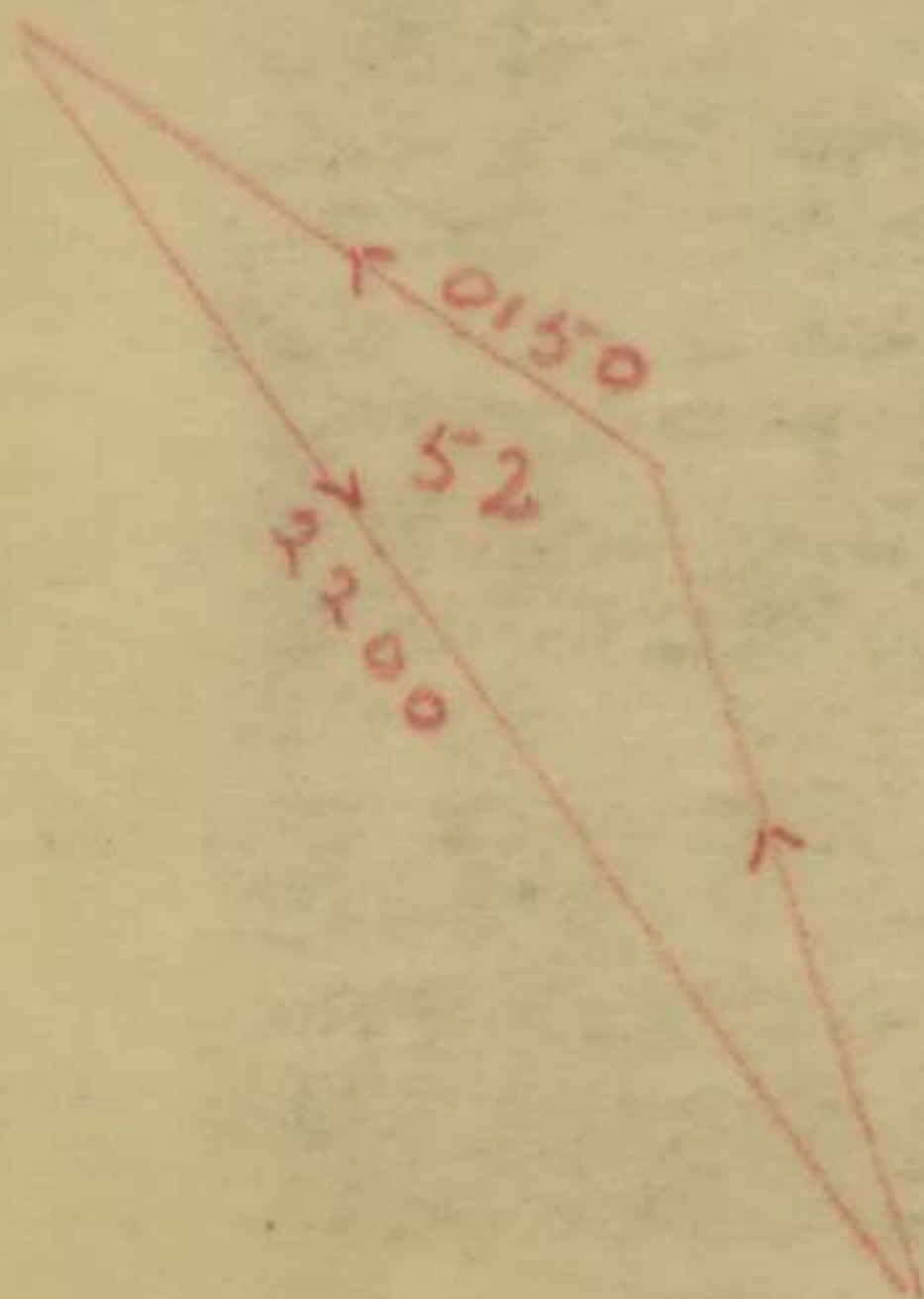
PATROL & SHELLING TRACE 7/8 JUN

1200 hrs - 1200 hrs

Ref: TOBRUCH : 1:50000



→ 3 Shells
1234



9 Jun 41

2/23 Bn INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 14

(COMPILED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 1200 HRS 9 JUN 41.)

1. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

NORMAL MOVEMENT OBSERVED VICINITY OLD RUIN 42484247 AND AT NORTH RUIN 42574242. THIS MORNING, ENEMY WERE DIGGING FOR 200 YDS SOUTH OF REGENT ST JUST IN REAR OF I TK, WHILST 3 MEN MOVED AT INTERVALS TO YOUNG & JUNCTIONS CARRYING OBJECTS ON THEIR BACK - PROBABLY AMM OR PERHAPS LIGHT MORTARS.

2. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

8 PATROLS WERE MADE DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS NOS 56 TO 63. NOS 56, 57, 58, 59, 60 AND 62 REPORTED NMS OR H. NO 61 C COY (2 OFFRS 2 NCOs AND 10 MEN UNDER CAPT R RATRAY MC) CAME UNDER HEAVY ENEMY FIRE FROM M & HMGs FROM I TK AND 3/400 YDS EAST ALONG REGENT ST WHILST PATROL WAS AT STONE HEAP 42474216. PATROL FORCED TO GROUND AND WITHDREW 300 X WHEN ENEMY FORCE OF AT LEAST 60 MEN ATTACKED IN LINE FORMATION ~~WIKKSTXXX~~ WHICH DEVELOPED INTO A SEMI CIRCLE AS IF TO SURROUND OUR TPS. OUR PATROL HELD FIRE UNTIL ENEMY WERE WITHIN 75 YDS AND THEN OPENED FIRE WITH NUMEROUS "TOMMY GUNS" BRINGING ABOUT DEVASTATING RESULTS - ENEMY CASUALTIES ESTIMATED AT 20 AND 1 POW (ITALIAN) TAKEN. ENGAGEMENT WAS THEN SUCCESSFULLY BROKEN OFF AND PATROL RETURNED AT 0145 HRS - 1 OR MISSING BUT NOT BELIEVED TO BE A POW OR CASUALTY AS HE WAS WITH PATROL DURING THE RETURN. NO 63 A COY NO 7 PL TOOK UP DEFENSIVE POSN 42364245 TO 42374250 AT 2130 HRS AND RETURNED AT FIRST LIGHT THIS MORNING. SPLENDID DIGGING PROGRESS MADE - WEAPON PITS WERE DUG AND CRAWL TRENCHES COMMENCED - IT IS HOPED TO COMPLETE THE POSN NIGHT 9/10 JUN AND REMAIN IN OCCUPATION. AT 0020 HRS 7 LIGHT BOMBS FELL 42364243 BUT IT HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED WHETHER THESE WERE FIRED BY A MORTAR OR DROPPED FROM EA WHICH FLEW OVER AT THAT TIME.

3. ENEMY ARTILLERY

AGAIN THERE WAS LIGHT SHELLING ON C & D COYS FRONTS AS PER TRACE "APPX A" BUT NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES REPORTED. NO NEW HB POSNS LOCATED ON OUR FRONT BUT ACCURATE 75 MM FIRE CAME FROM 42004164.

4. OUR ARTILLERY.

APART FROM SOME C.B. FIRING ON 9 JUNE AND SOME "CALIBRATION" SHOOTING FEW TARGETS WERE OFFERED TO RMA. THE ENGINEER GUNNERS ENGAGED TARGETS ALONG REGENT STREET AS OFFERED AND DID A HARASSING SHOOT ON ENEMY DIGGING POSNS THIS MORNING TOWER 42084185 (48 BN FRONT) HAS BEEN DEMOLISHED.

5. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

ACTIVITIES ON NIGHT 8/9 JUN BY C COY INDICATE THAT THE ENEMY IS OCCUPYING A POSN BETWEEN REGENT ST AND OLD COURT (APPROX 2/300 X IN REAR OF MINE FIELD) IN SOME STRENGTH. A RECENT DAYLIGHT RECON OF THIS AREA FAILED TO REVEAL ENEMY IN ANY NUMBERS SO IT IS LIKELY THAT THE POSN IS STRONGLY MANNED BY NIGHT ONLY.

6. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS.

POW CAPTURED BY C COY BELONGED TO 7 BERSAGLIERI REGT TRENTO DIV.

7. AIR ACTIVITY.

2230 HRS 1 EA DROPPED BOMBS ON TOBRUK 1 HITTING THE ITALIAN PW

WARD AT HOSPITAL - CASUALTIES 2 KILLED 1 WOUNDED - ALL ITALIANS.
AT 0630 HRS 2 HURRICANES WERE ENGAGED BY A NUMBER OF ME'S
BOTH HURRICANES WERE BROUGHT DOWN 1 DISAPPEARING INTO THE SEA.

8. GENERAL.

OUR PATROLS ON WESTERN PERIMETER WERE ENGAGED BY HY ARTY
BUT NO CASUALTIES REPORTED. ACTIVE ENEMY PATROLS IN THE
SALIENT WERE ENGAGED BY OUR ARTY AND MMG FIRE AND WERE
DISPERSED.

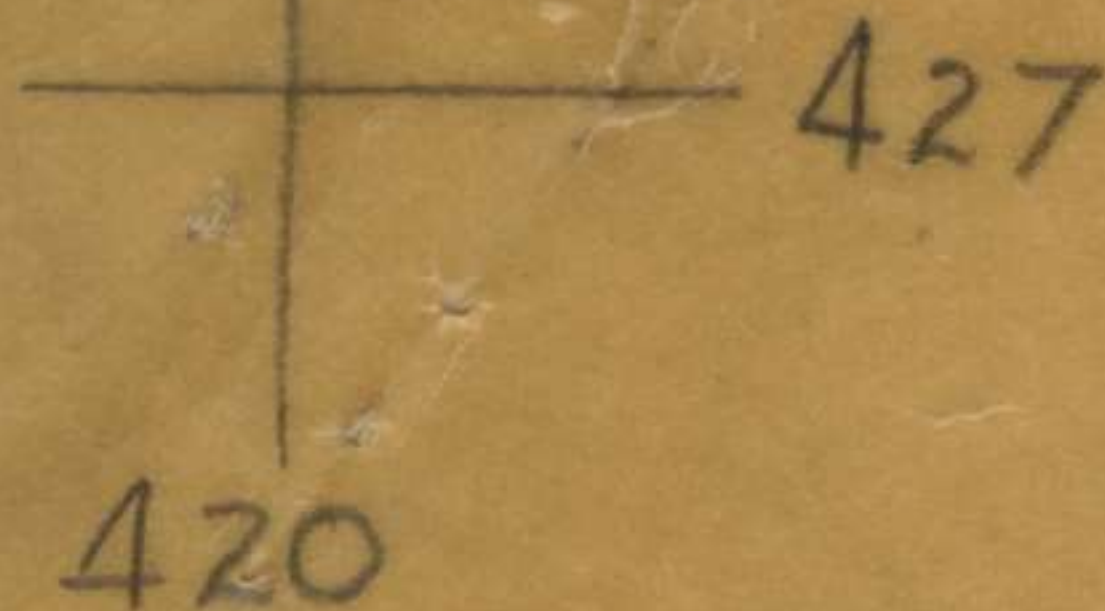
Amkey Lieut.
I.O. 2/23 Bn

APPX - A

PATROL ROUTES

1200 hrs. 1200 hrs 8/9 JUN

Ref: TOBRUCH: 1: 50000



7 MORTAR BOMBS

0023

9 Shells

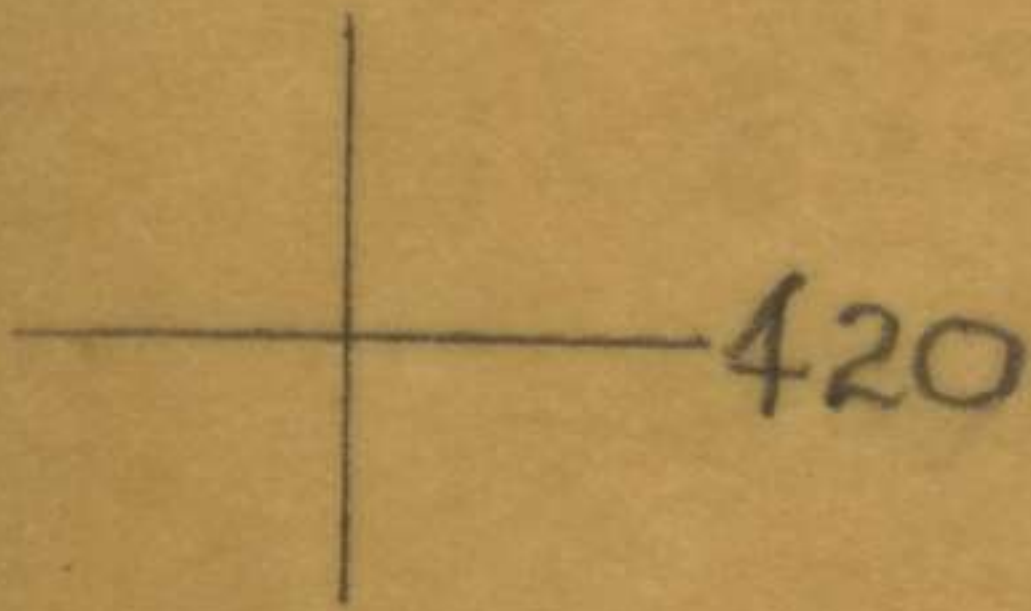
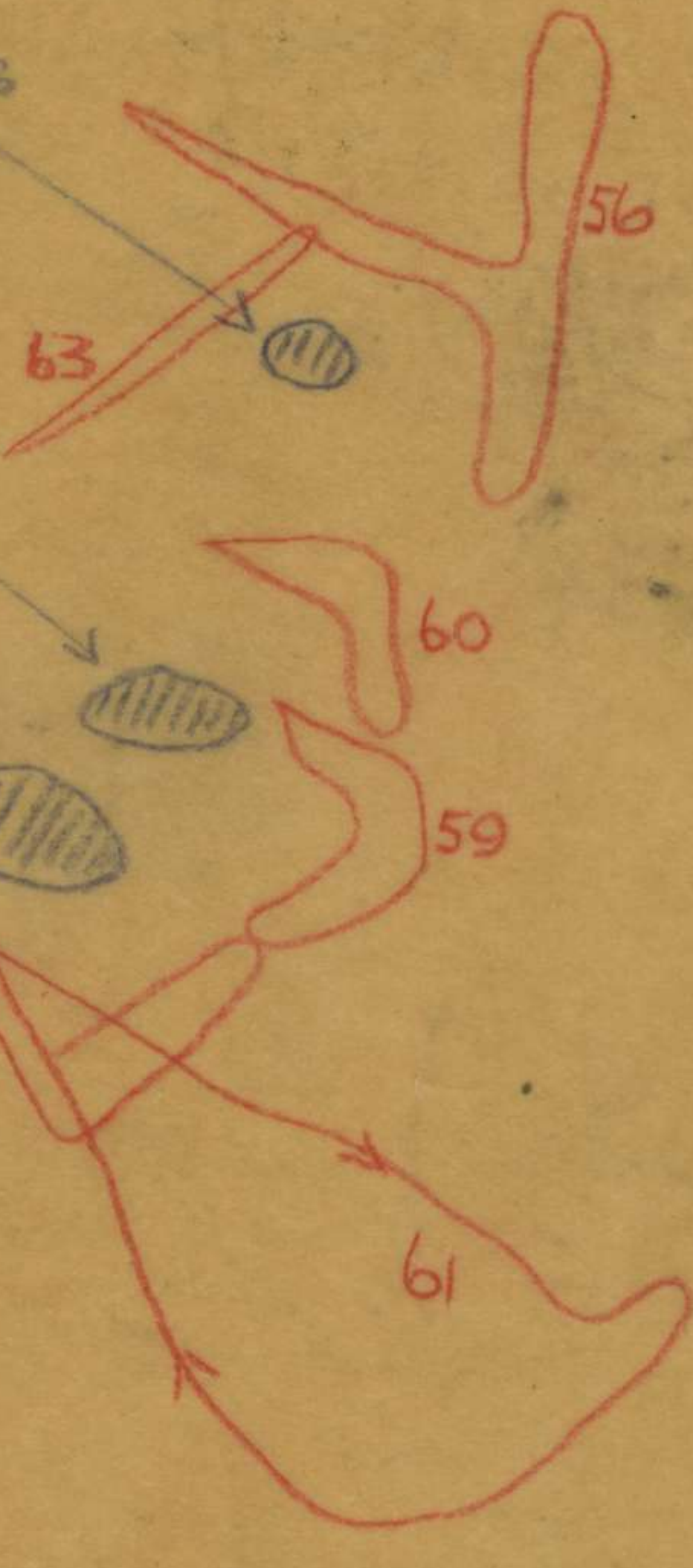
1104

6 Shells 1546

7 " 1100

9 Shells

1020-1100



420

2/23 Bn Dnt Summary No 15.

(Compiled from infn received up to 1200 hrs 10 Jun 41)

Ref Map TOBRUK 1 : 50000.

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY -

During the 24 hrs, 5 patrols were carried out along the Bn front, Nos 65 to 69.

No 65 comprised No 7 Pl of A Coy, which went out at 2130 hrs, and by first light this morning had completed new defensive posn at ref 42364247 and have since remained in occupation.

No 66, B Coy patrol went to Trig 146 (42514197) thence to 42424185, returning at 0200 hrs, reporting NMS or H.

The 1 OR who lost contact with C Coys fighting patrol on night 8/9 June was located and brought in.

Nos 67, 68 and 69. All these patrols report NMS or H.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY -

TALL house. Slight movement reported at 1731 hrs, but movement generally to this feature has become less during recent days.

6 enemy were seen vicinity 42504225 at 1837 hrs.

At 0755 hrs, 3 enemy, presumably a recon party were observed studying map cases in the vicinity 42524232.

An enemy digging party on line 42494223/5 were again observed working this morning.

3. ENEMY ARTY -

1229 hrs 9 June, 75mm shells fell 42264230. No damage or casualties.

4. OUR ARTY -

Enemy posn 42494223/5 has been shelled by K guns on 2 occasions, when several enemy were seen to run from that area.

5. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS -

Dispositions reported by C Coys fighting patrol are fully confirmed following the interrogation of Italian POW, who disclosed the exact dispositions. From the same source it is learned that the 10 Bn is located in BELGASSEN and 11 Bn *South of BARDIA Rd*, leaving 3rd Coy of B Bn astride BARDIA Rd in rear of "I" Tk. All of these units form part of 7 BERSAGLIERI Regt. Placings of weapons is shown on attached trace Appx "A".

6. OUR DISPOSITIONS -

The occupation of a fwd defensive posn slightly alters our dispositions as shown on Appx "A".

7. AIR ACTIVITY -

Between 0930 and 1102 hrs today, more than usual interest was shown in our sector by EA. A Coys fwd defensive posn was circled by a recon machine at 0930 hrs while 6 EA fired a few bursts of MG fire on our tps in D Coys area at 1100 hrs. At 1052 hrs 2 Machines identified as Spitfires drew AA from the enemy's posns along BARDIA Rd.

8. ENEMY MOVEMENT -

TAC R at 0900 hrs 9 June revealed the following MT.

Astride rd TOBRUK GAZALA, 350 MT.

East ACROMA 400 MT.

Below escarpment between ACROMA, EL ADEM 250 MT.

North EL ADEM 50 AFV, 70 MT.

418417 50 MT including Tks.

BUAMUD 80 MT.

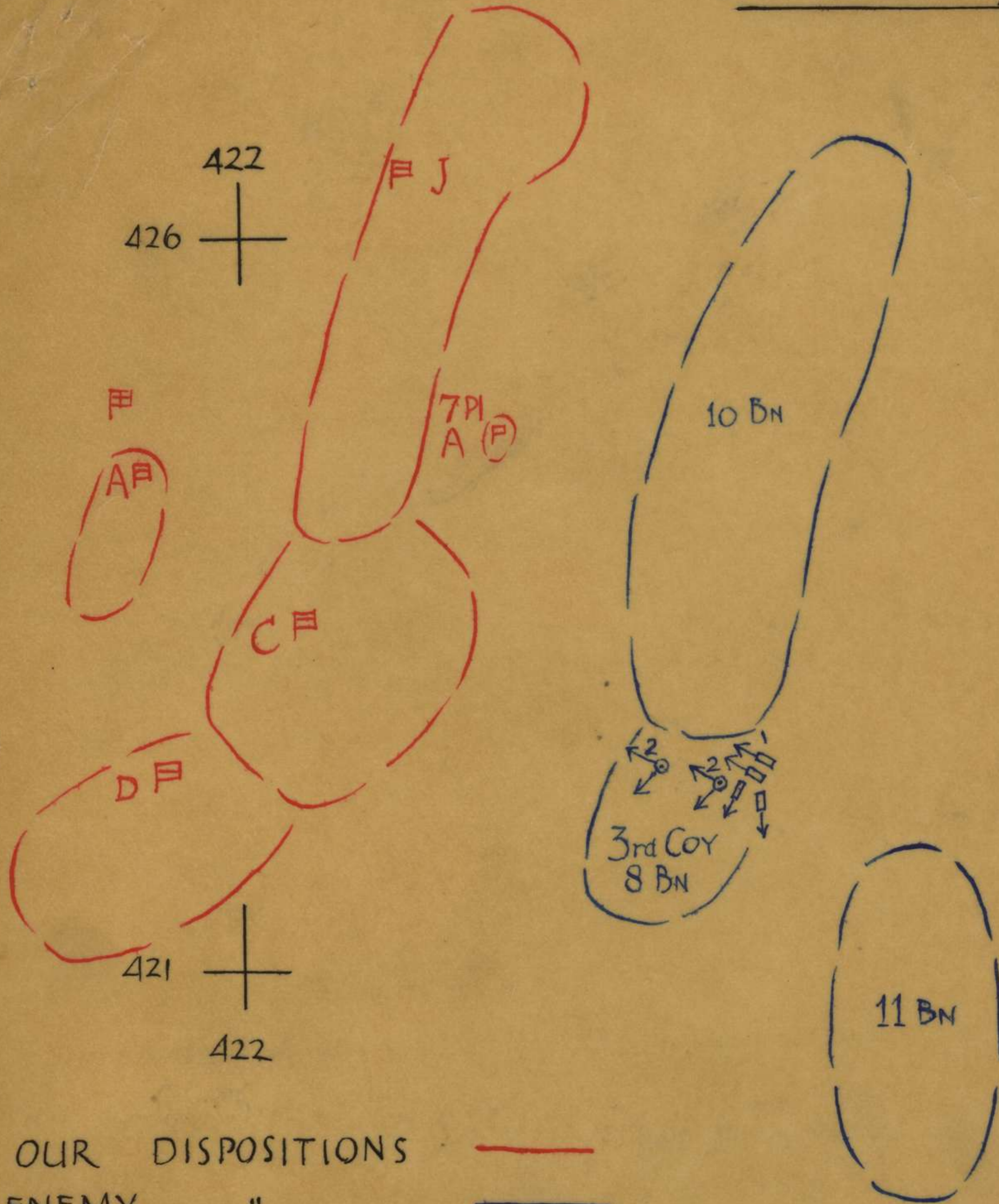
Clifford

Lieut

10 2/23 Bn

C.O. 21/c File

REF TOBRUCH 1/50000



OUR DISPOSITIONS
 ENEMY
 10 JUN 41

I Sec 2123 BN

2/23 Bn INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 16.

(Compiled from infn received up to 1200 hrs 11 Jun 41.

Ref Map TOBRUK 1/50,000

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

During the last 24 Hrs, 6 patrols were carried out along the Bn front Nos 70 - 75. **CARRIERS**

No 70 comprised 3 ~~XXXX~~ which went out at 1300 hrs, and from Trig 146 observed a stone column ref 42454186 with 2 men nearby. Patrol was fired on from this vicinity by hy A Tk weapons.

No 74 patrol, our 2400 hrs, proceeded to 42454245, from where they heard an enemy working party probably erecting wire, vicinity 42464245 in NORTH SOUTH direction, extent approx 150 x.

All other patrols reported NMS or H

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Tall house, 3 men emerged and moved SOUTH 1625 hrs. Enemy tps appear to be occupying Sangar at 42484245, otherwise isolated movement only was observed during the period under review.

ENEMY ARTY.

Two lt arty shells fell in D Coy area. No damage done (Appx "A").

4. OUR ARTY.

Nothing to report.

5. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS. - 10 JUN.

Tac R revealed the following dispositions :-

rd TOBRUK - DERNA	350 MT:	East ACROMA	400 MT
North EL ADEM	50, AFVS, 70MT;	area 418417	50 MT
BU AMUD	80 MT:		
Below escarpment between ACROMA - EL ADEM			250 MT

Patrol to area 418417 found area clear of enemy MT mentioned in Tac R. Thirty inf encountered at 41804150. Hy A Tk weapons were located at 42454186.

6. OUR DISPOSITIONS.

A Coy carried out a successful relief of personnel in the fwd posn at 42384246.

7. AIR ACTIVITY.

1634 hrs 1 EA accompanied by recce plane flew over A Coy Pl area.

8. ENEMY MOVEMENT.

No further infn available.

9. ENEMY ESTABLISHMENTS.

From infn obtained from PWs and observations made on our front, it is considered that the establishment of the 7 BERSAGLIERI Regt is as under.

7 BERSAGLIERI Regt - Strength approx 3000.

consists of -

8 MC Bn
10 and 11 Lorried Inf Bns
1 Coy MMG attached (12 MMG)

8 MC Bn - approx strength 900.
HQ Coy (non fighting)
3 Rifle Coys (each 2/300 men)
Each Coy 4 Pls - HQ Pl and 3 Pls each of
3 Secs (15 men per Sec)
Each Sec has an LMG.

10 & 11 Bns Lorried Inf - approx strength 900 men.
Each -

HQ Coy (non fighting)
3 Rifle Coys
1 Pl Mortars (3 Mortars 45mm)
Each Coy 4 Pls - HQ Pl and 3 Pls each of 3 Secs
(15 men per sec)
36 LMG per Bn.

10. GENERAL.

A message from 26 Bde indicates that TOMAHAWK aeroplanes will operate as from 12 June. Trace of the silhouette of this type of plane is attached. (Appx "B")

Ameskey

I.O. 2/23 Bn

Lieut

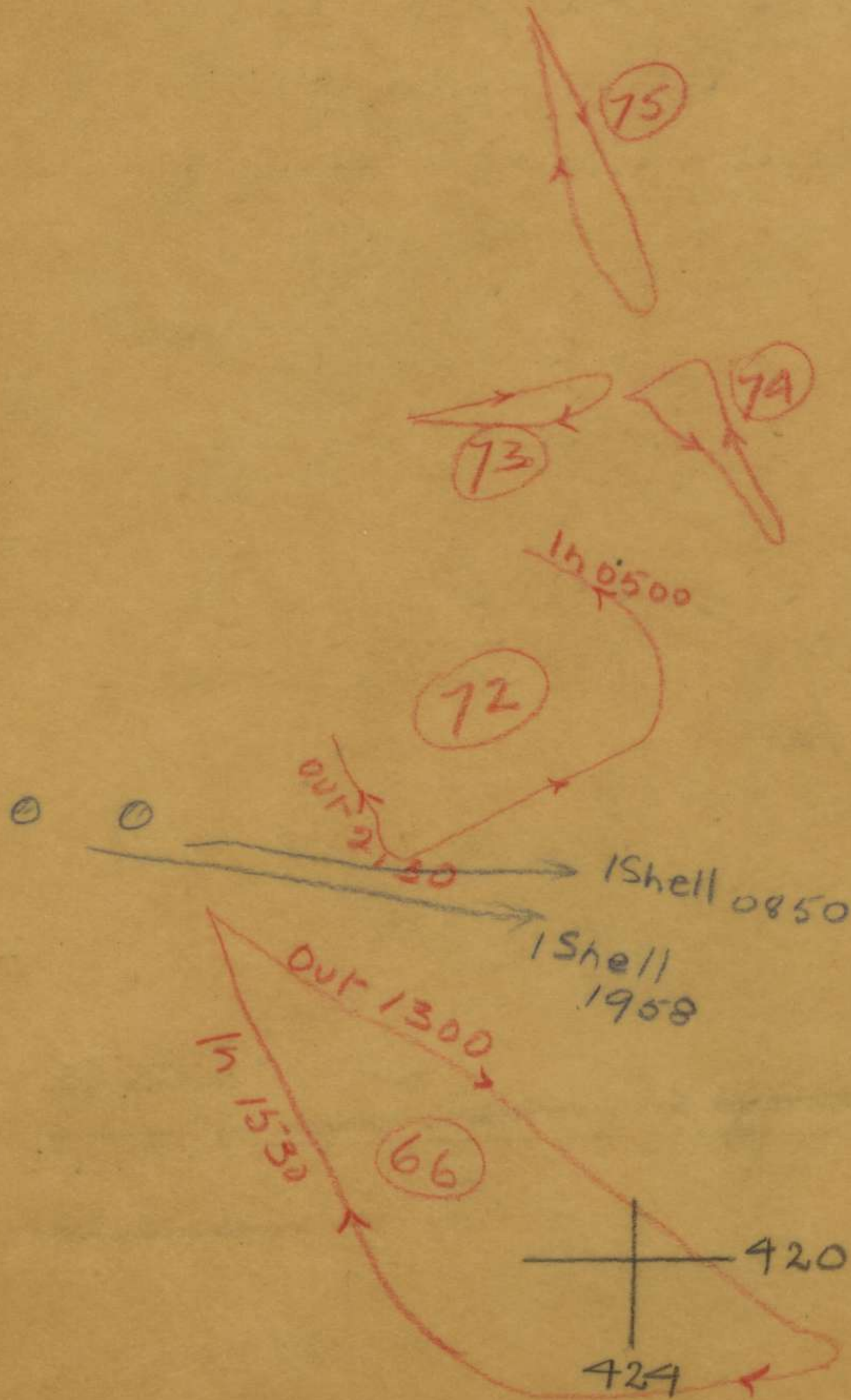
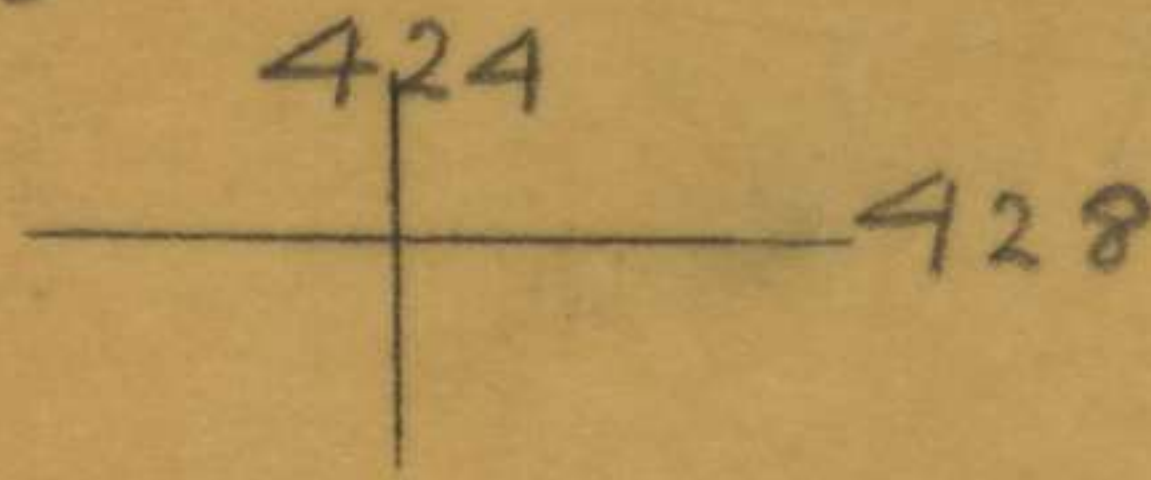
PATROL & SHELLING TRACE

1200hrs - 1200hrs

REF TO BRUCH 1:50000

10/11 JUN

APPX A



2/23 Bn Int Summary No. 17.

(Compiled from infn received up to 1200 hrs 12 June 41.)

Ref Map TOBRUK 1 : 50000.

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY -

During the past 24 hrs 5 patrols have been carried out.

No 76 made by Carriers to Trig 146 reported NMS.

No 77 made by D Coy reports sound of enemy approx 42354182 and at 42244193. An arrow shaped digging was located, dimensions 8 x long with arrowheads 5 x long, 8" wide by 6" deep. Arrow pointed in direction of Post R 71.

Nos 78 and 80 reported NMS or H.

No 79 reported sounds of enemy working party coming from vicinity 42454245.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY -

Digging continues in area SOUTH of BARDIA Rd rear of minefield, and also 500 x further EAST where blasting was observed at 1310 hrs.

During the past few days enemy activity has considerably increased in this area, with dispositions extending further SOUTH. Observed MT movement has been slight. What was probably a small recce patrol of 4 men were observed 2500 x SE of R 73 and moved towards BARDIA Rd. The enemy has erected wire at 42504236 and 42494242.

3. ENEMY DRs -

At 1730 hrs 11 June, 2 DR approached 42574258, 3 men observed giving messages, at 1845 hrs one DR approached same area from EAST along BARDIA Rd and returned same route.

4. ENEMY ARTY -

8 lt arty shells fell in A Coy area rear BARDIA Rd. No damage. (Appx "A").

5. OUR ARTY -

3 Shelled enemy observed at 42424190, 42464243, and 42564220.

6. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS -

Nil

7. OUR DISPOSITIONS -

Remains the same.

8. AIR ACTIVITY -

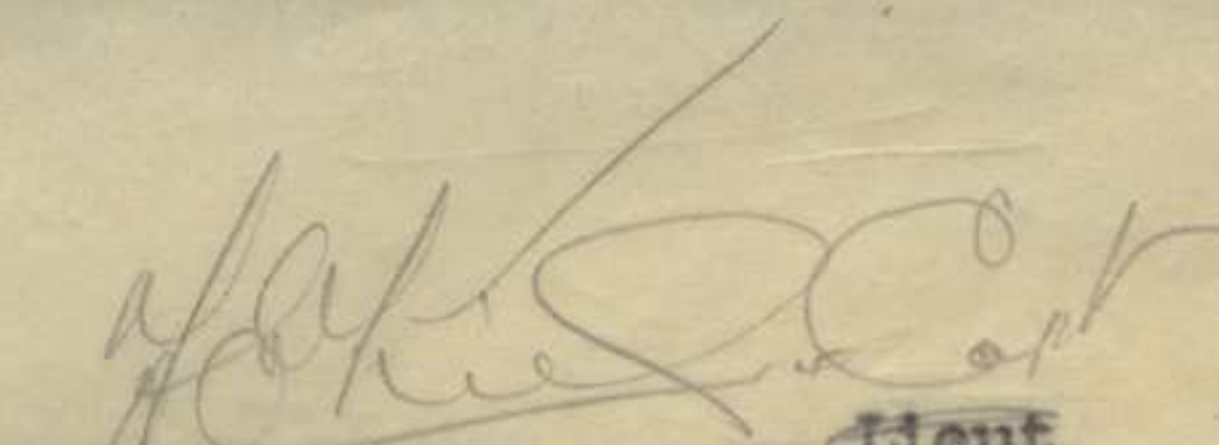
Enemy Air Raid 0750 hrs. 12 JU 87 with ITALIAN markings and 6 CR 42's attacked WADI AUDA pumping station and AA sight. No damage reported. Pilot killed and gunner injured when one JU 87 shot down.

9. ENEMY MOVEMENT -

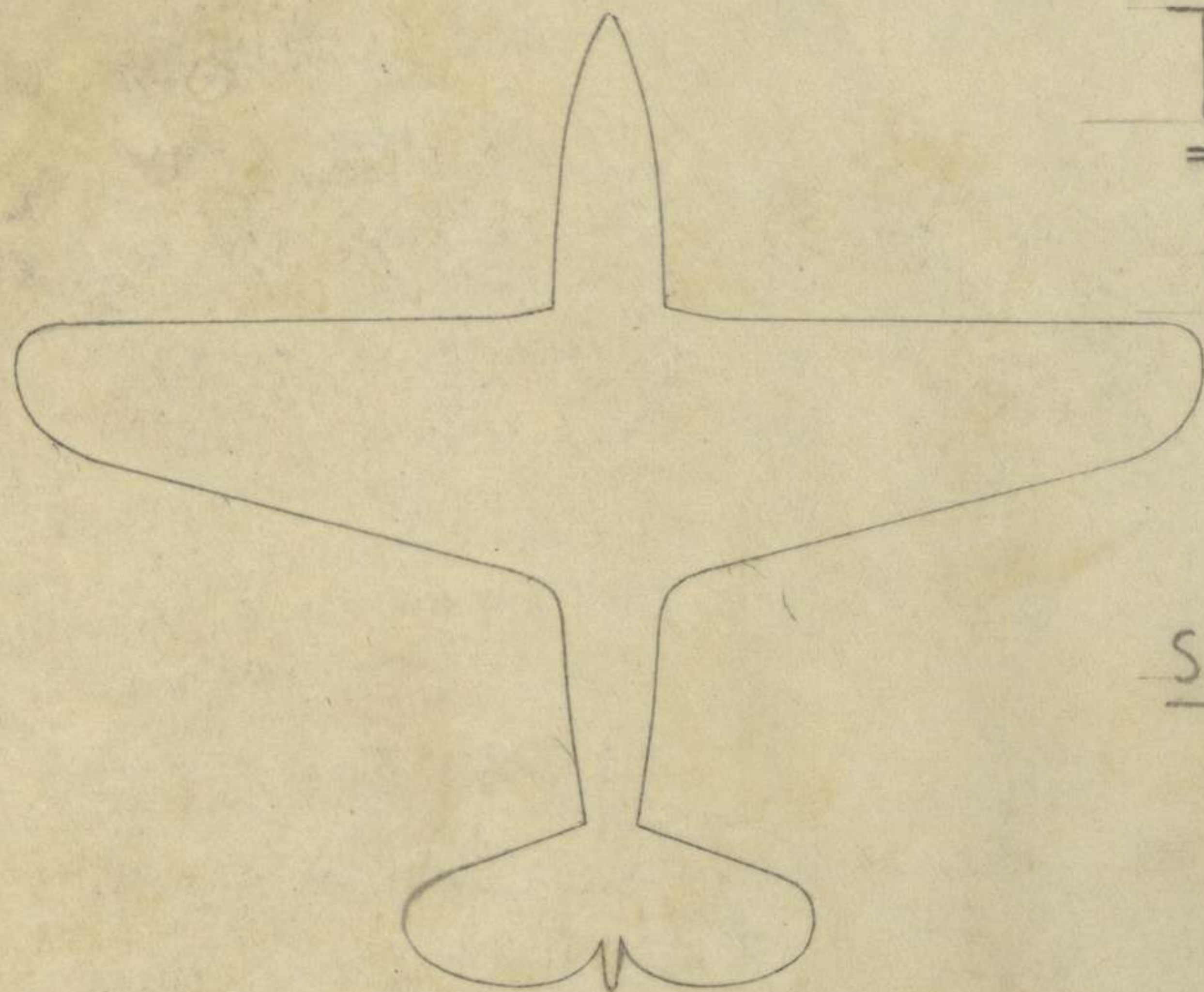
2 Enemy tks observed in Sq 426416 moving WEST. Disappeared when engaged by our arty. MT movement heard in SOUTH. Probably in vicinity of escarpment.

10. GENERAL -

Trace of the silhouette of Messerschmidt 109E and infn regarding dimensions and performances attached herewith. (Appx "B").


 10 2/23 Bn

APPX B



TOMAHAWK

SINGLE SEATER
FIGHTER

SPAN 30' LENGTH 25'

SCALE $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'$

I Sec 11 Jun 41

APPX - A

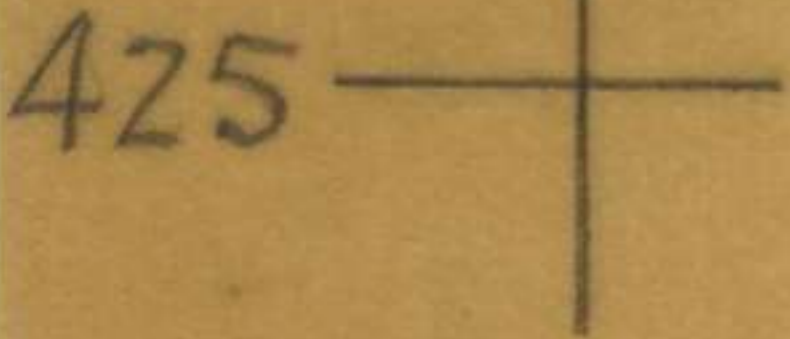
PATROL ROUTES

FOOT
CARRIER

1200 hrs - 1200 hrs 11/12 JUN

Ref: TOBRUCH : 1:50000

420

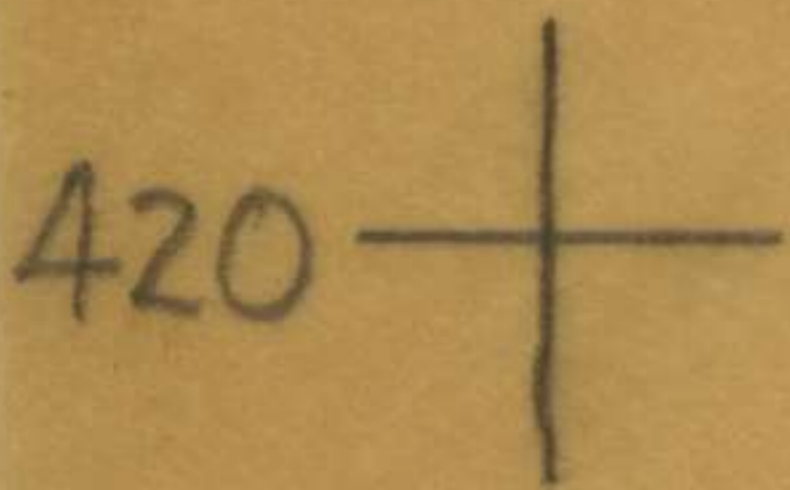
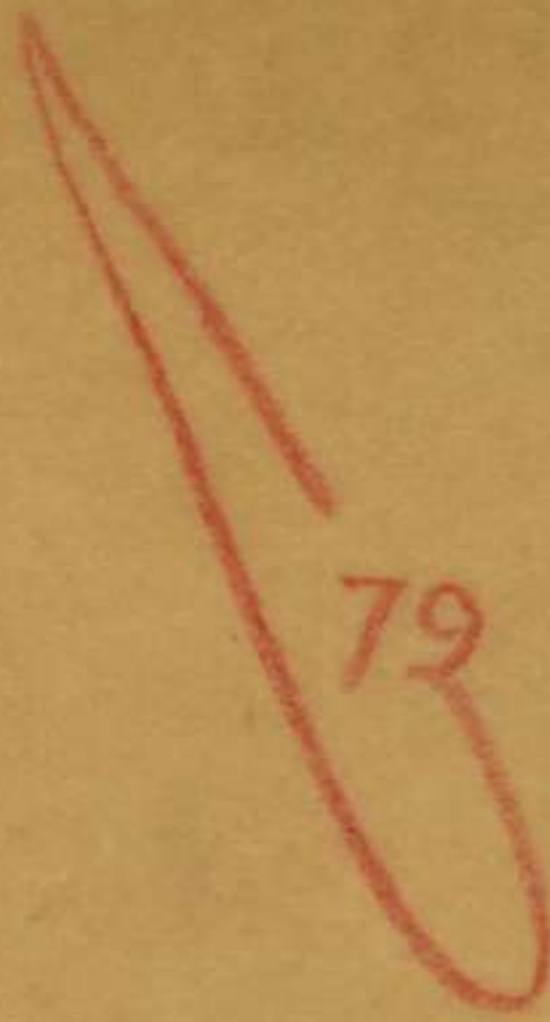
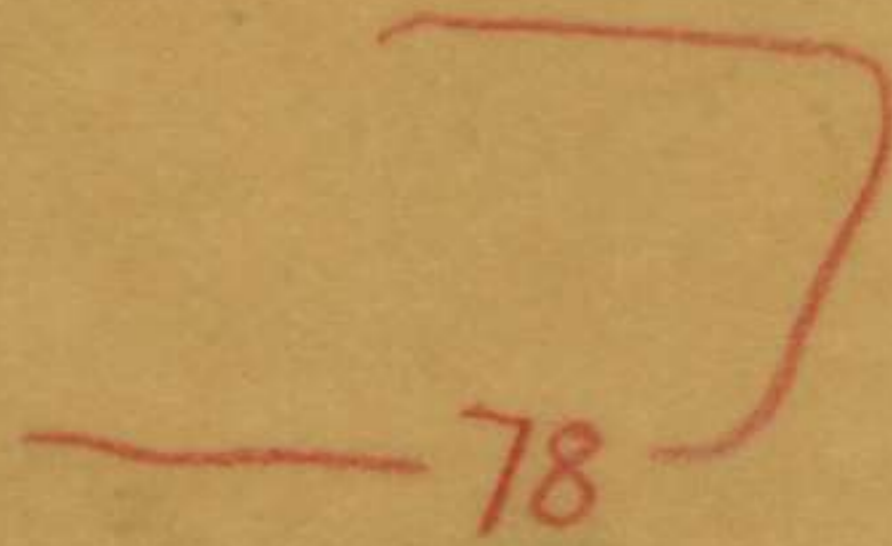


4 Shells - 0900

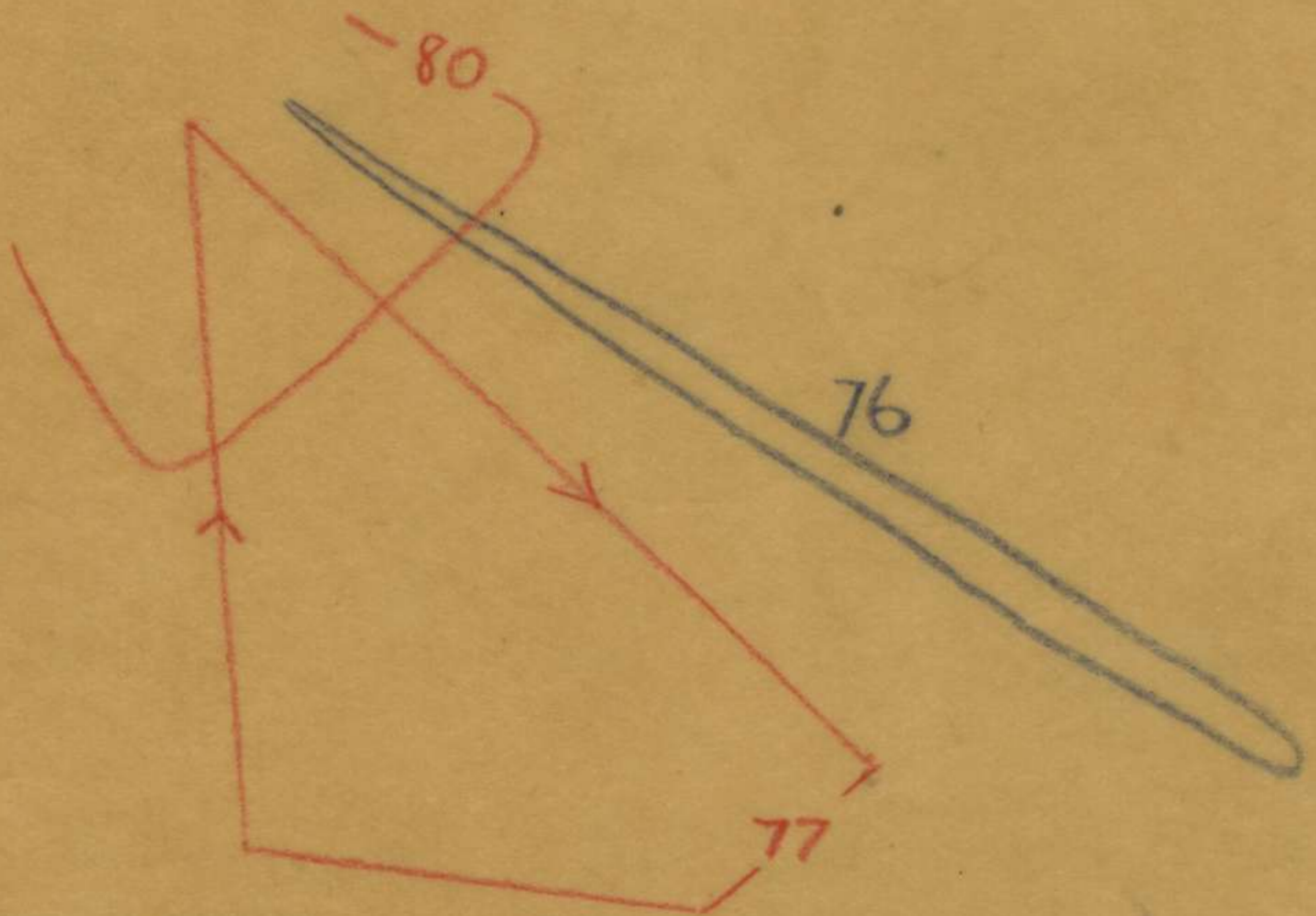
3 " 0855



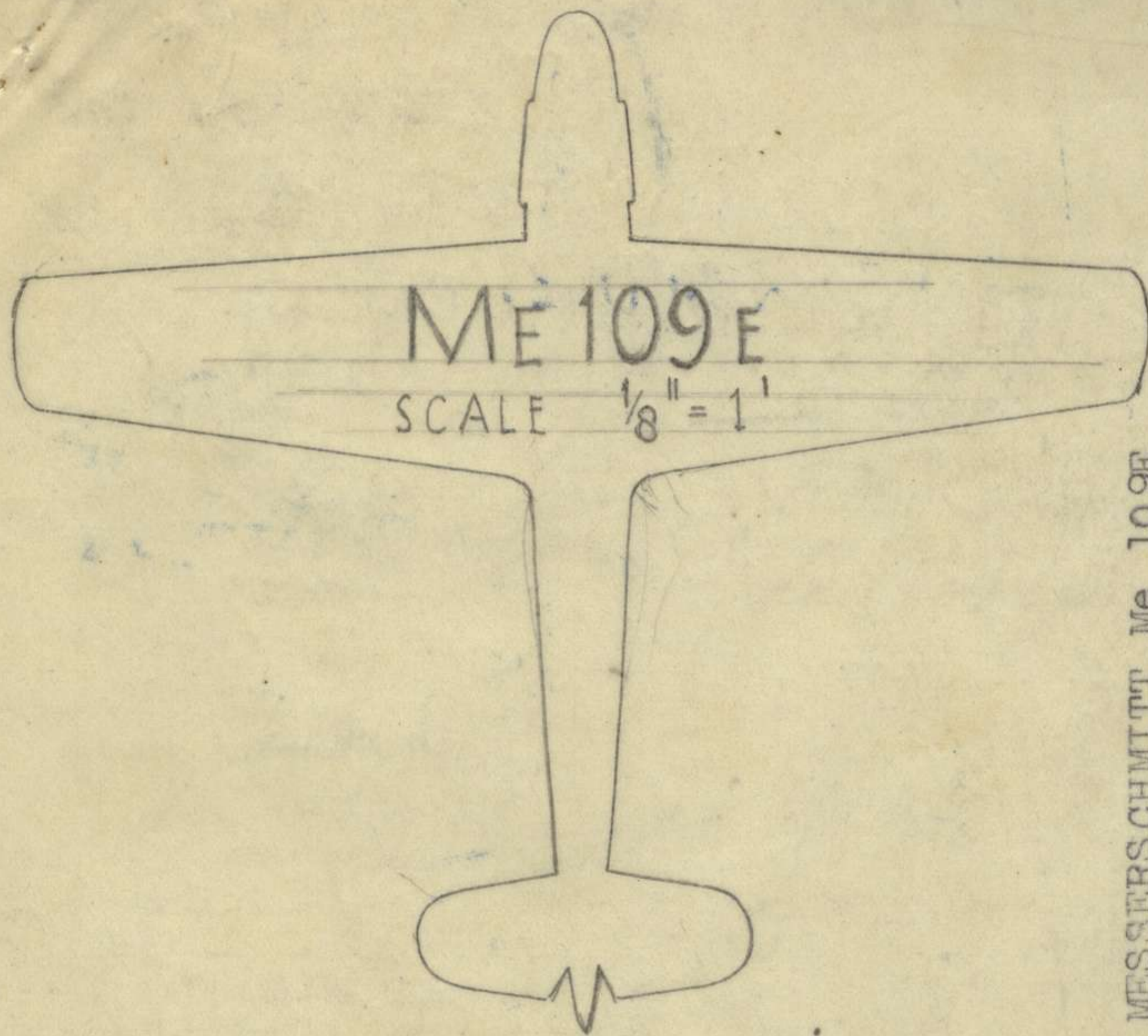
1 Sh. 0805



420



APPX B



Span 32ft 7 ins; length 29ft 4ins;
wing area 176.5 sq ft. Empty weight
4,180 lbs; loaded weight 5,520 lb.
Max speed 354 m.p.h. at 12,300 ft;
range 620 miles at 298 m.p.h. Duration
2 $\frac{1}{4}$ hrs. Initial climb 3,100 ft per min
service ceiling 36,000 ft.

THE MESSERSCHMITT Me 109E

Single-seat fighter

Germany

The Messerschmitt Me 109E single-seat fighter (1,150 h.p. Daimler-Benz DB-601 liquid-cooled motor and VDM three-blade controllable-pitch airscrew). Low-wing cantilever monoplane. Dark green camouflage. Under surfaces: grey.

All-metal construction with stressed metal covering. Motor cannon to fire through airscrew hub, one machine gun in each wing and two more in troughs on top of motor cowling. Under-carriage retracts outwards into the wings. Fixed tail wheel. Radiators under nose and centre-section of each wing. Straight tapered wing with square cut tips. rounded rudder, strut-braced tailplane.

Sec 2/23 Bn

2/23 Bn INT SUMMARY No 18.

(Compiled from infn received up to 1200 hrs 13 Jun 41)

Ref Map TOBRUK - 1 : 50000.

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY -

Active patrolling along the Bn sector was continued, comprising of inf patrols and a quick one by the carriers at 1945 hrs. Patrol routes shown on Appx "A".

No 81 - Recce by D Coy failed to locate arrow shaped digging previously reported as being Approx 42244193. In vicinity 42484189, 4 Med/ny Tks and approx 1 pl inf were observed. At 42274191 found 8 "T" shaped trenches spaced 100 x apart on a line running 71°. Dimensions of trenches 14' X 14' X 3' (wide) X 1½' deep. What appears to be an enemy CP at 42244186 and a 20' concrete column lying on the ground at approx 42144205. It was of recent mould and had figures 13 in red painted on a white background.

No 82) - were standing patrols by C, D and J Coys, all
84) reporting NMS/H.
85)

No 83 - Recce by A Coy left Z1 at 2400 hrs and went to 42444256 from where sounds of enemy digging were heard. Close investigation was prevented by enemy patrol, strength 12. Moving to TWIN COLUMNS patrol again saw and were seen by enemy patrol. Our patrol returned to Z1 at 0450 hrs without further incident.

No 86 - Fighting patrol by D Coy left Z73 at 2130 hrs to 42234193 and returned same route 0100 hrs having failed to make contact.

Carrier Patrol -

went out near R73 at 2145 hrs in an effort to capture 1 enemy observed about 2500 x out, but he quickly made off and failing light prevented patrol locating him.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY -

The WEST flank of WADI WEDDAN was being patrolled night 12/13 June, probably to cover working parties in rear. Only slight movement observed during daylight - visibility generally poor. Movement seen at 42394191 and several enemy in Sangers 42454244. Wiring is in progress at 42494235, 42484243 and 42564240.

3. ENEMY ARTY -

Enemy arty was very inactive. 2 shells fell near the Road Block and 1 in D Coy area are the only reports received. (Appx "A").

4. OUR ARTY -

No targets offered, but harrassing fire was put down 2000/2005 hrs on enemy MG posn 42454244.

5. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS -

MG at 42454244 with a probable fixed line over Z1. The erection of wire at 3 points and previous reports of digging astride and SOUTH of BARDIA rd suggests that the enemy is endeavouring to strengthen his defences on our direct and left front. 4 Med/ny tks with approx 1 pl enemy inf were observed in the vicinity of 42484189.

6. OUR DISPOSITIONS -

Remain unaltered.

7. ENEMY AIRCRAFT -

Silhouette of JU 87 (Dive-Bomber) attached, appx "B".

8. GENERAL -

9 Aust Div reports the situation all quiet on night 12/13 June - 1 German POW captured in the Salient has been identified as belonging to the 115 Regt.

Amey

Lieut

I.O. 2/25 Bn

2/23 Bn IAF SUMMARY - NO 19.

(Compiled from info received up to 1200 hrs, 15 June, 1941)

Ref Map TOBRUK 1 : 50000.

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY -

Last night our patrols 500x fwd of the perimeter reported HMS/H. D Coys recon patrol was cancelled. On the right flank of 24 Bn, 2 patrolling carriers were lost in a minefield at 41474170.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY -

There was some movement of MT in the Wadis EAST of the perimeter along BARDIA rd and on our Sector between 2200 and 2400 hrs, whilst a more general movement WEST to EAST in TOBRUK area, was reported between 0200 and 0300 hrs. At 1923 hrs and 1929 hrs a M/C approached along BARDIA rd, 1 disappearing at 42614220 and the next one at 42774217. 1930 hrs 6 enemy observed at Sangars 42624218. 1015 hrs 6 enemy seen 42494243 moved to Sangars 42504243, and 42474250. At 1110 hrs 6 enemy were seen to move from 42514246 to 42474242 and disappear into Sangars - at the same time dust rising from the Waddan indicated movement of MT. Slight movement observed at TALL House.

3. ENEMY ARTY -

2010 to 2130 hrs slight shelling of our area but fell over a very wide area and was impossible to associate it with any target. From 0157 to 1534 hrs the shelling was fairly consistent but haphazard over a large area. No damage or casualties reported. Areas shelled shown on Appx "A".

4. OUR ARTY -

Without any targets of consequence, activity was confined to a few ranging rounds last night and this-morning.

5. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS -

Nothing fresh to report.

6. OUR DISPOSITIONS -

Remain unchanged.

7. ARTY GUN FLASHES -

The numerous reports of bearings on gun flashes is of extreme value to our arty, but they are of greatest value when exact time of flash is stated. With more than one enemy bty firing it is almost essential to know the times of flashes also.

Rowley Lieut
I.O. 2/23 Bn

ENEMY SHELLING

1300 hrs

IN UGER AREA 14/15 JUNE

424

427



20 Mortar Bombs
0450



8 Shells
0228



8 Shells
2005



12 Shrapnel
0450



2 Duds
2035

418

30 Shells

0150 - 0220

420

2/23 BN INF SUMMARY NO 20

(Compiled from info received up to 1200 hrs 16 Jun)

Ref Map TOBRUK 1 : 50000.

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY -

Last night our patrols 500x fwd of perimeter reported NMS/H.
 C Coys patrol reports NMS/H.
 D Coys patrol reports degleg trenches at 42354202, and metallic sounds were heard. Flash bearings of enemy arty were taken by the patrol. Enemy flares lasting from 0350-0500 hrs were seen in the vicinity of 42554193.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY -

Considerable dust observed EAST of BARDIA rd between 1500/1530 hrs suggests continual movement of MF. Movement of MF heard during night 15/16 ~~from~~ from WADI BELGASSAM. 4 enemy were seen walking from 42504239 to 42474239 also 1 man digging at 42504221. Between 0700/0730 hrs 2 enemy were observed vicinity TALL HOUSE at 0950 hrs.

3. ENEMY ARTY -

Consistent shelling was experienced during the night 15/16 June and areas shelled are shown on attached trace Appx "A". No damage has been reported. Numerous flash bearings were reported which assisted in locating enemy batteries.

4. OUR ARTY -

Nothing to report.

5. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS -

Nothing further to report.

6. OUR DISPOSITIONS -

Remain unchanged.

7. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY -

4 Italian G 50 patrolled FORTRESS area 0700 hrs 16 Jun.

8. AIR ACTION -

Considerable air activity was seen in vicinity of escarpment with occasional burst of AA fire. Two explosions followed by fire seen towards 43454175 - clouds of thick black smoke indicated burning vehs. Further fire later burned for an hour smoke coming from BARDIA rd in the direction of BU AHED.

Quirk
 _____ Lieut
 10 2/23 Bn.

2/23 Bn Intelligence Summary No 21.

(COMPILED FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED UP TO 1200 HRS 17 JUN 41.)

REF MAP: TOBRUK 1/50,000.

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY 4 PATROLS WERE MADE DURING THE 24 HRS - SEE TRACE ATTACHED SHOWING ROUTES & AREAS PATROLLED - APFX "A".
 NO 101. STANDING PATROL IN C COY HEARD AN M/C APPROACH ALONG BARDIA rd AND STOP IN WHAT SOUNDED TO BE THE VICINITY OF CARRIER. IF SOUND INDICATION WAS ACCURATE, IT IS THE FIRST OCCASION ON WHICH ENEMY M/C'S HAVE VENTURED BEYOND THEIR F.D.L'S. THE NIGHT WAS CONDUCIVE TO UNUSUALLY CLEAR TRANSMISSION OF SOUND AND IT IS LIKELY THAT THE M/C ONLY APPROACHED AS FAR AS THE DERELICT TK WHICH MOVEMENT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS HABITS.
 NO 102. PATROL BY D COY TO 42424196 THENCE 42264186 FOUND THE ARROW SHAPED TRENCH PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AND FILLED IT IN. NMS/H.
 NO 103. STANDING PATROL BY D COY REPORTED NMS/H.
 No 104. PATROL BY A COY MOVED ALONG WEST BANK OF WADI WEIDAN AND REPORTED IT CLEAR OF ENEMY EXCEPT FOR 1 ENEMY HEARD WORKING WITH A HAMMER VICINITY 42454245.
2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY. AT 1424 HRS TO 1500 THERE WAS DUST RISING FROM SQUARE 429422 SUGGESTING EASTERLY MOVEMENT OF VEHs. AT 1345 HRS 3 ENEMY IN TRENCHES APPROX 42594223 APPEARED TO BE GERMANs BY THE UNIFORM COLOUR. 2205 TO 2330 HRS THERE WERE SOUNDS OF ENEMY AND MT COMING FROM SIDI BELGASSEM AND BARDIA ROAD. MT MOVEMENT OF A RESTRICTED NATURE CONTINUED ON AND OFF THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT IN THE BELGASSEM. AT 0305 HRS 3 M.T. MOVED NORTH TOWARDS TALL HOUSE AND AT 1157 HRS 7 large MT LEFT WADI GERIULA & JOINED BARDIA RD NEAR THE BEND.
3. ENEMY ARTILLERY. SEVERAL BTYS HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED PUTTING HARRASSING FIRE DOWN IN OUR AREA ESPECIALLY ON THE CENTRE AND LEFT SECTOR BUT THIS CONSIDERED INCREASE ACTUALLY HAS RESULTED IN NEITHER CASUALTIES NOR DAMAGE TO US. APFX "A" SHOWS AREAS SHELLED. IT IS SUSPECTED THAT THE ENEMY IS USING FWD ARTY SNIPING POSNS WHICH ARE CHANGED FREQUENTLY AND ALSO THERE IS A STRONG SUSPICION THAT HE IS BRINGING UP "STURM" ARTY TKS TO WITHIN 4000X OF THE PERIMETER DURING HRS OF DARKNESS. THESE FIRE A 75 mm AND WOULD ACCOUNT FOR GUN FLASHES FROM C. OSE AREAS IN WHICH NO GUN EMPLACEMENTS CAN BE OBSERVED.
4. OUR ARTY. BRIEF HARRASSING FIRE ON SIDI BELGASSEM AREA LAST NIGHT WAS THE ONLY ACTIVITY OF SONSEQUENCE. SHORTLY AFTER MIDDAY TODAY 4 SUSPECTED TRACKED VEHs MOVING NE AT 42714189 WERE ENGAGED BUT RESULT NOT KNOWN.
6. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS. NOTHING FRESH LOCATED BUT INCREASED MOVEMENT STRONGLY INDICATES ALTERATIONS. OBSERVED GROUND MOVEMENT HAS BEEN ~~INTERMITTENT~~ LESS THAN USUAL. THERE HAVE BEEN NO SNIPERS SHOTS ON FWD AREAS AND MG'S HAVE BEEN SILENT. FURTHER INFORMATION IS NECESSARY BEFORE SOUND DEDUCTION CAN BE MADE.
6. OUR DISPOSITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED.
7. FRONTIER AREAS. THE RTC BN FOUGHT A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ACTION ON MORNING 16 JUN WHEN IT ENGAGED A COLUMN OF 60 MED TKS, 20 LT TKS AND 100 MT NORTH OF SIDI OMAR AND INFLECTED HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE ENEMY. IN THE CUPUZZO AREA THE ENEMY LAUNCHED A COUNTER ATTACK WITH TKS BUT WAS HELD. AT 0945 HRS 16 JUN IT WAS REPORTED THAT OUR TROOPS HELD THE HEIGHTS AT HALPAYA AND WERE CONTINUING THE ADVANCE. THE RAF HAS CONTINUED TO HARRASS THE ENEMY'S L OF C AND YESTERDAY A CONVOY OF 35 TP CARRYING MT MOVING ALONG TRIGH CUPUZZO WERE MG'D CAUSING HEAVY CASUALTIES AND SETTING 7 VEHs ON fire.

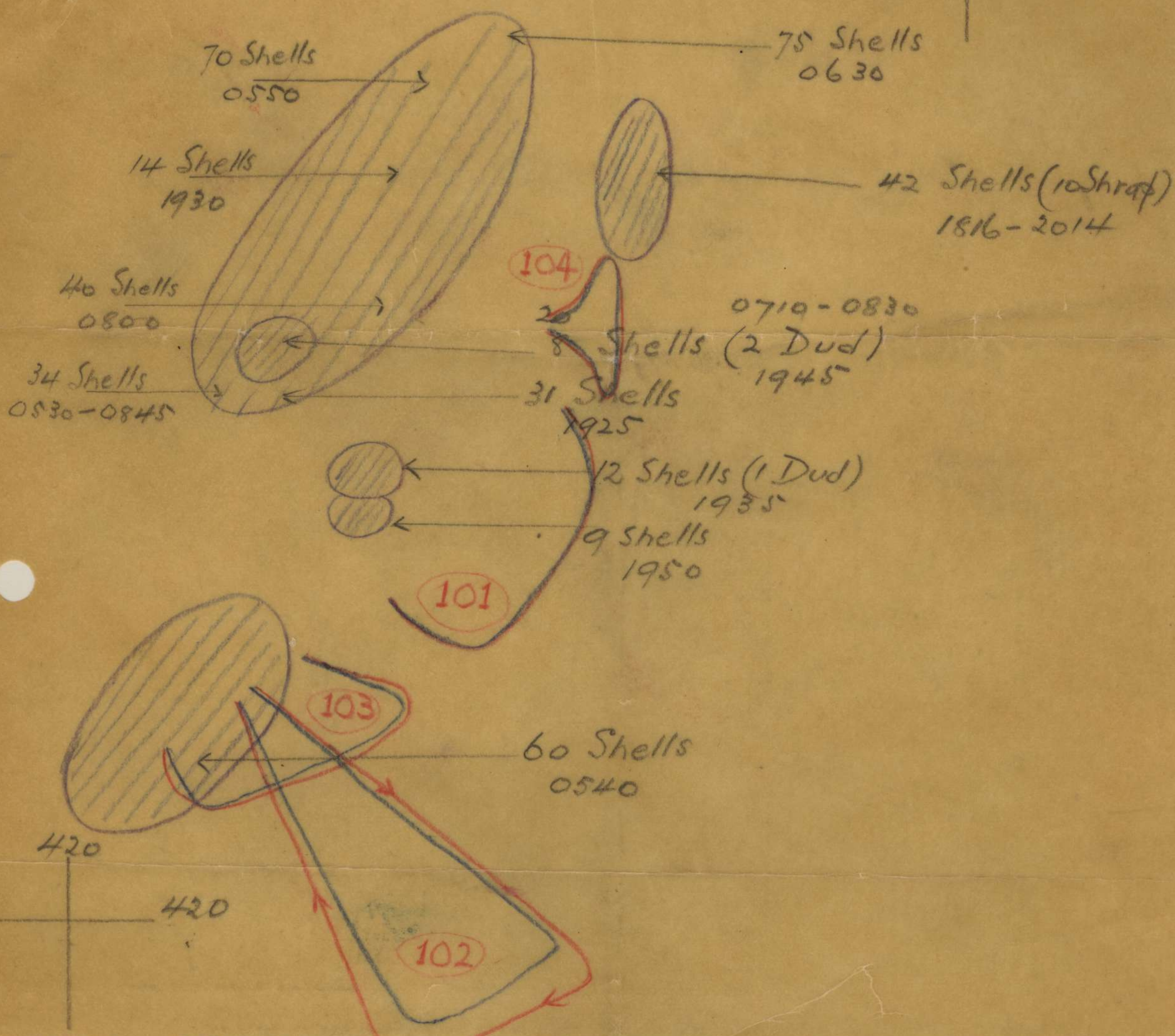
Amity
 Lieut
 I. J. 2/23 Bn

ENEMY SHELLING IN UGER AREA

1200 hrs 16/17 JUN

428

428



420

420

SECRET

18 Jun 41.

2/23 BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 22.

(Compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs 18 Jun 41.)

REF MAP: TOBRUK 1/50,000

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

4 PATROLS WERE CARRIED OUT ON OUR BN SECTOR DURING PAST 24 HRS AS PER APPX "A".

No 106:- WAS A TANK HUNTING PATROL BY D COY TO TRIG 146 TO DESTROY ENEMY TKS WHICH ARE BELIEVED TO COME FWD IN DARKNESS AND SHIELD OUR SECTOR. HOWEVER NONE WERE SEEN OR HEARD. AT 42714183 THERE ARE 2 FRESHLY DUG GUE PITS 100K APART - ONE OCCUPIED BY 4 MEN WITH WHAT WAS BELIEVED TO BE A HY A/TK RIFLE. SOME TANK TRACKS SEVERAL DAYS OLD WERE SEEN.

No 105 & 103 :- STANDING PATROLS BY C AND D COYS REPORTED NMS/H.

No 107:- STANDING PATROL BY J COY HEARD SOUNDS OF MT MOVEMENT IN THE BELGASSEM AND INDICATIONS OF LOADING OR UNLOADING VEH.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

FROM OBSERVATIONS SOUTH RUIN 42434234 IS STRONGLY SUSPECTED AS O.P. AND NORTH RUIN 42534242 IS PROBABLY USED FOR THE SAME PURPOSE. THERE HAS BEEN THE USUAL SLIGHT MOVEMENT IN WADI AREAS NORTH OF BARDIA ROAD. MT MOVEMENT AT NIGHT HAS BEEN MORE PRONOUNCED IN THE BELGASSEM.

3. OUR ARTY.

SOME HARRASSING FIRE IN BELGASSEM AND ALONG BARDIA RD LAST NIGHT NORTH AND SOUTH RUINS WERE REGISTERED THIS MORNING WITH A VIEW TO RESTRICTING ENEMY OBSERVATION.

4. ENEMY ARTY.

SHELLING WAS REPORTED AS PER APPX "B" FROM WHICH IT WILL BE SEEN THAT THE ENEMY BTYS WERE INACTIVE AFTER 2035 HRS. THERE WERE 2 SHELLS FELL VICINITY DEMOLISHED RD HOUSE AREA THIS MORNING. NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES REPORTED.

5. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

No alterations confirmed but it is thought likely that all or PORTION OF 10 BN BERSAGLIERI REGT MAY HAVE MOVED FROM BELGASSEM TO REINFORCE THE FRONTIER AREA.

6. OUR DISPOSITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED.

7. GENERAL.

DIV SITREP THIS MORNING REPORTS NO CHANGE IN THE LOCAL SITUATION

8. ENEMY WORKS.

THE SEVERAL AMENDMENTS TO ENEMY WORKS ETC WHICH HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED FROM THESE HQ DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS SHOULD BE MARKED ON EL ADEM SHEET AS RECEIVED AS THERE WILL PROBABLY BE FURTHER AMENDMENTS FOLLOWING.

*Amey
TJ*

APPX A

LIGER
PATROL ROUTES

ENEMY SHELLING

to 1200 hrs 18 Jun

7 Shells	1929
10	2015
7	2035
10	0630
5	0640
5	0645



107



106



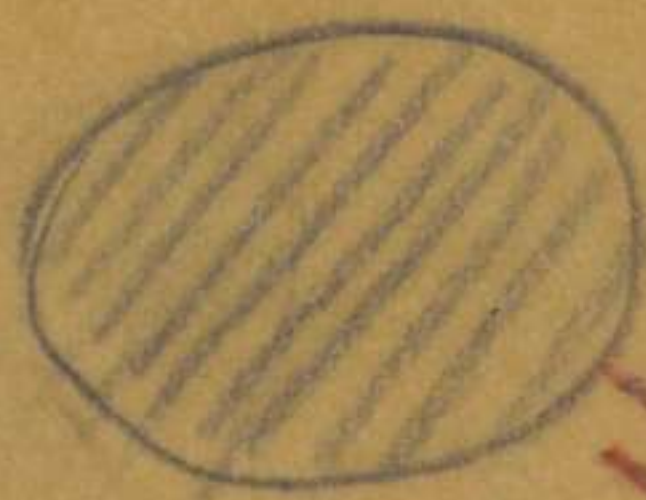
5 - 0655

22 - 0630



6 - 0740
2 - 1020

10 - 0830



108

6 - 0730

420

105

J. S. ...

2/23 BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 23.

(Compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs 19 Jun 41).

Ref Map: TOBRUK 1/50,000.

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

Active patrolling was carried out on our Bn front during the past 24 hrs as per APPX "A".

No 112. A fighting Patrol by D Coy (strength 10) at 42464178 encountered an enemy standing patrol, strength 4. When 10x from them enemy fled, and one man fell when our patrol fired. Enemy put up a flare 100x yds away, opened fire with LMG, shouting wildly and our patrol withdrew. Strength of enemy posn estimated 1 Pl and was found to have trip wires around it. At 42314195 a white Diamond 1' wide marked in centre of Tk track was found and obliterated.

Nos 109 114 & 115. Standing patrols by C, D & J coys reported NMS/H.

Nos 110 111 & 113. Fighting patrols by C & A coys did not make contact.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Only slight enemy movement has been observed - mostly at south ruin and adjacent areas. Usual MT movement has been conspicuously absent. 4 men were seen moving SOUTH from 41764175 in Minefield area. 1 MT moved EAST at foot of escarpment. Patrol of seven men came up to within 50x of 2/24 Bn listening post established 500x forward of R69. After going to ground the seven men waited for some time then moved back. As far as can be ascertained none of our patrols were in this vicinity and this may have been an enemy patrol.

3. OUR ARTY.

NORTH and SOUTH ruins were again registered. When SOUTH ruin was shelled this morning 2 men (presumably observers) ran away.

4. ENEMY ARTY.

Enemy btys were moderately active and shelling at irregular intervals was reported as per APPX "B", with no damage or casualties.

5. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

OP at Sangar 42464178 and approx 1 pl with LMGs dug in at 42474179.

6. OUR DISPOSITIONS. Remain unchanged.

Amendment: Z1 posn is 42364247. Twin columns is 42414245. Determined by resection from Trig points this morning.

7. IDENTIFICATION.

Two ITALIANS captured near S13 last night belong to 20 Regt BRESCIA DIV.

8. GENERAL.

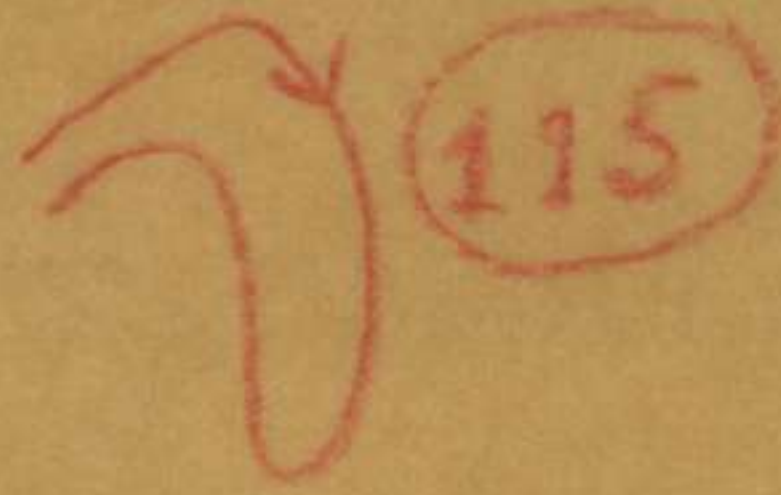
The Bn sector has been quiet and the fact that fighting patrols on C & J coy fronts made no contact, adds strength to the belief that forces in BELGASSEM area have been reduced. 9 Div HQ reports situation generally quiet throughout the night.

A. McKay
Lieut.
I. O. 2/23 Bn.

PATROL ROUTES

ENEMY SHELLING

to 1200hrs 19 Jun 41



113

3 Shells	1908	}
13 "	1600	
7 "	1730	
18 "	1900	



109

111

110



114



}	7 Shells	0700
	5 "	0835

419

112

420

File

S E C R E T

2/23 BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 24

(Compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs ~~19~~ Jun 41)
20

Ref Map TCBRIK: 1/50,000.

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

Batrolling was carried out on our Bn front during the past 24 hrs as per appx "A".

No 116: Recce patrol by A Coy (strength 3) came under enemy rifle and MG fire from a well camouflaged sangar at ref 42484253, and returned safely.

Nos 117, 118 & 119. Standing patrols by J, D & C coys reported NMS/H.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Enemy movement continues to be observed at south ruin 42494233.

3. OUR ARTY.

SOUTH ruins again fired on, five men left area somewhat hurriedly.

4. ENEMY ARTY.

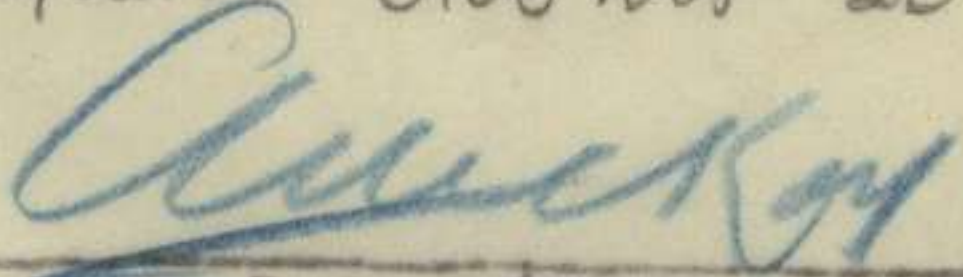
Enemy btys were less active and shelling at irregular intervals was reported as per Appx "A" with no damage or casualties.

5. ENEMY DISPOSITION.

No additional information.

6. OUR DISPOSITIONS.

One pl of C Coy relieved A Coy pl in fwd posn at ref 42364247. Relief completed 0100 hrs 20 Jun.


Lieut.
I. O. 2/23 Bn.

REF TOBRUCH 1/50000

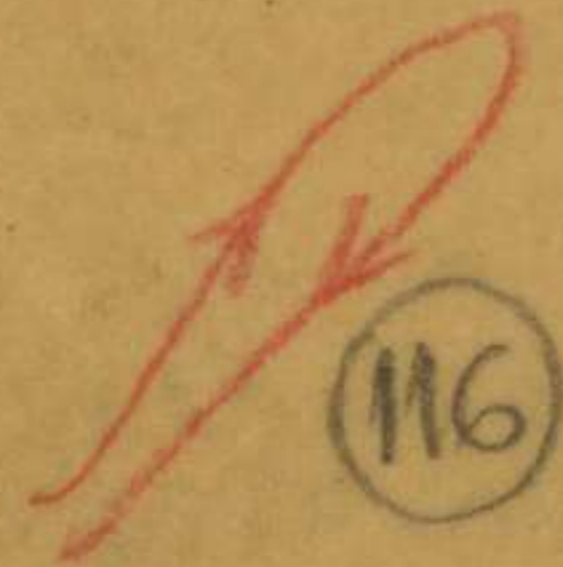
APPX A

PATROL ROUTES &

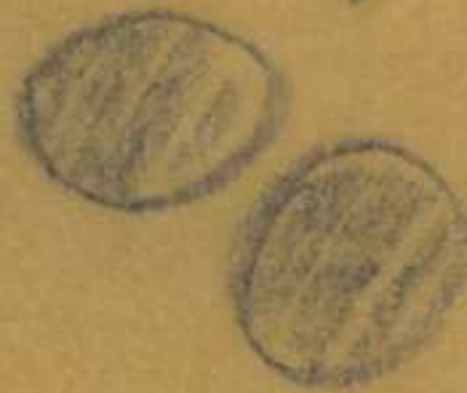
ENEMY SHELLING

LIGER AREA

to 1200 hrs 20 Jun



4 - 1050



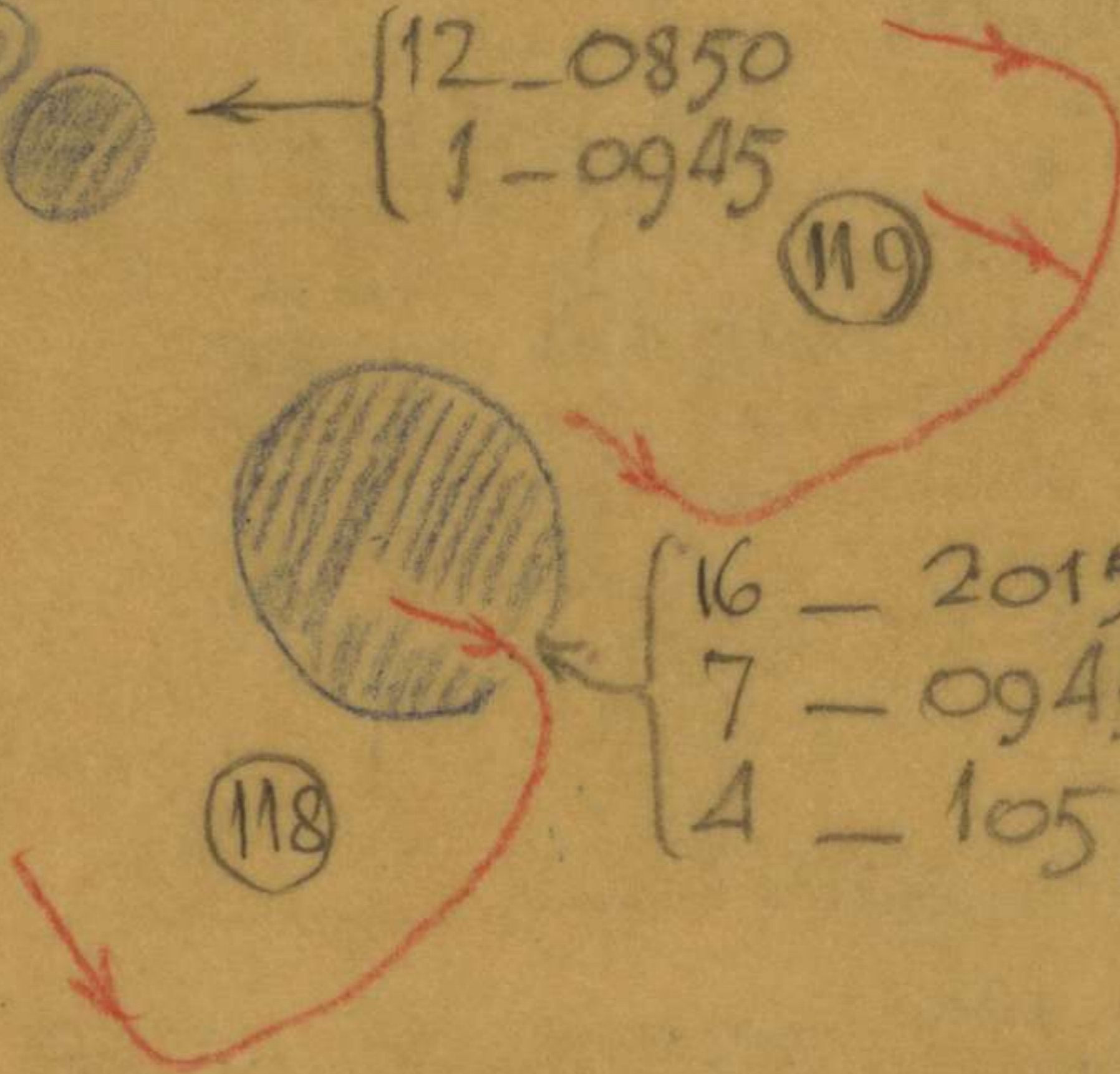
← { 12 - 0850
1 - 0945

(119)



(118)

{ 16 - 2015
7 - 0945
4 - 1053



420

420

2/23 I Sec

2/23 BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 25.

(Compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs 21 Jun 41.)

Ref Map TOBRUK 1/50,000.

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

6 Patrols were carried out in our sector during the past 24 hrs. Recce Patrol No 120. Strength 2 carriers, moved out from R 73 to trig 146 ref 42504197 thence 42754198 and returned via 42504197 and 2 men were seen near a stone hut at 42454184. 4 men in a trench 42764194, and unoccupied diggings were observed at 42814199. Developed trenches occupied by 50 ITALIANS, run along the line 42544220 - 42564224 - 42554226, and the patrol encountered A/Tk fire from this area. A stone hut was seen at 42454183.

Recce Patrol No 121. Strength 4, by D Coy moved out approx 4000X beyond the perimeter wire, and discovered a signal wire which was followed for some distance to 42204190 where it swung away at right angles to their course?

Fighting Patrol No 123. Strength 3, by C coy saw signs of enemy occupation by day in vicinity 42424254. (Appx "A").

Patrols Nos 122, 124 & 125 reported NMS/H.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Approx 40 tps were seen to alight from 3 MF and move into diggings in vicinity 42544213. The MF moved towards BARDIA rd. and made off to the EAST under our arty fire. Flickers of light, reported by D Coy, may have been enemy signals, but origin could not be traced. Small gps of enemy continue to be observed in and around SOUTH RUIN which appears to provide good observation for them.

3. OUR ARTY.

Our arty fire was directed at the MF mentioned in para 2, but no damage has been reported. At 0930 harrassing fire was brought down on SOUTH RUIN and vicinity and 2 men were observed to quickly retire from their fwd posn.

4. ENEMY ARTY.

Enemy btys continue to use shrapnel and between 0800 and 0900 hrs 6 bursts were reported near R73. (Appx "A".)

5. OUR DISPOSITIONS.

At 2350 hrs, relief of C Coy by A Coy had been completed.

6. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

The stone column previously reported at 42454183, is now describe as a stone hut and is probably used as a Coy HQ by the enemy. Nearby, at 42414184, are enemy trenches mounting air A/Tk gun. It is confirmed that the enemy force astride BARDIA rd is approx 1 Coy, and as automatic weapons are being manned in BELGASSEM it must be assumed that this area is held in some strength. Perhaps a Bn as stated by POW.

7. IDENTIFICATIONS.

An ITALIAN POW captured in el ADEM sector belonged to 8 Bn BERSAGLIERI Inf Regt.

8. GENERAL.

OVER/

GENERAL Contd.

Except for unusual amount of enemy shelling on southern sector, local situation remains unchanged. Slight aerial activity during night but no damage reported.

A. H. McKay

Lieut

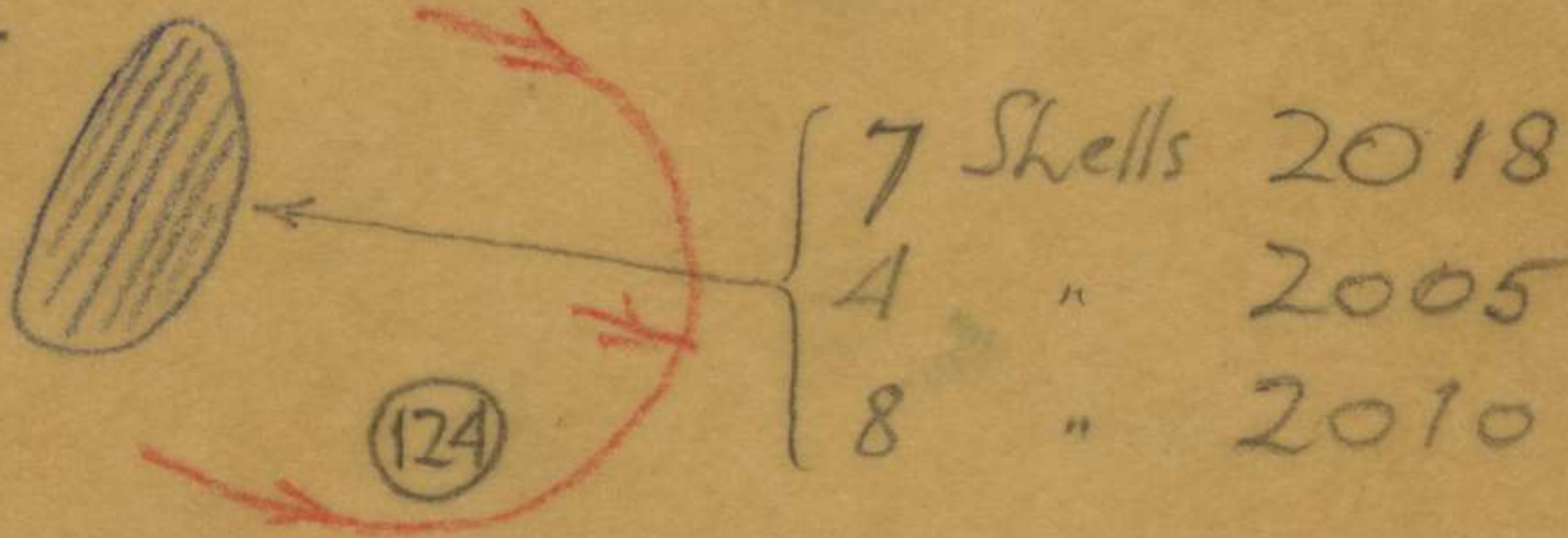
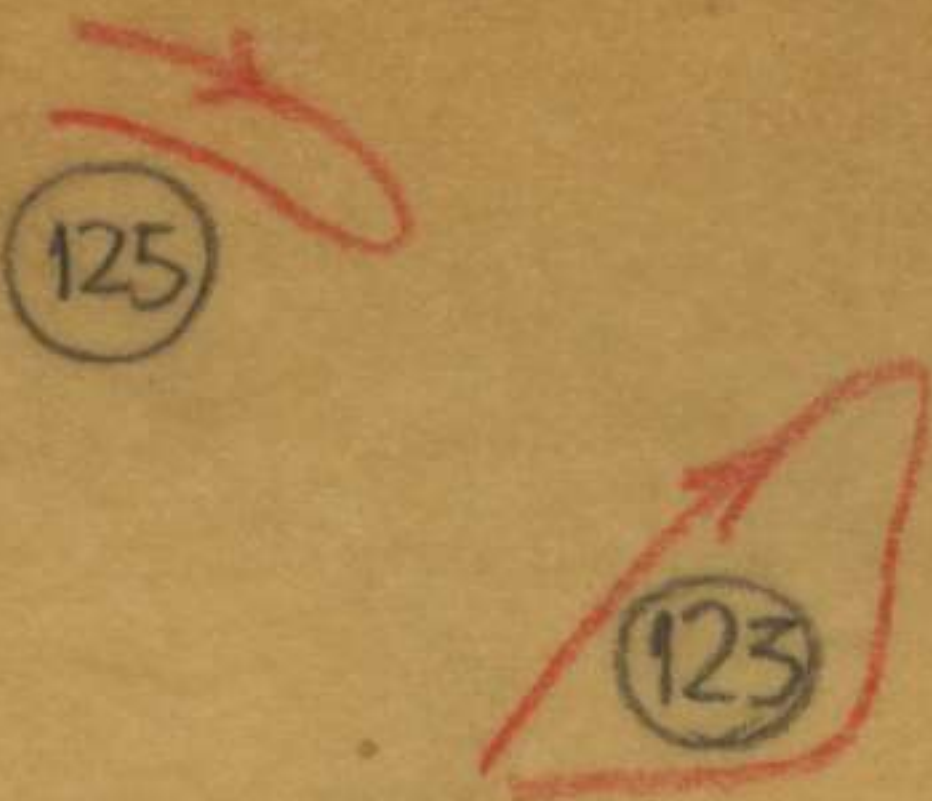
I. O. 2/23 En

per [unclear]

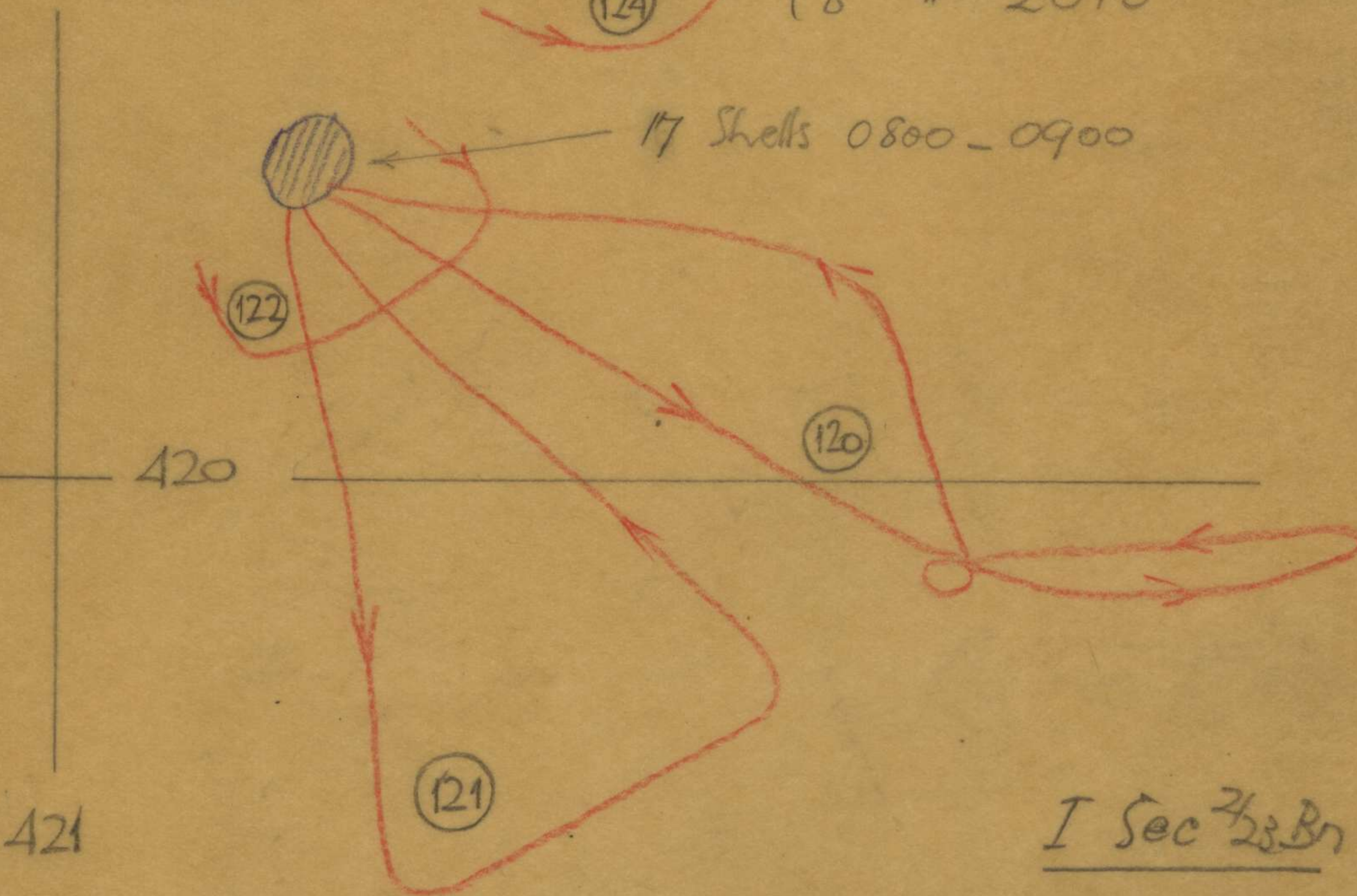
APPX A

PATROL ROUTES &
ENEMY SHELLING

LIGER AREA
to 1200 hrs 21 Jun



17 Shells 0800 - 0900



I Sec 23 Bn

2/23 Bn INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY - NO. 26.

(Compiled from infn received up to 1200 hrs - 22 Jun 41)

File

Ref Map TOBRUK 1 : 50000.

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY -

5 Patrols were carried out in our sector during the past 24 hrs as per Appx "A".

Recce patrol No 126, Strength 5, by J Coy, observed Italian bathing party of 30/40 men at WADI BELGASSEM beach.

Recce patrol No 128 by D Coy, Strength 7, encountered enemy posn at 42274184, creeping to within 80 ft before being challenged. E tried to encircle patrol, firing 3 MG's - 2 on fixed lines and 1 on arc. Patrol silenced 2 MG's with Hand Grenades. E then opened with A/Tk gun and our patrol withdrew. We inflicted 5 casualties on enemy.

Patrols Nos 127, 129 and 130 reported NMS/H.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY -

Slight E MF movement seen vicinity BARDIA rd turn during yesterday. Flickers of light, reported by D Coy previous night still appear, but have NOT been traced. Small gps of enemy continue to be observed in vicinity of 42664215.

3. OUR ARTY -

Harrassing fire brought down on Sth Ruin and vicinity. No specific targets were offering and activity was slight in consequence.

4. ENEMY ARTY -

Was comparatively inactive - see trace Appx "A".

5. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS -

The large enemy bathing party observed yesterday confirms that the Belgassem is fairly strongly manned. A recently captured POW of 8 Bn Bersaglieri Regt stated that one Coy of his Bn in addition to the 10th and 11th Bns were in the Belgassem and along BARDIA rd, which corresponds with previous disposns.

6. GENERAL -

9 Aust Div reports no enemy ground activity during the night and general situation unchanged.

[Signature]
 _____ Lieut
 10 2/23 Bn

427

APPX A

PATROL ROUTES &
ENEMY SHELLING

UGER AREA

To 1200 hrs 22 JUN 41

(126)

(129)

(127)

(130)

(128)

1 Shell 1510
1 Shell 1530

420

420

I SEC 2/23 BN

2/23 Bn INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 27.

Compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs 23 June 41.

Ref Map TOBRUK 1/50,000.

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

Ground activity carried out in the past 24 hrs was mainly of a standing nature, and with the exception of a recce patrol from A Coy, all patrols reported NMS/H. Recce patrol No 131 by A Coy heard a voice in the distance, towards BARDIA Rd from 42454215.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

From 0620 hrs to 0730 hrs small gps of enemy were observed in the vicinity of 42464230. 8 E were observed in the vicinity of WHITE HOUSE 42734242.

3. OUR ARTY.

Nothing to report.
~~Registration of D.F. tasks were carried out from KU at 1100 hrs.~~

4. ENEMY ARTY.

Except for a period this morning when there was heavy Enemy shelling outside the perimeter in D Coy area (see trace Appx "A") enemy batteries were comparatively inactive.

5. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

No additional information.

6. GENERAL.

9 Div HQ reports EA dropped 4 bombs NORTH of town at 0700 hrs. No damage or casualties. The situation remains generally all quiet.

A. W. H. Kay

I. O. 2/23 Bn Lieut

PATROL ROUTES

APPX A

ENEMY SHELLING

BIND AREA

to 1200hrs 22/23 JUN 41

420

2 Shells 0930

132

3 Shells 1937-

2017

131

12 Shells
1014-1020

133

58 Shells

1014-1108

420

2/23 BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 28.

Compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs 24 Jun 41.

Ref Map TOBRUK 1/50,000.

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

Ground activity carried out in the past 24 hrs was mainly of a standing patrol nature. Patrol No 137 reports Heavy MT movement throughout night, along BARDIA rd and in the BELGASSEM. Patrol Nos 136 & 138 reports NMS/H. A sniper from A Coy in posn 42454234 destroyed 1 enemy at 300x range but was then compelled by MG fire to return to derelict plane from where observation was limited.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Enemy has cut down six more telephone plocs along BARDIA rd at 42504223. One enemy MT seen at BARDIA rd bend and M/C at 42614220. Small gps of enemy at 42604218 & 42544236. Movement is also observed at White House suggesting a HQ - probably Coy Or BN also at SOUTH RUIN - where movement this morning was more considerable than usual.

3. OUR ARTY.

In conjunction with fire from 3 ships our arty silenced enemy bty which engaged the ships at 0700 hrs.

4. ENEMY ARTY.

During the past 24 hrs the enemy has mainly shelled A & D Coy areas and at 0845 hrs with particular accuracy, on post R75. No damage or casualties. Reports indicate that majority of shells are 75mm ITALIAN type - Single shells landed beyond the perimeter at 42224208, 42294199 and 2 at 42194212. Bearings from our observers at 1110 hrs enabled the posn of a new enemy gun to be plotted at 42604260 in the Wadi Belgassem. This gun was shelling the harbour at the time. 3 small ships were engaged by the enemy at 0700 hrs. Both the ships and our arty returned the fire. No damage to ships was observed.

5. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

MG posns located at 42484238 & 42504226. Recent observations indicated a strengthening of enemy posns on our right flank. Known disposns in areas 42224180, 42314183 & 42764194 may indicate the general line of his defences. Heap of stones 42474183 were occupied by 2 men this morning, doubtless for observation.

6. GENERAL.

9 Div HQ reports no enemy ground activity during the night - situation unchanged. Enemy Air Activity over Tobruk has increased today but no damage or casualties reported.

A. D. McKay
I. O. 2/23 Bn.

Lieut

per K/B.

BIND PATROLS &
ENEMY SHELLING
to 1200 hrs 24 Jun

(138)

● 3 Shells 1825

8 — 1825

← 3 — 1120

4 — 0545 →

5 — 0845 →

(137)

{ 3 — 1925

{ 7 — 2030

(136)

← 2 — 1120

6 — 2040

← 1 — 1120

420

420

I Sec 33 BN

2/23 Bn INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 29

Compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs 25 Jun 41.

Ref Map TOBRUK 1/50,000

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

Active patrols were carried out during the past 24 hrs. Carrier Patrol No 139 consisting of 5 Carriers left between posts R73 & R75 and proceeded direct to Trig 146, thence 600x in direction of STONE HUT at 42454183, which was fired on by 4 carriers also the 4/1k pit at 42414183. Approx 2000 rounds were fired and no opposition was experienced from STONE HUT although movement was observed. Patrol drew arty fire from vicinity of sq 425417 but returned safely to our lines. Patrol 140 A Coy discovered old marks 6' long 1' wide 4" high at 4245424 suggesting mines otherwise NMS/H. Patrol 141 D Coy followed sig cable found on previous patrol to 2 sugar at 42244185 which is a suspected CP. A sample of the cable was obtained. Patrol crossed road at 42184177 also 42174173. At 42154183 3 T shaped trenches were encountered, one incomplete, otherwise NMS/H. Standing patrols 142, 143, 144 report NMS/H.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Considerable movement of small gps of enemy were observed during the day at WHITE HOUSE. Isolated movement was also seen at STONES 42474216 and at TRINE IS 42614217. Clouds of dust observed indicated fairly general MT movement although no actual vehicles were visible.

3. OUR ARTY.

SOUTH RUIN was engaged but no movement was observed and a result of this shelling.

4. ENEMY ARTY.

Light shelling as per Appx "A" was experienced during the past 24 hrs.

5. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

a. Enemy Minefields. Patrols have located a field 41634164 - 41634164 to 41924143 depth 12 1/2 yds 2 3 rows. First row push type anti-personnel with igniter body projecting 2" above ground level and clearly visible. 2nd and 3rd rows are TELNER mines well in the ground but easily located by disturbed earth. No booby traps encountered.

b. Enemy trenches. Located at 42154183 are 100x apart "T" shaped 14' long 3' wide and 1'6" deep with a circular weapon pit 5' diameter at bottom of "T"

6. GENERAL

9 Aust Div Hq reports no enemy ground activity during the night. At 1350 hrs 24 Jun propaganda leaflets were dropped by RA. Coy areas in which leaflets fell are referred to in today's issue of Mud'n Blood as to their disposal.

Rudolf
Lieut
I.O. 2/23 Bn

S E C R E T

CO
21/c
Adj. *[Signature]*
I Sec 2/23 Bn INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 30

Compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs 26 Jun 41.

Ref Map TCBNK 1/50,000.

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

Our patrols were again very active during the past 24 hrs, carrying out fighting, recon and standing duties. A sniper from A Coy, operating in square 424423 reported NMS/H.

Patrol No 146, a recon patrol from A Coy, investigated marks on the ground at 42414238. Three marks were dug up, but nothing was found, rock being encountered 12 inches below the surface.

Patrols Nos 147, 148 and 150, standing patrols from A Coy J Coy, and D Coy respectively, all reported NMS/H.

Patrol No 149 was a fighting patrol from D Coy. Five fresh weapon pits 6' x 4' x 3' were seen at 42294186. A line of T trenches 42204185 to 42314189 have been commenced and showed signs of recent work. There was fresh spit-locking, towards our lines, of T trenches at 42244187.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Isolated movement was observed at ROCK CAIRN 42694211 and vicinity of trenches at 42484230.

3. OUR ARTY.

Nothing to report.

4. ENEMY ARTY.

Shelling (light) as per Appx "A" was experienced.

5. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

a. Enemy trenches T shaped trenches between 42204185 and 42314189.

b. A number of poles have been erected by the enemy during the past 24 hrs, some of which no doubt will be used for observation.

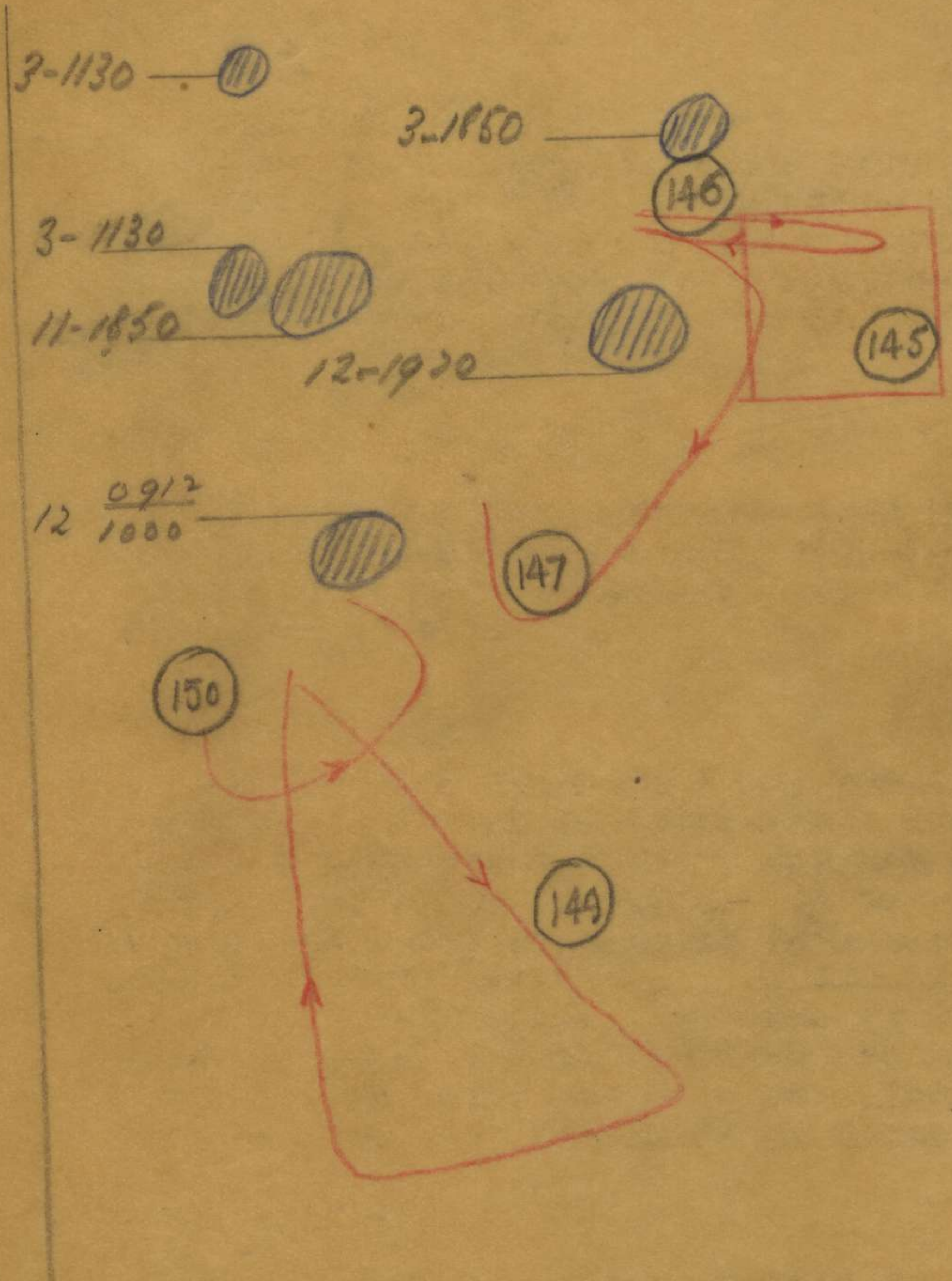
6. GENERAL.

9 Aust Div advise that our tps have completed an advance to an average depth of 500 yds on a front of approx 1 mile of left sector of salient which greatly improved our position.

I. G. 2/23 Bn

Lieut

PATROL ROUTES
ENEMY SHELLING
TO 1200hrs 26 JUN



418

420

1 sec 2/23 BN

2/23 BN INT SUMMARY NO. 32.

(Compiled from infn received up to 1200 hrs 28 Jun 41.)

Ref Map TOBRUK 1/50,000.

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY -

2 Recce, 3 standing, and 2 sniping patrols were carried out as shown on Appx "A". Apart from sounds of slight MT movement heard in the Belgassem by A Coy patrol, there was NMS/H reported. The fwd OP at 42224193 was manned continuously and although movement of vehs was heard in the distance, no movement was observed in the diggings to the SE.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY -

There was slight movement seen in Belgassem area, 2 MT near pt 145 square 428420 at 2020 hrs, otherwise quiet. No enemy patrols were seen or heard. An additional Tower OP erected, making 10 in all.

3. OUR ARTY -

At 1945 hrs South Ruin was shelled in case the erection of poles was intended to detract our attention from this aparent OP. At 2020 hrs 2 MT were engaged but failing light prevented observation of the result. It was probably one of the same vehs which D Coy engaged at 2030 hrs but again observation of the result was not possible. D Coy gunners think they were "plus" of the target. At 0630 to 0700 hrs what appeared to be an MT or small Hut at 42584220 was shelled and 1 enemy ran away. C Coys gun brought accurate retaliating fire to bear on enemy fwd posns astride BARDIA rd at intervals.

4. ENEMY ARTY -

Enemy arty was again limited to a few shells along BARDIA rd and R 75 also received attention as usual. From outside the perimeter, Post R 75 is one of the easiest to pick out and any movement is clearly visible to the enemy. At 2015 hrs it was noticed that a number of tps were grouped within the post, and an MT near by added to the target from enemy's point of view. The veh received attention as it moved away Northwards. Shelling reported shown on Appx "A".

5. ENEMY DISPOSNS -

Close observation from recently erected OP near R 70 reveals well developed earthworks rear of I tk and 4 weapon pits visible are probably A Tk guns.

6. OUR DISPOSNS -

Remain unchanged.

7. GENERAL -

104 RHA carefully observed Enemy Pole OPs with telescope and report that they are constructed of 3 poles garnished with bushes. Some have ladder cross members and others platforms on top. Although none were occupied yesterday, many are capable of being used as OPs if required. "Pat" OP at 42224193 heard slow moving veh about 3000x SE at 0755 which stopped at 0805. Shortly afterwards several shells were fired from same direction and when shelling ceased the sound recommenced. This may have been "Sturm" arty. 9 Div HQ reports situation unchanged. There is no news from frontier area.

Amey

Lieut.

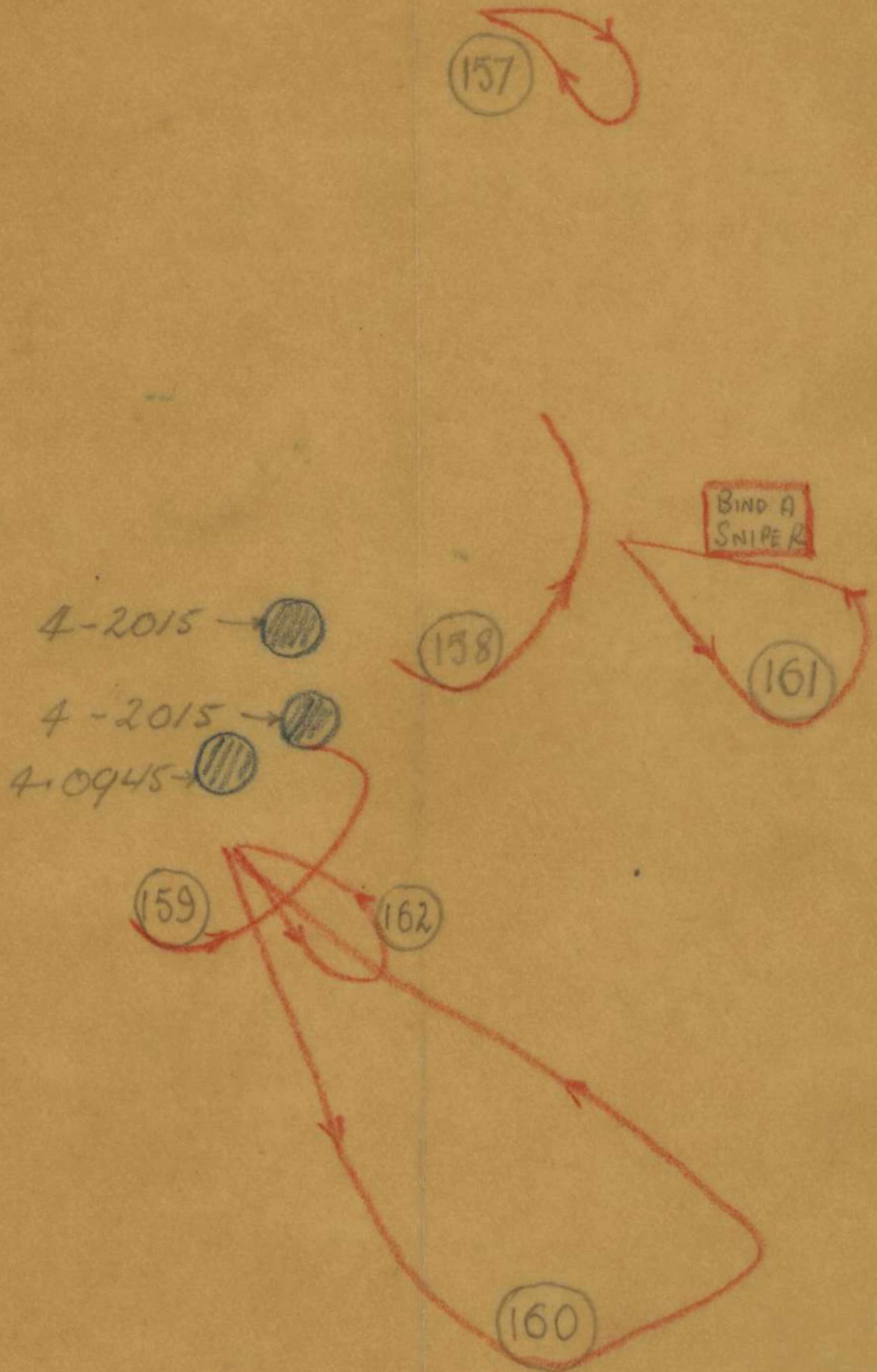
IO 2/23 Bn

PATROL ROUTES

APPX A

ENEMY SHELLING

TO BROOKS 28 JUN



418

420

I Sect 2/23rd BN

co.
2/c
adj.
I Sec.

Compiled from information received up to 1200 hrs 29 Jun.

Ref Map TOBRUK 1:50000.

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY -

A most active period of patrol work has been carried out, consisting of 2 fighting, 1 sniping, and 3 standing patrols, as shown on Appx "A".

No 163, a fighting patrol from A Coy, was challenged in Italian from Sangar at 42474221 and drew Lt and Med MG fire and Lt Mortar fire. Shortly afterwards 20/30 enemy approached and were fired on at close range by our patrol, which subsequently withdrew under continued MG fire. Enemy casualties unknown. We had 1 minor casualty.

D Coy fighting patrol, No 164, proceeded to 42304200, thence to 42464184 where patrol halted. Sounds of MG fire from NORTH put enemy on the alert, and patrol encountered defensive fire from MGs at 42844193, coming from vicinity of Trig 146. Flares were put up from enemy posn at approx 42504180.

D Coy standing patrol, No 165, reported intermittent MG fire, some flares, otherwise NMS/H.

A Coy standing patrol, No 166, reported MG fire. Otherwise NMS/H.

Sniping patrol No 162, and J standing patrol, No 167, both reported NMS/H.

No 168, Carrier patrol this morning to Southern Derelict plane area was intended to engage the enemy astride BARDIA rd, but only 2 men were seen. Because of insufficient targets, patrol returned without incident.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY -

Small gps of enemy continue to be observed in vicinity 42504245, indicating general occupation of area.

Several enemy were also observed in WHITE HOUSE area.

Isolated movement at SOUTH RUIN, probably E OP.

Enemy digging was observed at 42674225, suggesting continuation of diggings previously reported to the SOUTH of these, near BARDIA rd.

3. OUR ARTY -

At 2020 hrs fire was directed on enemy strong point posns astride BARDIA rd. A counter preparation task was registered in the Pt 141 area Square 423419. Retaliation fire was brought ~~XXXXXX~~ down on ~~ENEMYXXXXXX~~ a number of areas.

4. ENEMY ARTY -

Enemy arty was again limited to a few shells, mainly in C Coy area.

5. ENEMY DISPOSNS - Nothing fresh to report.

6. OUR DISPOSNS - Remain unchanged.

7. OBSERVED MOVEMENT -

TILT reports movement observed - 1100 hrs column of 19 vehs moving EAST on top of EL ADEM escarpment approx 412412. 1130 hrs 3 vehs ascended escarpment 423410 and moved WEST. 1340 hrs approx 15 vehs descended escarpment 427410 (approx). 1415 hrs 6 vehs going EAST approx 418410. 1345 to 1415 hrs much MT movement from SOUTH to BARDIA rd, then EAST. NMS NORTH of post, but continuous dust throughout period between bearing 105° to 125° from OP 42044228. 1445 hrs slight dust NORTH of BARDIA rd 428422 not more than 6 vehs.

8. GENERAL -

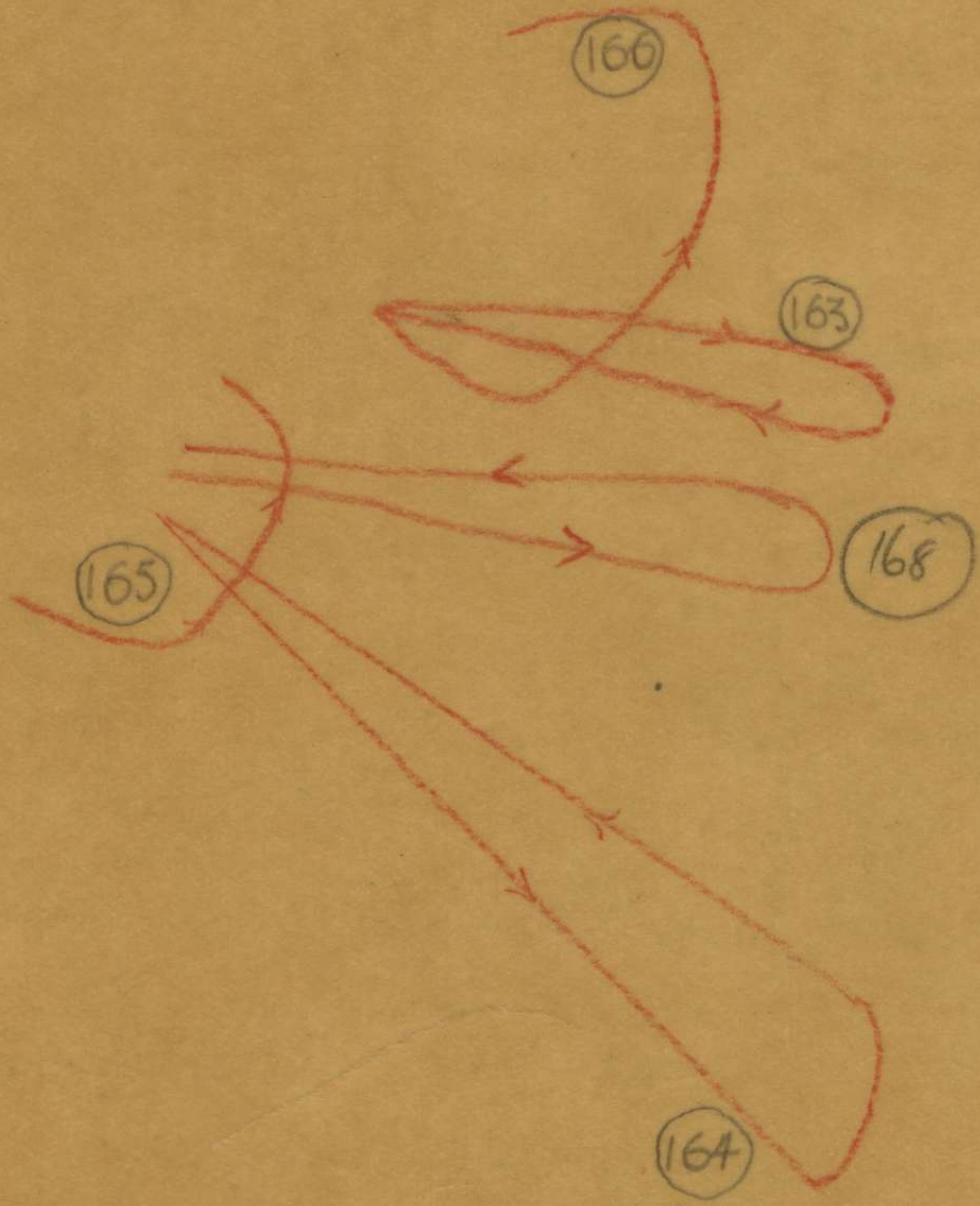
9 Aust Div reports all quiet during night.
PAT OP again reports no enemy digging in vicinity "T"
trenches, nor any movement of vehs in the area SE .
There is no infn from the frontier.

Amesford

10 2/23 Bn Lieut

LIVE SHELLING
PATH ROUTES
TO 1200 hrs 29 JUN

APPX. A



418

420

I Sect 2/23 BN

2/23 BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 34.

Compiled from info received up to 1200 hrs 30 Jun 41

Ref Map TORREK 1/50,000

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.
Ground activity over the past 24 hrs was confined to standing patrols, sent out by A D and J coys, all of which reported NMF/H. On the West ern sector a bayonet charge by our tys captured an MF posn, inflicting 12 casualties on the enemy, and taking 1 POW. One of our tys was wounded.
2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.
Small eps of enemy at frequent intervals have been observed in the region of Wadi Gariula 42694242. Movement between Gariula and WHITE HOUSE suggests intercommunication the building may be a HQ. At 2359 hrs there were several bursts of MF fire on A coys front which probably nervousness on the part of the enemy following our recent raid.
3. OUR ARTY.
At 1630 hrs 29 Jun HB at 42654234 was engaged by 104 BHA and retaliatory fire brought down on enemy posns in area 42494255 - 4249 - 4245 - 42494243 - 42604227. 1010/1020 hrs today G Coys 75 mm gun was knocked out and am fired but we had no casualties. 104 BHA shelled 2 HB's and brought retaliatory fire down on enemy fwd posns. South Main was shelled, also suspected CP at 42584223.
4. ENEMY ARTY.
Has been active, evidently determined to knock out G Coys gun which is in A Coys area. Otherwise shelling has been slight. Enemy guns this morning were firing on sound bearings of 130 degs and 108 degs from MAC O.P rear of 293. At 1619 hrs 29 Jun gun smoke observed by Burton Box on bearing 91 degs.
5. OUR DISPOSITIONS remain unchanged.
6. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.
There is a camouflaged net approx 30' square at 42504232 evidently concealing an MM, 1/4k gun or mortar.
7. ENEMY MT MOVEMENT.
At 1520 to 1645 hrs 29 Jun there was considerable dust to the SE indicating a continuation of the movement reported in Summary No 343 at 0910 hrs today 20 vchs travelled west along Wadi Bardia rd and turned south at 42654205 where they were engaged by 104 BHA.
8. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.
At 0740 hrs 1 BA, a twin engined Bomber flew west along Bardia rd at 500 ft and turned South at the Road Block.
9. IDENTIFICATIONS
The POW captured on the Western Sector was an ITALIAN belonging to 35th 19 Regt.
10. GENERAL.
At 0030 to 0151 hrs white Vary lights seen 130 degs from N79 and eight explosions heard in the same direction. May have been blasting in square 427419 where the enemy is known to have some weapon pits already established. 9 Div HQ reports MT movement along escarpment SOUTH of al ARAM sector this morning and have requested a Tac R for confirmation of the strength and direction of movement. The situation generally at TORREK is quiet and there is no news from the frontier.

A. W. K.

Lieut

I. O. 2/23 Bn

CO
21/c
ADJ.
ISFC.

SECRET

(P8)

2/23 Bn INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 34.

Compiled from infn received up to 1200 hrs 30 Jun 41

Ref Map TOBRUK 1/50,000

1. OUR GROUND ACTIVITY.

Ground activity over the past 24 hrs was confined to standing patrols, sent out by A D and J coys, all of which reported NMS/H. On the Western sector a bayonet charge by our tps captured an MG posn, inflicting 12 casualties on the enemy, and taking 1 POW. One of our tps was wounded.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY.

Small gps of enemy at frequent intervals have been observed in the region of Wadi Geriula 42694242. Movement between Geriula and WHITE HOUSE suggests intercommunication the building may be a Bn HQ. At 2359 hrs there were several bursts of MG fire on A coys front which probably nervousness on the part of the enemy following our recent raid.

3. OUR ARTY.

At 1630 hrs 29 Jun HB at 42654234 was engaged by 104 RHA and retaliatory fire brought down on enemy posns in area ~~XXXXXX~~ 42494255 - 4249 - 4245 - 42494243 - 42504227. 1010/1020 hrs today C Coys 75 mm gun was knocked out and amn fired but we had no casualties. 104 RHA shelled 2 HB's and brought retaliatory fire down on enemy fwd posns. South Ruin was shelled, also suspected OP at 42554228.

4. ENEMY ARTY.

Has Been active, evidently determined to knock out C Coys gun which is in A Coys area. Otherwise shelling has been slight. Enemy guns this morning were firing on sound bearings of 130 degs and 105 degs from MAC O.P rear of Z93. At 1619 hrs 29 Jun gun smoke observed by Burton Box on bearing 91 degs.

5. OUR DISPOSITIONS remain unchanged.

6. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

There is a camouflaged net approx 30' square at 42504231 evidently concealing an MMG, A/Tk gun or Mortar.

7. ENEMY MT MOVEMENT.

At 1620 to 1645 hrs 29 Jun there was considerable dust to the SE indicating a continuation of the movement reported in Summary No 33 at 0910 hrs today 20 vehs travelled west along ~~along~~ Bardia Rd and turned South at 42854205 where they were engaged by 104 RHA.

8. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

At 0740 hrs 1 EA, a twin engined Bomber flew west along Bardia rd at 500 ft and turned South at the Road Block.

9. IDENTIFICATIONS

The POW captured on the Western Sector was an ITALIAN belonging to 3Bn 19 Regt.

10. GENERAL.

At 0030 to 0151 hrs white Verrey lights seen 130 degs from R79 and eight explosions heard in the same direction. May have been blasting in sq 427419 where the enemy is known to have some weapon pits already established. 9 Div HQ reports MT movement along escarpment SOUTH of el ADEM sector this morning and have requested a Tac R for confirmation of the strength and direction of movement. The situation generally at TOBRUK is quiet and there is no news from the frontier.

Amulet
Lieut
I.O. 2/23 Bn

PATROL ROUTES

ENEMY SHELLING

BIND AREA 6-1055

to 1200 hrs 29/30 JUN

171

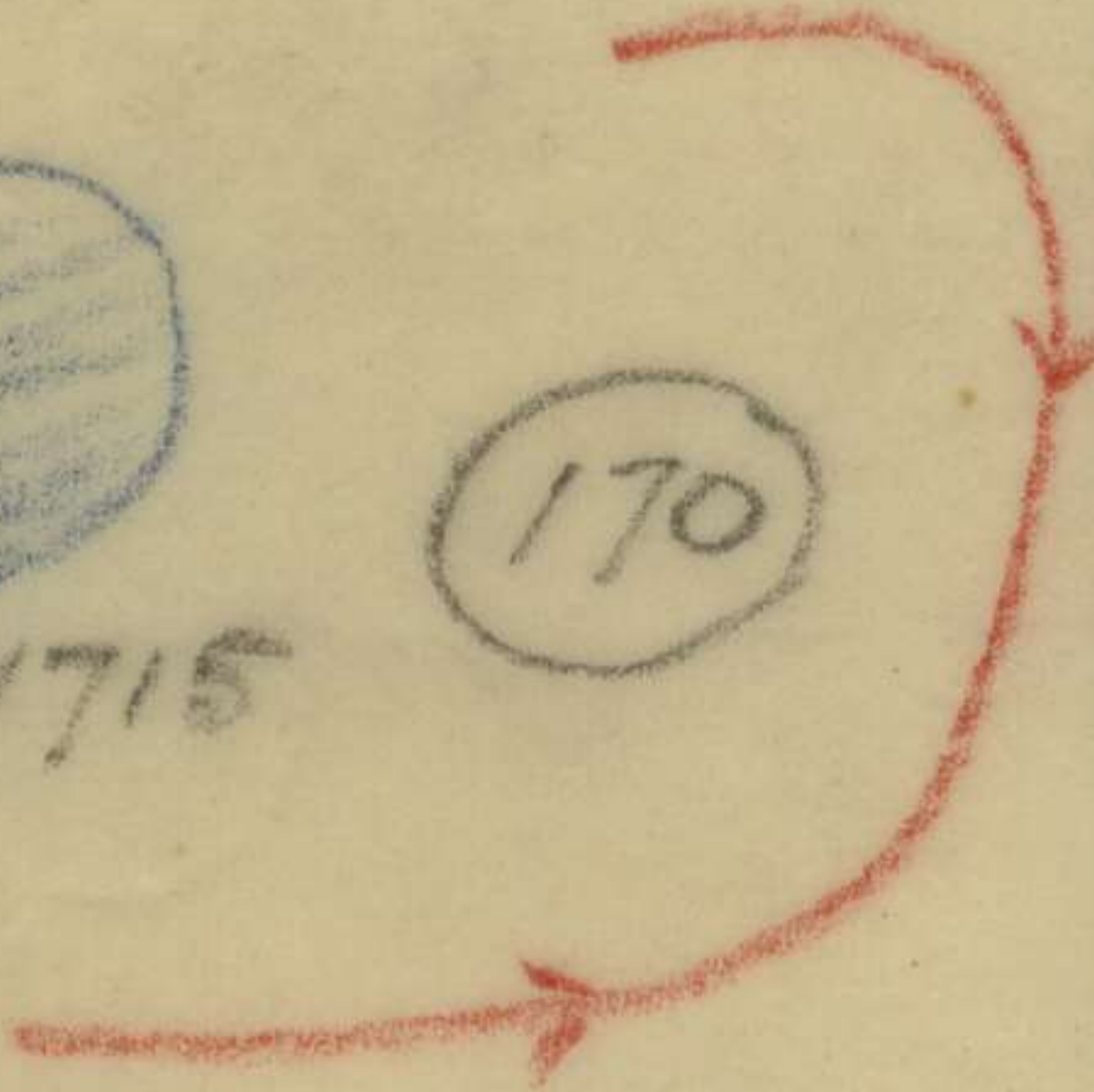
424

11-1855



170

25-1715



20-1010-1040

6-1057

1-1805



1-1910

169



421

SECRET

COPY NO. 1

26 AUST INF BDE OPERATION ORDER NO. 8

14 JUN 1941

Ref Map : TOBRUCH 1: 50,000
(with EL ADEM extension)

INFORMATION1. Enemy

- (a) Strength and Distribution - ground tps in Eastern Sector :
See Appx "A" att.
- (b) Air - resources are at present limited but will tend to increase.

Own Tps

2. (a) 7 Armd Div and att tps supported by a powerful RAF concentration of fighters and direct support bombers are attacking in frontier area on D 1 day.
- (b) 9 Aust Div and att tps are to co-operate when the above force is within striking distance of TOBRUCH by :
- (i) a sortie in force through 24 Bn area, by 18 Bde
- (ii) a sortie EAST from 23 Bn area
- (c) The code word for the commencement of preparations set out in this order is "BATTLE AXE".

INTENTION

3. 26 Aust Inf Bde will conduct the sortie EAST from 23 Bn area and will assist the sortie in force by 18 Bde.

METHOD4. Allotment of Tasks

- (a) 48 Bn with in support

One bty 104 RHA
Det 3 Fd Coy RAE

will sally forth from the perimeter about the area posts R 71 - R 76, in an EASTERLY direction, in accordance with Operation Instn issued separately.

- (b) 23 and 24 Bns will carry out preliminary and adm tasks as set out hereunder.

5. Protection of Engr Parties

- (a) Three Coys 24 Bn will provide three parties each of one rifle coy to cover the taping of P U Ps as follows :

Area SOUTH of Post R 67

Area SOUTH of Posts R 61 - 63

Area SOUTH of Post R 59

under arrangements to be made with 3 Fd Coy.

+ 1?

(b) Covering parties will be in posn by 2200 hrs BATTLE AXE DAY and will remain out until units of 18 Bde have passed through, when they will return to their former posns in perimeter.

but not before 0400hrs day BATTLE AXE + 1

(c) 26 Aust Inf Bde will detail one offr to take sta at Post R 63. Capt. NORMAN 3 Fd Coy will inform this offr when taping etc is completed, whereupon the former will report accordingly

*Carry out here
St. Bangorhan will post support*

6. Execution of Fd Works

6 (a) 2/23 & 2/24 will arrange the local defence of all SALLY PORTS in their respective areas throughout the Ops.

(a) 2/23 Bn will provide the working parties each 20 workers with picks and shovels to report Posts R 63, R 65 and R 67 at LAST LIGHT on BATTLE AXE DAY to improve approaches to crossings over A Tk ditch under orders of engr sub-sec cmd concerned.

1 NCO each party

7. Custody of PsW.

(a) Units of 26 Aust Inf Bde will be responsible for the evacuation of PsW through its area, from two distinct sectors.

(b) Southern Sector

(i) Other units operating fwd will hand over PsW at ruined house 42084185 from where they will be conducted by 26 Bde carrier gds to a marshalling pt, inside the perimeter at R 68.

(ii) At the marshalling pt they will be retained under gd until there is a sufficiently large batch. They will

7. (iii) All these carriers will report to 18 Bde ref BATTLE AXE DAY in area 420424 at a time to be arranged direct and

will proceed out through the perimeter with that unit

(d) Detail of Duties.

(i) Carrier gds (2), each two carriers, provided by 2/23 Bn. The gds will operate alternately. In each gd one carrier will lead the coln and one will bring up the rear.

(ii) M T gds (2), each of two vehs provided by 2/24 Bn. The gds will operate alternately. Each veh will have one L M G (firing fwd or aft, as case may be) and one rfn. One veh will lead the coln and the other will bring up the rear.

24 Bn internal

(iii) Marshalling Posts, Southern Sector 2/24 Bn
Marshalling Post, Eastern Sector 2/23 Bn

make cage here

(d) (iv) The crew of each carrier will consist of one driver and three OR's armed with one Bren one Tommy gun and one rifle and bayonet.

8. Evacuation of Posts /

1 Unit 6-7

+ 1 ?

(b) Covering parties will be in posn by 2200 hrs BATTLE AXE DAY and will remain out until units of 18 Bde have passed through, when they will return to their former posns in perimeter.

but not before 0400 hrs day BATTLE AXE + 1

(c) 26 Aust Inf Bde will detail one offr to take sta at Post R 63. Capt. NORMAN 3 Fd Coy will inform this offr when taping etc is completed, whereupon the former will report accordingly.

*Carry out here
St. Dunagorhan
will post
sappers*

6. Execution of Fd Works

6 (a) 2/23 & 2/24 will arrange the local defence of all SALLY PORTS in their respective areas throughout the Ops.

(a) 2/23 Bn will provide ~~these~~ working parties each 20 workers with picks and shovels to report Posts R 63, R 65 and R 67 at LAST LIGHT on BATTLE AXE DAY to improve approaches to crossings over A Tk ditch under orders of engr sub-sec comd concerned.

1 NCO each party

7. Custody of PsW.

(a) Units of 26 Aust Inf Bde will be responsible for the evacuation of PsW through its area, from two distinct sectors.

(b) Southern Sector

(i) Other units operating fwd will hand over PsW at ruined house 42084185 from where they will be conducted by 26 Bde carrier gds to a marshalling pt, inside the perimeter at R ~~71~~ 68.

(ii) At the marshalling pt they will be retained under gd until there is a sufficiently large batch. They will then be conducted, via the Eastern Sector marshalling pt, by M T gd to the P W collecting post at 41294275.

Eastern Sector.

(i) Units operating fwd will hand over PsW direct to a marshalling pt at ruined rd house 42134239.

(ii) They will be retained under gd as in para b (ii) until taken over by the M T gd there referred to, as it passes on its way to the P W collecting post.

(d) Detail of Duties.

(i) Carrier gds (2), each two carriers, provided by 2/23 Bn. The gds will operate alternately. In each gd one carrier will lead the column and one will bring up the rear.

(ii) M T gds (2), each of two vehs provided by 2/24 Bn. The gds will operate alternately. Each veh will have one L M G (firing fwd or aft, as case may be) and one rfn. One veh will lead the column and the other will bring up the rear.

(iii) Marshalling Posts, Southern Sector 2/24 Bn
Marshalling Post, Eastern Sector 2/23 Bn

make camp here

each post will be manned by a small gd, responsible for safe custody and discipline.

e) Procedure for Handling.

Units will adhere to instns contained in PSPB Pam 3 Sec 14-15. NO LOOTING WILL BE PERMITTED.

DM

8. Evacuation of Posts /

1 Carrier 6 48^{hr}

8. Evacuation of Posts

Posts will be evacuated as follows, on BATTLE AXE plus one day.

<u>Post</u>	<u>By</u>	<u>For</u>
R 62, R 63	0600 hrs	HQs for other units.
R 71 <i>68 & Practically 76</i>	Zero	PW marshalling post.

9. Other Paras (will be issued later)

10. INTERCOMN

10. Location of HQ.

- (a) Bde HQ will remain as at present.
- (b) 2/48 Bn will be responsible for comm rearward from battle HQ to present HQ.

11. Comm Ground to Air.

Special orders will be issued verbally through LOs.

12. Synchronization of Watches.

Watches will be synchronized on BATTLE AXE DAY under div arrangements.

Suspea
 Major.
BM 26 Aust Inf Bde.

ACK

Signed at 0930 hrs

Issued to Sigs.

Distribution :

	<u>Copy No</u>	<u>Appx "A"</u>	<u>Op Instrn.</u>
2/23 Bn	1.	1	1
2/24 Bn	2.	1	1
2/48 Bn	3.	1	1
104 RHA	4.	1	1
Sigs	5.	-	-
Comd	6.	1	1
B.T.O. & 78 LAD	7.	-	-
9 Aust Div	8.	1	1
18 Aust Inf Bde	9.	1	1
2/3 Fd Coy	10.	-	1
War Diary	11 - 12.	2	2
File	13 - 14.	2	2

S E C R E T

COPY No. /

26 AUST INF BDE OPERATION INSTN No. 4

14 JUN 1941

To C.O. 2/48 Bn

INFORMATION.

1. Infn regarding Enemy and Own Tps is contained in 26 Aust Inf Bde O O No. 8.

A det of S S Tps, approx 100 strong will land from the sea EAST of TOBRUCH and harass the flank of the enemy Before Zero.

OBJECT

2. You will carry out the sortie EAST from 23 Bn area. The object is to protect the left flank of the sortie in force through 24 Bn area, by containing the enemy in the area EAST of the perimeter to NS Grid 428 and NORTH of EW Grid 420.

METHOD

3. You will sally forth from the perimeter about the area Posts R 71 - R 75 at ZERO and will adv NE to gain close contact with the enemy. You will there engage him by fire.
4. The following units will be in support :
One bty 104 RHA
Det 3 Fd Coy RAE
5. C.O. 104 RHA will provide FOOs to accompany you.
6. 2 3 Bn from its present posns is available to give such assistance by fire as may be desired.
7. 3 Fd Coy is to provide two additional bns over A Tk ditch and such other engr assistance as may be feasible.
8. Assembly area will require to be SOUTH of BARDIA rd and EAST of the unmade rd running SW from 42104240.
9. Zero hr will be advised separately.
10. PsW will be evacuated to ruined rd house 42134239 where they will be delivered to a gd separately detailed.

*No fore^{klaw} from 500 yds
76. Fwd. HQ.
relat.*

Spence Maj
in Brig.
Comd 26 Aust Inf Bde.

RECEIVED

15 JUN hrs. 1030

Attended to
hrs.

By

SECRET.

Copy No /

14 Jun 41

AMENDMENTS TO 26 AUST INF BDE O O No 8

Consequent upon the issue of 18 Aust Inf Bde Orders and of amendments to 9 Aust Div Orders the following changes are promulgated :-

Para 5 (b) After word "through" in line 3, add "but NOT before 0400 hrs day BATTLE AXE plus ONE".

After Para 6 Add new para :-

6 (a) Protection of sally ports

"2/23 and 2/24 Bns will arrange the local defence of all SALLY PORTS in their respective areas throughout the ops."

Para 7 (b) Add new sub-para :-

"All these carriers will report to 18 Bde rep on BATTLE AXE day in area 420424 at a time to be arranged direct and will proceed out through the perimeter with that unit."

Para 7 (d) (1) Add :-

"The crew of each carrier will consist of one dr and three ORs, armed with one bren, one tommy gun and one rifle and bayonet".

[Signature]
Maj.
BM 26 Aust Inf Bde.

Distribution

2/23 Bn	Copy No. 1.
2/24 Bn	2.
2/48 Bn	3.
104 RHA	4.
Sigs	5.
Comd	6.
B.T.O. & 78 LAD	7.
9 Aust Div	8.
18 Aust Inf Bde	9.
2/3 Fd Coy	10.
War Diary	11-12.
File	13-14.

423

426

TOBRUCH 1:50000

10 Lorried Inf Bn.

Legend

- Bn areas
- Coy areas.
- ☷ Known gun posns.

427
430

2 gps 46 Arty
Regt astride
Bardia Rd.

8 M/C Bn.

11 Lorried Inf Bn

1 other coy
in squares
418414 & 419414

COMPOSITION 7 BERSAGLIERI REGT

Sub Unit	Strength	Weapons.
10 & 11 Lorried Inf Bns.	each bn 950	36 LMGs 27 Mortars (45 mm)
8 M/C Bn.	1 coy 300 2 & 3 coys (total) 500	9 LMGs, 3 MMGs. 18 LMGs, 6 MMGs.
<u>General area</u>		
<u>COMPOSITION of 46 ARTY REGT. (Possible guns in sector)</u>		
13104206	2 gps each 3 four gun btys	12 guns 100/17 & 12 guns 75/27 (hows)
12304170	1 gp of 3 four gun btys	12 guns 75/27.

RECEIVED

2252 hrs. 14

SECRET

Attended to

COPY NO. /

hrs. _____

14 Jun 41.

Ref Map : TOBRUCH 1:50,000
(with EL ADEM extension)

By _____

26 AUST INF BDE ADM ORDER NO. 3

Issued in conjunction with 26 Aust Inf Bde O O No 8

14 Jun 41.

1. AMN

- (a) A P (All natures) - 41384268.
Fwd A P for arty amn - 41084222 (5 km post).
- (b) All units will complete G 1098 scale by ZERO.

2. SUP

- (a) All units taking part in the op will carry the unexpended portion of the ration for the first day of the op plus (2) two days res rations.
- (b) Units of this bde will draw in unit detail from FSD, ~~as from drawing on BATTLE AXE plus ONE day for consumption on BATTLE AXE plus TWO days.~~

3. WATER

- (a) All units taking part in the op will carry (3) three days res water on scale of 1/2 gal per man per day.
- (b) Units taking part in the op will draw water on demand without indent.

4. PET

- (a) Each veh of this bde will commence the op with veh tanks full and carrying additional pet equivalent to 30 miles for vehs and 50 miles for carriers.
- (b) P P - 41294285. WEST of EL ADEM rd junc.

5. MED

- (a) MDS
Existing MDS of 2/11 Fd Amb at SIDI MAHMOUD.
One motor amb will move with each RMO.
- (b) MOB SEC
One mob sec will be provided by 2/11 Fd Amb to evacuate casualties from 2/48 Bn. It will be at bn assembly area, and will move as agreed by comd 2/48 Bn and comd 2/11 Fd Amb.
- (c) W W C P
A post will be established, in vicinity RAP 2/24 Bn - 418423. The tracks to these posts will be marked.
- (d) Remainder of bde area
Existing med arrangements will continue.

6. A G EQPT

Items of A G eqpt, other than eyeshields, will NOT be carried by personnel but will be held in units' B Ech.

7. SALVAGE

Salvage dump in vicinity of SDP 41344319.

8. STRAGGLERS

(a) 9 Aust Div Pro Coy will establish stragglers post in vicinity EL ADEM rd junc.

(b) Unit stragglers will be returned to B Ech of units.

9. P W

(a) As per 26 Aust Inf Bde O O No.8, 14 Jun 41 para 7.

(b) Containers for faeces and urine, to be used by Pw's will be available at post R 68.

10. TRAFFIC CONTROL

In order to make the following of tracing tapes easier, vehs will keep to the left of tracing tapes marking their lanes of adv. Track vehs will as far as possible avoid crossing tracing tapes.

AK Hansen
Capt.
SC 26 Aust Inf Bde.

ACK

Signed at 2015 hrs

Issued to Sigs.

Distribution

2/23 Bn	Copy No. 1
2/26 Bn	2.
2/48 Bn	3.
104 RHA	4.
Sigs	5.
Comd	6.
B.T.O. & 78 LAD	7.
9 Aust Div	8.
18 Aust Inf Bde	9.
2/3 Fd Coy	10.
War Diary	11-12,
File	13-14.

28 May 41

26 AUST INF BDE C O No 7

APPX No 1 "H"

INFORMATION

1. ENEMY - EASTERN SECTOR

(a) Strength in this sector is estimated at one BERSAGLIERI Regt with supporting arty, A/Tk guns and MMGs.

Dispositions of troops are as follows:-

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Approx location</u>
8 MG Bn	Right fwd Bn - South of rd TOBRUCH BARDIA about 8/10,000x from perimeter
10 Lerried Inf Bn	Left fwd Bn - North of rd TOBRUCH BARDIA in WADIS BELGASSEM & GERUILA
11 Lerried Inf Bn	In support
(Note the above units form the 7 BERSAGLIERI REGT)	
Op 46 Arty Regt	Appear to be located mainly in WADIS north of rd TOBRUCH - BARDIA
A/Tk guns	

(b) WORKS

Enemy has been active in improving his defences and digging in during the past week. Diggings have been extended from 42674190 to 42224177.

(c) MT

Tracks of MT have been found well out from the perimeter (see map) and apparently a wide circuit is made to bring supplies up to fwd tps.

2. MAP showing own minefields & known enemy dispositions

Attached.

will be issued by I Sec separately.

L. Spica
.....Maj
EM 26 Aust Inf Bde.

Warning - This order will not be taken into battle.

14/15 APPX 3

S E C R E T

COPY NO 18

2/23 BN OPERATION INSTN NO 4

Ref Map TOBRUK 1/50,000 with EL ADEM extension.

INFORMATION :

1. Enemy -
 - (a) Strength and dispoans ground tps in eastern sector - See appx A att.
 - (b) Air resources are at ppsent limited but will tend to increase.
2. Own Tps -
 - (a) 7 Armd Div att tps supported by a powerful concentration of fighters and direct support bombers are attacking in frontier area on D.1 day.
 - (b) 9 Aust Div and att tps are to cooperate when the above force is within striking distance of TOBRUK, by
 - (i) A sortie in force through the 2/24 Bn's area by the 18 Bde.
 - (ii) A sortie east through the 2/2 3 Bn's area by the 2/48 Bn with the object of protecting the left flank of sortie (i) above, by containing the enemy in the area east of the perimeter to north south grid 428 and north to east west grid 420.

INTENTION :

3. The 2/2 3 Bn will carry out preliminary and adm tasks and give assistance by fire from present posns where possible.

METHOD :

4. Action of fwd tps :
 - (a) On battle axe day all coys will stand to and prepare their tasks
 - (b) From Zero NO post from incl R71 to incl R79 will fire unless expressly ordered to do so by Coy HQ. Coy HQs will only give these instns on direct orders from BHQ. All posts except those enumerated above will engage enemy targets EXCEPT when within 500x NORTH of BARDIA rd.
 - (c) Pl Z1 will be prepared to exploit when so ordered by BHQ.
 - (d) All coys will be ready to move at 30 minutes' notice after battle axe.
5. Zero will be notified separately.
6. Fieldwks :
 - (a) "A" coy will provide three working parties each of one NCO and 20 ORs with picks and shovels. One party will report to each of posts R63, R65 and R67 at LAST LIGHT on battle axe day to improve the approaches to crossings over anti-tk ditch. They will report to the sapper placed in each of the above posts under orders of Lieut Bamgarten, RAE. NCOs so detailed will made a recce of their respective posts by 1100 hrs 15 June 41.
 - (b) PsW Cage : A barbed wire cage will be prepared by "A" Coy at marshalling point at Ruined Rd House 42134239 under directions Maj Birch.
7. Custody of PsW :
 - (a) Southern sector - Carrier gds two, each of two carriers which will operate alternately will be responsible for conducting PsW collected by fwd units from Ruined House at 42084185 to a marshalling point under the 2/24 Bn inside the perimeter at R68.

In each gd one carrier will lead the column and one will bring up the rear.

- (b) Eastern sector - Fwd units will hand over PsW direct to the marshalling point at Ruined Rd House 42134239.
 - (c) Duties - A gd of one offr, one NCO and one sec from "C" Coy will be responsible for the safe custody and discipline of PsW at the marshalling point Ruined Rd House 42134239, and will mount on receipt of battle axe.
 - (d) MT gds provided by the 2/24 Bn will tpt PsW from the marshalling point to the PW collecting post at 41294275.
 - (e) Procedure for handling : Instns contained in FSPB Pam 3 Sec 14/15 will be strictly adhered to. NO LOOTING WILL BE PERMITTED.
8. Evacuation of Posts : Posts R72 and R76 will be evacuated by all but essential personnel on receipt of battle axe.

ADM :

Carriers : Three carriers will be temporarily transferred to 2/48 Bn and will remain in carrier park until battle axe day.

10. Pet : Each veh at the commencement of this op will have tanks filled and carry additional pet equivalent to 30 miles per veh and 50 miles per carrier. P.P. 41294265 WEST of EL ADEM rd junc.

11. Stragglers :

- (a) 9 Aust Div Pro Corps will establish stragglers collecting post in the vicinity EL ADEM rd Junc.
- (b) Unit stragglers will be returned to unit "B" Echelons.

INTERCOMN :

12. Location of HQs. -

- (a) 2/23 Bn fwd BHQ will be established at R76.
- (b) 2/48 Bn fwd BHQ will be established in cave 42454214. Rear HQ R.72.

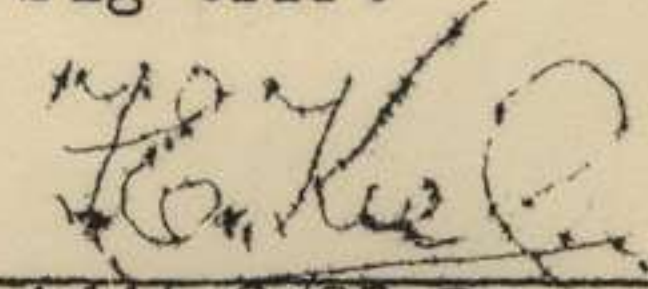
13. Code Words - The code words for commencement of preparations set out in this instn are "BATTLE AXE."

14. Com Ground to Air - Special orders will be issued verbally.

15. Synchronisation of Watches : Watches will be synchronised on battle axe day under Div arrangements through the Sig Offr.

ACK

Issued by D.R. and signed at 0441 hrs.



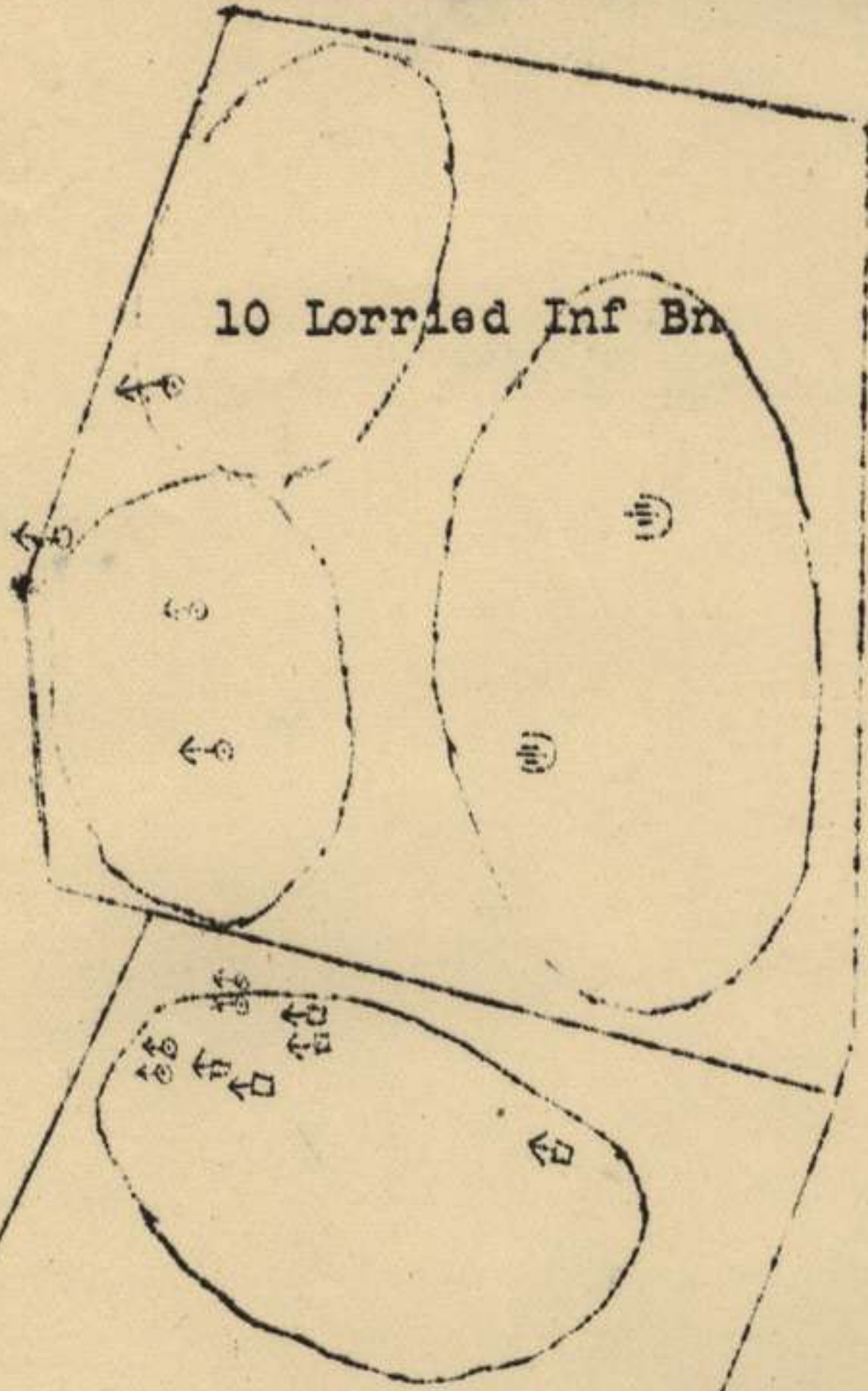
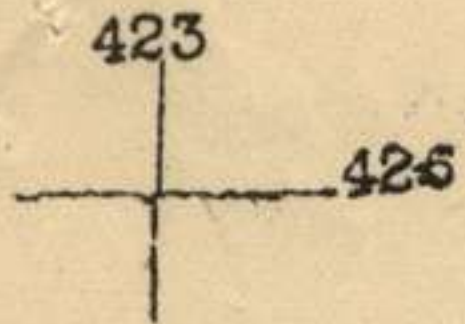
Adjnt 2/23 Bn

Capt

Distribution -

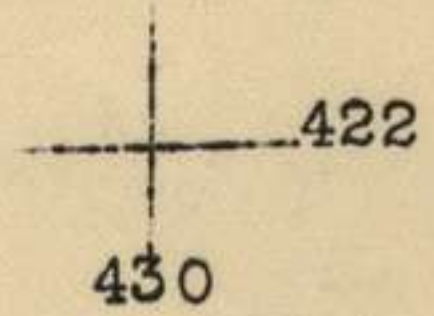
- | | | | |
|--------|----------|---------|-----------------|
| Copy 1 | A Coy | Copy 11 | Q.M. |
| 2 | C " | 12 | T.O. |
| 3 | D " | 13 | S.O. |
| 4 | HQ " | 14 | P.O. |
| 5 | AASC att | 15 | Carrier Pl |
| 6 | C.O. | 16 | 26 Aust Inf Bde |
| 7 | 2 I/C | 17 | War Diary |
| 8 | Adjnt | 18 | File |
| 9 | I.O. | 19 | Spare |
| 10 | R.M.O. | 20 | Spare |

TOBRUK 1/50,000



LEGEND

- Bn areas
- Coy areas
- Known gun posns



2 gps 46 Arty
Regt astride
Bardia Rd.

8 M/C Bn

11 Lorried Inf Bn

1 other coy
in squares
418414 & 419414

COMPOSITION 7 BERSAGLIERI REGT

Sub-Unit	Strength	Weapons
10 & 11 Lorried Inf Bns	each bn 950	36 LMGs 27 Mortars (45 mm)

8 M/C Bn	1 coy 300	9 LMGs, 3 MMGs.
	2 & 3 coys (total) 500	18 LMGs, 6 MMGs.

COMPOSITION OF 46 ARTY REGT (Possible guns in sector (hows))

43104206	2 gps each	3 four gun btys	12 guns 100/17 & 12 guns 75/27
42304170	1 gp of	2 four gun btys	12 guns 75/27.

File

SECRET
Copy No 18
15 Jun 41

AMENDMENTS NO 1 TO 2/23 BN OPERATION INSTN NO 4.

After para 2 (b) (ii) add -

- (iii) A det of SS Tps approx 100 strong will land from the sea several miles EAST of the EASTERN perimeter, and harass the flank of the enemy before ZERO.

After para 4 (d) add -

- (e) Coys will arrange local defence of all SALLY PORTS in their respective areas throughout the operations.

After para 7 (a) add -

The carriers will report to 18 Bde rep on BATTLE AXE day in area 420424 and will proceed to Ruined House at 42084185 with that unit.
The crew of each carrier will consist of one dvr and three ORs armed with one bren, one Tommy gun, one rifle and Bayonet.

[Handwritten Signature]

Adjt 2/23 Bn Capt

DISTRIBUTION :

Copy No 1	A Coy	Copy No 11	QM
" " 2	C "	" " 12	TO
" " 3	D "	" " 13	SO
" " 4	HQ "	" " 14	PO
" " 5	AASC att	" " 15	Carrier Pl
" " 6	CO	" " 16	26 Aust Inf Bde
" " 7	2 i/c	" " 17	WD
" " 8	Adjt	" " 18	File
" " 9	IO	" " 19	Spare
" " 10	RMO	" " 20	Spare

to 2/23 for information

APPX 4

WARNING. This order will NOT be taken into battle.

RECEIVED

Copy No. 16

1015 hrs 16

CRIT
16 Jun 41.

Map TOBRUC I/50,000 (red overprint)

Attended to

2/24 Bn OP ORDER N°2.

6/15/41
JFW

INFORMATION.

1. GENERAL.
 - (a) Strength and distribution (ground tps) shown on att trace appx A.
 - (b) Air resources are at present limited but will tend to increase.
2. OP TPS.
 - (a) 7 Armd Div with 2 Inf Bdes (motorised) supported by powerful RAF Concentrations of fighters and direct support bombers are attacking in frontier area on D1 day.
 - (b) 9 Aust Div and all tps are to cooperate when the above force is within striking distance of TOBRUC by:-
 - (i) a sortie in force through 2/24 Bn area by 18 Bde supported by the end arty.
 - (ii) a sortie west through 2/23 Bn area by 2/48 Bn.
 - (c) 26 Bde will provide covering parties for preparation for sortie by 18 Bde, and will carry out general adm.
 - (d) F U P's and routes for 18 Bde are shown on att trace appx B.

INFORMATION.

3. 2/24 Bn will:-
 - (a) Provide covering party for taping of F U P's by 2/3 Fd Coy R A E.
 - (b) Provide gd and escort for PSM.

METHOD.

4. COVERING PARTIES:
 - (a) B C and D coys will each act as covering parties as follows:-
 - B coy right -- area SOUTH of Post R 51.
 - C coy centre -- area SOUTH of Posts R 61 - 63.
 - D coy right left area SOUTH of Post R 69.
 - (b) Coy areas are shown on att trace appx B.
 - (c) Routes for personnel to coy areas:-
 - B coy Post R 59 -- thence SOUTH 1000 yds from wire to vicinity 41364192.
 - C coy Post R 65 -- thence SOUTH 900 yds from wire to vicinity 41894192.
 - D coy Post R 69 -- thence SOUTH 1200 yd from A/Tk ditch to vicinity 42064197.
 - (d) ~~Routes for vehs:~~
~~Vehs will follow the lanes marked in att trace appx B. In order to avoid damage to tracing tapes, vehs will keep to the left of tapes.~~
5.
 - (a) Covering Parties will be in posn by 2200 hrs on D 1 and will remain in posn until ordered to withdraw. This will NOT be before 0400 hrs on D 2 or until all units of 18 Bde and att tps are clear of the posns occupied.
 - (b) On order to withdraw, coys will return to former posns in perimeter posts.
6. PATROLLING.
 - (a) Coys will maintain listening posts 300 yds in advance of each fwd pl.
 - (b) Patrols will be provided by coys as follows:-
 - (i) B coy to Right pl C coy at hourly intervals commencing at 2200 hrs.
 - (ii) C coy to Left pl B coy at 2 hourly intervals commencing at 2230 hrs.

3. PATROLLING Contd.

- (iii) C coy to Right pl D coy at 2 hourly intervals commencing at 2330 hrs.
 - (iv) D coy to Left pl C coy at hourly intervals commencing at 2200 hrs.
- (c) Patrols will be continued until ZERO on D 2.
(d) Strength of patrols: 1 NCO and 3 ORs.

7. CUSTODY OF PsW.

- (a) P.W. marshalling pt will be provided by D coy from Zero on D 2, R 68 to which PsW will be brought by carrier gds provided by 2/23 Bn. Post will be ~~verified~~ ^{checked} by D coy prior to above time.
- (b) D coy will be responsible for preparation of the marshalling pt and will provide gd for safe custody and discipline of prisoners.

8. DISPOSING OF PsW.

- (a) PW collecting post at 4I294275.
- (b) B coy and C coy will each provide MT gds each of two vehs under comd of an NCO, to report to Pro Sgt at marshalling pt.
- (c) Each veh will carry one OR armed with an LMG, (one in each coy fitted to fire fwd and one aft) and one rfn armed with a Thompson Sub MG.
- (d) PsW will be retained at marshalling pt until there is a sufficiently large batch when they will be formed into a coln to be marched to collecting post. One veh will lead the coln and one will bring up the rear.
- (e) MT gd will move to collecting post via marshalling pt at ruined rd house 4I34239 and will collect PsW from there for transfer to collecting post.
- (f) MT gds will operate alternatively.
- (g) Pro Sgt will be in charge of prisoners at marshalling pt and will continue the forming of colns for transfer to collecting post.
- (h) Pro Sgt will record particulars of number of prisoners brought in and will report same to Bn HQ periodically.

9. PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING PsW.

- (a) All ranks will be instructed in and will observe the instns contained in F S P B Pam 3 secs 14/15.
- (b) NO LOOTING WILL BE PERMITTED

ADM
10

EVACUATING POSTS.

- (a) C coy will evacuate posts R 62 and R 63 by 0630 hrs on D 2 to provide HQs for other units.
- (b) C coy will ensure that before vacating, the posts are cleared and rendered light proof

11.

- WEAPONS. *Each Coy will leave gun teams for all A/Tk guns in their area.*
- (a) Each coy while acting as covering party will take fwd one 47/32 A/Tk gun. A veh will be provided from coy to draw the gun and carry amm.
 - (b) All inf weapons on charge to coys will be carried.

12.

AMM.

- (a) Res amm will be carried in pl vehs while coys are engaged as covering parties.
- (b) A.P. at 4I384268.
- (c) Bn amm res will be maintained at Rear Bn HQ.

13.

SUP.

- (a) Two days res rations will be carried in coy and pl vehs.
- (b) QM will ensure that all coys are in possession of full res.
- (c) Rations will be drawn by QM in unit detail from F.S.D.

14.

WATER.

- (a) Three days res water on scale 1 gal per man per day will be carried in coy and pl vehs.
- (b) QM will draw water required to complete res on demand without indent.

15. PET.
 (a) P P at 4I294265.
 (b) On D 1 each veh will have tanks full, and will carry in addition pet equivalent to 30 miles for MT. Carriers will carry all res possible without impairing efficiency of veh.
16. MED.
 (a) Location of fwd RAP or W/CP will be notified.
 (b) W/CP will be established present location 9 RAP at 4I8I4230. Tracks to posts will be marked.
 (c) MDS of 2/11 Fd Amb remains at LIEDI MAHMAUD.
17. A G E QPT.
 A G eqpt other than eyeshields will NOT be carried by personnel
18. SALVAGE.
 Salvage dump at BRP at 4I3443I9.
19. STRAGGLERS.
 (a) 9 Div Pro Coy will establish stragglers post vicinity EL ADEM rd junc.
 (b) Stragglers will be returned to unit B Ech lines.
20. SMITITION.
 D coy will draw containers for faeces and urine from RSM and will make sure they are available for use of PsW at marshalling pt.
21. COORDINATING CONFERENCE.
 Bn HQ 1200 hrs 15 Jun.

INTERCOMM.

22. Bn Battle HQ will be located in Post R 65 during op.
 23. Rear Bn HQ will remain at present posn through ~~xxxxx~~ out op.
 24. Sigs will arrange L/T to coys while occupying posns as covering parties and will connect Bn Battle HQ to Bn Sig System.
 25. Two orderly runners from each coy will move with Bn Battle HQ.
 26. Two m/c orderlies will move with Bn Battle HQ and will make themselves familiar with routes to coys HQ.
 Watches will be synchronised at 2000 hrs on D 1.
 28. D 1 will be signalled by code words BATTLE AXE.
 29. Zero will be advised by signal.
 30. Sig Security: Ops will NOT be mentioned on L/T prior to Zero.
 31. ACK.

igned at ~~xxx~~ hrs.
 Issued to sigs.

.....
 Capt.,
 Adjt 2/3 Bn AIF.

DISTRIBUTION.

HQ Coy	Copy N°	1	Appx A N°	1	Appx B N°	1
B "	"	2	"	2	"	2
C "	"	3	"	3	"	3
D "	"	4	"	4	"	4
CO R	"	5	"	5	"	5
ADJT	"	6	"	6	"	6
I O	"	7	"	7	"	7
RSM	"	8	"	8	"	8
RMO	"	9	R	R	"	9
QM	"	10			"	10
Sigs	"	11			"	11
T O	"	12			"	12
FILE	"	13	"	9	"	13
W DIARY	"	14/15	"	10/11	"	14/15
SPARES	"	16/17	"	12	"	16
FOR INFORMATION						
26 MUST INF BDE	18/19	"		18		17

Ref Map TOBRUCH 1/50,000.

17 Jun 41.

2/24 BN OP ORDER N° 2a.

Supplementary & Amending OP ORDER N° 2.

uget

INFORMATION.

1. No definite changes in the enemy disposns or strength are apparent although it is believed that a further arty Regt is now in action against the Fortress. Resistance in the frontier area has NOT been on a large scale.
2. The initial stages of the action on the frontier have been successful. Our tps are in possession of the high ground above HALFAYU PASS. Our tps are also in posn NORTH of SIDI OMAR.

MT OD.

3. PROTECTION OF SALLY PORTS.

Insert after para 6 in Op Order N°2 :-
"6a. On withdrawal from fwd posns to the perimeter posts, each coy will site one pl fwd of the wire and A/Tk ditch to provide local defence at the sally ports used by 18 Bde."

4. SECURITY

Security gds in posts will be reduced to a minimum.

ADM.

5. TPR FOR MT GDS.

- (a) Ref Op Order N°2 Para 8(b)
- (b) Tpr for MT gds will be provided as follows :-

D coy --- 1 pl veh to report to C coy.
C " --- 1 pl veh.
B " --- 1 pl veh.
BnHQ --- 1 15 cwt van to report to B coy.

- (c) The following vehs will be retained as res vehs for MT gds:-

Q M's veh.
I O's veh.

- (d) BARDIA RD between pts 41804282 and 41804253 will be used to 18 Bde between 1700 hrs and 2100 hrs on D 1 and will NOT be used by vehs of other units.

6

AMN.

- (a) Para 12(a) ~~OS~~ Op Order ^{N°2} is cancelled.
- (b) All amn possible will be carried on the man.
- (c) Coys will maintain coy amn res as under :-

B coy at Post R59.
C " at Post R61.
D " at Post R67.

- (d) Coys will detail one pl veh to be available at call to take fwd amn res but vehs will NOT move fwd of the perimeter without prior ref to Bn HQ.

7.

SUP.

- (a) Para 13a Op Order N°2 is cancelled.
- (b) Res rations will remain in posts.
- (c) All ranks will carry one emergency ration of tinned meat.
- (d) Q M will arrange for issue of one packet of biscuits to all personnel other than security gds.

8.

WATER.

- (a) Para 14a Op Order N°2 is cancelled.

WATER. Contd.

- (b) Res of water will remain in posts.
- (c) All ranks will carry full waterbottles.
- (d) Q M will arrange to provide additional water required for this purpose.

9.

MED.

- (a) Ref Para 16a of Op Oredr N°2.
- (b) R A P will be established in Post R65 from 2120 hrs on D 1 until coy have completed withdrawal to perimeter posts.
- (c) R A P will then be re-established at present posn at 41814230.

INTERCOMI
IO.

RECOGNITION SIG: GROUND TPS AND AIRCRAFT.

- (a) Friendly aircraft will call on ground tps to identify themselves by firing a colored two star cartridge from a height of NOT more than 6000 ft. The color of the day will be as detailed in appx "A".
- (b) On identification being called for :-
 - (i) MP on the move will light and throw out a smoke generator to WINDWARD.
 - (ii) HQs will be ~~identified~~ ^{identified} by special sign.
 Verbal instns will be issued for the use of these signs.
- (c) Sgt J.M. Catherall and 2 ORs of 4 (Carrier) Pl will be responsible for ground to air identification of Bn HQ.
- (d) Each veh and carrier MG will carry 16 smoke generators with slow burning fuse match. These will be returned to coys on completion of ops.

11. ACK.

Signed at *1330* hrs.

.....
: Capt.,
 Adj. 2/24 Bn A.I.F.

Issued to sigs.

DISTRIBUTION.

F 2 Coy	Copy N° 1:
"	" 2:
C	" 3:
D	" 4:
4 (Carrier) Pl	5:
Sgt CATHERALL	6:
C.O.	7:
ADJUT.	8:
I.O.	9:
RSM:	10:
RMO.	11:
QM.	12:
SIGS	13:
T.O.	14:

FILE	Copy N° 15.
W. DIARY	" 16 & 17:
SPARES	" 18 & 19.

Copies for information to :-

26 Aust Inf Bde	Copy N° 20 & 21.
2/23 Bn	" 22.
2/48 Bn	" 23.
2/32 Bn	" 24.

2/24 BN OP ORDER N°2 a.

APEX "A".

Ref Para 10 (a).

17	Jun	41.	GREEN & YELLOW.
18	"	41.	RED & RED.
19	"	41.	YELLOW & RED.
20	"	41.	GREEN & GREEN.
21	"	41.	GREEN & YELLOW.
22	"	41.	YELLOW & YELLOW.
23	"	41.	GREEN & RED.
24	"	41.	YELLOW & RED.
25	"	41.	RED & RED.
26	"	41.	GREEN & YELLOW.

File 14

WARNING: This order will NOT be taken into Battle.

Copy No. 17
C. G. T.
15 Jun 41.

RECEIVED
10/15 hrs. 16
Attended 10/15 hrs. 16
to
BY *[Signature]*

Re Map TOBRUC I/503000 (red overprint)
2/24 Bn OP ORDER N°2.

INFORMATION.

1. GENERAL.
 - (a) Strength and distribution (ground tps) shown on att trace appx A.
 - (b) Air resources are at present limited but will tend to increase.
2. OP TPS.
 - (a) 7 Arm Div with 2 Inf Bdes (motorised) supported by powerful RAF Concentrations of fighters and direct support bombers are attacking in frontier area on D1 day.
 - (b) 9 Aust Div and all tps are to cooperate when the above force is within striking distance of TOBRUC by:-
 - (i) a sortie in force through 2/24 Bn area by 18 Bde supported by the end arty.
 - (ii) a sortie west through 2/23 Bn area by 2/48 Bn.
 - (c) 26 Bde will provide covering parties for preparation for sortie by 18 Bde, and will carry out general adm.
 - (d) F U P's and routes for 18 Bde are shown on att trace appx B.

INTENTION.

3. 2/24 Bn will:-
 - (a) Provide covering party for taping of F U P's by 2/3 Rd Coy R A E.
 - (b) Provide gd and escort for PSM.

METHOD.

4. COVERING PARTIES:
 - (a) B C and D coys will each act as covering parties as follows:-
 - B coy right -- area SOUTH of Post R 57.
 - C coy centre -- area SOUTH of Posts R 61 - 63.
 - D coy ~~right~~ left area SOUTH of Post R 69.
 - (b) Coy areas are shown on att trace appx B.
 - (c) Routes for personnel to coy areas:-
 - B coy Post R 59 -- thence SOUTH 1000 yds from wire to vicinity 41364192.
 - C coy Post R 65 -- thence SOUTH 900 yds from wire to vicinity 41894192.
 - D coy Post R 69 -- thence SOUTH 1200 yd from A/Th ditch to vicinity 42064197.
 - (d) ~~Routes for vehs:~~
~~Vehs will follow the lanes marked in att trace appx B. In order to avoid damage to tracing tapes, vehs will keep to the left of tapes.~~
5.
 - (a) Covering Parties will be in posn by 2200 hrs on D 1 and will remain in posn until ordered to withdraw. This will NOT be *before* 0400 hrs on D 2 or until all units of 18 Bde and att tps are clear of the posns occupied.
 - (b) On order to withdraw, coys will return to former posns in perimeter posts.
6. PATROLLING.
 - (a) Coys will maintain listening posts 300 yds in advance of each fwd pl.
 - (b) Lateral patrols will be provided by coys as follows:-
 - (i) B coy to Right pl C coy at hourly intervals commencing at 2200 hrs.
 - (ii) C coy to Left pl B coy at 2 hourly intervals commencing at 2230 hrs.

6

PATROLLING Contd.

- (iii) C coy to Right pl D coy at 2 hourly intervals commencing at 2330 hrs.
- (iv) D coy to Left pl C coy at hourly intervals commencing at 2200 hrs.
- (c) Patrols will be continued until ZERO on D 2.
- (d) Strength of patrols: 1 NCO and 3 ORs.

7.

CUSTODY OF PsW.

- (a) P.W. marshalling pt will be provided by D coy from Zero on D 2, R 68 to which PsW will be brought by carrier gds provided by 2/23 Bn. Post will be ^{vacated} vacated by D coy prior to above time.
- (b) D coy will be responsible for preparation of the marshalling pt and will provide gd for safe custody and discipline of prisoners.

8.

DISPOSING OF PsW.

- (a) PW collecting post at 4I294275.
- (b) B coy and C coy will each provide MT gds each of two vehs under comd of an NCO, to report to Pro Sgt at marshalling pt.
- (c) Each veh will carry one OR armed with an LMG, (one in each coy fitted to fire fwd and one aft) and one rfn armed with a Thompson Sub MG.
- (d) PsW will be retained at marshalling pt until there is a sufficiently large batch when they will be formed into a coln to be marched to collecting post. One veh will lead the coln and one will bring up the rear.
- (e) MT gd will move to collecting post via marshalling pt at ruined rd house 4I134239 and will collect PsW from there for transfer to collecting post.
- (f) MT gds will operate alternatively.
- (g) Pro Sgt will be in charge of prisoners at marshalling pt and will continue the forming of colns for transfer to collecting post.
- (h) Pro Sgt will record particulars of number of prisoners brought in and will report same to Bn HQ periodically.

9.

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING PsW.

- (a) All ranks will be instructed in and will observe the instns contained in F S P B Pam 3 secs 14/15.
- (b) NO LOOTING WILL BE PERMITTED

ADM
IO

EVACUATING POSTS.

- (a) C coy will evacuate posts R 62 and R 63 by 0630 hrs on D 2 to provide HQs for other units.
- (b) C coy will ensure that before vacating, the posts are cleared and rendered light proof

11.

WEAPONS. *Each Coy will leave gun teams for all A/Tk guns in their area.*

- (a) *Each coy while acting as covering party will take fwd one 47/32 A/Tk gun. A veh will be provided from coy to draw the gun and carry am.*
- (b) All inf weapons on charge to coys will be carried.

12.

AMM.

- (a) Res am will be carried in pl vehs while coys are engaged as covering parties.
- (b) A.P. at 4I384268.
- (c) Bn am res will be maintained at Rear Bn HQ.

13.

SUP.

- (a) Two days res rations will be carried in coy and pl vehs.
- (b) QM will ensure that all coys are in possession of full res.
- (c) Rations will be drawn by QM in unit detail from F.S.D.

14.

WATER.

- (a) Three days res water on scale 2 gal p r man per Coy will be carried in coy and pl vehs.
- (b) QM will draw water required to complete res on demand without indent.

15. PET.
 (a) P P at 4I294265.
 (b) On D 1 each veh will have tanks full, and will carry in addition pet equivalent to 30 miles for MT. Carriers will carry all res possible without impairing efficiency of veh.
16. MED.
 (a) Location of fwd RAP or WACP will be notified.
 (b) WACP will be established present location 9 RAP at 4I8I4230. Tracks to posts will be marked.
 (c) MDS of 8/11 Fd Amb remains at JIEDI MAXHAUD.
17. A G EQPT.
 A G eqpt other than eyeshields will NOT be carried by personnel
18. SALVAGE.
 Salvage dump at BRP at 4I3443I9.
19. STRAGGLERS.
 (a) 9 Div Pro Coy will establish stragglers post vicinity EL ADEM rd junc.
 (b) Stragglers will be returned to unit B Ech lines.
20. SANITATION.
 D coy will draw containers for faeces and urine from RSM and will make sure they are available for use of PsW at marshalling pt.
21. COORDINATING CONFERENCE.
 Bn HQ 1200 hrs 15 Jun.

INTERCOMM.

22. Bn Battle HQ will be located in Post R 65 during op.
 23. Rear Bn HQ will remain at present posn through ~~xxxxx~~ out op.
 24. Sigs will arrange L/T to coys while occupying posns as covering parties and will connect Bn Battle HQ to Bn Sig System.
 25. Two orderly runners from each coy will move with Bn Battle HQ.
 26. Two m/c orderlies will move with Bn Battle HQ and will make themselves familiar with routes to coys HQ.
 Watches will be synchronised at 2000 hrs on D 1.
 D 1 will be signalled by code words BATTLE AXE.
 Zero will be advised by signal.
 30. Sig Security: Ops will NOT be mentioned on L/T prior to Zero.
 31. ACK.

igned at / no hrs.
 Issued to sigs.

[Signature]
 Capt.,
 Adj 2/Bn Bn AIF.

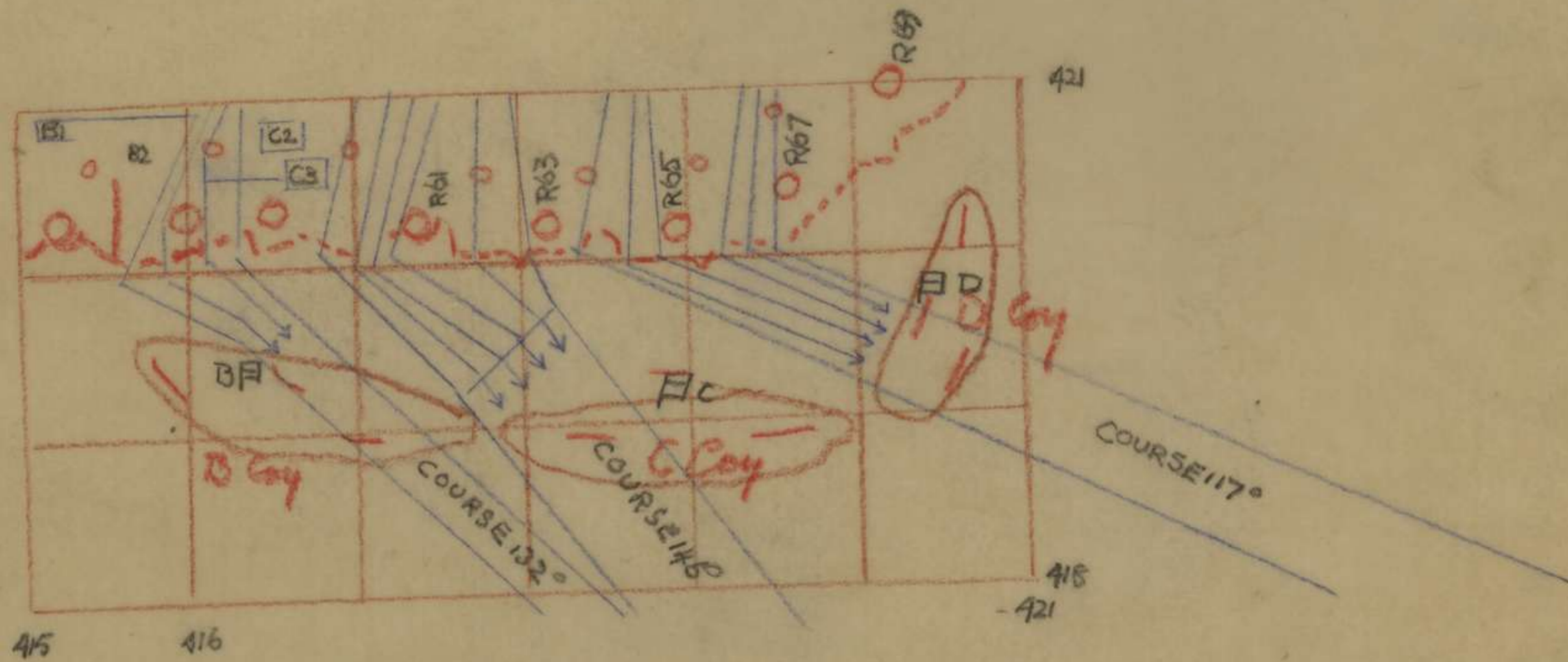
DISTRIBUTION.

HQ Coy	Copy N°	1	Appx A N°	1	Appx B N°	1
B "	"	2	"	2	"	2
C "	"	3	"	3	"	3
D "	"	4	"	4	"	4
CO X	"	5	"	5	"	5
ADJT	"	6	"	6	"	6
I O	"	7	"	7	"	7
RSM	"	8	"	8	"	8
RMO	"	9	X	X	"	9
QM	"	10			"	10
Sigs	"	11			"	11
T O	"	12			"	12
FILE	"	13		9	"	13
W DIARY	"	14/15	"	10/11	"	14/15
SPARES	"	16/17	"	12	"	16
FOR INFORMATION						
26 AUST INF BDE	18/19	"		13		17

APPX B

SECRET

2424 Bn 001162
Copy No 16

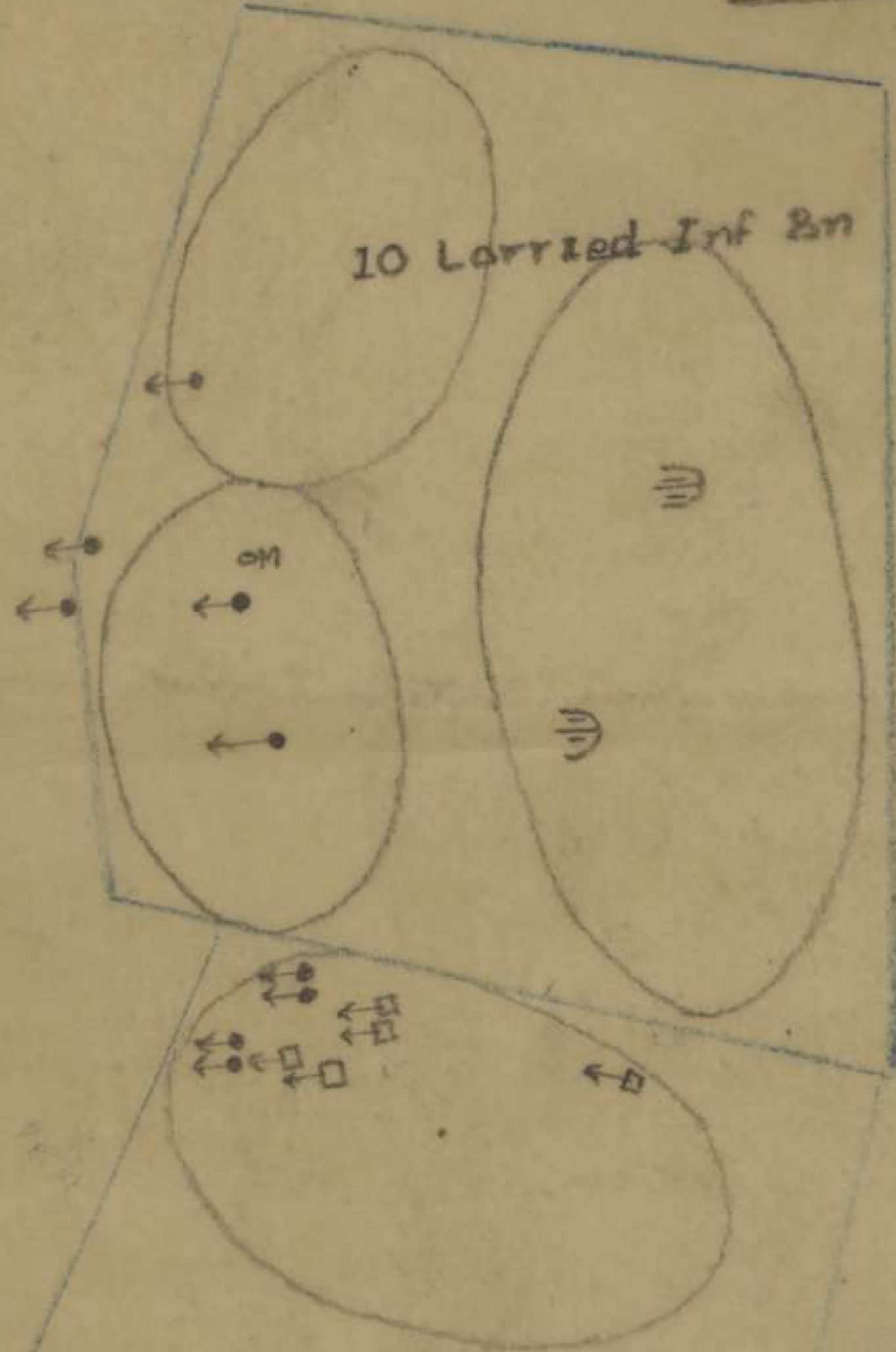
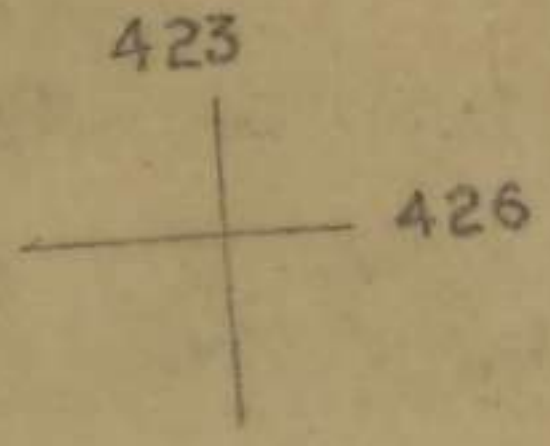


SECRET 2/24/3000 no 2

APPX "A"

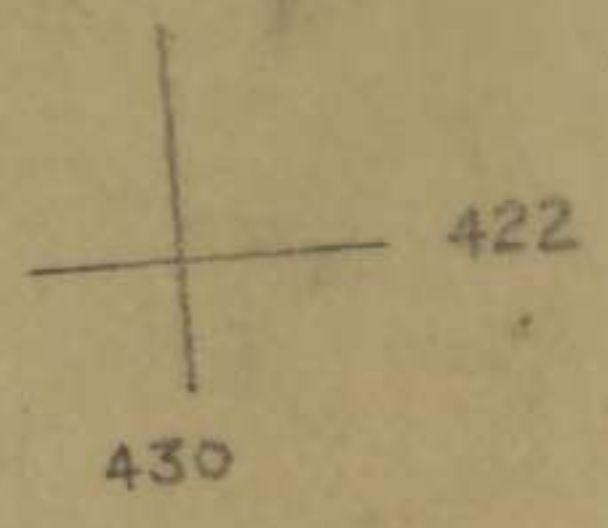
Copy 12

TOBRUCH 1/50,000



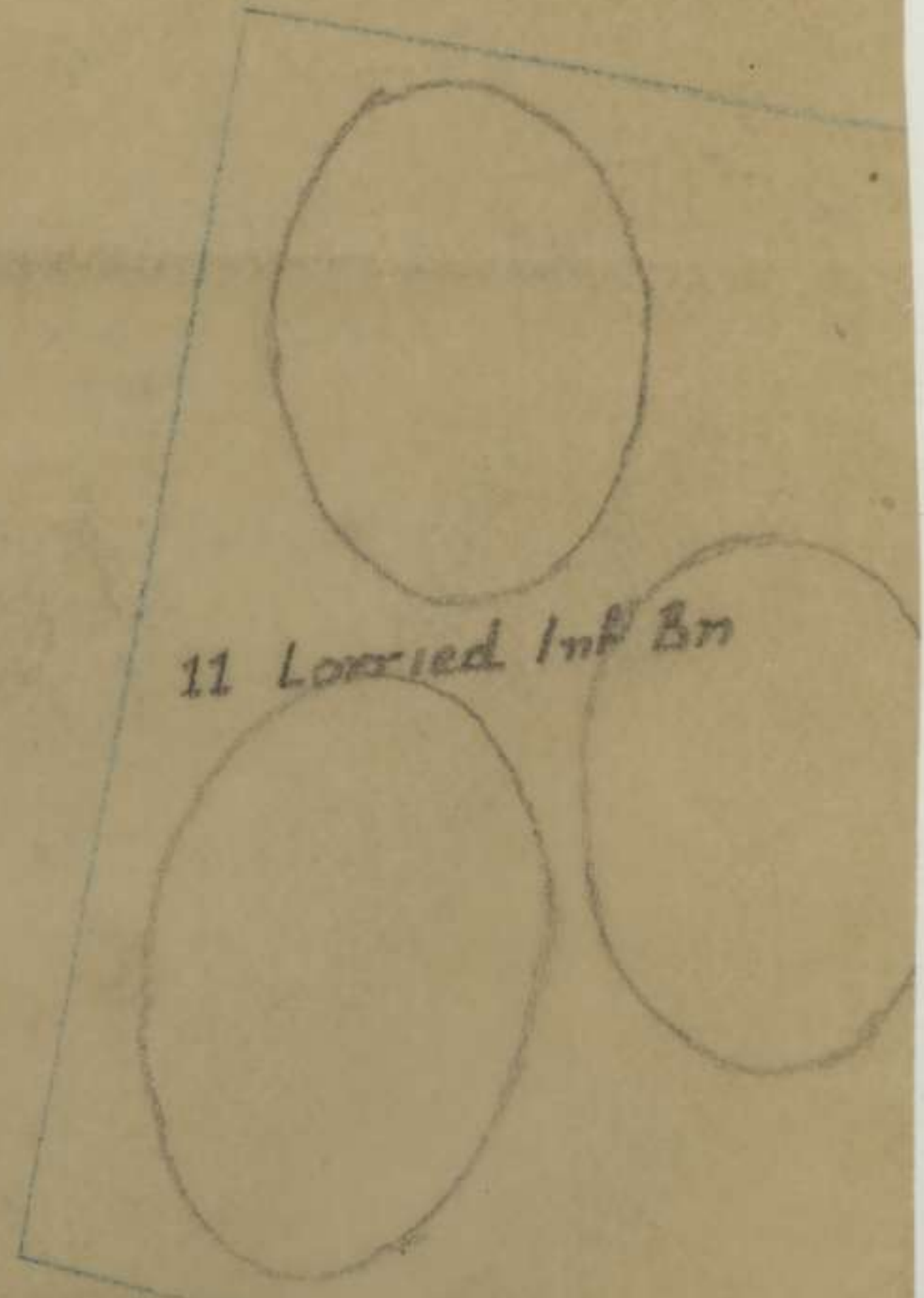
Legend

- Bn Areas
- Coy Areas
- ≡ Known gun posns.



2 Gps 46 Arty Regt astride Bardia Rd.

8 M/C Bn.



1 other Coy in squares 418414 & 419414

Composition of 7 BERSAGLIERI REGT

Sub Unit	Strength
10x11 Lorryed Inf Bns	950
8 M/C Bn	300
1 Coy	300
2x3 Coys (Total)	500

Weapons
 36 LMG's
 27 Mortars (45 mm)
 9 LMG's, 3 MMG's
 18 LMG's, 6 MMG's
 (Possible Guns in Sector)
 12 guns 100/17 & 12 guns 75/27
 (How's)
 12 guns 75/27

General Area
 4310 4206
 4230 4170

Composition of 46 Arty Regt
 2 Gps each 3 four gun blys
 1 Gps of 3 four gun bly

RECEIVED

1600 hrs. 15

Attended to

hrs.

By

APPX 5
SECRET

104th REGIMENT, R.H.A.

Ref. Map TOBRUK 1/50,000
and EL ADEM Extension.

Operation Order No. 36

Copy No. 12

14 Jun 41.

INFORMATION.

1. Enemy. As per Intelligence Summaries.
2. Own Troops. 7 Armd Div and att tps are attacking in the FRONTIER area on D 1 day with the object of driving the enemy WEST of TOBRUK.
3. 9 Aust Div are co-operating with the advance of 7 Armd Div.
4. 18 Aust Inf Bde and att tps are (a) Capturing the area EL DUDA 424409 (b) Securing a corridor between the TOBRUK PERIMETER on front of R55 - R 67 and EL DUDA (c) Denying to the enemy access to and from the BARDIA Road in the area between TOBRUK PERIMETER and EL DUDA.
5. 3 Armd Bde less 7 R T R is co-operating with 18 Aust Inf Bde.
6. (a) 20 Aust Inf Bde is to hold enemy on its front and be prepared to attack RAS MEDAUUAR as opportunity offers.
(b) 24 Aust Inf Bde is to continue to men existing defences in its sector.
(c) 26 Aust Inf Bde. One Bn is to advance from the area POSTS R 71 - R 75 at ZERO and is to engage the enemy.
7. A detachment of S S Tps is landing from the sea EAST of TOBRUK perimeter to harrass the enemy flank.
8. One Tp (60 pr) of 2/12 Regt R.A.A. will support the operation from a position near BIR IASIN (41284228).
Task of 60 Pr Tp. To fire by observation on any enemy batteries seen in their zone or reported by C.B.O.
Zone of 60 pr Tp. EL ADEM Rd to BIR GHERZA (42104256)
9. Sound Ranging. The S.R. Tp will operate using a base extending from 41054231 to 41854238.
10. Flash Spotting. The F.S. Tp will operate from O.Ps on a line from Post R 17 to R 32.
11. 48 Bn with in support

339 Bty R.H.A.
Det 3 Fd Coy RAE.

is sallying forth from the perimeter about the area posts R 71 - R 76 in an EASTERLY direction, in accordance with Operation Instrm issued separately, copy of which is attached as Appendix "A".

INTENTION.

12. 104 Regiment, R.H.A. less 414 Bty will support 26 Aust Inf Bde.
414 Battery, R.H.A. will support 2/12 Btn 18 Aust Inf Bde.

METHOD.

13. 414 Bty (104 Regt R.H.A.) and 426 Bty (107 Regt R.H.A.) will support respectively 12 Bn and 9 Bn from positions:

414 Bty area approx 416421
426 Bty area approx 413421

14. 339 Bty (104 Regt R.H.A.) from a position about 419425 420425
 (a) Will send fwd F.O.O. with 48 Bn.
 (b) Will engage targets on front of 26 Bde by observed fire.
 (c) In particular will neutralize enemy batteries attempting to interfere with the main operation.
 (d) Will engage enemy batteries on their front reported by C.B.O.
15. Survey. All tps will be on the permanent grid.
16. Registration. All registration will be silent.
17. Counter Battery. The C.B.O. will collect and collate information supplied by F.S. and S.R. troops and will inform those batteries within the perimeter which can bear.
18. D 1 day and zero hour will be notified later.
19. On receipt of the executive order "BATTLE AXE", 414 Bty will move forward to position as ordered and come into support of 2/12 Btn. O.C. 414 Bty will receive his orders from O.C. 2/12 Btn and will remain in support until further orders are received.

On 15 June 339 Bty will move into forward positions as follows:

- (a) 'A' Tp to 41944255 to move not before 1230 hrs and to be in action by 1500 hrs.
- (b) 'B' Tp to 42014258 to move after last light so that present position is vacated by 2200 hrs and Troop in action by 2400 hrs. 339 Bty continue to man O.Ps 41 and 45 until ordered to man new O.Ps.

On receipt of the order BATTLE AXE, 339 Bty will remain in support of 2/23 and 2/24 Btns until Z when the Bty will come into support of 2/48 Btn.

20. Units will be at one hours notice to move from 0900 hrs 15 June.

ADMINISTRATION.

21. Ammunition.
 (a) Troops inside perimeter will have on their positions full battery echelons and will dump 100 rds per gun. 5% smoke will be held.
 (b) An A.P. will be established in vicinity of 41124222.
22. Other administrative orders will be issued later.

INTERCOMMUNICATION.

23. Advanced H.Q. 9 Aust Div and advanced H.Q., R.A. opens at Post R 62 at zero.
24. R.H.Q. will be located as at present. 339 Bty line and R/T 414 Bty R/T.
25. Units will ensure that all vehicles operating outside the perimeter are provided with the necessary smoke signals.
26. Watches will be synchronised on "BATTLE AXE" day under Divisional arrangements.
27. Challenge signal air to ground:-
 Red Two star cartridge fired from less than 6,000 ft.
28. Answer by ground troops when challenged from the air:-
 (a) Troops in M.T. on move will light and throw out a smoke generator to WINDWARD.
 (b) Units and H.Q. when halted, will, if in possession, show the recognition Panel as issued.

OPERATION ORDER No. 23. Sheet Three.

=====

Wireless silence will be maintained until zero hour.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Sd/- J. H. Raikes, Capt. R.H.A.,
Adjutant,
104th Regiment, R. H. A.

Time of signature.. .. 21.00.

Method of Issue.... . D.R.L.S.

DISTRIBUTION.

O.C. 339 Bty R.H.S.	Copies Nos.	1 - 3
414 Bty R.H.A.	" "	4 - 6
C. O.	Copy No.	7
Adjutant	" "	8
I. O.	" "	9
HQ. RA, Tobruck Fortress	" "	10
H.Q., 26 Aust Inf Bde.	" "	11
O.C. 2/23 Btn. ✓	" "	12
2/24 Btn	" "	13
2/48 Btn	" "	14
2/12 Btn.	" "	15
War Diary	Copies Nos	16 - 17
File	" "	18 - 19
Spare	" "	20 - 21

For Information.

APPENDIX "A" to OPERATION ORDER No. .
=====

SECRET.

26 Aust Inf Bde Operation Instn No. 4.

14 Jun 41.

To C.O. 2/48 Bn.

INFORMATION.

1. Infn regarding enemy and Own Tps is contained in 26 Aust Inf Bde O.O. No. 8.

A det of S S Tps approx 100 strong will land from the sea EAST of TOBRUK and harrass the flank of the enemy before zero.

OBJECT.

2. You will carry out the sortie EAST from 23 Bn area. The object is to protect the left flank of the sortie in force through 24 Bn area, by containing the enemy in the area EAST of the perimeter to NS grid 428 and NORTH of EW Grid 420.

METHOD.

3. You will sally forth from the perimeter about the area Posts R 71 - R 75 at zero and will adv NE to gain close contact with the enemy. You will there engage him by fire.
4. The following units will be in support:

One bty 104 RHA
Det 3 Fd Coy RAE
5. C.O. 104 RHA will provide FOOs to accompany you.
6. 2 3 Bn from its present posns is available to give such assistance by fire as may be desired.
7. 3 Fd Coy is to provide two additional brs over A Tk ditch and such other engr assistance as may be feasible.
8. Assembly area will require to be SOUTH of BARDIA Rd and EAST of the unmade rd running SW from 42104240.
9. Zero hour will be advised separately.
10. Ps W will be evacuated to ruined rd house 42134239 where they will be delivered to a gd separately detailed.

Sd/-.....Major,
for Brigadier,
Comd. 26 Aust Inf Bde.

APPX 6
File 14

S E C R E T

COPY NO 19

19 Jun 41.

2/23 BN OPERATION INSTN NO 5

Ref Map : TOBRUK 1/50,000.

INTENTION :

- 1. A Coy will relieve C Coy and occupy section of eastern perimeter.

METHOD :

- 2. A Coy will carry out the relief of C Coy and will occupy Posts R74, 76, 77, 79 and Z78, 81, 83 85 on night 20/21 June 41. C Coy will occupy A Coy's present posn same night.
- 3. Z.1 : A Coy will relieve one pl C Coy night 19/20 June - Pl A Coy will come under comd C Coy until relief completed night 20/21 June. Pl C Coy so relieved will relieve Pl A Coy Z.1 posn same night and will come under comd A Coy until relief completed night 20/21 June. A Coy Pl relieved at Z.1 will return present Coy location.
- 4. Timings : No move before 2115 hrs 20 June.
Move to be completed by 0100 hrs 21 June.

ADM :

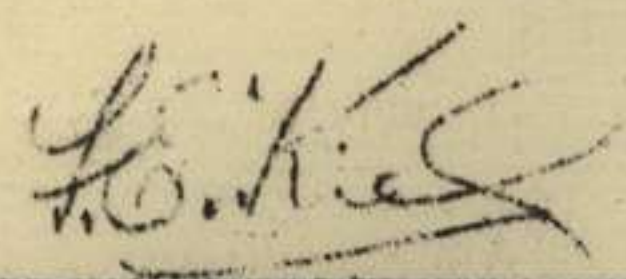
- 5. Weapons : All automatic and A/tk weapons will remain sited in present location and will be taken over by relieving coy.
- 6. Amn : Except for amn carried on the man all amn will be taken over by relieving coy.
- 7. Res Rations and Water : An exchange with necessary adjustments will be made.

INTERCOMN :

- 8. Existing sig arrangements will remain.
- 9. Code Word : Completion of relief will be signalled by code word JUNO.

ACK.

Issued by sigs and signed at 2145 hrs



Capt

Adjt 2/23 Bn

Distribution :

Copy No 1	A Coy	Copy No 12	T.O.
" " 2	C "	" " 13	S.O.
" " 3	D "	" " 14	P.O.
" " 4	HQ "	" " 15	Carrier Pl
" " 5	AASC att	" " 16	26 Bde
" " 6	HOPA	" " 17	W.D.
" " 7	C.O.	" " 18	Adjt
" " 8	2 I/C	" " 19	File
" " 9	I.O.	" " 20	Spare
" " 10	R.M.O.	" " 21	Spare
" " 11	Q.M.		

---oOo---

RECEIVED

0930 hrs. 21

308/15

APPX 7

(96)

Attended to

hrs.

By

SECRET

COPY NO. 3

20 Jun 41.

26 AUST INF BDE OPERATION INSTN No. 5.

1. The function of a res bn, in its counter attack role, is to be prepared to launch a deliberate counter attack against an enemy penetration in the bde sector.
2. It is considered that the order of probability of entry is as follows :-
 - a. On the right of the sector, as a continuation of an attack on the EL ADEM sector.
 - b. Between about R 63 and about R 73.
 - c. NORTH of R 73.
3. Movement fwd to a FUP will normally be possible by M T, which will be provided on as adequate a scale as possible.
4. As it is probable that at least one other simultaneous enemy attack will have been made elsewhere, the support of more than one bty of fd arty cannot be anticipated. The max possible assistance will, however, be obtained.
5. It is understood that tk support, from Div resources, will be available : but this will be limited.
6. Time will necessarily be an important factor. Offrs must, therefore, be familiar with the terrain involved in order that recce may be confined to an examination of the current situation.

Speedy Mai
 in Brigs
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