

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

Item number: 8/2/20

20 Infantry Brigade

March 1941

AFTER TOBRUK-GENERAL

HQ 20 INF BDE

MOVEMENTS B

BHQ moved out by road from MENA camp 1 Mar 41 through MERSA MATRUH, TOBRUK and DERNA.

SECURITY

One platoon 2/13 Bn left at MADDELENA and one Coy at BARCE for security duties. Remainder 2/13 Bn left at BEDA FOMM and one platoon 2/17 at AGEDABIA.

Bde relieves 17 Bde 10 km north of AGEDABIA, 9 Mar.

HQ 20 INF BDE
MAR 41.

ENEMY AIRCRAFT frequently attacked troop formations but few casualties were suffered.

Bde moves out to ER REGIMA 22 Mar and takes up position on escarpment. Bdes role to deny enemy access from line of WADI BU ZUEINA to WADI GATTAR.

MAPS- after TOBRUK

SIRTE AREA

maps and sketches.

HQ 20 INF BDE
MAR 41.

TOPOGRAPHY -after TOBRUK

AGHEILA, SIRTE notes, communications, Reccs, and population of MISURATA

HQ 20 INF BDE
MAR 41

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C 118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 58 L.A.D.

Date and Time.—From 8 Aug To 23 Aug

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Liverpool	8 Aug 40		Drew Section F tools from O.S. Fieckhardt.	
"	9 Aug 40		Interviewed B.M. S.C., 4.0. Brigade H.Q. re vehicular service	
"	12 Aug 40		Carried out inspection of vehicle for 20 th Bde at V.R.P. Moorbank.	
"	14 Aug 40		Last 2 days spent on vehicular service at Engleburn Pump.	
Natoumba	15 Aug 40		Left Liverpool at 0830 hrs en route Natoumba. Picked up disabled vehicle at Tapstone & arranged down to Natoumba. Found vehicle with bullet at 51 Waratah St. Natoumba.	
	16 Aug 40		Commenced service on 2/13 vehicle. Reported to 2/3 R.F.W. re vehicle towed from Tapstone	
	17 Aug 40		Completed service for 2/12 Bde	
	18 Aug 40		Sunday. Several service jobs.	
	19 Aug 40		Vehicular service for 2/17 Bde	
	20 Aug 40		Cleaning up odd jobs. First recovery action at Teura. 2/4 Field Coy. R.F.E.	
	21 Aug 40		Vehicular service for 2/4 Field Coy R.F.E.	
	22 Aug 40		" " " " 7 th Div Engrs 576 Field Coy	
	23 Aug 40		Vehicular service for 20 th Bde H.Q.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form 6118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 58 L.A.W

Date and Time.—From 25 Aug 40 To 12 Oct

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Katoomba	25 Aug 40		Left Katoomba 1000 hrs. Arrived Glanville Camp 1430 hrs.	
Bathurst	26 Aug 40		Inspected camp for suitable workshop facilities. Visited Bathurst & located show ground	
"	27 Aug 40		Moved to Bathurst show ground & commenced service 1000 hrs.	
"	1 Sep 40		Contacted Capt. Taylor's Station & arranged bullets at show ground for them	
"	12 Sep 40		Trucks serviced for return to Sydney. Left Bathurst for monthly leave.	
"	18 Sep 40		First introduction to M.G. Carriac. Anticipate considerable trouble	
"	19 Sep 40		Grounded all M.G. Carriac due to faulty assembly	
"	20 Sep 40		M.G. Carriac now all complete & working satisfactorily.	
"	25 Sep 40		Received warning to increase pre-embarkation leave.	
"	27 Sep 40		Unit left on final leave	
"	6 Oct 40		Had various jobs of needles. Vae Fabi & Audi Fel	1 Lt. Mechanic Lt 2/12 F.V. for Medical Treatment 54268 Stevens E. Marched in
"	8 Oct 40		Packing W.E. in cases to send to boat	
"	9 Oct 40		Dispatched gear by convey. to Sydney.	
"	12 Oct 40		Movement order cancelled in departing	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form 2118
(adapted)

Unit 581.17.D

Date and Time.—From 18 Oct

To 19 Nov

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Bachurst	18 Oct 40		Received orders to move tomorrow. Rendell admitted hospital 16 th for treatment	
	19 Oct 40		Left Bachurst & embarked I/Mary 1600 hrs	
At Sea	20 Oct 40		1000 hrs Sailed from Sydney with Acquafiuma as consort. Perot as escort.	
	21 Oct 40		Passing Melbourne & putted up Mauritius	
	25 Oct 40		Arrived Fremantle & refuelled	
	27 Oct 40		Sailed at 0600 hrs. Stevens admitted hospital with chronic sinusitis	
	29 Oct 40		Had TAB/223	
	30 Oct 40		Escort duty. Taken over by Canberra. Perot and foot lye & sailed to Coes	
Bombay	4 Nov 40		Arrived 08:45. Firing of harbour warning ordns	
	7 Nov 40		Disembarked & marched to Colaba Camp.	
	11 Nov 40		Embarked Christian Huygens & anchored in stream	
At Sea	12 Nov 40		Sailed at 1400 hrs in convoy of 12 ships & 1 A.M.V.	
	18 Nov 40		Passed Aden & joined by 3 troopships	
	19 Nov 40		Had air raid alarm, not serious	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form 2118
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 58 L.A.D

Date and Time.—From 23 Nov

To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
At Sea	23 Nov 40		Dropped anchor at Port Gempik & began unloading stores	
Suez	24 Nov 40		Received disembarkation orders	
..	25 Nov 40		Entered canal at 0630 hrs anchored at Ismaïlia & then proceeded to Tantara. Dred up for night	
Nilo 89	26 Nov 40		Disembarked at Tantara. Met by Col Chapman. Trained to Garga & to Nilo 89 Camp	
	3 Dec 40		Drew V3424 for unit use. Buggy unit checking W.E. & rec for new supplies	
	5 Dec 40		Reformed rank of N.C.Os. All W.E. drawn in list to hand.	
	10 Dec 40		Unit been engaged in general service. Fitted up P.A. system in buses & wireless for mess room	
	14 Dec 40		Unit had field day. Tested watches of H.M.S. & Brit Jewels. Carried out map reading & compass.	
	16 Dec 40		Leave for Amused numbers granted to Tel Aviv & Jerusalem. Setting up stock checking system	
	17 Dec		2/8 P.P. arrived Kibutz 26 Base at Dimera. Two muscles in leg. Servicing 2/17 vehicles	
	19 "		Visited A. Stanton & W. Wall.	
	24 "		Spent evening in mess tent & had a sing song. All cheery.	
	25 ..		Christmas day. Officers & men had dinner together in mess tent. Men appreciated the gesture	
	26.		Donkey race morning. P.A. System worked well.	

DATE	VEHICLE NO.	UNIT	NATURE OF WORK.
29. 11. 40	M2350	20Bde H.Q.	Engine oil changed. 2nd gear selector adjusted.
3. 12. 40	Soyer Stove	20Bde H.Q.	Repairs and maintenance.
5. 12. 40	M2356	20Bde H.Q.	Repair N.S.R. door lock.
6. 12. 40	Unit Equip ment.	20Bde H.Q.	Repair due damage caused in shipment.
6. 12. 40	V3424	58 LAD	Changed engine oil .Repairs to locks and hinges.
7. 12. 40	M2350	20Bde H.Q.	Remove keys and opened locked car.
8. 12 40	A1712	FD AMB	Repairs to starter motor.
10. 12. 40	V3545	20BDEH.Q.	Service overhaul
11. 12. 40	V3550	2/17 Bn	Service overhaul
do	V3303	do	do do
do	V3364	do	do do
do	M2400	do	do do
do	V2830	do	do do
do	V3309	do	do do
do	V5365	do	do do
do	V5366	do	do do
do	V1295	do	do do
do	V62	do	do do
do	V55	do	do do
do	L1786	do	do do
do	V5376	do	do do
do	V5399	20Bde H.Q.	do do
do	V5346	do	Repairs to canopy of framework.
12. 12. 40	V5401	20 th Tk Coy	Service overhaul
do	Unit Equip- ment	2/13 Bn	Repairs to ice chests (5)
13. 12. 40	do	20Bde H.Q.	do to oil stove
do	do	2/17 Bn	do to ice chests (5)
do	do	20Bde H.Q.	Installing light and wireless Mens Mess
do	do	do	Repairs to stoves and stationary box
do	V62	2/17Bn	Sent to 2/2 A F W
17. 12. 40	Unit Equip- ment	58 LAD	Repairs stationary box
do	V5401	20 A Tk Coy	Adjust voltage regulator.
do	V5359	2/13 Bn	Service overhaul
do	V5356	do	do do
do	V5361	do	do do

DATE	VEHICLE NO.	UNIT	NATURE OF WORK.	
17. 12. 40.	V5346	20Bde H.Q.	Petrol pump removed and repaired.	
18. 12. 40	Unit equipment	2/13 Bn	Make petrol funnel	
do	V5418	do	Service overhaul	
do	V5428	do	do	do
do	V5358	do	do	do
do	V5357	do	do	do
do	V2786	do	do	do
19. 12. 40	V5346	20Bde H.Q.	do	do
do	V5354	do	do	do
do	V5348	do	do	do
do	Unit equipment	do	Clean fuel line (Soyer Stove)	
do	V5362	2/13 Bn	Service overhaul	
do	V5362	do	do	do
20. 12. 40	M2342	do	Overhaul front end and gear change.	
do	M2350	20Bde H.Q.	Rectify short in W/S wiper.	
do	V3424	58 LAD	Grease and tighten up.	
do	V5400	20 A Tk Coy	Service overhaul.	
23. 12. 40	V5349	20Bde H.Q.	Service overhaul	
do	M2457	2/13 Bn	do	do
do	V5436	Fd Hyg Coy	Repair canopy frame work.	
do	V5355	2/13 Bn	Service overhaul	
do	Unit equipment	20Bde H.Q.	Repair cookers.	
do	V5401	20 A Tk Coy	Service overhaul	
27. 12. 40	M2350	20 Bde H.Q.	do	do
do	V5369	2/17 Bn	do	do
do	M2331	20 Bde H.Q.	do	do
do	M2448	do	do	do
do	M2350	do	do	do
do	M2370	do	do	do
do	V3424	58 LAD	do	do
do	Unit equipment	2/13 Bn	Repairs burner fuel pipe	
28. 12. 40	M2332	20 Bde H.Q.	Service overhaul	
30. 12. 40	V5423	2/2 Fd Hyg Coy	do	do
do	M2414	do	do	do
do	V3424	58 LAD	Fit new plug	

JUN 22 1941

20 *Ad*

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C-2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit *58 L A I*

Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<i>Tab 89</i>	30-12-40		Marking out parade ground for Brigade parade. 2/1-5-6 & P.P. 2/13 23 24 & 48 Bullets	
	31-12-40		Refused <i>Refused</i> to <i>to</i> go <i>go</i> out <i>out</i> with <i>with</i> . P.A system broke down & will send to Tel Aviv for repair.	
			Had dinner at Spinnery. Gays. with Capt's Turner & Conner. finished up at Officers club	
	1-1-41		New Years day. visited Els Mami. All details arranged for parade tomorrow.	
	2-1-41		Parade went off without a hitch. Got special mention from Brig & introduced to P.C. Spender.	
	3-1-41		Carry out O.M.E. inspection 2/13 Ball rifles.	
	4-1-41		Carry out General Service & rifle inspection. visited by Col Chapman & COME Corp.	
	5-1-41		visited Accolon as guest of Sidki Bey Mami. Spent evening Tel Aviv.	
	8-1-41		Rifle inspection reveals that 50% of rifles are U.S. This requires some study.	
	9-1-41		Brigaded all unit armoured & began adjustments of rifles. And 100 per day as possible	
	12-1-41		Rifle repairs very satisfactory. visited Tel Aviv & met W.F. Haded.	
	15-1-41		O.M.E. rifle inspection 2/13 completed 20 classed U.S.	
	14-1-41		M. G. Carriers giving brake trouble. Located fault as creyed spindles & found it necessary to bend brake arms to get full braking efficiency.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit

S/LAD

Date and Time.—From

To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Hilo 89	15.1.41		Armourers began D.M.F. rifle inspection 2/17. Have decided to adapt rifles as found necessary	
	17.1.41		Built 2 oyer shoes into dump oil furnace. Most satisfactory	
	18.1.41		Had an air alert. Bombs dropped on Ramle & Kantara.	
	19.1.41		Visited Madia Hadad at Tel Aviv. Rained heavily at Rehovot. 3 air alarms at Tel Aviv	
	20.1.41		Brigade inspection 2/13 Batt. Found it necessary to ground 3 carriers owing to defects in braking system, big leaks not being kept up to date & maintenance neglected.	
	21.1.41		On leave to Jerusalem. Met Stubbs. Found survey dept & Jerry Mason. Dept of Agriculture	
	22.1.41		Sight seeing & shopping. Went to pictures & had air alarm there.	
	23.1.41		Final shopping. Bought & bought beautiful piece mosaic work.	
	24.1.41		Found everything satisfactory on return from leave. Unit busy & general ^{service}	
	25.1.41		2/17 Carrier turned out clutch. Contacted Major Hobson B.O.W. & arranged to do the work here. 2/13 with carrier in same trouble. Brigadier fixed & lifted motor out	
	26.1.41		Sunday. Introduced to Bishop of Jerusalem. Visited Ascalon & got some snaps	
	28.1.41		Carrier completed & very pleased with result of man's work	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit

58 LAD

Date and Time.—From

To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Kilo 89	29.1.41		Unit busy in general service of vehicles.	
	30.1.41		Carriers burning out clutches. On inquiry found that main unskilled personnel as drivers. Have issued instructions to all units that prospective carrier drivers must hold drivers licence before receiving training on carriers.	units are endeavouring to
	31.1.41		Shipping down carrier, using workshop recovery method to lift out motor.	
	1.2.41		Carrier jobs well in hand. Meeting 2/3 P.M. tonight at 0300.	
	2.2.41		Met Recovery Section from A/Land. None in Canal & no certainty when unit will arrive.	
	3.2.41		One carrier completed. Met 2/3 P.M. & associated in preparing unit to new camp Kilo 89	
	4.2.41		Parade at Pies Sumid. Guest unit. Messy. Entertainment at sea mess after concert.	
	5.2.41		General Service. work on carrier well in hand.	
	6.2.41		General Service. Conducted 2/15 Bath.	
	7.2.41		General Service. Missingham & Hoakie applied for transfer to 3rd Coy	
	8.2.41		cleaning up mess work. Commenced rifle inspection 2/15 Bath.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit

59 LAD

Date and Time.—From

To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
Tilo 89.	19.2.41		General service work. O.M.E's conference. 2/3 P.F.W.	
	20.2.41		Unit engaged in general service overhauls & clearing up motor. Curness have been giving ^{brake} trouble & it has been found necessary to fit O/S bearings. Drivers have got into habit of pumping brakes instead of adjusting them & this has caused strained spindle & operating will be better in morning. An early move is indicated & all units of 25 th Bde & 1st Div.	
	23.2.41.	6.27.2.41	Received in home notice of movement. Recovery wagon, garage trailer & store wagon drawn from B.O.D. Trailer has all fittings in place. Recovery has only chain blocks & store wagon is bare. No attempt is being made to fit up trailer & all vehicles are being loaded with unit gear.	
Asling	28.2.41		Pulled out from Tilo 89 at 15.30 with instructions to proceed to Canal. All brigade company gone ahead & we are acting as a drag on the road to deal any disabled vehicles. Arrived at 19 hrs at dusk found 2/15 & 2/17 Company camped for the night. Weather cold & rain threatening.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

51 LAD

Unit

Date and Time.—From

To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
ASLUJ	1.3.41	0.445	<p>Reveille & breakfast. Moved off at head of convoy at 0700. At 0745 found V5401 capsized by road side. Recovery wagon had job righted & in tow in 30 minutes. Towed vehicle to Abu. Mueigha & left personnel & vehicle in charge of Palestinian Police. Sent message by radio to B.H.C. Several vehicles were found overturned by drivers running into canal drifts. Intermitted show all day. Arrived Canal E. at 1630 & crossed. Recovery & trailers by afternoon bridge & State & trailers by ferry. Rain heavy. Received instructions to proceed to Mena Camp.</p>	
CANAL E.			<p>Refuelled & drove through Ismailia with water up to axles of vehicles. Road narrow & greasy. Trailers hard to handle & found necessary to reduce speed. 20 M.P.H. is absolute speed limit with trailers. V9301 found to have defective generator. Batteries changed over from candles. Trip & journey resumed. Reached outskirts of Cairo 21.30. Still raining & no guide. Found way through city & reached Mena Camp 23.30.</p>	
MENA.	2.3.41		<p>Drove to citadel & procured space for defective vehicles. Left Mena at 16.30 & travelled to Ameriya. arrived 22.30.</p>	
AMERIYA.				

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 51 LAD Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
AMERIYA.	3.3.41		Sent unit baggage to kil shore. Left two vehicles 2/17 with Recovery section for repairs. Left at 1100 hrs. Arrived at Mersa Matruih 21.30. Unsuccessful trip. Bedded down at police barracks.	
			2/17 Petrol supply lorry rolled over on road but was righted & sent off on journey.	
MERSA MATRUH SIDI BARRANI.	4.3.41		Left at 0700 hrs. Road getting bad & side tracks in use. Recovery & trucks unused for travelling on the edge of road. Arrived Sidi Barrani. 12.30 & had lunch on road side.	
			Roads now exceptionally bad & side tracks & dust has reduced speed to 6 MPH.	
SOLLUM.			Arrived Sollum 09.30 hrs. Night cold & clear.	
	5.3.41		Left Sollum 0700, climbed pass to Fort Caprygo. & on to Tobruk. Roads improving	
BARDIA TOBRUK.			Passed through Bardia. Entered Tobruk at 1230 in heavy dust storm. Contacted B.M.C. & serviced vehicles all afternoon. Procured tubes & tyres from A.O.D.	
	6.3.41		Left Tobruk. 0630. Good roads & much better average speed maintained.	
DERNA.	7.		Arrived Derna & serviced vehicles needing repair.	
	7.3.41		2/13 Convoy shot up on road yesterday. 5 Radiators in for repair. Left Derna at 1630 for all night drive to Foera.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 51 LAI Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
TOCRA	8.3.41		Arrived Tocra 01:30. Camped till daylight & proceeded to Benghazi.	
BENGHASI.	9-3-41		<p>Cont acted 2/4 Recovery section & secured workshop space for repairing vehicles.</p> <p>All fittings & plant removed from trailer & fitted up in store wagon. Top hampers & beam removed from recovery & beam refitted. Recovery section rendered valuable assistance in welding etc & the use of the Italian workshop & stores was a great help.</p>	
GHEMNINES ADGEDARIA	13.3.41.		<p>Trucking up practically completed. & a night drive was made through Ghemmine & Adgedaria to Kilo pos 828 where B eschelon B.D.O. was located.</p>	
KILO 828.	14.3.41		<p>The day was spent digging in vehicles & camouflaging as the planes M.G. the vehicles in this area. Service work was begun & as we are the only L.P.D. in the area, our work will be heavy. A/T guns were mounted for A/TCoy. Spares seem out of the question so have decided to replace everyone that requires repairs. The nearest Recovery section is at Benghazi & that is an all day trip. Have found & commissioned two S.P.F.s for unit use. As assistance is</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required)

Unit

59 LAD

Date and Time.—From

To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
KILO 828.			was not available we had to carry out repairs & rob broken down vehicles to replace parts in those in better condition.	
	23.3.41		Received instructions to move to Ghemminee at 2000 hrs. Allocation of personnel to vehicles. Wilson Self, Erratt. Recovery. Anderson Hudson, Moberley. Bishop. Reid. Bentley & Gehr. S.P.F. Mc Cusker & Evans. S.P.F. Dial Galeones & Mitchell. V5412 3/15 Bush in tow. Trucks abandoned at Casleerag. This job was in need of differential parts which were unavailable.	
GHEMMINES.	23.3.41		All night drive on dark & narrow road, no moon & no lights. 7 vehicles stuck in sand traps or overturned were righted during the night. Arrived Ghemminee 0430 & bivouaced.	
	24.3.41		Several repairs were executed to the best of our ability. Mainly spring & steering trouble.	
	24.3.41		Moved at 0030 to El Regima. Although a night drive, there was less crowding on the road, pace was slower & roadway under & better repaired. Established unit at 4 kilo post east of El Regima & commenced work. All vehicles were in need of attention & unit was very busy on general repairs. Have been able to procure several spring leaves from Recovery Post at Benghisi.	
El Regima.				

COPY OF LEAFLETS DROPPED BY GERMAN PLANES OVER TOBRUK ON APR 14/4/41.

KKK

PROCLAMATION.

THE GENERAL COMMANDING THE GERMAN FORCES IN TOBRUK HEREBY REQUESTS THE BRITISH TROOPS OCCUPYING LIBYA TO SURRENDER ARMS.

SINGLE SOLDIERS WAVING WHITE HANDER CHIEFS ARE NOT FIRED UPON.

STRONG GERMAN FORCES HAVE ALREADY SURROUNDED TOBRUK. USELESS TO TRY TO ESCAPE-

REMEMBER MEKHILL!.

OUR DIVE BOMBERS - STUKAS - ARE AWAITING YOUR SHIPS WHICH ARE LYING IN THE HARBOUR.

copy
for

In The Headlines Again

A masterly display of skill was shown by that wizard of the wheel, Stumpy at noon today. Where the Wog bus got hopelessly bogged, he came through with his flivver as if he was on a paved highway. It is gratifying to know that this little, big-hearted, gent is on our side, and not opposed to us.

The Midnight Tea Party

When the personell of the L.A.D. trudged wearily home last night, towards midnight, after 15 hours of terrific toil, it was decided to boil the billy.

Everything in their favour was against them and three blow-lamps were pressed into service, but no progress was made till the glamour-boy of the 58 came into the picture and soon had the billy boiling.

To top this off, he the S.M. in a cup of tea and hummed some biscuits off him. Turn that game up, son

Please note this number when replying.

Commonwealth Forces - Eastern Command
Military Forces - Eastern Command

TELEPHONE

Disaster Narrowly Averted

An accident that could have turned out to be disastrous to the occupants of the 58 L.A.D. quarters, was handled in an extraordinary cool and calm manner by Stumpy Hudson last night.

Just after tea, a certain gent was refuelling the blow-lamp whilst it was in motion, and there was a terrific explosion and the instrument was wrapped in flames. Did this deter Stumpy? NO. He dashed in shouting to the boys "Leave it to me lads and just keep calm" and proceeded to extinguish the flames with his bare hands.

He soon had the situation well in hand and, once more calm and peace reigned in the mansion. Well done Stumpy old man.

The Sergeants Downfall

When Sergeant Anderson strolled into the L.A.D. tent tonight to pay the boys a social visit, he was unwise enough to try and iron a gent out, and, before he knew what had happened he was promptly grabbed and dumped into the slit trench.

L.A.D. tent goes with the tent-tossing and remember

the same will happen to them if they attempt it

Военно-воздушный корпус — Военно-воздушная авиационная группа

ТЕЛЕФОНЫ

28 2 41.

KKlo 89.

After days of preparation, the 58th were lined up at 1400 hrs to receive final instructions for the big trek. After having received same, the official photographers of the unit done their stuff and the convoy set sail at 1530 hrs. Travelled through Beersheba and on to Asluj, nothing of interest on the trip. Asluj is merely a staging camp, no taverns in the place. Bad luck, gents, water is the next best thing. Who put the act on when he found someone had tampered with the ignition of a certain truck. Ask Mr A.

XXXXXX 1 3 41.

The personell of the 58th arose from their slumbers at 0445 hrs. One gent was heard to remark that the morning was as cold as his mother-in-law when he bit her for a quid. Continuing the road through the desert, a truck was sighted in an unusual position, namely upside down. Were the boys perturbed? Certainly not. They had the chariot roadworthy in 30 minutes, nice going, fellows.

Travelling along the road through a desert as bare as a strip tease dancer the convoy ran into heavy rain. Rain in the Sinai Desert may sound incredulous but the soberity of the writer can be vouched for. At 1245 hrs, a spot of lunch was decided on, Cpl Bently being the chef for the occasion. Bully beef and desert creams being the menu. After this was consumed, the journey was resumed in the rain, over an undulating road that it brought back memories of the Big Dipper at Luna Park.

Rain still continued at 1649 hrs when the Canal was reached and the crossing made. The remarks of Mr Hudson as he drove the Recovery wagon over the narrow and shaky pontoon bridge were unprintable and the thrill Jim got as he followed in the utility will be told to his children in latter years.

On completion of the crossing, instructions were received to proceed to Mena Camp. Vehicles were refuelled and after the purchase of some chocolate which later was found to be infested with weevils, a start was made through the flooded town of Ismalia. Water was up to the running boards of the trucks and the native population were taking advantage of the flood and having a bath, probably the first for months. The road on the outskirts of the town was as greasy as an Army stew and as the Store Wagon and trailer began to gather speed it began to sway like a Kings Cross metho fiend.

Seeing that complications were likely to set in, the Captain set sail after the outfit accompanied by the long wheel base job, Mr Erratt, who was having a spell after driving all day. Speaking later on the subject, Jim said it was a very thrilling ride especially when a flivver piloted by a Wog appeared in the murk just as a truck was to be passed. A skid worthy of a speed way driver solved the problem and straightened things out and the offending trailer was overtaken and speed reduced to safe limits.

The sweetwater canal, running parallel with the road, was the scene of an amusing incident, A barge, manned by a few dusky sons of the desert had broken away from its moorings and had swung broadside to the canal and had blocked it beautifully and had then capsized and sunk.

1 3 41 continued.

The need of traffic cops is clearly seen, much cussing and swearing was going on but not understanding Arabic, we cannot confirm the latter.

Continuing onwards with directions somewhat vague, a few acts of mercy in the shape of aid to a few trucks was carried out and the journey resumed. A guide was picked up on the road and he proved as handy as a work chop in a Synagogue but after many enquiries the outskirts of Cairo were reached.

In the course of trying to find the right road to Mena, a tour of the city was conducted in steady rain. The local hostelry would have been invaded had conditions been more pleasant but duty is duty and after an hours tour round the precincts of the city, Mena camp was reached and the boys partook of a little light refreshment in the shape of a cup of tea and decided to call it a day. We won't mention any names but a certain gent decided to sleep in the open, during the night he was under the impression that he was sleeping under the shower. Even the rain has no respect for the army.

2 3 41.

The 58th woke to a rather cheerless morning and some had their first glimpse of the famous Pyramids, a few of the unit had been fortunate to view these historic landmarks before but to the majority, it was something new.

Several arguments as to their origin started but as one gent stated, that they were erected as a tourist attraction, for this he was promptly howled down and although opinions were more than varied, they were held in abeyance.

It was marvellous how quickly some of the boys appeared in sun helmets but no questions were asked although some of the said head gear had been seen in the Q.Ms store. As the morning waned, the No 1 scrounger of the L.A.D. went off in search of postage stamps and being successful, a number of missives were sent off to those at home.

Late in the afternoon, the order to proceed was once more given and a course set for Alexandria, where a staging camp was reached a little before midnight and it did not take the boys long to hit the hay and a cold wind was no inducement to sit about and yarn although their opinions of the land of the Pharaohs were more forcible than polite.

3 3 41.

The unit awoke refreshed after a good nights sleep and breakfasted at the kitchen of the 2/17, kit bags were dug out and stacked in a heap to go to the kit store at Alex. A few repair jobs were undertaken including the tow bar of the Recovery which had been ironed out by a passing vehicle during the nights trip, much to the annoyance of that veteran of the wheel, Mr Hudson.

The tow bar of the trailer also required a little attention to overcome the tendency to sway from side to side of the narrow roads.

After an early lunch, the convoy pulled out for Mersa Matruh which was reached after an uneventful journey. Approaching the town, one was struck with the endless dumps of captured vehicles of every conceivable type. Again not mentioning names, one of our drivers got the shock of his life when a battle buggy charged straight at him but luckily no harm was done. The real eye opener was the town proper. We have read in Wild West stories of bad men shooting up a town but they never done as good a job as had been done here. The buildings were well ventilated, in fact some had the roof removed and not by an architect

The thrill of the day was on the other side of the town as the shadows of

3 3 41 Continued

evening lengthened, it was discovered that we were on the wrong road and had to turn back, this road was very narrow and on either side was a mine field. It was necessary to turn the store wagon and the trailer separately.

This took the best part of an hour and every moment we expected a mine to explode, the air was thick with profanity and a few blokes were told their past history in Latin but the task was eventually completed and the camp reached at last. The selected area for the night was a large barracks and on inspection of the premises a few bomb holes were noticed in the yard. It was, of course, assumed they were not put there to improve anyones health. The night being cold and windy, supper was tucked away and so off to bed and another day over.

4 3 41.

At the crack of dawn, the unit was once more preparing to move on, the 2/17 again being our hosts for breakfast, a gesture much appreciated by the lads.

After the early morning meal, the convey rolled steadily onwards, the road changing from bad to worse, side tracks being used at times by the drivers, these side tracks were the cause of several vehicles capsizing and at mid day one was sighted with its wheels in the air but the pilot of the Recovery, Mr Hudson, hove into view and soon had that vehicle standing the way it was meant to do. Shortly after noon, Sidi Barrani came into sight or to be more precise, what was left of it, the holes in the buildings testified to the excellent shooting of the navy. Lunch was eaten by the road side and here Mr McCusker showed his ability as a scrounger by digging up from apparently nowhere ammunition and shells of all kinds abandoned by the followers of Musso.

The said gent was warned of the danger of this practice and told to discontinue his activities, much to his disgust.

The journey was resumed after lunch over roads that would make a bullock driver weep tears of blood added to which was the clouds of dust and an hour or so of travelling saw throats as dry and dusty that the boys would have drunk anything from weak tea to metho. Still, little things like that are trifling when there is a war on and after a slow and tedious journey, Sollum was reached. Sollum is a small town nestling under an escarpment of the Libian Plateau and bore evidence of the Italian occupation in the mottoes splashed on the wall still standing. Here was located a N.A.A.F.I. canteen where the boys were able to wash the dust off their torsils with Melbourne Bitter at 1/6 per bottle, across the entrance to this haven in the desert on one side of the door was the word "ReDuce" and on the other side, "Duce". Whether it was the original Italian motto of "Rex" and "Duce". I am not sure but I think some wag had erased the "X" and was having a subtle dig at the canteen. The evening was cold and everyone retired early in preparation for the days journey in view. Ahead loomed the road up the escarpment and various rumours were heard about it being bombed from time to time but as these stories are becoming common, not much notice is taken.

5th March 41.

The camp was up before dawn in preparation of the days journey into Italian territory. Doubts had been expressed as to the possibility of the store wagon and trailer making the grade up the escarpment but that worthy knight of the wheel, Mr McCusker, gave it the gun and came up in fine style, much to the surprise of the locals and also to himself. At the top of the escarpment, Fort Capuzzo came into view, a battered relic of the Italian occupation with battered transport and planes lying strewn over the landscape, amongst which were several unexploded 15" shells. The sight of these samples of war prompted Mr Anderson to remark, "If these b-----y things were to go off, they would smear things about a bit". Improved roads were much relished by all and good progress made to the outer defences of Bardia where much of interest was to be seen and great interest was taken in the tank traps and road blocks that had failed to protect the town from the attacking Diggers. The convoy proceeded through the town without delay and eventually stopped at the Western side of the outer defences where every one went in for a little scrounging, one of the results was the addition to the strength of the units war equipment of a Breda machine gun complete with ammunition and spare parts. Mr Mitchell got unto himself an Itii rifle and sundry rounds of ammunition but was a little disappointed in his efforts to hit the telephone poles from a moving truck. Cpl Bentley was purloined from his comfortable abode in the trailer and set to work getting the Breda into working condition, in this he was successful as later events will show. The improved roads made driving easy and the convoy ambled along at an easy pace to the outskirts of Tobruk where the unit had their first taste of a real desert sand storm, the road down the escarpment being negotiated with visibility practically Zero. No time was wasted in the town itself as it is a noted target for the enemy planes who drop eggs without thought of the damage they might do. Brigade H.Q. was contacted at the staging camp a few miles further on and the unit settled down to an afternoons well earned rest. Vehicles were serviced and all hands endeavoured to get rid of the dust that had accumulated both inwardly and on the outside of their persons.

It is rumoured that after the evening meal, some of the L.A.D. visited an adjacent camp and consumed a goodly portion of Itii plonk which caused them to come staggering home carrying a winch, later discovered to have been taken from a plane. Although this is not official news, the greater part of it is believed to be true.

5th March 41.

On the road at daylight, the convoy bowled merrily along headed for Derna. Many warnings and various tales had been given and told about the planes machine gunning transport on the road so a sharp look out was kept for the people who were responsible for this state of affairs. Desert hawks hovering in the air near the road made many a heart jump but the real things were not sighted. At El Gazala, a deserted Itii drome with wrecks of machines lying spread over the landscape, was the first stop and tea and porridge procured from the unit in occupation. Just before we arrived at this place, some one had pulled in with a small Fiat saloon suffering from tyre trouble, this machine took the eye of someone, names not mentioned, a hurried search of the vehicle and anything of interest or use was purloined pronto and when the owner returned after a

5th March 41. Contd.

in an absence of five or ten minutes, he found his car stripped in a real professional manner. Apparently the members of the L.A.D. have developed a taking manner. Moving along after breakfast, a dump was sighted and promptly looked over but as it only consisted of ammunition, 1000 rounds were all that were taken. Approaching Derna, the convoy was slowed down and spaced on account of an air raid on that town, later it was learned that the 2/13 were attacked and machine gunned with a loss of two men, a car and a truck burnt and several vehicles shot up. The road down the escarpment was reported to be very bad and the unit was warned that considerable trouble might be experienced during the descent but again the drivers proved their worth and completed the job without trouble although Mr Reid cut the corners a little fine and on one hair pin bend had his frontwheels hanging over the edge. This pass is a marvellous piece of road engineering and was admired by all. The town of Derna is a pretty little seaside place with quite an amount of greenery about and is a vivid contrast to the desert through which we have passed. As the convoy proceeded through the streets, one exclamation was heard, "Look, a woman!" and several were seen still in occupation of the town. As this place was not the scene of much fighting, quite a number of the residents and native population were still in residence. No time was wasted in the town and camp was made about four miles out. During the afternoon, the vehicles that the 2/13 had had shot up were repaired and the unit set out for a little rifle practice. Some good shots were discovered and some hundreds of rounds of ammunition were used up including both our own and Itii, the Breda gun was given a good try out and all the little mysteries of that weapon were solved. On the beach at the foot of the hill from which the practice took place was a mine that had been washed up and everyone was most careful to miss that target. By devious channels, information was received that a machine drill was going begging so a raiding party was dispatched armed with the necessary tools and brought back as the spoils of war a perfectly good pedestal drill complete with motor drive worth, in round figures, £ 100.

A rumor spread that a limited amount of beer was available and a hurried collection of Mills and Piastres made but it was too late as the beer had all gone and amidst groans of disappointment the money was returned and so off to sleep to make the best of things.

7th March 41.

An early start before breakfast enabled the jobs on hand to be completed by lunch time, after which more rifle and machine gun practice was indulged in.

Shooting was good, only one gent having to don his glasses to enable him to get on to the target, Messers Anderson, Mobberley and Mitchell demonstrating that they could make it uncomfortable for anyone they did not like. During the afternoon, swimming was the vogue and although no times were taken, several lads showed definite promise.

Late in the afternoon, orders to proceed were received and a start was made for Teera. On climbing to the top of the escarpment, a wonderful change was seen in the country and many were amazed to see green grass growing by the wayside.

Travelling on a perfect road through country that was being opened up for agriculture was something of a novelty and an experience that was appreciated by all and the sight of gum trees growing by the roadside made everyone a little

7th March. Contd.

homesick. As the sun went down, the convoy travelled through country that spoke volumes for the industry of the Itii colonists who had settled in the area and it brought home to one the wastage of war to see all the farms without inhabitants and going to rack and ruin. Mile after mile was covered in the bright moonlight and the only stop was to give a road side salvage dump the once over and secure a case of ammunition for the Breda.

Another pass down the escarpment led us to Barce where there was some doubt as to the right road, this was eventually located and the town left behind.

Here the unit travelled through level country and a ground mist gave one the impression of travelling through a series of lakes, another escarpment was descended and we arrived at Teora tired and sleepy and camped a few miles on the Benghasi side of the town.

8th March 41.

Everyone was astir before daylight for two reasons, firstly this was to be our last day on the road for a while and also it was b-----y cold, the boys done a spot of trading with some wogs and tea and sugar were exchanged for fresh eggs, a decided improvement on the menu. An uneventful trip over level and good surfaced roads to the outskirts of Benghasi where a halt was made while the Skipper went into town and made arrangements for the unit to spend a few days while the vehicles were being refitted. On his return a move into town was made and much of interest attracted the boys attention. Here the population were carrying on as if a war did not exist, the main traffic was army trucks but here and there were horse drawn carts and gharries, the female sex was well represented and one rather fine looking dame viewed our entry from a balcony but did not respond to the blandishment of the boys. One strange sight was the traffic being controlled by Itii police complete with uniforms.

The site selected was a large motor works that had been used by the Itiis as a Base Workshop and was complete with every kind of machine necessary for the repair of motor vehicles together with a comprehensive stock of spares.

The vehicles were soon parked under cover and a tour of the place made, beds were procured and erected close to an air raid shelter, fire hydrants were utilised as showers and evening saw the unit well housed, washed and fed.

The only act of the day was put on by Mr Hudson who tried to dominate the situation when a truck was being parked in a confined space but the said gent was promptly told off and he retired with his dignity ruffled but still intact. Col Bentley was appointed chef and proceeded to set up his kitchen, using for a stove an aluminium crankcase of an Itii diesel motor.

An air raid alarm stirred the boys into action but they were more interested in watching the fireworks display of the multi coloured tracer bullets than in the raid itself.

9th March 41. Sunday.

Unit early on the job of stripping mechanism and fittings from trailer ready for fitting into store waggon, scroungers, of whom Mr McCusker is the leading light are roaming everywhere on the look out for material and fittings the result of said roaming is wonderful to behold, tools, electrical bits and meters, spare parts that can be used on our vehicles and stores of all kinds have been collected and sorted. Afternoon was spent in a washing parade and

9th March 41 Contd.

a general clean up. A plentiful supply of rations were drawn from the R.A.S.C. so the food problem presented no difficulties and an odd bottle of "Chanti" at seven ackers a bottle made everyone feel well and so off to bed. More air raids and fireworks displays but what was more troublesome was the mosquitoes, the breed in these parts are a most insistent tribe, perhaps white skin without olive oil is somewhat of a luxury to them.

12 March 41.

Since arriving here, everyone has been flat to the boards in the refitting, all gear has been stripped out of the trailer and refitted to the store waggon. Quite a lot of Itii material has been used and the unit has been most fortunate to have the conveniences of this place at their disposal. Amongst the many things salvaged was a spray gun, the hawk eye of the Shipper soon located some duce and thinners and in no time the vehicles were camouflaged in a beautiful symphony of dusty red and grey. The top hamper of the Recovery was removed and the beam fitted in a more servicable manner, during this operation, Mr Hudson again become tempermental and disappeared from the precincts of the workshop, to return later full to the eyes with plonk but minus his tats. This caused a donneybrook and resulted in him being forcibly undressed and put to bed, in passing, it might be mentioned that the missing pentures were found before the unit left the locality.

The scroungers, and that includes every one, were in a seventh heaven and it was only the shortage of transport that put a limit to the amount of spoil that could be carried. The R.A.O.C. were on the job setting out the spares that were of value to the army and had a huge stock neatly labelled and stacked in bins ready for removal to the base. Here was a God sent opportunity for the boys and did they avail themselves of it, it was a common thing for one to keep the Tommy in charge in conversation or otherwise ~~xxxxxxkx~~ keep him occupied while several others raided the store, this developed to such an extent that it was a parallel case to that of the old lady who said to her daughters, "Come inside, girls, here comes the Aussies". It was all in a good cause and the unit ~~waxx~~ was much better fitted up than most others.

Orders were received at noon for a hurried move and a hurried pack up saw the refitted convey again on the road. Benghasi was left at 1900 hrs in bright moonlight and a good trip was made to Kilo peg 828, midway between Agedabia and Mersa Brega. This trip was done in good time and without strain on the drivers, an average speed of 25 M.P.H. being maintained without trouble and proved the wisdom of the alterations that were made at Benghasi.

13 3 41.

The unit arrived at the destination in the desert and immediately dug the vehicles in as we were given to understand machine gunning is a pastime of the Hun pilots here. A few

15 3 41 Contd.

saw everyone again busy with shovels and sand bags. Today the unit went underground and dugouts of all kinds are spread over the landscape.

18 3 41.

Mountings of A/T guns have been causing trouble and these have now been reinforced. The material and stores procured at Benghasi have stood us in good stead as spares are not procurable here. The Hun planes have been over consistently and the unit is developing great sprinting abilities. Air sentries are posted and two shots is the signal to men duck for cover, when the signal is given, the country side gives the impression of a lot of rabbits diving into their burrows. Mr Hudson and Mr Erratt are doing the honours where food is concerned and the Ford utility is slowly becoming a travelling kitchen.

Mr Falconer got the whisper of a Fiat truck that was not in use and a rail-riding party returned with a funny looking contraption that seems to go alright.

The aforesaid gent and Mr McCusker have gone to Benghasi searching for spares and, incidentally, another truck.

20 3 41.

The party has returned from Benghasi with a S.P.A. 2 Tonner and the necessary spares for the Fiat so everyone is busy. Hun planes are over nearly every day and have done some machine gunning and bombing but have left the L.A.D. alone.

Several trucks have been shot up and tyres and radiators have suffered, this means quite a deal of work and Mr Hudson and his recovery have been on the job.

The water supply here is good but not too plentiful and a good wash would be appreciated by all, the sand and the dust is trying to the hair trigger tempers of the boys but will be worse before it is better. Various rumors are about regarding the hundreds of tanks and Huns there are about and a move is quite on the cards. According to the latrine wireless, there are several divisions of Huns and Itii coming on to clean us up, hundreds of planes are going to bomb us and altogether we are in for a sticky time. Other rumors have it that there are several of our Armoured divisions coming up and there is to be a real donnybrook.

22 3 41.

Instructions have been received to move tonight to Ghemines at 2000 hr. No one relishes the prospects of a trip like that in the dark but it is perhaps better than travelling by daylight and being bombed. Personnel have been told off to vehicles as follows, Utility, the Skipper and Mr Erratt. Recovery, Messes Hudson, Anderson and Mobberley. Workshop, Messes Reid, Bentley and Stehr. S.P.A. Mr McCusker and his off sider, Mr Evans. On the farting Fanny, otherwise the Fiat is the W.O. and Mr Mitchell.

Every thing has been packed and there are few regrets at leaving this place of sand and dust.

23 3 41.

Arrived at Ghemines at 0430 hrs and a sigh of relief like a gust of wind went up from the boys when the convoy pulled off the road. The night had been hectic, trucks had to be hauled out of sand drifts, capsized ones rolled back to their wheels and those that had run off the edge of the road into the sand got going again. The night was dark, so dark that the road was nearly invisible and convoys all boxed up. Some of the hard heads took their wind screens out and that helped somewhat.

23 3 41 Contd.

Bivouac was made in the stony desert although several patches of miserable barley were to be seen. More service work was done to vehicles that had been damaged on the night's trip. During the day, several bombers visited the area and dropped a few on the water point at Ghemines and then went over to Soluch where they set fire to an oil dump, the smoke from the fire making a fine sight as it billowed up in the slight breeze that was blowing. Moving out tonight for another stage of the trip.

W 24 3 41.

Moved out from Ghemines at midnight and had an easy trip to Er Regina, via Benghazi. A clear starlit night, wider roads and towards the end, drove for miles between rows of gums and wattle. The convoy travelled at a steady pace till dawn which was awaited at Benima Aerodrome. Here everyone was cheered by the sight of a flight of Hurricanes taking off for a patrol. A mile or so more and the escarpment to Er Regina was climbed and the fort reached. A further three miles and B Eschelon area was reached, green grass wet with dew caused some comment and everyone was satisfied to make a comfortable and semi permanent camp.

WX 26 3 41.

The time spent in this locality has been enjoyed by all and the green of hills and the valleys, a plentiful supply of water and fresh eggs have given all an enjoyable change. Service work has been handled to capacity, spare parts have been procured from O.F.P. Another S.P.A. has been added to the unit strength a new cylinder block, pistons and rings for the Fiat were scrounged from Benghazi and a new body for the same job was taken from the R.A.S.C. The procuring of this body was a nice piece of team work, Mr Falconer and his worthy henchmen, Messers Mitchell, Mobberley and Hudson set out in the early morning in search of a body,

The Skipper had reported the whereabouts of one that would suit but anticipated some trouble from the R.A.S.C. After scouting the locality, a hurried sweep was made on the job and in very quick time the body was on its way to Benghazi to be permanently fitted to the chassis.

Towards evening a move was made to a location between the railway station of Miriam and El Abiar.

29 3 41.

New location is most comfortable, rock caves have been turned into dug outs with the help of a few loads of timber from El Abiar. The site is a rocky knoll that was once an Arab village and has been christened "Castlecrag" on account of a similarity to a place of that name at N. Sydney. Water is carted from El Abiar in unlimited quantity, timber is plentiful for building purposes, rations are ample and the weather fine. We have quite a number of neighbours here, encampments everywhere. The natives are of the Senussi tribe and a much better class than the wogs we have met so far. A great deal of trading goes on, "Chi" and "Sook-r" are in great demand, in other words Tea and sugar, for these the natives trade "Eggus" and "Khalib", that is eggs and milk.

2 4 41.

Everyone busy and spring problem acute. Reports say that attack is coming and enemy A.F.Vs are at Magrum. Benghazi is being evacuated and everything of a military nature is being destroyed.

3 4 41.

Things are beginning to look serious, Benghazi is a mass of smoke and

3 4 41. Contd.

flame, explosions are occurring every once in a while, a watcher sees a billow of smoke rise in the air and after a delay of minutes, comes the roar of the explosion. Not only has our own stores been destroyed but there are tons and tons of Italian ammunition to be blown up so as it may be of no assistance to the forces coming through from Tripoli. Shells are stacked in heaps every where and the job of getting rid of it all is a huge task. Work is still going on in the same old way but preparations have been made to move at short notice.

4 4 41.

Wakened at 0300 hrs and instructed to move without delay, leave all surplus gear and to proceed to B Echelon area 2/17. Further instructions were received to avoid El Abiar as it might be dangerous in that town. The night was dark with few stars, there was no road, only a bush track but still the unit drivers stuck to their task. After travelling many miles and not able to get any information as to the position of B.H.Q. a cross country trip was undertaken. Driving on a compass course, daylight found the unit struggling over hills and valleys, making a trail as they went. The idea was to contact No 1 Recovery Section but on arrival at their location, it was found to our dismay, that they had burnt everything of an inflammable nature and cleared out.

Sleepy, tired but not downhearted, breakfast was cooked while the Skipper endeavoured to get some information as to the general position. Everyone was making a bee line for the back areas as fast as they could go and no one seemed to know what was happening. Later in the morning a move was made in the direction of Barce, eventually camping about a mile from that town after an easy trip. Whilst on the road, a 3 Ton Chev belonging to the R.A.F was seen lying on its side just off the road, Mr Hudson was called on to strutt his stuff and a few heaves with his little winch had the vehicle right side up.

A check over found everything in working order so it was sold on the spot to the 2/17, a broken down job being accepted as a trade in, the profit to the L.A.D. being a Matchless M/C. During the afternoon the trade in was stripped for spares and The Skipper and Mr Falconer visited the town on the search for spares but found that everything of any use was in the process of being burnt.

In the evening, the unit was again on the move, this time to climb the escarpment. This was done at an easy pace and the cooler air on the top of the plateau was somewhat tempered by a good samaratan by the road side, handing out a mans sized tot of rum to all and sundry. This put fresh heart in to every one and perhaps a few extra nips would have sent every one back down the escarpment looking for the Huns. At the 19 Kilo peg, camp was made in a wadi in thick scrub, the night was cool and soon everyone was asleep.

5 4 41.

Refreshed from a good nights sleep in the cool mountain air, the boys were on their toes but things were still a little confused and it was a case of stand easy for the time being, the Skipper went off on the search for information and returned with the utility loaded down to the plimsol with a great array of stuff, spare parts and some much needed springs, M. T. stores and tools tinned pineapple by the case and a whole case of cigarettes, 15000. The best scrounging performance so far. This stuff came from a fort near the escarpment and would have been destroyed had not an A.A.S.E officer stopped them putting a match to it. A lorry was immediately sent back and loaded with rations of all

5 4 41. Contd.

kinds, meat and vegetable ration in case lots, jams and a host of things that will come in useful later. The day was spent in sorting and packing all the things that had been collected. Everyone is fed up with the withdrawal but there seems to be more of it in the offing.

6 4 41.

Still in the same spot although last night a report came through that the enemy had been seen behind our left flank and a move was made to Slonta, after travelling half way, the order was countermanded and we returned and camped here.

The latrine rumor merchants are busy and one of the best is that the Armoured Division have cut the Hun's lines of communication and he is stranded on the plain at Barce without petrol. Just a little bit too good to be true. All x vehicles are in good order and ready to move at a moments notice. At 1600 hrs, received warning of a move again tonight, this time as far back as Gazala. Seems as though we are in for a tough night as the instructions are to leave the main road at Giovanni Berta and travel on the desert road to Matuba.

7 4 41.

Last night proved to be all that was expected of it and then some, as far as Giovanni Berta, the going was good, roads perfect and moonlight. By this time 80 miles had been covered and everyone was becoming a little tired as driving in close convoy is hard on the drivers but when the good road was left, the trouble started. It may have been a road at one time but all the surface had been blown away in dust and only the desert stones were left. Mile after mile of this was covered at a speed of 4-6 M.P.H., of course lights were barred and to make matters worse, a tail wind set in that caused each vehicle to travel in a cloud of its own dust, the result was that radiators boiled every few mile in spite of the fact that the wind was bitterly cold. Broken springs and overheated motors caused numberless breakdowns, vehicles were stranded everywhere in many cases abandoned by their crews. Those that were able to keep the wheels turning struggled on along a seemingly endless road, many, through mechanical faults or fatigue on the part of the drivers were stopped on the roadside. These were not seen again. One of the unit S.P.As developed cooling trouble and had to be taken in tow, this made travelling even worse and it was ultimately decided to abandon the vehicle as daylight was close, Huns were not far away and no idea of our position could be ascertained. Later events proved that we got out of the area just in time. When day broke, conditions became better and better time was made, the road improved and in due course, the main Tobruk-Derna road was reached and off we set for Gazala where everyone of the unit arrived by 0900hrs.

Dead tired and sleepy, with faces streaked with sweat and dust, the boys had a bite of breakfast and started a full days work. Spares were procured from town and quite a number of vehicles made servicable again. Towards evening, the L.A.D. was once again on the move, this time only a few miles to the 150 Kilo Peg.

Camp was made on the edge of the escarpment and every one retired for a night of well earned and overdue rest. Too much praise cannot be given to the drivers and their reliefs for the manner in which they stuck to their jobs during the night drive, with eyes red from dust and want of sleep, the uncertainty of the position, darkness and bad roads caused tempers to become somewhat frayed, still they brought their vehicles through.

7 4 41 Contd.

Things did not work out according to Hoyle as a raiding party being prepared to go to Derna and try and rescue some of the officers who had been taken prisoners during the past day or so.

The required information was obtained from one of our chaps who had escaped the previous evening from the cage and it looked as if a surprise raid would be successful. Three armoured cars were to drive through the barb wire and create as much confusion as possible while the trucks were to dash into a certain part of the cage and pick up as many officers as possible. In a stunt like this it was essential that there should be no breakdowns in the transport so the Skipper and Mr Falconer were on the job till 0230 hrs. Able assistance was given by Mac and the drivers.

A good nip of rum was some recompense for the loss of sleep.
8 4 41.

Up early to find out the result of the raid and was somewhat disappointed to hear that by the time the party had negotiated the pass at Gazala, it was decided to call the stunt off on account of the proximity of daylight. The armoured cars went on a further ten miles without sighting the enemy.

Today Tobruk is living up to its reputation and a snifter dust storm is blowing.

9 4 41.

Wakened at daylight by the sound of A.A. fire in Tobruk. Another raid about 0930 hrs. After passing the town we were machine gunned -ned by six Heinkels on their way back. B.H.Q. was the target but they came very low over the wadi we were in and the roar of their guns was far from pleasant as we could not see them till they were too close for comfort. Casualties were two Sigs killed and two cars shot up a little. Messers Falconer and Erratt were on their way into town and were held up for some time at the tank trap where they were machine gunned and were dangerously close to a Heinkel that crashed after being led over a nest of machine guns by a Hurricane. The Hun plane spread over the landscape for some distance and was one of three brought down for the morning. Moved again during the evening to the neighbourhood of Port Pilestrino. This brings us inside the defences and it feels a little safer than being outside.

10 5 41.

Bivouaced in the open and unit digging in. Wind and dust rising. Several flights of Hurricanes about, artillery active and tanks moving up. Units taking up positions in outer defences.

11 4 41.

Weather fine and clear. Artillery smashed four tank attacks during the night, many Hun tanks destroyed. Air raid as usual at midday, seven E.A. down today. All troops inside perimeter. Water scarce and 1/2 gallon per day for each man. A.F.W. was machine gunned, one casualty.

11 4 41. Contd.

Air raid on town, ship in harbour hit and had to be beached, bomb dropped on hospital, 17 casualties. Artillery active up till midnight.

14 4 41.

Things have settled down, men have made themselves comfortable. Hot wind and dust everywhere. Air raid during the afternoon by large number of planes, 10 of whom were knocked down by A.A. and Hurricanes. Some tanks broke through but were handled in good style by the ~~XXXX~~ artillery. Prisoners are beginning to come in, 200 this morning. Heavy shop at A.F.W. was hit this morning, no casualties but several vehicles destroyed. Another S.P.A. has been located and is being checked over by fitters.

15 4 41.

Very quiet night, no air raid, yesterdays figures, 23 to 6 in our favour. A captured vehicle has been brought in for repair and great interest is being taken in the job, it is a four cylinder air cooled job, especially built for army use but is showing signs of use. Store waggon is finished and stores carded, new S.P.A. now O.K.

18 4 41.

Had a run of windy and dusty days, artillery fire intermittent, odd air raids of no account. Situation at the front seems well in hand. Several tanks broke ~~xxx~~ through this morning but were attended to by the artillery, infantry were seen loading onto trucks at Acroma and again the artillery done their stuff. Air Blitz again this morning, 20 dive bombers came over but the damage was slight.

Unit has been busy on the job of reconditioning some German anti tank guns that have been captured.

22 4 41.

Yesterday and previous days have been quiet with few air raids but damage slight. Was wakened this morning by the sound of shells coming over rather close some ranging shots fell amongst our trucks but the target was the ridge in front of us where the road goes over the escarpment. Quite a number of shells were sent over and there appeared to be a few casualties amongst the 2/9, heard later that three were killed. Shifted location during the late afternoon to a more dispersed area and worked late digging in in hard ground.

25 4 41.

Anzac Day. Unit busy on service work, air raids have been consistent but no great damage is done. Attended conference at B.H.Q. concerning movement of transport to rear areas. Carried out reconnaissance of area and located B eschelon at 4102 4381, right on the sea and close to a nice beach. A few shells dropped on the ridge during the evening.

26 4 41.

Moved to new location at 0800 hrs in heavy dust storm, visibility zero, had to drive on a compass bearing to locate position. building dugouts in the low cliffs. Wind changed during the afternoon and blew from the sea, quite pleasant and cool so close to the water.

28 4 41.

Fine weather seems to be setting in. A great deal of air activity during the morning. A Blenheim bomber sailed over past us without any fuss when in a moment Messerschmidts appeared and shot him down into the sea, I don't think the pilot knew what hit him.

28 4 41 Contd.

Great demonstration during the afternoon by 14 dive bombers, they came over high and glided in with engines shut off, the first thing we knew was to see them stream out of the sky in single file. The nearly vertical dives were a sight to behold, much better than one sees in pictures. Found out later that the attack was on the artillery. Casualties 3 and one gun out of action for a while.

A 3.7 A.A. gun was knocked out in yesterday's raid. Evening fine and wind and dust have dropped.

29 4 41.

Morning fine, night quiet. Several E.A. over in early morning. Dive bombers busy on front line about lunch time. Several dropped near B.H.Q. and some vehicles shot up. Procured rum issue for unit.

30 4 41.

Fine morning and slight breeze. Beautiful on coast but probably hot inland. Morning started with dog fight over bay and understand one machine brought down. Found out later that dog fight was a blind and plane brought down by A.A. was a Hurricane flown by a Hun pilot. Reported that plane was landed at Benghasi drome by a Free French pilot who had lost his bearings. A.A. gun hit him right in the belly and that was that. 60 Pdrs pounding away all day at roads and Hun drome.

Yesterday's blitz on B.H.Q. resulted in 1 car and 1 truck being burnt and 3 with damaged radiators. Dive bombers were over just before sundown but artillery is still on the job. Mine sweeper has been patrolling the coast all day and was bombed from the air without result. Artillery fire heavy up till 2200 hrs.

1 5 41.

Artillery still busy. Bombers came over at 1000 hrs and attacked B.H.Q. Recovery gone up to B.H.Q. to salvage any parts from damaged vehicles. 3 Ton F.D. J Sect. Sigs. total loss. 1 Ton C.V.T. B.H.Q. stripped of differential assembly. Evening air blitz at 1900 hrs. Night quiet.

2 5 41.

Khamseen blowing and dust bad. More shot up vehicles coming in from B.H.Q.. B.H.Q. has been bombed three times and have now moved to new location. Artillery and aircraft quiet on account of dust. One or two posts were captured by the Huns last night and they have not yet been pushed out. Evening quiet, air raids few and of no effect.

3 5 41.

Dull and cool. Mild breeze from N.W.. Dive bombers noticeable by their absence. Harbour full of shipping. Rumours of attack by 18 Bde to recapture posts and to straighten line.

4 5 41.

Cool and overcast. Wind N.W.. Last night's attack was partially successful. Chain block on Recovery damaged on 2 5 41, now endeavouring to obtain replacement. Heavy artillery fire up till 0130 hrs. Naval boat shelling from some miles up the coast. Air blitz during evening but damage slight.

5 5 41.

Cool and overcast. E.A. over at daylight, few bombs dropped. Artillery firing odd shots. High level bomber over at lunch time and dropped some round the town beach.

6 5 41.

Another day of wind and dust. Night was quiet except for odd bursts from

6 5 41. Contd.

artillery. Dust getting worse, visibility zero and sand everywhere. Wind changed at midday and is blowing most of the dust back again but on the sea front it is clear. The sandy floor of the bay has been changed from white to red by the sand that has fallen in the water. Afternoon cool and clear, evening quiet.

7 5 41.

Morning bright and cool, wind N.W.. Everything quiet. Artillery fire spasmodic. Bombers came over at 1600 hrs and gave the town the works. Plane over late at night dropping Thermos bombs.

8 5 41.

Morning cool and overcast. Wind mild from N.W.. Everything quiet. Artillery firing odd shots. Engineers have been exploding Thermos bombs all day. Wind ~~has~~ changed in late afternoon, cool and dusty.

9 5 41.

Morning cool and overcast. Wind N.E. and mild. E.A. over at breakfast time. Bentley transferred to 24 Bde. Dargin transferred to unit and promoted Armourer Cpl. New clutch being fitted to O.M. in use as Bde water truck.

10 5 41.

Morning warm and slight breeze from N.E.. Calling up unit vehicles for service overhauls. Huns reported to having evacuated several posts in the perimeter. Artillery firing odd shots.

11 5 41.

A real Australian Sunday morning. Fine and clear, slight breeze N.W.. Everything very quiet. No air raid last. Reported that a large number of Hun planes have been destroyed on the ground.

12 5 41.

E.A. over at dawn, did not hear any bombs dropped but A.A. guns made a great noise. Morning clear and fine. A cloud bank out at sea had the appearance of a mountainous coast line and was in evidence till noon. Obtained approval of S.C.M.E. to fit rebound leaves to one ton springs. High level bombers over at midday, few bombs dropped. Received a few copies of A.I.F. news and Cairo papers dated 6 5 41.

13 5 41.

Quiet night. E.A. over about midnight. Morning overcast, wind cool from N.W. Quiet day and no air raid.

14 5 41.

Morning fine and clear. Strong breeze from N.W.. E.A. over during night. Nine E.A. came over and dropped eggs round town at 1900 hrs.

15 5 41.

Overcast and cool breeze from N.W.. E.A. over dropping Thermos bombs during night. very quiet day.

16 5 41.

Clear and cool, wind N.W.. Quiet night, odd plane over during day but no bombs dropped. Contacted No 6 Recovery regarding fitting of 47/32 Breda A/T guns with shields.

17 5 41.

Morning calm and hot. Artillery active all night. Visited naval fort 40954385 and located enough plate to do seven guns. Dive bombers over town at 1600 hrs.

18 5 41.

Sunday morning, fine and clear with mild breeze. Quiet night and a really beautiful day. Warx called off for the time being.

19 5 41.

Fine and clear. Quiet night. Swimming favourite pastime. J. Garnsey transferred to unit as driver-batman.

20 5 41.

Fine, calm and hot. Very hot, artillery firing odd shots. No E.A. over during night. High level bombers over during afternoon and bombed the beaches, aim very poor.

21 5 41.

Fine, hot and calm. No E.A. over during night. Artillery restless. 1000 hrs. Five large bombers with fighter escort and nine Stukas shooting up water points and dummy A.A. posts. Staging camp machine gunned. High level bomber dropped eggs on far beaches. One casualty for day.

22 5 41.

Morning fine and clear. Breeze from N.W. Night quiet, E.As. over in ones and two few bombs dropped on water point without result. Spring position getting serious, Sedans breaking springs may have to be grounded as steel is not procurable.

23 5 41.

Morning close and calm. Quiet night. Artillery active all morning. Dust storm in late afternoon.

24 5 41.

Cold wind and dust storm. Wind S.W. Hudson admitted to hospital with hernia. Comforts issue, Two tins fruit, one tin turnips, three pairs socks for unit.

25 5 41.

Fine and clear, Wind N.W. High level attack during morning, four bombs were dropped in the sea off the point. E.A. flying round all day but no raids. Artillery firing odd shots.

26 5 41.

Fine and clear, Light breeze from N.W. Artillery quiet, few planes about. Bombs dropped on town at midday. Several over at dusk. Have located enough steel for six springs.

27 5 41.

Fine, calm and clear, Everything very quiet. Few planes over during day.

28 5 41.

Fine calm and clear. Things very quiet.

29 5 41.

Fine and close, no wind. E.A. dropped seven bombs near water point. Big raid by Stukas, 1400hrs, 50 planes were counted. 1800hrs, three formations of heavy bomber flew over but did not do any bombing.

30 5 41.

Calm and hot. Everything very quiet.

31 5 41.

Calm and hot, few planes about. Moberley taken to 2/8 field Amb. Few bombs dropped without result.

DATE	VEHICLE NO.	UNIT	NATURE OF WORK.
30. 12. 40	Soyer Stove	20 Bde H.Q.	Overhaul and fit burners.
31. 12. 40	M2331	do	Adjust front end.
2. 1. 41	Soyer Stove	C C S	Overhaul and adjust.
6. 1. 41	M2342	2/13 Bn	Tune motor and rectify miss.
do	V3825	do	Service overhaul
do	V3424	58 LAD	Make and fit board and fit up truck.
do	Unit equipment	20Bde H .Q.	Fit shelves to box
do	M2350	do	Re set front end.
do	V5423	2/2 Ed Myg	Re set tappets
do	V5133	20 Bde H.Q.	Service overhaul
do	V5251	do	do do
do	V384y	do	do do
do	V5253	do	do do
do	M2356	do	do do
do	V5254	do	do do
do	V5131	do	do do Repair spark
7. 1. 41	V381y	2/13 BN	do do
do	M2356	20 Bde H.Q.	Decarbonize motor
do	V2451	2/13 Bn	Adjust gear change controls
8. 1. 41	Unit Equipment	2y Bde H.Q.	Repair stove. Clean t .22 Bore rifles.
9. 1. 41	V3896	2/13 Bn	Service overhaul.
do	V3827	20 Bde H.Q.	do do
do	V5114	do	do do
do	Unit equipment	Bde Person ⁿ	Inspect and repair rifles
do	M2425	20 Bde H.Q.	Service overhaul.
do	M2451	do	do do
do	V3820	2/13 Bn	do do
do	V5365	2/17 Bn	Repair bumper
10. 1. 41	V3822	20 Bde H.Q.	Service overhaul
do	M2350	do	Decarbonise motor.
do	V5349	do	Service overhaul.
do	Rifle inspection	O.M.E.	Rifle inspection and repairs to 2/4 Pd Amb.
do	V5174	2y Bde H.Q.	Fit bracket for rifles.
do	Rifle inspection	O.M.E.	Rifle inspection and repairs to 2/13 Bn
do	Rifle inspection	O.M.E.	Rifle inspection and repairs to 2/13 Bn.

DATE	VEHICLE NO.	UNIT	NATURE OF WORK.
11. 1.41.	V3827		Rectify cause of re ignition.
do	V5253	2/13 Bn	Check over motor
do	V5346	20 Bde H.Q.	Repair rear door.
13. 1.41	T334y	2/17 Bn	General check over and adjust.
do	V3822	20 Bde H.Q.	Remover water from fuel system.
do	V55	2/17 Bn	Service overhaul
do	O.M.E Rifle inspection 2/13 Bn.		
do	M2451	20 Bde H.Q.	Reset front end.
14. 1.41	M2411	2/17 Bn	Service overhaul
do	V534y	20 Bde H.Q.	Repair hand brake.
do	Unit equipment	58 LAD	Make workshop bench.
do	M2414	2/2 Fd Hyg	Service overhaul
do	Unit equipment	2/2 Fd Hyg	Make
15. 1.41	M2342	2/13 Bn	Service overhaul
do	V5363	2/17 Bn	do do
do	V5400	20 ATK Coy	do do
do	V5401	do	do do
do	V3827	20 Bde H.Q.	Repair parking light
do	Unit equipment	do	Make unit stencils
do	O.M.E. Rifle inspection and repair 2/17 Bn .		
do	V5436	2/2 Fd Hyg	Fit bolts to N/S rear side hanger.
do	V5114	20 Bde H.Q.	Fit up bench in body
22. 1.41	V3827	do	Service overhaul
do	M2440	do	Remove dents from mud guards.
do	V3823	2/13 BN	Service overhaul.
do	V3832	2/13 Bn	Service overhaul.
21. 1.41	T334y	2/17 Bn	General check over and adjust.
do	T3340	2/13 Bn	do do do
do	T3339	do	do do do
do	T3341	do	do do do
23. 1.41	V53y9	20 ATK Coy	Service overhaul
do	V3424	58 LAD	do do
do	V5410	2/13 Bn	do do
do	V5355	do	do do
24. 1.41	V5357	do	do do
do	V5350	do	do do
do	M2370	20 Bde H.Q.	do do
do	V5310	2/17 Bn	do do
do	V5366	do	do do
do	V5350	do	do do

DATE	VEHICLE NO.	UNIT	NATURE OF WORK.
24.1.41	T3339	2/13 Bn	Remove power unit.
do	T3340	2/17 Bn	Remove power unit.
27. 1.41	V5354	2/13 Bn	Service overhaul.
28. 1.41	V3816	do	do do
do	T3349	2/17 Bn	Repair generator.
29.1. 41	M2331	20 Bde H.Q.	Service overhaul
do	V3819	2/13 Bn	Decarbonise engine.
do	T3340	do	Reset brake arms.
do	T3341	do	Reset brake arms.
do	T3339	do	Reset brake arms
do	M2350	20 Bde H.Q.	Repair wind screen wiper.
do	T3349	2/17 Bn	Overhaul ignition.
30. 1.41	M2027	Corps H.Q.	Decarbonise engine.
do	T3340	2/17 Bn	Repair near side brake tubing
31. 1.41	V5354	20 Bde HL Q.	Decarbonise engine.
do	T3340	2/17 Bn	New gear change lever
do	T3349	do	Service overhaul
do	T3341	2/13 Bn	do do
1. 2.41	L8936	Corps H.Q.	Repair petrol tank.
3. 2.41	V55	2/17 Bn	Decarbonise engine
do	V3822	20 Bde H.Q.	do do
5. 2.41	M2440	do	do do
do	V5863	H.Q Sigs.	Service overhaul.
do	V5114	20 Bde H.Q.	do do
do	V3825	2/17 Bn	Decarbonise engine.
do	M2350	20 Bde H.Q.	Service overhaul
do		29 Bde H.Q.	Repair to air raid siren.
6. 2.41	V3833	2/13 Bn	Weld mud guard.
do	V3820	do	Service overhaul.
do	V5365	2/17 Bn	do do
do	D2604	Div H.Q.	Repair clutch.
7. 2.41	S A I		General overhaul Fit new muffler
do	V5369	2/17 Bn	Decarbonise engine
do	V5253	do	Fit head lamp lens
do	M2342	2/13 Bn	Service overhaul
do	V5345	2y Bde H.Q.	Repairs to horns

DATE	VEHICLE NO.	UNIT.	NATURE OF WORK.
8. 2.41	M2451	20 Bde H.Q.	Repair mud guard.
do	V3816	2/13 Bn	Remove dents.
10. 2.41	U55	2/17 Bn	Fit gasket to petrol pump.
do	T3348	do	Strengthen gear change.
12. 2.41	V5253	do	General overhaul
do	V5369	do	Repairs to canopy
11. 2.41	V5366	do	Remove sump.
do	V5396	do	Repair to brake, lamps
12. 2.41	M2482	2/15 Bn	General overhaul.
do	M2342	2/13 Bn	Decarbonise engine.
do	M2411	2/17 Bn	do do
do	5843	Bde Sigs	Change oil
10. 2.41	M2448	20 Bde H.Q.	Adjust steering
13. 2.41	V5345	do	Fit windscreen.
do	S Stove	do	Repaired Soyer Stove
do	V5152	do	General overhaul
do	V5147	do	do do
do	V5153	do	do do
do	M2460	2/17 Bn	do do
14. 2.41	V5153	20 Bde H.Q.	Repair to rear mud guard door.
do	V3827	do	Repairs radiator grill.
15. 2.41	M2356	do	General overhaul
do	V5733	2/17 Bn	do do
do	L6188	20 Bde H.Q.	do do
do	L6978	2/15 Bn	do do
do	L6184	2/15 Bn	do do
do	L8901	do	do do
do	L6971	do	do do
do	V8813	do	do do
do	L8123	do	do do
do	L6183	do	do do
17. 2.41	V3816	2/13 Bn	Decarbonise engine
do	L8111	2/17 Bn	General Overhaul
do	L8955	do	do do
do	L6508	do	do do
do	L6974	do	do do

DATE	VEHICLE NO.	UNIT	NATURE OF WORK.		
17. 2.41	L6983	2/17 Bn	General overhaul		
do	L6124	do	do	do	do
do	V5366	do	Decarbonise engine.		
18. 2.41	V5863	Biv Sigs	Adjust voltage regulator.		
do	L6965	2/13 Bn	General Overhaul.		
17. 2.41	V5355	do	Decarbonise engine.		
18. 2.41	L8974	do	General Overhaul.		
do	L 8974	do	do	do	do
do	L8946	do	do	do	do
do	L6998	do	do	do	do
do	L8911	do	do	do	do
do	V3833	do	Decarbonise engine		
do	V3832	do	do	do	do
19. 2.41	M2451	20 Bde H.Q.	Decarbonise engine		
do	S Stove	do	Overhaul Soyer Stove.		
do	V5358	2/13 Bn	Decarbonise motor		
17. 2.41	T3341	do	General overhaul of brakes		
do	T3348	2/17 Bn	do	do	do
do	T3349	2/13 Bn	do	do	do
20. 2.41	V5354	2/13 Bn	Decarbonise engine		
do	M2356	20 Bde H.Q.	do	do	do
do	M2448	do	do	do	do
21. 2.41	M2332	do	do	do	do
do	V5356	2/13 Bn	do	do	do
do	V6183	2/15 Bn	Repairs rear wheel.		
22. 2.41	M2332	20 Bde H.Q.	Adjust steering		
do	V5376	do	do	do	do

DATE	VEHICLE NO	UNIT	NATURE OF WORK.
23-27. 2.41			Recover vehicle garage trailer and store waggon drawn from B O D Barbara. Unit equipment packed and loaded.
1. 3.41	V5401	20 Bde H.Q.	Vehicle recovered from wadi and towed to ABU AWEILIGA left in charge of Palestinian Police
do	V3401	2/17 Bn	Vehicle overturned at bridge, hauled back to road and sent on with convoy
do	V5351	do	Overturned in sand drift. Vehicle righted and sent on with convoy
do	L6160	2/15 Bn	Fuel lines cleared
do	V5120	do	Fuel lines cleared.
do	V7301	do	Generator trouble. Changed battery and sent on with convoy.
2. 3.41	V7301	do	New armature fitted to generator
3. 3.41		2/17 Bn	Three vehicles left at recovery section for repair (Capt Brinkman)
do		do	Petrol store waggon. Vehicle found rolled over. Vehicle righted, checked over and sent on with convoy.
6. 3.41		2/13 Bn	Repairs to five radiators shot up during air raid.
8-13. 3.41			Fitting up store waggon as workshop and alterations to recovery vehicle.
14. 3.41			Vehicles dug in and camouflaged
do	FD 15Cwt	JSec. Sigs	Front end repairs new coil and condenser fitted.
do		2/13 Bn	Repair three radiators.
15. 3.41	15CVT	2/15 Bn	Fitted new armature to generator to generator
do	M2366	9Div H.Q.	Fitted new armature to generator
do	M2347	do	Repair petrol tank straighten guard and body pannel.
do	V5181	do	Free up clutch pedal retrack wheels, reset ignition.
do	M2480	do	Re-time motor and repair radiator
16. 3.41		20 A/T Coy	Refit mounting of A T guns to G V T shassie
do		20 Bde H.Q	Overhaul Gilera Motor cycle
17. 3.41		29 A/T Coy	Refit gun mountings.
do	V4144	29 Bde H.Q.	Fit A A gun mountings.
18. 3.41	Water truck	do	Adjust steering repairs to canopy of frame work.
do	L8155	do	Repair front spring Decarbonise motor
19. 3.41	Water truck	do	Decarbonise motor
do	V5412	2/15 Bn	Repairs to guards cab and radiator This vehicle was later abandoned at EL ABIAR owing to defferential parts not being available
20. 3.41	M2535	20 Bde H.Q.	Repair and adjust gear change mechanism
do	V5399	J Sec Sigs	Repair radiator and straighten front spring
21. 3.41	L8124	2/17 Bn	Vehicle recovered from unit area, front springs missing, axel bent, chassie damaged Later abandoned and AGEDABIA .
do		J Sec Sigs	Repair radiator and petrol pump, clean fuel lines.
22. 3.41		29 Bde H.Q.	Gilera motor cycle and generator fitted up as battery charging plant
do	V5183	do	Front end overhauled and reset damaged wheel replaced, door and canopy repaired.
do		29 Bde H.Q.	Replate front spring.

DATE	VEHICLE NO.	UNIT.	NATURE OF WORK.
22. 3.41.		One two ton and one one	One ton S P As have been salvaged and fitted up for unit use.
23. 3.41			Seven overturned vehicles righted and towed out of sand between AGEDEBIA and GHEMMINES.
do		J Sec Sigs.	Fit new centre bolts and two rear springs.
do		20 Bde H.Q.	Repair springs.
do		J Sec Sigs.	Clean and adjust carburetor
do	M2336	29 Bde H Q.	Reset steering and tune motor.
24. 3.41	M2448	9 Div H.Q.	Adjust steering and repair tube.
do	V8381	Corp Sigs	Clean fuel system and tune motor.
do	M2366	20 Bde H.Q.	Fit front bumpers tune motor and general check over.
do	G4316941	20 A/T Coy	Repairs to handle bars and controls.
do	V5399	20 Bde H.Q.	Repairs to radiator.
do	V8339	9 Div Sigs	Fit centre bolt to front spring.
do	M2451	20 Bde H.Q.	Adjust steering.
do	M2350	do	Decarbonise and tune motor. General check over.
do	3 Ton FD	Corp Sigs	Fit centre bolt to rear spring.
do	V5152	20 A/T Coy	Fit main leaf to front spring, remove broken king pin and fit new one.
do			Procure from Benghazi new cylinder block pistons and rings for one ton S P A and fit up. Procure doby and fit to same vehicle. Fit stays to beam of recovery vehicle
28. 3.41		2/15 Bn	Remove oil pan ,repair and refit.
do	V8361	Corp Sigs.	Refit universal joint.
do	V5345	20 Bde H.Q.	Repair front spring, fit shackle bolt to front spring.
do	V1957	2/2 Fd Coy R A E	Repair radiator decarbonise and tune motor reswing O/S door, repair grill and general repair and tighten up of front end.
do	V3827	20 Bde H.Q.	Replate front spring
do	V5361	do	do do do
do	M2428	do	Remove defective thermostat
do	M2177	2/4 Fd Amb.	Reset front spring and steering tune motor and camouflage vehicle
do		Y M C A	Tune motor, adjust brakes and check over vehicle
do		20 A/T Coy	Fit new front springs.
do	M2356	20 Bde H.Q.	Adjust steering and brakes
do	V7417	20 A/T Coy	Reset controls.
do	L9409	2/13 Bn	Decarbonise and tune motor. General check over
do	V7376	20 Bde H.Q.	Replate front spring
do	V2837	do	do do do
do	V8399	Corp Sigs	Replate two front springs.
do	V5123	2/17 Bn	Replate front spring and fit new stub axel and king pin.
do	L8155	20 Bde H.Q.	Replate front spring.
do	V7272	20 A/T Coy	Fit main leaf to front spring.
4. 4.41			Salvaged a three ton CVT abandoned by R A F near BARCE and checked over and habbed vehicle to 2/17 Bn Salvaged Matchless motor cycle for unit use. Stripped 30cwt CVT with burnt out motor, for spare parts.
do		7Fd Coy R A E	Replate two front springs and repair two tubes.
5. 4.41			Procured from Fort at top of escrpment a considerable quantity of M T spares stores and equipment.
6. 4.41	M2097	2/15 Bn	Reset gear change controls, repair petrol tank and adjust brakes, free up clutch and brake pedal shafts.
do	V5180	20 Bde H.Q.	Replate front springs.
do	V5342	58 LAD	Repair shock absorber bracket clean carburetor and fuel lines.
do	L8155	20 Bde H.Q.	Fit new front springs.
7. 4.41	L5962	do	Repair radiator and front end.
do	V5144	do	Replate front make and fit new shackle pins.
do		Div Sigs.	Tow truck from MATUBA fit new condenser and clean petrol lins.
do	V4234	20 Bde H.Q.	Adjust brakes.
	V7367	2/17 Bn	Fit new main and second leaf to both front springs. Make and fit shackle plates.

ack

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
CAIRO	SATURDAY 1 MARCH	0830	HQ 20 Inf Bde departed from MENA camp by MT.	
EL DABA		2200	arrived at camp area and bivouaced	
	SUNDAY 2 MARCH	0830	departed from bivouac area	
MERSA MATRUH		1215	arrived at camp area, and tents erected. Watches were advanced 10 minutes to conform with Egyptian frontier time.	
	MONDAY 3 MARCH	0655	departed	
BUG BUG		1400	arrived at camp area and bivouaced	
	TUESDAY 4 MARCH	0650	departed	
		1200	passed SALLUM	
		1230	passed BARDIA	
TOBRUCH		1500	arrived at camp area West of TOBRUCH and bivouaced	
	WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH		20 Inf Bde OC No 2 seen by OCs of all units under Brigade command.	<i>D</i>
	THURSDAY 6 MARCH	0700	departed from bivouac area	
		1130	2/13 Pm convoy raided by Enemy Aircraft. Lieut Adams TO and 1 OR killed and 1 OR wounded.	

BP

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Unit Date and Time.—From To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
DERNA	THURSDAY 6 MARCH (cont)	1145	HQ convoy arrived DERNA airport	
		1300	departed DERNA airport	
		1345	arrived camp area west of DERNA and bivouaced. 6 AVST DIV. movement order No 1 received	
	FRIDAY 7 MARCH	0630	departed	
TOCRA		1200	arrived camp area TOCRA via GIOVANNI BERTA, EL FAIDIA, MARAUA and BARCE	
			X 1 platoon of 2/13 Bn was left at MADDELENA and 1 Coy at BARCE for ^{security} guard duties and handling of prisoners	
	SATURDAY 8 MARCH	0630	departed from TOCRA camp area.	
10 Km North of AGEDABIA		1230	HQ convoy arrived at camp area 10 Km north of AGEDABIA via BENGHASI, GHEMINES and MAGRUM.	
		1750	1 st party left for Adv HQ.	
			Remainder of 2/13 Bn remained at BEDA FOMM at Beda Fomm ^{security duties;}	
			1 platoon of 2/17 Bn at AGEDABIA.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
10 Km North of AGEDABIA	SUNDAY 9 MARCH	1750	Remainder of Adv. HQ departed	
		2000	arrived at Adv HQ. 3 miles along track running east of main	
			TRIPOLI rd at 25 Km. from AGEDABIA	
			Rear HQ, B ech tpt, Q store, 58 LAD, est on track running west of	
			main BENGASI rd 7 Km north of AGEDABIA. WP at MARSABREGA	DC
			6 AVST DIV movement Order No 1. 20 Inf Bde returns 17 Bde in fwd	
			area on night 9/10 March.	D
KILO 25 (MARSABREGA)	MONDAY 10 MARCH	0915	1 EA circled over Adv HQ - engaged by AA fire	
	TUESDAY 11 MARCH	1445	1 EA circled over Adv HQ - engaged by AA fire	
		1815	2 Bomber planes flew over Adv HQ - engaged by AA.	
			Rear HQ moved to position south of AGEDABIA	
	WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH	1910	2/15 Am reported 1 EA flew low and MG'd positions	
	THURSDAY 13 MARCH	1215	B Coy 2/15 Am reported area MG'd by EA	
	FRIDAY 14 MARCH		Overcast, with very strong wind, no air activity	

[Handwritten signature]

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Unit Date and Time.—From To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
K/LO 25 (MARSA BREGA)	SATURDAY 15 MARCH	0830	EA Mgd personnel of Adv HQ. No casualties	
		0840	EA Mgd. 2/17 Bn. no casualties.	
	SUNDAY 16 MARCH	0955	2 ME 110's bombed 2/13 Bn, 7 bombs dropped. No casualties or damage.	
	MONDAY 17 MARCH	0835	ME 110's Mgd and bombed 2/17 Bn and then bombed over 2/13 Bn, fire opened, no results, no casualties	
	TUESDAY 18 MARCH	1030	Heinkel bomber A circled over Adv HQ. 4 bombs dropped. Intense AA fire. No damage.	
	WEDNESDAY 19 MAR.		a warning order was received from 9 Aust Div. 20 Inf Bde to be withdrawn from present position within 7 days, 9 Aust Div Sig and 9 Aust Div ASC to be under Bde Comd for movement.	
	THURSDAY 20 MAR.	1130	at 200ft 1 Bomber bomber flew out of low clouds above Adv HQ. Intense AA fire by 1 Lt AA Bty. No bombs dropped.	
		1705	The Commander of the 2 Armd Div visited Brig J J Murray at Adv HQ 1 Bomber bomber flew low over Adv HQ area. Intense AA fire	
	FRIDAY 21 MAR.		a further movement order was received. 20 Inf Bde to move to area	

[Handwritten signature]

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Unit _____ Date and Time.—From _____ To _____

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
KIL0 25 (MARSA BREGA)	20 MAR (CONTINUED)		ER REGIMA as early as possible. The task of the 20 brigade on arrival in the new area will be to prepare positions to deny to the enemy routes eastwards from BENINA up the escarpment. All troops in the forward area will be under the command of the 2 Armd Divi as from 1200 hrs	
			20 MAR.	D
		1755	ME 110 divebombed 2/15 Km area; flying low along the road, and MGd 'B' Coy and DRLS riders. No casualties reported. Plane met continuous ground defence fire.	
	FRIDAY 21 MAR.		Situation remains unchanged.	
			Very windy and dusty.	
	SATURDAY 22 MAR.	1921	HQ convoy departed for ER REGIMA.	
GHEMINES	SUNDAY 23 MAR	0320	arrived bivouac area 7.4 Km west of GHEMINES.	
		1120	2 EA flew over bivouac area and bombed GHEMINES.	
ER REGIMA FORT	MONDAY 24 MAR.	0030	left bivouac area	
		0645	arrived at ER REGIMA fort.	
	TUESDAY 25 MAR		Pde HQ established at fort REGIMA, location of units under Hqde Comd as tracing in APPX.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Unit

Date and Time.—From

To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
ER REGIMA FORT	TUESDAY 26 MAR		<p>and Int Summary No 5 20 INF BDE operation order No 3A distributed to units. 20 Inf Bde and all this will deny enemy access to escarpment from line of WADI BU ZUETINA to WADI GATTARA. The following are under comd 20 Inf Bde: 51 7d Regt, RA (less 1 bty), 2/7 7d Coy, RAE (less 1 sec).</p>	C
	WEDNESDAY 27 MAR		<p>an Italian ATK mine field south of escarpment passed BENINA— REGIMA was examined and reported on by Lt Evans 2/13 Bn.</p>	
	FRIDAY 28 MAR		Situation normal	
	SATURDAY 29 MAR	1540	2/13 Bn reported EA dropped 5 bombs in Bn area. No casualties.	
ER REGIMA	FRIDAY 30 MAR	1030	<p>moved from Adm HQ 20 Inf Bde, REGIMA FORT to new posn 303 803 on CYRENAICA 12100,000 sheet 12.</p>	
			<p><i>J.P. Petersen Lieut</i></p>	
			<p>FOR COMD 20 AUST INF BDE</p>	

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

20 INF BDE HQ (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
	*		
	*		
<i>BRIGADIER</i>	1		
Lieut.-Colonels ...			
Majors ...	1		
Captains ...	6		
Lieutenants ...	4		
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...			
TOTALS ...	12		

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

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

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
BRIG	NK 365	MURRAY J.T.	RIF	YES	
MAJ	NK 236	M'CAFFERY J.F.	"	"	
CAPT	NK 12210	BURNHOUSE R.N.	"	"	
CAPT	NK 12303	GRANT J.D.	"	"	
CAPT	NK 32	ALPHEA F.M.	"	"	
CAPT	NK 12316	DOWTRIE C.M.	"	"	
CAPT	NK 12315	WALSH F.S.	"	"	
CAPT	NK 70527	ALISON R.M.	"	"	
LIEUT	NK 12211	BUELKE PETERSON B.G.	"	"	
LIEUT	NK 12509	KEIRATH G.A.	"	No	DET FOR Duty in Unit RIF Coy.
LIEUT	NK 12510	MURPHY J.E.	"	YES	
LIEUT	OY 6196	JENSEN H.C.	"	YES	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
LIEUT	NK 12316	DOWTRIE C.M.	RIF	15.12.41	Det for Duty
LIEUT	NK 12315	WALSH F.S.	"	"	"
LIEUT	NK 12316	BURNHOUSE R.N.	"	"	"
LIEUT	NK 12315	WALSH F.S.	"	"	"
LIEUT	NK 12316	BURNHOUSE R.N.	"	"	"
LIEUT	NK 12315	WALSH F.S.	"	"	"

(Unit.)

(Signature of Commander.)

(Date of Despatch.)

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

15 Mar 41

War Diary

WAR DIARY

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

Army Form W. 3009
(page 1)
(Adapted.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

20 INF BDE HQ (Unit) 15 MAR 19 41 (Date.)

(To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I ...			
W.Os. Class II ...	1		
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants ...			
Staff Serjeants ...	2		
Serjeants...	3		
Corporals ...	4		
Troopers, Privates, etc. ...	47		4
TOTALS ...	57	*	* 4

* These totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W. 3009.

PART B.—OTHER RANKS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
F. J. DERWENT T. W. MURPHY J. E. L. CARNSEY S. C. WASH.	2/13 BN (ATTACHED TO CAPT WALSH) HQ 20 BDE 20 INF A. TR. Coy. 2/13 BN.		
58 LAD	(11)		
J. Sec 7 ARST DIV SIGS	(35)		
1 ARST INT CORPS	(2)		

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

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

20 INF BDE HQ

Unit.

Army Form W. 3009
(page 2)

PART D.—DETAIL OF SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED AS SHOWN IN PART A OF ARMY FORM W. 3009.

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.					REMARKS.		
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, etc.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, etc.
Bricklayers															
Butchers															
Carpenters and Joiners															
Clerks															
Despatch Riders															
Draughtsmen (topo.)															
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.															
Electricians															
Farriers															
Fitters															
Masons															
Painters and Decorators															
Plumbers and Gasfitters															
Saddlers and Harness Makers															
Signallers															
Storemen, technical															
Vickers Machine Gunners															
Cooks															
<u>MOTOR CYCLIST</u>													1	1	
<u>BAGMAN</u>													1	1	
<u>ARMOURER</u>													1	1	
<u>OVERS MESS GEN DUTIES</u>													1	1	
General Duty Personnel															
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A)													4	4	

20 INF BDE HQ

(Unit.)

(Signature of Commander.)
S.E. 20 INF BDE HQ

15 MAR 41

(Date of Despatch.)

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

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

..... (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
	*		
	*		
Lieut.-Colonels ...			
Majors ...	1		
Captains ...	5		
Lieutenants ...	4		
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...			
TOTALS ...	11		

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

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

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
BRIG	NX 365	MURRAY J.S.	AIF	YES	
MAJ	NX 236	MCCARTNEY J.P.	"	YES	
CAPT	NX 12230	BRIDGEMAN R.M.	"	NO	Abroad East Staff Service - Palestine
CAPT	NX 4349	GRANT J.O.	"	YES	
"	NX 32	HURICH F.M.	"	YES	
"	NX 12384	DUINTREE C.H.	"	YES	
"	VX 10565	WALSH F.S.	"	YES	
"	NX 7037	ALISON R.M.	"	YES	
LICUT	NX 12211	BULLOCK RICHARD DG	"	YES	
"	NX 12509	KEIRIGH G.R.	"	NO	DET FOR DUTY 20 MAR 4 IN 504
"	NX 12510	M'NEIL I.F.	"	YES	
"	GX 6196	JENSEN H.C.	"	YES	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
CAPT	NX 3494	WATSON R.M.	AIF	18 Feb 41	2/17/41 for duty
"	NX 3507	FRANCIS C.	"	20 Feb 41	2/17/41 for duty
"	GX 6784	WATSON C.S.	"	20 Feb 41	2/17/41 for duty
CAPT	NX 34675	COMES V.E.	"	20 Feb 41	2/17/41 for duty
LICUT	GX 608	ROBY C.B.	"	11 Feb 41	2/17/41 for duty
"	VX 14787	WILLIAMS C.H.	"	11 Feb 41	2/17/41 for duty
"	GX 624	SUBITT R.S.	"	11 Feb 41	2/17/41 for duty

20 INE BDE HQ
24 MAR 41
(Unit.)
(Date of Despatch.)
(Signature of Commander.)
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

WAR DIARY

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

Army Form W. 3009
(page 1)
(Adapted.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

20th Inf Bde HQ (Unit) 24 MAR 1941 (Date.)

(To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I			
W.Os. Class II	1		
Squadron or Company Quarter-master-Serjeants			
Staff Serjeants	2		
Serjeants... ..	3		
Corporals	4		
Troopers, Privates, etc.	47		4
TOTALS	57	*	4

* These totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W. 3009.

PART B.—OTHER RANKS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
F. J. DERWENT	2/13 BN (BATTALION)	To (Capt Walsh)	
J. E. L. GARNSEY	20th INF ATK Coy		
F. W. MURPHY	HQ 26 BDE		
S. C. NASH	2/13 BN		
S. B. LIND	(11)		
J. SEC 7 Aust Div Sigs	(30)		
Aust Inf Corps	(2)		

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

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

20 INF BDE HQ Unit.

Army Form W. 3009
(page 2)

PART D.—DETAIL OF SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED AS SHOWN IN PART A OF ARMY FORM W. 3009.

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.	
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, etc.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, etc.		TOTAL.
Bricklayers																
Butchers																
Carpenters and Joiners																
Clerks																
Despatch Riders																
Draughtsmen (topo.)																
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.																
Electricians																
Farriers																
Fitters																
Masons																
Painters and Decorators																
Plumbers and Gasfitters																
Saddlers and Harness Makers																
Signallers																
Storemen, technical																
Vickers Machine Gunners																
Cooks																
<i>PORTMAN</i>															1	1
<i>MOTOR CYCLIST</i>															1	1
<i>ARMOURER</i>															1	1
<i>OTHER MISS GEN GUNS</i>															1	1
General Duty Personnel																
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A)															4	4

HQ 20 INF BDE HQ
(Unit.)
24 MAR 41
(Date of Despatch.)

Spencer Capt
(Signature of Commander.)
SG. 20 INF BDE 9 DIST DIV
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

War Diary

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

HQ 20 Dist W. Coy (Unit)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishment).
*			
<i>BRIEFDIER</i> *	<i>1</i>		
Lieut.-Colonels ...			
Majors ...	<i>1</i>		
Captains ...	<i>5</i>		
Lieutenants ...	<i>4</i>		
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...			
TOTALS ...	<i>11</i>		

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

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

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
BRIG	NX 365	MURRAY J.S.	A.I.F.	YES.	
MAJ	NX 236	M'CAFFREY J.F.	"	YES.	
CAPT	NX 12230	BACKHOUSE A.M.	"	NO.	RETURNING TO FORMATION NOMINATION TO MIDDLE EAST STAFF SCHOOL CANCELLED
"	NX 12349	GRANT J.D.	"	YES.	
"	NX 32	ALLRICH F.M.	"	YES.	
"	NX 12384	DRAINTRE C.M.	"	YES.	
"	NX 12965	WALSH F.S.	"	YES.	
"	NX 70327	ALISON A.M.	"	YES.	
LIEUT	NX 12211	BELKE-PETERSON D.G.	"	YES.	
"	NX 12509	KEIRATH G.R.	"	NO.	DETACHED FOR DUTY TO 20 INF A TX Coy.
"	NX 12510	M'MASTER I.F.	"	YES.	
"	QX 6186	JENSEN H.C.	"	YES.	

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive rank, and higher temporary rank, if held.	Personal Number.	Name and Initials.	Corps	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
CAPT	NX 34564	WATSON B.M.	A.I.F.	18 Feb 40	2/17 for DUTY
"	NX 35057	FRANCIS C.	"	30 " 40	2/13 for DUTY
"	QX 6284	ARNELL C.S.C.	"	"	2/15 for DUTY
CAPT	NX 34675	COMBS V.G.	"	14 Feb 40	58 LAD
LIEUT	QX 6138	ROBIN P.B.	"	1 FEB 41	J. SEC SCS
"	NX 14731	WILLIAMS G.A.	"	1 FEB 41	J. SEC SCS
"	QX 6241	CUBITT O.S.	"	13 FEB 41	20th BDE HQ FOR DUTY CAPT.

11Q 20 POST INF BDE
(Unit.)
29 MAR 41
(Date of Despatch.)

(Signature of Commander.)
(Signature of Commander.)
9 POST DIV
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

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

Army Form W. 3009
(page 1)
(Adapted.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

HQ 20 Aust INF BDE (Unit) 29 MAR 1941 (Date.)

(To be furnished by all units and all Headquarter units.)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I			
W.Os. Class II	1		
Squadron or Company Quarter-master-Serjeants			
Staff Serjeants	1		
Serjeants... ..	4		
Corporals	4		
Troopers, Privates, etc.	47		4
TOTALS	57	* —	* 4

* These totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W. 3009.

PART B.—OTHER RANKS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
<u>F. J. DERWENT</u>	<u>2/13 BN (BATMAN TO</u>	<u>CAPT WALSH)</u>	
<u>J. E. L. GARNSEY</u>	<u>20 INF A. TK COY</u>		
<u>F. W. MURPHY</u>	<u>HQ 26 BDE</u>		
<u>S. C. NASH</u>	<u>2/13 BN</u>		
<u>58 LAD</u>	<u>(11)</u>		
<u>"J." SEC 9 Aust Div SIGS</u>	<u>(35)</u>		
<u>Aust INT CORPS</u>	<u>(2)</u>		

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

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

HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde Unit.

Army Form W. 3009
(page 2)

PART D.—DETAIL OF SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED AS SHOWN IN PART A OF ARMY FORM W. 3009.

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Staff Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, etc.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, etc.	
Bricklayers															
Butchers															
Carpenters and Joiners															
Clerks															
Despatch Riders															
Draughtsmen (topo.)															
Drivers H.T. and/or I.C.															
Electricians															
Farriers															
Fitters															
Masons															
Painters and Decorators															
Plumbers and Gasfitters															
Saddlers and Harness Makers															
Signallers															
Storemen, technical															
Vickers Machine Gunners															
Cooks															
<i>BATMAN</i>													1	1	
<i>MOTOR CYCLIST</i>													1	1	
<i>ARMOURER</i>													1	1	
<i>OFFRS. MESS GEN DUTIES</i>													1	1	
General Duty Personnel															
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A)													4	4	

HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde
(Unit.)

Adams CAPT
(L.M. DAINTREE)
S.C. 20 Aust Inf Bde
(Signature of Commander.)
9 DIV.

29 MAR 41
(Date of Despatch.)

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

Copy.

RECONNAISSANCE REPORT.

by Major H.C.D. MARSHALL, ENGA.

2 Mar 41.

Ref MAP. : EL AGHEILA 1:500,000

TOPOGRAPHY.

1. The marsh shown in square (s)W;48 extends further to the West.
The Western end is approximately at (s) W4382 and apparently is quite deep. The Eastern end near MERSA BREGA is now drying up and although at present impassable will, in the future, possibly bear weight. The distance between the sea and the marsh at the Western end is about 5/600 yards and Easterly increases with sand dunes of some height. It is a definite obstacle.
2. The track from CON EL MELAH is defined and although unused can be followed to the marsh.
3. The TRIPOLI Road divided the terrain into two definite sectors.
 - (a) North of the road the main ridge follows the line of the marsh or lake and from this ridge radiate spurs running N, and S, at regular intervals, none of which overlook the other and do not give observations to the right. At numerous points on the north side of the road observation can be had to the South. All the North side of the road is passable to track vehicles between the lake and road and with great caution to MT.
 - (b) On the south side of the road the country is flat and with small exceptions none of the spurs from the North cross the road which follows the edge of the southern marsh. From a very short inspection this is wet in places but in the main would carry MT. This to be confirmed by a detailed reconnaissance now in progress.
4. The TRIPOLI Road is not shown accurately on the map and is much closer to the coast and the Northern marsh.
5. I made the reconnaissance with an officer of DOAG and the only O.P. giving observation to both North and South of the road is at (s)W. 4479. This post is N from kilo post 783 (ten kilos from M Brega) on a bearing of 318 deg and is the only Arty O.P. located.
6. The O.P. is forward. No protection is given by the marsh to the South, further the country between the Northern marsh and the road is passable to tracked vehicles. (A distance estimated at 2500 yds with a similar distance across the Northern marsh from the O.P. to the coast) that at least three Bns forward would be required to cover this. One right, one centre, astride the road, and one on the left in the flat marsh with the flank refused.
7. On the left the area is open and suitable for tank attack. At least one A Tk gun per Coy in the forward areas would be required and additional guns in depth. Even then it could not be said that the position would be secure.
8. Sketch is attached.

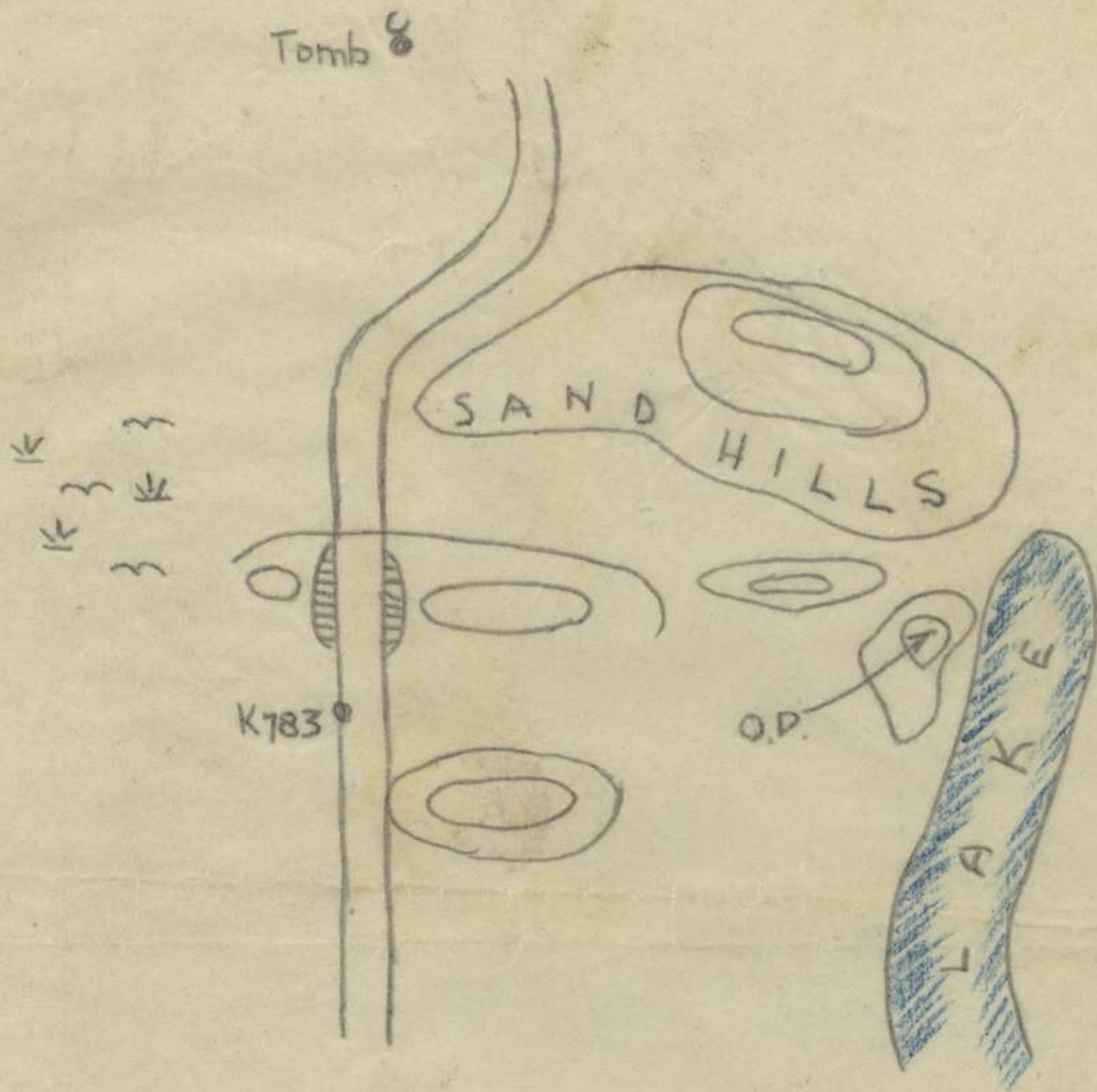
(Sgd) H.C. Marshall Major,

H.Q. SEAR.

forwarded 2/3/41.

(Sgd) Theo G Walker Lt-Col.,

CMDG ENGA.



NOT TO SCALE

→ N.

O.P. TO MOSQUE M. BREGA 69°
 O.P. TO TOMB $209\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ 5500' APPROX
 K783 TO O.P. 318°
 O.P. TO ROAD 2500' APPROX.

7 Mar 40

I. GEOGRAPHICAL

Misurata Province, LIBYA. The following details of towns in MISURATA Province of TRIPOLITANIA are extract from Military Report on Libya, amended to 1938. It is thought that considerable development may have since been made, especially in coastal towns. (SEE Appx "A")

AGHEILA (LAT 30 17' N LONG 19 20' E) Situated on sea coast 83 miles SW of AGEDABIA.

External Comms - Asphalt rd to MUGLAA on coast 18 miles west of AGHEILA and thence a rough track to NOFILIA.

Aerodrome - with hangars and petrol installation.

Population - Italians 15, natives 833

Water Sup - Various wells near coast; water brackish but used by natives. Capacity unknown.

MARADA (Lat 29 14' N Long 19 13' E) Is an oasis 160 miles SW of AGEDABIA, lying 48 feet below sea level. Frontier post, consists of fort with tall tower surrounded by barbed wire. Wireless sta with 2 masts, oases nearby. Village is collection of white-washed buildings.

External Comms - Motor track in good condition runs to AGHEILA. Wadi from MARADA to GIALO becomes vast quagmire in wet weather; avoid quicksand which is very dangerous by using camel tracks to south.

Population - 150 natives of ZUWAYA tribe.

Resources - Well watered and fertile - fields of wheat and barley, and vegetables, fruit and dates are grown.

Water Sup - Several perennial pools nearby, also wells in habitations.

NOFILIA (Lat 31 47' N Long 17 50' E) Is situated in basin at confluence of wadi TALUIT and wadi AGAR 11 miles from coast and 400 miles east of TRIPOLI. Is hilly with little vegetation.

External Comms - Rd suitable for wheeled traffic to SIRTE and AGHEILA. New asphalt rd completed from SIRTE to AGHEILA at end of 1936; east from MUGLAA (18 miles west of AGHEILA) rd is now asphalted. Wireless sta nearby.

Population - 2,550 natives.

Resources - Extensive zone of pasturage - some barley, but little grain; no industries.

Water Resources - Three wells containing drinking water, one has wind motor.

SIRTE (Lat 31 14' N Long 16 35' E) Coastal town situated on main rd between TRIPOLI and CYRENAICA 302 miles east of TRIPOLI.

External Comms - Rd suitable for wheeled traffic between SIRTE, MISURATA and NOFILIA. An asphalt rd is under construction between SIRTE and BUERAT EL HSUN.

Population - Europeans 150, Moslems 2,200, Hebrews 340.

Resources - Many orchards, few dates, many figs; grain on increase.

Port Conditions - Has a small inlet called MARSZA ZAAFRAN; debarking and embarking at anchor 500 yds from shore.

BUERAT EL HSUN (Lat 31 20' N, Long 15 45' E) Is a coastal village 60 miles west of SIRTE.

External Comms - Situated on main rd from SIRTE to MISURATA. A good rd for wheeled traffic leads to the district of the FEZZAN.

Resources - Cereals and abundant pasturage.

MISURATA (Long 15 7' E Lat 32 23' N) Is chief town of province of MISURATA ON SEA COAST 1 1/2 MILES East of TRIPOLI; is situated on oasis of MISURATA, which is 11 miles long and 3 1/4 miles wide.

External Comms - Is connected to TRIPOLI by 1st class rd. Daily bus service in both directions with TRIPOLI; also stopping place for air line between TRIPOLI and Benghazi. Telephonic comms with MISURATA MARINA, ZLITEN, HOMS and TRIPOLI. Mil wireless sta, which is used

MISURATA (contd)

is used for commercial purposes with short, medium and long waves.
 Population - Italians, 912, Other Europeans 47, Moslems 49,236
 (throughout oasis) Hebrews 838. Arabs agriculting

and grazing, Hebrews carry on small businesses, Italians occupied with town developing.

Hospitals - Civil hospital, infirmary and amb service.
 Resources - Cereals, dates, livestock, skins, wool, dairy produce
 tunny fish etc.
 Water Sup - Artesian boring a success in producing one well with
 an hourly capacity of 6,000 gals of drinking water.

MISURATA MARINA Is part of above town 6 miles away, connected by a
 good motor rd.

ZLITEN (Lat 32 27' N Long 14 35' E) Is 99 miles east of TRIPOLI on
 sea coast. Name covers area of 1,172 square miles
 bounded on North by MEDITERANEN on south by
 course of UEZZI for a short stretch, the Waddie
 FRAS then turning south to some Kms beyond GASR
 ZENZR ; district is crossed by Waddie MAGER which
 flows from south to north at right angles to coast
 ZLITEN leis in one of most fruitful eases of coast
 of TRIPOLITANIA.

External comms - Is linked with HOMS and thus with TRIPOLI and MIS-
 urata by a good motor rd.

Population - 60 Italians, 38,942 Moslems, 742 Hebrews.

Water Resources - Plentiful water in towns and district where there
 are 5,312 wells.

Port Conditions - Has small inlet as port where coastal steamers call

HOMS. (Lat 32 38' N Long 14 15' E) Is situated on sea coast 75 miles
 east of TRIPOLI.

External Comms - Daily bus service to and from TRIPOLI, ZLITEN and
 MISURATA by an isolated motor rd. Bus service tri
 weekly with CUSSABAT by an isolated motor rd. Other
 Rd comms are: HOMS to BENI ULID; asphalted to TARHUNA
 Population - Italians 425, Other Europeans 59, Moslems 34,728,
 Hebrews 723.

Commence - Oil refinery, mech workshop, town lit by electricity
 from power sta, 3 suppliers of petrol and lubricating
 oil; 4 motor firms.

Port Conditions No real port - small natural inlet east of RAS EL
 MISEN. Vessels unload and load at anchor 250 yds
 from shore using two lighters.

GASR GARABULLI (latitude 32 27' N Long 13 degrees 43 mins E)
 120 feet above sea level, 38 miles east of TRIPOLI 3 miles from sea
 External comms - situated on rd TRIPOLI - TAGHURA - GASR GARABULLI -
 HOMS - MISURATA.

Population - Europeans 350, natives 6,000.

Resources - Agricultural produce.

Industries - Manufacture of tent materials.

TARHUNA (Lat 32 37' N Long 13 37' E) 56 miles SE of TRIPOLI 1,000 ft
 above sea level. It is chief town of mountainous district situated
 in a valley, centre of important caravan routes between HOMS -
 MSELLATA and the GARIAN regions include fertile valleys, good
 water, fine rye fields and pastures for large herds of sheep, goats
 and camels.

External comms - connected with TRIPOLI by good motor road, is
 important junction for caravan routes which radiate
 to the coast and all parts of the interior. There
 are very many caravan routes.

Population - 256 Italians, 40,508 natives, 96 Hebrews.

Commerce - Establishments exist for motor transport agency,
 petrol sta and oil. Town lit by electricity.

/BENI ULID

BENI ULID (Latitude 31 44' N Long 14 E) 700 ft above sea level, 112 miles SE of TRIPOLI.

External Comms - Rd to TRIPOLI via TARHUNA asphalted - BENI ULID to CUSSABAT via TARHUNA ordinary rd in good state.

BENI ULID via BIRDUFAN - ZLITEN good motor track.

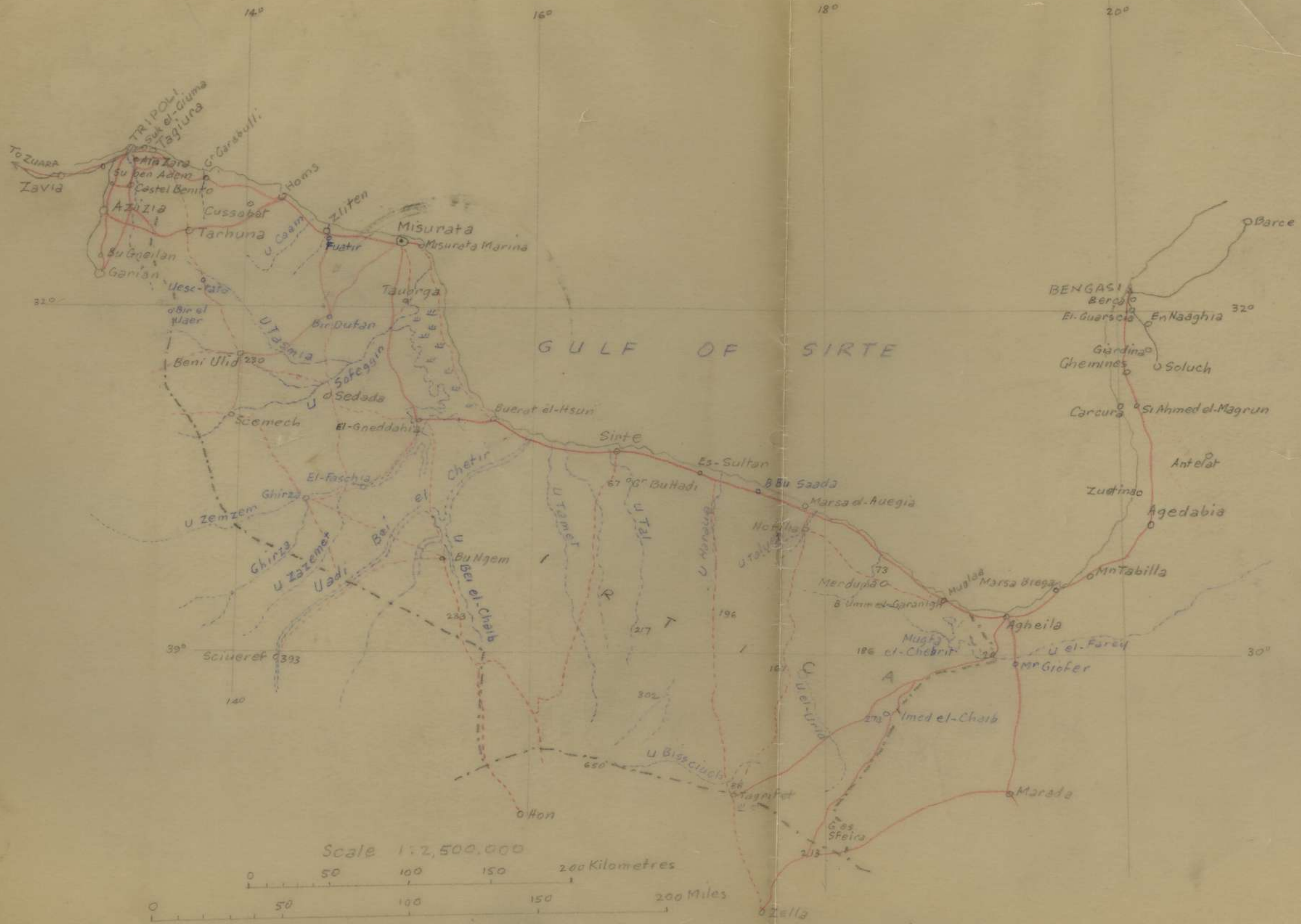
A new motor track 100 miles long will connect BENI ULID and MIZDA. Chief town of the CHIBLA. Good landing ground with two hangers 2,400 yds south of town. Post and RT sta.

Population - Italians 41, natives 17,749, Hebrews 63.

Resources - Barley (from 1478 - 7860 tons) olive, palm and fig trees, peaches, apricots and almonds in the district.

Water resources- Water usually good and abundant four large air motors installed, pumps for military and civilian use which which also operate freezing plant.

MISURATA PROVINCE



Scale 1:2,500,000

0 50 100 150 200 Kilometres

0 50 100 150 200 Miles

Heights are shown in metres

Ref Maps AGEDABIA)
EL AGHLILA)
MARADA) 1 - 500,000
SIRTE)

1. Not later than 2400 hrs night 9/10 Mar adm instn 20 Aust Inf Bde will be as under
2. Bde HQ
 - (a) Fwd - All branches of staff and services are established three miles along track running E from main TRIPOLI rd at 20 kilo stone.
 - (b) Rear - B ech tp, Q store, 58 LAD is established on track running W of main BENGHASI rd 7 kilos N of AGEDABIA
3. WP MARSА BREGA open from 1900 hrs to 2100 hrs daily.
4. Sup, Pet, Amn - SP, PP, AP 2 miles on track running E from main TRIPOLI rd at kilo stone 835 open from 2000 hrs daily.
5. Medical - ADS at area 1½ miles on track running E from main TRIPOLI rd at kilo stone 20 N MARSА-BREGA.
6. Ordnance
 - (a) 7 Div Sec Ord Fd Park at MADDALENA area N 860260 from which all replacements will be made under inst issued by DADOS.
 - ~~(b) Units will immediately submit requisitions and arrange to draw on 20 BENGHASI for A Tr rifles, Bren guns, 5 inch mortars to war establishment - 1st line tp will be used.~~
7. Recovery -
 - (a) A-1 tp for 1st line repair to 58 LAD.
 - (b) Tp for other than 1st line repair to 2/2 A Fd Wkshops at BENGHASI.
8. Postal - All mail to rear Bde HQ.
9. POI - CP at fwd Bde HQ. Units will provide suitable escort.
10. Burials - Until a div cemetery is located burials will be carried out under unit arrangements in own area. Graves will be located near a prominent feature, preferably main road and exact measurements from kilo stone on either side of site will be given in graves return AFW 3114.
11. Traffic - Tp other than that under special authority of COs will NOT move along main rd between fwd area and AGEDABIA between hrs of 0700 and 1700.
No veh will enter MARSА-BREGA before 1900.
12. Canteen - A canteen pt is established at 19 Kilo stone N of AGEDABIA
13. Inst regarding pay, salvage and location of Div HQ will be promulgated later.

DISTRIBUTION:

	Copy No.
2/15 Bn (Information)	1
2/15 Bn	2-6
2/17 Bn	7-11
9 Aust Div	12-13
6 Aust Div	14-15
Bde Comd	16
BM	17-18
SC	19-20
LO	21-23

Alan Backhouse
(A. N. BACKHOUSE) Capt
SC 20 Aust Inf Bde

	Copy No.
IO	24
TO	25
SO	26
58 LAD	27
File	28
War Diary	29-30
File	31-42

20 Bde

SECRET

20 INF BDE INT SUMMARY No 6.

(Based on inf recd up to 10 Mar at BTW).

1. Reports and rumours as to Axis intentions. (Germany & Iran).

(a). If true, a report received from ISTANBUL, said to emanate from an Iranian claiming to be in close touch with the Turkish Foreign Minister and in the confidence of the Iranian Government, suggests that renewed German pressure is being applied to IRAN. The gist of the report is as follows :-

The German Minister at TEHRAN has warned the Shah that Germany will overcome TURKEY, SYRIA and PALESTINE by mechanised forces and then sweep on to EGYPT and IRAQ. In addition to the conquest of ENGLAND, ISTANBUL and SALONIKA will be occupied by the end of March, and EGYPT and IRAQ by May. If IRAN does not collaborate she will be smashed.

In a personal letter to the Shah, Hitler offered some Turkish territory to IRAN in return for action the oil-fields to cause the hurried departure of British employees. When this had been assured, German experts will be flown from ROMANIA and the oil would be diverted to German use. (How Germany is to transport the oil was apparently not stated).

The source was certain that Hitler's offer would be refused.

(b).

H.S. Minister reports that the tendency in TEHRAN is to regard the Turkish-Bulgarian Agreement as a victory for GERMANY. In consequence it is supposed that TURKEY will not fight. This belief has had a reassuring effect on public opinion which feared that Turkish belligerency would lead to IRAN being drawn into war.

2. Italy and Germany.

(a). Reliable information indicates that the Germans are in control of the Italian customs and certain communications in Northern Italy.

(b). An untested source reports that he saw German troops embarking at Naples on two ships of 12,000 and two of 6,000 tons on 22 February. He also saw four German sailors and a number of German air force men in Naples.

(c). Another well placed and previously reliable source reports that disembarkation of three or four German divisions was completed in TRIPOLI on 23rd February and that the German strength now in Libya is about 50,000.

(d). The latest reliable information indicates that, apart from four incomplete infantry divisions, the garrison in Tripolitania now consists of one Italian motorised division, one Italian armoured division in process of being completed with tanks, and the greater of a German armoured division of which the remainder is on its way. There has been no evidence of additional mechanical transport being landed and, although recent air reconnaissances showed a considerable increase of M.F. on the road Tripoli-Sirte, the combined forces must still be short of transport, especially taking into account the length of road communications from the base at Tripoli to the forward area at Agheila (471 miles).

- 2/15 Bn.
- 2/15 Bn.
- 2/17 Bn.
- 20 A Tk Coy.
- 20 B Div. MAE.
- 2/8 Fd. Ass.

J.F. McCaffrey
 Maj.
 (J.F. McCaffrey).
 BM 20 Aust Inf Bde.

Int Sec

HQ 20 Inf Bde,
11 Apr 41.

2/15 Bn
2/16 Bn
2/17 Bn

INSTRUCTIONS

(Special reports required by HQ 20 Bde)

1. AIR ACTION REPORTS

Reports of hostile air action to be rendered as it occurs and to show:

- (a) Place
 - (b) Time
 - (c) Method
 - (d) Duration of attack
 - (e) Effect of AA fire
 - (f) Damage caused by enemy
 - (g) Bearing or direction of flight of EA to and from area attacked.
- } High, medium, low level, dive or HO
} Number and type of aircraft, was raid preceded by recon, any special points.

2. SHELLING REPORTS

Notify HQ immediately shelling occurs, and details as soon after as possible. May be submitted on a trace and include:

- (a) Time shelling began and finished
- (b) Position, bearing, or direction of gun or flash and map ref of post of observer
- (c) Area shelled and damage done
- (d) Any details of No of guns and rate of fire
- (e) Nature of fire, calibre, guns or how.

3. PATROL REPORTS

To be rendered immediately after return of patrol. Route and action can be best shown on a trace.

4. GAS REPORTS

Following action to be taken if gas is used by the enemy

- (a) HQ message to Div HQ rptd Bde giving type of gas if known
- (b) Detailed report covering type, method, casualties, area affected.

5. SITUATION CHANGES

To be rendered immediately any change in location or disposition of units is made.

Special ref. should be made to fd wire, mine-fields and location of HQ.

[Signature]
HQ 20 Inf Bde

14 Mar 41.

20 INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 2

Based on Information recd up to 1200 hrs Mar 14.

E.A. Activity.

The enemy has been considerably less active in the air, during the past 24 hrs only two units reporting any visitations. Obviously the unpleasant weather has rendered operations very difficult by reducing visibility to almost nil at times.

2/15 reports. that at 1215 hrs Mar 13 they were machine gunned by EA but there were no casualties. At 1250 hrs one ME 110 circled overhead at about 5000 ft, coming from west, and proceeding SW. No action was taken.

3 Armd Bde reports that at 1315 hrs Mar 13 one JUNKERS 88 flew west over their area at 4000 ft and machine gunned them from the undercarriage. No casualties.

GROUND OPS.

KDG B sqn reported three vehicles believed lorries moving EAST B0 369, 1200 hrs - halted 1205 hrs. Two moved off. Believed working party.

WEATHER.

Overcast, light breeze AM - developing to strong wind PM. No sign of cessation.

- - - - -

Petersen Lieut
for BM 20 INF BDE

3 ARMD. BDE. OP. INSTRUCTION NO. 5.

SECRET.
Ops/3/Cyr/22
14. Mar. 41.

Ref. Map 1/500,000 AGHEILA.

INF.

1. Enemy is believed to have working parties in the EL HAG HATEIBAR Area B.06.
A patrol will be organised to bring Arty. fire to bear on this area.

COMPOSITION.

2. Patrol Cmdr. Major HANWELL M.C. R.H.A.
Two Tps. K.D.G.
One Tp. 1 R.H.A.
One Sec. 37 Lt.A.A. Bty.) to be made
One Sec. 16 Inf.A/Tk Coy.) available
by O.C., K.D.G.

ROUTE AND TIMING.

3. (a) D - 1 - move via MERSA BREGA - AGHEILA and to gun positions in Area B1066 in the dark.
D1 - hide up during day. Open fire 1700hrs. approx. until dark.
Return via road running SOUTH of and parallel to main road back to MERSA BREGA night D1/D2.
(b) Provisional Date - D1 19th. March. 41
(c) Detailed timings will be arranged mutually between Major HANWELL and O.C., K.D.G.

LIAISON.

4. Patrol Commander wishes to recon. ground, with the Officer who will command the two Tps. K.D.G. on the operation, on evening of 15. March. O.C., K.D.G. will make this Officer available at H.Q. of fwd. Sqn. at 1800 hrs.

AIR CO-OPERATION.

5. Div. are being asked to try and get definite locations of enemy and to provide air cover on evening of D1.

ADMIN.

6. Admin. arrangements will be made by Units concerned.

ACK.
Time of Issue.
Method Issue.

Rothmanick

Major.
B.M., 3 Armd. Bde. Gp.

DISTRIBUTION.

9 Aust. Div.

20 Inf. Bde. ✓

1 R.H.A.

K.D.G.

Brig.

I.O.

War Diary

File.

15 Mar 41.

Ref Maps : BENGHAZI)
 AGEDABIA) 1:500,000
 EL AGHEILA)

INFORMATION.

1. Enemy digging reported by Tac R at A 7380
 Enemy Arm'd Cs and Tanks withdrew from approx A 9768 when fired on, on 9 Mar. E.A. bomb and M.G. conspicuous movement or known locations 0700 - 0900 hrs and 1600 - 1800 hrs. Also occasionally 1200 - 1400 hrs.
2. Own Tps Two Cav Regts holding from coast at B 400 800 due SOUTH to WADI EL FAREGH thence EAST along WADI to AIN EN NAGA (C 1759).
 20 Aust Inf Bde is disposed as follows:
 - (i) 15 Bn in area astride main road approx B 58.
 - (ii) 17 Bn in area astride main road approx B 69.
 - (iii) 13 Bn BEDA FOMM (X 28).
 - (iv) One Fd Bty in support 20 Aust Inf Bde.

INTENTION.

104 RHA will remain in bivouac area approx GHEMINES, less one Bty which will relieve one Bty 1 RHA in support of 20 Aust Inf Bde in area MERSA BREGA (B 58)

METHOD.

Recce Pty of 104 RHABty relieving 1 RHA will meet guide from 1 RHA at Kilo 56 from AGEDABIA on main road AGEDABIA - EL AGHEILA at 1300 hrs 16 Mar 41.

Bty

104 RHA/relieving will move at a density of NOT greater than 8 v.t.m. and will disperse WEST of main road at Kilo 26 SOUTH of AGEDABIA by 1600 hrs 17 Mar 41.

Guides from 1 RHA will meet Bty relieving at Kilo 26 at 1600 hrs 17 Mar 41. Relief by Tps to be completed by 0200 hrs 18 Mar 41. No move to take place before 1900 hrs.

Survey data and D.F. & C.P. tasks to be supplied to Bty relieving by 1 RHA

Bty 1 RHA reverts to control 1 RHA on relief.

Liaison Officers from Bty 104 RHA will report to 20 Aust Inf Bde by 0900 hrs 18 Mar 41.

ADMINISTRATION

Ammunition Relieving Bty One full Echelon of Amn will be carried. A.P. at Map Ref (S) X 1667. No. 2nd Line Transport available. Amn requirements will be fetched by unit First Line Transport.

Supplies. Relieving Bty S.P. & P.P. at Kilo 36 (SOUTH of AGEDABIA). off the main road during the period 2300 - 0100 hrs each night. Supplies for consumption up to and incl 18 Mar will be drawn from 18 F.S.D. at MAGRUM. Indent for supplies for consumption 19 Mar to be handed to 9 Aust Div A.A.S.C. at MAGRUM by 1300 hrs 17 Mar. Remainder 104 RHA S.P. & P.P. 18 F.S.D. at MAGRUM

Water. Relieving Bty W.P. on Tk 3 mls EAST of Bty Position (to be indicated by 1 RHA). Remainder 104 RHA W.P. GHEMINES.

Medical. A.D.S. 35 Kilos SOUTH of AGEDABIA, WEST of main road
 M.D.S. (British) 20 Kilos NORTH of AGEDABIA off main rd.
 (Aust.) 5 Kilos SOUTH of GHEMINES.
 C.C.S. 12 Kilos NORTH of BENGASI at EL COFEIDA
 Hospital. 4 Aust General Hospital at BARCE.

/ Intercom.

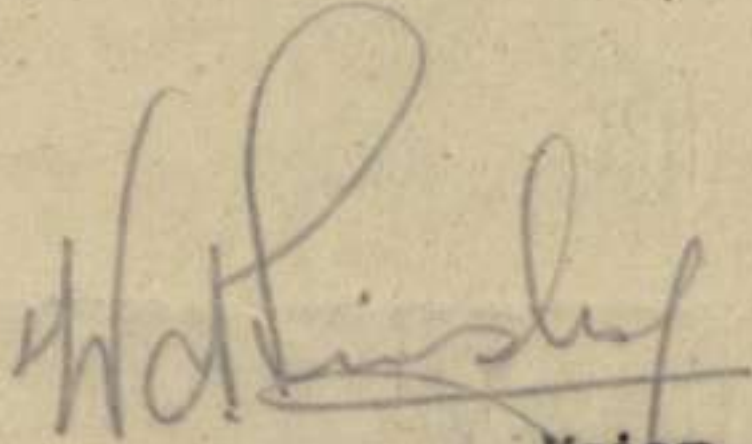
R.A. attached 9 Aust Div.

O.O. No. 1

2.

INTERCOMN. H.Q. 9 Aust Div B 9297
H.Q. R.A. attached
9 Aust Div "
H.Q. 20 Aust Inf Bde B 6986
Bty 104 RHA will obtain L/T to H.Q. 9 Aust Div via H.Q. 20 Aust Inf Bde

ACK.


Major,
B.M.R.A. attached 9 Aust Div.

DISTRIBUTION.

104 R.H.A.		1 - 2
1 R.H.A.		3
B O Bty 1 RHA		4
C.R.A.		5 - 6
3 Armd Bde (for informn)		7
✓ 20 Aust Inf Bde	"	8
G.	"	9
A.Q.	"	10
File		11
War Diary		12- 13.

Issued at 0930 hrs. Copies 1 - 4 and 9 - 10 by hand, remainder by D.R.

3 ARMD. BDE. GP. OP. INSTRUCTION NO. 6.

SECRET.

Ops/3/A/29
16. Mar. 41.

Ref. Map 1/500,000. AGHEILA.

Subject: - Recce Task of 'C' Coy. 1 T.H. Rifles.

1. The general task of Troops in this Area is to delay the enemy advance - a contingency which at the moment is regarded as unlikely - with a view to eventually fighting them in the neighbourhood of SOLUCH (SOLUCH is S.S.E of BENGHASI).
2. Repeated from 6th. Aust. Div. Op. Instruction No. 29 for information of 'C' Coy. 1 T.H. Rifles: -
"Should the enemy advance in strength the role of 3 Armd. Bde. Gp. will be to protect the left flank of 6 Aust. Div. by harassing and delaying the enemy's advance".
3. O.C. 'C' Coy. 1 T.H. Rifles will without delay initiate recces with a view to taking up at short notice a position at or near ELUET HADDA feature B78 in conjunction with French Motor Bn.
4. The dispositions should be such as to enable cover to be given to a withdrawal of the Infantry from positions as shewn on the attached sketch and the dispositions will cater for the French Motor Bn on the right and 'C' Coy 1 T.H. Rifles on the left. Subsequent positions will also be recced which generally speaking run in a S.S.W direction.
5. 1 R.H.A less 1 Bty. will be in support and recces should be elaborated in co-operation.
6. A report shewing by sketch positions and defensive fire zones will be sent to this H.Q by 21. March. Further detailed recces will be carried out when time is available.
7. O.C. 'C' Coy. 1 T.H. Rifles will liaise with the French Motor Bn. through their Liaison Officer (Captain HORE-RUTHVEN or Captain PHIPPS).

8. The Commander of this Support Gp. nucleus will be nominated in due course by Brigade H.Q.
9. All moves from one position to the next will be planned so as to ensure that the Eastern flank is not liable to encirclement. To ensure this these moves will be co-ordinated with those of 3H and will be the subject of a Conference on the 22. March, location and time to be decided later.

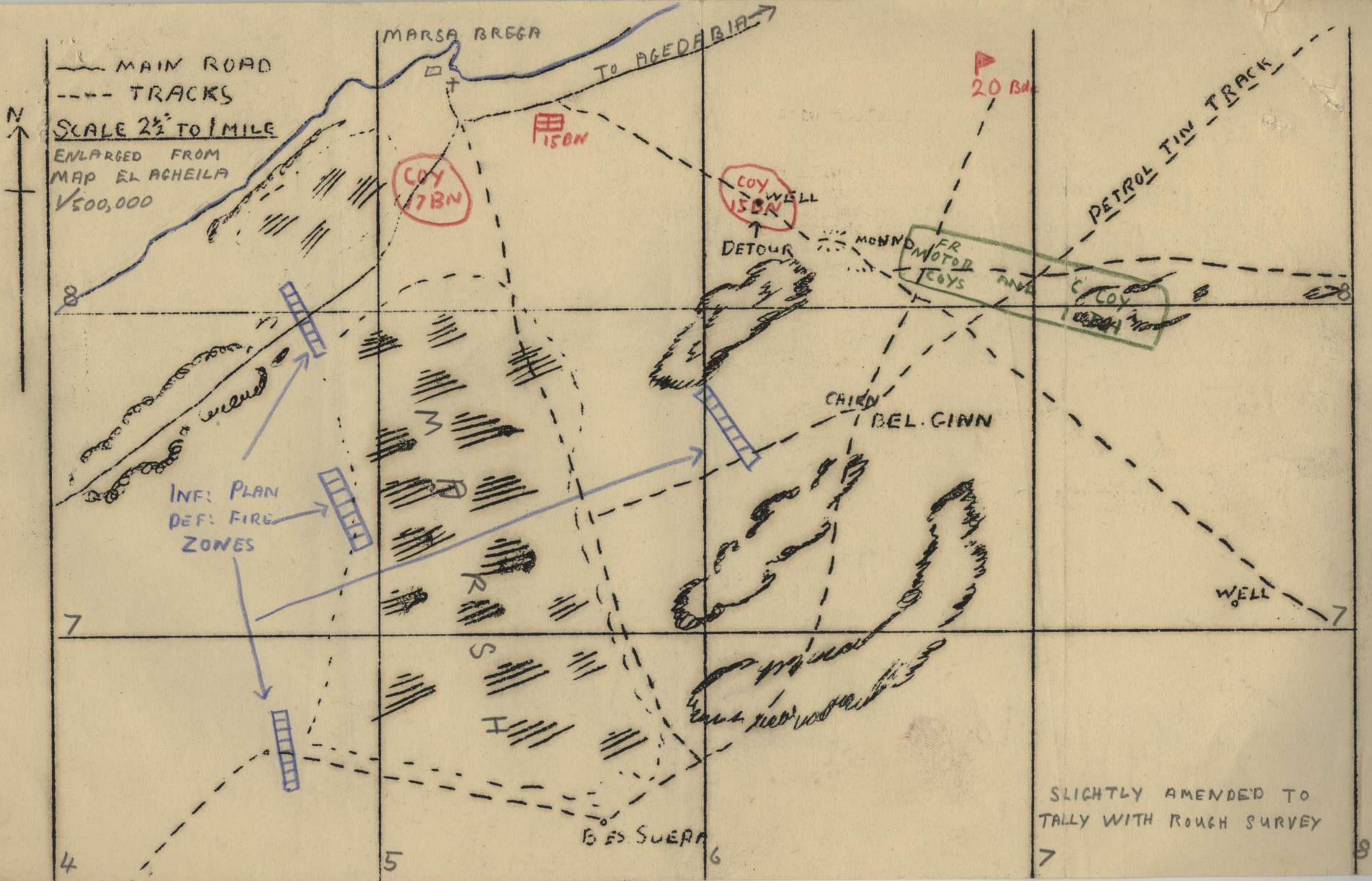
ACK.
Time of Issue
Method of Issue.

R. W. ...
Major.
B.M., 3 Armd. Bde. Gp.

Distribution.

1 R. H. A.
K. D. G.
3H.
6 R. Tanks.
'C' Coy. 1 T. H. Rifles.
1 French Motor Bn.
I. O.

Copies to :- 9 Aust. Div.
20 Aust. Inf. Bde



File

SECRET

17 Mar 41.

20 Inf Bde Int Summary No. 3.
(Based on information received up to 1200 hrs 17 Mar)

Ref Map: EL AGHEILA 1/500,000.

1. GROUND OPS

Inf patrol 16/17 Mar confirmed that there is NO enemy in area EL HAG HATHEILA (B0165) and (B0168) (approx 15 kilos west of AGHEILA) Well dug and sandbagged posns in these areas were found abandoned. An incomplete minefield exists at 14 kilos west of AGHEILA approx.

2. EA ACTIVITY

(1625 hrs 16 Mar). Single ME 110 passed over 2/15, 2/17 Bns med altitude flying NW. Fired on heavily by ground.

(0155 hrs 17 Mar). EA passed over SEAR dropped 4 bombs approx NW direction.

(0230 hrs 17 Mar). EA dropped 10 bombs on beached vessel which was ablaze (believed due to own tps action) in BREGA anchorage.

3. RAAF

Sqn heavily bombed and HQd enemy concentrations of vehicles SEBEL el CHAX (X) AS7 inflicting many casualties men and MT. Tps were surprised at breakfast and were unprepared.

4. NOTES ON ARMIES

The latest inf trench crossing performance of German tks shows:

Mk V Tk - possibly 9 feet (NOT 15 feet)

Mk VI Tk - 12 feet

Mk VII Tk - 15 feet

5. TOPOGRAPHICAL.

Owing to bad weather NORTH rd BARCE-DERNA is closed until further ~~makka~~ orders.

CONCLUSIONS:

For (1) To obtain identification of enemy patrol will have to push further west and with more vigour during the available hours of darkness. With this end in view bns should aim to train patrols in present areas to move up to 15 miles in nine hours of darkness over difficult country.

(2) activities

Since EA activities have been confined to the fwd area of the bde, and since no activity has been aimed at Bde HQ where anti-aircraft discipline is being strictly policed it is apparent bns will have to take measures to enforce track discipline and no movement of tps or tpt when EA are in the area. The recon plane is just as dangerous as the bomber.

Bns should ensure that herds of camels, goats, etc, do not come near their areas as it is suspected that this is an enemy means of locating targets.

J. McCaffrey
for (J. McCaffrey) Maj
BM 20 Inf Bde

Australian Military Forces—Northern Command.

Please quote this Number when replying.

--	--	--

Address **CEHA.**
Date **17 Mar 41.**

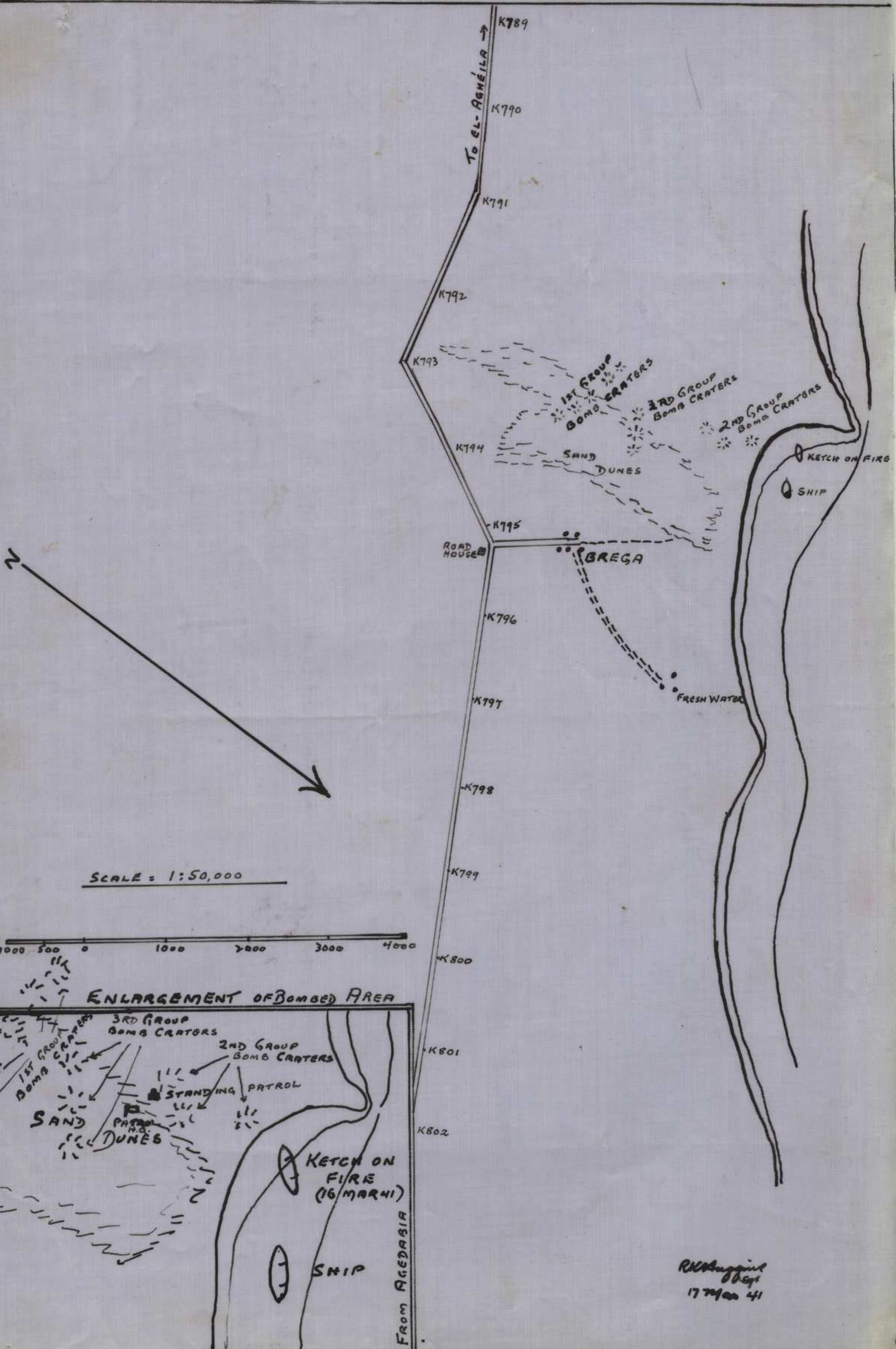
SECRETSEAR.

REPORT ON FIRE ON KETCH AND BOMBING NIGHT 16/17 MAR.

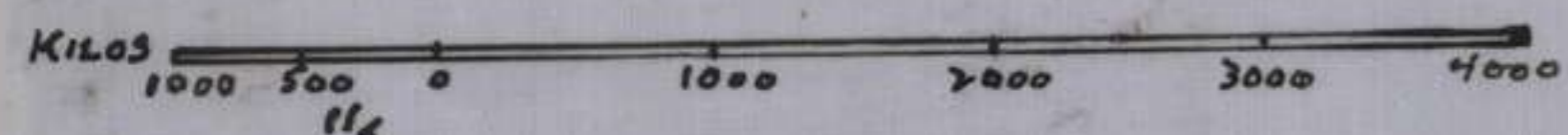
- (1) It is reported that a patrol sent out at dusk on 16 Mar by CC to occupy a position in observation of vessels grounded West of M BREGA, found one ketch afire at the stern. The patrol took up a position approx $\frac{1}{2}$ mile E of the ship. The following enemy action was reported:-
- (a) At 0130 hrs an explosion was heard and the entire ketch became ignited and burned furiously.
- (b) At 0200 hrs one aircraft was heard and bomb explosions followed, the bursts being approx $\frac{1}{2}$ mile E of patrol post (ie towards FDLs) Five to six bombs were dropped.
- (c) At 0215 hrs an aircraft was again heard and three (3) more bombs were dropped one within 500^x of the ketch and the other two within 100^x radius of the patrol.
- (d) At 0240 hrs an aircraft was heard and three (3) bombs dropped within 600^x of the beach and 200 to 250^x East of the patrol. No further bombing was experienced.
- (2) The distance and bg of the ketch from the FDLs (Coy outpost) are approx 5000^x and due North.
- (3) The ketch was NOT on fire at 1500 hrs, 16 Mar, and there is reason to believe that the fire was NOT the result of enemy action. Inquiries regarding this are proceeding.
- (4) An offr is engaged in making a survey of the area and plotting the bomb craters with reference to the ketch and the defended localities. This will be forwarded immediately it is completed.
- (5) The apparent courses of the EA or EAs were:-
- (a) NE to SW then to S, bombs being dropped.
- (b) S to N, bombs being dropped, then swung to NE.
- (c) NE to SW, bombs being dropped.
- (6) Attached is a chart of the bombs craters compiled from information supplied by the NCO i/c Patrol.

Whitmore Capt
in Command **CEHA.**

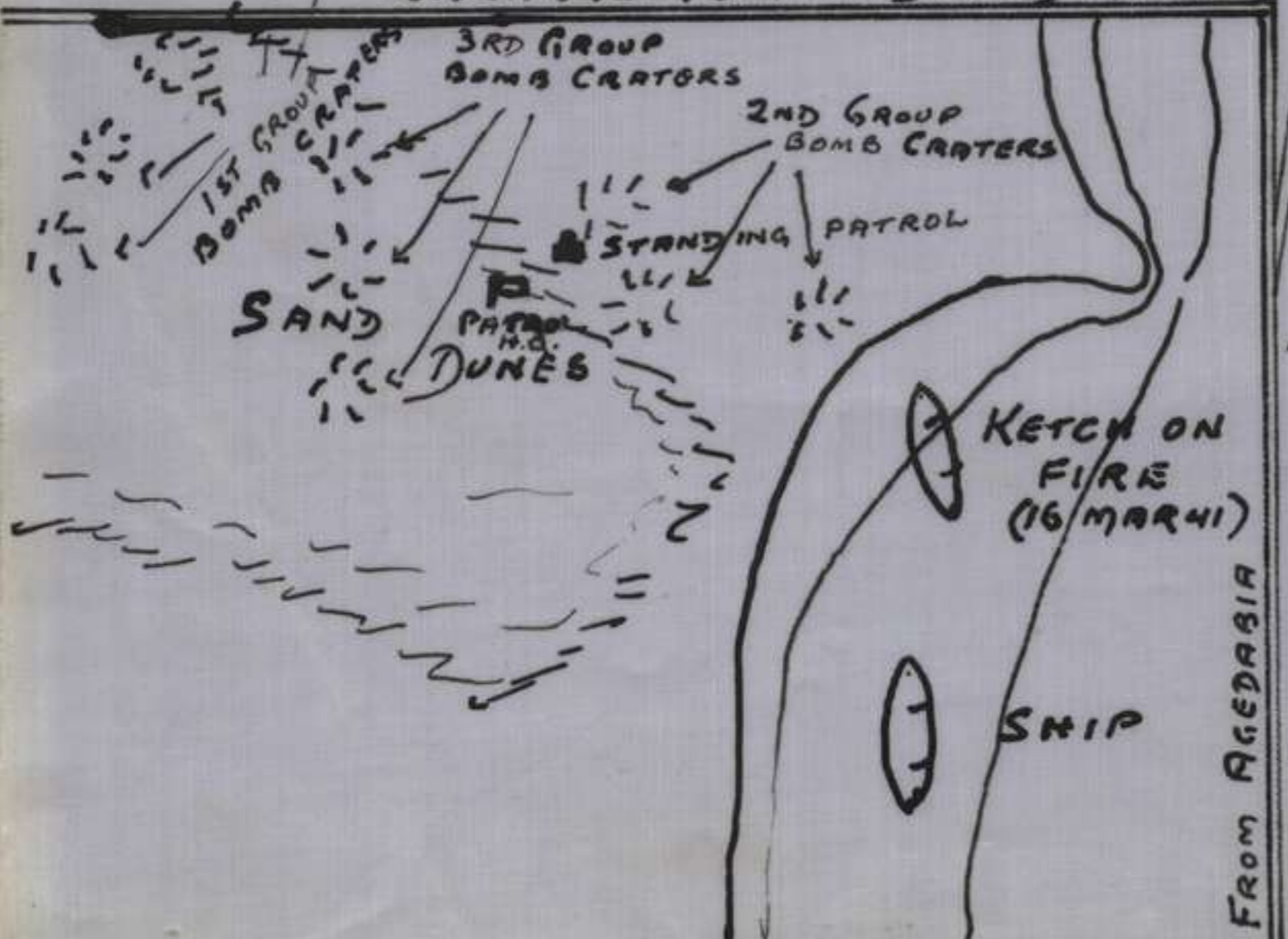
BREGA AREA SHOWING STRANDED SHIPS



SCALE = 1:50,000



ENLARGEMENT OF BOMBED AREA



RK [Signature]
17 MAR 41

Spaul

Ops/3/A/35
21 Mar 41.

Ref. Map 1/500,000 AGHEILA.

1. Preliminary arrangements for this Gp. to carry out its role of protection of the SOUTH flank of 20 in the Aust Inf Bde are now sufficient to enable the plan to be put into operation should the occasion arise. (See para 3 below).
a withdrawal / Recces are not yet sufficiently complete to enable a detailed sketch to be issued.

2. On receipt of code word BUSTLE the plan will be put into operation with minimum delay. Units will report when in position by following code words :-

K.D.G.	SWIMMING
3H.	FLOATING
1 R.H.A.	DRINKING
'C' Coy	THR EATING
French Infan- terie de Marine.	SCRAPING

3. The def. plan is as follows:-

(a) Extract of Op. Instruction No. 3 of 6 Mar 41

"2. Should it be necessary for 3 Arm. Bde. Gp. to implement this Instruction :-

(a) 3H will be prepared to take up a series of positions facing WEST, SOUTH WEST or even NORTH WEST so as to command by fire the ground in the Area ARGUB EL MCHERIEF, ARGUB EL MCHELLA and CLAZET EN NEDAR.

(b) K.D.Gs will withdraw SOUTHWARDS and harass the enemy advance by sitting on his flank and rear from WADI EL FAREGH (WADI EL FAREGH in this Area is in fact 4 or 5 miles further SOUTH than as shown on the Map).

(c) 1 R.H.A. will support by fire the action of 3H.

(d) Bde. H.G. will move SOUTH to a position on the EAST and WEST Grid Line 7.

(b) Extract of Op. Instruction No. 4 of 14 Mar 41.

"2(a) 1 R.H.A. In the event of a delaying action

being necessary one Bty 1 R.H.A will come under cmd.
3H.

(c) Extract of Ops Instruction No. 6 of 16 Mar 41.

"3. O.C. 'C' Coy. 1 T.H. Rifles will without delay initiate recesses with a view to taking up at short notice a position at or near ELUET HADDA feature B78 in conjunction with French Motor Ln.

4. The dispositions should be such as to enable cover to be given to a withdrawal of the Infantry from positions as shown on the attached sketch and the dispositions will cater for the French Motor Bn on the right and 'C' Coy 1 T.H. Rifles on the left. Subsequent positions will also be recessed which generally speaking run in a S.S.W direction.

5. 1 R.H.A less 1 Bty will be in support and recesses should be elaborated in co-operation."

ACK.

Time of Issue

Method of Issue - By hand.

B.M.
Major.
B.M., 3 Arm. Bde.

DISTRIBUTION.

RIDO

ORIB

NAFO

GIRA

MILE

ULBA

OMAD

War Diary (2)

File.

Rpta

GUMS

SEAR

HIGO - for inf. of RASC Officer.

MESSAGE FORM

Serial No.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS

IN

OUT

No. of Groups.

GR.

OFFICE DATE STAMP

C

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

SEAR

FROM

NOWA

Originator's Number

14

Date

26

In Reply to Number

Investigated report

reported herewith

minefield

as

instructed

Ⓢ

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS.

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

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

SIGNED

*Lyndell Stewart
Lieut*

SIGNED

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

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

Report Italian Mine field

vicinity BENINA

PART I

Field of 99 Italian A/T mines in wadi 400' north of ruined fort GASER GIHESE approx 15 Kilos South of Reconment Pass rd BENINA - REGIMA

Mines are live but NOT a danger to MT as field is inaccessible to MT.

Field 110 yds long, 20ft wide (widest part)

PART II

POSITION

Field is not on map sheets supplied to this unit so no map reference can be given. It is in vicinity of ruined fort GASER GIHESE, name of fort being written down by guide. Fort can be seen from REGIMA fort approx 15 Kilos to the South. Field on north bank of wadi flanking north side of fort

TYPE OF MINE

Normal type of Italian A/T mine 36" x 8" x 6" with 300 lb depression springs and shear wire principle, loaded with approx 8lbs T.N.T. Those examined were Not set anti-personnel but the Italian mine is always a danger.

DESCRIPTION OF FIELD - (Sketch att.)

Field by pacing is 110 yards in length and from the bottom of the wadi runs on a bearing of ~~360~~¹⁶⁰ Mag for 40' then at 70° mag for 70'. Width of field varies from three rows to a single row, there being approx 9 ft between rows and mines laid

2

DESCRIPTION OF FIELD (cont) at 6ft intervals. Rows are staggered
so that all gaps are covered.

Field commences with three rows of mines from bottom of wadi but narrows to two rows and finally one row as it progresses. Mines are not laid regularly owing to the rocky nature of ground. Irregularities and occasional dummy positions make mines difficult to count. - There are at least 99.

Mines are dug in and additional camouflage in the form of stones and cut bushes laid on top. Bushes are now dead and mine field very easy to see and recognise.

Extreme bottom of wadi is dammed with small rough stone wall approx 18" high 12" thick and 20ft long evidently to deflect tanks to field higher up slope. At each end of field there have been constructed small rough stone bangars semi circular in shape and providing cover for two men.

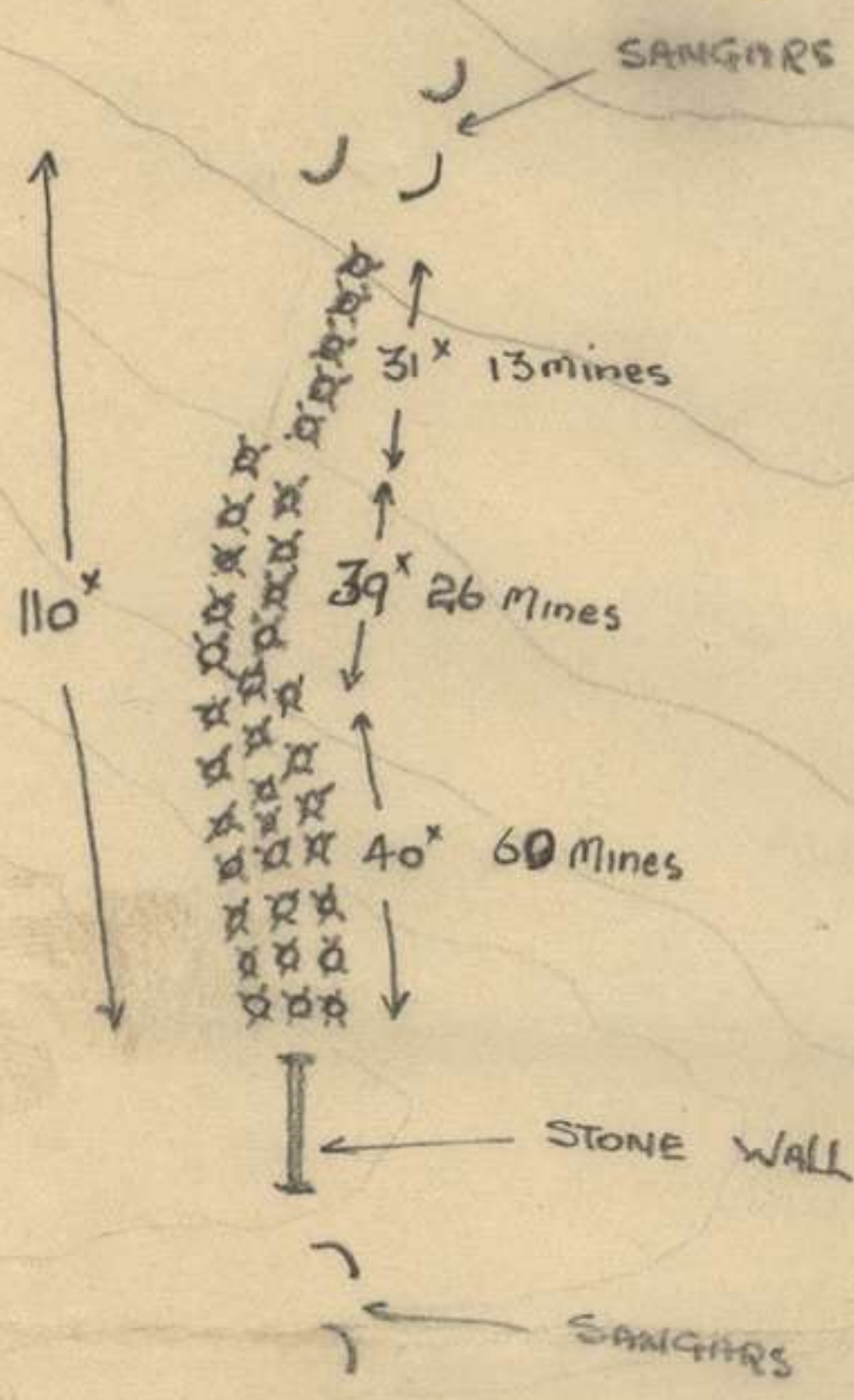
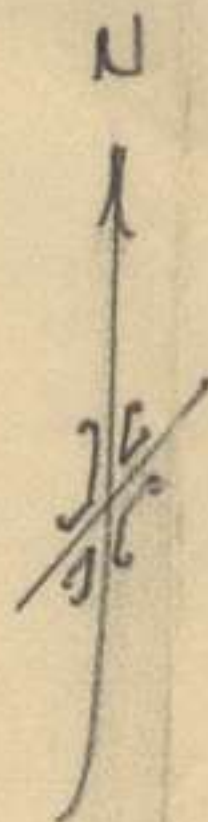
Field apparently laid in a hurry.


Glynis L. Lewis
10 2/13 8.


SKETCH MINE FIELD

VICINITY BENINA

NOT TO SCALE



 FORT (RUIN)

 FORT (RUIN)
GASER GIHESE

BEARINGS BY COMPASS
DISTANCES BY PACING

Handwritten signature
10 2/13 En
26. Nov 41

SECRET.20 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 5.(Based on Inf rec'd up to 1400 hrs 25 Mar)

REF MAPS: CYRENAICA / 1/50000 SERIES

ENEMY FORCES COMPOSITION.

It is considered that an enemy advance may be made by a German Colonial Armd Div in first line which may include some 200 AFVs (incl ARMD Cs) and three inf units of sorts (rifle or MG) with arty A Tk and Lt AA units and Engrs - in all about the strength of a British Armd Bde with a motorised Inf Bde. This may be followed up by a similar Colonial Armd Div or by Italian Armd and motorised tps. We may expect fast and powerfully armoured and armed German tanks with large radius of action.

OWN TROOPS.

Temporarily we are comparatively weak in armoured tps and 9 Aust Div is deficient in tpt and weapons. The most dangerous period is the next eight weeks until mid MAY by which time strong forces will be available for employment in this area.

EFFECT OF TOPOGRAPHY ON OPS.

The coastal belt some 30 to 40 Kms wide SOUTH of the general line DERNA - BENGHAZI is flat and open and ideal for the employment of armd forces. In this type of terrain our inf as at present equipped cannot compete with armd forces.

There are two possible lines of advance for the enemy.

- A. By the coast rd AGHEILA - BENGHAZI - 160 M.
- B. By the desert route AGHEILA - BOMBA - 200 M.
or AGHEILA - TOBRUCH - 330 M.

The approach of the hot season and the absence of water on the desert routes make the movement of large forces over them hazardous. Owing to the short time the enemy has had for preparation it is considered that no advance is possible before the first week in APRIL and that it will then be made by the coastal route. In any case an adv by the desert route must be supported by an adv up the coast to secure the essential rd comms.

GROUND OPS.

24 Mar KDG engaged an enemy patrol of 16 MT and knocked out 3 then withdrew owing to heavy EA activity.

Enemy occupied AGHEILA fort and 40 MT incl 12 M 13 tks were observed on aerodrome. EA are now using this aerodrome.

DIST: 20 BDE
2/13
2/15
2/17
20 ATK
31 7th Regt.
27 7th Coy.

Bjelle Petersen Lieut
for Maj.
BM 20 Inf Bde.

Spans

SECRET

20 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No. 5.

(Based on Inf rec'd up to 1400 hrs 25 Mar)

Ref maps: JYNNICA 1/500,000 series.

ENEMY FORCES COMPOSITION

It is considered that an enemy advance may be made by a German Colonial Armd Div in first line which may include some 200 AFVs (incl ARMD Cs) and three inf units of sorts (rifle or IE) with arty A Tk and Lt AA units and Engns - in all about the strength of a British Armd Bde with a motorised Inf Bde. This may be followed up by a similar Colonial Armd Div or by Italian Armd and motorised tps. We may expect fast and powerfully armoured and armed German tanks with large radius of action.

OWN TPS

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EFFECT OF TOPOGRAPHY ON OPS

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or AGHEILA-TOBRUCHI - 330 M.

The approach of the hot season and the absence of water on the desert routes make the movement of large forces over them hazardous. Owing to the short time the enemy has had for preparation it is considered that no advance is possible before the first week in APRIL and that it will then be made by the coastal route. In any case an adv by the desert route must be supported by an adv up the coast to secure the essential rd coms.

GROUND OPS.

24 Mar KDC engaged an enemy patrol of 16 MT and knocked out 3 then withdrew owing to heavy EA activity.

Enemy occupied AGHEILA fort and 40 MT incl 12 M 13 tks were observed on aerodrome. EA are now using this aerodrome.

J. P. McCaffrey
(J. P. McCaffrey) Maj
BI 20 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION:

20 Bde
2/13 Bn
2/15 Bn
2/17 Bn
20 A Tk Coy
51 Fd Regt
2/7 Fd Coy

SECRET

20 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No. 5.

(Based on Inf rec'd up to 1400 hrs 25 Mar)

Ref maps: CYRENAICA 1/500,000 series.

ENEMY FORCES COMPOSITION

It is considered that an enemy advance may be made by a German Colonial Arm'd Div in first line which may include some 200 AFVs (incl ARMD Cs) and three inf units of sorts (rifle or MG) with arty A Tk and Lt AA units and Engns - in all about the strength of a British Arm'd Bde with a motorised Inf Bde. This may be followed up by a similar Colonial Arm'd Div or by Italian Arm'd and motorised tps. We may expect fast and powerfully armoured and armed German tanks with large radius of action.

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The approach of the hot season and the absence of water on the desert routes make the movement of large forces over them hazardous. Owing to the short time the enemy has had for preparation it is considered that no advance is possible before the first week in APRIL and that it will then be made by the coastal route. In any case an adv by the desert route must be supported by an adv up the coast to secure the essential rd coms.

GROUND OPS.

24 Mar KLG engaged an enemy patrol of 16 LT and knocked out 3 then withdrew owing to heavy EA activity.

Enemy occupied AGHEILA Fort and 40 LT incl 12 M 13 tks were observed on aerodrome. EA are now using this aerodrome.

J. F. McGaffrey
(J. F. MCGAFFREY) Maj
BU 20 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION:

20 Bde
2/13 Bn
2/15 Bn
2/17 Bn
20 A Tk Coy
51 Fd Regt
2/7 Fd Coy

2/7 FIELD COY. R.A.E. O.O. No.1.

Ref Maps CYRENAICA 1/100,000
sheets Nos. 5, 6, 12, 13.

INFORMATION.

1. Enemy.

(a) There has been increased enemy activity on the AGEILIA front. Reliable reports show that the ITALIANS are being reinforced by a GERMAN Armd. Colonial Div.
(b) With hot weather approaching enemy may commence early operation in CYRENAICA.

2. Own troops.

(a) 20 Aust Inf Bde will render command - 51 Pd.Regt. (less one Bty.), 2/7 Fd.Coy. (less 5 Sec), nine 47 mm. ITALIAN A.Tk.guns.
(b) Sectors. Right 26 Aust Inf.Bde. and attached troop.
Left 20 Aust.Inf.Bde. and attached troop.

Inter Bde. Boundary:-

All incl. 20 Aust. Inf. Bde. - line of Wadi from BUZUETINA 3508-3706 - hill 523,4004 - hill 360,3103

(c) 5 Sec under command CRE 9 Aust Div.

INTENTION.

3. 2/7 Pd. Coy.R.A.E. (less 5 Sec) will render engineer assistance to 20 Aust.Inf.Bde. who will deny enemy access to escarpment from line of WADI BU ZUETINA (3508) - Wadi GATTARA.

METHOD.

4. 6 Sec. (a) Mine 600 yards astride RD and RLYWY fwd of ANTI TANK DITCH 199722. Open spacing.

(b) Prepare Road for demolition at 3 pts west of ER REGIMA. Enemy UXB to be used if available.

5. 4 Sec. (a) Collect 1000 Mk IV Anti Tank mines from F.A.D. at MAGRUM.

(b) Prepare Railway for demolition at 3 pts west of ER REGIMA. Enemy UXB to be used if available.

(c) Provision of water point at B.MARIAM Rly. Stn. Gravity storage and gravity feed from storage to draw off point.

6. 5 Sec. (a) Services at EL ABIAR and other centres.

(b) Open stores dump at B. MARIAM.

(c) Any other work detailed by CRE 9 Aust Div.

ADMINISTRATION.

7. SUP, AMN, POL. from D.I.D. and R.A.S.C. BENGASI. Issues to secs. will be made in accordance with previous instructions. When operationally necessary SUP, AMN, POL. will be drawn from TECNIS (9318).

8. Medical (a) R.M.O. H.Q. R.A.E. 9 Aust Div. will periodically visit secs.

(b) 8 Pd. Amb. in vicinity of EL ABIAR.

(c) All casualties to be evacuated to 4 AGH, BARCE.

9. TPT. (a) MT will be dispersed with at least 200 yds interval between vehicles and will be dug in and camouflaged.

10. Recovery. (a) Tpt for 1st line repair to 58 LAD

(b) Tpt for other than 1st line repairs to No. 2 Rec. Sec. BENGASI.

11. No lights will be used between hours of darkness.

INTERCOMM.

12. 2/7 Pd. Coy. R.A.E. H.Q. in immediate vicinity of H.Q. 20 Aust. Inf. Bde. at ER REGIMA.

13. Will close down at present location at 1000 hours on 28 Mar and reopen at 300790 at 1200 hrs. on 28 Mar.

14. H.Q. 9 Div. Engrs. in immediate vicinity of H.Q. 9 Div. 1 mile NS of EL ABIAR.

DISTRIBUTION.

Copy No. 1 4 Sec. Time of signature 1130 hrs.

2 5 Sec. Method of issue *Runner*

3 6 Sec.

4 20 Aust. Inf. Bde.

5 CRE 9 Aust Div.

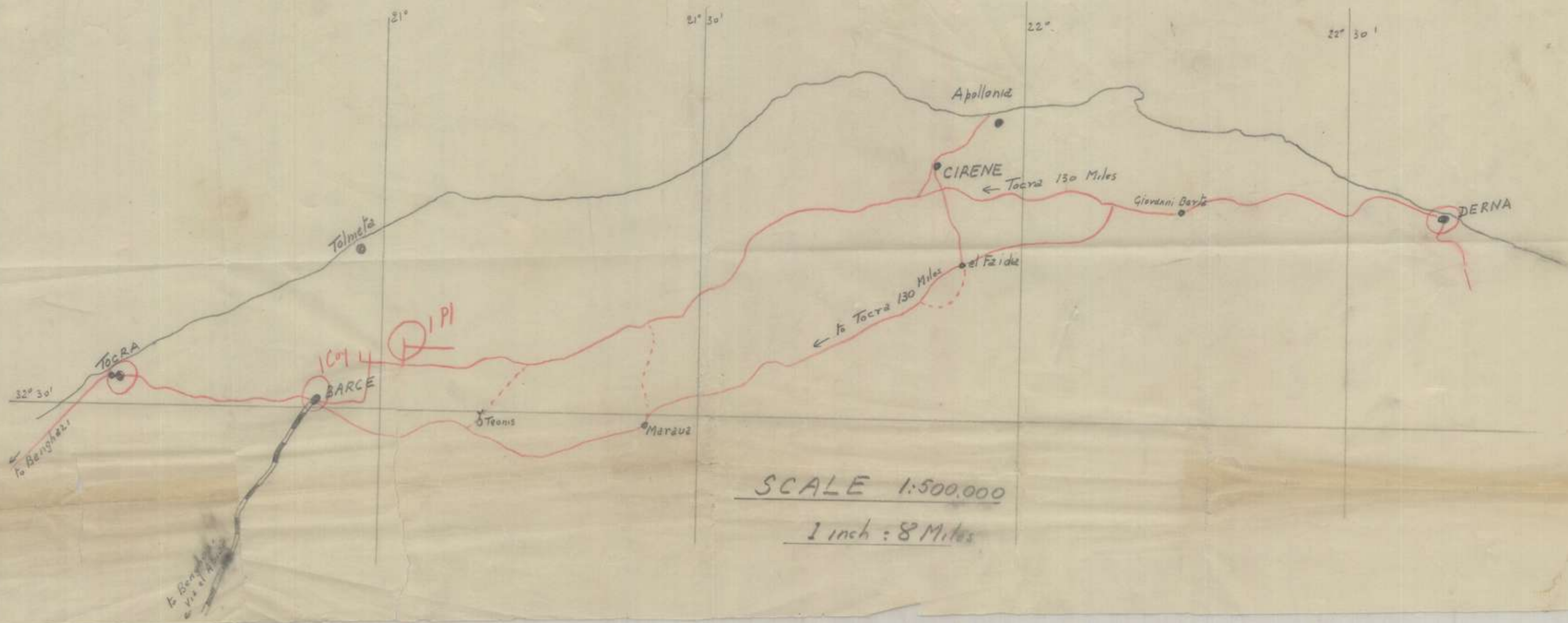
6 File

7-8 War Diary

[Signature] Capt.,
O.C., 2/7 Pd. Coy., R.A.E.

20 INF BDE MOVE DERNA-TOCRA

SECRET



SECRET

TOBRUCH - DERNA

20 INF BDE MOVE

← CIRENE

DERNA

32° 30'

32° 30'

← MECHILLI

BOMBA

GULF OF BOMBA

GAZALA

TOBRUCH

← (DERNA MILES)

ACROMA

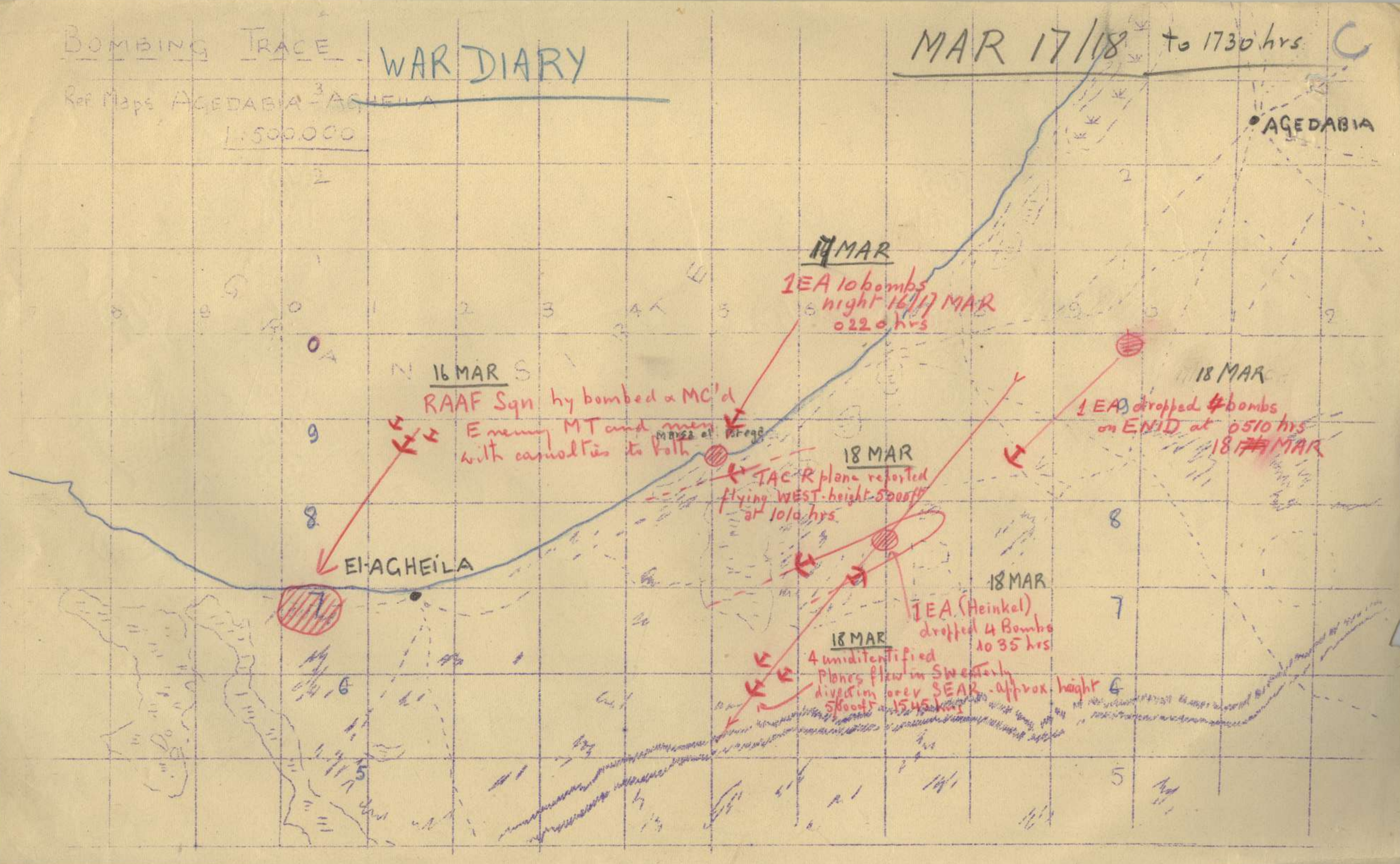
SCALE 1/500,000

ADNANAHUM

BOMBING TRACE
WAR DIARY

MAR 17/18 to 1730 hrs

Ref Maps AGEDABIA-AGHEILA
1:500,000



17 MAR
1 EA 10 bombs
night 16/17 MAR
0220 hrs

16 MAR
RAAF Sqn by bombed a MC'd
Enemy MT and men
with casualties to both

18 MAR
TAC R plane reported
flying WEST height 5000ft
at 1010 hrs

18 MAR
1 EA dropped 4 bombs
on ENID at 0510 hrs
~~18 MAR~~

18 MAR
1 EA (Heinkel)
dropped 4 Bombs
1035 hrs

18 MAR
4 unidentified
Planes flew in SW early
direction over SEAR approx height 6
5000ft 1545 hrs

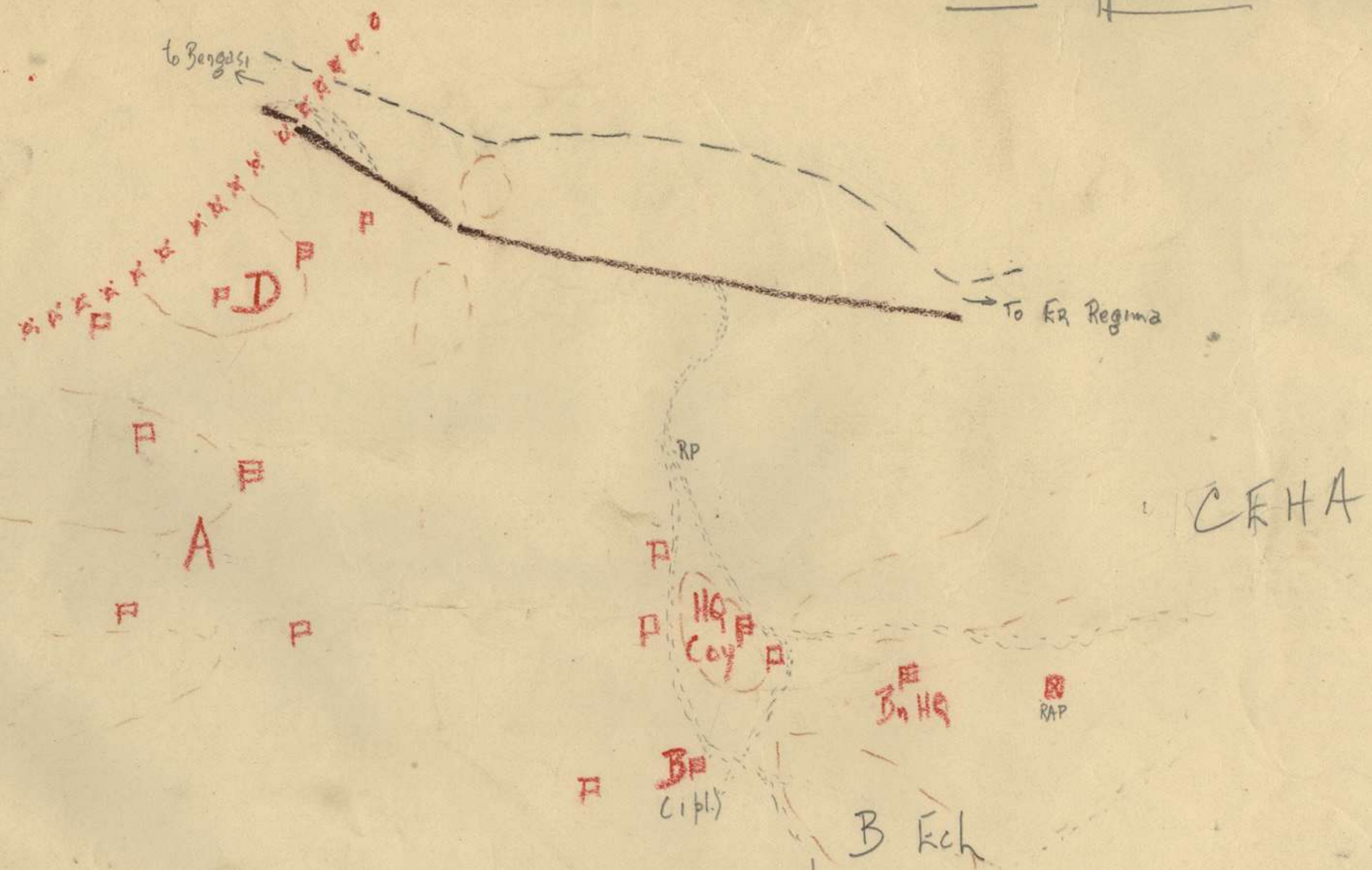
EL-AGHEILA

AGEDABIA

NOWA. - Sketch Map (Rough) of Camp Dispositions at ER Regina

C

Scale. Approx 1:8,000



24 Mar 40.

Scale Approx 1:8,000 or 1 in. = 200 metres.

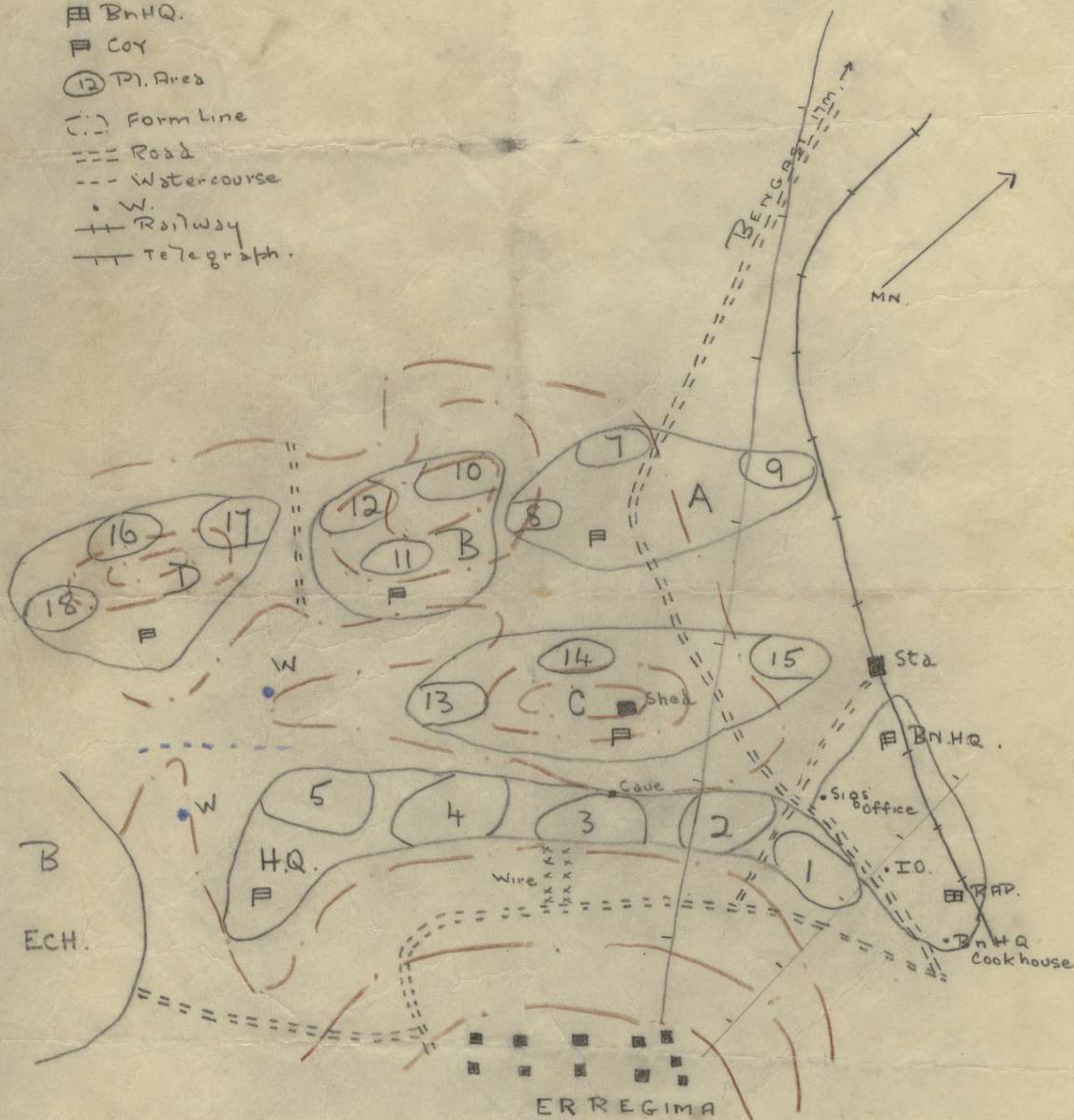
I See.
NOWA.

C

SKETCH OF 2/15 BN AREA
Scale approx 1/2 inch = 100 Yds.

LEGEND.

- ▣ BnHQ.
- ▣ COY
- ⑫ Pl. Area
- (---) Form Line
- === Road
- Watercourse
- W.
- ++ Railway
- Telegraph.



Pte Bowman
I Sec 24 Mar 41

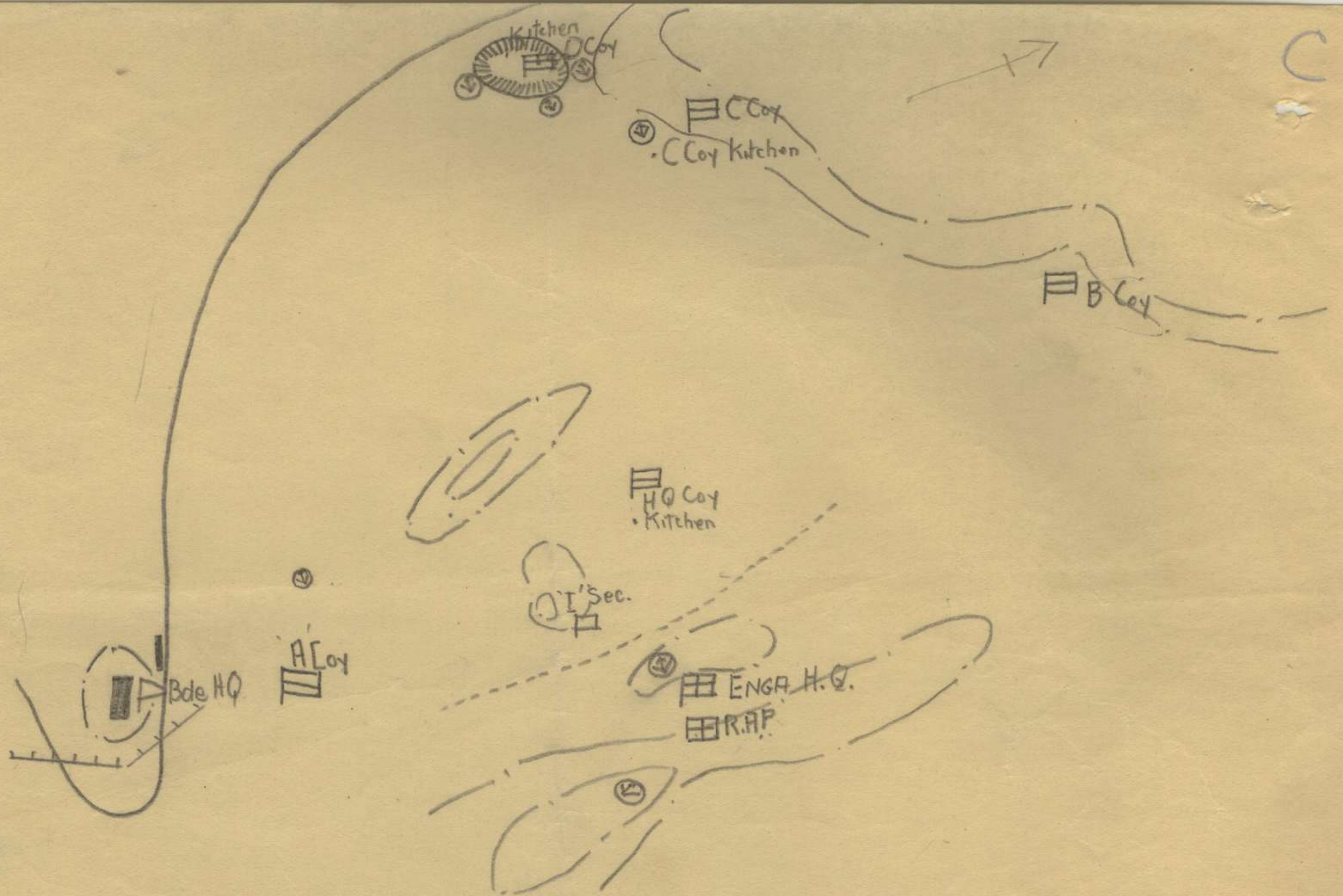
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Date
Address

Australian Military Forces—Northern Command

LETTERHOLES

RF 1. 15840



SCALE 4" = 1 Mile

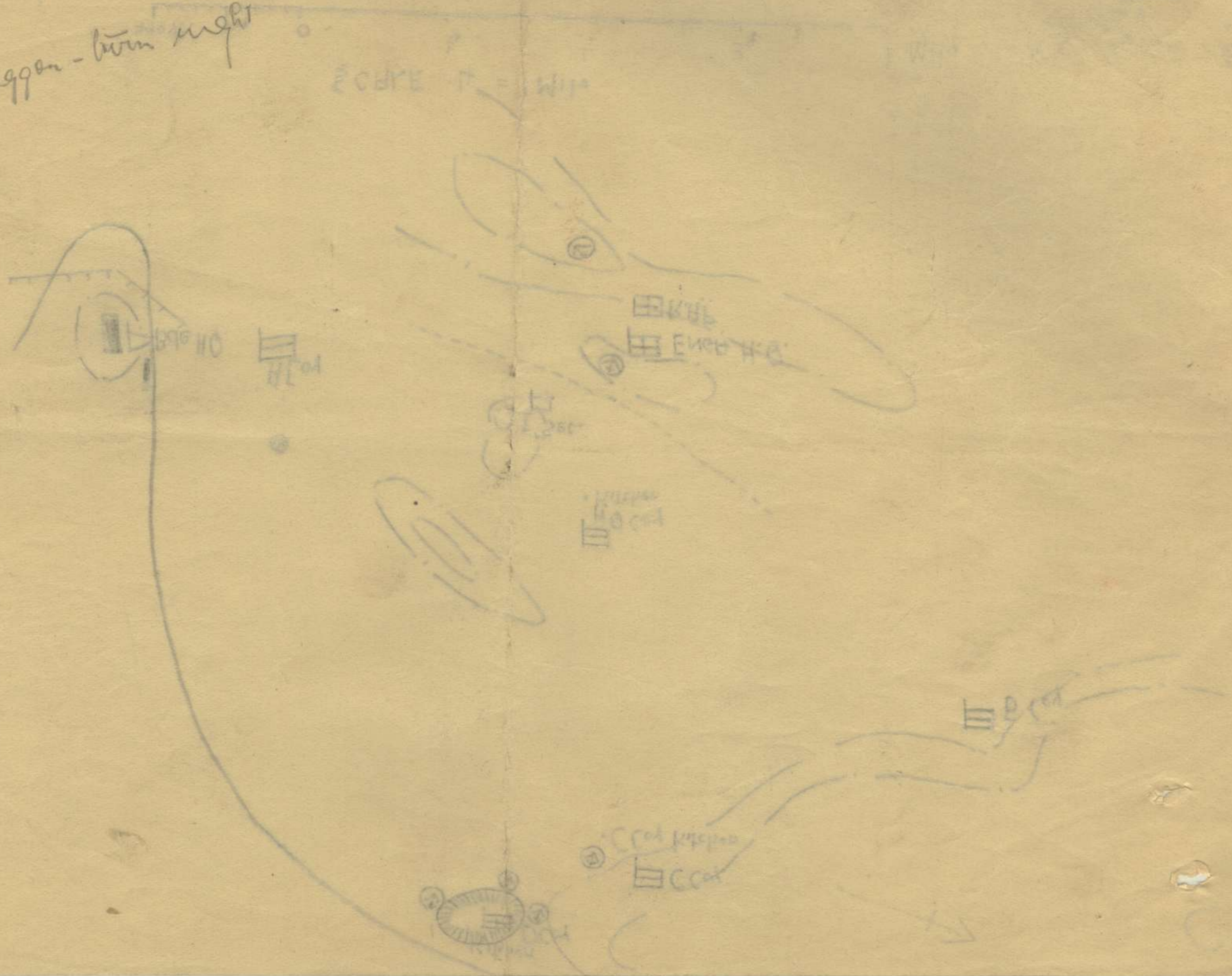


Rough Compass & Eye Sketch
in Yhrs by KNAA I Sec.
Weather Fine Vis. Good

A. D. Snydale Pte
9th Coy
24 Mar 41

B Echelon
2 1/2 miles

Haban Waggon - turn right



Australian Military Forces—Northern Command

C

Please quote this Number when replying.



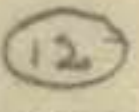


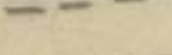

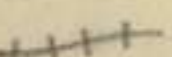

Three empty rectangular boxes for address and date information.

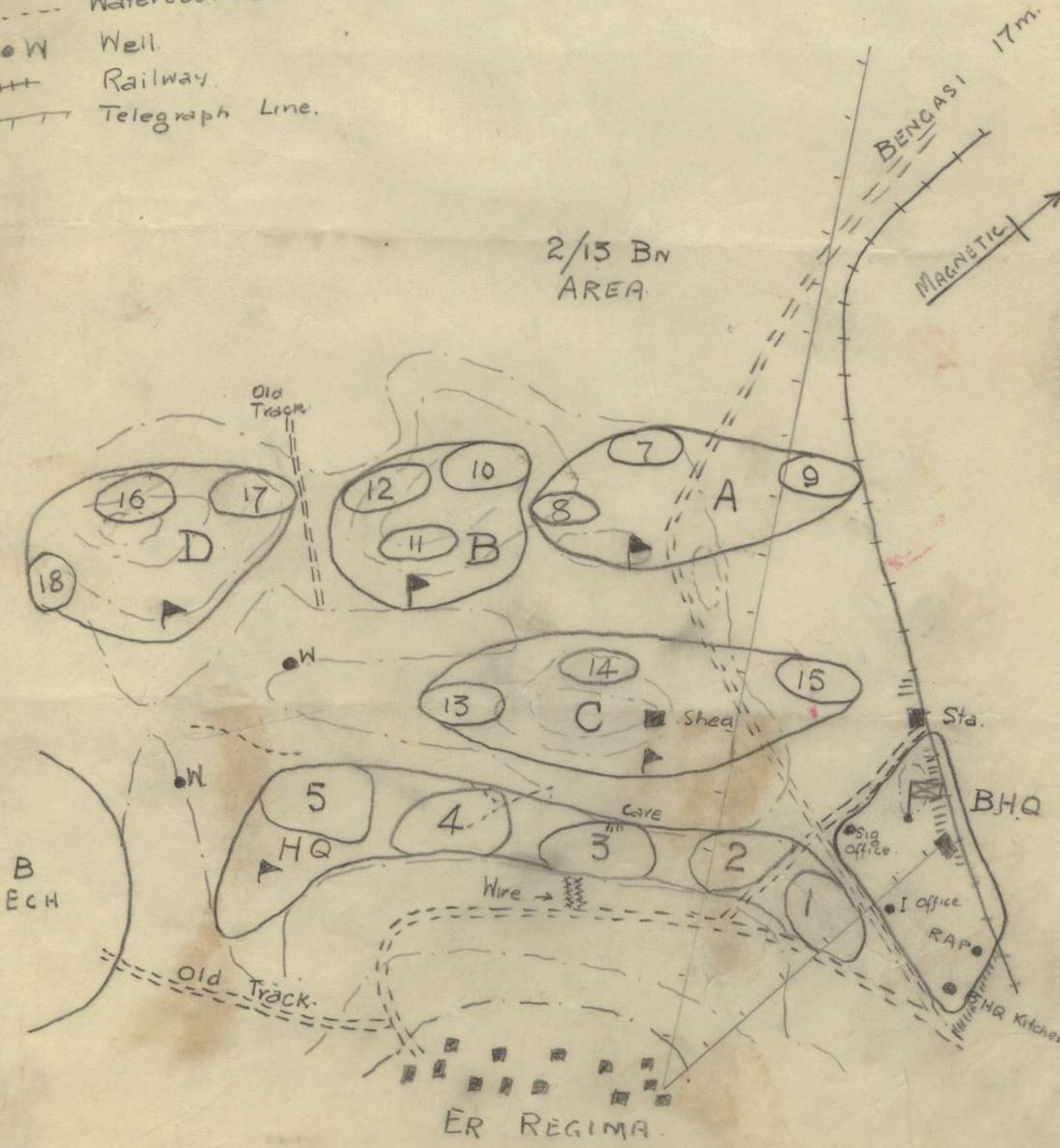
Address
Date

SKETCH of 2/15 Bn AREA.

Scale Approx 1/2 inch = 100 Yds

LEGEND

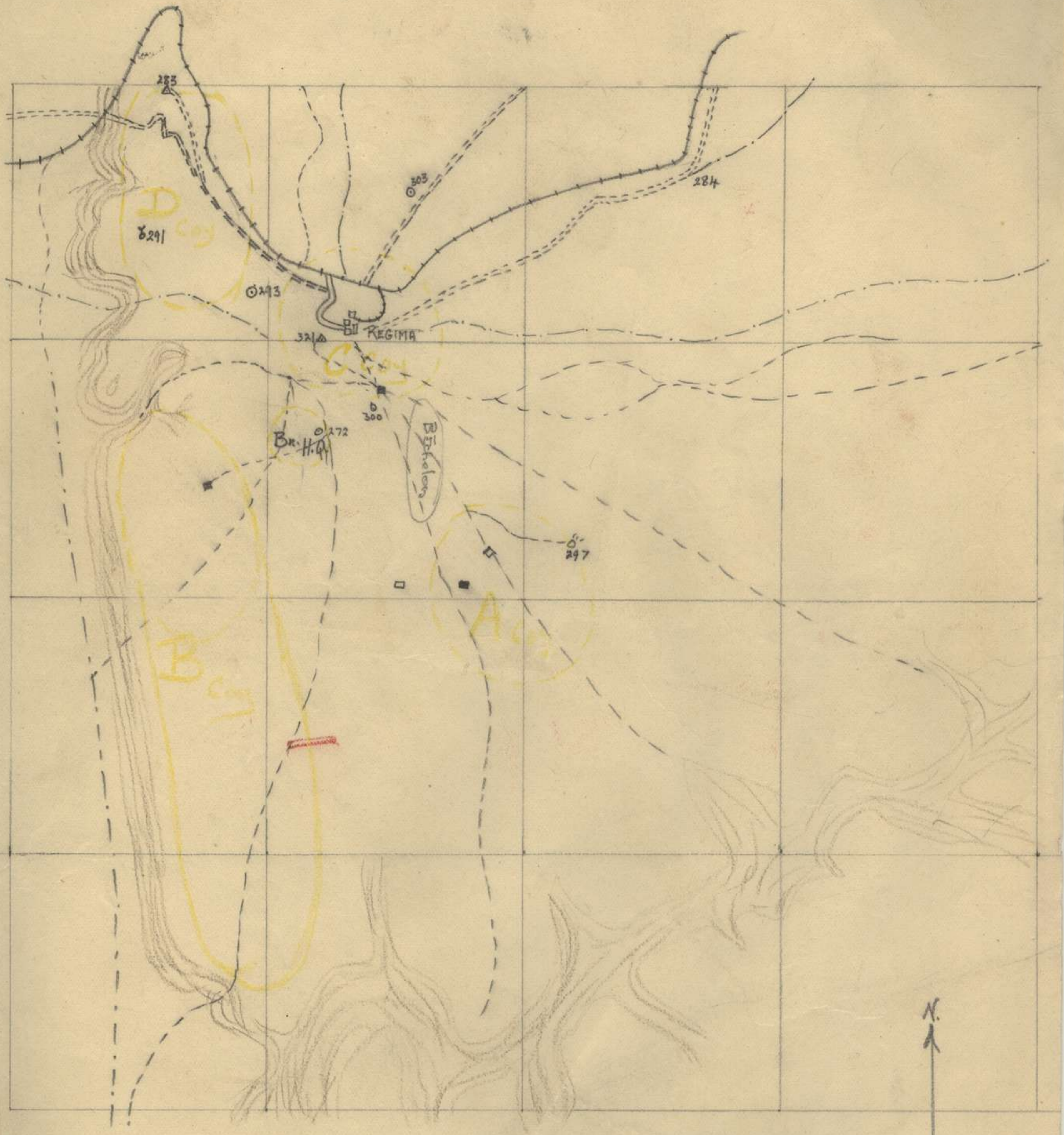
-  Bn H.Q.
-  Coy H.Q.
-  Pl Area
-  Form Lines
-  ROAD
-  Watercourse.
-  Well.
-  Railway.
-  Telegraph Line.



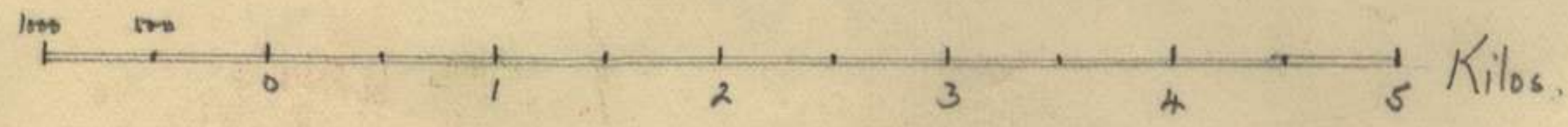
ENLARGEMENT BENGASI

1:50,000 C

REGIMA AREA



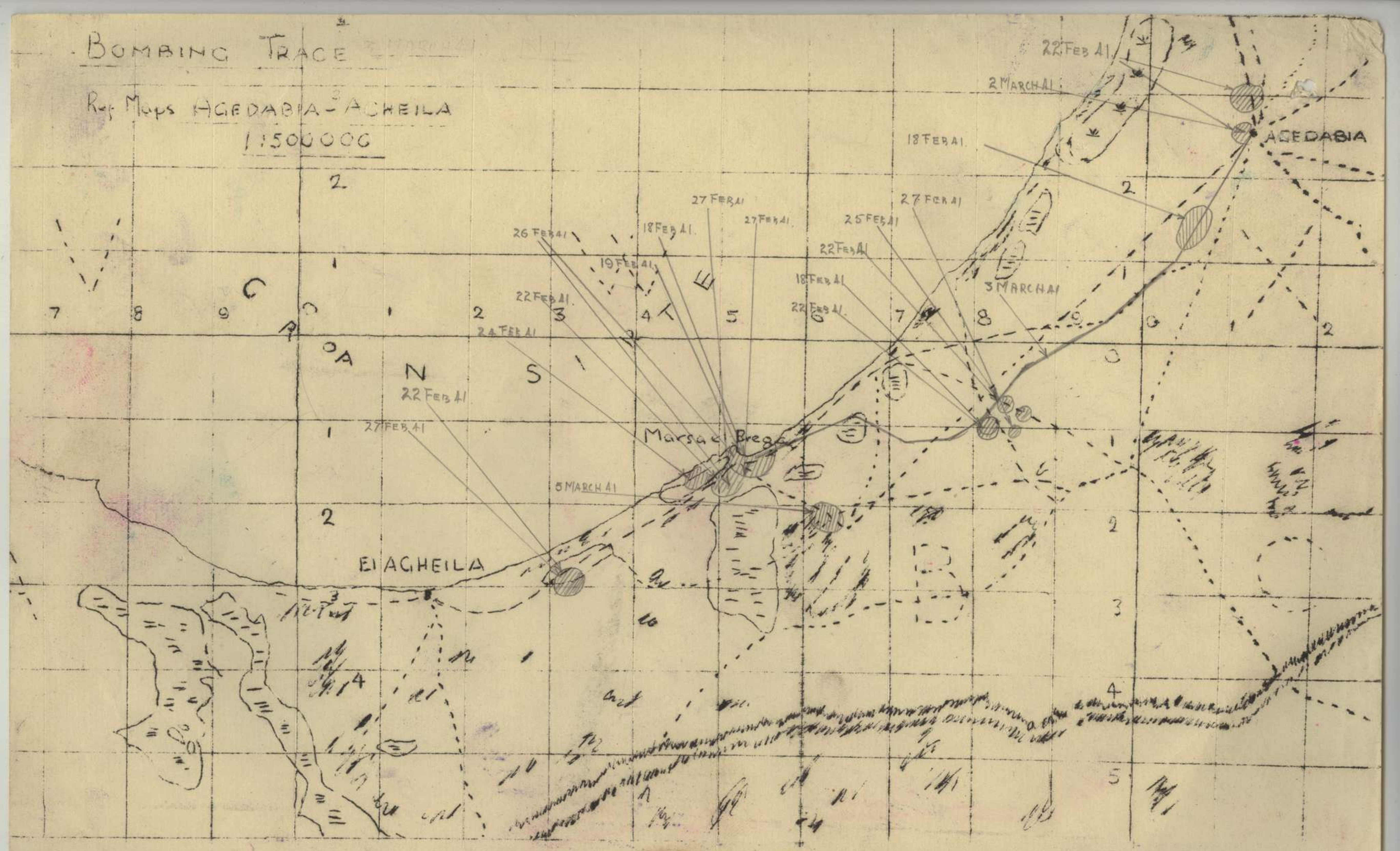
Scale 1 : 50,000.



L.C. SNOOK
d. Co., 2/13⁵ 25.3-'41

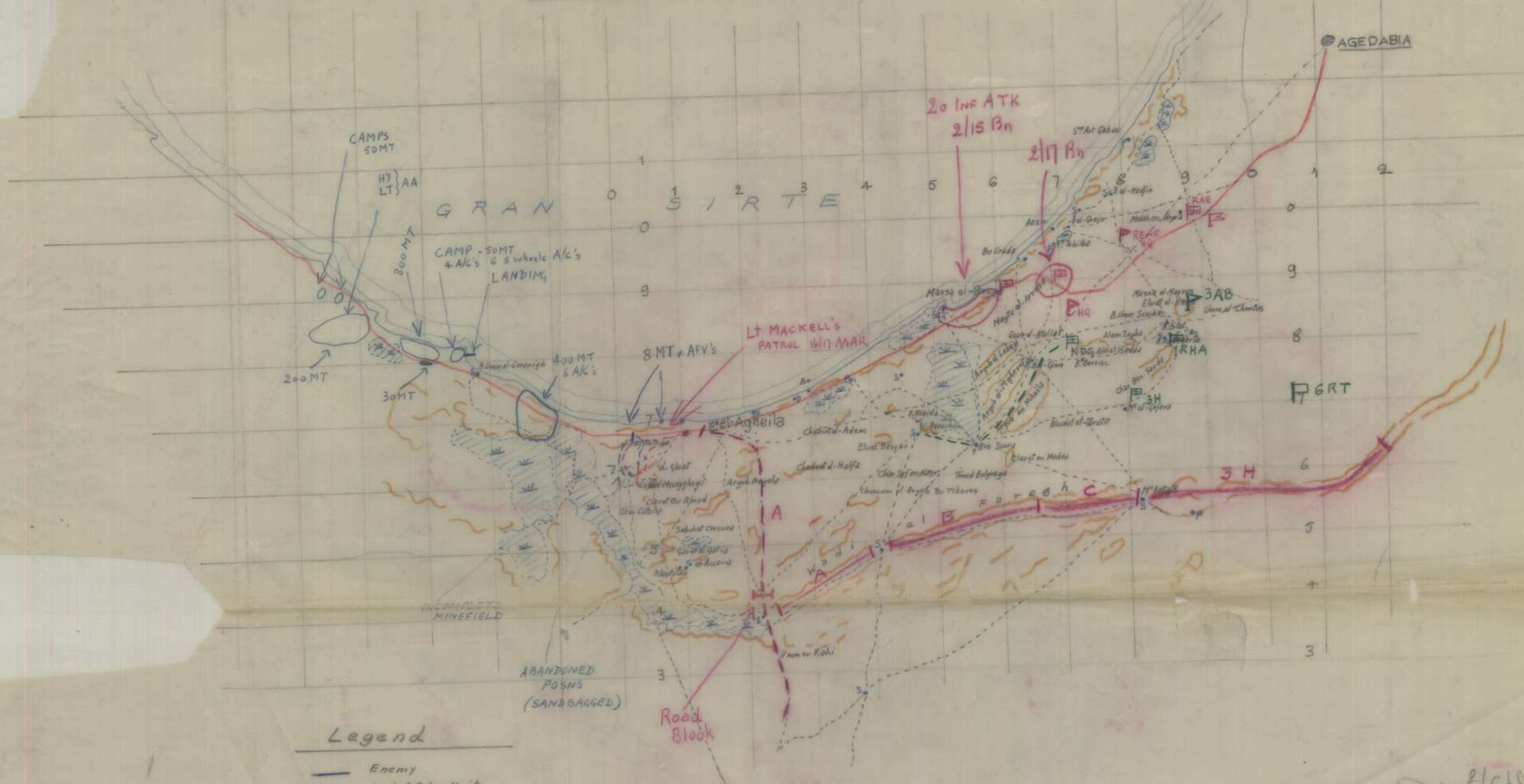
BOMBING TRACE

Ref Maps AGEDABIA-ACHEILA
1:500000



EL-AGHEILA Front

Correct to 22 MAR 41



Legend

- Enemy
- 20 Inf Bde Units
- British Units

SCALE 1:500,000

10 0 10 20 30 40 Kms

Delivered. P101
 I. Sec
 24 MAR 41

BDE COMD. MAP

WAR DIARY

GRAN

SIRTE



Legend

- Main Road
- - - Tracks
- ~ Marshes
- Well
- ⊙ Sinkhole
- ⊙ Sinkhole

SCALE 1:250,000



TRACE SHOWING DISPOSITIONS AND NATURE OF TRACKS AND WAR DIARY
COUNTRY RECENTLY PATROLLED



Kilometers 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 Kilometers
Scale - 1:1250,000

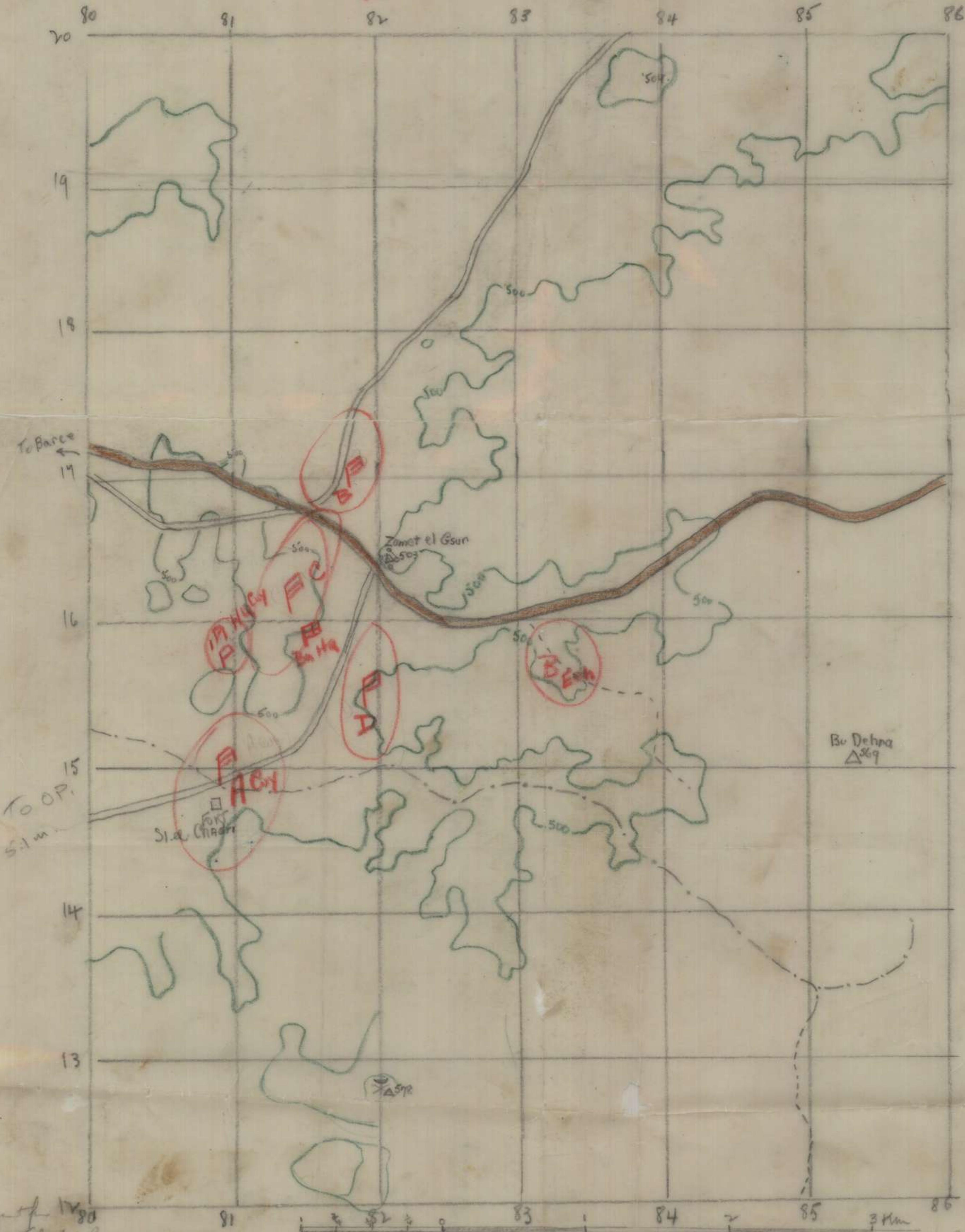
LEGEND

- Main rd. as traversed by Scar I. Sec.
- - - Main rd. not yet checked
- - - Checked Tracks
- Unchecked tracks
- /// Portions of marsh still under water
- ☼ Good going for M.T.
- ☼ Fair going
- //// Bad going

JAI
Scar I Section
6 March 41

RF 1:25,000

ENGA DISPOSITIONS



To Barce

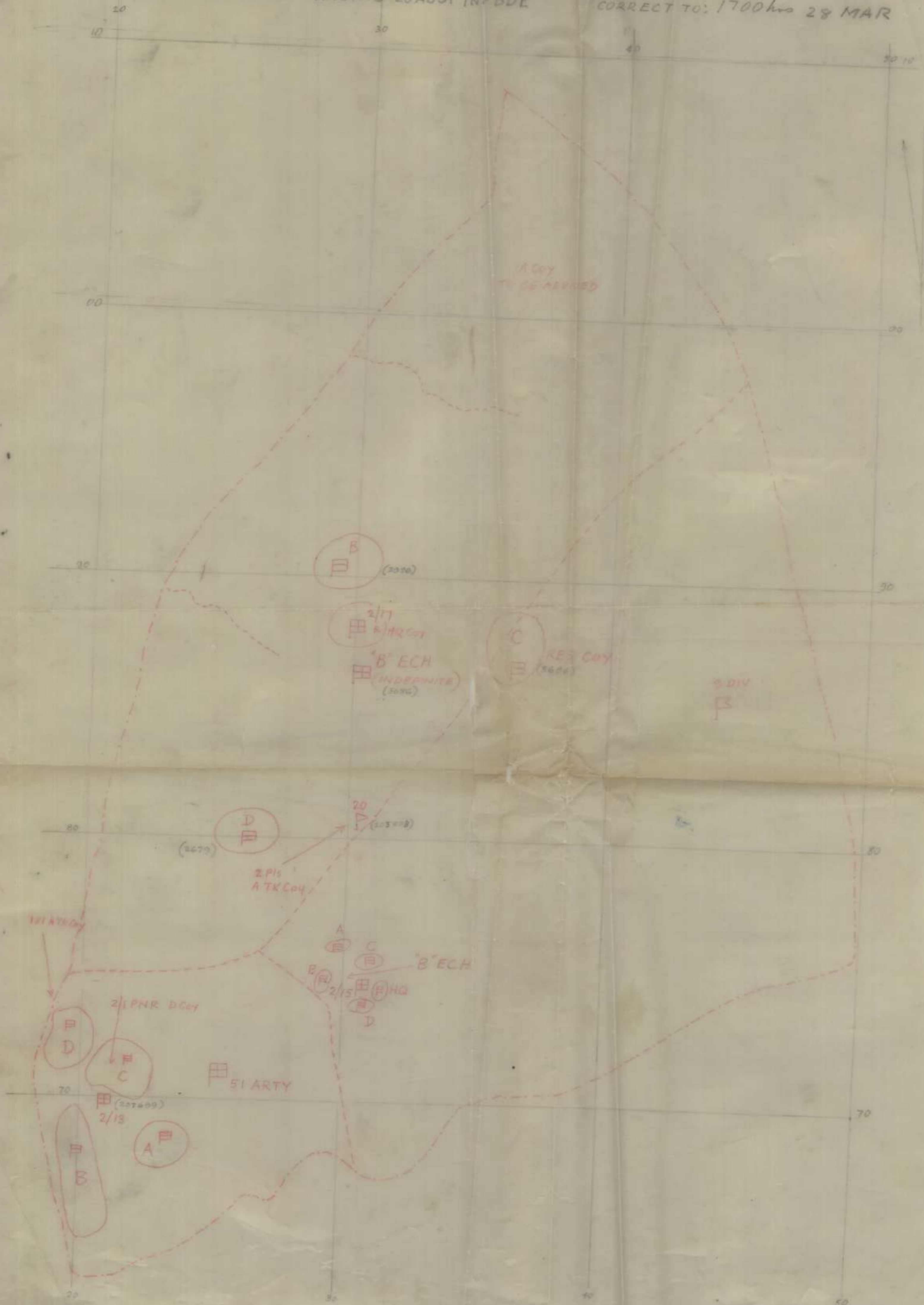
To OP.
5.1 m

Enlarge of 1:25,000
Sheets Tolobata-Barce a
Tecnio

SECRET

SITUATION TRACING 20AUST INF BDE

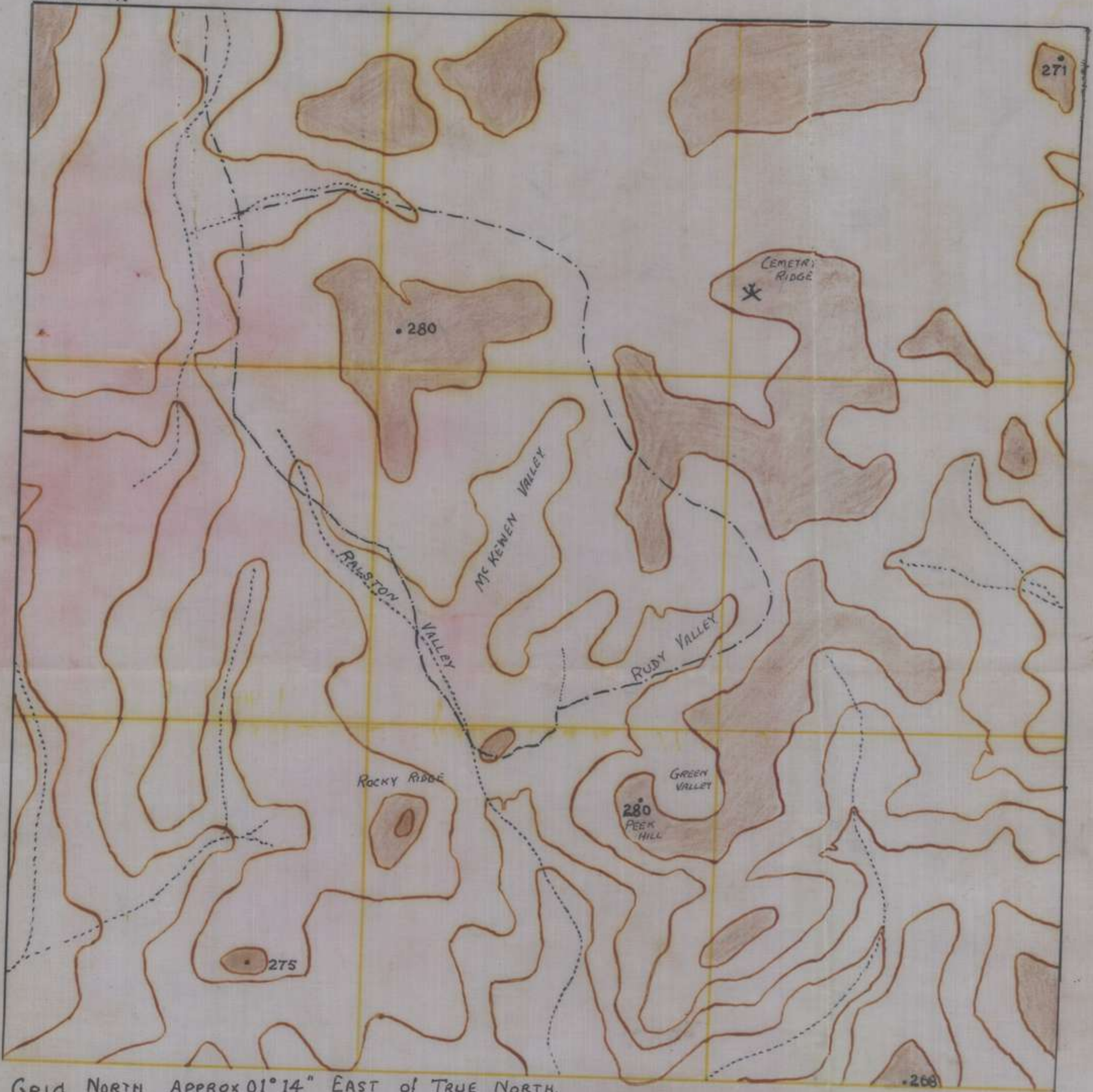
CORRECT TO: 1700 hrs 28 MAR



TRACED ON CYRENAICA 1:100000 SHEETS Nos 5, 6, 12, 13

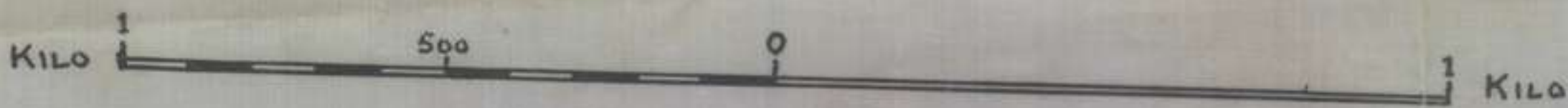
CEHA AREA

ENLARGED x8
 Ref BENGASI
 1:100,000
 30 Mar '41



GRID NORTH APPROX 01°14" EAST OF TRUE NORTH.

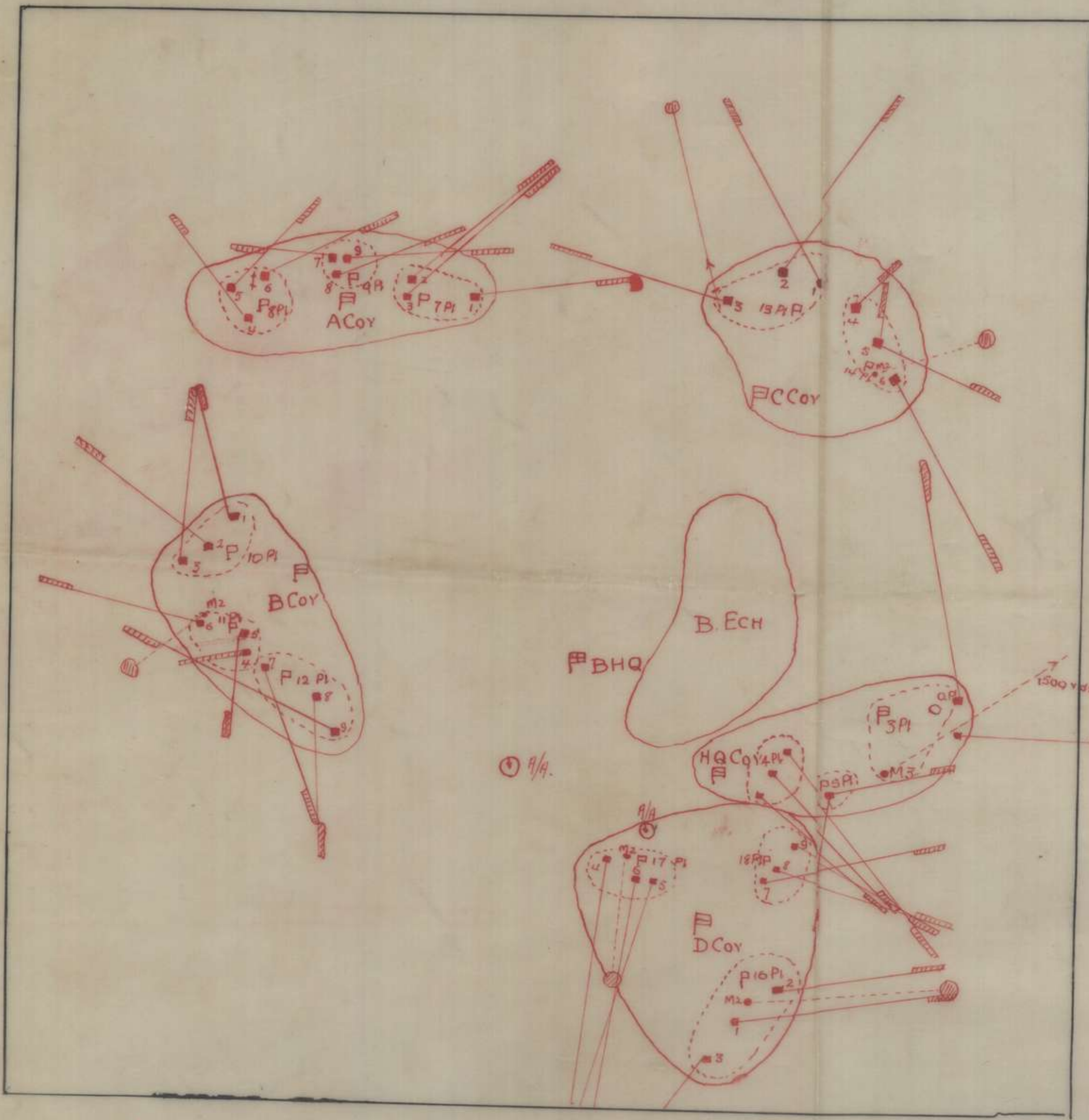
SCALE 1:12,500 [or 1" = 347 yds (approx)]



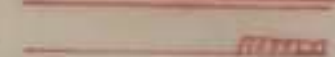


VERTICAL INTERVAL : 10 metres.

LEGEND.	
— · — · —	Road.
·280	Spot Height
.....	Watercourse (Non-Perennial).
*	Cemetery (Jewish).

W. H. ...
 Supt.



LEGEND

-  L.M.G. Fixed Line.
-  Mortar Task
-  A/Tx Rifle.

NOTES ON CONFERENCE B.T.E. 26 FEB 41

CONFERENCE

1. Ordered by 1 AUST CORPS and attended by -

B.G.S.
L.O. (Irving)
D.O.S.
D.D.S.&.T.
C.S.O.
G.l. 7 Aust Div
G.l. 9 Aust Div
D.A.Q.M.G. AIF Base Area
Major PARKER (Rep. A.D.O.S. (M.T.))

INFORMATION.

2. Dispositions 6 Aust Div. 26 Feb 41.

HQ - Between BARCHE and TOKRA
Under orders to be at MERSA MATRUH by 16 Mar.41.

17 AUST INF BDE. - SOUTH of BENGAZI

19 AUST INF BDE. - GAZALA

16 AUST INF BDE. - TOBRUK.

3. HQ 1 AUST CORPS

Opens IKINGI MARYUT 1 Mar 41

4. 18 AUST INF BDE. and 18 INDEPENDENT BDE COY A.A.S.C.

IKINGI MARYUT

INTENTION.

5. Following regrouping of Formations and units 7 and 9 Aust Divs effective forthwith as a temporary expedient only.

7 AUST DIV - 18, 21, 25 Aust Inf Bdes

9 AUST DIV - 20, 24, 26 Aust Inf Bdes.

2/7, 2/8, 2/12 Fd Regts

3 A.Tk Regt.

Signal Sections with 20 and 26 Aust Inf Bdes

LADS with 20 and 26 Aust Inf Bdes.

18 Ind.Coy AASC

6. 9 AUST DIV will relieve 6 Aust Div as follows :-

METHOD.

7. OUTLINE MOVEMENT PLAN.

(a) Arrive MERSA MATRUK on dates shown by ROAD and RAIL under arrangements M.C. MIDEAST and Standing Orders for movement ex PALESTINE.

20 Aust Inf Bde - 1 Mar - Destination BENGAZI Area
26 Aust Inf Bde - 15 Mar -)
24 Aust Inf Bde - 23 Mar -) TOBRUK

- (b) Movement MERSA - MATRUH to TOBRUK
Special arrangements to be made by MIDEAST.
- (c) Movement TOBRUK - BENGAZI area (in case 20 Aust Inf Bde only) under arrangements CYPANAICA COMMAND.

8. MOVE of HQ 9 AUST DIV and arrangements AIF Command PALESTINE

Adv HQ 9 Aust Div opens BARCHE area 12 Mar.
Det No.1. Coy 9 Aust Div Sigs accompanies.
All Formations and Units 9 Aust Div in PALESTINE under Comd 7 Aust Div on departure Comd 9 Aust Div.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

9 Fostering arrangements - 20 Aust Inf Bde MERSA MATRUH

As rail parties arrive before road parties, 18 Aust Inf Bde will foster 20 Aust Inf Bde at MERSA MATRUH.
Strength foster parties as under :-
PERSONNEL - 20 all ranks per Bn
TRANSPORT - 2/30 cwt lorries per Bn
 2/15 cwt vans per Bn

Cooking gear to accompany 20 Aust Inf Bde rail parties

10. ACCOMMODATION STORES.

Units will move with FIELD SERVICE scales of tentage only

11. SURPLUS KIT.

Surplus baggage and kits will be delivered to AIF KIT STORE ALEXANDRIA under arrangements HQ AIF Base Area in consultation HQ 9 Aust Div. 9 Aust Div will supply loading parties and guards as required.

12. SUPPLIES.

18 Aust Independent Coy AASC is being issued with transport on scale of one echelon of DIV SUP COLN and will function as such in forward area
26 and 24 Aust Inf Bdes will draw from TOBRUK SUPPLY DEPOT using 1st Line transport.

13. TRANSPORT.

- (a) AASC 9 Aust Div will raise personnel to form a RESERVE MT COY using captured ITALIAN DIESEL MOTORED vehicles to be issued at TOBRUK. Details later
- (b) Immediate issues authorised as follows :-
 - 20 Aust Inf Bde)
 - and)
 - HQ 9 Aust Div) WAR ESTABLISHMENTS.

 - 24 Aust Inf Bde)
 - 26 Aust Inf Bde) EACH a Bde Pool equivalent to
 WAR ESTABLISHMENT an Infantry Bn

14 BREN CARRIERS.

Transport difficulties preclude Carriers on issue to 20 Aust Inf Bde being taken forward now. These vehicles are to be handed over to 26 Aust Inf Bde and 24 Aust Inf Bde Arrangements for transport forward will be made in moves of these Formations.

15. 1st REINFORCEMENTS.

Units will move less 1st Reinforcements who will be passed to AIF Reinforcements Depot immediately prior to departure

16 MEDICAL.

No Field Ambulance required in move of 20 Aust Inf Bde. All Field Ambulances - 2/3, 2/8, 2/11 to be completed with personnel and transport as soon as possible, and 'stand by' to move with remainder 9 Aust Div.

17. ORDNANCE.

Existing Adv. Aust Ord Dpts in LIBYA remain on present basis except scale of MT spares now authorised for 1 Aust Ord Fd Pk will be reduced One Army Field Workshop remains forward area - possibly 2/1

18 CONVOY W.S.5

All troops on disembarkation will proceed to PALESTINE in first instance.

INTER-COMMUNICATION.

19. Reported by CSO that Signal situation in forward area can be dealt with by Signal Sections of Inf Bdes and a small det. from No. 1 Coy.

20. Signals 9 Aust Div. on completion of mobilization in PALESTINE will be demanded early to complete training in LIBYA.

DISTRIBUTION- By hand of G2 to :-

B. C. Lloyd
Col.
GS 9 Aust Div.

List 'A' plus 20 Inf Bde.
26 Inf Bde.
HQ 1 Aust Corps
HQ AIF Base Area
HQ 7 Aust Div

Recd. 1400 hrs. 29. 2. 44.

SECRET.

COPY NO. *P10*

2 MAR 41.

20 AUST INF BDE.

OPERATION ORDER NO. 1.

ref map Sheet 40 TOBRUCH 1/50000

INFORMATION.

1. As given verbally.

INTENTION.

2. 20 Aust Inf Bde will move to TOBRUCH 415437.

METHOD.

3. Movement.

Personnel will be transported by composite carrying coy. Vehicles will report to unit lines during night 2/3 Mar 41. Embussing points will be arranged by units.

4. Stages.

First stage on 3 Mar 41 MERSA MATRUH - BUQ BUQ 56337 1.
Second stage on 4 Mar 41 BUQ BUQ - TOBRUCH 415437.

5. Route.

COAST RD - MATRUH - SIDI BARRANI 598379 - TOBRUCH.

6. Order of March.

Bde HQ
2/13 Bn
2/15 Bn
2/17 Bn

7. Starting Point.

CROSS RDS WEST OF DID.

8. Starting Times.

Bde HQ 0700 hrs
2/13 Bn 0730 "
2/15 Bn 0815 "
2/17 Bn 0900 "

9. Adv Pty.

1 offr & 4 NCOs from Bde HQ and from each Bn will report to Bde HQ at 0500 hrs. Composite carrying coy will supply 1 - 30 cwt vehicle to report to 2/17 Bn by 0430 hrs 3 Mar 41 for transport of adv pty.

10. Blocks.

1. Bde HQ - OC - Bde TO
2. 2/13 Bn - OC - CO 2/13 Bn
3. 2/15 Bn - OC - CO 2/15 Bn
4. 2/17 Bn - OC - CO 2/17 Bn

11. Bivouacs. for night 3/4 Mar 41 at BUQ BUQ.

12. Guides. Adv pty will meet units at BUQ BUQ turn off.

13. VTM - 15.

14. MMH - 12. (to be maintained in accordance with state of road. Max speed 30 MMH).

15. AA Defence.

- (a) AA Defence will be active.
- (b) AA LMG will be mounted on vehicles.
- (c) AA Sentries will be posted on each vehicle.
- (d) Vehicles will be marked ("L" & "R") throughout blocks & will move off rd left & right respectively on approach of hostile aircraft.
- (e) Vehicles with AA LMGs mtd will remain on the rd.
- (f) Personnel (except on AA LMGs vehicles i.e. personnel manning the LMGs) will abandon vehicles & take cover $\frac{1}{3}$.

16. Halts.

- (a) Halt for night 3/4 Mar 41 at BUQ BUQ
- (b) During move - 10 mins after 1 hr. 5 mins to even hr.
- (c) Lunch 1155 hrs to 1220 hrs.

ADMINISTRATION.

17. Rations.

- (a) Units will draw rations for 3 Mar 41 from DID on 2 Mar 41.
- (b) AASC will supply rations for 4/5/6/7 Mar 41 during the move.

18. Water.

Units will fill all available containers from HLI WP on 2 Mar 41.

19. Petrol.

Petrol will be supplied direct to units & composite carrying coy by Amn Sub Pk.

20. Staff for Inf trng bn.

Will remain in MERSA MATRUH

TRANSIT CAMP.

Maj. Williams 2/17 Bn - I/C.

Personnel will move to AMIRYAH STAGING CAMP by train & thence to Aust Gen Base Depot GAZA.

INTERCOMMUNICATION.

21. Bde HQ close down at MATRUH at 0630 hrs 3 Mar 41 & reopen at BUQ BUQ on arrival. BM will travel at head of convoy.

22. ACK.

Time of signature.....²¹⁴⁷.....

Method of issue DALS.

J. Coffey
Maj.
BM 20 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION.

COPY NO.

2/13 Bn	1
2/15 Bn	2
2/17 Bn	3
20 Aust A Tk Coy	4
Corps Amn Sub Pl	5
Composite Carrying Coy	6
J Sec Sigs	7
9 Aust Div	8
B sig	9
BM	10
SC	11
TO	12
Bde Sup O	13
War Diary	14/15
File	16

COPY

To: - SEE BELOW

WAR DIARY

From: MOVEMENTS MIDEAST

27/2

QM3/44640

IMMEDIATE

TO CYRENAICA COMMAND PASS COPY TO 6 AUST DIV AUSFORCE MILPAL PASS
COPY TO 9 AUST DIV AUSBASE STALEX FOR No 1 L of C DISTRICT.
MATRUH SUB AREA BARDIA SUB AREA TOBRUK SUB AREA MVTS TOBRUK
MVTS CYRENAICA COMMAND B.T.E.

RELIEF 6 AUST DIV BY 9 AUST DIV(.)

FIRST(.) ROAD TRANSPORT FOR MOVE MERSA MATRUH TO TOBRUK OR GAZALA
WILL BE ARRANGED BY AUSFORCE(.) THIS TRANSPORT WILL NOT REPEAT NOT
PROCEED WEST OF GAZALA(.) ROAD TRANSPORT FOR MOVE TOBRUK BENGHAZA
WILL BE ARRANGED BY CYRENAICA COMMAND(.) ROAD PARTIES 9 AUST DIV
WILL JOIN THEIR BDE GROUPS MERSA MATRUH FOR ONWARD JOURNEY(.)

SECOND(.) TIME TABLE FOR RELIEF(.)

20 AUST BDE GROUP(.) MERSA MATRUH ARRIVE 1st REPEAT 1st MARCH
DEPART 3rd REPEAT 3rd MARCH(.) BUQBUQ HALT 3rd REPEAT 3rd MARCH(.)
TOBRUK ARRIVE 4th REPEAT 4th MARCH(.)

16 AUST BDE GROUP(.) TOBRUK DEPART 7th REPEAT 7th MARCH(.)

BUQBUQ HALT 7th REPEAT 7th MARCH(.) MERSA MATRUH ARRIVE 8th REPEAT
8th MARCH(.) RETURNING TRANSPORT AUSTRALIAN FORCE PROCEED GAZALA
WITH LOADING DETAILED BY MIDEAST(.)

19th AUST INF BDE(.) GAZALA DEPART 14th REPEAT 14th MARCH(.)

BARDIA HALT 14th REPEAT 14th MARCH(.) BUQBUQ HALT 15th REPEAT 15th
MARCH(.) MERSA MATRUH ARRIVE 16th REPEAT 16th MARCH(.)

26th AUST BDE GROUP(.) MERSA MATRUH ARRIVE 15th REPEAT 15th MARCH(.)
DEPART 17th REPEAT 17th MARCH(.) BUQBUQ HALT 17th REPEAT 17th MARCH
(.) TOBRUK ARRIVE 18th REPEAT 18th MARCH(.)

17th AUST BDE GROUP(.) TOBRUK DEPART 23rd REPEAT 23rd MARCH(.)

BUQBUQ HALT 23rd REPEAT 23rd MARCH(.) MERSA MATRUH ARRIVE 24th
REPEAT 24th MARCH(.)

24 AUST BDE GROUP(.) MERSA MATRUH ARRIVE 23rd REPEAT 23rd MARCH

DEPART 25th REPEAT 25th MARCH(.) BUQBUQ HALT 25th REPEAT 25th MARCH
(.) TOBRUK ARRIVE 26th REPEAT 26th MARCH(.)

THIRD(.) RATIONS(.)

UNITS 9 AUST DIV WILL ARRIVE MERSA MATRUH WITH 4 REPEAT 4 DAYS HARD
SCALE RATIONS FOR CONSUMPTION AFTER LEAVE MERSA MATRUH(.)

6 AUST DIV UNDER ARRANGEMENTS CYRENAICA COMMAND(.)

FOURTH(.) PETROL(.)

WILL BE DRAWN MERSA MATRUH, SOLLUM, TOBRUK, UNDER ARRANGEMENTS

B.T.E. AND CYRENAICA COMMAND(.)

ALL INFORMED.

20 Aust Inf Bde OO No. 2

INFORMATION

1. Vide CYRCOM Adm Order 1849/52 dated 4 Mar 41.

INTENTION

2. 20 Aust Inf Bde gp will move to a pt approx 20 kilos north of AGEDABIA.

METHOD

3. Movement
Personnel will be transported by 345 coy RASC.
4. Embussing
Units will liaise direct with OC 345 coy RASC for delivery of vehicles to unit lines and embussing pt.
5. Stages
1st stage 6 Mar TOBRUK-DERNA.
2nd stage 7 Mar DERNA-TOCRA AREA. *hila*
3rd stage 8 Mar TOCRA to approx 20 miles north of AGEDABIA.
6. Route
Rd TOBRUK-DERNA-rd junc LAMLUDA-thence Southern rd to BARCE-TOCRA-BEN CHAZI-CHEMINES-approx 20 kilos north of AGEDABIA.
7. SP for 1st stage - Sign post east of Bde HQ on rd TOBRUK-DERNA.
8. Starting times for 1st stage vide appx "A" att.
9. VTM 10. MTR 12 (to be maintained in accordance with state of road.- max speed 30 MPH).
10. Control
(a) Capt WALSH will police convoy down escarpment to DERNA
(b) Last vehicle in 2/17 Bn will bear a notice warning convoys not to cut in on 20 Inf Bde gp convoy.
11. Advance party
Advance party consisting of 1 Offr and 1 NCO from 20 Inf Bde HQ and each bn will report to Staff Capt at Bde HQ at 0500 hrs.
12. AA Defence
(a) Vide 20 Inf Bde OO No. 1 of 2 Mar 41.
(b) Especial attention will be made to correct spacing at all times of vehicles and dispersion when halted.
13. Bivouac
(a) 20 Inf Bde gp will bivouac ~~at~~ for night 6/7 Mar 41 at DERNA.
(b) Unit guides will meet units at rd junc 1 mile east of DERNA.
(c) Further arrangements will be notified on route.

ADMINISTRATION

14. Rations
(a) Rations for 6 Mar have been issued and will be carried by units
(b) Rations for 7-8-9 Mar 41 will be issued on route.
15. POL
(a) All vehicles will draw POL from suppt (pt already notified on 5 Mar 41)
(b) Further POL will be issued on route

/over

16 Water

- (a) All available receptacles will be filled in TOBRUK
- (b) Further arrangements will be notified.

INTERCOMH

17 Bde HQ will close down present location at 0700 hrs on 6 Mar 41 and reopen at DERNA on arrival.

18 DRLS

DRLS will be at 1800, 2000, 2200 hrs on 6 Mar and 0600 hrs on 7 Mar 41.

19 Synchronisation of watches - at 0600 hrs daily.

20 ACK

F. J. McCaffrey

Time of Signature _____

F. J. McCaffrey Maj
BM 20 Aust Inf Bde

Method of issue DRLS

DISTRIBUTION:

COPY No.

Circulation	1
Brig	2
War Diary	3 & 4
File	5

Appx "A" to OO No. 2

SECRET
Copy No.

Serial No	Date	Unit	No. of vehicles	From	Place To	SP	Time Past SP	Route	Dispersal Point	Remarks
1	6	Adv party	6	TOBRUK	DENNA	SP east of Bde HQ on E1 TOBRUK-DENNA	0500	E1 TOBRUK-DENNA	BIVOUAC AREA	SC, Sup Offr, unit guides Move at own MR
2	6	LAD 58	5				0503			
3	6	Brig 20 Inf Bde	2				Travelling independently			
4	6	Bde HQ	14				0700			
5	6	Sigs	9				0708			
6	6	A Tk Coy	3				0713			
7	6	2/13 Bn	91				0715			
8	6	2/15 Bn	92				0801			
9	6	2/17 Bn	70				0847			
10	6	Bde HQ	9				0922			Bde amn lorries

MESSAGE FORM.

D 16

Serial No. _____

No. of Groups
GR. _____

OFFICE DATE STAMP
SA
21/3/41

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN SAVAD-Z-**(P)**X01 ICW

OUT

TO SEAR ✓ IDEK RPTD GASO NOKO BLUR (ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

FROM GUMS

Originator's Number 0 25

Date 21

In Reply to Number -

SEAR	less	one	coy	at	BARCE
will	move	in	MT	to	area
BENINA	ER	REGIMA	night	22/23	mor
©	Jpk	arrangement	as	follows	©
72	3 ton	lorries	RV	20	kilos
NE	merge	BREGA	23 00	hrs	22
mor	for	move	of	food	units

This message may be sent **AS WRITTEN** by any means.

If liable to be intercepted or fall into Enemy Hands, this message must be sent **IN CIPHER**.

Originator's instructions
Degree of priority

Time of Origin.

SIGNED _____

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

System In.	Time In.	Reader.	Sender.	System Out.	Time Out.	Reader.	Sender.	System Out.	Time Out.	Reader.	Sender.

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

MESSAGE FORM.

16

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.	IN	No. of Groups GR.	Serial No. OFFICE DATE STAMP
	OUT		

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

FROM	Originator's Number	Date	In Reply to Number
------	---------------------	------	--------------------

①	28	3 tow	looses	RV	MAGRUM
same	time	and	date	for	move
NOWA	①	SEAR	will	provide	guides
①	Reps	SEAR	and	RASE	meet
RVS	1200	hrs	22	MAR	arrange
details	embussing	①	IDEK	will	cover
withdrawal	SEAR	Under	arrangements	to	be.

This message may be sent **AS WRITTEN** by any means.

If liable to be intercepted or fall into Enemy Hands, this message must be sent **IN CIPHER**.

Originator's instructions
Degree of priority

Time of Origin.

SIGNED

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

System In.	Time In.	Reader.	Sender.	System Out.	Time Out.	Reader.	Sender.	System Out.	Time Out.	Reader.	Sender.

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

MESSAGE FORM.

16

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.	IN	No. of Groups GR.	Serial No.
	OUT		

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

FROM			Originator's Number	Date	In Reply to Number
made	mutually	between	IDEK	and	SEAR
⊙	COMMO	will	PASS	from	SEAR
to	IDEK	at	1900	has	22
MAR	⊙	In	order	to	disguise
the	relief	IDEK	will	endeavour	to
make	the	enemy	think	the	area
is	still	occupied	by	the	same

This message may be sent **AS WRITTEN** by any means.

If liable to be intercepted or fall into Enemy Hands, this message must be sent **IN CIPHER**.

Originator's instructions
Degree of priority

Time of Origin.

SIGNED

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

System In.	Time In.	Reader.	Sender.	System Out.	Time Out.	Reader.	Sender.	System Out.	Time Out.	Reader.	Sender.

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

MESSAGE FORM.

Serial No. **16**

No. of Groups
GR.

OFFICE DATE STAMP

**CALL
AND
INSTRUC-
TIONS.**

IN

OUT

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

FROM

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

number	of	troops	⊙	339	stay
104	RHA	and	3	at / #	guns
16	inf	at/k	cay	will	come
under	comd	IDEK	at 1900	has	22
MAR	⊙	3	before	-	1
to	AA	regt	will	remain	to
protect	IDEK				

This message may be sent **AS WRITTEN** by any means.

If liable to be intercepted or fall into Enemy Hands, this message must be sent **IN CIPHER.**

Originator's instructions
Degree of priority

Time of Origin.

SIGNED

SIGNED

IMMEDIATE

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

1930

System In.	Time In.	Reader.	Sender.	System Out.	Time Out.	Reader.	Sender.	System Out.	Time Out.	Reader.	Sender.
47	2105	Mabis									

T.O.R.

D
WAR DIARY

SECRET

Copy No. 45

6 Mar, 41.

6 AUST DIV MOVEMENT ORDER No. 1.

RELIEF of 6 AUST DIV by 9 AUST DIV

Ref Maps - BENGAZI and TOBRUCK 1/1,000,000
CYRENAICA 1/2,000,000

1. GENERAL

(a) 9 Aust Div will relieve 6 Aust Div in CYRENAICA during Mar 41 in accordance with Appendix "A" attached hereto and the following instructions.

(b) Moves of relieving Infantry Brigades. 20 Bde relieves 17 Bde in fwd area on night 9/10 Mar, 26 Bde follows reaching TOBRUCK on 18 Mar moving therefrom to GAZALA as soon as possible using own transport, whilst 24 Bde reaches its location at TOBRUCK on 26 Mar.

DETAILS

The camping areas of Bdes and units are shown in Appendix "A" attached, but the following amplifying particulars of certain units will apply:-

2. CAV

A Sqn 6 Aust Cav will commence to move east from vicinity of D'ANNUNZIO on 7 Mar at most economical speed to TOBRUCK, ferrying its Lt Tks and Carriers.

3. ARTY

(a) 2/1 Fd Regt
1 RHA will arrive AGEDALIA area 10 Mar and relieve 2/1 Fd Regt night 10/11 Mar. The latter will bivouac that night area 10 kilos post north AGEDABIA and move on 11 Mar in accordance with App "A".

(b) 2/2 Fd Regt - see App "A"

(c) 2/3 Fd Regt - left AGEDABIA on 27 Feb for MATRUH staging at BEDA FOMM, TEONIS, DERNA, TOBRUCK and SOLLUM.

4. INFANTRY

(a) Guard duties at TOBRUCK and DERNA - Taking over and relief.

19 Bde which took over duties from 16 Bde on 5 Mar will in turn be relieved by 17 Bde on either 12 or 13 Mar (date to be arranged mutually). 19 Bde will be relieved by 26 Bde on 21 Mar.

(b) Relief of 17 Bde by 20 Bde

(1) With approval Comd 9 Aust Div a Bn of 20 Bde will take over guard duties at BARCE (one Coy) and 2/1 Fd Wk'shop now located 5 miles towards OBERDAN from MADALLENA (one rifle pl) on 7 Mar, Tp carrying transport remain and pick up 2/6 Bn personnel and rejoin this Bn as it passes through those places on 9 Mar, under arrangements made by 17 Bde.

Remainder of this Bn of 20 Bde will move down to BEDA FOMM battlefield on 8 Mar and take over from A Coy 2/5 Bn. On debussing its tp carrying tpt will move North to HQ 2/6 Bn, located 4,000 yds east of BENGAZI on BENINA rd, and pick up remainder of this Bns marching personnel on 9 Mar.

(ii) 20 Bde (less Bn mentioned in sub para (i) above) will move on 8 Mar to area astride rd between 10 and 18 kilo posts North of AGEDABIA. It will remain there during night 8/9 Mar and at 1700 hrs 9 Mar head of column will move South of AGEDABIA and the Bde will relieve 17 Bde as arranged mutually between Comds 17 and 20 Bdes.

Tp carrying tpt after debussing 20 Bde personnel will pick up personnel 17 Bde, which latter will bivouac night 9/10 Mar in area vacated by 20 Bde, North of AGEDABIA, preparatory to moving North in accordance with App "A".

(iii) Mutual arrangements to be made between Comds 17 and 20 Bde for relief of pl 2/5 Bn at AGEDABIA aerodrome.

5. A Tk Coy

16 Aust A Tk Coy will remain in fwd area on relief of remainder 6 Aust Div until ordered to rejoin the Div.

6. AASC

As soon as AASC units are relieved they will move under orders CASC to MATRUH. 345 Coy RASC will tpt inf marching personnel.

7. Med

On relief 2/2 and 2/7 Fd Ambs and 2/1 Fd Hyg Sec will move independently to MATRUH under Q arrangements.

8. Pro

Pro Coy will concentrate at SOLUCH by 10 Mar preparatory to moving in Div HQ gp.

9. Div HQ gp, composed as under, will move on date and time to be notified later:

HQ 6 Aust Div.
Sigs 6 Aust Div (less Secs with Cav, Arty and Inf)
6 Aust Div Salvage Unit
6 Aust Div Reception Unit
6 Aust Div Postal Unit
FSS personnel.

10. ROUTE - Main road AGEDABIA - BARGE thence North link to GIOVANNI BERTA to MATRUH.

11. DENSITY and SPEED

20 Bde was bombed and machine gunned near BOMBA on 6 Mar, and Bde and units will be responsible for ensuring adequate dispersion and that 20 min is not exceeded during the journey.

12. Tpt of CARRIERS.

Tpt for carriers will be arranged by units to MATRUH, this HQ being notified of additional tpt required.

13. ITALIAN MT - use of east of TOBRUCK.

In special cases approval will be given by this HQ to applications to take captured MT east of TOBRUCK for carriage of stores and equipment.

14. MAPS and RECCE REPORTS

All maps and recce reports of this area will be handed over to units, etc, taking over.

15. LIGHTS and FIRES

Hostile planes have recently bombed and machine gunned cars showing their lights at night.

16. CAMPING AREAS

Comds of Bdes and units moving independently are responsible for selecting their own camping sites in the vicinity of the places named in App "A", and for their cleanliness before departure.

17. STAGING PLACES

AT the vicinity of the locations shown in App "A" will be used during the eastward movement.

Units will NOT repeat NOT billet within 5 kilos of DERNA.

18. RATIONS AND POL

(i) Rations for consumption up to and including day of arrival at DERNA will be drawn from present SP or DID.

Rations are available and will be drawn from DID DERNA, TOBRUCH, SOLLUM and MATRUH.

(ii) POL will be drawn at present PP or DID before leaving and will be available at ~~DERNA~~, DERNA, TOBRUCH, SOLLUM and MATRUH.

BENGASI

A C K N O W L E D G E.

Time of Signature: 2125 hrs.

Method of Issue: Sigs.

J. Williams Maj
Colonel.
G3 6 Aust Div.

<u>DISTRIBUTION -</u>	<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>DISTRIBUTION.</u>	<u>Copy No.</u>
"A" Sqn 6 Aust Cav	1.		
RAA 6 Aust Div.	2-3.	Tobruch Sub-	53
RAE 6 Aust Div.	4-8.	Area.	
Sigs 6 Aust Div.	9-10.	Town Major	54
16 Aust Inf Bde.	11.	Derna.	
17 Aust Inf Bde.	12-15.	Bardia-Sollum	55
19 Aust Inf Bde.	16.	Sub-area.	
3 Armd Bde.	17.	File.	56
16 Aust A.Tk Coy.	18.	War Diary.	57-58
Det 6 Sqn RAF.	19.		
Comd.	20.		
G.	21-25.		
A.	24.		
Q.	25-26.		
AASC 6 Aust Div.	27-30.		
ADMS 6 Aust Div.	31-35.		
<i>DADOS</i>	36-37.		
<i>DAPM</i>	38-39.		
Postal.	40.		
Fd Cash Office.	41.		
Salvage.	42.		
AACI.	43.		
9 Aust Div.	44-49.		
1 Aust Corps.	50.		
Cyrcom.	51-52		

MOVEMENT TABLE

Eastward Movement of Units 6 Aust Div showing Unit, Location and Night Bivouac Areas.

UNIT	LOCATION	N i g h t s.												
		7/8	8/9	9/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	23/24	24/25	
Div H.Q.	AGEDABIA		(see para (9))											
A Sqn 6 Aust Cav	DIAMUNZIO		(see para (2))											
2/1 Fd Regt	AGEDABIA				AGEDABIA	TOCRA	DERNA	TOBRUK	BUG BUG	MATRUH				
2/2 " "	GAZALA									BARDIA	BUG BUG	MATRUH		
2/3 " "	AGEDABIA		(see para (3))											
2/1 Fd Coy	EL ABIAR		LUIGI- RAZZA	TMIMI	TOBRUK	-	BUG BUG	MATRUH						
2/2 " "	BARCE		DERNA	TOBRUK	-	BUG BUG	MATRUH	-						
2/8 " "	BENGASI				North of MARAU	DERNA	TOBRUCH	-	BUG BUG	MATRUH				
2/2 Fd Pk Coy	EL ABIAR				ditto	DERNA	TOBRUCH	-	BUG BUG	MATRUH				
Sigs 6 Aust Div	SOLUCH		(see para (5))											
18 Bde	TOBRUCH	BUG BUG	MATRUH											
19 Bde	GAZALA									BARDIA	BUG BUG	MATRUH		
17 Bde less)	AGEDABIA			AGEDABIA	TOCRA	DERNA	TOBRUCH						BUG BUG	MATRUH
2/8 Bn													BUG BUG	"
2/6 Bn	BENGASI			BARACCA	DERNA	TOBRUCH								
AASC			(see para (6))											
2/1 Fd Amb	TOBRUCH	BUG BUG	MATRUH											
2/2 Fd Amb	AGEDABIA		(see para (7))											
2/7 Fd Amb	BARCE		(see para (7))											
2/1 Fd Hyg Sec	BARCE		(see para (7))											
Pro Coy	BARCE & BENGASI		(see paras (8 and 9))											
Cash Office	SOLUCH		(see para (9))											
Postal Unit	BARCE		(see para (9))											
Reception Unit	BARCE		(see para (9))											
FSS Personnel	BENGASI		(see para (9))											
Salvage Unit	BARACCA		(see para (9))											

O.C.
Adj.
Bnh.
L.A.D.

Department of Defence
General List of Officers
1943

NAME	RANK	BRANCH	REGIMENT	POST	ADDRESS
ADDAMS	2nd Lt	Infantry	1st Div	2nd Bn	1st Bn
ADAMS	2nd Lt	Infantry	1st Div	2nd Bn	1st Bn
ADAMS	2nd Lt	Infantry	1st Div	2nd Bn	1st Bn
ADAMS	2nd Lt	Infantry	1st Div	2nd Bn	1st Bn
ADAMS	2nd Lt	Infantry	1st Div	2nd Bn	1st Bn
ADAMS	2nd Lt	Infantry	1st Div	2nd Bn	1st Bn
ADAMS	2nd Lt	Infantry	1st Div	2nd Bn	1st Bn
ADAMS	2nd Lt	Infantry	1st Div	2nd Bn	1st Bn
ADAMS	2nd Lt	Infantry	1st Div	2nd Bn	1st Bn
ADAMS	2nd Lt	Infantry	1st Div	2nd Bn	1st Bn

ADAMS

20 AUST INF BDE - OPERATION INSTRUCTION No. 1

Ref Maps AGEDABIA and EL AGHEILA.

INFORMATION

1. As given in SITREPS and Int reports to date.

INTENTION

2. NOWA will relieve CEHA in the fwd area.

METHOD

3. Owing to shortage of tpt the following programme will be carried out:

- (a) Night 19/20 Mar - One coy plus one pl of NOWA will relieve one coy plus one pl of CEHA which will move back to BEDA FOMM.
- (b) Night 20/21 Mar - One coy and one pl of CEHA will move from BEDA FOMM and relieve NOWA at BA RCE and MADELINA.
- (c) Night 21/22 Mar - One coy and one pl NOWA will move from BARCE and MADELINA to BEDA FOMM.
- (d) Night 22/23 Mar - One coy NOWA will relieve one coy CEHA.
- (e) Night 23/24 Mar - As for (d)
- (f) Night 24/25 Mar - As for (e) plus one pl CEHA will relieve one pl NOWA at AGEDABIA AERODROME.
- (g) Relief of Bn HQ and HQ coy CEHA will be carried out under mutual arrangements of comds CEHA and NOWA.

4. Recce - Comds will arrange for recce prior to movement.

ADM

5. Transport

- (a) NOWA will be responsible for movement of NOWA from BEDA FOMM to fwd area and of CEHA from fwd area to BEDA FOMM.
- (b) CEHA will be responsible for movement of CEHA from BEDA FOMM to BARCE and MADELINA and of NOWA from BARCE and MADELINA to BEDA FOMM.
- (c) Demands for extra tpt will be submitted to SC SEAR by 17 Mar.

INTERCOMN

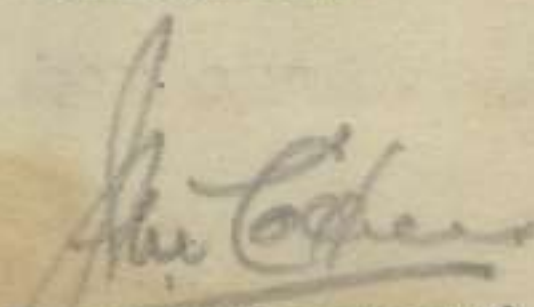
6. Keyword

The keyword for the move will be BARBARA.

ACK

Time of Signature 0910

Method of issue DRLS.


(J. McCAFFREY) Maj
BM 20 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION:

Copy No.

NOWA	1
CEHA	2
ENGA	3
SEAR "A"	4
Comd SEAR	5
ENID	6
GASO	7
File	8
War Diary	9-10
Spare	11-12

19 Mar 41.

9 AUST DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 5

(Extracted from GHQ Intelligence Summary up to 10 March 41 and from information received from 1200 hrs 10 Mar to 1200 hrs 19 Mar 41)

NOTE :- Information sidelined will NOT be reproduced below Bde or equivalent HQ.

Ref Maps :- 1/500,000 AGHEILA; MARADA; AGEDABIA (special)

1. ENEMY GROUND OPS

The enemy has continued patrolling East of the frontier to within 3 miles West of EL AGHEILA and South to MAATEN GIOFER (x)A2239. Patrols by day appear to consist of 2 to 5 AFVs with intervals of up to 2 miles.

At 1600 hrs 15 Mar 5 Med tks with light grey camouflage were reported West of EL AGHEILA.

At 0745 hrs 18 Mar 2 hy tks were seen West of EL AGHEILA. They retired West at 0810 hrs. At 0927 hrs two med tks were observed moving east from pt (X)A9668.

A patrol of 13 Mar reports MARADA (X)G15 apparently unoccupied.

2. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY.

During the period under review daily attacks have been made on fwd tps - one, on 11 Mar, being made by 20 HEINKELS and 14 ME 110s. All other attacks have consisted mainly of 1 to 3 EA - divebombing and machinegunning posns and convoys in low flying attacks. 6 casualties reported. 4 EA reported destroyed and 2 probably damaged by our AA fire.

Only one night bombing attack is reported in the fwd area when 10 bombs were dropped in the area approx (X)B5585 on night 17/18 Mar. No damage or casualties.

The Fort at EL AGHEILA was bombed by a single ME 110 flying West on 11 and 15 Mar.

It has been observed that enemy a/c have continually changed direction South of BIR BALAT (x)A9182 near a monument which has now been removed. Turning pt of EA should be carefully observed and any land marks which may assist their navigation should be camouflaged or removed.

3. AIR REPORTS

Detailed information provided by TAC/R is attached at Appendix "A".

4. GERMANY (TRIPOLITANIA SITUATION)

" Indications to date show that there may be one GERMAN Armd Bde in TRIPOLITANIA; that this includes one Panzer Regt, mot inf and mob arty and that further armd units are en route to TRIPOLI from ITALY. These new arrivals may possibly bring the present bde up to normal GERMAN Armd Div but it seems more probable that they are a separate formation. The reported GERMAN Colonial Armd Divs are somewhat similar in composition (given lapse of 25 years) to the GERMAN Formations Pasha I, II, and III sent to PALESTINE in 1917/1918. They are really bde gps strong in support weapon in proportion to inf."

" Eight wheeled AFVs have been reported West of EL AGHEILA. These may be FIAT 611 which have six wheels and carry one spare on the side which might confuse aerial observers."

" It is by no means certain if the fwd dumping in the TRIPLOITANIA fwd area is sufficiently complete to maintain a sustained operation unless the opposition was particularly light. In order to test the strength of this opposition the enemy may very likely initiate offensive recce ops against EL AGHEILA and should he find it sufficiently weak, endeavour to seize EL AGHEILA with the object of using it as a future adv base."

This operation may be performed by small GERMAN Armd dets which may probably be accompanied by ITALIAN tps, with the object of raising the morale of the latter

The GERMANS appear to be in the stage of active tng but with the advantage of having a real enemy to ensure that lessons are carefully learnt. The ITALIANS from their despair with the arrival of the GERMANS are looking for the opportunity to obtain and advertise some kind of "victory". Therefore both will seize every opportunity of exploitation against weak opposition but deep exploitation or sustained attack will probably NOT be possible until their rearward organization has become more complete.

In planning for the future the situation EUROPE plus the fact that in another 2 months TRIPOLITANIA will be unpleasantly hot, will probably have influenced the GERMANS into the decision that serious operations must start sooner rather than later and thereby necessitate some risk of starting without having completed the meticulous preparation characteristic of the GERMANS.

5. GENERAL

A beached vessel is reported to have been burning from 2045 hrs to 0230 hrs on night 16/17 Mar at BREGA (X)B5087.

A GERMAN POW was captured on the road near AGEDABIA on 15 Mar. On first interrogation the POW states :-

" A minefield 5 kms in depth exists astride the rd approx 24 kilos West of AGHEIIA. Both live and dummy mines are layed so that wheel tracks do NOT necessarily indicate safe passage.

Enemy fwd tps are mainly ITALIAN with a few GERMAN Inf and R/T units. He saw only three GERMAN AFVs at the front. These were of the 8 wheel type - MERCEDES engine - armament one 37 m.m. gun in revolving turret and one 8 m.m. MG - crew four or five - W/T and R/T.

Time of Signature 22.00 hrs.

W. Lloyd
Col.
GS 9 Aust Div.

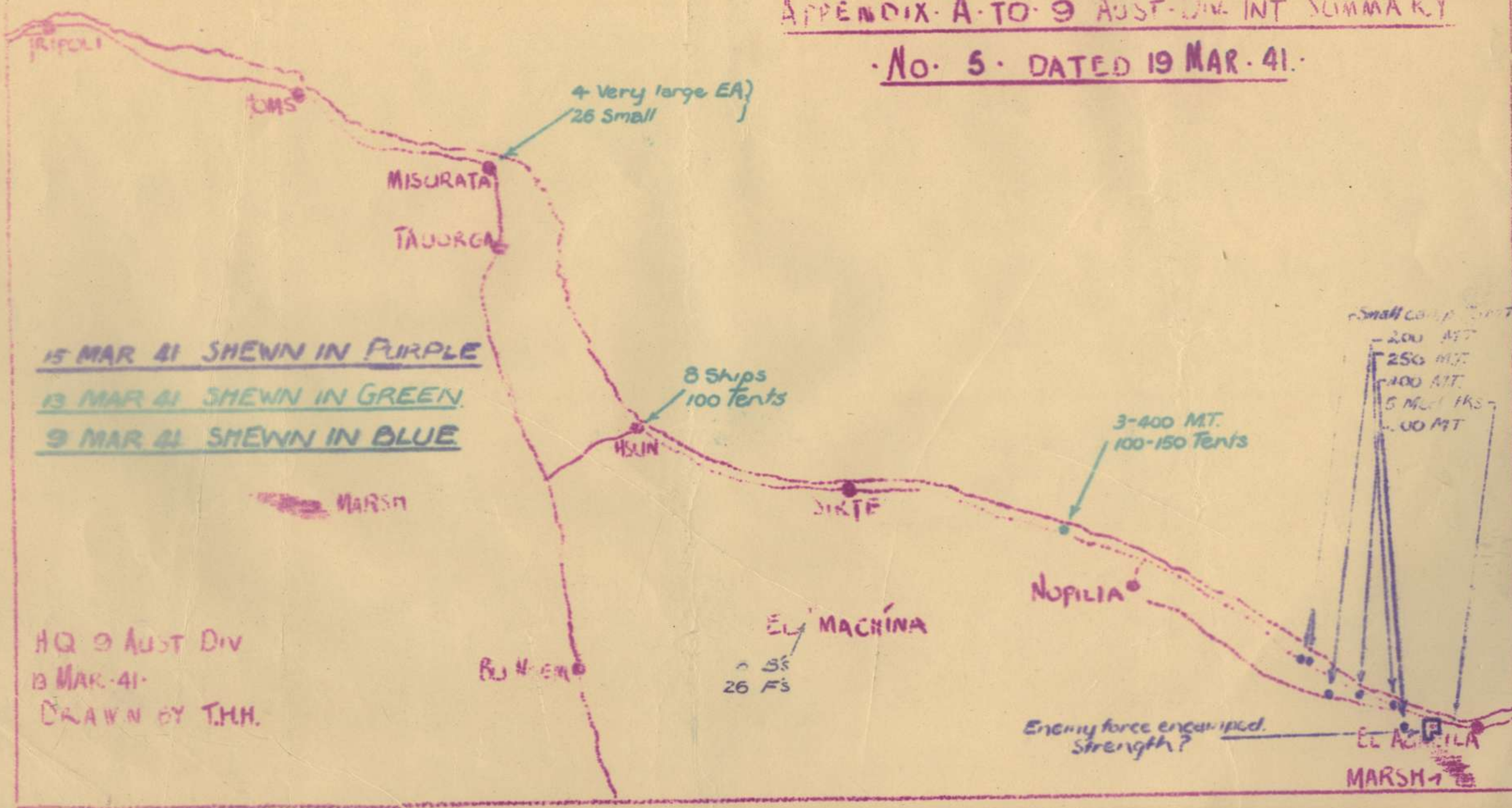
Distribution

Copy No.

RAA (9 Aust Div)	1
RAE 9 Aust Div	2
20 Aust Inf Bde	3
24 Aust Inf Bde	4) to be held until arrival.
26 Aust Inf Bde	5)
Comd	6
G	7 & 8
AQ	9 & 10
ADMS	11
HQ 2 Armd Div	12 & 13
1 Aust Corps	14 & 15
CYRCOM	16 & 17
3 Armd Bde	18
Flt 6 Sqn RAF	19
3 Sqn RAAF	20
War Diary	21 & 22
File	23 & 24

APPENDIX 'A' TO 9 AUST. DIV. INT. SUMMARY

NO. 5 DATED 19 MAR. 41.



15 MAR 41 SHEWN IN PURPLE
13 MAR 41 SHEWN IN GREEN
9 MAR 41 SHEWN IN BLUE

HQ 9 AUST DIV
 13 MAR. 41
 DRAWN BY T.H.H.

Small camp
 - 200 MT
 - 250 MT
 - 400 MT
 - 5 MOUNT PKS
 - 100 MT

EL MACHINA
 - 35 FS
 - 26 FS

Enemy force encamped.
 Strength?

Ref Maps Special AGEDABIA 1/500,000
Bengasi 1/500,000.

1. 20 Aust Inf Bde will move to bivouac areas in general area BENINA-ER REGIMA, to arrive in that area by 1800 hrs 23 Mar.41. Marching personnel will be carried in RASC lorries under arrangements being communicated to 20 Aust Inf Bde by 2 Armd Div.
2. 20 Aust Inf Bde will be responsible for arranging the details of the move. The following general principles will apply:-
 - (a) All movements SOUTH of AGEDABIA will be in hours of darkness only.
 - (b) When moving in daylight, vehicles will travel at a density of NOT more than 5 v.t.m.
 - (c) When halted vehicles will be widely dispersed.
 - (d) AA LMGs will be mounted on vehicles to be distributed throughout each convoy.
 - (e) ADMS will arrange for ambulance cars to accompany each unit
3. ROUTE. Route will be AGEDABIA - GHEMINES - BENGASI - BENINA. Convoys will NOT proceed through BENGASI itself but will take the bypass road.
4. WATER. Units in BENINA - ER REGIMA area will draw water from water point at BENINA rlwy station. This water point is manned by RAAF personnel and units will ensure that the privilege of using it is NOT abused. Units EAST of ER REGIMA will draw water from EL ABIAR.
5. SUPPLIES AND PETROL
 - (a) The last delivery of supplies by composite coy AASC 9 Div will be on 22 Mar for consumption on 23 Mar. Supplies for consumption on 24 Mar will be drawn by units in 1st line tpt from RASC DID BENGHASI not later than 1630 hrs on 23 Mar and so on.
 - (b) Petrol will be/in unit first line tpt from RASC dumps in BENGHASI. drawn
 - (c) Units EAST of EL ABIAR will draw supplies and petrol from RASC depots at BARCE in first line tpt.
 - (d) Composite Coy AASC 9 Div (less amn sec) will remain present location until further orders.
6. AMN
 - (a) The manning of the present AP by AASC 9 Div personnel terminates at 0900 hrs 24 Mar.
 - (b) Composite Coy AASC 9 Div will establish an AP (SAA only) on
7. MEDICAL) EL ABIAR - BARCE rd ten kilos EAST of EL ABIAR by 1800
) hrs 24 Mar.
2/8 Fd Amb will move to EL ABIAR area on 23 Mar under arrangements to be made by ADMS. Locations of Medical facilities for the evacuation of casualties will be notified later.
8. GENERAL
Details regarding ORDNANCE , Recovery , Salvage, Provost, Pay and Postal will be notified later.

Distribution

20 Aust Inf Bde 8
RAE
Sigs
Composite Coy AASC 9 Div
2/8 Fd Amb
Comd
G 2

for *AA & QMG* 9 Aust Div. col.
AA & QMG 9 Aust Div.
AQ (2) 2 Armd Div
ADMS File
A/DADOS War Diary (2)
SOME
Pay
Post

20 AUST INF BDE OO No. 2.

Copy No. //
22 Mar 41.

Ref Maps:

EL ACHEILA	1/500,000
AGEDABIA	1/500,000
BENGASI	1/500,000

INFORMATION

1. ENEMY

Vide Intelligence reports and SITREPS to date.

2. OWN TROOPS

- (a) 5 Armd Bde is securing left flank from B-EL-GINN (x)B6577 to B-ES-SUERRA (x)B5765 and further south to the line of WADI EL FARRECH.
- (b) AASC 9 Div is under comd 20 Aust Inf Bde.
- (c) Mobile Sec of 2/8 Fd Amb is under comd 20 Aust Inf Bde
- (d) 339 Bty, 104 Regt RHA and det 1 Lt AA Regt will come under comd support gp 2 Armd Div at 1900 hrs on 22 Mar.

INTENTION

3. 20 Aust Inf Bde (less one coy at BARGE) and att tps will withdraw from present posn to area BENINA (s)S1372 - ER REGINA (s) S2170.

METHOD

4. LOCATION OF NEW AREAS

- (a) Fwd Bns
 - Right - 2/17 Bn - North of RWY LINE from ANTI-TANK DITCH (not shown on map) - to ER REGINA RWY STN (s)S2170.
 - Left - 2/13 Bn - South of RWY LINE and RD - from ANTI-TANK DITCH to 1000^x dis east.
- (b) Reserve Bn
 - 2/15 Bn - South of RWY LINE and RD due south of ER REGINA RWY STN (s)S2170.
- (c) Boundary
 - All incl 2/17 Bn - RD and RWY LINE.

5. ROLE

Protection of rds running EASTWARDS from BENGASI (s) R97.

6. ROUTE

MAIN RD - AGEDABIA - BENGASI - RD JUNC (s) R9675 - RD to ER REGINA (s)S2170.

7. MOVE - RES BN

2/13 Bn will move during night 22/23 Mar to new posn.

8. MOVE OF FWD BNS

- (a) No withdrawal before 1930 hrs.
- (b) Present posn to be denied till 2015 hrs.
- (c) Rear parties cross line running N and S through 19 Kilo stone from MERSA BREGA XB53 on MAIN RD by 2200 hrs.
- (d) Assembly Posns - In present bn areas.
- (e) Staging:
 - 2/15 Bn, 2/17 Bn and Bde HQ will stage during hours of daylight on 23 Mar at CHEMINES (s) R92.
 - Orders for move from CHEMINES to new area will be issued at CHEMINES.
- (f) Guides:
 - 1 Offr and 5 NCOs from 2/15 Bn and 2/17 Bn will meet SC Bde HQ at 1400 hrs on 22 Mar.

9. ORDER OF MOVE

- (a) Bde HQ will pass junc of turn off to Bde HQ and MAIN RD 100^x NE of Kilo 20 from MERSA BREGA at 1920 hrs.
- (b) 2/17 Bn will pass RD HOUSE at 17 Kilo post from MERSA BREGA on MAIN RD at 1930 hrs.
- (c) 2/15 Bn will pass 5 kilo post from MERSA BREGA on MAIN RD at 2030 hrs.
- (d) VTM - 15.
- (e) MMH - 10.
- (f) Halts - at 20 miles, 40 miles and 80 miles from starting points vide speedometer.
- (g) No lights will be used during move.

10. RECCE PARTY

Recce party consisting of 1 pl from 2/13 Bn and 1 Offr per coy and 1 NCO per pl will be supplied from each bn to meet Lieut McMaster at 1400 hrs on 22 Mar at RD JUNG (s)WC781.

11. REAR GUARD

- (a) Outpost coy of 2/17 Bn astride RD at MB5082 will be relieved by one coy of THR, support gp, 2 Armd Div. Pwd coys of 2/15 Bn will be relieved by 1 coy of FREE FRENCH under comd support gp 2 Armd Div.
- (b) Posns will be occupied by reliefs by 1700 hrs.

ADMINISTRATION

12. TRANSPORT

RASC will supply 28 3 ton lorries to 2/15 Bn, 40 3 ton lorries to 2/15 Bn, 30 3 ton lorries to 2/17 Bn on 22 Mar for carrying of personnel.

Units will provide guides to meet RASC representatives as follows:

- 2/13 Bn at MAGRUM (s)R9713 at 2300 hrs
- 2/15 Bn and 2/17 Bn at 19 kilo stone from MERSA BREGA at 1600 hrs.

RASC will be laegered and dispersed in Bn areas.

13. RATIONS

- (a) 2/13 Bn will despatch one lorry to draw two days' rations at MAGRUM at 2330 hrs on 22 Mar.
- (b) Bde HQ, 2/15 Bn, 2/17 Bn will draw two days' rations at CHEMINES on 23 Mar.

14. WATER

- (a) All water containers will be filled by 1900 hrs on 22 Mar.
- (b) Arrangements re water at CHEMINES will be issued on arrival.

15. POL

- (a) 2/13 Bn will draw POL at MAGRUM.
- (b) Bde HQ, 2/15 Bn, 2/17 Bn will draw POL in bulk from Supply Point at Kilo 39 before 1200 hrs on 22 Mar. Further issues will be made at CHEMINES on 23 Mar.

16. MEDICAL

Mobile Sec 2/8 Fd Amb will move in rear of Bde HQ. Location at CHEMINES and in new area will be notified on arrival.

INTERCOMM

17. BDE HQ

Bde HQ will close down present location at 1900 hrs will move at head of column during night 22/23 Mar - will reopen at CHEMINES at 0600 hrs on 23 Mar - will close down at CHEMINES at 1900 hrs on 23 Mar - will move at head of column during night 23/24 Mar - will reopen in ER RECINA (s)S217C at 0500 hrs on 24 Mar.

18. GOLD

GOLD of present area will pass from 20 Aust Inf Bde to support gp, 2 Armd Div at 1900 hrs on 22 Mar.

19. RELIEF PASSWORD

Relief password will be WHACKO.

20. ACK.

Signed at 1700 hrs

Method of issue DRIS

J. F. McCaffrey
(J. F. McCAFFREY) Maj
BM 20 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION:

	<u>Copy No.</u>
2/13 Bn	1
2/15 Bn	2
2/17 Bn	3
20 Inf A Tk Coy	4
9 Aust Div	5
2 Armd Div	6
3 Armd Bde	7
Support gp, 2 Armd Div	8
2/8 Fd Amb	9
9 Div, AASC	10
Brig	11
BM	12
SC	13
TO	14
SO	15
Sigs Offr	16
War Diary	17 & 18
File	19
Spares	20-30

War Diary

WAR DIARY
WAR DIARY

SECRET

20 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No. 5.

(Based on Inf rec'd up to 1400 hrs 25 Mar)

Ref maps: CYRENAICA 1/500,000 series.

ENEMY FORCES COMPOSITION

It is considered that an enemy advance may be made by a German Colonial Arm'd Div in first line which may include some 200 AFVs (incl ARMD Cs) and three inf units of sorts (rifle or IG) with arty A Tk and Lt AA units and Engrs - in all about the strength of a British Arm'd Bde with a motorized Inf Bde. This may be followed up by a similar Colonial Arm'd Div or by Italian Arm'd and motorized tps. We may expect fast and powerfully armoured and armed German tanks with a large radius of action.

OWN TPS

Temporarily we are comparatively weak in armoured tps and 9 Aust Div is deficient in tpt and weapons. The most dangerous period is the next eight weeks until mid MAY by which time strong forces will be available for employment in this area.

EFFECT OF TOPOGRAPHY ON OPS

The coastal belt some 30 to 40 kms wide SOUTH of the general line DERNA-BENGLIAZI is flat and open and ideal for the employment of arm'd forces. In this type of terrain our inf as at present equipped cannot compete with arm'd forces.

There are two possible lines of advance for the enemy.

- A. By the coast rd AGHEILA-BENGLIAZI - 160 M.
- B. By the desert route AGHEILA-BOHBA - 200 M.
or AGHEILA-TOBRUCH - 330 M.

The approach of the hot season and the absence of water on the desert routes make the movement of large forces over them hazardous. Owing to the short time the enemy has had for preparation it is considered that no advance is possible before the first week in APRIL and that it will then be made by the coastal route. In any case an adv by the desert route must be supported by an adv up the coast to secure the essential rd comm.

GROUND OPS.

24 Mar KIG engaged an enemy patrol of 16 MT and knocked out 3 then withdrew owing to heavy EA activity.

Enemy occupied AGHEILA fort and 40 MT incl 12 M 13 tks were observed on aerodrome. EA are now using this aerodrome.

J. F. McCaffrey
(J. F. McCaffrey) Maj
BM 20 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION:

20 Bde
2/13 Bn
2/15 Bn
2/17 Bn
20 A Tk Coy
51 Fd Regt
2/7 Fd Coy

(W)

WAR DIARY

SECRET

20 AUST INF BDE - OO No. 3.

Copy No. 21
26 Mar 41.

Ref maps: CYRENAICA 1/100,000
sheets Nos. 5, 6, 12 & 13.

INFORMATION

1. ENEMY

See 20 Aust Inf Bde Int summary No. 5.

2. OWN TFS

(a) ROLE OF 2 ARMD DIV - 2 Armd Div is now operating from the general line AGHEILA-WADI FARECH with instrns to deny by active patrolling the area between the TRIPOLITANIA frontier and our foremost tps to the enemy. Should the enemy adv in force 2 Armd Div is instructed to:

- (I) Deny their adv and take any opportunity of hitting them in flank or rear.
- (II) Manoeuvre in general on the EASTERN flank of the enemy with the object of shepherding him into the plain between the escarpment at NEBELAT 3347-SCHEIDINA 3341 and the sea.
- (III) Retard his adv northwards and in particular prevent his support tps and maintenance echelons joining his advanced arm'd forces.
- (IV) If the enemy continues his adv northwards to shepherd him into the plain between the escarpment ER REGINA-TOCKA (held by 9 Aust Div) and the sea.
- (V) Protect the left flank of 9 Aust Div and prevent the enemy moving out of the coastal plain across country to BARCEH or DERNA.

(b) Tps on right flank

26 Aust Inf Bde (less one bn) with under comd one bty 51 Fd Regt, 2/13 Fd Coy RAE (less one sec) to deny to the enemy from TOLMEDA to excl inter bde boundary line of WADI from BU ZUETTINA (3508)-3706-HILL 323 (4004)-HILL 360 (4103).

(c) TFS UNDER COMD

The following tps are under comd 20 Aust Inf Bde:

51 Fd Regt, RA (less one bty)
2/7 Fd Coy, RAE (less one sec).

(d) RAAF

LYSANDER aircraft for Tac R are available at four hours' notice from receipt of demand at 20 Aust Inf Bde.

(e) TANKS

A tank offr is att bde HQ for expert advice.

3. INTENTION

20 Aust Inf Bde and att tps will deny enemy access to escarpment from line of WADI BU ZUETTINA (3508)-WADI GATTARA.

METHOD

4. FDLs

FDLs will include - line of Escarpment from BU ZUETTINA 3508 to WA DI GATTARA 2063.

5. Allotment of Units

2/17 En - (All incl) - line of the WADI from BU ZUETTINA 3508-3706-HILL 323 4004-HILL 360 4103 to (all excl) HILL 237 1974-RLNY and RD CROSSING 2775.

/over

- 2 -

Allocation of Units (Contd)

2/13 Bn (less one coy at BA RCE) All incl HILL 237 1974-RLWY and RD CROSSING 2775 to all incl WADI GATTARA from 2063 to 3167.

6. Inter Bn Boundary

TRACK JUNG 137739-HILL 237 1974-RLWY and RD CROSSING 2775 all incl 2/13 Bn.

7. REAR BOUNDARY

All incl fwd bns HILL 407 4897. TRIG 417 4093-CAP BUGREN 3383. RLWY and RD CROSSING 2775-HILL 271 2973-WADI GATTARA 3167.

8. TIME OF OCCUPATION

Bns will commence occupation of defensive posn not before 0600 hrs on 27 Mar 41 and will complete movement of all tps by 1800 hrs on 27 Mar 41.

Bns will complete plans forthwith to move tps at 30 minutes' notice, in the event of emergency.

9. LOCATION OF RESERVES

2/15 Bn - from Rear boundary to WADI GATTARA 3167-WADI BIR IUSEF 5074.

10. ROLE OF RES

- (a) Protection of left flank.
- (b) Deliberate counter attack on high ground due east of ER REGINA.
- (c) Preparation of routes for immediate counter attacks to fwd bn areas.
- (d) Protection of EL ABIAR 4483 and 4484.

11. DISPOSITIONS

The number of tps committed to the static defence will be reduced to bare requirements to cover by fire minefields and RD BLOCKS.

The maximum number of tps will be retained in res with the greatest possible degree of mobility.

Observation posts will be manned along the whole front.

12. ARTY

- (a) One tp will provide defensive fire astride RD and RLWY 199722.
- (b) CPs and Bty posns will be prepared to fire on likely enemy approaches.

13. A Tk Arty

- (a) One pl, 20 A Tk Coy, will cover A Tk mine field astride Rd and RLWY 199722.
- (b) 20 A Tk Coy (less one pl) will remain in reserve on wheels in vicinity Bde HQ.
- (c) Equipment will be transported and fought PORTEE.

14. RAE

- (a) Will mine 600^x astride RD and RLWY fwd of ANTI-TANK DITCH 199722.
- (b) Will prepare demolition of RD and RLWY at 3 pts west of ER REGINA.

15. PATROLLING

Fwd bns will carry out continuous patrolling during hours of darkness.

16. ROAD BLOCKS

Efficient ROAD BLOCKS (IRON RAILS and concrete) will be prepared on all likely enemy approaches.

All RD BLOCKS must be covered by fire.

ADM

17. SUP, ARM, POL

Sup, Arm, POL will be drawn in accordance with Adm Order No. 1 of 22 Mar. When operationally necessary sup, arm, POL will be drawn from dumps being established at TECHNIS (9318).

/over

WP - In accordance with Adm Order No. 1 of 22 Mar.

18. TPT

- (a) HT will be dispersed with at least 200 yds interval between vehicles and will be dug in and camouflaged.
- (b) Each tpt will be located to allow maximum tpt to be rapidly available for movement of tps to fwd area in the event of a break through on any sector of the front.

19. Traffic Circuits

All routes to HQ to be continued where possible to another track or 400 yds beyond HQ.

20. Recovery

- (a) Tpt for 1st line repair to 53 IAD.
- (b) Tpt for other than 1st line repair to No. 2 Recovery Sec, BENGASI.

21. MEDICAL

- (a) All casualties to be evacuated to 4 ACEI, BARCE.
- (b) ADS will be notified later.

22. RESTRICTION ON LIGHTS

No lights will be used during hours of darkness.

INTERCOMM

23. BDE HQ

- (a) Advanced HQ at 305800.
- (b) Rear HQ at (will be notified later)
- (c) Will close down at present location at 1000 hrs on 28 Mar and reopen at 305800 at 1200 hrs on 28 Mar.

24. SIG ARTERY

- (a) Main - Line along main rd ER REGIMA-EL ABIAR.
- (b) Alternative - (a) Direct lines - all units.
(b) Wireless communication.

25. SDF

Green over Red over Green.

26. ACK.

Time of Issue 1200

Method of Issue D R L S

J. F. McCaffrey
 (J. F. McCaffrey) Maj
 BM 20 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION:

	<u>Copy No.</u>
2/13 Bn	1
2/15 Bn	2
2/17 Bn	3
20 Inf A Tk Coy	4
51 Fd Regt, RA	5
2/7 Fd Coy, RAE	6
"J" Sec 9 Div Sigs	7
9 Div	8
2 A rmd Div	9
26 Aust Inf Bde	10
RAAF	11
Brig	12
BM	13
SC	14
Sup 0	15
LOs	16-18
TO	19
IO	20
War Diary	21-22
File	23
Spares	24-30

SECRET

Copy No. /
27 Mar 41.

OPERATION INSTRUCTION - MOVE OF 20 AUST INF BDE HQ

Ref Maps: As for 20 Aust Inf Bde OO No. 3.

1. 20 Aust Inf Bde HQ will move to new location on 28 Mar 41 in accordance with the following instructions:

Locations

Advanced HQ 305800.
Rear HQ - to be notified.

Times

Advanced HQ convoy leaves present location 1000 hrs
28 Mar 41.

Rear HQ convoy leaves present location 1000 hrs on
28 Mar 41.

New HQs to be established by 1200 hrs same day.

Movement

Convoys will move independently - Bde TO to arrange
movement rear Bde convoy - Sgt Pickering to arrange
movement advanced bde convoy.

Composition

Fwd bde convoy will include "J" Section, 9 Div Sigs.
Rear bde convoy will include 58 IAD.

2. Additional tpt for movement of advanced bde HQ will
report 0800 hrs 28 Mar 41.

3. Rear HQ will notify advance HQ immediately on establishment
of rear HQ.

J. F. McCaffrey

J. F. McCAFFREY) Maj
BM 20 Aust Inf Bde.

DISTRIBUTION

	Copy No.
BM	1
SC	2
TO	3
IO	4
CQMS	5
58 IAD	6
"J" Sec 9 Div Sigs	7
Tpt Sgt	8

D

WAR DIARY

SECRET

Copy No. 21
29 Mar 41.

Ref 20 AUST INF BDE OO No. 3.

The following amendments are notified:

(12) Arty (a) Should read - Two tps will prepare OPs and Bty posts to provide defensive fire astride RD and RLWY 1872.

In 13 (a) and 14 (a) for 199722 read 1872.

In 13 (b) for in vicinity Bde HQ read in vicinity of Res A rty.

J. F. McCaffrey
(J. F. McCAFFREY) Maj
BM 20 Aust Inf Bde.

100

DISTRIBUTION:

	<u>Copy No.</u>
2/13 Bn	1
2/15 Bn	2
2/17 Bn	3
20 Inf A Tk Coy	4
51 Fd Regt, RA	5
2/7 Fd Coy, RAE	6
"J" Sec Sigs 9 Div	7
9 Aust Div	8
2 Armd Div	9
26 A ust Inf Bde	10
RAAF	11
Brig	12
BM	13
SC	14
Sup O	15
LOs	16-18
TO	19
IO	20
War Diary	21-22
File	23
Spares	24-30.

OPERATION ORDER No. 1.

dated 27.3.41.

Copy No. 14

Ref. Map 1/100,000 Sheets 5, 6, 12 & 13.
 1/300,000 Sheets BENGHAZI
 AGEDABIA
 EL AGHEILA

INFORMATION.

1. ENEMY

It is considered that an enemy advance may be made by a German Colonial Armd Div in first line which may include some 200 AFVs (incl ARMD Cs) and three inf units of sorts (rifle or MG) with arty A Tk and Lt AA Units and Engre - in all about the strength of a British Armd Bde with motorised Inf. Bde. This may be followed up by a similar Colonial Armd Div or by Italian Armd and motorised tps. We may expect fast and powerfully armoured and armed German tanks with large radius of action.

Temporarily we are comparatively weak in armoured tps and 9 Aust Div is deficient in tpt and weapons. The most dangerous period is the next eight weeks until mid MAY by which time strong forces will be available for employment in this area.

The coastal belt some 30 to 40 Kms wide SOUTH of the general line BIRNA - BENGHAZI is flat and open and ideal for the employment of armd forces. In this type of terrain our inf as at present equipped cannot compete with armd forces.

There are two possible lines of advance for the enemy.

- A. By the coast rd AGHEILA - BENGHAZI - 160 M.
- B. By the desert route AGHEILA - BOMBA - 200 M.
 or AGHEILA - TOBRUCH - 330 M.

The approach of the hot season and the absence of water on the desert route make the movement of large forces over them hazardous. Owing to the short time the enemy has had for preparation it is considered that no advance is possible before the first week in APRIL and that it will then be made by the coastal route. In any case an advance by the desert route must be supported by an adv up the coast to secure the essential rd communications.

24 MAR XIX engaged an enemy patrol of 16 MT and knocked out 3 then withdrew owing to heavy EA activity.

Enemy occupied AGHEILA fort and 40 MT incl 12 M 13 tks were observed on aerodrome. EA are now using this aerodrome.

2. OWN TROOPS.

(A) ROLE OF 2 ARMD DIV. - 2 Armd Div is now operating from the general line AGHEILA - WADI FAREGH with instrns to deny by active patrolling the area between TRIPOLITANIA frontier and our foremost tps to the enemy. Should the enemy adv in force 2 Armd Div is instructed to:

- (1) Deny their adv and take any opportunity of hitting them in flank or rear.
- (11) Manoeuvre in general on EASTERN flank of the enemy with the object of shepherding him into the plain between the escarpment at ANTELAT SX47 - SCHELEIDIMA SS41 and the sea.
- (111) Retard his adv northwards and in particular prevent his support tps and maintenance echelons joining his advanced armd forces.
- (1V) If the enemy continues his adv northwards to shepherd him into the plain between the escarpment ER REGIMA - TOLMEHA (held by 9 Aust Div) and the sea.
- (V) Protect the left flank of 9 Aust Div and prevent the enemy moving out of the coastal plain across country to BARCE or BIRNA.

Contd on sheet 2.....

SHEET 2.

- (2) The role of 9 Aust Div is to deny to the enemy access to the escarpment on the general line ER REGIME - TOLMEHA from incl WADI GATTARA to the sea at TOLMEHA.
Right 26 Aust Inf Bde (less one Bn.)
Left 20 Aust Inf Bde.
Inter Bde. Boundary incl to 20 Aust Inf. Bde. line of WADI from BU ZUEFINA 3508 - 3706 - Pt323 (4004) - Pt360 (4105).
Attached to each Bde. in addition to one Bty of 51st Army Field Regiment, R.A. is one coy. less one sec of R.A.E. and one tank officer for expert advice.
Lysander aircraft are available to each Bde. for recon purposes.
- (c) 51st Army Field Regiment, R.A. is under command 9 Aust Div.

INTENTION.

5. 51st Army Field Regiment, R.A. will support 9 Aust Div in its role.

METHOD.

4. 370 Field Battery R.A. composed as under :

370 Bty H.Q.
"A" Troop.
"C" Troop. 18-pr Mark V.
"D" Troop.

will be under command 26 Aust Inf. Bde.

203 Bty composed as under :

203 Bty H.Q.
"B" Troop. 18-pr Mark V.
"E" Troop.
"F" Troop.

will be under command 20 Aust Inf. Bde.

5. On arrival of 370 Field Battery R.A. at BARCE "A" and "D" Troop will join 370 Bty and "B" Troop will join 203 Bty. 370 Bty will return all loaned transport and in addition send 2 30-cwt lorries to 203 Bty which will then carry out necessary moves. On completion of move of 203 Bty loaned transport will be returned by 203 Bty to 370 Bty together with 3 30-cwt lorries. 370 Bty will then move and on completion of move return transport borrowed from 203 Bty.
6. *in nature* Two troop positions will be reconnoitred to cover each approach up the escarpment considered feasible by Bde H.Q. All recesses will be detailed. Gun positions will be marked. O.Ps and line routes will also be reconnoitred in detail. All routes running parallel to the escarpment will be reconnoitred in detail. All officers will be familiar with the routes and tracks to any given area.
7. No guns will be committed to the ground. All troops will remain under the control of Bty. H.Q.
8. Slit trenches will be dug at all reconnoitred positions and camouflaged. Guns and vehicles will be camouflaged from the air at all times. All troop personnel at rest will have slit trenches for local protection.

ADMINISTRATION.

9. Rations and P.O.L. Btys will be attached to Bdes and will make arrangements with Bde. Supply Officers. Until move of R.H.Q. 203 Bty will obtain rations and P.O.L. from Lt.Qm. On arrival at BARCE 370 Bty will draw rations and P.O.L. direct from D.I.D. BARCE until arrangements are made with Bde. Supply Officer.
10. A.P. North. To be established near BARRACCA.
South. 10 kilos N.E. of EL ABIAR on track to BARCE.
11. W.P. At present at FENINA, EL ABIAR, and BARCE.

Contd on Sheet 3.....

Sheet 3.

12. Medical, R.M.O. will remain with R.H.Q. and visit Btys as necessary.
Btys will make local arrangements with Bde, in case of emergency.
C.C.S. at EL COEFIA.

13. L.A.D. will remain with R.H.Q.

INTERCOMMUNICATION.

14. Bty H.Qs. will be established in the proximity of Bde, H.Q.

15. R.H.Q. will be near 9 Aust Div. H.Q. Location to follow.

16. H.Q. 20 Aust Inf. Bde¹ 305800 as from 28th Mar.
H.Q. 26 Aust Inf. Bde. - not yet known - to follow.

17. Signal Section will run D.R.L.S. between R.H.Q. and Btys as from arrival of 370 Bty at BARCE and will notify all concerned of times.

18. Btys will arrange for Bde. to lay line to Bde H.Q.
R.H.Q. will be on line from Div. H.Q.

Acknowledge.

In the Field,

H. Hill

Capt. & Adj. R.A.
51st Army Field Regiment. R.A.

<u>Distribution :-</u>	Copy No. 1	- 4	370th Field Battery R.A.
	5	- 9	203rd Field Battery R.A.
		10	"A" Troop.
		11	Signal Section,
		12	L.A.D.
		13	9 Aust Div.
		14	20 Aust Inf. Bde.
		15	26 Aust Inf. Bde.
		16	Lt. Qm.
		17	R.M.O.
		18	War Diary.
		19	File.
	20 - 24		Spare.

SECRET.

Copy No. 12

29 Mar. 41.

2/17 Bn. - OPERATION ORDER NO. 2.

Maps: CYRENAICA 1/100,000.

Sheets No. 5, 6, 12 and 13.

INFORMATION.

1. Enemy: As per 20 Aust Inf Bde Int summary No. 5.
2. Own tps: (a) 2 Armd Div is operating on general line AGHEILA-WADI FARECH with instns - (i) to deny area between TRIPO-LITANIA frontier and own foremost tps; (ii) to oppose any adv; (iii) to shepherd any adv enemy tps into plain between the escarpment and the sea in vicinity BENGHAZI; and (iv) protect left flank of 9 Aust Div.
(b) 26 Aust Inf Bde (less one Bn) is operating on the right flank with under cmd one bty 51 Fd Regt, and 2/13 Fd Coy RAE. Its role is to deny to the enemy the area from TOLMEDA to excl inter Bde boundary line of WADI from BU ZUETINA (3508) - 3706 - HILL 323 (4004) - HILL 360 (4103).
(c) 2/13 Bn is operating on the left flank.
(d) 2/15 Bn is in Bde reserve at - from rear bdy to WADI GATTARA 3167 - WADI BIR IUSEF 5074.

INTENTION.

3. 2/17 Bn will deny enemy access to the escarpment from the line of (all incl) WADI BU ZUETINA (3508) - 3706 HILL 323 4004 - HILL 360 4103 to (excl) HILL 237 1974 - RY and ROAD CROSSING 2775.

METHOD.

- (a) Right: A Coy.
- (b) Centre: B Coy.
- (c) Left: D Coy.
- (d) FDL will incl - line of escarpment from BU ZUETINA 3508 to excl HILL 237 1974.
- (e) Boundaries.
 - (i) Right: (with 26 Aust Inf Bde) WADI from BU ZUETINA 3508 - 3706 HILL 323 4004 - HILL 360 4103 all incl.
 - (ii) Centre: (with A Coy) All incl B Coy WADI from BU ~~XXXXXX~~ CHREZA 3098 - TRIG 417 4093.
 - (iii) Left: (with B Coy) All incl D Coy WADI EL AUBILIT 2489 - HILL 325 2885 - ELUET NUNI 323 3183 with 2/13 Bn track junc 137739 HILL 237 1974 - RY and ROAD CROSSING 2775 all excl to D Coy.
 - (iv) Rear. Fwd Coys all incl, HILL 407 4597 - TRIG 417 4093 - CAP BU GREN 3383 - RY and ROAD CROSSING 2775 - HILL 271 2973.
- (f) The occupation of the posn will commence on 26 Mar by the following method:-
 - (i) A, B, C and D Coys will commence to move from present location by route march along rd ER REGIMA - EL ABIAR at 1400 hrs 26 Mar in accordance with times laid down.
 - (ii) HQ Coy will move by same route at 0600 hrs 27 Mar 41.

(iii)/....

- (iii) B Ech will commence move by same route at 0700 hrs 27 Mar 41.
- (iv) No movement will take place after 1730 hrs by which hr all posns must be occupied.
- (v) Fwd Coys will bivouac near Escarpment for night 27/28 Mar.
- (vi) Watching posts in Coy areas will be manned by 1700 hrs 28 Mar. 41.
- (vii) Sec and Pl areas will be occupied by 1700 hrs 29 Mar.

5. Arty.

Defensive fire will be provided to cover A Tk mine field astride RD and RY 199722.

6. Works.

- (i) RAE will mine 600^x astride rd and ry south of A Tk ditch.
- (ii) Section posts will be dug in all fwd areas.
- (iii) Recommendations for mining of wadi mouths will be submitted by 1200 hrs. 30 Mar.

7. Patrolling.

Fwd Coys will carry out continuous patrolling during hrs of darkness along the face of the escarpment and in the coastal plain.

8. Road Blocks.

Coys will recce all likely enemy approaches and efficient blocks will be constructed. Road blocks will be covered by fire. Pnr Pl is available to Coys for advice and assistance in this work.

9. Mortars.

One det under comd D Coy as from 1200 hrs 30 Mar.

10. Carriers.

Tasks - Left flank prot.
patrol of area of WADI from BU ZUETINA 3508.

11. A.A.

- (a) One sec with Bn HQ at BU DUER 295877.
- (b) One sec with B Ech at 308862.

12. Res.

- (a) C Coy in area SIDI ALI ES SMOTU 3686.
- (b) HQ Coy - less dots at Bn HQ - BU DUER 295877.

ADM.13. RAP.

- (a) With Bn HQ at BU DUER 295877.
- (b) Coys will advise MPs for amb for evacuation in rear of Coy areas.
- (c) Coy med orderlies and stretcher bearers will remain with Coys.
- (d) All casualties evacuated to DS west of left track 14 kilos from track junc 454870.

14. Traffic Control.

Coys will have turn off from main rd clearly marked with

Paint/....

Unit Serial No. and Coy letter only. This must receive immediate attention.

All routes to HQ to be continued where possible to another track, or 400^x beyond HQ.

15. Sup.

Ann and POL will be drawn at RASC, DID, BENGAZI, and will be distributed to Coys at MPs in rear of areas to be notified by Coy Comds. When operationally, necessary sup will be drawn from dumps being established at TECNIS (9318).

16. Tpt.

(a) MT will be dispersed with at least 400^x interval between vehicles and will be dug in and camouflaged.

(b) B Ech will be located in area 308862, and to allow maximum tpt to be available immediately for movement of tps to fwd areas in the event of break through on any sector of the front.

17. PW.

CP at Bn HQ - Coys will provide suitable escorts for PW.

18. WPs.

A Coy at EL ABIAR 4483.
Remainder at GOT BU MARIAM 3679.

19. Recovery.

(a) Tpt for 1st line repair to 58 LAD.

(b) Tpt for other than 1st line repair to No. 2 recovery section, BENGAZI.

20. Restriction of Lights.

No lights will be used during hours of darkness, and no fires will be lit after dark. Men must be impressed with the necessity of concealment at all times, and that silence during hours of darkness is essential to prevent information being gained by enemy patrols in the event of their penetrating the fwd areas.

INTERCOMN.

21. (a) Bn EQ at BU DUER 295877.

(b) Bn HQ will close at 0830 hrs 27 Mar and re-open at 1230 hrs. at BU DUER 295877.

22. Sig.

(a) Direct lines - to HQ Coy, B and C Coys.

(b) R/T com.

(c) DR to A and D Coys.

23. SDF.

Green over Red over Green.

ACK.

J. G. S. Moffatt
(J. G. S. MOFFATT) CAPT.
Adjt. 2/17 Bn AIF.

Time of Issue - 1515 hrs.

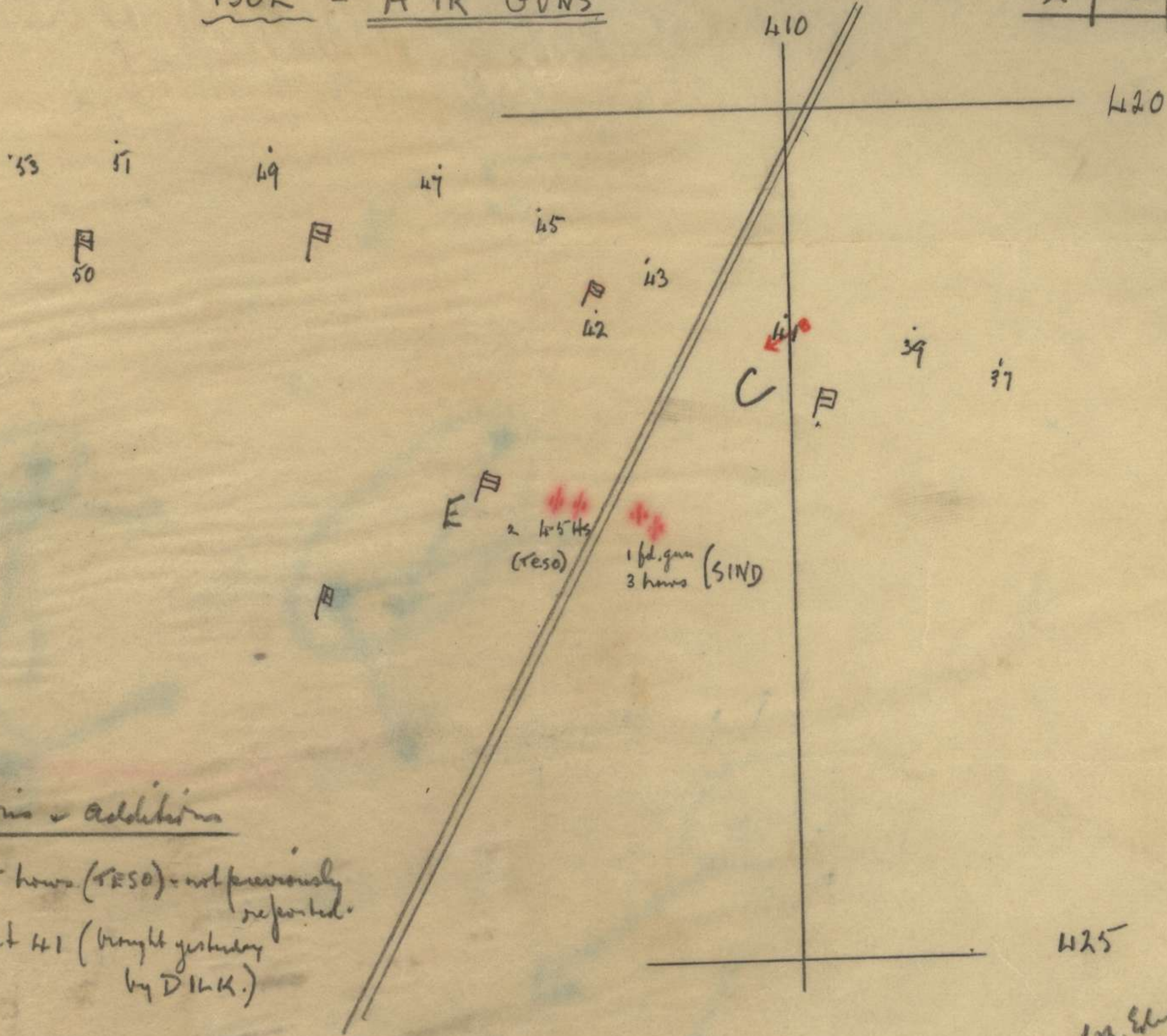
Method of Issue - DR.

<u>Distribution.</u>	HQ Coy	-	Copy	No		Copy	No.		No
A	"	"	"	1	Toni	"	8	Cefu	16
B	"	"	"	2	Derek	"	9	Nowa	17
C	"	"	"	3	Vincent	"	10	Keha	18
D	"	"	"	4	Ivor	"	11	File	19
CO	"	"	"	5	Sear	"	12	War Diary	20/1
Desmond	"	"	"	6	Guns	"	13	Spare	-22/4.
				7	Pipo	"	14		
					Beak	"	15		

50,000

ISOL - ATK GUNS

29 Apr 41



Today's Alterations & Additions

- ISOL E 2 H.S. hrs (RESO) - not previously reported.
- " C Gun at 41 (brought yesterday by D.H.K.)

425

Tom. Edwards
a/Sgt.
DEREK
ISOL

29 Apr 41