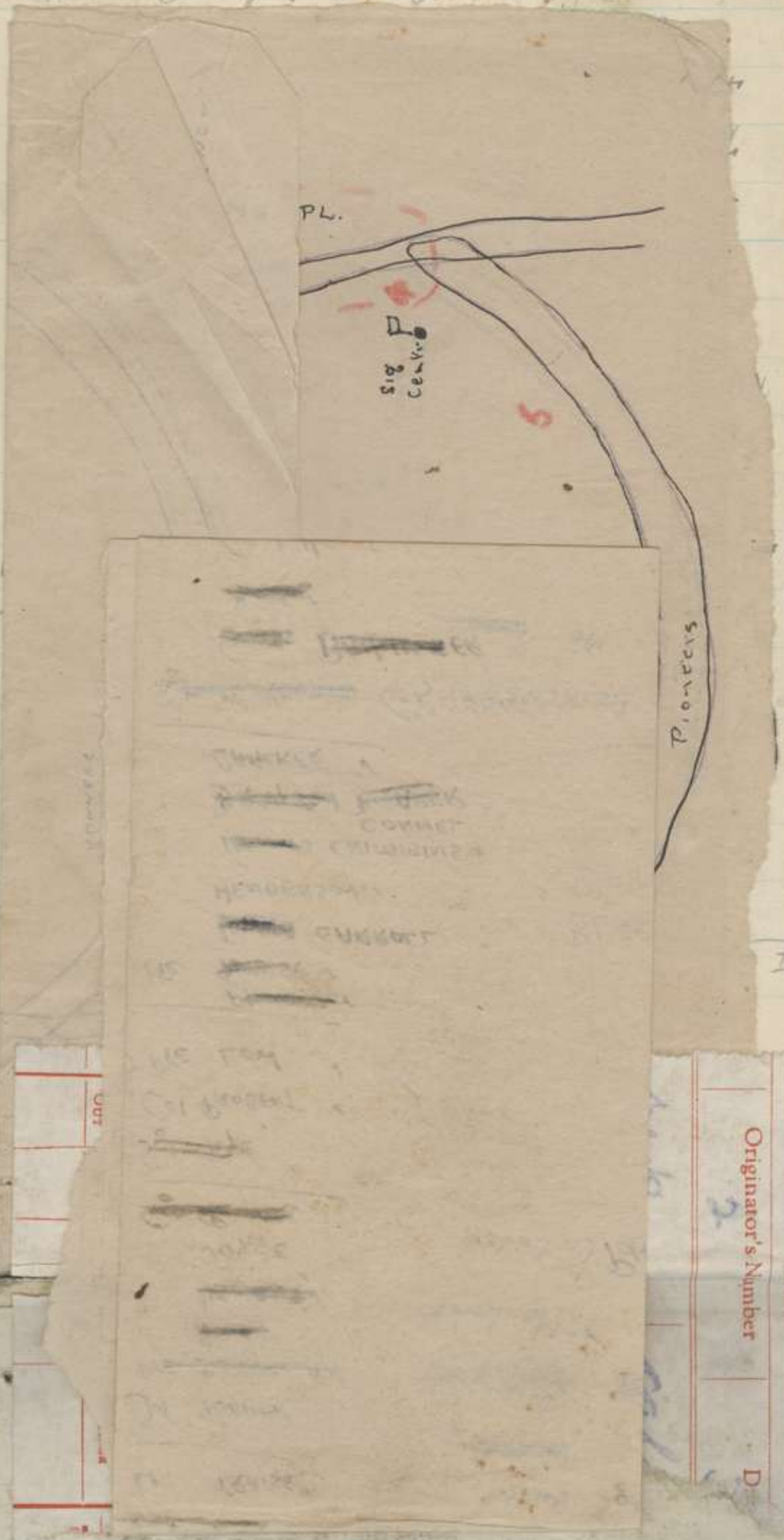


**AWM52**  
**2nd Australian Imperial Force and**  
**Commonwealth Military Forces unit war**  
**diaries, 1939-45 War**

Item number: 8/3/1

**2/1 Infantry Battalion**  
**November - December 1942,**  
**Appendices, part 1 of 2**





Originator's Number  
2

D

Boats

ADV HQ 16 Bde	Viva
Beau	Stubs.
2/1	
BHQ	LOKU
HQ Coy	KAZA
A	NAHU
B	PIHU
C	WORA
D	VAVU

- AX off BOR battle casualties
- AY evac beyond RAP
- AZ transfers other cause
- B reinforcements
- C Actual persons on strength
- D Casualty Off.
- E Att within est.
- F att surplus
- G Det.

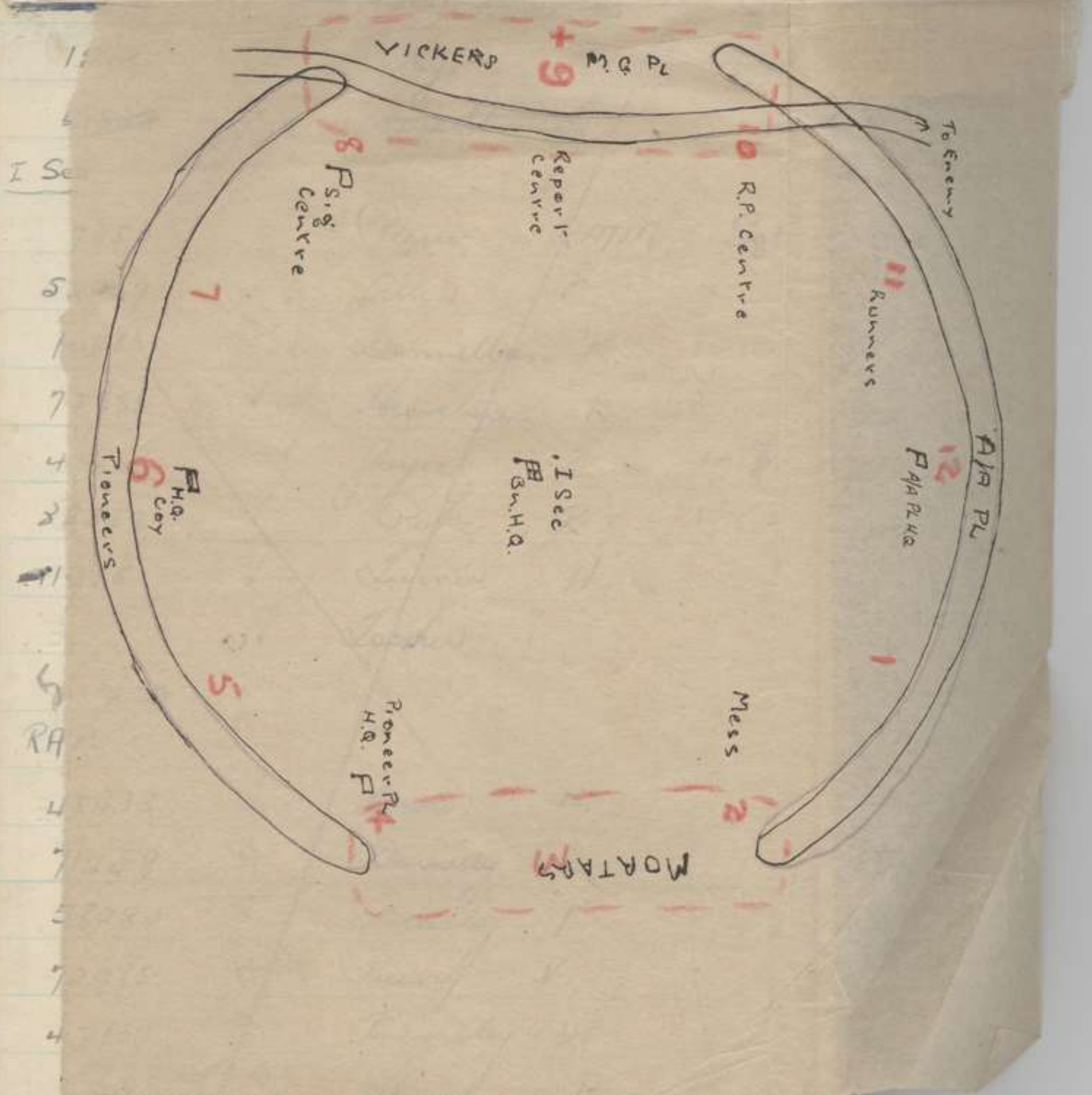
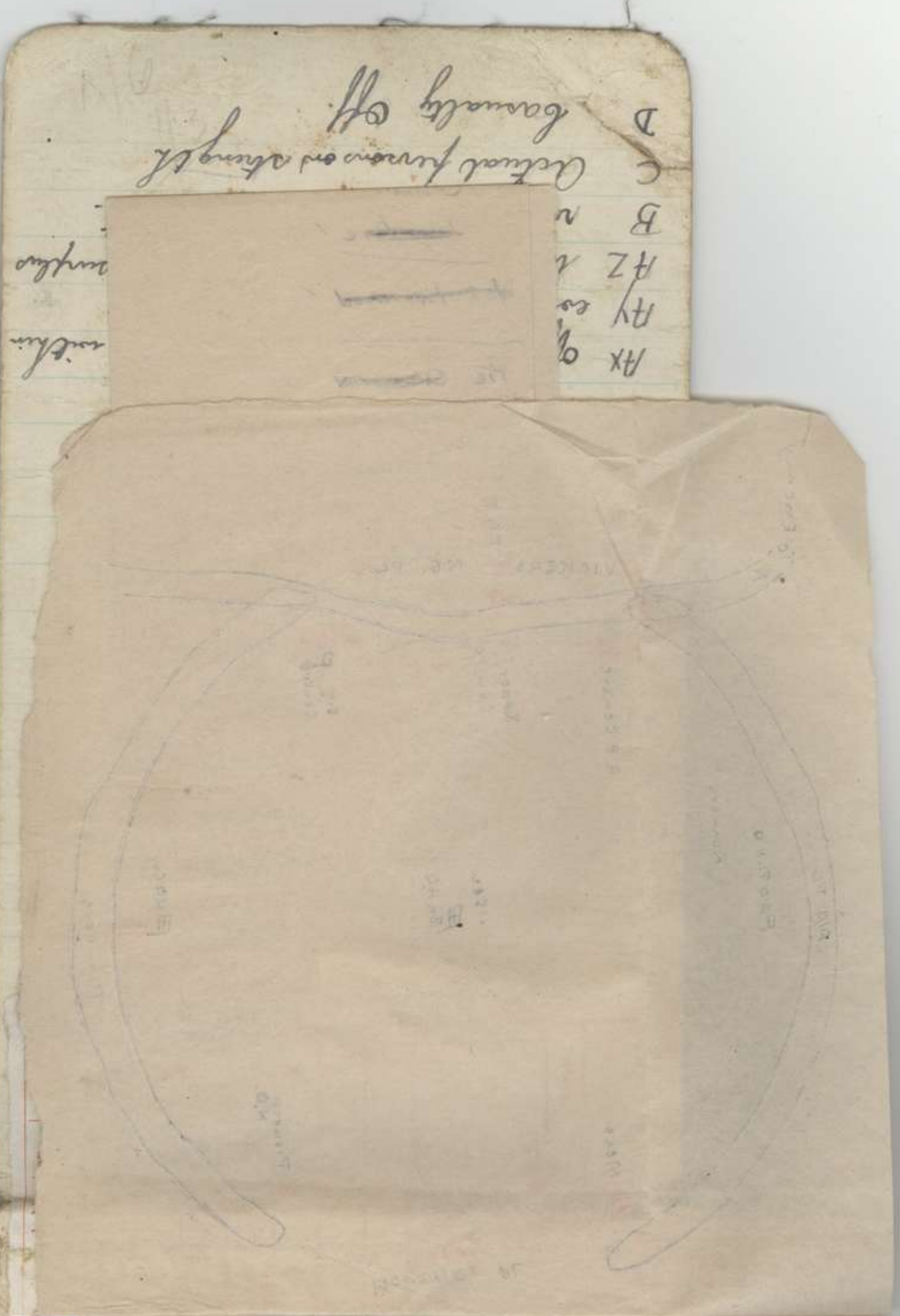












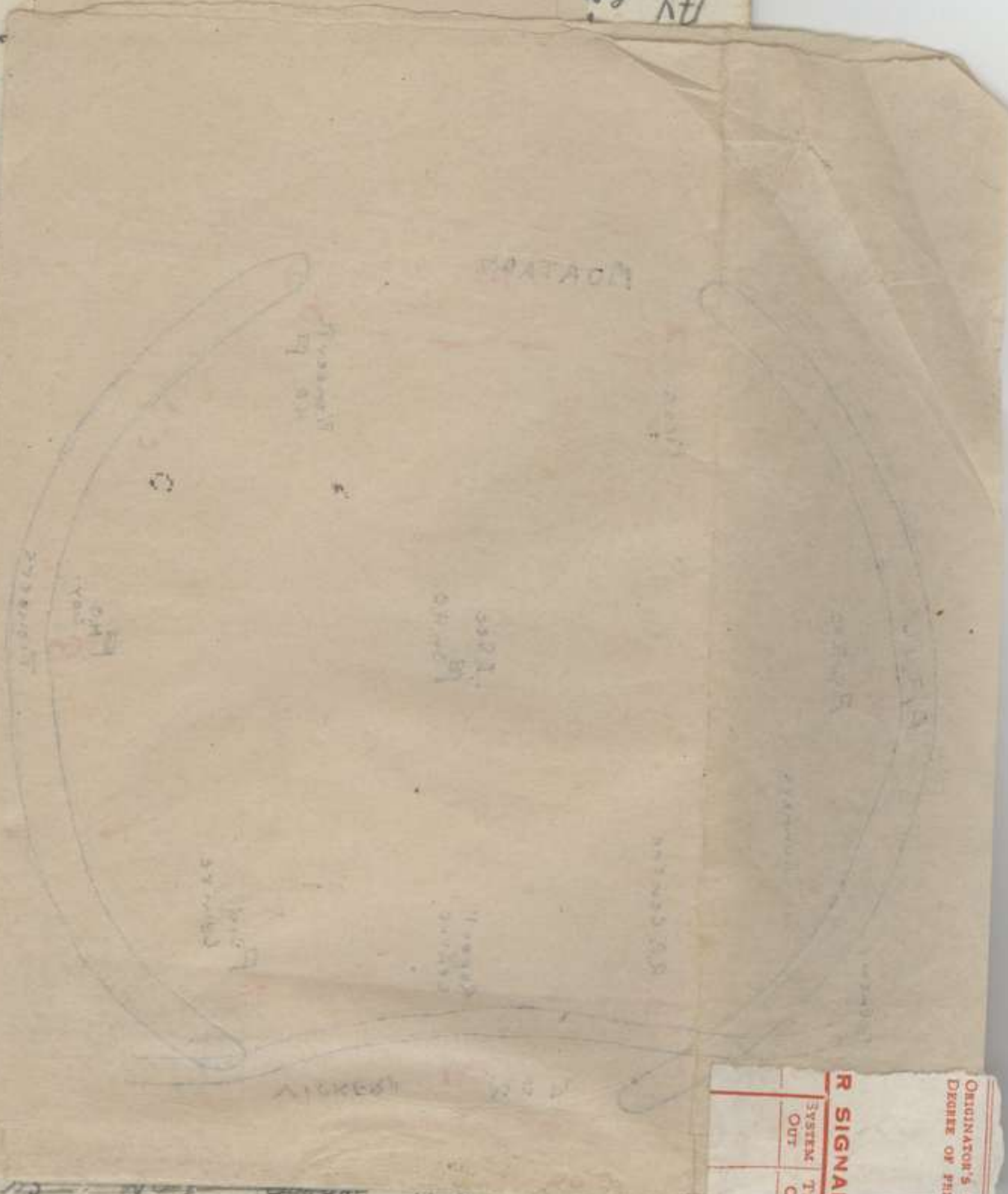
69062 / C Mc Lavin E.



Actual persons and things  
 normally off.

AY  
 AZ  
 B  
 n

with  
 sent



ORIGINATOR'S  
 DEGREE OF PHIL  
 R SIGNAL  
 SYSTEM  
 THE  
 OUT

<del>1505</del>		<del>Pearsham</del>	<del>C</del>	<del>Sgt</del>
1505	/	Page	R	(H)
<del>41538</del>	+ ✓	<del>Robert</del>		
I Sec.		L/Col Robert.		
7453	/	Pearce	R.M.M.	Sgt
52927	+ /	Allen	E.	
1088	+ /	Donnellan	K.	1-10
72885	✓	Hewes	R	3 5
41602	✓	Joyce	E	1-7
38522	✓	Pike	R	1 2
<del>1955</del>	✓	Turner	H	1
	✓	Locher		
5 x 20		Turner		
R.A.P.				
45433	C	Brow.	L.	
71448	A	Donnelly	C.	
58284	B	Beasley	P	
72785	Hosp	Bavy	V	
47137	B	Kensley	W.	
682	G R	Lewis	P.	
69062	C	McLain	E.	



Jobs to be done

CO's Maps

My map case! Maps in  
Maps for boys. See Specimen London

INTER Coy CODES

HAVE STOPPED

AL

Am moving at

MY

You will move at

OL

You will halt at

BO

Coy Intact in pl Gps

KA

Present location

RE

New Order of march as follows

at same intervals

WA

Coy Comd report BNHQ Immediately

NE



73026	B	Morphett	W
43088	/	MacLaine	A
38724	D	Shen	W
8295	D	Tollan	V
46161	HQ	Weismantle	J
68504	D	Thurston	L
72352	HQ	Whalan	W
47627	A	Lowe	R

X AMIC

~~Watt~~ ~~Waterhouse~~

Batmen

72637 ✓ Breuen E.

45783 ✓ McTewen N

~~45965~~ Turner

45923 ✓ Mellan CW.

45667 x ✓ Plummer C.

~~71209~~ ~~Smith~~ C.

RP's.

Left McLenzie ↓

2803 ↓ O. Mally J

30205 ↓ Law E.

47076 ↓ Giles H

1633 ↓ Bannister T

41279 Saw Costello A

Saw Johnston CS



Keshon Epaya Run

1 mile to 1 creek

Nubkon May Mills  
Fareway Co.

10

Ady

1 Mile to bay

R Pless 2

Agt Payne Co

Mrs Probert M Miller



R.P.

Bosler

35

Music

McEachren J

23 ✓

~~Regt.~~  
Pte Draper

Sol. Bullen

Maj Miller

Capt Cox

Lieut Travis 5 off

WO II Fennell 1 WO II

Sgt Wakeling AAMC x

Capt Kennell AMC x

[Cox Bran]

Sgt Baker x AMC ✓

Sgt Doran ✓ 4 OR

Pte Bentley AMC ✓

Schofield x AMC ✓

Schumacher 2 OR<sup>s</sup>

YMCA Sgt Lindsay 1 WO I

NX 45303

Pte Smith J

36

[Bourne]



Major Miller  
Capt Probert

RP

RP

Nickson



Bn HQ

5 OFF

2 WO.

~~29~~ OR. (2 Longford)

~~36~~

38

(33)

Bn HQ

38

RP

8

OR.

2

1 Sec.

11

Left Coyor?

x

Nicolson Cpl

Fachney JS ple

Padre

x

ATT

Batman Smith

x

ATT

26 OR's

1 Padre

3 att

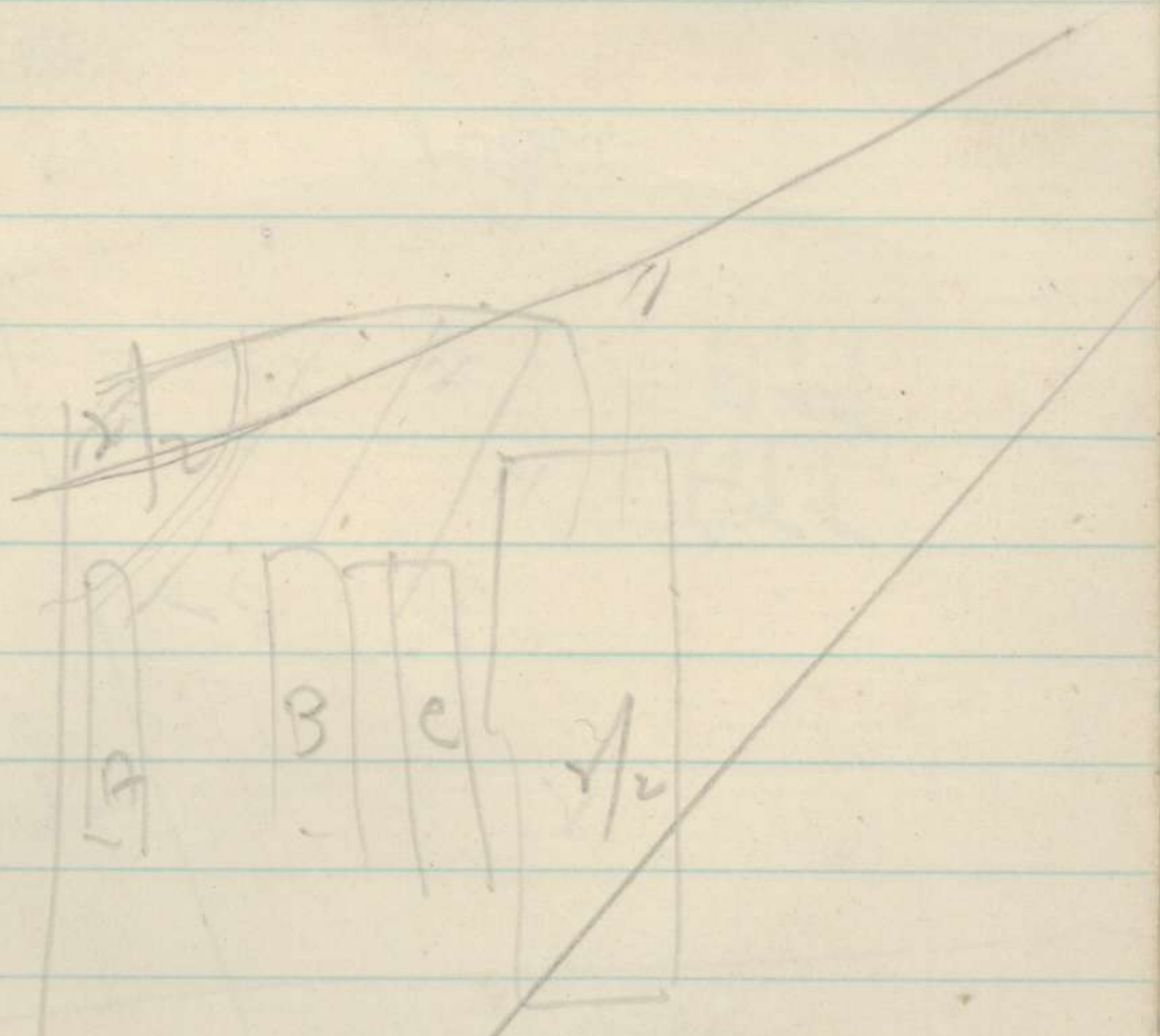
5 off

~~39~~ 41

1 WO

~~36~~





- v Red northern success
- v Green southern success



19 OCT 42

1900 hrs

CO's honf Temp Crossg

(1)

To relieve the 3 Bn

C on left night

B entire

A left on creek

1/2 steps come through on night.  
and another two pass through  
them, turn left & pass across front  
of our boys.

On given signal A, B, C will go  
forward to TAP posts.

B will go forward with 2 pl & patrol  
until TAP reached.

2" Mortars

50 303

200 15mm G

2 Grenades per man

8 Bn magazines

Take 2 days above ration

Bkts go shut to be put in drums when  
case take over from the third.



②



RAP

(3)

Mortar have 33 lines 0700  
It is expected 1/2 will go through  
approx 1100 hrs

Mortar used as carriers of ammo

0800

20 Oct 42

60 contactor bol banned

1022

boys in posn

1055

1/2 passing through C Coy.

1230

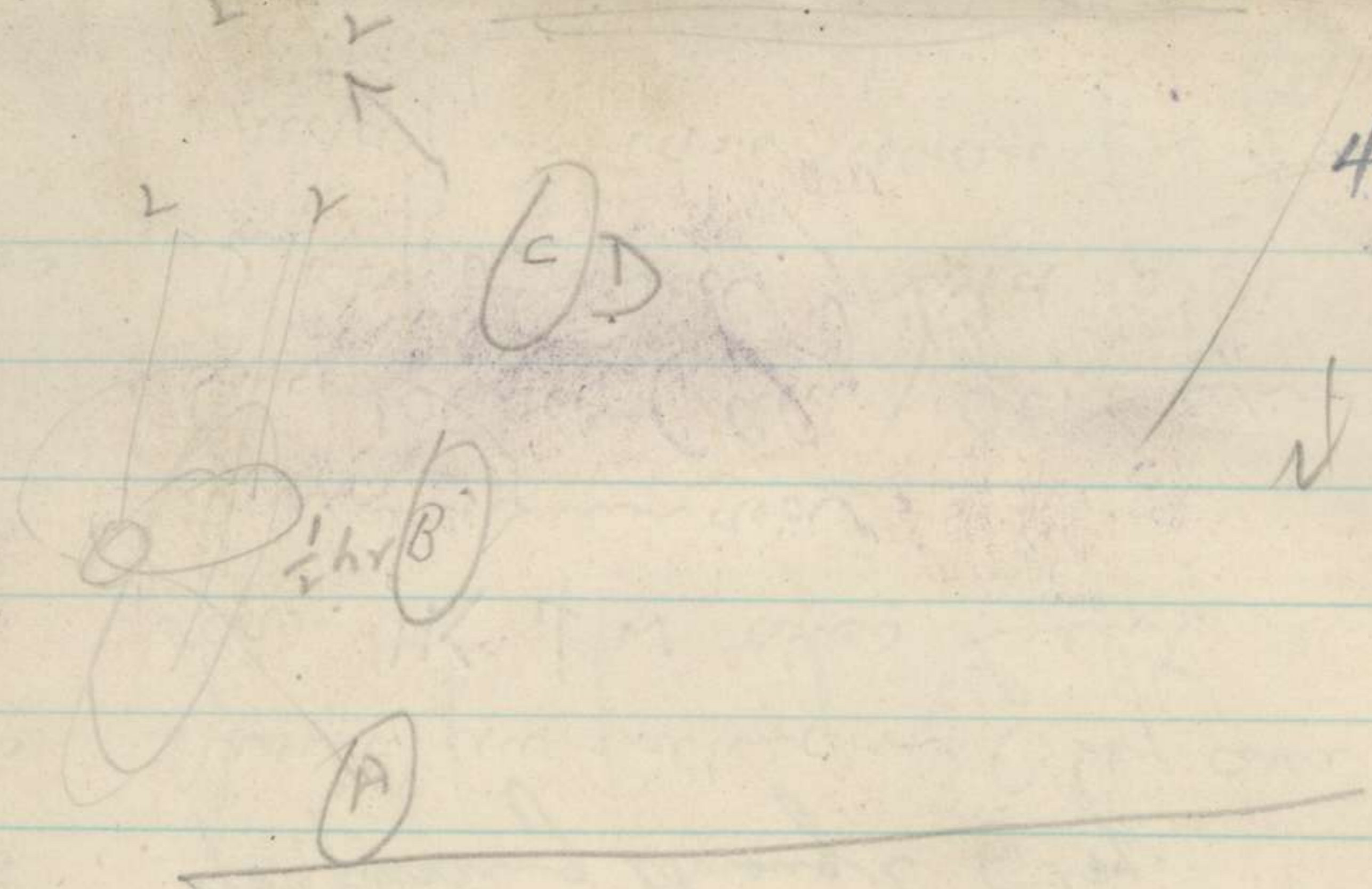
Mortar fire falling in C Coy area  
bas. 1K 1/2 W also Light  
barraged wounded

One 108 set (C Coy) gone up

1300

D boy arrived. Told to be  
ready in case needed for  
attack.







1330 / 1405 Enemy mortar falling on  
behind B HQ 5

1410 Our mortars opened up

1420 & exposed D Coy

1545 C Coy to move forward

D " " replace C.

C to close gap between front Coy  
of 2/2 Bn (152 bats)

Contact on right & left

Guide from 3rd Bn B Coy

& units of withy well move

↓ into C Coy position

1610 Orders to A Coy ~~forward~~ to try

& knock out enemy 2 MG

with 2" mortar.

1645 A Coy commenced shoot

1730 ~~bullet 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20~~

~~inter he 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20~~

~~P. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20~~

any 9.

1740 at D Coy now in C Coy position

C Coy approx 500' further on

1745 Bn HQ camp.



Est. JAP En. Gas.

OCT 42

(6)

A B C D

Pioneers

Result

K W | K W | K W | K W

K W

23 16-0 | 11-0 | 7-0 | 6-6

10-0

24 H

1-0

25 2 1

6

7 5-0

8 8-0

16-0 | 11-0 | 7-0 | 19-6

13-1

TOTAL

66.7

NOV, 42

5 0-2

9 5-2

10 3-0 | 3-0 | 6-0

2-0

11 2-0 | 22-0 | 20-4 | 15-4

12 3-0

TOTAL

10-4 | 25-0 | 43-1 | 25-0

2-0 | 105.5

12 1-0

4



21 OCT

0615

C Coy went fwd to PIHA

(7)

0725

JAN report 4 WPT 4/ pulling out

0735

B Coy report 1 Coy HQ gone to centre PI  
86 yds fwd 5 6

0845

D Coy reported 5 that they had contacted  
HQ 2 Bn and ~~and~~ D Coy 1 6

0915

B Coy contacted 4 B Coy of 2/ & expects  
to move fwd 0935

0950

Our mortar commenced firing

1005

B Coy now going fwd.

1200

B Coy moved 600' & men on the  
going fwd as patrol.

1200

D Coy moving into B Coy posn.  
call from B Coy message from Buller  
via Runic C Coy to come in  
via Bn HQ.

A Coy to move behind B & then  
follows Bn HQ.

1330

C Coy moving in. A Coy  
advanced along the  
Passing JAP positions appear  
to have been at least a  
Bn in area



8

1

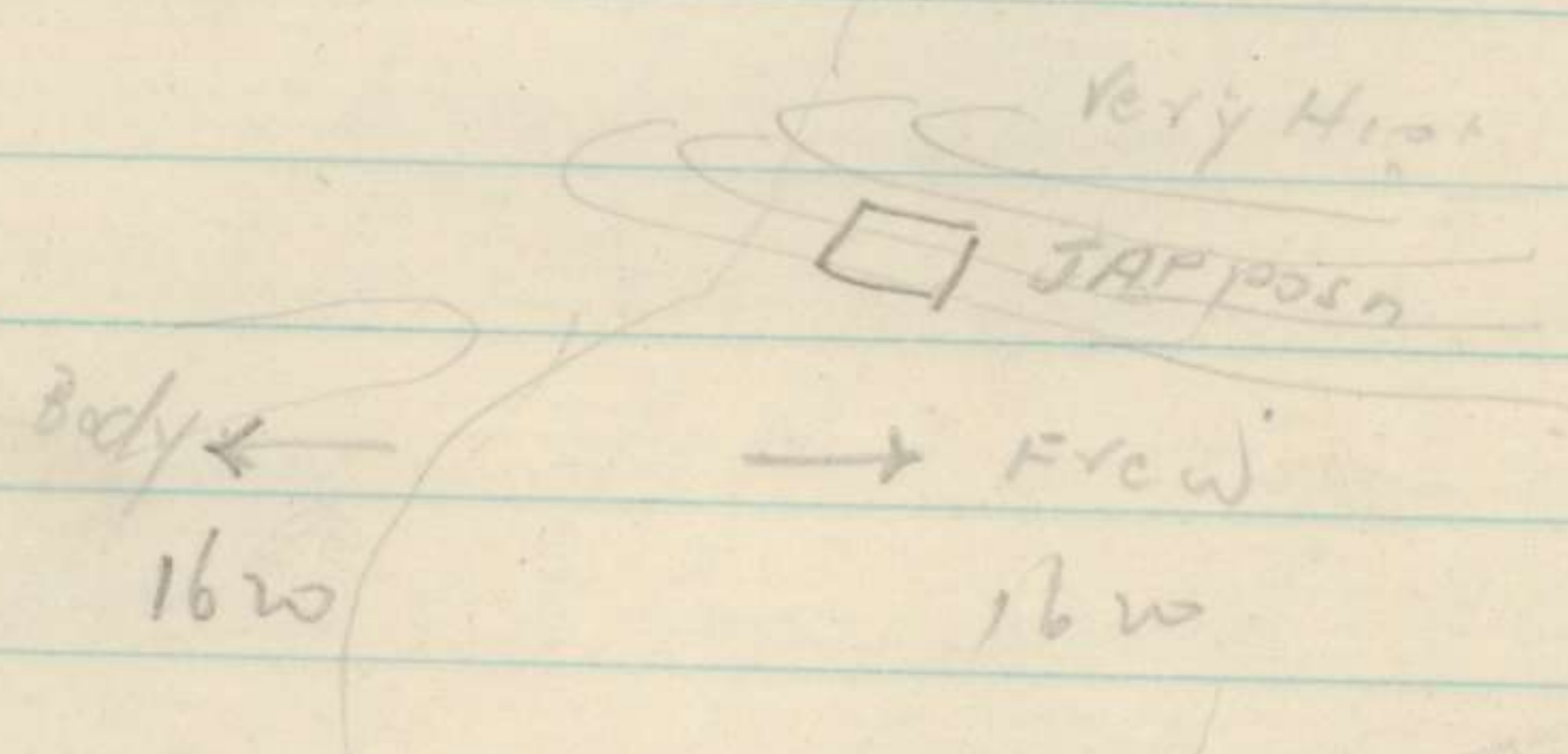


(9)

10:00 B Coy held up approx 3000 ft  
2K + C ~~4~~ wounded. (9)

Gun position of STAPS seen &  
appears that ~~it is~~ ~~it is~~ ~~it is~~  
a maintained howitzer. Shell cases & fuses  
sent back.

Lt Nathan & 3 OR gone to Base HQ



A Coy in posn behind B Coy  
on East of the.

1700 Rained slightly.

Water is approx 800' behind B Coy  
RAP back at water

Unit was not to advance beyond  
1700 hrs.

Enemy strength est 1 Coy  
3 LMG 1 MMG



10



1915 hrs. A Coy would not attack before dark  
as whole unit not here C O decided  
to leave his attack until morning (11)  
when D Coy would arrive as reserve.  
The B Coy ordered to find out if enemy in place  
presently pending for which A Coy will be  
held to move to outflank enemy.

1200 Co conf with Brig, Lloyd S & E.  
Dawson present. Brig decided  
to move fwd as enemy appeared to  
have gone. 1st Bn on axis main  
the less C & D Coys with B Coy  
at Anaguan (2 Coy of 1st Bn &  
whole of 2nd to move the on top of  
ridge above main the.

2000 Raven received that 1st Bn  
contacted on person on crest also  
that boys of 2nd would be patrolling  
down the hill to contact us  
beginning 0730 — Coy C Dawson  
informed.



WAR DIARY

22 OCT 41

following promotions are advised

Capt Gelling to be A/Major

WO's Bartin

Gosnell

A Dyer

A/LIEUTS

Lt Col Fishelone

P. Brewer

Letts

Dates not known.



0625

went fwd to contact P.H.A.

P.H.A. to see if enemy still

(13)

I AP appear to have gone  
Very cold.

0745 A Coy went fwd as vanguard.

0840 D Coy arrived

0850 B Coy arrived

0905 Patrol B boy to area between

Era bk & Alola (high feature)  
D boy now to become vanguard  
skirt Era bk village &  
limit of exploitation Alola.

1030 B boy patrol set out

1030 / D boy left main track  
to cut behind village

1110 / contact 1/3 B on main track

1140 Arrived above Era bk village  
Enemy holding up 1/3 B

1215 A boy left to go round village up  
ridge & hit gap on flank  
1/3 have a boy moving to right flank  
Enemy est 1 Coy.



15

(14)



1430 C Coy arrived

(15)

1445 / 1530 JAP mortar & gran frags.

3K 9 wounded. 2 sub. died

Quiet until 1750 when Col Buller  
& Col Stevenson went forward & they were  
fired on by MG & howitzer.

Decided 2/3 Bn establish bridgehead  
across ch then C Coy & B Coy go across  
at 0630 vs 0840

2/3 Gungah night & they will  
go as far as possible.

B.O considers attack couldn't get  
along in face of opposition. Reason  
to be checking the crossing as  
reported by Capt Galt 2/3  
B.O wants D Coy 2/3 & A 2/3  
time to put in their attack.  
Opp. 3 LMG & 1 mortar trained on  
bridge & bk.

Use as best with mortar we  
can. Consider plan tactically  
unsound.



16



all well proceed quick at  
0430 Capt Galt will also try  
find out where right hand gun is  
situated for our mortar

~~HQ boy not here~~

23 OCT 42

Rain fell early - moonlight

0330 B Co went forward across to bridge

0400 B Coy went forward

0645 Bus arrived.

Intermittent fire heard at night

0630/0830 SA & mortars can be heard.

Better fighting going on

Howitzer being used by enemy

0815 One pl B Coy tried to get comm  
with C Coy.

One pl got down. Failed to get across

0855 B Co tried to go down &  
establish B HQ forward but  
MG fire prevented it

It was then necessary to  
go back round the



1120hrs B.O. between 2 bridges

1140 Contacted Bow & Major Miller  
Some mortar fire on South feature  
Bow advise Capt Lynght up 2/1

1150 Pollett Pl (C Coy) reports to C.O.  
between 2 bridges - Alleged party of 40/50  
about to patrol our feature after affecting  
crossing of area north of 2nd bridge. This  
is only supposition as TAPS were only seen  
moving north on west side of creek

B.O. is of opinion TAPS are moving out  
NOT doing offensive patrol

1230 Bty continued to move along  
main tk. TAP appears to have  
gone although he still fired  
several mortar shells & snipers seem  
active along tk.

Platoon bas. 23

3 off K 1 off W  
1 off ORK 25 OR W



(19)

(23)

(19)

feature not using the tk & crossing  
at smaller stream just before its  
junction with the larger stream near  
the bridge.

B Coy with CO.

HQ Coy still not missing.

1330 moving on tk & saw where  
A Coy had contacted enemy.  
A lot of men dead about.

collected information from TFR  
boats & sent back to Base.

1400 Struck enemy at 400' north of bridge.  
Using LMGs. B Coy.  
Asked assistance from B Coy & one  
boy r/s sent out.

Only B Coy Pioneer Pl & some sig  
with B Coy HQ

one Pl C Coy what was left  
Remains Pl A Coy.



20



1615 Pioneer Pl started to go round  
on left flank (21)

1625 2 men arrived from Transit camp  
just when we were in a ticklish spot  
& looking for D Coy.

1715 Coy under Capt Lysaght  
arrived with 2 VMG.

1800 More firing & grenades seems  
to indicate that Leamy has  
got among them.

~~1820~~ firing ~~got going~~  
Barr falling.

1845 West & Stewart reported going back  
from Pioneer Pl slightly wounded  
after knocking 4 men operating  
an LMG but were driven out

1905 Major Barnes arrived.

Still fighting until dark.

Light firing heard at  
intervals during night.

Notes for B. 2 off K



22



(23)

24 Oct.

(23)

0545 Stand to.

0630 CO went forward to B Coy & patrols from B Coy gone out.

Small groups of JAP still about.

0815 Pioneer Pl pushing round on left flank also on Pl B Coy & B

Rations arrived during night.

Arrive at first light!

0900 3 enemy mortars fired.

Bn HQ caught this up

Details of A, C & D Coy organized under Capt Prew & Sgt Brewer attached to him.

CO considers enemy not some strength on ridge further back. Gun seems to be in same position but mortar moved back.

CO want strong force sent round left flank & he deems it improbable that the opposition

will shift, asks that steps be sent out.



624



0950 B Coy 2/3 sent out to go round  
Another Coy of 2/3 also going to go  
round as well.

1000 2 GR's sent out to try & find  
mortar OP.

1030 Capt Olman Owen & Brown  
reboot for high ground on  
right flank.

1105 12 Pl of B Coy arrived from right flk

1130 commenced mortar again apparently  
trying to get onto this area

1130 C Coy of 2/3 Bn arrived

1200 Col Stevenson passed through.

1415 Col Stev in position on top  
expects to attack 1600 hrs.  
Lent crew wounded

All quiet until 1500 when mortar  
fired again

1530 Reported that 2/3 Bn had  
contacted enemy were making  
headway shortly

1600 B Coy arrived. Nothing doing  
few mortars about 1830



26



(27)  
Heavy rain fell at night & it was very cold.

One VMG destroyed by mortar fire

25 Oct

(27)

0600

Mail arrived with rations

Enemy still in posn.

0945 2 Aircraft strafed enemy posn

1045 Enemy mortar again firing.

1230 Lt General went out to ground  
and met with a patrol

Blair Pl patrol reported back.

1300

Pl <sup>extremely exhausted</sup> reported having killed 2 JAPS  
& wounded 1.

1315

Col Stevenson is of opinion 1 Regt of  
JAPS holding ridge.

1600

3rd Bn contacted D Coy early  
after. D Coy calling rations urgently.  
Dep. 130 all available to 3 Bn

1400

G.R Pl back - struck enemy  
tent failed to find OP.

1700

Prisoner Pl asked for 2" mortar.

Very quiet all afternoon.  
Lush all day.



28

W. J. P. G. S. L. / K. C.

W. J. P. G. S. L. / K. C.

W. J. P. G. S. L. / K. C.



(29)

25 Oct

Mortar OP est: east side of bridge.  
Hops sheet on 26 Oct.

1815 En. mortar opened up also MG  
1/3 Ben cookers

(29)

Have Henschel ready between 9 & 10  
to contact Pandaall plant left bank  
Get looked on JAP cas.

" " mat.

26

Sporadic rifle fire during night  
Rains fell

0630 Enemy reported still and present

0715 Our mortar opened up on them

0730 Enemy mortar opened up

En mortar inflicted casualties  
on our crew as mortar position  
being changed

D Coy 2 Pl A Coy 13 Pl C Coy  
back at Bala

Power taking over C

Wiseman taking over A



30



(31)

It was decided that more offensive  
action should be taken as a distract  
ion to the enemy in this area. (31)

A 3" mortar platoon was arranged  
A 2" mortar to be used from  
Prisoner Pl position.

Lt Muller took up 2 mortar  
w/ bombs 12 Grenades & threw  
at enemy. Results not  
observed. B Coy Pl furnished  
by full in position occupied by  
the enemy.

1100 B Coy fired 5 rds per man  
1 rd per man at known  
enemy positions which it  
is hoped caused casualties  
to be advised.

D Coy returns less 2 men missing  
advising they nearly reached A 200 A  
Killed 3 rps per Capt. Ruppert's report. Att.

Lieut. McHugh with 17 men after  
A Coy's attack went to the left  
& joined D Coy further up the ridge.



(32)

6 → 1000 1 1000 1000  
1000 1000 1000 1000

- 
- 1300 Lt Nathan went out on  
55 hr Patrol down east  
side of river  
1 to find a crossing where  
enemy could be attacked  
from rear  
2 to interrupt JAP supply  
lines



2 Pts A Coy returned. Here (33)  
lost contact with Capt Sanderson  
on his attack & later joined D Coy  
at the ridge. Per Lt Blakiston's report  
all these personnel are being evacuated  
& moved by Major Murch & sent  
back to BN after a night's rest.

1500 Bug arrived

Capt Barclay found  
all quiet until 1500  
when SA fire was heard.

1615 Gun opened up. New form  
on ridge just above B Coy  
firing at old B HQ

Time of flight of round & sec.  
Probable explanation of chopping  
noise last two days & making  
tracks uphill for gun.

1400 JAP rifles & amm collection  
in area sent to B Coy who are  
using them for firing at  
enemy position intermittently



(34)

26

Bridge washed away making crossing  
difficult.



Capt Burrell back (35)  
Fisher to replace Long as L.O.  
Capt Simpson came back with  
Brig.

A/lt Col Riches & Plt Byrnes of GPs  
have been picked up back at  
7 Div Rec. camp & will be  
charged with desertion

1830 Enemy dropped 6 mortar  
bombs on PWHQ. 2 Cas.

27

0400 Fusillade of shot heard.  
0700 600 Coy went fwd to C Coy  
0745 PIHA reported enemy shifted  
PIHA to advance 500' along  
the WORA to advance along  
ridge on top.

0930 D Coy commenced to arrive  
1100 Report from B Coy Patrol  
Enemy on 500' have  
Attack party to JAPS



36



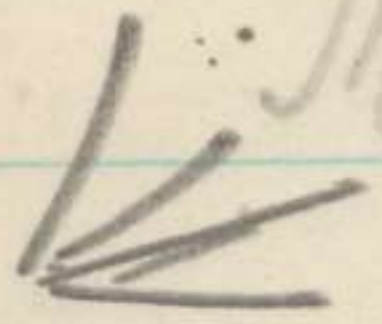
1190 Two pl B bay to go forward assist  
patrol

D bay to move from reserve to  
B bay position

C bay should come down on left. Forward  
heard from C bay position (JAP) &  
runner sent up to see what's happening

C bay encountered JAPs when coming down

Mail Arrived <sup>Cas. 1 wounded.</sup>



1170 B bay opened fire JAP got LMG.

Pitchei attacking. Muller left &

Body going high go on left.

1200 Pioneer Pl reports JAP still in  
position on spur

B bay reports JAP still as strong  
as well except that he has moved  
back

1210 D bay recalled & sent up reserve

C bay to move carefully down  
the ridge not get down  
into the valley.



12 DEC.

Rain fell very heavily during night  
0600 hours

Day becoming fine.

Reported 1200 JAPS men in this area  
112 All ranks total.

Mosquito nets received.

13 DEC

Mail received

Day fine

otherwise strenuous

(83)

(83)



Heavy fighting until 1215 hrs when  
it subsided.

bas 4 wounded, 1 died

Bridge being repaired by sappers.

It is considered that main force of  
JAPS has withdrawn & left pockets  
of resistance.

1430 Gun opened up firing on hill 20 Pds

1445 B Coy reported on in strength  
along ridge - will require  
a ~~ridge~~ reserve in position Pms  
occupied in case Burrell & Simpson cannot  
shift them.

1500/10 Fusillade of shots heard

Prisoner PL now withdrawn  
to post held by Lunt Gornell.  
Gornell now with C Coy.

1600 C Coy reported D Coy moving higher  
up ridge in attempt to find  
another along which to advance  
on the enemy.



10 DEC

0600 Sitiveni

Arty moved guns from KONA into  
edge of timber. B by pen altered.

0900 2/3 Bn passed through to  
relieve 2/2 Bn

Day fine & dry.

Good rations again.

Reported JAP dead at GONA heavy.

Strength Bn 126 All ranks.

Best camp broke up.

11 Dec.

0600 Sitiveni

0900/1000. Band fell

Day fine following

Reported 638 JAPS buried GONA area.

Also 25 Bn flying out

Ration of bread arrived eq to 3/4 loaf  
per man - first since 6 Oct

(17)



Lt Murray reported in to B Coy.

" Blakiston & 2 pls A Coy reported in to OC, Lt Prior.

1 bay of Ben is to place 2 Pls up  
 again to protect units rear & 1 Pl to  
 remain on east side of stream to  
 replace Mes Prior.

6 bay to do 2<sup>nd</sup> mortar's sheet 1630

A bay new to place 2 Pls to left rear  
 of B bay & 1 Pl between the 2  
 acting as a reserve for B bay & stopping  
 any gap between left hand pl B bay  
 and Pioneer Pl who are now 300<sup>+</sup>  
 up the ridge west of Ben HQ

1630 En. mortar dropped 9 bombs at  
 rear of our HQ

1800 Our 3<sup>rd</sup> mortar commenced firing  
 1745 hrs

Enemy 2<sup>nd</sup> mortar fired on  
 B HQ

1600 Imperson contacted Enemy  
 Lost 1 OR & killed 5 OR



DEC. 9

1600

Lt Dyer Pl with 2/2 Btl being  
relieved by Lt Simpson's Pl from  
B Coy.

No sign yet of relief of Bn.

MDS returning patients (sick as  
they are unable to cope with same

Pen again re-organised  
B HQ.

H Q Group

one Coy under Capt Prior

1800.

News received that GONA fell  
during the afternoon.

Heavy rain fell for short period  
during night.

Australian mixed rations arrived  
Lined fruit included.

#17

#17



After firing 14 rds ours  
3" mortars blew up killing 3

28.

Repl fire & grenades during night

It is now established from papers sent  
back from us we have a TARTAR  
Bn & an Engr Coy opposite us

0800 Enemy mortar opened up on  
near B H Q firing several shells.

0920 All quiet until when heavy rifle fire  
& grenades were heard from B Coy area.

Quadrant 0930

Line between here & B Co cut  
possibly by enemy mortar fire. Spl  
barrages from Reg gone out to fix  
comm between D & C and Bn HQ

very bad owing to faulty telephones.

1015/20, Enemy using 2" mortar again  
on these HQ

Again 1100



DEC 8

1330 Arty opened up on GONA

No word yet of our relief

American rations again but no  
supplementary except black chocolate.

2 more lads from hospital rejoined us  
but fewer still claiming new victims.

Day hot & fine.

1800 Two pods ATK gun seen being taken  
forward.

8 Evac. during day.

DEC. 9

0600

Sit now

Night fine

Programme for today is further  
harassing & air bombing

1100

Planes bombed & strafed.

Day fine.

Mail arrived as late as 29 Nov.

Ray admitted to RAP.

(E11)



1100 Report from C Coy their patrol to  
D Coy contacted enemy at 0915 hrs. Failed  
to contact D Coy. 1 OR wounded in thigh  
by JAP wearing Australian helmet camouflaged  
with leaves.

1100 D Coy report moved back 300' towards C Coy  
His sig was between C & D cut in 3  
places. Yesterday he drove JAPS out  
of a small post.

1130 SA fire & mortar grenade fire fierce for  
short periods

1230 D Coy report shortly after reached  
new post they were attacked by small  
(from  
center) force JAPS. Our Cas. 1K.

2" Mortar was being used in defence &  
blew up killing 1 & wounding 4  
Dempson considers JAP still  
patrolling between D & C.

Enemy cas. unknown.

1345 C.O. issued instruction to D Coy to do  
something offensive.



1200

Saw first dog fight in air &  
then saw JAP planes crash in  
flames towards GONA.

1515

Two boys of 55/53 Bde to attack  
on either side of main track. Very  
heavy fire met. No results known  
but doubtful if they could get  
through.

American rations issued to us today

Day & night fine.

B.D. still at R.A.P.

Evacuations 6.

55/53 gained about 100/50 yds but  
held up. 132 wounded for Bde.

DEC 8

0600

Itiner - day commences very fine.  
Reorganisation of front line  
troops of 30 Bde to take place.  
Also harassing fire with mortars.  
21 Bde hope to clean up GONA  
area during day.

37



1600/1630 Fire fight between B & C Coys  
& JAPs. JAP expended lot of  
ammunition, we are using JAP ammo  
where possible.

JAP using 2" mortar frequently  
during afternoon.

1730 Lt Nathan returned

1600 Fighting patrol under Wiseman  
Very heavy fire forced  
Wiseman  
back. advanced 500<sup>+</sup> towards 1/3 Bn  
and got within 20 yds of enemy  
before being discovered. We lost one  
man & judging by sounds enemy  
lost several.

1700 After fire fight JAP rolled grenades  
on B Coy causing 5 casualties

Has been fire all day  
Batteries only busy now for brief  
traps laid but morale good.  
SA fire & grenades early part of night  
and then quiet.



DEC. 6

1530

3 cys tobacco pkts/papers & matches  
per man

Bully bisc. again

B. I. still in RAP

Rain fell during night.

13 evacuations. 2 marched in

Dec 7

Siber

0600

0945

49 Bn to attack up same tk

as Americans failed

Arty opened up a barrage

Advance to commence.

1000

A & C boys to advance end of  
tk. Exploit to go. B & D  
to move in reserve.

A & C reached 800' & were in  
contact with 4v boys on rt flk.

B & D struck opposition. B got held  
up but D pushed round but  
returned with BHQ to where

D was held up. Cas approx 70

LT

30. BM. was killed. Bde 1.0 wounded



- 0600 C Coy patrol out.
- 0800 C Coy report enemy moved out  
Left Pl B Coy report enemy gone &  
they have occupied their position.
- 0830 Plan to move fwd D & C on ridge  
A & B on ans. Ok. Then the Coy built  
JAP position proved to be 2 Coy one  
Mortar Gun & LMG's well dug in  
One of our corporals had stakes  
taken from his legs.
- 1230 A & D moved fwd followed by  
C & B.

has to date 3DK 85W 121

After climbing fwd about an hr the  
commenced to run down

- 1530 A Coy reported seeing movement on  
spur ahead (presumably ALOLA) &  
a patrol was sent forward from A Coy  
to try & find out what was doing  
Contact has been lost with D Coy  
which is moving inside on left.



DEC 5

1800

Adj called to Bde.

Informed Bde will be relieved  
Americans by 30 Bde commencing DEC 6.  
to be 2/1 2/3 & Bde HQ will be  
withdrawn withdrawn Dec 6 ~~2/1 2/3~~ to SOPUTA  
& reorganised 2/1 Bn to remain in present form  
30 Bde for day or two & then move to SOPUTA  
to take Bde will be flown out.  
over. Evacuations 15 1 OFFICER'S

Strength all ranks 157

Day hot & dry.

K Coy attack also failed. 3000 & Coy  
went to go & remained there.

DEC 6

0600

Atmos

Bam fell during night

1320

15 IAP bombers escorted by fighters  
passed over heading south. They  
disappeared from view & immediately  
reappeared & headed north again.  
Bombs dropped at POPPENDETTA dome.  
No damage - bombs fell wide

(b7)



29

(50)

4000 D Coy contacted as patrol ready to leave.  
D Coy ordered to take up post 300'  
from A Coy & C Coy to be sent round  
on left to declare spur clear.

Barrage again kept off

Mist arrived

Barrage light in morning but a further  
issue made at 1230 hrs

1730 Party of 8 JAPS identified on ridge

1800 Col Edgar came forward promising  
to send a SMS.

Barrage taken arrived 1820.

1830 Mist obscured target. Barrage 1715'  
Barrage fell during the night.

30

0600 Bennett reported he was moving forward.

0745 No enemy movement seen as Pl from  
A Coy going forward to hill.

1005 All quiet until 1005 when firing heard in  
distance.

Sum has been out but mist has come  
over & it is now quite cold.



- 40 London Lights
- 41 Hello Bells 61 SLIP RAIL
- 42 Autumn leaves 62 WELL PLAYED
- 43 Signal line } CLOCK DIAL
- 44 Private lives + SILVER SHILLING
- 45 Speed limit 5 LIVER SALTS
- 46 Lovely legs 6 MUSCLE CONTROL
- ~~67 BILLY BOILS~~
- 47 Leading Lady 179 LUCILLE
- 48 Blazing Billo BALLOON
- 49 Lemmy Lower W 11 LILLIPUT
- 50 Libby's Butty 12 PLIABLE
- 51 bossy Bill F 13 LILLIAN.
- 52 Light Shell 14 RIVOLT
- 53 Blue pencil S 15 BELLVILLE
- 54 NAIL FILE *repta weekly.*
- 5 PALE ALE SAT
- 6 RIFLE SLING
- 7 CHARLY CHAPLIN
- 8 CATTLE SALE
- 9 LOW HILL
- 60 SHELL PETROL

(15)



B boy

(52)

30

Ik continues to run down to ck where  
a very bad log crossing is effected

Two easy chaws sent on the way

1230 Still no contact with C & D

Ik had some spurs on which IAPs  
news sent last night

1245 D boy in touch by phone to his place.

1345 Another 1/2 hours climb & ALOLA was  
reached

b boy came in at ALOLA reported  
IAP ammo dump nearby.

1400 Orders now received that 2 boys (A & B  
under Capt Batters) proceed to ISURAVA.

But less & boys garrison ALOLA

A Waterfall is close by. Orders to left batters

Boys orders. We are to be relieved

unless B boy gets in trouble. Later

follow to ABUARI

1730 batters force reached ISURAVA REST

HOUSE. No opposition but place

showed signs of recent occupation.

Pushing on in morning.



4 Dec.

25 Bow relieved today and  
concentrated in SOPUTA area.

2 Coys 30 Bde are also in SOPUTA.

Arty firing during night

Bow fell " "

Plenty of our planes around.

5 DEC:

0600 Situa. - JAP still there

0715 Arty putting down a barrage for  
Americans to attack 0730

L Coy on rt flk to attack 0730

K Coy on left flank to move south  
for 1 hr then attack SE to the

Both Coys to consolidate & patrol  
north to I Coy astride the

1700 L Coy <sup>atth</sup> reported complete failure

50 Bde & Coy back in original pos

Rations are only bully & biscuits.

make sugar & these apples.

(29)



46

P Coy  
30

(54)

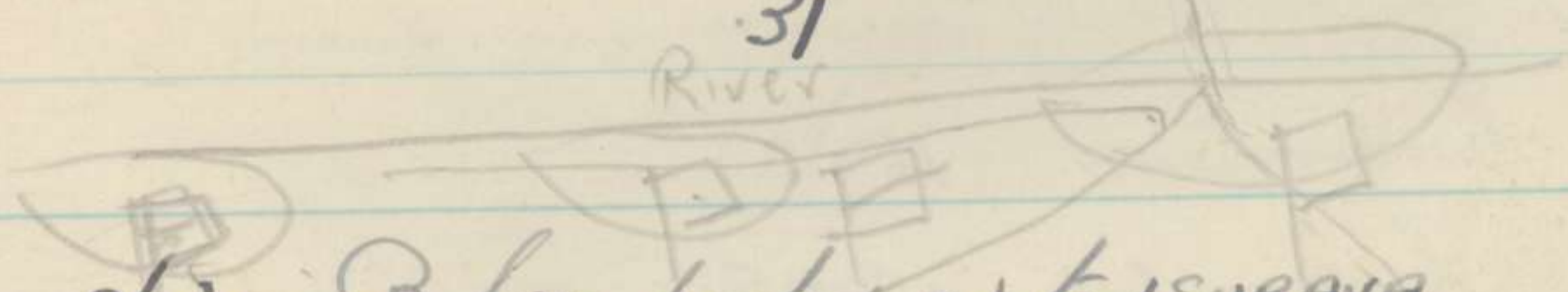
Patrol from D Coy reported in D Coy  
camping out about 1 1/2 hrs from ALOLA  
will arrive in morning

Rations Bully, sugar & some cheese 5/6  
Light rain fell during afternoon.  
Men are very tired but morale is  
high.

D Coy camped on an old 53 Pan area  
& found a considerable quantity of old  
amm & cooking utensils which he  
salvaged.

Night quiet & rain fell. ✓

31  
River



0630 B Coy pushed on to ISURAVA

0930 D Coy arrived & established above  
dropping area.

0830 Drift commenced.

1020 Col Dumbert arrived.



4 DEC.

appreciated by troops as they are kept up to date with outside news.

Casualties to date	OFF.	JR's	
K.I.A	6	69	
Missing believed K	2	11	
W.I.A	8	164	
Disappeared		1	
Missing		2	
Missing believed Illegally Absent		3	
Deported		4	
Evac sick.	14	257	
	<u>30</u>	<u>511</u>	<u>541</u>
Unit left Base Area with		598	All RANKS

Evacuations 11

b.o. still in R.A.P.

Arty registering on wreck, & on targets for an attack by Americans tomorrow.

Americans now under command

16 Dec.

(59)



Relief arrangements.

2 boys 31 going fwd to take over from A & B. 2 boys behind of 3 Bn as a backstop. Order Bn ALOUT.

5 drums fuel oil found & a burner. 1/3 Bn have turned over & blown to us

1330 HQ Coy 3 Bn HQ Coy set off. Very steep descent to stream and again

very steep ascent to ABUARI. Mortar personnel gone to C Coy. A & B Coy remained at river. Cooks left there & both were given a hot meal.

D Coy got hot meal at dinner time. 1800 Men allowed light fires & hot meals were cooked.

1 Nov

0600 Sitover. stand to. A & B leaving now 1000 hrs. C & D HQ Coy & Bn HQ resting during morning. Tobacco issue on. Put in ration issue.

1200 A Coy commenced arriving.



3 DEC 42

Arty shelling during night.

Light rain also fell

0600 - Sitner - Positions unchanged

1000 - Rain fell again for about 2 hrs

b.o improving.

Lads are benefiting by sleep

and good food. Potatoes are

plentiful.

Diarrhoea still bad. Also

sores which refuse to heal.

Slightest scratch turns into a sore.

Evacuations 9. Re strength

183 ALL ranks.

Arty did two shells during  
night.

4 DEC

0600

Sitner - Jap still in position.

Copies of paper Guinea Gold has

been received regularly over the

last week. Papers are greatly

19



1st Nov

(58)

1330

C Coy moved forward then D  
HQ Coy Biv HQ approx  $1\frac{3}{4}$  hrs march.  
Gardens are found near tracks & had  
getting vegetables & yams & sweet potatoes  
Mosquitoes are again noticed.

Valley behind now opening out. It is  
expected that KOKODA will be seen shortly.

A+B remained at ABUARI.

Tob. issue  $\frac{3}{4}$  oz per man

Choc issue  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb .. ..

Rain fell at night.

Orders received to move to MISSIMA in  
morning.

2 Nov

0630

Stand down Sitra

0900

C D left with advance party

0930

C Coy then HQ Coy & B Coy then D Coy  
A have march along fairly level going  
to MISSIMA & we get first good view  
of KOKODA VALLEY.

A Coy remained here & another hour



G means attachment

Full in pde state AX & AY

587 March out

E Att

F Det

G Att over war list

LOKU

PAGU

NUGO

WOODWOLLOO

LANT LIGHT

WENDLE WILKIE

LIBERTY LOAN

WOOLWORTHS

WOOLLEN WOOLIES

LONG FELLOWS

(bs)



(60)  
march along undulating country brought  
us to KAHLE No. 1 overlooking the valley.

C & D pushed on to

B Coy & HQ here with Ben HQ

Native gardens all around & vegetables are on  
for the meat.

Day has been dry.

Diarrhoea is hitting the troops hard.

A census taken reveals at least 20<sup>+</sup> suffering

RMO considers due to diet deficiency ~~and~~

associated with war conditions.

1800 A further issue of 1/2 block chocolate:

4 1/2 pkts PK's. Also mail arrived.

Last of rations eaten tonight & tomorrow men  
start on emergency rations + vegs they can get.

1/2 pkt biscuits issued

No rain all night.

3 Oct Nov

0600 Litmor

0715 first boy commenced move to KOBARA.

First half hour very stiff climb. then

1 1/2 hrs down hill.



Graphite grease lanard near QM  
Mentioned Gen being here.  
Gen came through with 16 Baw.

60 saw GOC & discussed a plan  
of

A ~ J, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

1 - 5

B 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

17, 18, 19, 20

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

Use left Nicholson as Ord.  
room blank A & Q not to  
be with kitchen.

Give him a roll & let  
him check it.

Put in a powder state every  
night as at 1800.

(19)



Passing numerous villages with veges (62)  
growing. Paw Paw & coconuts.

Beached KOBARA 1230. 2 hrs flat going  
C D H Coy & Bn HQ at KOBARA. A at  
cross roads Bn want the key to patrol  
1000' along the & B Coy to send out a patrol  
& contact 25 Boat KOKODA.

Patrols dropped by plane. Very hard to  
find owing to high KUNAI grass.

Lads all carried veges from KAILE

Light rain fell in afternoon.

Passed through 2/2 Bn at 1200 Reg 2/3 at  
KOBARA. Bn moved on to OIVI 1330. 4/3 waiting  
on rations.

1830 Report that 4/2 had struck enemy  
this side OIVI

3 Mortar bombs heard in the distance

7 ~~2~~ Nov

0600 Stand to — siting.

0945 Dropping started

1015 Report from B Coy. Gather force  
contacted 1900 hrs 3 Nov



~~Order of move for 27 Bn~~

band 3

25 Wilby

31 Dumbard

33 Buttwood

Aweaters

Quenne

} See Cpl Nicholson

WAR DIARY 13 OCT 42

Mention improving tracks

~~13 Oct Coy being attached~~

Ref Log New Map  
NEI Enca

415.685

Here B Coy put in bridge & cut  
a track out of rock just north of  
it by either gap of our forces  
returning (demolished)

(29)



4. ~~1111~~ ~~11~~

(64)

1130. 2 Coy (C & D) under vic instructed  
to move to GORARI

JAP gone back: 2/2 Ben pushing on  
steps to be ready to move by 1500 hrs

1245 Commanding Officer gave further plans  
subject to Liv. confirm.

Prep for Kokoda valley passed to  
25 Bde as from 1200 hrs including  
OIVI & KOKODA

2/2 & 2/3 going along main track  
2/1 to go along back track round  
to LIMBO.

2/2 pushing on slowly but resistance  
being met.

We have 70 extra natives & 208 Wt at.

1500. Ben commenced move from  
turnoff to KOKODA D Coy (1 pl went  
from 2/2 pl)

Rations issued were unmen portion  
of today's & 2 days Buley bin fruit milk  
palt sugar 1/4 block choc between 2 me

1 emng. ration



Cations & Amphy

RP

~~RAP~~

1500

4

1315 hrs report

OR

White

SM Ginnell

Brown

Millar

Get summary of times taken by  
kays on march.

Pioneers moved out 1000 hrs Monari  
10FF

1/3 way from Kokoda to Buna.

1

2

3



57 3 MBN occupied dropping as unit moved out. (66)

Day has been very sunny & hot.

Troops were cooking flat out.

1615 D Coy food moved fwd followed by C HQ Coy A B.

Two streams were crossed flowing very swiftly approx 2' deep!

1730 Village of ~~55-107~~ reached & we have our first contact with native

women kids villagers who appeared friendly

1810 Bn camped for the night as dark was falling

208 set tent back to village

Rain fell heavily at night.

5 ~~Nov~~ Nov

0930 First Coy moved off bearing approx 150 Only native pad.

Regs reported they could receive from Bde. but Bde contact received.

Followed the all day. Struck several deserted villages & gardens



Compasses Issued  
 Lt Andrews  
 Sgt Leokew  
 Lt Blakiston  
 Prewon

9142				
9460			13	
13421	} b boy	50	50	4
4478		350	80	11
9143	} HQ boy	150		5
10378		950		33

The following is a list of  
 the names of the men who  
 were in the company during  
 the time that it was in  
 the field. The names are  
 given in the order in which  
 they were in the company.  
 The names are given in  
 the order in which they  
 were in the company.

(9)



5 Nov

1100 At one deserted village five Aussie  
bodies found some on stretchers. Well  
decomposed. Buried them.

They were 2/16 2/14 Bn lads

1700. Raining fairly heavily & camped  
for night at the place SORARI ILIMH  
Base patrol from A bay went forward  
1000<sup>+</sup> & surprised 3 JAPS in hut.  
Killed but JAPS think two wounded  
JAP mortar opened up from 200'  
further back & our lads retired  
No orders to send pl patrol  
at first light to search area & gain  
information. It is his intention  
if possible to push on to ILIMH  
Patrol under Pl. Kercher went out  
& found enemy had gone.  
Troops are very tired & pace is slow. How-  
ever they are keen to keep going



Party 1430 at dropping area  
for rations & ammo. ✓

Order march with

C 0800 ✓

B 0815 ✓

D 845 ✓

A 915 ✓

HQ & Bd HQ

915

1420930 ✓

Lunch approx 1200 - 1210 Leave HQ  
after stop

Get latrine dug & rubbish tip.

No fires after dark

Stand to men 0600 - 0700  
Eng 1845 - 1915

O'Malley to B. Coy.

Water tablets used in bed only, 1 bottle

(69) at a time



6 Nov

Silva

60's camp.

A Coy to stay here & do ~~the~~ offensive patrolling & protect L of C. Unsuccessful for  
We are to get to LIMMA.

Law order march

510830

A Coy provides flank protection for us.

0630 Patrol found D Coy went approx 1500<sup>+</sup> along LIMMA TR & found it clear.

0745 Patrol of A Coy gone out to secure even further ahead until Bn moves thru!

A Coy patrol towards GORARI again struck JAP 300<sup>+</sup> further along the  
Bn's find. We lost no cas.

Unit moved off to LIMMA. Very slow going. Only native pad & unnumerable other ones crossing to be made. Almost every village shows signs of having



confirm location statement  
Warrliany

25th at 4:00

Ben Nyele

Donkewong

Efog

Manan

0900 NAURA

We may need tomorrow  
supposed to move on 11th

1 Vikas belts & boxes 12 filled

1/3" Mortar & 36 HE

100 SAA per man \* Average between Ben

200 TSMG

150 R per burst \*

Average 2 grenades per man

2 days hard + emergency ration

25/2" mortar bombs per pl.

So slow going up

Incent by 1030 per requirements

(14) of SAA



been ratted by the JAP

1230 One ~~big~~ large stream met which took 3 hrs  
 hours to get unit across. Half waded  
 up to their next hanging to a creper as  
 river was flowing very fast. Eventually  
 Pms got a bridge across. (WALLAPA)  
 A tk also found headg from WALLAPA to  
 GORARA.

1500 ORDERS received by runner "to secure & hold  
 vicinity of GORARI and ILIMA patrolling  
 south east & west with a view to subsequent  
 contact with  $\frac{2}{3}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  x UNCLE SAM  
 apparently making satisfactory progress  
 watch out for him." - (Runner sent back.)

1530. Unit pushed on towards ILIMA. Pace  
 fairly good now but hold up numerous  
 due to creeks.

1630. One runner who had been sent back  
 caught up with us & reported he had seen  
 a JAP patrol on the other side of the  
 river & himself had been seen. <sup>see</sup>  
 Another runner sent back with a ~~pl~~  
 from B boy to protect him to Beck.



dropped out.

C Coy to spend night at VBERI.

C S went on with day to post 44.

Very stiff climb from VBERI &  
steep descent down slips.

7 OCT.

Log bay left 0600. Followed creek  
& 2 high ladders came to post 44 where  
we were given tea & picked up rations.

Started climbing again - taking  
things very steady.

One Borabawa Range saw  
graves of Ammen & fast soldiers.

Plenty of the & ammen etc along track.

bathed near river at foot of

Borabawa Range - first bad here.

8 OCT

Left 0900 climbing all way Passua

through A Coy 1800. Men tired

Weather good.

Near end of march down on

(73)



Rain was now falling

1730 Halt was made for night at an est. dist 2 miles from ILIMA.

We are only rationed until tonight & Co is concerned about pushing further without knowing his Log C is secure & that rations will reach us.

Night quit.

Halted at 072896

9001  
80's border

9001  
80's border  
N. River  
Theodora from drifting over at  
There are good stunts although these are not

805  
The flat very boggy -  
Want to take the on bank  
Very boggy - 0300 the danger  
Came at night.

805



DEC 2

Rations on good scale including  
slab chocolate soap tobacco box  
matches & pkt. paper.

17 Evacuations during day.

Warm morning

~~nothing to report~~

~~nothing to report~~

~~nothing to report~~

~~nothing to report~~

War Diary 6 OCT 42

Leys left camp commencing obs

Truck to Newtons Dump

Supply from Salvation Army at UBERI.

Pick up rations at Dump at UBERI

crossed Yunta Range camp

near a creek at the foot of the Range

with good - no rain

had in good spirits. no one

(5)



7 Nov.

(76)

0600 stand to - sit down

0715 Patrol of C Coy sent out to recon country  
between here & LIMA

a) to find where LIMA is

b) .. .. JAP ..

0800 D Coy sent patrol back to WALLAPA  
& 200' beyond and 500' on west side

B Coy has protective patrols forward.

0830 B Coy's camp. Pointed out out post  
as he est. approx 2 miles from LIMA.

Unit will remain here till 2pm & if rations  
do not arrive then we will return to WALLAPA.

Based on here we will drive up to GORARI.

If rations arrive fresh plan will be made.

B Coy is worried about intercomm & feels  
he cannot go forward until he knows our Coy C  
is secure.

Men are in an exhausted condition but  
still keen. They not engaged

on operational duties are washing &  
shaving but very little sleep



NEW DEC. 1

Americans reported to be making progress & captured 3 trucks. Progress very slow.

Day & night fine

Arty firing very heavily during night  
Rations still on good scale.

Evacuations 11.

Commission thru Seaton Sherwood Andrews.

DEC 2

0600 Situation - Jap still in position  
CO ill & being kept at RAP.

0800 Coy called to Bde & orders received to move back to 25 pds to act as protection.

1115 Unit in new position around guns. Position same in which

Bde fought last action, 6 hrs ago.

Mail arrived.

Day fine & hot.

Water here is very poor.

1200 Lt. Simpson arrived by plane. Sent up in mistake for an officer

(4) of 2/1 Fd Regt. Posed C Coy as MR Nathan gone to rest camp.



pond penetrates into the jungle & it is difficult to get their gear dry.

A great number still are suffering from diarrhoea.

1230

C Coy patrol reported in & said he continues to lead us.

CO then decided as rations still hadn't come to push back to A stop area & attack that way & gave orders to move

1300

as far as the high ground on the west side of river crossed the night before. First bay to move 1330.

1300

Rations came but CO sent them back to high ground. left

1330

Unit commenced to move

1630.

All unit in posn

Most waiting <sup>on morning ration</sup> for a change of rations

Sausages, jam butter, baked beans

tinned veges, milk sugar.

The troops thought it was Xmas but rations only made a small

mouthful for them

1830 CO & Coy have gone on to B Ech



NOV 30

Americans move north to coast.

1/1 Bvt to be vanguard & would be  
on 1/2 hrs notice to move from 0800 hrs

1 DEC. B Coy Bvt HQ HQ Coy C Coy

Day & night finer hot!

More mail arrived

Rations on same scale as day before  
plus a little butter & jam

DEC 1

0600 Artillery woke us putting over 100 shells at  
extreme range.

600 H More mail arrived

0915 Mortar Sgt reported that 2 of 16 Bvt mortars  
had just finished firing 91 rds. JAP still  
there as he could hear them talking

1400 Pl under Lt Gosnell ~~relieved~~ detached  
to 1/2 Bvt now relieved by Pl under  
Lt Dyer, owing to 13 out of 19 men  
being ill.

(54)



Word recd Maya Mules new  
Lt bot & leaving us immediately.  
Sitrep from Bde points out 1/2 & 1/3 still  
engaged.  
Barrs fell heavily during night & everybody  
wet.

~~8~~ NOV

- 0600 Sitrep
- 0730 Advance to Leang area contact  
B D HQ C.
- 0900 One aircraft seen flying over & shortly  
after bombing of enemy plane heard.  
Lads are feeling stronger this morn.  
Brought some birds in clearing but  
no chance to dry anything  
RAP has no Mlowaynes left.
- 1000 Arrived at the junction & found 15 Bde  
here.  
CO had been up an attack on  
enemy holding up NAHU by pushing  
in C & D.  
However 25 51 Bn also arrived to do  
same job thinking 11 Bn had



Get kerosene & lamp & put in pack

---

Maps	/	1 Day reserve
War diary blanks	/	3 " emergency
Blank paper	/	Quinine tablets
Tracing paper	/	Salt "
Carbon paper	/	
Coloured pencils	/	
Chinagraph pencils	/	
Ink	/	
Pens	/	
Black pencils	/	
Aerial photos	/	
Lamp & kerosene	/	
Message forms	/	



gone down to LIMA. We now come  
w/c vs Bde tempo

25 Bde is to cut the to LIMA

CO at present away seeing Bug Father  
Attack hanging fire until form cleared  
Enemy approx 2000<sup>x</sup> down the. Col 1/1.  
Depth however unknown.

A Coy approx 1500<sup>x</sup> down the

1100 31 Bn under Col Muller moved down the  
to attack.

31 Bn to take GORARI & hold it.

1/1 Bn to pass through turn east along  
main the & pass on to LIMA

Remain vs Bde turn west & attack OIVI feature  
from rear

1200 | 1300 SAA & mortar fire can be heard from  
down the.

1300 on quit - report recd from front

31 held up - considers enemy Bn there

25 Bn passed thru.

Some tentacles issue today & loads are  
still able to light fires

Also are buying sugar & toast from  
natives @ 6 stick. Anything else



NOV 30

Rations issued include M & V, sausages  
baked beans, dehydrated potatoes, dried  
fruit, sugar, milk, catinon, bully  
rice, biscuits. bags, matches & soap.

0845 Arty & mortars opened up.

0900/10 Attack started. SAA fired heard from  
left & front.

All appears quiet.

1130. Reported Americans have advanced  
400' & advance continuing.

1530 3 Zeros flying around. No straffing  
Everything remains quiet except  
for a burst of SA fire about 1430 hrs.

Reports indicate SAA has withdrawn  
All quiet during afternoon

7 evacuations today.

1900 b.O's conference

Americans have cut track. 3 truck  
loads SAA's got through - unable to  
stop them but were fired on

16 Order to be ready to move forward  
to a better defensive position when

(ES)



8 Nov

for cig. papers but matches are a problem.  
Troops are very tired & appreciate spell  
allowed by 25 Bde going thru with attack.  
Nothing further eventuated & troops  
settled down for night at the bk pine.

9 Nov

0600  
sit down

Very heavy rain fell during night.  
Almost impossible to keep water out  
& most troops are wringing wet this  
morning

Waiting all morning

Pace cakes & r bars issued. PK's tobacco  
comforts

1100

Word received that 33 had reached main  
tk & we were to move fwd

1145

Move fwd. Found 33 had not  
reached main tk but were behind  
enemy. We are to move around 33 on  
towards 141MA & secure & prepare suitable  
dropping qd. A/C recog signal received  
from 25 Bde.



30 Nov

0600 Litner

0615 Rations on new scale arrived

Also including cigarette matches & soap  
Also bag of mail

0610/20 Arty opened up apparently on GORARI area

0630 JAP gun firing on food pen

0640 Coy bond boy called. b.d explained

AMERICANS would attack this morn  
Set pat at 0900 & unit was to remain in

a state of preparedness all day, coys  
sending out small local patrols in

case the JAPS made a bolt for it &  
Set some broke through the attackers as

happened at GORARI.

If attack successful unit will start  
pulling out tomorrow.

Our mortar in posn in assist attack  
4 mortar of 16 Ball will fire

0700 JAP gun having duel with our 25 par.  
JAP shells falling far too short  
though

Our mortar fired 48 rds.

(58)



1600 B bay fired on enemy h. No obs.

1645 Think 33 Ben who had met opposition.  
~~They~~ 33 est main the was very  
close & that it was an ASC <sup>dumb</sup> JAPS  
were holding

b.o. decided to go east about 700' &  
then turn north & strike main the.

A Coy to make roadhead & D Coy to  
turn west & attack down road

Approx 500' east & uncrossable river  
struck so followed north on west side.

1745 33 reported JAPS were withdrawing east.  
Apparently plan was not GORARI & he  
didn't know if the was near

1800 Reentering on, firing came from our  
flank. Log pl they investigating  
movement ahead.

When roadhead was formed one pl  
B Coy & GR's under Lt Nathan were  
to move eastward for likely dropping  
area as that was our task.

1830 A Coy struck oppo. Killed 1 JAP  
Remained for night No rain fell during  
day.







Booby traps at bridge & sq were out during night  
found we are on main BUNA Rd.

JAPS 5 dead 2 W.

NOV 10

0630 <sup>NO rain at night.</sup>  
Snipers active from east bank river  
Exam. reveals of JAP posn bags rice  
wheat barrels fruit & medical stores.

P1 C Coy trying to cross river but having  
trouble since 0620.

0745 D Coy going fwd to move down road.  
Enemy 2" mortaring these HQ  
Quite heavy fire from in front.  
Died 2" mortar fell in RAP

0830 D Coy reported they struck JAP  
immediately after crossing road. (north of it)

0930 Fightg still continuing D Coy front;  
33 are on our left flk on the &  
report JAP appears to be attempting  
to get round south thus cutting  
our the & L of C.

1100 C Coy occurs. 10' to make  
straight each side the crossing



20  
X 29 Nov

0600 Sitner JAP still in posn.

1030 3" mortar shooting another 50 bombs.

21 & 25 Bow attacking this morning  
Action on GONA front.

Americans attacking on this front

" tomorrow & 21 Bow to push east at  
same time.

Day fine & hot. Colakhi Hut on

1125 Lt Powell & Murray reported in. Had  
Laird no casualties & contacted no enemy.

1210/20 Arty firing on Gona area. Apparently  
prelude to attack

1310/20 Arty registering on enemy posn on  
our side for tomorrow's attack

1400 Reported our 3" mortar fell right  
in the target area this morning.

Best camp came into operation during  
morning 2 off 13 OR's going thru  
16 evacuations were made beyond

RAP for the day.

Day & night fine.

(58)



10 NOV

Other pl to go across & work north up east bank river with object of clearing east end of bridge & covering rt flk Ben post

1100 D Coy reported had 15 cas. Unable to make progress. Are in 1/2 circle formation with rt flk on NS ck & left flk astride the 150 west of bridge JAPS are holding high ground above & NW from & the cleared bivouac area astride the & west of D Coy.

1230 C Coy got bridge across & 1 pl crossed & moving north on east side ck.

1345 33 report JAP pushing on his rt flk. Asks us to be ready.

Rain falling. Battle going on. JAP gun firing.

1530 Battle quietened down.

Our cas. 6 K.

21 W. 5 back in action

JAP 17

D Coy has been withdrawn south of road linking up with B & A Coys.



C. Coy

2 Pk less 2 Secs at ALLENS JUNG

Blue Coy at NIGABAIWA

Patriots

From base as NIGA & ALLENS J send  
out small prot. pat. not more than 4  
hrs march from each base.

---

D. Coy

Prot pat. daily and Pl from SAM'S C  
via the Jung N to 3345 to the Jung  
3145 & return via the Jung 3145 to  
SAM'S C.

160 ch

Ray Maps ~~SE~~ 1 inch maps  
WAIROPI PROVISIONAL

Journal bokora Bora.

Buying carb lunch ch 1.00 x 5 of kanga every  
on ~~last part of day~~ 3.00 + 2.00

at night

(15)



1530 C Coy pl on east side river advanced 300 yds north but are held up.  
Killed 3 JAPS. Are securing our night flk.

1830. Quietening down & now quiet  
Rations arrived 1 tin bully & almost  
pkt bread per man.  $\frac{1}{4}$  block choc.  
Milk. salt

11 Nov

0600 Fire coming from D bay front  
No rain fell at night

Man wounded  
declares he  
bayoneted  
JAP

D bay reports that during night JAP  
patrol came into D's area near main  
flk at 1215 - driven off - since  
then intermittent fire on both sides -  
1 man slightly wounded.

b.o. anticipatis attack on D Coy &  
has arranged that 2 pls B Coy  
counter attack from D Coys left flk  
b. bay complete will move across river

0730 Patrol D Coy moved west, south  
of the road. Found JAPS about  
50' west of them. 1 JAP casualty.







0900 All C Coy have crossed river. BURRELL

JAPS cut  
up wire  
on GORARI  
th. 25 Bn  
state JAPS  
escaping them  
did this

pushing fwd to road to where GOSNELLS  
pl is.

B Coy patrol reached 33 Bn & now going  
to contact 25 Bn.

1115 b bay attack went in. Very successful  
20 JAPS killed 4 W.

1300 25 Bn now came in to close gap  
between 33 & us & attack feature north  
of D bay.

D bay reports area clearing up  
B. bay sent across river to assist C Coy.  
Patrol C Coy met further opposition <sup>100</sup> ~~200~~  
north of and 200' east of Rk.

1400 2 pls A Coy sent north of Rk on west side.  
thus securing bridge

1500 Area north of D Coy now clear of enemy  
patrols report.

Main river only 100' from bridge. No  
sign of where or how JAPS got away.

1530 B Coy & pl C Coy trying to get rear of  
opposition C Coy struck

1600 Fighting broke out again for short period.



Map + NOV 28

1/1 Ben mortar field sq rds.

1130 / Patrol under Lieut Dyer reported in.

Did not find dump but found a  
big TAP area & took a prisoner. Mac

no other contact & had no casualties

1230 / Runner from Powell's patrol reported.

Struck very bad going & had to

retrace some of their steps - going

then improved but extremely slow.

Small amount of mail arrived.

~~Comm~~ stamp

Our casualties to date

	OFF.	OR's	TOTAL
Killed	8	83	91
Wounded	8	164	172
	<u>16</u>	<u>247</u>	<u>263</u>

Afternoon has been very quiet

Run out & very hot. No rain day or  
night.

(93)

(93)



TO

FROM

Originator's Number

Date

BY AIR MESSAGE: THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT BY AIR MESSAGE

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT BY AIR MESSAGE

ORIGINATOR'S DESIGNATION

FROM

TO

*Mr. Burns*  
*Clayton*

*6th*

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

ORIGINATOR'S NUMBER

DATE

TO  
FROM

OUT

OUT

INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST

LEAVE IN ENEMY HANDS



CTIONS OUT

lay on

TO

BC HQ Coy KMO

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

FROM

2/1 BU

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

28 NOV

Document

Extracts from captured JAP diary taken from Sgt YAMADA - MIYOSHI 1st Inf Bn troops  
Killed in road area with SOPUTA 27 Nov.

20 Nov

5 men to go to the support of our artillery forms -

21 Nov

Inf gun pl will be att the bn 3/2 unit

22 Nov

went on recon territory YOKOYOMA - YAMAMOTO (4th Coy)  
Push the overnight of - the machine gun unit. In the withdrawal of the

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN

BY ANY MEANS:

BY ANY MEANS:

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR FALL

INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS

DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

TIME OF ORIGIN

detachment

1130

1230

Kim  
Wan



TIONS.

OUT

(2)

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO  
Nov 23 Had doubts about last night's landing, but one ship able to get in.

FROM  
Nov 24 The landing ops again unable to land

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

PAPAPA GI used mouth

subject to

heavy bombing. PM Mortar fire flying over heavily. A machine gunned			
cruiser killed. Night quiet			20 metres
Nov 25 1 o'clock party of enemy came on attack		From 3:30 o'clock again making	
preparations for attack. Planes flying over -		11 o'clock	fresh unit
PM 2 mortar fire flew over			
Nov 26 7 AM. Enemy air assault by attacking enemy		11 o'clock	force mortar barrage
about 500 rds exploding in region HIARO Best damage NOT great.			

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS:

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF DAY

1130

1230

Kill  
Wound

13



INSTRUCTIONS.

OUT

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

Enemy penetration between 5th Coy & 1st unit (3). They came from area 2 on the 26th

FROM

everything under control

Originator's Number

Date

In Reply to Number

27 Nov. It is said that a fresh unit was to land last night.

Someone (?) going on liaison to the HQ said that the landing was carried out last night so they are probably awaiting the arrival of landed troops

1130 / Co.

1230

1230

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(93)

(93)







NOV 25

NOV 26

NOV 27

NOV 16  
NOV 17  
NOV 18  
NOV 19  
NOV 20  
NOV 21  
NOV 22  
NOV 23  
NOV 24

IN  
OUT  
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IN  
OUT

Emergency order to - tomorrow the Sgt to leave  
early in morning - rations not ready - got  
ready without sleeping - finally able to  
give my life - a person must die some-  
time - will try as hard as I can  
5 AM got on ship 9 AM left 11 AM Destroyer  
arrived BALINA (?) unexpectedly marched  
to HUA (?)

Reached HUA 8.30 - 1 Coy organized, left  
that night - attached to 2nd BN -  
independent gun unit 16 men only ten  
men fit for combat

NOT legible

12 o'clock 5 persons sent back for support  
of artillery posns Inf gun pl will be  
attached to BN reserves

3rd Bn friend killed went on recall  
YOKOYAMA - YAMAMOTO 14 Coy

Morning no attack - during day scouts  
were out - Inf Bn gun exploded nearby  
found who died buried nearby - all  
saw well all day - fresh troops night  
TA machine gun unit in withdrawal  
of detach.

Keep thinking new troops will come in  
have doubts about last night's landing  
one ship able to get in (NOT CLEAR) looks  
like new units landing is not possible  
landing units again unable to land  
HQ detachment has not arrived  
heard South Seas detachment got out  
to PAPAGI River mouth - subjected  
to heavy bombing.

MESSAGE FORM

MESSAGE FORM

No of Groups  
GR  
OFFICE DATE STAMP

No of Groups  
GR  
OFFICE DATE STAMP

Serial No.

Serial No.



NOV 25

1 o'clock (?) enemy attacked - from 3:30 o'clock again making preparations for attacks - planes flying over - 11 o'clock no sign fresh unit from 2' mortar fire flew over - horses killed by fire went out to get meat

26

4 AM enemy air attack - 11 o'clock fierce mortar barrage about 500 was exploding Right HQ - damage NOT great - 3 casualties enemy penetration between 5th Coy and 1st BN came from Area 2 on 26 20 our soldiers went out to meet them - 6 men in good shape the rest very weak everything under control

27 Nov

It is said fresh unit to land last night so waited without sleeping - someone (?) young on horse to the HQ - said landing was not carried out last night so they are probably awaiting the arrival of the landing troops

MESSAGE FORM

No of Corps

OFFICE DATE STAMP

Serial No.

In Reply to Number



- 1700 D Coy moved east up the. Astride the.  
B Coy held up by snipers. B Coy going round on north of the.  
Two boys 31 Pm going round south of enemy.
- 1730 B boy again making progress.  
From noise of battle 31 Pm must be coming in on top enemy.
- 1800 JAPS are retiring down the. 31 rounds still attacking
- 1815 Battle waging fiercely last ten minutes  
JAP cas. 41 killed 1 Prisoner  
Dm. 6 . 12 W. 1 missing
- 1840 Fighting still going on. Hand grenades quite numerous.  
Apparently 31 got in behind JAP area as a number rushed east (some without rifles) into D Coy who killed 15 & a further 4 into C Coy who were killed. Hand to hand struggle with Cpl Ryan. (Ryan won)  
No rain has fallen & night fine & quiet.



24th Nov 28 50 Rpm

0600 Sitrov

Night again fine

Blair Mail arrived & distributed early also  
From copy of paper Sumner Island

0800 Capt Madigan with mortar & det. went  
to 1/2 BN forward sheet.

Adj left for Bechelon area approx  
1 mile south on the river where  
it is hoped to establish a rest camp  
for troops not sufficiently ill to be  
admitted to ADS.

S/Lt Miller I.C. 2 cooks & 1 med  
orderly.

1005 25 pds opened up at long range  
Almost immediately enemy guns  
opened up but only fired 3 or 4 rds.

Our mortars commenced firing & a  
heavy barrage put down all

morning - from 0300  
Laird from 0500  
Regiment to the NCB 1 & then to D by

(16)



12 Nov

(98)

0600

Sitnov

Enemy appears to have gone. Fires  
can be lit & all troops are flat out  
cooking breakfast.

0900

CO's conf.

Rain falling

Off reported

Mo. Barnes 2IC. Batteries HQ Coy.

Leamy A Blakiston 2IC. Murray

Prun B Powell

Bunnell C Nathan

Amstrong D Absence

GR's broken up going to line Coy.

Sickers being disbanded except for 1 section  
who can man the gun.

2/1 Bn remain upc vs Bde until  
Korossi river reached.

Bde Eather congratulated all ranks upc

3 Emergency rations per man.

Boots urgently required? sizes also



X *also m* *also m* Nov 27 (Abou House) *see V*

0600 Hitner

0700 Rain commenced falling for almost 2 hrs.

1000 25 para opened up with several shells.  
JAP replied with his 75 mm gun.

Both Day becoming hot & steamy

1430 Lt Dyer & 25 OR's reported to Mr Bns to go  
out on patrol.

1. To recce & if possible find a suspected

JAP dump <sup>east</sup> ~~west~~ of road

2. To find the tk heading to the  
dump & ambush JAP parties

Patrol to be back Nov 28

1530 *2500*  
Runner from Lt Powell's Patrol  
reported hrs. He had left patrol 0745  
hrs this morning - patrol had covered  
2,300<sup>x</sup> north & had found going  
difficult. No JAPS encountered

1630 JAP planes flying over area. NO  
Bombard back areas causing some casualties  
bombing or shrapnel however.  
Mosquitoes are very bad here & also a  
lot of the troops are being evacuated  
with typhus fever.

(66)



1000

Capt BURRELL returning after conf to  
by HQ found a JAP Officer whom he shot.  
Rains now stopped.

JAP big guns found buried in many  
different places approx 250' west of the  
It appears now that JAPS escaped by crossing  
main river to the north. <sup>& herds</sup> Mules have been  
found stranded on islands in the stream  
suggesting JAP crossing that way.

Rain stopped about 11:00. Troops  
bathing shaving cooking & resting  
Mail arrived.

No rain at night

13 Nov

0600

Sitner

Unit camped near clearing where  
dropping to commence today — troops  
to pick up.

Morning fine & sunny.

A/A pl buying JAP mules which  
have died.

HA



Track to Ubeir marked by tin 100<sup>x</sup> from  
clearing.

Pro. o. L. Soutar. (Capt. Garland)  
Guns can fire 2000<sup>x</sup> NE from clearing.

B | det.

B. bay 36 Bw. 1 Ol. Lt. taking. 2 10R. I Sec.

Do Enlarge. 2 miles to rock

B bay to Enlogo

Get War diary copied up to be sent away

.. Enlargement done

.. Map boards.

Rocky burner

Banana Hill.

(101)



13 Nov

Men out doing repairs to crossings along the.

Air droppings have not eventuated.

In afternoon issue of clothing. Boots shirts trousers and long American gaiters tooth brushes new gait sheets & A/Eas capes.

1700 Unit now reverts to 16 Bde.

To move forward tomorrow morning D C HQ B & A

No rations have arrived & troops are only rationed till tonight.

Day has been fine.

Night also fine

14 Nov

0600

Sitones

Rations arrived for today bully & <sup>only</sup> bisc

Time of move delayed slightly to allow further rations to catch up before we move on

The two days rest & cooking has done wonders for the lads who are



X 9428 Nov 26

0600 Litros

0615 Draws for patrols received

0745 Patrols left.

7 Americans put in heavy mortar  
1200 barrage during morning

1500 Patrols reported from Patrols Murray  
& Crowell. At 1130 patrol had  
11 covered 1500 yds.

3 Day fine & hot.

2000 Mail sent up, only a small lot.

Make a housewife

Bin Transport

1 - Station Wagon

1 - Office Van

1 - 15 cut w/cost + 2.00 loan

3 x 3/10 (I.P.)

11 x 15 cut

15 m/cycles

(103)

(101)



(104)

was camped approx 50 miles west of  
it. Air droppings have been



(90)

750' from SATTAN the Hence NORTH  
or slightly EAST of NORTH to point  
about 1 mile from coast.

From here MORRAY patrol  
straight on to coast & POWELL  
patrol EAST to SATTAN the.

Time Out 0930 hrs 26 Nov 42  
Expected Duration of patrol  
3-4 days.

Route cut if suitable & where  
possible to be marked by patrol,  
marks trees etc.

~~Turn back NOT later than near 28 Nov 42~~  
Admuns

Rations. 4 Hard + 3 Ewes.

Tools. hatchets - 2 shovels etc.

Comms

Runners: from patrols  
about bi-daily with rough  
trace giving distances times  
bearings etc.

(91)

3 x 3/10 (1.P)

11 x 15 cut

15 m cycles

(92)

(93)



750' from summit the flume is  
slightly east of north to about  
about 1 mile from coast

(901)

was camped approx 50 miles west of  
it. Air droppings have been



25 Nov 45

Orders from Brig Lloyd to  
Lieuts Powell & Murray for  
Reece patrol to coast west of  
SAMANANDA.

Present. Bde Comd. C.O. Adj't  
Lieuts Powell & Murray. Bde S.O.  
Bde Sig Offr.

Place - Bde Hq. Time 0630hrs

Inf. Probable intention of  
Div Comd to send 21 Bde  
to coast <sup>NORTH</sup> ~~west~~ of SAMANANDA along  
route about 1000' to 1 mile WEST  
of SAMANANDA Hq.

Task. Reece of possible routes.  
For 21 Bde to coast near  
SAMANANDA.

Method. Route out. n thro'  
FAIR BROTHER to point about

(21)





14 Nov

(108)

looking much better.

0700 Following aptd A Lt's as from 10 Nov

00 WO II Mc Lure

Rpts Ritchie Armstrong

Murray Owen

→ Another days ration of bully & beer drawn before leaving

0945 Unit commenced to follow 2/2 BN

Day very sunny & hot. Ice good about 6' wide.

25 Base crossed Wainape with little opposition.

Ice gradually widens to approx 15' but numerous little creek crossings make troop movement slow.

Approaching Wainape ice forms into a road which has been drained on both sides.

Base held up by Kumusi River & Unit camped approx 35 mins west of it. Air droppings have been



Xoboo

NOV 25

0600 Sitner Enemy still in position

0745 Mortar det. went fwd to Base to  
Base 815 do shoot.

1330/45 HE fired. 2/2 Bn reported

shoot very effective

1430 Americans firing mortars. Some

dropped short in 2/2 Bn area.

causing some casualties.

Approx 100 letters came in

Tobacco issue of tob. pkt 20 cigs

1 box matches & pkt papers

Fire again today.

Warning order received that 2

~~RR daily round~~ Bn HQ

new patrols would probably be

be 60 needed tomorrow. Each of 1 off

1 Sgt 120's

Officers chosen Lums Murray &

Powell. off to go to Base at

0615 patrols ready to move 0730

after having 4 days rations

Night fire

(221)



14 NOV

(110)

made here yesterday & today & CO is trying hard to arrange for rations other than bully & biscuits to be drawn.

1800 Some milk a little dried apple & very small ration sugar received

Heavy rain fell for a couple of hours just at dusk.

No more to be made before 1000 hrs tomorrow

1730 JAP sighted close at hand but patrol B boy failed to find him.

15 NOV.

0600 Sailed - morning fine. Everybody working  
1030 Base held  
1400 Unit commenced to move to WATROPE

1500 Reached dropping area 400<sup>+</sup> west KUMSI. R  
Rations picked up. Bisc. bully rice fruit  
salt sugar

Rain fell for 2 hrs.

1 block shoe issue per man.

Owing to difficulty in crossing unit had to camp at river



24 NOV

Flare

0800

Planes are overhead fighters & bombers & concussion of heavy bombs can be felt.

Boe called forward 3" mortar to be taken forward in preparation for a shoot

1100

Bombing ceased.

3" Mortar fired 7 rds smoke as indication of target for vs pars & then 5 HE.

1300

vs pars opened up with several shells & fired again later in the afternoon

One Pl b boy sent back to guard guns.

1700

One Pl b boy sent down to lengthen left flank of vs Pars boys opposing the enemy.

Light rain fell during night

Another mortar det & mortar arrived being lit up by plane.

Boy arrived back.





10/11/04

(112)

0600 Atinas

0645 First boy moved down to move across. Unit crossing held up & first boy did not cross until after lunch.

Air droppings during morning had resting & cooking

1500

D A C boys had crossed.

Turn off to MUMUNH 500 yds north of Bridge

BHQ & HQ boys followed.

Flying box used to take traps across. One small one plank bridge which was under water & it was necessary to hang to a wire.

1730

Rain commenced to fall & breeze for night.

Big Pl acquired a horse for gear. Swam his across river

The fair quite a number of villages passed & numerous small hills to climb.

Lads feeling benefit of rest.

Camped on track with big gardens overgrown on both sides.

C Coy 45 mins back

B . 2 hrs "

B ech at river

Tobacco issued  $\frac{2}{3}$  oz <sup>by man</sup> & papers 1 pkt per 3 men



Nov 24

east to SANANANDA & thence south  
along road.

It is known JAPS front is  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile wide  
but depth is unknown.

When whole action is completed Americans  
will garrison coast & 16 Bns to be  
withdrawn to POPONDETTA.

Americans on right flank were still  
held up.

L.O. was concerned that men were  
not reporting to RMO with their feet  
for treatment & ordered a foot inspection  
to be carried out.

Note: Men are suffering with some complaint  
which is taking the skin off them,  
looking like ringworms.

Almost all men are suffering  
with diarrhoea.

At every opportunity unit is assisting  
other Bns with stretchers & carrying  
Dep parties & yesterday the Pioneer built  
a bridge for 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn.

(113)



17 Nov

0600

Sit down

0730

boys started to move  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr intervals

0800

Ldg boy met rear of 2/3 Bn.

Going very slow during morning  
& all boys soon caught up.It continues to go steadily up  
crossing numerous little streamsApprox 70 men in unit still  
suffering with diarrhoea

1200/1345 Lunch. Going slow as we are

still held up by 2/3 Bn.

Major Barnes left box evacuated  
yesterday. Unit now carrying on  
with CO. I.O. R.M.O. Being without  
2IC. Adj Sq officer.

Weather fine &amp; hot.

Sigs have still going after having  
crossed some very difficult defiles

1630

Heavy rain began to fall

1700

Unit arrived at river west  
of ISIVITA. Held up here & orders  
received at 1725 to stop for  
night. A village 200' back



Nov 23

No rain fell during the night  
The 25 Pdrs opened up once during the night  
but was not effective during the night

Sea was calm

X

Nov 24

0600 Sit down

0700 Coy bomb bay

C. S. explained that JAPS were still  
in position & he did not expect to move  
today. Unless absolutely necessary it  
was anticipated that 16 Bde would not  
be pushed into any future action owing  
to the exhaustion etc of the men.

Very As JAPS had not moved 100 men of  
2/3 Bde were to make an outflanking  
move in an endeavour to get behind  
& harass the enemy.

Americans were only making very  
slow progress having 2 boys on left  
& 1 on right.

25 Bde have JAPS at GONA in  
250' sq with backs to the sea. When

GONA cleared up 25 Bde will move

(S11)

✓



17 Nov

from village accommodated most of the unit.

18 Nov.

0600 Satmor

0745 by bonda beach.

Bgan objective POPPENDETTA  
JAPS seen at

Order of March B C H Q A D

0800 by started out  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr intervals  
Almost every 400' a creek has to be crossed slowing up advance

1200  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr from SANGI MISSION

Weather fine.

Lk from Mission improves & starts on gradual descent.

1400 Had first glimpse of sea

Good going until 1730 not many creeks struck. Closed right on  $\frac{2}{3}$  Pm

10% troops have tinea badly

5% diarrhoea with vomiting.

Between 12/14 miles covered today.



Nov 22

The trees at rear of RAP

Day has turned out fine & sunny.  
American troops who have halted  
along the road, have made friends  
with our lads & all are cooking &  
eating together.

Band fell during night but night was  
fairly quiet.

Right at dusk SA fire of some intensity  
was heard from in front.

1500 75 mm gun found buried near of position  
just taken by CATTERNS.

X

Nov 23

0600 Sitno

JAP still in position & don't rest moving  
Day fine

1500 Reported JEEPS & 25 para landed south of  
PAPPENDETTA.

1600 JEEP passed through our lines

1900 2/25 para opened up from just rear of  
our positions

Very heavy small arms fire from  
in front.

(11)



18 Nov

1800 Rain commenced to fall heavily  
 & rained all night although lightly  
 2000 Bombing & Ack Ack fire heard  
 in the distance

19 Nov

0600 Ditto - still raining slightly.  
 0730 2/3 Rain moved off  
 0930 Log bog moved with 5 minute gaps  
 between bogs

Rain fell all morning

1020 First sign of JAP occupation seen  
 in huts which they have been  
 using. Evidence of making themselves  
 comfortable. Apparently standing  
 patrol guarding the to POPPENDETTA

1030 POPPENDETTA reached & we struck  
 main rd. Rain has made road  
 very boggy

1040 First sign of civilization seen in  
 wire enclosure & 2 burnt out  
 other trucks



Nov 22

Other Regt which had struck heavy  
opposition. The Moray (1700 Moray)  
Americans were to clear opposition  
before we proceed along track towards  
SANTANA A while 16 Bde took  
the approx 2 miles south of S leadg  
to CAPE KILLERTON

2/1 Bn to be vanguard Bn  
& would move when opposition had  
been cleared if more than one to be

H.O. decided owing to the small  
numbers in boys to Amalgamate

A & B boys & C & D boys under command  
of Lt Prior & Capt Bennett resp.

More rations came up & men are  
now rationed till evening meal of  
23 Nov. by Bully Bisc, milk sugar  
& apples.

Men are washing bathing shaving  
& resting. Every body doing cooking

1630 Padre Ghos conducted an all  
denominations service among  
(611)



19 Nov

1200 / 1300 Lunch &amp; rain stopped 1300

1315 Truck from Bow passed us. 2/3 Bn  
had just captured it 1 1/2 hrs further ahead.  
1/3 Bn came on 4 trucks (3 without batteries)  
& some JAPS just sitting down to lunch.  
JAPS shot.

Firing heard almost all morning & from  
ahead!

1330 1/3 Bn vanguard 1/2 Bn 1/1 Bn  
Unit held up by 1/2 Bn in front.

Rations run out at tea tonight &  
there will be no dropping at SOPUTA  
today as intended.

2/3 Bn held up at SOPUTA.

1730. Unit moved up behind 2/3 Bn.

to take up perimeter defensive position,  
& camped for night

Some rations arrived 1/2 tin bully 1/2 tin  
biscuits per man ✓

Lt RICHIE wounded in both legs by  
stray bullet.

Night fine also afternoon



X

Nov 22

0600 Sitner

0800 Americans moving through us.  
Front appears quiet

0930 C Coy warned to be ready to  
move fwd to fill gap between  
2 bns of 2/3 Bn if necessary  
Remainder of A & D bns amalgamated  
under Lt Col Blakiston.

Bn strength now stood at -

Bn HQ 4 22

H & A Coy 2 56

A " 2 13

B " 3 44

C " 5 45

D " 1 22

---

17 

---

202

1230. ... called by bond bond &  
... explained that 1 Bn was half of the  
Americans were going fwd, the  
remainder of the Bn going east  
to the BUNA th to assist their

(11)



20 Nov

0600 Action

0615 b.O. went fwd with Bow line  
to 1/3 Bn.

Enemy gone.

0645 boy bond conf. b.O. explained  
1/3 Bn had reached one milefrom GOMH & would come back along  
our track. USA moving on BOMH

One Capt USA under Bond 7 Div.

Order of march would be C B A D start  
0745.1/3 Bn to go fwd 1/2 hr & then 1/1 Bn  
to pass through.

0745 Bn moved off

0825 Passed 1/3

0840 Rifle fire heard from front.

1 Red machine whistled overhead.

4 Red machine now right into our area

0845 b.O. went fwd on rice

Decided to send 2 boys A & D round  
road on left flank under Capt Baller



THE LORD MAYOR'S PATRIOTIC

(N.S.W. Division of the



At 1000 hrs on a  
Gd was held up

SOPUTA - SANANAN.

then placed in co

move wide round

in order to get

positions, att

get astride the

capture or destr

firing on our p

of ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> force was

that his route led

(123)



his bold and resolute leadership  
in attack and defence and by his  
personal courage which proved a  
continuous inspiration to his <sup>troops under</sup> command.

In addition to the above action  
he showed great personal courage in  
assisting a wounded officer after two  
other men had been wounded  
going to that officers assistance.

1251



Although our casualties were very heavy and ammunition scarce, the position was defiantly held until the force was relieved during the night 21/22 Nov, when only 24 men out of 90 remained alive and unwounded, <sup>the</sup> heavy casualties also being inflicted on the attacking enemy.

The results of the operation, no doubt contributed to the <sup>deeper</sup> ~~immediate~~ withdrawal of the Jap forces, <sup>to an area</sup> immediately NORTH of Capt. Catterns position during the night 20/21 Nov; and to deny them the use of the main track during that period, 15 Japs using it that night being killed. ~~The 75mm~~ gun The Japs were forced to abandon the 75mm gun which had caused us many casualties and it was later found buried <sup>SOUTH</sup> of Catterns position and <sup>subsequently</sup> ~~eventually~~ recovered. During the whole operation Capt Catterns inspired all ranks by



support by our own troops and being completely out of contact with our forces.

He organised the attack to start at 1830 hrs  
~~D Coy attacking EAST and A Coy NORTH EAST~~, the objective of both being the Jap area (which had an apron fence of vines and a continuous trench system) and then the main track. The attack was successful, complete surprise being achieved and the Jap position overrun and severe casualties inflicted on the enemy, estimated <sup>least</sup> at 80 killed. Capt Catterno's force suffered severe casualties including five officers killed. The force then consolidated on the main track by 1930 hrs forming a perimeter and the defence was ~~thoroughly~~ organised by Capt Catterno. During the night 20/21 Nov and the following day the Japs continually harassed and many times attacked the position from three sides with every available weapon.

(21)





At 1000 hrs on 20 Nov 42, 2/1 Bn as Adv. Gd was held up by Japs on the track SOPUTA - SANANANDER. Capt CATTERNS was then placed in comd of A and D Coys, to move wide round the left or WEST flank in order to get round behind their positions, attack them in the rear, get astride the main track and to capture or destroy the gun which was firing on our positions. The total strength of ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> force was 90 all ranks. He found that his route led through a swamp which considerably delayed and exhausted his force.

However by 1700 hrs he had reached a point 2 miles NORTH and NORTH of the gun. He personally reconnoitred East and forward and observed a large Jap prepared position and resolutely decided to attack as soon as possible notwithstanding <sup>A)</sup> The superior enemy forces, <sup>B)</sup> the unlikelihood of any



20 Nov

(128)

0930

CATTERNS set off

Bow bond came fwd & advised that

B Coy go round flank

1100

B Coy passed through C Coy

1130

Gun fired 5 rds. Bow had 2K 2W

1230

B Coy Lt McSheehy & Jones making contact. SA & grenades heard.

1410

LIC B Coy reports 2 Fls were committed

800 yds C Coy HQ opposite JAP front which ran east & west. <sup>B Coy</sup> ~~found~~ Our car

1K 2W. Weapons located 1MMG

several 2MG's. 12 Pl now patrolling

in endeavour to locate enemy right flank.

Pang Loya 7 (1410) advised him of Powell's report & that in his opinion

enemy strength was considerable having at least 2 mountain guns, 2MMG's

1 heavy mortar several light mortars

& unknown number 2MG's. In view

of this he was worried whether

CATTERNS could obtain objective

as mentioned in conversation

he previously



Officers killed. Capt Simpson Lt's  
Wiseman Leaney M. Linn Owen reports reg.  
Wounded Lt Hollingsworth.  
we'll send you information

As remainder of force came out, C Coy  
issued Capt BURRELL had bully  
beef stew & hot milk waiting  
A cigarette issue of 14 per man had  
previously been made & these men  
received 20 each & were beaded  
down in some dry JAP huts.

Morale of these men was splendid  
they were glad to be out & had  
nothing but praise for the  
officer who had led them. They  
convinced they had inflicted heavy  
casualties on the JAP & that  
seeing that they had cut the  
road that the JAP had thrown  
his guns away as the only 15 JAPS  
who came from the road were  
lying dead a short distance away.

(129)



RANK AND NAME

(130)

ACTION FOR WHICH COMMENDED

S/Sgt  
Stanley George  
MILLER

On 20 Nov 42 21 Am were held up by enemy forces approx 2 miles north of SOPUTA. B' Coy endeavored to move round their left and succeeded in driving in the enemy flank a short distance but the bay was eventually held up by strong Jap forces and suffered very heavy casualties. The Jap positions were only 20 to 35 yards apart from our own. (distances subsequently measured) X S/Sgt MILLER is the bay Quarter Master Sergeant and was in position at bay Headquarters with the bay commander, Lieut Brown. No rations having arrived he had no definite duty to do X At approx 1100 hrs it was reported that Plt Lollback was severely wounded in the shoulder and could not move without assistance. S/Sgt MILLER went forward and brought Lollback out under heavy fire.

Later Plt Benson was shot through the stomach in a forward and exposed position and as the area was under fire and the approach was across an area bare of cover it was considered by the bay commander impossible to help him during daylight. His cries of agony were demoralising to our troops and must have been giving satisfaction to the enemy and S/Sgt MILLER volunteered to the bay commander to try and reach him and administer morphine. He then went forward under heavy rifle and h.M.G. fire and reached Benson, gave him the morphine and dressed his wounds. He then came back, had a stretcher made and with a stretcher bearer - Plt Kennedy and dragging the stretcher slowly and arduously crawled back to Benson for 20 minutes and brought him out despite enemy fire. Later in the day Plt Benson died at A.D.S. SOPUTA

At 1700 hrs Plt Ward was wounded in the knee and S/Sgt MILLER again went forward under fire and helped him out.

On all the above occasions and during the whole action S/Sgt MILLER showed a complete disregard for his personal safety and conspicuous gallantry and courage in the face of enemy fire far beyond the call of his personal duty as a C.Q.M.S. His conduct was an inspiration to all and his actions are worthy of the highest praise

All the wounded men were subsequently evacuated in howls of darkness on night 20/21 Nov.

Accordingly he is recommended for the VICTORIA CROSS.

REF. MAR BUNA  
PROVISIONAL 1" TO MILE  
190205



See Col Cameron for plan  
of JAP deposits at KOKODIA

(131)

20 Nov

Lloyd 7 said he would send boy 7  
to help CATTERNS as soon as Americans  
arrived at SOPSTA. G.O suggested  
Ben should be sent round. Lloyd 7  
disagreed.

Our cas in area to date 2K. 10FF ~~9~~ PRSW

1415 3" mortar preparing to fire.

1430 21 bombs fired.

Almost immediately JAP replied with guns.

1500 JAP fired 29 rds at these HD. No cas. although  
shells burst all round.

1520 B boy reported that they required a stretcher  
parties & that boy was in sticky position.

B boy heard new in rays JAPS have  
2" mortar & mortar gun in his posn.

also reported saw mortar fell among  
JAPS



Nov 21

1. set adequate <sup>wood</sup> ~~road~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ covered by CATTERNS  
 2. force & was used to bring the  
 3. parties out. As the last man  
 came out heavy fire started  
 but no one was hit. Lightning  
 made going difficult as it  
 showed up the track

B Coy 2/3 Bn moved up &  
 Capt Batts battens guided them forward  
 to a position in rear of CATTERNS  
 previous position & on right &  
 level with another Coy of 2/3 Bn  
 which had been on left rear  
 of CATTERNS

As B Coy moved in enemy again  
 opened up with heavy fire  
 but Coy got into position without  
 losses.

Our casualties: 5 off killed, 25 OR's killed  
 1 wounded, 25 wounded

(121)



Nov 20

Leb SA Co also has Hotchkiss & LM 5's

Ames is 900 yds from BURRELL

A patrol from PRIOR moved toward JAP's

& PRIOR considered as they were met first

and he is now getting toward JAP flank.

Rowland has allotted 2 boys & Bin

to assist PRIOR

1630 Two boys moved up

1600 Capt Boygard arrived & informed

him he came under command & that

he was to go into PRIOR'S area & endeavour

to outflank JAP & drive him out of his

position.

1615 Information recd Capt Blaney to come

U/C. Informed Blaney he was to

come U/C Boygard & would receive

his orders from KYLE.

1630 Lt PRIOR led both boys up moving

through scrub east of the

1710 BURRELL reported 2 boys moving through

him. KYLE also

1645 approx 20 shells landed in area.



Nov 21

1900 Stretcher parties moved forward to check  
Boca report centre 400<sup>x</sup> from CATTERNS  
but heavy fire in front & down  
the road held the party up.

As soon as it was dark stretcher  
parties with I.O. Sgt Cameron (Sigs  
N. as a guide & Lt. No. 10) went  
forward to contact CATTERNS.

Heavy rain had been falling but  
had now eased off.

CATTERNS contacted & informed  
he was to be relieved & that wounded  
would be collected.

CATTERNS considered that position  
was not worth

	1	43
Lt. holding & went	2	64

back to CO with I.O.

Collecting wounded was a  
difficult job as no one knew  
just where wounded lay.

S. B. had a good job & wounded  
soon began to come out.

(191)



Nov 20

able cut for <sup>thrice</sup> ~~second~~ time but comm  
re-established.

No news yet of CATTERNS

Order 100 shells fired by JAP during way  
which cut the line to Bole on several  
occasions & places which our saps had to  
prepare.

1835 Heavy fire heard some distance  
w/north. Probably CATTERNS left

20 Saps reported their horse had been killed.

Night quiet & fine. No rations came up

Total Cas.

(See Over page)

Nov 21

0630 Enemy reported to have gone. Both  
C & D boys fired but failed to draw  
fire. Patrols from both boys

gone fwd.

0730 C & D boys moved fwd in attempt  
to contact CATTERNS



53

Strength state to Nov 21 My 21 00 hrs.

Owing to JAPS pulling back  
Emb Lt Pearce had been able to get  
killed out & return. He considered

that CATTERNS force had  
but suffered heavy casualties

C.O. received instructions if  
possible CATTERNS was to be  
relieved by B Coy 2/3 Bn for which  
Lt would be ready from 1930 on 2/1 Bn  
to arrange guides.

2/1 Bn had run out a signal line  
to CATTERNS but nobody could  
be raised

1930 2 Lt Baker (S.B. of A Coy)  
returned to Bn HQ & stated he  
had 2 stretchers cases which he  
could now get out. 5<sup>3</sup> stretchers  
parties arranged & sent forward.  
These parties were fired on & did  
not get through. 1 man being  
wounded.

Other stretchers & parties were  
arranged to go fwd after dusk.

(136)



C.O. advised if enemy gone on 21 NOV 2/2  
Bn would pass through us then 2/3 & 2/1  
Should Bn not reach SANANANDA by  
night of 21 NOV USA Bn would pass  
through. YANKS now at SOPUTA

NOV 21

B Coy moved fwd approx 1 hr when  
2/2 Bn followed by 2/3 Bn passed  
through. B Coy remained in TAP  
posns until 1200 hrs when they were  
to move fwd.

1100 News received that CATTERNS force  
were astride the approx 4 miles north  
in contact with JAP. 2/2 boys  
2/2 Bn were sent in an encircling  
movement round enemy's left flank.  
CATTERNS reported JAP appeared  
to be trying to work around his left  
flank so another Coy of Bn sent  
out to lengthen flank.  
CATTERNS reported he had had  
20 casualties so far.



Port Moresby Nov 21

1400 Unit moved right up onto rear of 23 Bn.  
No. A report came that 25 Bde had  
again entered GONA & that Americans  
had commenced attacking BUNA with  
heavy air support at 0800 hrs this  
morning.

1530 Sgt Pearce from D Coy reported his  
unit stated that CATTERNS force attacked  
approx 1830 the night before & had  
caught JAPS unprepared in their  
all defensive position near the tk. Sgt  
Pearce had been separated in the  
attack from his Coy & had spent  
the night in the JAP lines where he  
had been stalked & fired upon all  
night. On two occasions two  
parties of JAPS of 2 & 3 resp. walked  
down to him & he had shot all 5.  
During the day the Air force had  
bombed the JAP & according to  
accounts heard Sgt Pearce considered  
bombs fell right among them.

(8E1)



19 OCT

1445 A boy reported slipping to left  
33 & 75 Ben patrols out

1450 during mortar sheet bomb  
exploded in barrel. cas. 2K151 >

1455 Heavy firing fwd - another attack  
Heavy explosions & short interval  
before burst - prob 75 mm

1550 Cameron reported attack considered more  
SAPS than anticipated & firing  
had been attack on right flank  
stopped - Cam considered another  
attack coming.

0920 Japs attacked Cameron & threw  
back.



In Reply to

write

TIME OF ORIGIN

0925

F.H.I.

0928

T.O.R.

Beats order on miss paradice passage

A/S Watson

Boat Bath Hamms Blak's stewed 0630

Break 0730 Low decks clear 0830

Boat RV 0600 Lunch 1230

Sea Move 0630 hrs. Lights out 2130

Off from B Coy area 1230 1830

Report bapt king

Boat - 2 RP's Hamms

Upper level I Sec Lower Towers

B Coy provide Breakfast.

Photages of cyphines of life belts reported by 3 days hard. 1200

Boat stations will wait for dismissal.

Men spend day in area of boat stations

Boat & cabin decks O of Round B O R

Blackout - stipew daily today 1830:0600

(138)





5th Sept 42

Early Morning

795

Room 42

211 My Box

Notes

MESS

1500

Rep. 3 + 4

Stg. Fld  
Centre

Fld Coy

6

Runners

X A/A PI

11 Runners

A/A PI

RAP + 2 RP Centre

Mess

Rep. Centre

Platoon PL 43

Photo Number