

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

Item number: 8/3/23

2/23 Infantry Battalion

April - May 1942

APRIL MONTH
1942. YEAR

A.I.F. FORM C 2118A

WAR DIARY

(RENDER UNDER SECRET COVER)

UNIT 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

For material required, see F.S.R. Vol. 1, Sec. 174

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS Routine training details and information given in Casualty Returns are NOT required	REFERENCES TO APPENDICES	C.O.'s REPORT AND COMMENTS ON MONTH (On Operations, Equipment, Movement, Health, Administration, etc.)
SYRIA	1	Weather : Fine. Bn bivouac under instns from 26 Aust Inf Bde at AZIZIEH, approx 21 miles from barracks.	Appx 1	<u>LOCATION</u> The Bn has moved to two new locations during Apr. The first move was from quarters in barracks to a posn under canvas rear of Sector A TRIPOLI defences. The second was to a delightful area vicinity BECHMEZZINE. The changes were greatly appreciated by all ranks.
	2	Weather : Fine. Bn in attack TELL TERMOS area, vide 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order (Ex) No 9. Skeleton enemy provided by 2/48 Aust Inf Bn. Co-operating aircraft gave the exercise additional tng value.	Appx 2	<u>TNG</u> Bn took part in exercises directed by Bde in TELL TERMOS area and bivouaced at AZIZIEH and vicinity TELL TERMOS. Excellent tng was afforded in battle procedure and in co-operation with other arms. Particular benefit was derived from aircraft co-operation, especially from lessons relating to the dispersal of MT. A fd firing exercise on EL ABDE range was carried out by pls of three rifle coys with the assistance of No 3 (Mor) Pl. The results from both 3" and 2" mortars were very good indeed. More range experience is needed in both rifle and automatic wps. The receipt of additional Brens will greatly facilitate tng and furnish better results. A number of reinfts are still "gunshy". Considerable interest is being maintained in unarmed combat to which our tps appear to be able readily to adapt themselves. The Bde fd day has given an impetus to tng in those events contested. The encouragement of the competitive spirit will tend to enhance the standard of proficiency. Route marches around the Bn tng area and recces on foot over the more rugged ground proposed
	3	Weather : Fine. Good Friday. Special Church parade. p.m. Sightseeing tours for tps to SAFITA and TARTOUSSE.		
	4	Weather : Fine. Message from 26 Aust Inf Bde at 1400 hrs reports probability of increased enemy submarine activity on LEVANT coast in near future. Existing instns considered adequate, provided standard of vigilance maintained. Tng by Coys as per syllabus.	Appx 3	
	5	Weather : Fine. Church parade. Small party of tps attend special service GREEK Orthodox Church TRIPOLI. p.m. Sightseeing tours for tps to BEIRUT and BECHARRE.		
	6	Weather : Fine. C and D Coys provide skeleton enemy for exercise by 2/24 Aust Inf Bn. 1615 hrs unidentified aircraft reported in our theatre of war. Tng as per syllabus.	Appx 3	
	7	Weather : Fine. C and D Coys complete exercises as enemy. 2/13 Aust Inf Bn recce party arrives. Unit adv parties prepare new camp site rear of Sector A.		

A150 Mob Print Sec AIF-25M-4/41-G.

Signature.....

Handwritten notes:
Adjutant 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
I.O.

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1942. YEAR

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SYRIA	8	Weather : Fine. Bn vacates BEHJATT GHANEN Barracks, and takes up new posn under canvas rear of SECTOR A, TRIPOLI Defences.	Appx 4	<p>to be used in exercises have helped to harden the tps. The march from the last location at OIL TKS was a test from which almost all emerged well, despite the trying conditions. Although the sequence of Coy tng has been interrupted by extra Bn duties, tng generally is now at a quite high standard.</p> <p><u>CAMOUFLAGE</u></p> <p>Camouflaging of posns at Sector A defences was developed greatly during the last week in that area. Coys were able to concentrate, almost without interruption, on their respective areas during that period. The benefit of the instn given at the Div School of Camouflage is apparent and the Unit may now be said to be camouflage minded.</p> <p><u>MORALE</u></p> <p>Facilities for recreation within the Unit and the continuation of the leave roster for BEIRUT and BECHMEZZINE as well as the generous allotment of sightseeing tours have served well in the maintaining of the morale of the Unit. Morale may be said to be exceedingly good in all the circumstances. At the same time it is felt that an ameliorating concession would be the granting of larger leave parties to BEIRUT, and permission for the Unit to send small parties, in deserving cases, to places of interest in SYRIA, such as DAMASCUS, BAALBECK etc.</p>
	9	Weather : Fine. Unit Comd recce of proposed new location BECHMEZZINE area, approx 9 miles SSW of TRIPOLI. Tng by Coys as per Syllabus.	Appx 3	
	10	Weather : Fine and Warm. Personnel attend demonstration of overhead MG firing at 26 Aust Inf Bde fd firing range at TELL KALAKH. Tng by Coys as per Syllabus.	Appx 3	
	11	Weather : Fine. Tng by Coys continued - Camouflaging of FDLs.	Appx 3	
	12	Weather : Fine. Church parade. Sightseeing tours for tps to KRAK des CHEVALIERS and SAFITA.		
	13	Weather : Fine. Defence wks continued by Coys on FDLs. Further reces by Unit Comd BECHMEZZINE area. Brief recce by Comd 2/13 Aust Inf Bn of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Camp area.		
	14	Weather : Fine. Continued defence wks SECTOR A. Recce by sub-unit comd of BECHMEZZINE area.		
	15	Weather : Fine. Unidentified aircraft reported in our theatre of war. Coys on defence wks and tng as per Syllabus.	Appx 3	
	16	Weather : Fine. Arrival of adv party of 2/13 Aust Inf Bn. 1800 hrs 26 Aust Inf Bde report firing of		

A150 Mob Print Sec AIF-25M-4/41-G.

Handwritten:
Adjutant 2/23 Bn
10

Signature:
Major for
Lt Col Comd
2/23 Aust Inf Bn

APRIL MONTH
1942. YEAR

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SYRIA		<p>torpedo at harbour mole BEIRUT on 15 Apr, probably by Italian submarine. Ofprs, NCOs and Int Sec attend lecture by Lt-Col Spowers at LEGOULT Barracks, subject - Recent visit to WESTERN DESERT.</p> <p>17 Weather : Fine. 0815 hrs TRIPOLI aircraft alarm sounded. 1145 hrs unidentified aircraft reported. Coy tng continues as per Syllabus.</p> <p>18 Weather : Dull. Rd recce by Int Sec to JOUET KHATE. Tng by Coys as per Syllabus.</p> <p>19 Weather : Fine and mild. Unit relieved by 2/13 Aust Inf Bn in present situation, vide Bn Op Order No 2. Move to new camp at BECHMEZZINE on foot. BHQ established in new area by 1400 hrs.</p> <p>20 Weather : Fine. Recces by Comd and Int Sec of coastal area from CHEKKA JEDIDE to SOUTH TRIPOLI. Coys arranging and settling in new camp.</p> <p>21 Weather : Fine. Recce by Unit Comd of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn defence area, vide CO's Appreciation of Situ att. Recce by 2/23 Aust Inf Bn area, vide Appreciation by Unit 2 i/c att. Coys prepare slit trenches.</p> <p>22 Weather : Fine. Bn parade. CO announced five names of Unit personnel MID during TOBRUK ops. Tng by Coys as per Syllabus.</p>	Appx 3 Appx 3 Appx 5 Appx 6 Appx 7 Appx 3	

A150 Mob Print Sec AIF-25M-4/41-G.

Signature.....

Handwritten:
Adjutant 2/23 Bn
I.O.

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SYRIA	23	Weather : Fine. Recce by Int Sec of Bn tng area. Tng by Coys as per Syllabus.	Appx 3	
	24	Weather : Fine. Gd duties by 2 pl at CHEKKA tunnel. Recce of tng area for 30x rifle range. Tng by Coys as per Syllabus.	Appx 3	
	25	Weather : Fine and windy. Bn takes part in 26 Aust Inf Bde Fd Day. Competitive military events were contested by inf units of 26 Aust Inf Bde on Bde Arena.		
	26	Weather : Fine. Bn Church parade. p.m. Cricket match A Coy V BHQ.		
	27	Weather : Fine. Tng by Coys as per Syllabus. Rd recce by Int Sec KOUSBA - BCHARRE. Reinfts and "X" List personnel (strength 18) join Unit. Balloon barrage put up over TRIPOLI and EL MINA Towns.	Appx 3	
	28	Weather : Fine and windy. Tng by Coys as per Syllabus. Wiring of Coy areas.	Appx 3	
	29	Weather : Fine. Recce by 2 i/c of sites for 30x range. Mortar firing practice by 3 pl. Tng by Coys as per Syllabus.	Appx 3	
	30	Weather : Fine and warm. Range practice by B and C Coys. Mortar firing practice by 3 pl. Tng by Coys as per Syllabus.	Appx 3	

Signature.....

M. Marshall
 Adjutant 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
P. Marshall
 TO

APRIL MONTH
1942. YEAR

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SYRIA		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>LIST OF APPENDICES</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order (Ex) No 82. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order (Ex) No 93. Tng Syllabus4. Trace showing locations of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn5. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order No 26. CO's Appreciation of Situ7. 2 i/e's Appreciation of Situ8. Field Return of Offrs and ORs9. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Routine Instns No 55 - 5910. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Routine Orders No 87/4042 - 100/4042.11. RMO's Report12. TO's Report13. RQM's Report - with duplicate <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>		<p style="text-align: right;">Signature.....</p>

W. Marshall
Capt.
Adjutant 2/23 Bn.
W. Marshall
F.O.

Ref Maps : HALBA 1/50,000.
HOMS 1/200,000.

31 Mar 42.

2/23 AUST INF BN OP ORDER (EX) No 8

INFM

1. 26 Aust Inf Bde is conducting Bn exercises in AZIZIEH area, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn representing one inf bn of BRIT FORCE taking initiative against a GERMAN FORCE retiring up coast.

INTENTION

2. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will move to bivouac area AZIZIEH, 1 Apr 42.

METHOD

3. Move will be by MT.
4. Veh allotment, vide Appx "A".
5. Timings and movement table, Appx "B".
6. Starting Pt - Rd junction NORTH corner BARRACKS.
7. Speed and Density -
(a) 23 min; 20 vtm.
(b) Vehs will NOT close up at halts.
8. Embussing - From Coy parade grounds.
9. Carriers - According to orders issued separately.
10. HALT - Tps will disperse to cover, if convoy halts due to enemy air action. In event of gas spray, eye shields to be adjusted and capes AG (or groundsheets in lieu) used.
11. Coy bivouac areas, vicinity square 186300, will be indicated on ground to arriving Coy convoys by I Sec guides on roadside, under direction I Offr.
12. B Ech will be EAST of rd, vicinity bend 18702995.

ADM

13. Amn - 10 rds per rifle, 1000 per LMG; ALL amn to be collected before start of exercise, 0600 hrs 2 Apr, and carried in Coy HQ vehs.
14. Wpns - QM to ensure that following distribution of inf wpns is made to sub-units :-

Sub-unit	Bren	TSMG	A Tk Rifle	Mortar 2"	Pistols Sig
A	3	9	1	3	2
B	3	9	1	3	2
C	1	3	1	1	1
D	3	9	1	3	2
HQ					1
BHQ		2 (RPs)			1

Cart red, green, white, to be issued with pistols sig.

15. Rations - By Coy arrangement, under direction QM.
16. Water Vehs - Operate from B Ech under orders of QM.
17. Dress - (a) Trousers KD, shirts, sweaters; groundsheet in haversack.
(b) Battle order, helmet steel, respirator at gas alert.
(c) Two blankets per man with Coy tpt.

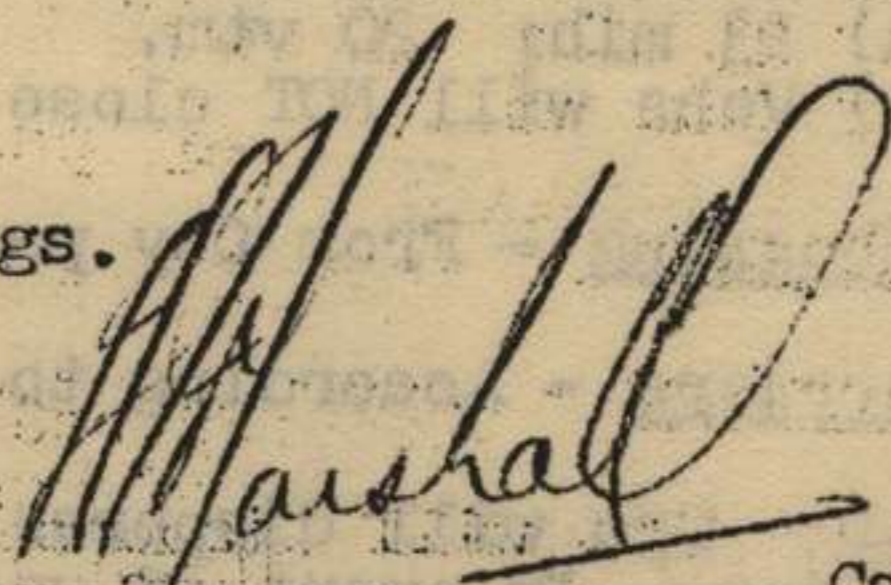
- 18. Malaria Control - According to separate instn to be issued morning 1 Apr 42.
- 19. Medical - RAP with BHQ.
- 20. Watches to be synchronized with BBC time sig within 12 hrs of Start Time.
- 21. Security -
 - (a) During bivouac, each sub-unit is responsible for its own security, and will mount picquets accordingly.
 - (b) Each individual soldier is responsible AT ALL TIMES for his arms, amn and eqpt. Disciplinary action will be taken against those who, by carelessness or neglect, lose articles of eqpt, the cost of which will, in addition, be charged to them.

INTERCOMN

- 22. (a) BHQ closes present location 1700 hrs 1 Apr 42, and moves to bivouac area.
- (b) Each Coy, on arrival at bivouac, will send two runners to report to I Offr at fwd BHQ; one to remain, the other to return.

ACK

Signed at 1545 hrs and issued through sigs.



Capt

Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

DISTRIBUTION

Copy No	1	HQ Coy	Copy No	12	RSM
" "	2	A "	" "	13	Tpt Offr
" "	3	B "	" "	14	Sig Offr
" "	4	C "	" "	15	Mor Offr
" "	5	D "	" "	16	Car Offr
" "	6	CO	" "	17	26 Aust Inf Bde
" "	7	2 i/c	" "	18	War Diary
" "	8	Adjt	" "	19	War Diary
" "	9	I Offr	" "	20	File
" "	10	QM	" "	21	Spare
" "	11	RMO	" "	22	Spare

Copy No	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	

VEH ALLOTMENT - APPX "A"

1. Bde pool of 50 mixed vehs is divided into three gps :-

- (i) Sub-unit first-line vehs
- (ii) Sub-unit and QM B Ech vehs
- (iii) Four tp-carrying gps :-

- Gp A - Six 3-ton vehs
- Gp B - Six 3-ton vehs
- Gp C - Three 3-ton vehs
- Gp D - Two 30-cwt vehs

2. Gp A will do two lifts, one rifle coy at a time, vide Appx "B";
Gp B remains with B Coy, Gp C with HQ Coy, and Gp D with C Coy.

3. Sub-unit Veh Schedule

(a) BHQ

Van 1 ton	1	CO & Adjnt, Office.
Lorry 30 cwt	1	2 i/c, 1 Offr & personnel
Lorry 30 cwt	1	Stores
Lorry 3 ton	1	Tp-carrier
Lorry 30 cwt	1	RAP

(b) HQ Coy

Van 15 cwt	1)	
Van 1 ton	1)	As allotted by Coy Comd.
Lorry 30 cwt	3)	
Lorry 3 ton	3)	Tp-carriers

(c) Each Rifle Coy (Except C Coy)

Lorry 30 cwt	1	Coy HQ and stores
Van 15 cwt (or 1 ton in lieu)	3	Pl trucks
Lorry 3 ton	6	Tp-carriers

(d) C Coy

Lorry 30 cwt	1	Coy HQ and stores
Van 15 cwt	1	Pl truck
Lorry 30 cwt	2	Tp-carriers

(e) B Ech

Lorry 30 cwt	4	Q vehs, one per Coy (less C Coy)
Van 15 cwt	1	Q veh, C Coy
Lorry 30 cwt	1	QM, RQMS.
Water vehs	3	QM's use.

TIMINGS, MOVEMENT TABLE - APPX "B"

Serial	Sub-unit	Tpt Reports	Embus Load etc	Pass Start Pt	Debus at bivouac	Tp-carrying Gp (See footnote 2)
1	A Coy	1400	1400-1420	1425	1525	Gp A
2.	B Coy	1400	1400-1425	1430	1530	Gp B
3.	D Coy	1630	1630-1650	1655	1755	Gp A
4.	HQ Coy	1400	1400-1430	1435	1535	Gp C
5.	C Coy	1400	1400-1440	1445	1545	Gp D
6.	BHQ(a)	1300	1300-1315	1320	1420	Own veh
7.	BHQ(b)	1440	1440-1455	1500	1600	Own vehs
8.	BHQ(c)	1630	1630-1655	1700	1800	Staff car
9.	B Ech	1400	1400-1655	1700	1800	Own vehs

1. COMPOSITION - BHQ GPS

Ser 6 BHQ(a) 2 i/c; I Offr and personnel less I Sgt; RP Sgt.
 Ser 7 BHQ(b) RSM and remainder BHQ personnel; RAP.
 Ser 8 BHQ(c) CO, Adjnt, I Sgt.

2. TP-CARRYING GPS

Gps B, C and D will remain under comd sub-units which they lift.
 Gp A will be under comd D Coy night 1/2 Apr 42, and thereafter according to further orders.

Ref Map : HALBA 1/50,000.

2 Apr 42

I M

1. (a) Vide I Summaries by sig night 1/2 Apr 42.
- (b) Enemy holding high ground NORTH of TEL TERMOS, and has been contacted by Cav in Sqs 184308 and 186309.
- (c) Hostile aircraft may be expected.
- (d) TAC R at 0755 hrs reports 600 inf in hastily dug extensive posns vicinities 186308, 185308, Pt 151, 185309, Pt 179, 186309; approx 4 guns 187311; no tks observed; hostile aircraft about.
2. (a) 26 Aust Inf Bde has ordered a 2-bn attack, 2/24 Aust Inf Bn on RIGHT having been ordered into posn ready for supporting fire role by 1030 hrs.
- (b) 2/23 Aust Inf Bn is supported by one bty 2/12 Aust Fd Regt, one tp 3 Aust A Tk Regt, one Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn, all under comd.

INTENTION

3. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will attack in 3 phases.

METHOD

4. Move by MT from Assembly Area 18703025 to Deployment Area 18483051.
5. (a) First phase - A Coy on RIGHT, objective TEL TERMOS
B Coy on LEFT, objective Pt 97.
- (b) Second phase - C and D Coys leap-frog through to attack;
C Coy on RIGHT, objective Pt 177
D Coy on LEFT, objective Pt 146.
- (c) Third phase - A and B Coys, after necessary consolidation on first objective, will move through C and D Coys - objective Pt 230.
6. Start Line - Dead ground vicinity STONY RIDGE, approx line 18553068 to 18463074.
7. Start Time - 1030 hrs (Z). Second & third phases on success sigs.
8. Limit of Exploitation - Line 18743112 - HERMOL.
9. Direction of Attack -

First phase - RIGHT Coy	40°	LEFT Coy	360°
Second phase - RIGHT Coy	28°	LEFT Coy	12°
Third phase - RIGHT Coy	360°	LEFT Coy	20°
- All refs GRID.
10. FUP - Dead ground rear Start Line.
11. Rate of Adv - 100 yds 2 mins
12. Carrier Role -
 - (a) First phase - One sec to adv with each fwd coy to first objective to assist consolidation.
 - (b) Second phase - One sec to move to second objective with C and D Coys; one sec for left flank protection.
 - (c) One sec will come into res at first objective; one carrier to be at disposal of CO from FUP onwards.
1. Supporting Fire - Plan is in outline only ; final details at co-ordinating conference.
 - (a) Arty - Timed concentrations on Pt 230, Pt 146 and Pt 97; permission to register. A Tk role according separate orders.
 - (b) MG - One pl at 18593058; two pls vicinity 184308.

- (c) Mortars - Z plus 5 to Z plus 15 smoke on first objective; two dets move to first objective 350 yds in rear of fwd tps for consolidation. Role thereafter fire by observation smoke & HE.
- (d) A Tk guns - According separate orders.

ADM

- 14. Dress - Battle order.
- 15. Amn - (a) Extra 50 SAA on man; extra 1000 rds per LMG.
(b) Coy SAA reserves to be loaded into one veh and await orders to move up after consolidation.
(c) Bn SAA res moving with BHQ.
- 16. Medical - (a) Two stretcher bearers move with each coy.
(b) RAP in water course at deployment area.
(c) Ambulance car. Evacuate from RAP back.

INTER-COMN

- 17. Sigs - L/T with each coy HQ to first and second objectives. Thereafter if possible.
- 18. BHQ -
(a) At deployment area 18473052.
(b) Comd Post at Start Line.
(c) On success sig first objective move to TEL TERMOS.
- 19. Success Sigs -
(a) First phase - A Coy 2 REDS, B Coy 2 GREENS.
(b) Second phase - C Coy RED GREEN, D Coy GREEN WHITE RED.
(c) Third phase - A Coy 2 GREENS, B Coy RED WHITE.

ACK

Signed at 1000 hrs and issued by runner.

(Signed) H. I. Marshall, Capt
Adjt 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

DISTRIBUTION

Copy No	1	A Coy
" "	2	B "
" "	3	C "
" "	4	D "
" "	5	HQ "
" "	6	Bty 2/12 Aust Fd Regt
" "	7	Tp 2/3 A Tk Regt
" "	8	Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn
" "	9	2/24 Aust Inf Bn
" "	10	CO
" "	11	2 i/c
" "	12	Adjt
" "	13	IO
" "	14	QM
" "	15	RMO
" "	16	RSM
" "	17	Sig Offr
" "	18	Mortar Offr
" "	19	Carrier Offr
" "	20	26 Aust Inf Bde
" "	21, 22	WD
" "	23	File
" "	24	Spare

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

56/

HQ 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

20 Mar 42

HQ
26 Aust Inf Bde.

SUMMARY

Ref 26 Aust Inf Bde Tng Instn No 25, following
is summary of Tng Programme 30 Mar - 15 Apr 42 :-

Coy inspection, Rifle exercises on move, Bayonet tng	6 hrs
Wpn tng - TSMG	1 "
2" Mortar	1 "
A Tk mines - lecture and demo	3 "
Outdoor exercises - Fd craft etc.	16 "
Wire crushing exercise	2 "
Reserved	2 "
Route march	5 "
	<hr/>
	<u>36 hrs</u>

In addition, one night exercise and one night
march.

Comd 2/23 Aust Lt-Col
Inf Bn

APPX
3

Appx 3

TNG PROGRAMME 30 MAR - 15 APR 42

2/23 AUST INF BN.

PERIOD	1st DAY	2nd DAY	3rd DAY	4th DAY	5th DAY	6th DAY
1. 0830-0930	Coy inspection, rifle exercises on move, bayonet tng.	Coy inspection, rifle exercises on move, bayonet tng.	Coy inspection, rifle exercises on move, bayonet tng.	Coy inspection, rifle exercises on move, bayonet tng.	Coy inspection, rifle exercises on move, bayonet tng.	Coy inspection, rifle exercises on move, bayonet tng.
2. 0930-1030	Two sided exercise :	Recce patrol exercise.			A Tk mines - lecture and demo	
3. 1030-1130	Close country fighting. (Prepared and directed by Capt. Urquhart)	ISL Sec 55. MTP 33 Sec 28	Fd	Bn exercise (Attack on 2/48		Route march (Minimum 15 miles)
4. 1130-1230			Firing	Bn - less two coys)	T.S.M.G.	
5. 1400-1500	Wire crushing exercise	Reserved			2" Mortar.	
6. 1500-1600						
7. Night	Night adv - dawn attack				Night march	

Appx 3

NO. 101 TERA 5545

SP. 85A 71 - HQ OF 2ND AUSTRALIAN INF BDE

	Mon 30	Tue 31	Wed 1	Thu 2	Fri 3	Sat 4	Sun 5	Mon 6	Tue 7	Wed 8	Thu 9	Fri 10	Sat 11	Sun 12
Fd Wks	C	D			C, D	D				B, D	C	B, C	A, C	
Serial			3	3				5	5					
Bde Tng Coy			Bn	Bn				C, D	C, D					
Serial	2	2				4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Bde Duty Coy	B	B				A	A	A	A	A	A	A	D	D
Unit Duty	D	A	HQ	HQ	B	C	D	B	B	C	D	HQ	B	C
Unit Tng	A	C			A	B					B	D		

BDE TNG & DUTY SERIALS

- | <u>Serial</u> | <u>Event</u> |
|---------------|--|
| 1. | Fd firing exercise. |
| 2. | CD Mob Coy (B Coy offr to recce with 2/48 Aust Inf Bn on Wed, 25 Mar 42). |
| 3. | 2/23 Aust Inf Bn attacks 2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Less 2 coys). |
| 4. | RAE dumps ALMA, 2 offr 103 ORs (A Coy offr to recce with 2/24 Aust Inf Bn on Tue 31 Mar 42). |
| 5. | 2/24 Aust Inf Bn attacks 2/23 Aust Inf Bn (Less 2 coys). |

I do

TNG PROGRAMME 15 - 30 APR 42

2/23 AUST INF B

PERIOD	1st DAY	2nd DAY	3rd DAY	4th DAY	5th DAY	6th DAY
1. 0830-0930	Coy inspection, Squad drill with arms, bayonet tng	Coy inspection, squad drill with arms, bayonet tng	Coy inspection, squad drill with arms, bayonet tng	Coy inspection, squad drill with arms, bayonet tng	Coy inspection.	Coy inspection, squad drill with arms, bayonet tng
2. 0930-1030	Camouflage lecture, "Dis- ruption"	GERMAN Assault Det (vide Appx "A" to Daily Int Summary No 213, GSI HQ Ninth Army	Wire crushing.	Question & Answer instr in camflg and concealment for inf, vide ME Tng memorandum No 3 Appx "A".	Route March (Minimum 18 miles)	Camflg lecture "Tracks; track discipline"
3. 1030-1130	Unarmed combat.		TSMG	Wpn Tng		Unarmed Combat
4. 1130-1230	Mortar 2"		Unarmed Combat	Unarmed Combat		Lecture by I Offr "Some Security Aspects"
5. 1400-1500	GERMAN Cross Patrol method (Vide Appx "A" to 9 Aust Div Int Summary No 193)		LMG	Camflg lecture "Countershading; Shadow"		Demo & practice AG cape rolling, adjusting etc.
6. 1500-1600		Unarmed combat.	LMG adv handling	Lecture by I Offr & WOII Renton "Night Navigation using Stars, with & without Compass"	AG tng - decontam- ination lecture and demo.	
7. Night	Night attack exercise -battle procedure; ap- proach & cross- ing of Start Line		All NCOs - com- pass march by syndicates, each member to do at least one leg.			Night patrol ex- ercise, incl un- armed combat methods - G(R) tps to co-operate.

OVER/

Appx 1
 Appx 3 (camflg)

	Mon 13	Tue 14	Wed 15	Thu 16	Fri 17	Sat 18	Sun 19	Mon 20	Tue 21	Wed 22	Thu 23	Fri 24	Sat 25	Sun 26	Mon 27	Tue 28	Wed 29	Thu 30
Fd Wks	A	B	C,D	A	B	C		A,D	A,B	B	C,D	D	A		C,D	A,D	A,B	B,C
Unit Duty	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Unit Tng	B,D	A,C	B	C,D	A,D	A,B		C	D	A,C	B	A,C	B,D		B	C	D	A

A
X99A

4

APPRECIATION OF SITU

SECRET

by

MAJOR H. R. BIRCH, at BECHMEZZINE at

1500 hrs. 23 Apr 42

Ref Maps : TRIPOLI 1/200,000
TRIPOLI, BATROUN 1/50,000
SKETCH
TRACE

OBJECT

1. To defend the coast - excl CARACOL to incl rd K FAR HAZIR 155264 - Coast at 150266.

CONSIDERATIONS

2. Relative strengths

Enemy : Strength unknown.

May be either (a) Raiding party, or

(b) Full scale invasion.

Probable strength of (a)

Highly trained commandos
operating from fast motor craft.

Probable strength of (b)

Strong assaulting force highly
trained and specially equipped
with landing craft, navigational
aid and interservice sig comms,
consisting of inf (at least
one bn), with supporting wpns
and tks, air and naval support,
parachutists and glider tps.

He will probably have co-operat-
ion of local pro-axis elements.

Own Tps : One rifle bn, (inf)
Under (one bty fd regt
Comd. (one tp A Tk regt
(one pl MMGs
(one mobile sec fd amb

In
support (one sec fd coy.

Probably air and naval support.

Therefore, if he uses only raiding party, I should
be stronger. If however, he uses full scale
invasion, he will be superior in personnel and
in armament.

3. GROUND

My coast line is approx 9 miles. It inclis four good landing beaches. The remainder of my coastline is broken and difficult, but is capable of being used by his landing craft. (Vide trace).

From my right boundary in the coastal area, a narrow strip of flat to undulating country widens gradually from EL KALMOUNE to a depth of 1000x at my left boundary (Vide trace).

Behind this flat to undulating ground, an escarpment rising abruptly to some 1200 ft runs parallel to and dominates the whole of my coastline.

A series of water courses breaks this escarpment throughout the whole area. Between the escarpment and my rear boundary, the ground is broken, and maintains its high level. The coastal area between EL KALMOUNE and my left boundary, contains numerous olive groves.

The villages of EL KALMOUNE, ENFEH, and CHEKKA JEDIDE are situated on my coastline. A first class rd follows the coastline. A good second class rd forms my rear boundary from CARACOL to FIH.

A wide military rd, nearing completion, from ENFEH to FIH, divides my area. A second class rd, with detours under construction, constitutes my left boundary. A ry, parallel to the coast, is being formed in my fwd area.

The ground is, therefore, favourable to defence.

4. TIME & SPACE

His nearest bases are CRETE and the DODECANESE. Both are approx 600 miles distant. Therefore, with air recce, I should get two days warning of his approach.

Int reports, however, may allow me 3 days. My tps are disposed in TRIPOLI area. I could, therefore, occupy my defensive posns in two hrs.

5. WEATHER

Fine weather is expected for some months. Sea mists are likely to obscure ground and air observation.

Therefore, he may be able to achieve LOCAL surprise.

6. TIMES OF THE YEAR

During the ensuing three months, the hrs of darkness will decrease.

Consequently, his time for operations by night will be correspondingly limited.

7. PHASES OF THE MOON (Vide Lunar Table)

I can combat some surprise during hrs of darkness by using searchlights and flares.

8. COMN

His supplies and his tpt must be sea or air borne.

Mine will be conveyed by a lateral first class rd, with which a number of second class rds communicate.

The sea is my alternative route and is open to me.

I will, therefore, more easily be able to move my reserves and be reinforced.

9. SUPPLIES

"It will be necessary for him to land with such of his wps and tools, and such supplies and amn as will enable him to be maintained for a period up to 48 hrs."

Replenishment of his supplies will be liable to our harassing attacks.

Generally I will be able to maintain my supplies. I am limited, however, initially in my RE stores.

Should he make an early attack, I shall be unable adequately to prepare my obstacle defences.

10. SECURITY It is inevitable that my preparations will be observed by local inhabitants. Infm regarding my disposns will, in consequence, be passed to the enemy. He will, therefore, be able to plan his operation and to rehearse his assault force.

He is likely to be assisted in his operations by inhabitants with a knowledge of the coastline, and by local shipping craft.

He may, therefore, be able to achieve some surprise.

11. MORALE

He appears to have had the ascendancy over Empire tps in most of his earlier actions.

He is aware that my tps are concerned about the situ in the Far East, where their interest chiefly lies.

He will be fortified by the success of other Axis landings.

My tps, however, have not yet suffered defeat at his hands. They are experienced in defence. They are eager to strike at any Axis force. They will resist to the utmost.

12. COURSES OPEN

To enemy -

(a) Attack by day :

He would then be able to approach the correct beaches. He would have good support, the use of tks, and no night fighting, but he would be liable to attack by air and coast defences and there would be NO SURPRISE.

NOT LIKELY

(b) Attack in darkness :

He may have difficulty in finding beaches,

but would be assisted by local agents. Control and movement would be more difficult and he would not have the use of tks or other support. Inf would, however, be easy to land. He would have surprise and security from coast defences and from air attack.

This latter course is probable

He has two methods of attack.

Firstly, he may commit his whole force to one beach. This is improbable.

Secondly, he may attempt several landings and exploit any successful penetration. This would be more likely as he would force me to engage on a wide front and to hesitate before committing my reserves.

TO ME -

- (a) To dispose all my forces along coastline, with best beaches more heavily defended.
NOT recommended, as I would have no flexibility.
- (b) Prepare beach defences for occupation, hold my force in a central assembly area, and occupy defences on receipt of warning.
NOT recommended because of difficulty of preventing small landing parties.
- (c) Prepare beach defences for occupation, dispose therein portion of my force, and hold mobile reserves in readiness to move to threatened points.
RECOMMENDED.

13. PLAN

Composition of Force -

2/23 Aust Inf Bn
Bty 2/12 Aust Fd Regt
Tp 3 Aust A Tk Regt
Pl 2/2 Aust MG Bn
Mob Sec 2/11 Aust Fd Amb
Sec 2/13 Aust Fd Coy

(a) Defences

Preparation of five coy localities along coastline. (Vide sketch).

Placing of obstacles, wire and mines on good landing beaches (Vide trace).

Completion of wiring of whole coastline as stores become available.

(b) Disposition of Tps

Own Tps -

Two coys disposed in the five coy localities
Two coys held as mobile res FIH area with flank Assembly areas at DEDDE area 15722714 and area 15332652.

Carriers : Two secs for patrolling coastline.

Two secs in res.

Mortars : Two dets in prepared posns sited to give DF in area SW of CARACOL on my right boundary.

Four dets in res. (mobile)

Under Comd -

MGs : Site posns covering good landing beaches.

Arty : A Tk - One gun sited on each good landing beach (covering rd and beach).

Fd Arty - Register DF on good landing beaches. Otherwise fire by observation from high ground.

Additional Requirements -

AA : Two tps Lt AA guns.

Beach Searchlights : On coastline.

In Support -

Engrs : Prepare demolitions on main and subsidiary rds.

Construction of concrete defences on

beach. Erection of obstacles.

Other Arms -

- Request for (a) Air co-operation
(b) Naval patrol craft
(c) Cruiser tk support.

Further beach defensive works required vide Appx "B"
HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde Order dated 19 Apr 42.

i. Type and location

- (a) Sec posts vide sketch.
(b) Wiring of coastline (Bn Sector)

ii. Estimated amount of engr material involved

900 coils concertina wire
2300 long angle iron pickets.

iii. Time required for construction

Approx 12 weeks.

iv. Priority

- (a) Sec posts.
(b) Wiring beaches most suitable for enemy landing
(c) Completion of wiring.

A. R. Birch

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Major

LUNAR SCALE

HOURS OF MOONLIGHT

Between

Last light and First Light Apr 42

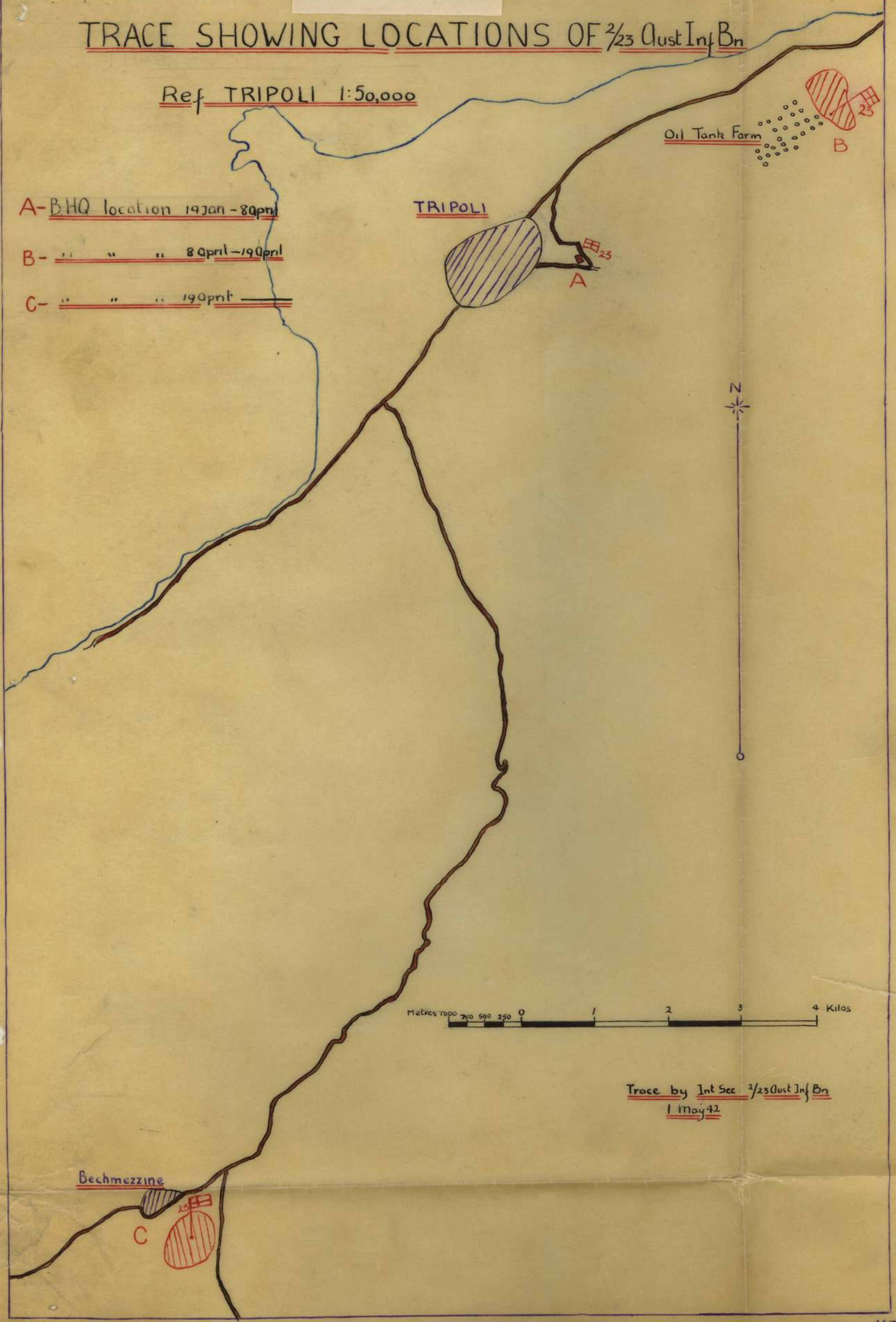
April 1	Last to first light	Full Moon
" 2	2007 - 0555	
" 3	2115 - 0552	
" 4	2220 - 0551	
" 5	2329 - 0549	
" 6	0030 - 0548	
" 7	0128 - 0547	
" 8	0216 - 0546	Last Quarter
" 9	0310 - 0545	
" 10	0349 - 0544	
" 11	0425 - 0540	
" 12	0500 - 0536	
" 13	0532 - 0535	
" 14		
" 15		New Moon
" 16	1937 - 2005	
" 17	1939 - 2052	
" 18	1940 - 2153	
" 19	1942 - 2235	
" 20	1943 - 2330	
" 21	1944 - 0016	
" 22	1945 - 0100	
" 23	1945 - 0140	First Quarter
" 24	1946 - 0224	
" 25	1946 - 0305	
" 26	1948 - 0340	
" 27	1949 - 0418	
" 28	1950 - 0450	
" 29	1951 - 0525	
" 30	1952 - 0520	Full Moon

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TRACE SHOWING LOCATIONS OF 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Ref TRIPOLI 1:50,000

- A-B HQ location 19 Jan - 8 April
- B- " " " 8 April - 19 April
- C- " " " 19 April



Trace by Int Sec 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
1 May 42

WD

Appx. 5 APPX 5

Ref Map : TRIPOLI 1/50,000.

SECRET

2/23 AUST INF BN OP ORDER NO 2.

COPY NO 17

16 Apr 42

INFM

1. Enemy - Vide 9 Aust Div Int Summaries to date.
2. Own Tps -
2/23 Aust Inf Bn will be relieved in present situ by
2/13 Aust Inf Bn on 20 Apr, and will clear camp site 24 hrs in adv.

INTENTION

3. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will move to area 157264 on 19 Apr.

METHOD

4. Coy Disposns - As already reced.
5. Coys, excl Q loading and adv party details, will march, vide March Table, Appx "A".
6. Regtl and Coy Q Establishments -
These will be lifted by pool tpt, move co-ordinated by QM, who will issue separate adm instns to CQMSs.
7. Adv Parties -
 - (a) HQ Coy will maintain present strength of 1 offr 87 ORs in new situ.
 - (b) Rifle coys will increase present strength in new situ to 1 offr, 1 Sgt, 2 Cpls, 15 ORs each, by Retreat 17 Apr.
 - (c) Limited adv move of RQM personnel and stores will be made on 18 Apr, under orders QM. Unit tpt to be used, personnel taking all kit and eqpt, appropriate tentage, and accommodation stores.

ADM

8. Camp Timings 19 Apr -
 - (a) Reveille - 0530 hrs
 - (b) Breakfast - 0615 hrs
 - (c) Strike tents, site cleaning etc - 0645 hrs onwards.
9. Dress - Marching Personnel -
Full marching order, respirator at gas alert posn, helmet steel slung right shoulder.
10. Blankets -
Blankets of marching personnel to be carried in coy tpt.
11. Tentage, Accommodation Stores, G1098 Eqpt -
 - (a) ALL tentage will be taken to new situ, under QM's direction vide para 6 above, except for such limited-scale exchange of EPIP tents as may be agreed between Bn 2 i/c and rep of incoming unit.
 - (b) Hutments, as shown at Appx "C", are being erected in new situ, and must be camflg painted, with materials obtained from ALMA dump, by 25 Apr.
 - (c) All G1098 eqpt will be taken to new situ.
12. Tpt Allotment -
Vide Appx "B".
13. Loading Parties -
Cpl and 10 ORs remain with CQMS; when released by QM on completion of loading, 6 ORs travel with CQMS, Cpl and 4 ORs report to Bn Ord Offr at BHQ to form squad for final clean-up, and then to move to new situ in unit tpt.

14. Latrines -

- (a) Immediate preparation of deep trench latrines in new situ will be sub-unit responsibility.
- (b) All latrine seats, screens etc, will be taken.
- (c) QM will contact 2/4 Aust Fd Hyg Sec, to ensure delivery of proportionate number of latrines wooden, as soon as possible.

15. Sups and POL -

- (a) Present unit res to be maintained, and taken to new situ.
- (b) Daily maintenance requirements thereafter to be drawn in unit tpt from DID, SOUTH of DAHR EL AIN (161272).

16. Horses -

- (a) Will be taken over at 1000 hrs 19 Apr, by 26 Aust Inf Bde, who will arrange movement also of saddlery, forage etc.
- (b) HQ Coy comd will detail two experienced men of present horse-line detail, to remain with horses on their transfer, and to be marked "temporarily detached for special duty to HQ, 26 Aust Inf Bde".

17. Medical -

- (a) RAP will move under orders RMO.
- (b) Two SBs will move with marching personnel of each coy.
- (c) Veh allotted to RAP from pool tpt will revert to QM's comd at present situ by 1000 hrs 19 Apr.
- (d) Casualties in new situ will be evacuated by unit tpt to an Aust Fd Amb det, working as ADS, at KFAR HAZIR (155263), which will evacuate back to 2/11 Aust Fd Amb (TRIPOLI).

18. Security -

All sub-units responsible throughout for own security (personnel, arms, ann, eqpt etc).

INTERCOMN

- 19. Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn area will pass at 1500 hrs 19 Apr.
- 20. BHQ will close present location 1500 hrs 19 Apr, re-opening in new situ, same time.
- 21. Sub-units will report completion of move to BHQ at new location.

ACK

Signed at 1815 hrs
Issued through Sigs.

Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. Capt

DISTRIBN

Copy No 1	HQ Coy	Copy No 12	RSM
" " 2	A "	" " 13	Sig Offr
" " 3	B "	" " 14	Tpt Offr
" " 4	C "	" " 15	2/13 Aust Inf Bn
" " 5	D "	" " 16	26 Aust Inf Bde (infm)
" " 6	CO	" " 17	War Diary
" " 7	2 i/c	" " 18	War Diary
" " 8	Adjnt	" " 19	File
" " 9	QM	" " 20	Spare
" " 10	RMO	" " 21	Spare
" " 11	IO		

app x 5 (contd)

MARCH TABLE - APPX "A"

Route - As reced.

Start Point - Track intersection, HQ Coy lines.

Formation - Column of route with aircraft intervals.

Speed - Normal.

Halts - 10 min to each hr.

Exercise - March discipline.

Ref Map - TRIPOLI 1/50,000.

Serial	Sub-Unit	Pass Start Point	Place		Distance Route miles	Time of arrival	Remarks
			From	To			
1.	D Coy	0700 hrs	Present situ	15722642	14	1235	Lunch in new situ.
2.	HQ Coy BHQ Details	0730 hrs	"	15782643	13½	1300	" " "
3.	B Coy	0800 hrs	"	15752645	13½	1330	" " "
4.	C Coy	0830 hrs	"	15752642	14	1510	One hr halt for haversack lunch, 1200-1300 hrs.
5.	A Coy with Bn Gd details.	1000 hrs	"	15752646	13½	1620	One hr halt for haversack lunch, 1200-1300 hrs.

VEH ALLOTMENT - APPX "B"

Issued with 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order No 2

Route - As recd.

Speed, Density - 20 VTM, 2 MIH.

Start Point - Track Intersection, HQ Coy lines.

Dispersal - Direct to sub-unit areas in new situ.

Halts - None necessary.

Serial	Sub-Unit or Under Comd	Vehs				REMARKS
		No	Type	Origin	Available Between	
1.	HQ Coy	3	15 cwt	Unit	Full day) Allocation to pls as ordered by HQ Coy Comd.
2.	HQ Coy	2	30 cwt	"	" "	
3.	HQ Coy	1	3 ton	"	" "	
4.	RAP	1	3 ton	"	0630-1000	Vide Op Order No 2, para 17(c).
5.	BHQ	1	Car DS	"	Full day	CO, 2 i/c, Adjt.
6.	BHQ	1	1 ton Office	"	" "	Ord Rm
7.	BHQ	1	30 cwt	"	" "	BHQ Offrs baggage and batmen.
8.	A Coy	1	15 cwt	"	" "	Under orders coy comd.
9.	A Coy	1	30 cwt	"	0700-1200	" " " " reverting to Pool Tpt.
10.	B Coy	1	3 cwt	"	Full day	" " " "
11.	B Coy	1	30 cwt	"	0700-1200	" " " " reverting to Pool Tpt.
12.	C Coy	1	15 cwt	"	Full day	" " " "
13.	C Coy	1	30 cwt	"	0700-1200	" " " " reverting to Pool Tpt.
14.	D Coy	1	8 cwt	"	Full day	" " " "
15.	D Coy	1	30 cwt	"	0700-1200	" " " " reverting to Pool Tpt.

appx 5 (cont)

Serial	Sub-Unit or Under Comd	Vehs				REMARKS
		No	Type	Origin	Available Between	
16.	Pool Tpt(QM)	4	3 ton	Unit	Full day	Under QM's orders.
17.	" " "	2	3 ton	24 Bn	" "	" " " reporting 0700 hrs.
18.	" " "	2	3 ton	48 Bn	" "	" " " reporting 0700 hrs.
19.	" " "	1	3 ton	Unit	1000 hrs on	" " "
20.	" " "	4	30 cwt	Serials 9,11,13 and 15.	1200 hrs on	" " "
21.	I Sec	1	30 cwt	Unit	0700-1200	Under IO's orders.
22.	Spare	1	30 cwt	"	Full day	Under TO's orders.
23.	"	1	30 cwt	"	1200 hrs on	" " "
24.	Carrier Pl	2	Carriers Univ	"	-	Move to new situ independently.

APPX G

HUTMENT ALLOCATION - APPX "C"

Serial	Type	Dimension	Purpose	Location
1.	Large	82' X 18'	Regtl QM Store	Between BHQ and HQ Coy Lines.
2.	Large	82' X 18'	Offrs' Mess	Vicinity BHQ.
3.	Medium	27' X 18'	Offices CO, 2 i/c, Adjt, Bn Ord Rm, I Office.	BHQ Area.

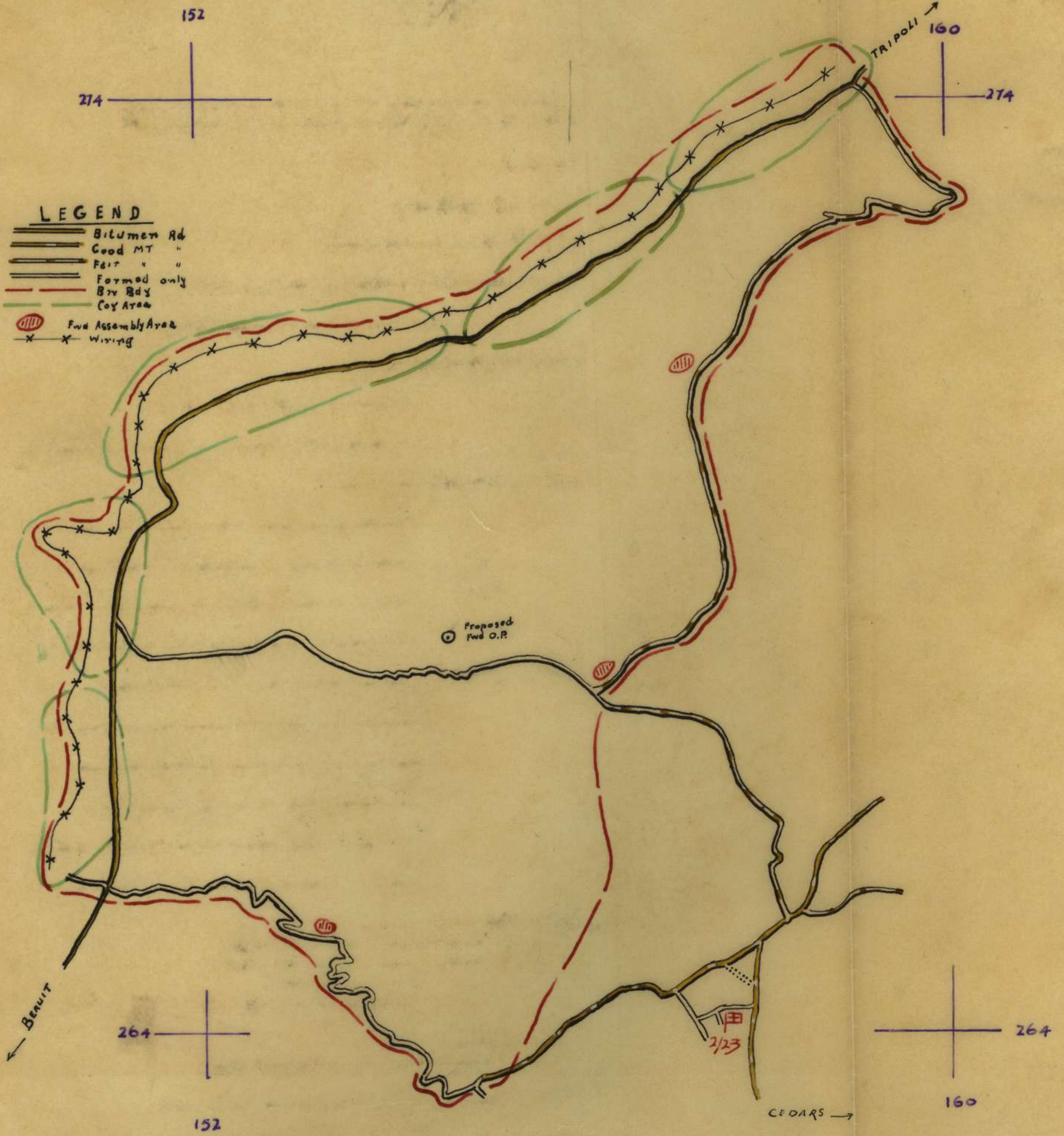
APPX 6

APPRECIATION OF SITU

by

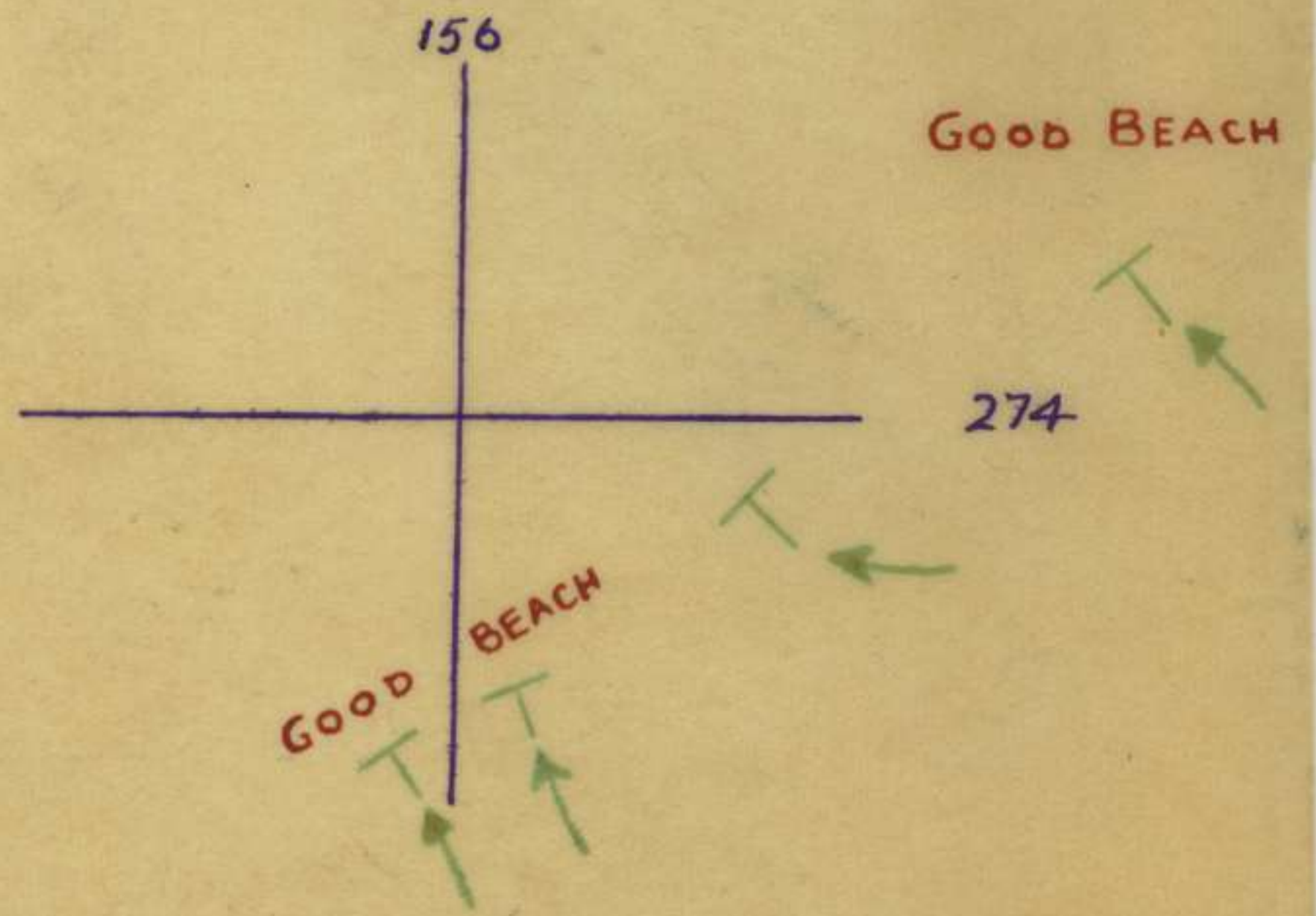
Major H R BIRCH at BECHMEZZINE at

1500 hrs, 23 Apr 42.

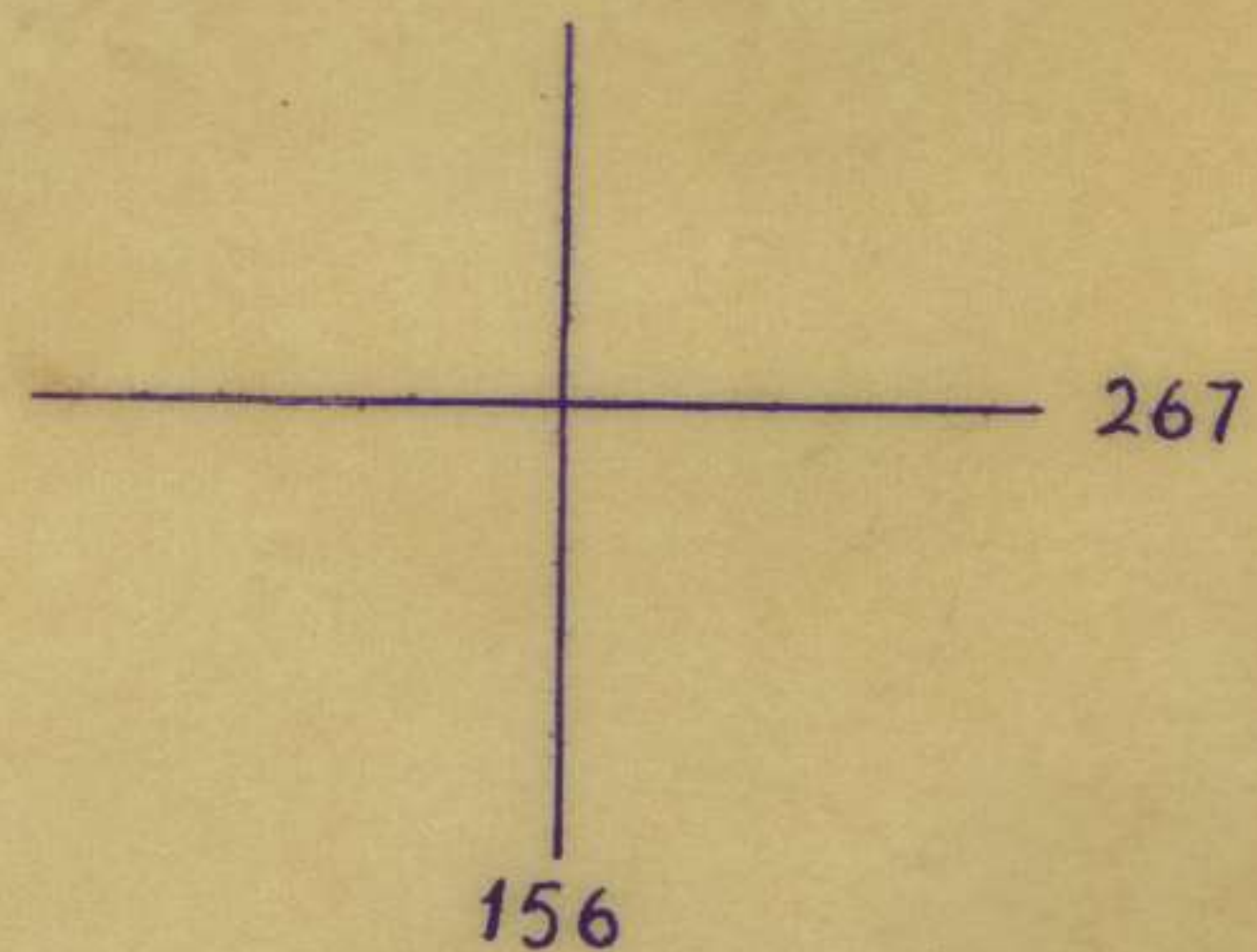
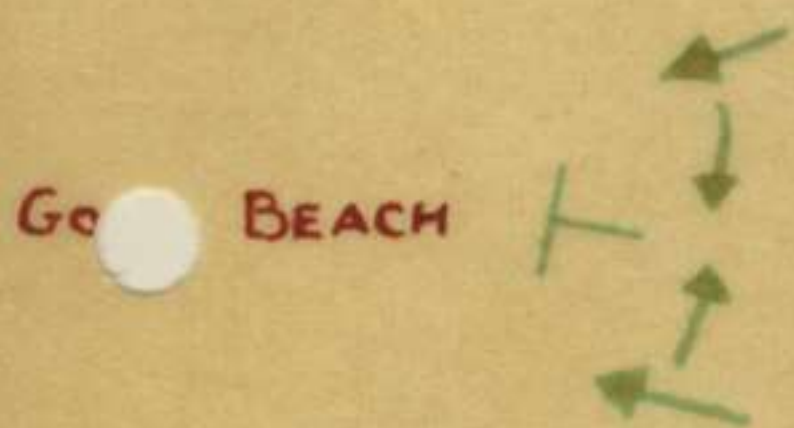
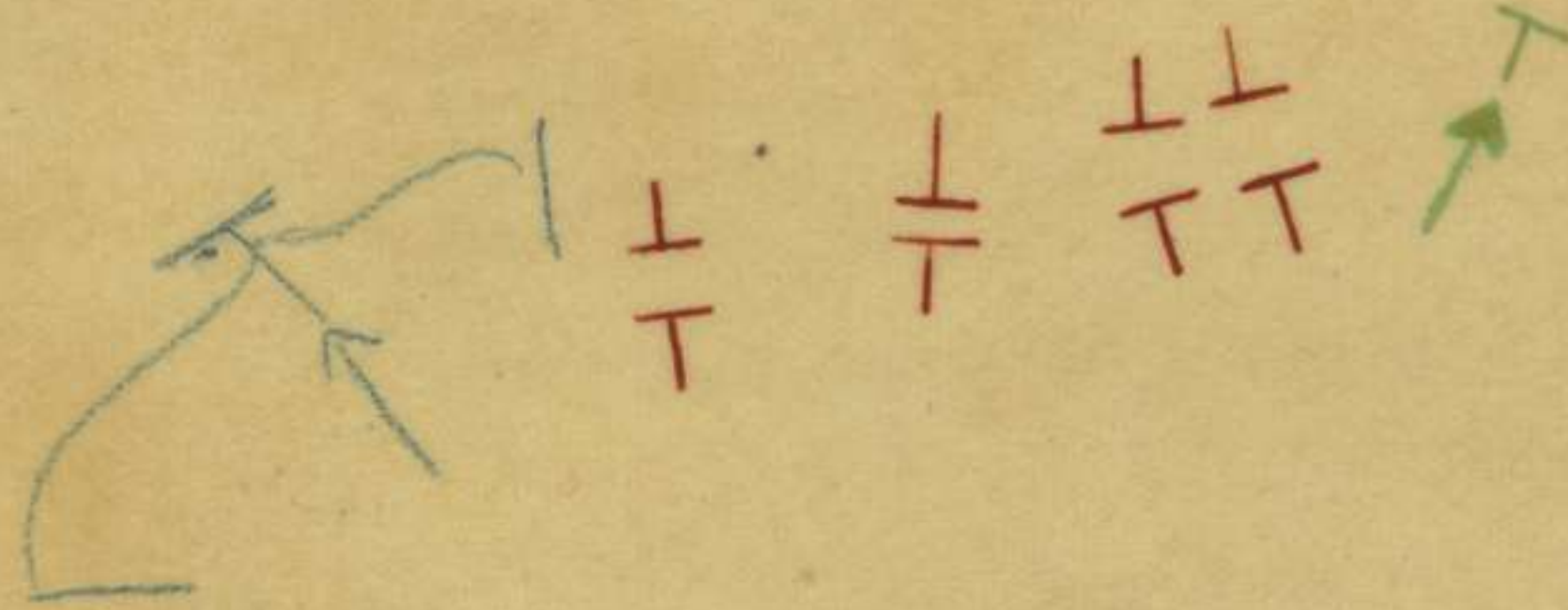


See 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

2/23 AUST INF BN AREA
Landing Beaches



Beach Spontages
 Curacot 100'
 El Kalmoune 200'
 West Enfeh 50'
 Cheika Jedide 1000'



LEGEND

← T — Landing Beaches suitable for Tanks

— T — " " " " " " Infantry

APPX 7

APPRECIATION OF SITU

by

Major R. E. WALL, 2/23 AUST INF BN at BECHMEZZINE

At 0900 hrs, 23 Apr 42

by

MAJOR R. E. WALL, 2/23 AUST INF BN. AT BECHMEZZINEAT 0900 hrs. 23 APR 42

Ref MAPS : TRIPOLI 1/200,000.
 TRIPOLI, BATROUN 1/50,000.
 Attached SKETCH (Appx "A")

OBJECT

1. To detect and destroy para-tps landing in 26 Aust Inf Bde sub-sector "X".

FACTORS AFFECTING ATTAINMENT OF OBJECT

2. Relative strengths : I have one bn and att tps, part of which will be tied up in other roles. The strength the enemy may attempt to land in is unknown.

Deduction : The enemy may land a superior force and quick action will be necessary to destroy him before he organizes.

3. Posn - I am now at BECHMEZZINE adjacent to sub-sector "X". I also have another role (i.e. coast defence) which may necessitate moving my Bn shortly from its present posn to the coast (but within sub-sector "X").

Deduction : It may NOT be necessary, and perhaps will be impracticable for me to maintain a special force WITHIN sub-sector "X" to deal with para-tps.

4. Efficiency and Morale : Enemy para-tps are well trained and efficient. His morale is high. My morale is high but the balance of initiative may lie with the enemy;

Deduction : He must be detected, and destroyed before he has time to organize properly.

5. Armament : Enemy will NOT land with supporting arms, but may have 7.5 cm inf gun and 10 or 12 cm mortars.

Deduction : It will NOT be necessary to call on my supporting arms for support (there will not be time in any case) and it will be dangerous to divert them from their other role), but my 3" mortars and carriers will be useful.

6. Time and Space :

(a) Enemy para-tps may be expected to land a few minutes after EA is first sighted.

- (b) I cannot afford in view of my other role to maintain a special anti para-tp force in each likely landing area.
- (c) It will take time to get to such areas from either BECHMEZZINE or the coast (according to my disposns for my other role).

Deduction : Anti para-tps force will need to stand to and be ready to move whenever WARNING of EA is received.

7. TOPOGRAPHY : Sub-sector "X" is divisible into 3 areas (Areas A, B, and C on att sketch - Appx "A") dealt with hereunder :-

Area A - Approx ~~5000~~ 6000 X 2000 M. undulating terrain with patches of olives, orchard, crop and fallow, becoming rocky on the EAST towards the mountain slopes. Rd and rail TRIPOLI - BEYROUT run along the coast through this area. The whole area is more or less suitable for para-tps.

The most likely portion (red hatched on sketch) contains :-

- (a) LG under construction sq 150266.
- (b) Fallow and crop with nearby cover.

The whole of Area A can be observed from 15332685.

Area B - Approx 3000 X 6000 M. mountainous tableland with crop and orchard in sqs 154269, 155269 and 153266, but generally boulder strewn. The most likely area for para-tps is shown red-hatched on sketch.

The whole of Area B can be observed from 15622674.

Area C - Approx 5000 X 1000 M. rough steep terrain rising almost immediately from the coast forming a rocky escarpment. This area is considered most unsuitable for landing para-tps.

Deduction : Areas A, and B of sub-sector "X" are suitable for landing para-tps (the most suitable being Area A). The most likely portions of these areas are shown red-hatched on sketch.

8. Vulnerable points

- (a) NORTH EAST of sub-sector "X" is TRIPOLI with important Military installations.
- (b) SOUTH WEST of sub-sector "X" is CHEKKA TUNNEL through

which pass the main rd and rail to TRIPOLI.

(c) This rd and rail pass through Area A. Also in Area A is the LG under construction referred to in para 7.

(d) There are no military installations in Area B, but para-tps landing there could get on to the FII - TRIPOLI rd.

Deduction : Area A is the most vulnerable but Area ~~Area~~ B must also be considered.

9. Political Situ : There is internal unrest amongst the local inhabitants.

Deduction : Enemy may receive assistance from them and counter measures will be necessary.

10. Opposing Comd : Identity NOT known but from the nature of ops will be a forceful character.

Deduction : Enemy must be dealt with quickly and ruthlessly.

11. Comms and supply and ^{comms} ~~tp~~ : Enemy ~~will~~ will probably be by W/T. His supply will be limited, and his ~~tp~~ probably limited to M/C until he can establish a bridge-head on the coast.

Deduction : Para-tp landing is more likely in Area A (coast) than in Area B.

COURSES OPEN

12. (a) To Me :

- i. To maintain special mobile anti-paratp sub-units in Areas A and B. This in view of my other role (plans for which are NOT yet complete) will probably be impracticable. In any case I do NOT envisage that the enemy will select Area B.
- ii. To rely on the disposn of my tps in their other role to carry out my object. I will probably have tps disposed in Area A and my res coy can move to either that Area or Area B if required against para-tps. (But I must have continuous observation of both likely areas). I will adopt this course.

(b) To The Enemy :

To land in Areas A or B or both. I think he will

land in Area A, but I must be prepared to deal with him in Area B.

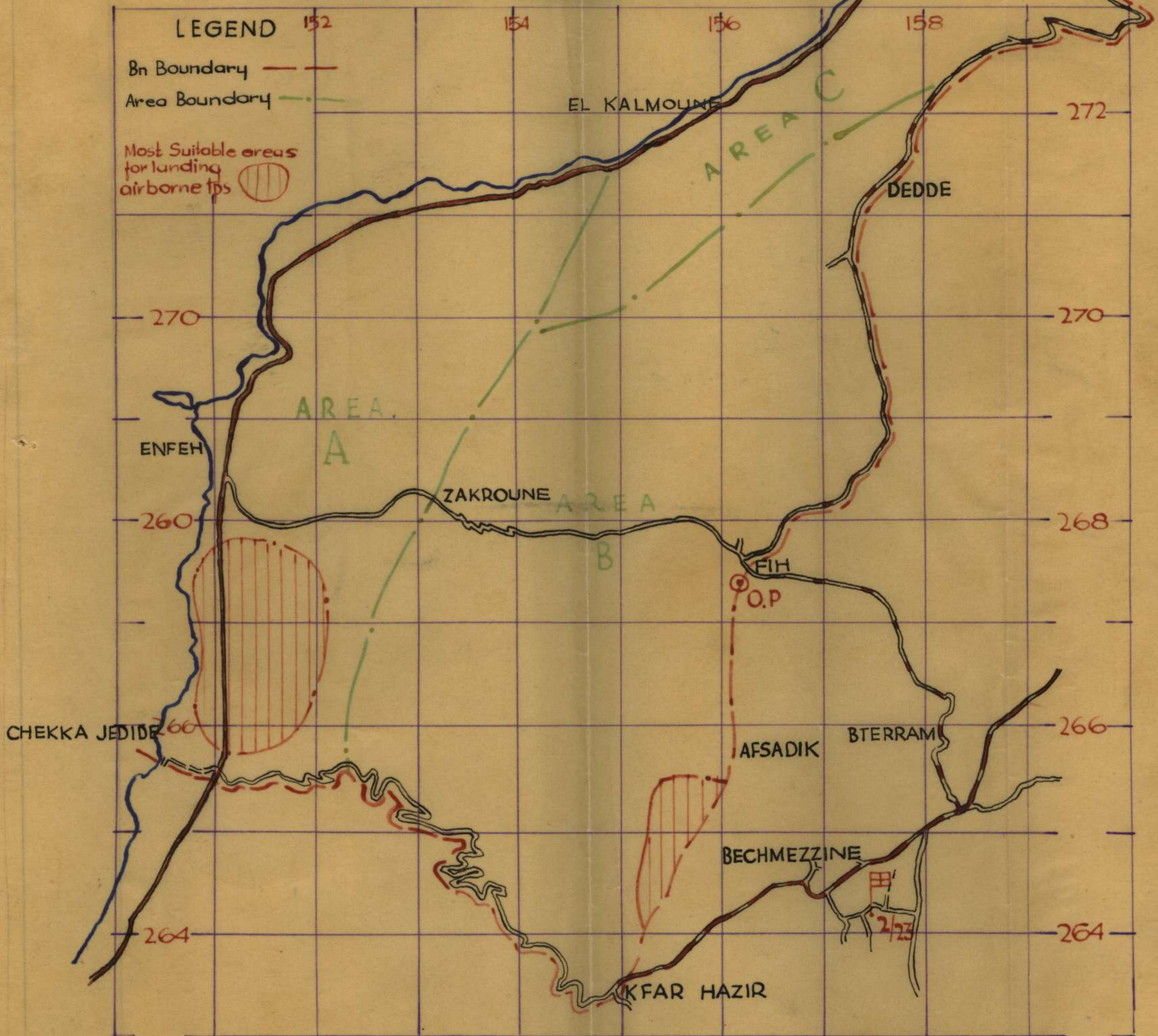
PLAN

13. (a) Establish immediately and man continuously two OPs - one at 15332685 (to cover Area A), the other at 15622674 (to cover Area B).
- (b) The res coy in my coast defence role with two dets mortars and carrier pl to remain mobile for immediate action against Area A or Area B as follows :-
- Area A : One rifle coy (less one pl), one det mortars and carrier pl (less one sec).
- Area B : One pl, one det mortars and one sec carriers.
- (c) Immediate recess of areas and routes by comds concerned.
- (d) Additional MF, carriers and sig wire will be required.


2/23 Aust Inf Bn Major

Appx A
SKETCH MAP of AREAS *Secret*

Traced from TRIPOLI
BATROUN } 1:50,000



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.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants, Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.		Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers																			
Butchers																			
Carpenters and Joiners ..																			
Clerks																			
Cooks																			
Despatch Riders																			
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ...																			
" " (Wheeled) ...																			
Drivers-Mechanics																			
Drivers-Operators																			
Electricians																			
Equipment Repairers ...																			
Farriers																			
Fitters																			
Machine Gunners																			
Masons																			
Motor Mechanics																			
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen)																			
Plumbers and Pipefitters ...																			
Range Takers																			
Saddlers & Harness Maker																			
Saddle Tree Makers																			
Sanitary and Water Duties																			
Signallers																			
Storemen technical																			
Tailors																			
Wheelers																			
General duty personnel ...													2		4	4		10	
TOTALS (to agree with Col- umns 3 and 4 of Part A).																			

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Unit.

Date of Despatch

25 Apr 42

Adjutant 2/23

Signature of Commander.

26 Aust Inf Bn 2 Aust Div In the Ed.
Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

(Unit.)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment)
Lieut.-Colonels	2		
Majors	3		
Captains	9		
Lieutenants	21	2	
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters <i>Capt</i>	1		
District Officers			
Totals	35	2	

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc).

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	Russell G.S.	(Taken on strength, previously shown as attached from 26 AITB.	Adjusted 4 Apr 42	joined unit
Lieut	Dunham J.W.	3 Dec 42.		
Lieut	Buick R.J.	26 AITB	230 Mar 42	Attached from 26 AITB
Chap	Porter F.	26 Bde	2 Apr 42	Attached Padre

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.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials	Corps	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No.)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Lt-col		EVANS B. Doo	2/23 Bn	No	Detached
Major		BIRCH H.R.	"	Yes	215 2/23 Bn
Major		WALL R.E.	"	"	OC HQ Coy
Major		SPER P.H.	"	"	OC A Coy
Capt		URQUHART G.F.	"	"	OC B Coy
Capt		RASTRAY R. IC	"	"	OC C Coy
Capt		CUMSTON J.S.	"	"	A 215 B Coy
Capt		CROKER E.S.	"	"	A 215 A Coy
Capt		BLAND G.H.	"	"	Car P1
Capt		ANDERSON G.G.	"	"	A 60 B Coy
Capt		LEWIS J.M.	"	"	2 IC C Coy
Capt		MARSHALL H.I.	"	"	Adj 2/23 Bn
Capt		BRIDGEMAN K.O.	"	No	School
Capt		FALLON J.F.	"	Yes	OC
Lieut		BYRON MOORE H.B.	"	No	School
Lieut		HARDING W.C.	"	Yes	sig offr
Lieut		MORAY A.H.	"	"	A 215 B Coy
Lieut		CLARKE K.C.	"	"	P1 Cond
Lieut		REID R.K.	"	"	IC
Lieut		FISHER F.H.	"	"	P1 Cond
Lieut		GOLDSTONE H.	"	"	P1 Cond
Lieut		THURWELL H.	"	"	P1 Cond
Lieut		SMITH A.R.	"	"	P1 Cond
Lieut		DEAN H.J.	"	"	P1 Cond
Lieut		BULLOCK R.B.	"	"	P1 Cond
Lieut		LEWIS G.W.	"	No	Detached sch
Lieut		REID C.G. Bn	"	Yes	Car P1
Lieut		HODGINS H.H.	"	"	P1 Cond
Lieut		DUNNAN W.J.	"	"	P1 Cond
Lieut		JONES H.J.P.	"	"	P1 Cond
Lieut		REID G.	"	"	P1 Cond
Lieut		VINCE W.E.	"	"	P1 Cond
Lieut		HISSELL G.S.	"	"	P1 Cond
Lieut		MCCANN J.D.	"	"	IC
Lieut		SMITH R.	"	"	P1 Cond

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt		DELANEY J.	ANIC	15 Mar 42	Reg
Capt		PERKINS P.	ANIC	20 Apr 42	Reg
Lieut		HEPHERY H.	ANIC	3 Apr 42	Reg
Lieut		REID H.P.	"	17 Jun 42	Div HQ 411
Lieut		D'HERVILLE G.	"	17 Jun 42	"
Lieut		BLAKE R.J.	"	17 Jun 42	"

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

4 Apr 43

(Unit.)

(Date of Despatch.)

[Handwritten Signature]
 (Signature of Commander.)

26 Aust Inf Bde, 9 Aust Div
 (Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/23 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment)
Lieut.-Colonels	1		
Majors	3		
Captains	9		
Lieutenants	23	4	
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters	1		
District Officers			
Totals	37	4	

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc).

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	Lakey G.W.	2/23 Bn	8 Apr 42	From ME SIB No 17 Course Fd Wks.
Lieut	Orr T.H.	2/23 Bn	10 Apr 42	From 26 AITB X List
Lieut	Lovell F.K.	2/23 Bn	10 Apr 42	From 26 AITB - Taken on strength.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Major	Spier P.S.	2/23 Bn	9 Apr 42	Detached to ME COMBINED ORDINARY COURSE 16-25 Apr 42.

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.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials	Corps	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No.)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Lt-col		B Evans 230	2/23 Bn	No	Detached
Major		Birch H.R.	"	Yes	2 IC 2/23 Bn
Major		Wall H.H.	"	"	CC HQ Coy
Major		Spier F.H.	"	NO	Detached
Capt		Urquhart G.F.	"	Yes	CC D Coy
Capt		Hatray R. 123	"	"	CC C Coy
Capt		Curston J.S.	"	"	A/2IC B Coy
Capt		Cronie H.C.	"	"	A/2IC A Coy
Capt		Blair G.H.	"	"	Car PI
Capt		Anderson G.S.	"	"	A CC B Coy
Capt		Hethven S.H.	"	"	2 IC C Coy
Capt		Marshall H.L.	"	"	Adj 2/23 Bn
Capt		Neuendorf R.O.	"	NO	Detached
Capt		Fallon J.F.	"	YES	QM
Lieut		Byron-Moore H.G.	"	NO	Detached
Lieut		Harding W. C.	"	Yes	Sig Offr
Lieut		Moyle A.H.	"	"	A 2IC B Coy
Lieut		Off T.H.	"	"	Pr Offr
Lieut		Clarke H.G.	"	"	PI Cond
Lieut		Reid R.H.	"	"	I.O.
Lieut		Tietjens F.V.	"	"	PI Cond
Lieut		Colistons H.	"	"	" "
Lieut		Whirlwell H.	"	"	" "
Lieut		Smith A.R.	"	"	" "
Lieut		Boss H.J.	"	"	" "
Lieut		Boulter R.H.	"	"	" "
Lieut		Luky G.	"	"	" "
Lieut		Higg C.C. 121	"	"	" "
Lieut		Hodges H.H.	"	"	" "
Lieut		Dunham W.J.	"	"	" "
Lieut		Jones H.J.P.	"	"	" "
Lieut		Duke C.	"	"	" "
Lieut		Vines W.G.	"	"	" "
Lieut		Russell G.S.	"	"	" "
Lieut		Hulcay J. 127.	"	"	" "
Lieut		Feina H.	"	"	" "
Lieut		Lovell L. R.	"	"	" "

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt		Malhary J.	AMC	16 Mar 42	1916
Cap		Porter F.	AA Chap Dept	2 Apr 42	Padre
Lieut		Hipsley R.	26 AIF	3 Dec 42	Vida 9 Aust
Lieut		Woods H.P.	"	3 Dec 41	NO 411.
Lieut		Duck B.J.	"	30 Mar 42	

2/ Aust Inf Bn
11 Apr 42

(Unit.)
26 Aust Inf Bn

(Signature of Commander.)
26 Aust Inf Bn

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

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

(Unit.)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits one establishment)
*			
*			
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels	1		
Majors	3		
Captains	9		
Lieutenants	83	4	
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters Capt	1		
District Officers			
Totals	37		

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc).

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.)

ROUTINE INSTNS NO 55

21 Apr 42

2/23 AUST INF BN250. INSPECTION ORDER - GROUND SHEETS

Attention of all Coys is drawn to Bn R/O No 91/4042, para 556. Camp inspection today showed that this is not being complied with.

251. LATRINES - PAPER RECEPTACLES

All sub-units will provide receptacles for paper at latrines, in accordance with Bn R/O No 93/4042, para 570, and advise by sig when action completed.

252. TENTS - CAMFLG

There are still a large number of tents to be camouflaged. All such camflg will be completed, by orders of 26 Aust Inf Bde, by 25 Apr.

253. CLEANLINESS - RD BHQ, CANTEEN

In future, it will be the responsibility of the duty coy to clean the rd between BHQ and Unit Canteen, which has hitherto been littered with papers and other refuse.



Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Capt

22 Apr 42

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

254. BLACKOUT

- (a) Latest tng instns from Higher Formation insist that, for operational reasons, the blackout be now enforced stringently. Several offenders were warned by Bn Ord Offr on night 21/22 Apr.
- (b) In future, each sub-unit, through its orderly duties, will be directly responsible to the CO for proper blackout observance.

255. SLIT TRENCHES

Disregarding advice given at recent Coy Comds' conference, some sub-units are digging "L" shaped slit trenches. Latest experience of aerial photography and recce shows that from usual operational heights, the hardest trench to discern is a straight one not exceeding 5 ft in length. Sufficient of these should be dug to accommodate all personnel.

256. RATIONS - CARE IN HANDLING

- (a) Inspection on 22 Apr revealed that the attention of Coys must once again be directed to Bn R/O No 93/4042, para 569, ref covering of vegetables.
- (b) All meat safes must immediately be rendered flyproof.

257. GREASE TRAPS

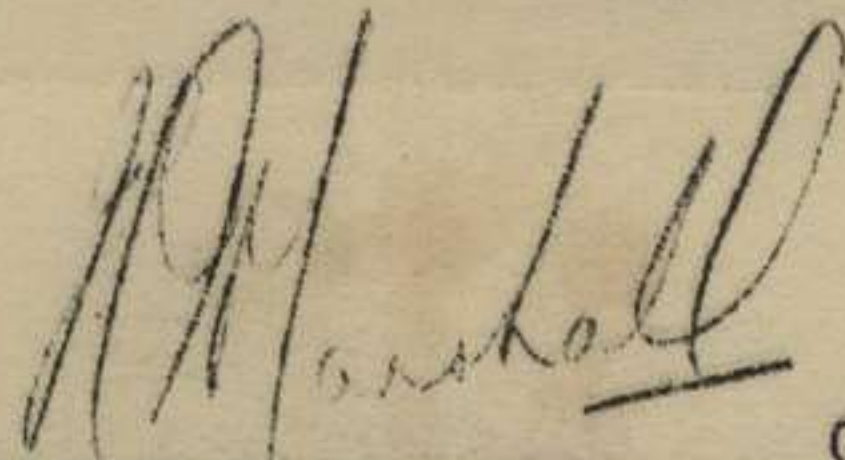
Until grease traps are constructed at cookhouses, drains will be inspected and cleaned daily, under sub-unit supervision. Where ordinary draining is found impracticable, sumps will be dug and maintained in satisfactory condition.

258. LATRINES

Further to Bn R/O No 93/4042, para 570, and Bn R/I No 55, para 251, Coys will ensure that all latrines are rendered flyproof, and provided with paper receptacles.

259. REFUSE PITS

Where refuse pits are in use, their contents will be covered daily with at least 6 inches of earth on completion of cleanup after evening meal.



Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Capt

ROUTINE INSTN NO 57

24 Apr 42

2/23 AUST INF BN

260. KITS - INSPECTION ORDER

To ensure uniformity of kits when laid out in inspection order, RSM will arrange conference with CSMS, at earliest opportunity. Kits will be arranged in accordance with Bn R/O No 48/4042, Appx A, provision being made in addition for folding mosquito nets to prevent damage. Nets will NOT be left hanging.

261. SAFES - FLYPROOFING

Further attention of all coys must be given to flyproofing of meat safes which in some cases are affected by warped wood, and require additional catches.

262. COOKHOUSES - UTENSILS ETC

Cookhouse utensils, especially dixies, are to be kept cleaner than hitherto. Dixies must not be stacked one inside another, as dirt from the outside of the one is thereby left in the inside of the other. These will be placed to dry separately, after washing.

263. VEGETABLES - RACKS

All sub-units will supply racks for vegetables, to prevent sweating. Pnr Offr will confer with QM, RMO, and the Sgt Cook ref this matter.



Adit. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Capt.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ROUTINE INSTN NO 58

26 Apr 42

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

264. LATRINES - PAPER RECEPTACLES

Further to Bn R/O No 93/4042, para 570, and Bn R/Is No 54, para 251 and No 56, para 258, Coys will ensure that tps use the latrine paper receptacles provided, and that appropriate action is taken in cases of non-compliance.

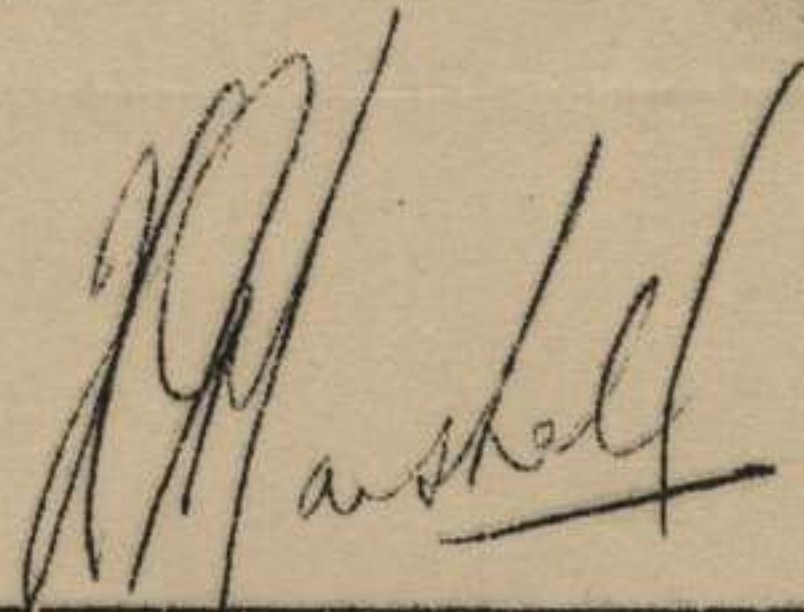
265. INSPECTION - CONDITION OF CAMP

Camp inspection of 26 Apr, found sub-unit areas, with exception of BHQ and D Coy, to be below standard. This must be rectified.

266. BOUNDS - BECHMEZZINE

HQ, 26 Aust Inf Bde notify that NORTHERN end of Bterram Cinema will be considered as NORTHERN boundary of BECHMEZZINE Village.

This will be brought to the notice of all ranks, as personnel beyond that boundary, when on leave passes to BECHMEZZINE, will be deemed to be "beyond the limits set" by such leave passes.



Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Capt

6
H

27 Apr 42.

2/23 AUST INF BN

267. WATER

Coys will ensure that on no account is water withdrawn from tanks other than through the tap. Instances have been noted of personnel removing water by dipping, and this practice is to cease forthwith.

268. CLEANLINESS - CANTEEN AREA

Further to Bn R/I No 55, para 252, Duty Coy will, in future, in addition to cleaning the rd between BHQ and Unit Canteen, also ensure that the area within 50 yd radius of Bn Recreation Hut is clean and free from refuse.

269. BN GD - DRESS

Hats KFF will, in future, be worn turned up by the on-coming Gd. All other previous orders relating to dress still apply.

270. LEAVE - OFFRS

A return is required by 1000 hrs 28 Apr, showing those offrs posted or attached to Coys, who have had BEIRUT or special leave since Bn has been in SYRIA.

Return should indicate approx date of the leave, and whether same was of a special nature, or routine leave i/c unit leave parties.

271. DUTY OFFRS

Ref Bn Instn of 24 Apr 42, Appx "A". Substitute Lieut K. LOVELL for Lieut E.J.P. JONES as Ser 6, and show Lieut JONES as ser 27.

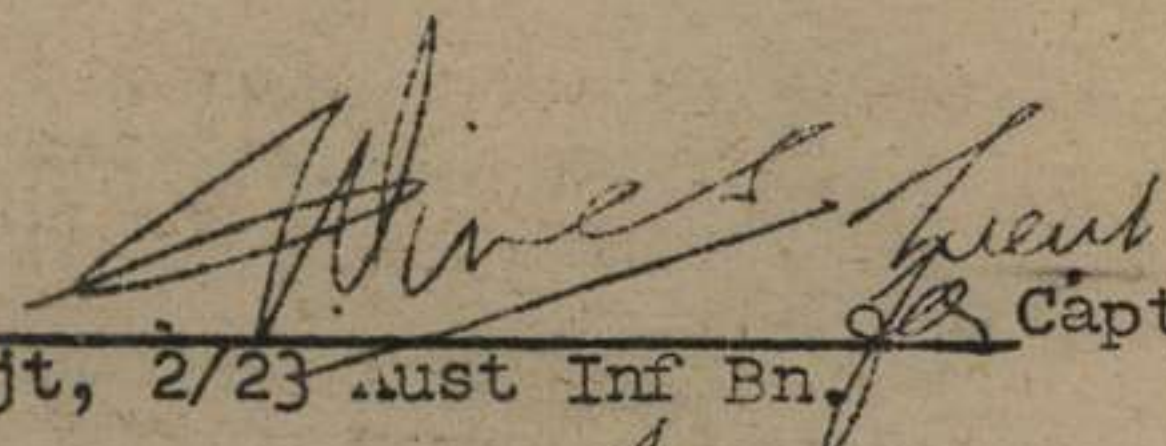
272. DENTAL TREATMENT

Coys will submit by Retreat 29 Apr, a return of personnel requiring dental treatment, under the following headings :-

- (a) Dentures i. New ii. Repairs
- (b) Fillings
- (c) Extractions

273. NOTES ON INSPECTION - 27 APR

- (a) Washing water - It is noted that washing water is being thrown just outside tents. This practice will cease forthwith.
- (b) Tents - Cleanliness - In all Coys there is a tendency to put small articles under bedboards. Coys will ensure that this is rectified.
- (c) Slit Trenches - Sub-unit comds will ensure that these are kept clean, and are not used as refuse pits.
- (d) Kits - Inspection Order - The attention of Coys is directed to R/I No 57, para 260.


Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. Lieut
Capt

AOD

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS, DSO., Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/O Part I - No 87/4042

526. PUNISHMENTS BY COURTS MARTIAL

The following awards by DCM to soldiers of this Unit have been promulgated :-

VX57037, Pte KENNEDY W., and VX51422, Pte DALY D., charged with having, while being soldiers of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia, on war service, commit the following offences :-

First Charge -

When on active service, stealing public property, in that they, at TRIPOLI on 11 Mar 42, stole one motor truck wheel, one motor tyre, and one motor tube, public property. A.A.18(4).
(Alternative to second charge).

Second Charge -

When on active service, receiving, knowing it to have been stolen, public property, in that they, at TRIPOLI on 11 Mar 42, did receive one motor truck wheel, one motor tyre, and one motor tube, public property, which they (the accused) knew to have been stolen. A.A.18(4).
(Alternative to first charge).

The Court found that the accused were NOT GUILTY of the first charge, but GUILTY of the second charge.

Each accused was sentenced to undergo detention for ninety (90) days.

Dates of trials were :-

VX57037, Pte KENNEDY W., 26 - 27 Mar 42,
VX51422, Pte DALY D., 27 - 28 Mar 42,

In each case, date of confirmation was 30 Mar 42, the Confirming Offr being Brig R. W. TOVELL, DSO., ED., Offr performing the duties of GOC, 9 Aust Div, AIF.

527. STACKING OF POL CONTAINERS

- (a) All types of POL containers now in use in MIDEAST, except Jerricans and 40/44 - gall barrels, if stacked upright retain water above the level of the orifice when exposed to rain or snow. There is, therefore, a risk of water infiltration into such containers in localities liable to rain and snowfall, when containers are stacked upright without cover and the caps or bungs do not provide a perfect seal.
- (b) In order to obviate the risk of POL becoming contaminated by water when stacked exposed to rain and snow, the following procedure will be followed :-
 - i. 5-gall Lubricating Oil drums, 4-gall Petrol returnable round drums and square cans, with screw bungs, and 2-gall Rectangular Petrol and MBO cans, will be stacked on their sides, with the cap or screw bung uppermost when the container is resting in a horizontal posn.
 - ii. All containers with screw bungs will have bungs tightened up at time of stacking.
 - iii. Petrol, 4-gall tins, light, and 5-(American gall) Lubricating Oil tins both cased and naked, will continue to be stacked upright at all times and in all localities.
- (c) Petrol, 4-gall tins, light, will be given first priority for all available cover.
- (d) All containers will be loaded into vehs in an upright posn, with cap or screw bung uppermost in accordance with existing practice.

528. DEFECTIVE AMN - EVIDENCE

9 Aust Div R/O No 210 is rptd :-

- (a) Instances have recently occurred where valuable evidence of possible defects in amn has been lost through demolition of faulty rounds or neglect to retain material evidence for full expert investigation.
- (b) When the behaviour of any amn is reported, the rounds or fragments concerned must be retained until definite disposal instns are issued by RAOC. Exception will only be made when the rounds are in a dangerous condition and it is impossible for them to be left in situ for examination. Package markings will be recorded in all cases.
- (c) The above instns do not apply to the disposal of "blinds", for which no report or complaint has been submitted. These will be dealt with in the normal manner.

529. VEHS - FROST PRECAUTIONS

Except at the direction of the CO, in event of special conditions rendering them necessary, frost precautions will not be taken after 1 Apr 42.

530. APPLICATIONS - ANTI MALARIAL SQUAD

Applications are called for one OR vacancy in Unit anti malarial squad. Previous knowledge or experience of this work are desirable, but not essential. Returns to reach BHQ by Retreat, 5 Apr 42.

531. BLACKOUT - WINDOW MATERIALS

- (a) Materials to blackout clear window glass are now available for Coys to draw from Par Sgt.
- (b) Broken window panes are to be replaced by cardboard, or similar material, under Coy arrangement.
- (c) Inattention to blackout regulations, continues to give cause for complaint. Stricter observation is required in future.

532. CAFES - TRIPOLI TOWN

- (a) The following cafes have been placed IN BOUNDS to tps as from 1 Apr 42 :-

Cafe Carillion
Victory Bar
Cafe De Nice
Australian Bar
Bar Quick
Cafe San Pareil

- (b) All the above cafes clearly display "in bounds to tps" notices outside their entrances. Under no circumstances whatever, will tps enter other cafes in TRIPOLI Town.
- (c) LIQUOR - Beer, wines and light liqueurs only will be sold in these cafes. Tps are not permitted to take other liquor into any of these cafes.
- (d) Opening and Closing Hrs :

WEEK DAYS - 1700 hrs - 2130 hrs
SUNDAYS - 1130 hrs - 2130 hrs

All tps must be clear of TRIPOLI town by 2200 hrs.

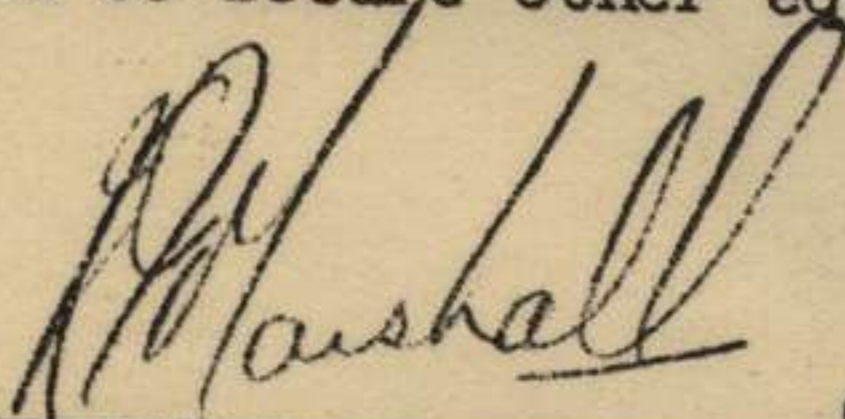
- (e) All tps will be warned that the continued use of these cafes is entirely dependent on their good behaviour and conduct.

533. CARE OF ARMS, EQPT DURING TNG

26 Aust Inf Bde R/O No 108 is rptd :-

Several instances have occurred of arms and eqpt being lost during recent tactical exercises. Practically all of these losses could have been avoided if proper care has been taken by the individuals responsible.

In particular, a number of rifles have been lost during river crossings. All tps, accordingly, will be warned that, when it is necessary to ford streams, the rifle will be carried slung across the back. Precautions will also be taken to secure other eqpt and stores from loss during crossing.



Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Capt

NOTICES

MOULIN BLEU

The MOULIN BLEU will be closed to all ranks except by special invitation all day on Sunday 5 Apr owing to the establishment being required for a civilian charity entertainment.

ALL RANKS IN ALL SUB-UNITS ARE TO BE INFORMED VERBALLY.

NAAFI ENTERTAINMENT

The following ticket allotment has been made for the NAAFI entertainment "Girls in Uniform" at the PERROQUET Theatre, TRIPOLI :-

63 tickets for each of - Fri 10 Apr
Sat 11 Apr
Mon 13 Apr
Tue 14 Apr.

Allotment to sub-units for each night is :-

BHQ	5
HQ Coy	18
Each	
Rifle	
Coy	10.

Tickets will be available to Coy clerks from Bn Ord Room at 1400 hrs daily.

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS, DSO., Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

R/O Part I - No 88/4042.

534. AACS - BEIRUT

The following AACS establishments in BEIRUT have been taken over by EFI :-

AIF Offrs' Club
ORs Canteen & Restaurant.

Although facilities will be available for AIF offrs and ORs, it will be realised that the same rights and privileges previously exercised by AIF cannot now apply.

All ranks must realise that the establishments are no longer AIF property, and that their use by AIF personnel will be on the basis of visitors to whom EFI are extending the utmost facilities.

AIF control of the Hotel METROLOPE will be retained for the present.

535. PETROL

26 Aust Inf Bde R/O No 110 is rptd :-

The following extract from a GHQ publication, which stresses the vital necessity for conservation and care of pet stocks, is published for promulgation to all ranks :

- (a) The increase in mechanical tpt in modern armies is such that approx 70% of the total maintenance requirements of an Armd Div consists of POL whilst the POL requirements of an Inf Div are some 33% of the total of all commodities required for maintenance in the fd. These figures show the extent of the Army's dependence on POL. Unfortunately POL is a most difficult commodity to handle and tpt because :-
- i. It is highly inflammable,
 - ii. It spills easily,
 - iii. It evaporates rapidly, and
 - iv. It leaks and evaporates from damaged containers very quickly.
- (b) The following are the main causes of waste -- eliminate them :
- i. Rough handling of containers causes leakages and thus evaporation.
 - ii. Never allow a leaking container to leak away.
 - iii. Packing containers badly on vehs -- use plenty of dunnage to reduce jolting during movement.
 - iv. Standing on containers during loading makes them leak.
 - v. Spilling when filling vehs from containers or pumps.
 - vi. Failure to switch off engines during halts however short.
 - vii. Damage or loss of containers - always open containers carefully and preserve the bungs or caps.
- (c) If every four men in a Div were responsible for saving one pint of pet per day, there would be a saving of over 35,000 galls per Div per month, or sufficient to move the whole of the Div tpt 50 miles. The conservation of POL, the Army's most essential commodity, is the responsibility of every individual who wears his country's uniform. Finally, be observant and helpful in this matter of pet wastage and make yourself and others Petrol minded.

536. LEAVE TRIPS

Leave trips to be conducted on Sun, 5 Apr 42 will be :-

BEIRUT (50 personnel)
BECHARRE (63 personnel)

"I"

(a) Sub-unit allotments will be :-

<u>Sub-unit</u>	<u>BEIRUT</u>	<u>BECHARRE</u>
BHQ	3	4
HQ Coy	15	19
Each Rifle Coy	8	10

- (b) BEIRUT party will embus on B Coy parade ground at 1115 hrs, vehs forming up on SIR rd outside HQ, 26 Aust Inf Bde facing WEST, at 1130 hrs.
- (c) BECHARRE party will embus on HQ Coy parade ground at 1115 hrs, and form up on SIR rd outside main gate PP facing WEST at 1130 hrs.
- (d) Offr i/c Bde leave party to BECHARRE will be Capt G. F. URQUHART.
- (e) An offr will accompany each veh -
From HQ and A Coys for BEIRUT, and
from B, C & D Coys for BECHARRE.
- (f) The attention of sub-unit comds, and all offr accompaning vehs, is drawn to previous instns ref Sunday leave parties, all of which will be strictly complied with.

537. CHURCH PARADE

C of E. In accordance with R/I No 52, para 236.

Other Parades

Holy Communion C of E, 0715 hrs Quiet Room.
RC Mass will be celebrated in St Michaels Church near LEGAULT Barracks at 1030 hrs.

538. CAMOUFLAGE COURSE

Next of a series of Camouflage Courses at AIMA Camouflage Dump, 6 to 10 Apr, will be attended for this Unit by Lieuts C. DUKE and J. W. HIPSLEY, and one NCO per Rifle Coy. Previous adm and tpt arrangements apply.

Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Capt

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS, DSO, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/O Part I - No 89/4042.

539. UNIT CANTEEN

Unit canteen is now operating in a tent in HQ Coy lines.
Hrs will be :-

1300 hrs - 1345 hrs. 1700 hrs - 2000 hrs.

540. TENT ROPES

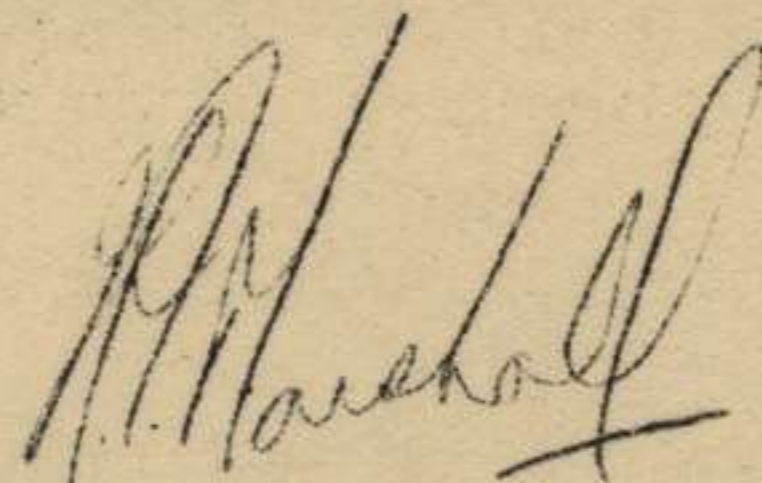
Attention of all coys is drawn to provisions of Bn R/O No 47/4042 para 287.

541. CROP DAMAGE

- (a) All ranks will, as far as possible, avoid damaging crops in camp area.
- (b) Wherever possible, only single tracks will be made in crop areas which have to be crossed.
- (c) Sub-unit comds will ensure that all tps are familiar with, and observe, the above.

542. INSPECTION ORDER, KITS

Tents will be placed in inspection order as at JULIS, kits being laid out as in Appx "A" to Bn R/O No 48/4042.



Adj. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Capt

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS, DSO., Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

R/O Part I - No 90/4042

543. LEAVE - BEIRUT

(a) The following leave allotment is made for BEIRUT 13-15 Apr 42 :-

HQ Coy	10
Each Rifle Coy	6
BHQ	3

- (b) Offr i/c Unit leave party will be Lieut N. H. Hodges, who will be incl in his Coy allotment.
- (c) Ref 9 Aust Div Adm Instn No 65, para 17, Major R. E. Wall will be i/c 26 Aust Inf Bde leave party.
- (d) Nominal rolls of leave personnel will reach BHQ not later than 1000 hrs 12 Apr. Offr i/c Bde leave party will collect nominal rolls from Bde HQ prior to his departure for BEIRUT on 12 Apr.
- (e) HQ Coy will arrange tpt for leave personnel. Tpt under direction OC convoy will return empty to Unit areas in convoy.
- (f) Leave personnel will parade at BHQ at 0700 hrs 13 Apr, for inspection by Bn Ord Offr; embus 0715 hrs at tpt lines.
- (g) Summer dress will be worn; after sundown changing to trousers KWD and sweaters.
- (h) Unit vehs will form up facing WEST outside main entrance Legault Barracks by 0745 hrs; convoy will leave 0800 hrs 13 Apr.
- (i) Capt J. S. Cumpston will be OC leave picquet, which will comprise a Sgt and 10 ORs from D Coy. Capt Cumpston will refer to 9 Aust Div R/O No 61, available at Bn Ord Rm.
- (j) Picquet will take blankets, mosquito nets, and messing gear.
- (k) Reports from Offrs i/c Bde and Unit leave parties, as required by 9 Aust Div Adm Instn No 65, para 7, will reach BHQ by Retreat 15 Apr.
- (l) Sub-unit comds are warned that all provisions of Bn R/O No 62/4042, para 383, with amendment in Bn R/O No 66/4042, para 405 must be complied with.
- (m) Return journey - Tpt of 24 Aust Inf Bde Gp will be responsible for returning all tps to Unit area.

544. SUNDAY LEAVE

Leave trips to be conducted on Sun, 12 Apr 42, will be :-

KRAK de CHEVALIERS (3 Offrs, 57 ORs)
 TARTOUSS - SAFITA (3 Offrs, 57 ORs)

Three 3-ton vehs each trip.

(a) Sub-unit allotment will be :-

<u>Sub-unit</u>	<u>KRAK de CHEVALIERS</u>	<u>TARTOUSS - SAFITA</u>
BHQ	4	4
HQ Coy	17	17
Each Rifle Coy	9	9

- (b) An offr will accompany each veh - for KRAK de CHEVALIER, from HQ, A and B Coys; for TARTOUSS - SAFITA, from HQ, C and D Coys.
- (c) Both parties will embus at tpt lines at 1040 hrs; vehs for KRAK de CHEVALIERS will form up on SIR rd outside main gate Petrol Pt (16272773) facing WEST at 1115 hrs - Vehs for TARTOUSS - SAFITA on SIR rd outside main gate HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde (16292773) facing WEST at 1115 hrs.
- (d) On arriving at starting pt, each offr i/c veh will report to offr i/c convoy, assuring him that each man in his veh possesses a leave pass made out to 1800 hrs.
- (e) Cut lunches under Coy arrangements.
- (f) The attention of all sub-unit comds, and all offrns accompanying vehs, is drawn to previous instns ref Sunday leave parties, all of which will be complied with.

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS, DSO., Comd, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/O Part I - No 91/4042

547. LOSSES - 6 RIFLES, NIGHT 13/14 APR 42

The following losses are promulgated in accordance with AIF (ME) Order No 596, to impress upon all ranks, the necessity for individual and personal safeguard of arms, amm and capt on issue or charge to them :-

<u>Rifle No</u>	<u>Bolt No</u>	<u>Army No</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>
4967	4967	VX41937	Sgt	STEPHENSON E.W.
89712	96007	VX43450	Cpl	SKINNER W.R.
43440	43440	VX42409	Pte	RIDGEWAY H.J.
34919	632	VX40498	Pte	MACDONALD M.L.J.
X 100812	1621	VX57224	Pte	AVERY C.
82232	46745	VX46753	Pte	BURGE J.

All rifles complete with sling, oil bottle, and pullthrough.

Bayonet (No unknown) belonging to Cpl SKINNER W.R.

X Pte AVERY'S rifle No 100812, was at the time of its loss, in the possession of Pte STIRK F.

The attention of all Coys is again directed to all previous orders and instns ref safeguard of arms, amm and capt. Sub-unit comds will ensure that the following past orders and instns are again read on parade to all ranks at the first opportunity :-

2/23 Aust Inf Bn R/Os Part I, paras 107, 158, 162, 394 and 533.

548. ANTI-DIMMING OUTFIT, MK VI

- A new type of anti-dimming outfit known as the outfit, anti-dimming, Mk VI, will shortly be introduced when existing stocks of the outfit anti-dimming Mk V, are exhausted.
- This new outfit consists of an impregnated anti-dimming cloth contained in a flat metal box. Instns for use are printed on the box and on the cloth. When not in use, the lid of the box must be kept closed.
- The cloth must not be used for any other purpose than the treatment of the eyepieces of the respirator facepiece, spectacle lenses, and eyeshields, anti-gas.
- When carried in the Mk VII haversack, the outfit, anti-dimming Mk VI is contained in a small internal pocket to which it is attached by a small length of whipcord passing through a loop in the lid of the box.
- With the Mk VI haversack, the outfit, anti-dimming, Mk VI, is carried in the large back pocket and is tied with a length of line, whipcord, to the haversack immediately below the large "D" or loop on the left (to which the sling is attached); the length of whipcord required is 14 inches.

549. BOUNDS

9 Aust Div R/O No 222, is rptd :-

Following is a list of cafes and bars which have been placed in bounds to tps, in the COUBRE Area :-

Bar & Restaraunt Carrillion
Victory Restaraunt & Bar
De Nice Bar & Restaraunt
Australian Bar
Bar Quick

Bar & Restaraunt, Sans Pariel
Alex Bar
Bar Marie Crothcelet
The Red Hen Bar

550. RAIL SLEEPERS

- (a) Rail sleepers have recently been removed from dumps adjacent to coast ry line under construction.
- (b) As these sleepers cost £2.120 each, all sub-unit comds will ensure that the seriousness of such pilfering is stressed to tps.
- (c) Any sub-unit having such sleepers in their possession, will immediately inform BHO, to arrange their return forthwith to 3 Aust Ry Const Coy.

551. PERSONNEL - REFRIGERATING, ICE-MAKING PLANT, COLD STORES

Returns from all sub-units are required by Retreat 16 Apr 42, of names of personnel with experience in erection, operation, and maintenance of refrigerating and ice-making plants, and cold stores.

NIL returns required.

552. SMUGGLING - HASHISH

9 Aust Div R/O No 226 is rptd :-

- (a) It is known that large sums of money are offered to drivers of military vehs to smuggle hashish, possibly under the guise of something else, into EGYPT.
- (b) Rewards will be given to any NCO or man giving infm which leads to the arrest of a hashish dealer.
- (c) Severe disciplinary action will be taken against any man caught attempting to smuggle the drug.

553. MISUSE - BLANKETS

9 Aust Div R/O No 228 draws attention to the practice of using blankets as covers for office tables, and orders that immediate steps will be taken to ensure that this practice ceases.

All sub-unit-comds will act accordingly, and will notify BHO by Retreat 16 Apr 42 of action completed.

554. WASTAGE OF PETROL

9 Aust Div R/O No 232 is rptd :-

- (a) Considerable wastage of petrol is incurred through :-
 - i. Filling veh tks from pumps at a rate which causes air locks and overflowing.
 - ii. Drivers of vehs insisting upon their veh tks being filled to overflowing both at pumps and from containers.
- (b) The driver is responsible for supervising the refueling of his veh. A reasonable degree of care will obviate all losses from too-rapid filling from pumps. Filling veh tks to overflowing is deliberate waste.
- (c) Notice to this effect will be posted up at all points at which petrol is issued and at petrol pumps in unit lines.

555. LEAVE - BEIRUT

Future offr i/c Unit BEIRUT leave parties will contact all sub-units, to collect from leave personnel all monies due for accommodation etc, and will hand such monies, as a lump sum, to the fd offr i/c Bde leave party on arrival at destination.

556. INSPECTION ORDER - WITS

Further to Bn R/O No 83/4042, para 542, ground sheet or substitute will be folded under policee.

557. RDS - CLEANLINESS

In all camp areas, unless otherwise notified, sub-units are responsible for the cleanliness of sees of roadway passing through their areas.

Capt

Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

NOTICES

The AIF Offrs' Clothing Shop TRIPOLI, will be open as follows :-

Monday to Sunday (incl) 0900 hrs to 1230 hrs
1400 hrs to 1730 hrs

It will be noticed that the trading hrs now incl Sunday morning.

COMMUNITY SINGING

Community singing, conducted by Chaplain Porter, will be held at rear of RAP, on Wednesday 15 Apr 42, commencing at 1845 hrs.

I see

For Official Use Only.

ROUTINE

ORDERS

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
AIF (ME),
18 Apr 42.

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS, DSO., Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/O Part I - No 92/4042

558. COURT OF INQUIRY

A C of I consisting of the undermentioned officers :

PRESIDENT

Major W. F. BUDGE - 2/24 Aust Inf Bn

MEMBERS

Capt F.A.G. TUCKER - 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

Capt J.S. CHRISTIE - 2/24 Aust Inf Bn

will assemble at such time and place as the president may appoint for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting upon the circumstances of loss of six rifles from 2/23 Aust Inf Bn lines during night 13/14 Apr 42.

The attention of the Court is directed to 9 Aust Div R/O No 470.

559. ROUTINE TIMINGS

From 19 Apr, in new situ, the following routine timings will apply :-

(a) Monday - Saturday incl

REVEILLE	--	0600 hrs
MORNING PARADE	--	0830-1230 hrs
AFTERNOON PARADE	--	1400-1630 hrs
RETREAT	--	1800 hrs
FIRST POST	--	2130 hrs
LAST POST (TATTOO)	--	2200 hrs
LIGHTS OUT	--	2215 hrs

Sunday

REVEILLE	--	0630 hrs
CHURCH PARADE	--	0930 hrs
RETREAT and other times		as above.

(b) Meal times will be unchanged.

(c) Retreat will be sounded from Bde HQ Area, bugler from each Bn reporting to WOII RAMAGE, Bde CSM, at 1745 hrs daily.

560. ANTI MALARIAL MEASURES

Attention of all ranks is again drawn to anti malarial measures, which must be complied with:-

(a) Summer dress (i.e. shirts, shorts etc) will be worn from 0600 hrs to 1800 hrs daily.

(b) Between Retreat (1800 hrs) and REVEILLE (0600 hrs, Sun 0630 hrs)

- i. All personnel will wear long trousers (ORs Trousers KD) and shirt sleeves rolled down.
- ii. Personnel necessarily on duty (e.g. Gds, Sentries etc) will wear veils, mosquito and gloves. If necessary, these personnel will also use mosquito ointment.
- iii. Whilst in bed, all personnel will be covered by sandfly nets.

All sub-unit comds will enforce these measures, breaches of which will be treated as serious offences, and the appropriate disciplinary action taken.

561. INCORRECT USE OF MT

The practice of tps both overloading and sitting incorrectly in vehs will cease immediately. At all times tps must sit on the floor and NOT on the side walls of the veh in which they are travelling. Injuries resulting from disobedience of this instn will be considered as negligence and the appropriate disciplinary action taken.

562. MT TARPAULINS - REMOVAL OF

Attention is drawn to Bn R/O No 36/4042, para 206, which was extracted from AIF (ME) Order No 814, prohibited the removal of tarpaulin covers, frames etc from MT.

563. TENTS

Tent flaps and walls will be rolled inwards and NOT outwards.

564. RUBBISH

In preparation for move on 19 Apr, Coys will dig refuse pits to receive rubbish on final clean-up of areas.

565. CHURCH SERVICE

C of E - A Service will be held at 1900 hrs, vicinity BHQ, at new situ.

Capt.

Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

I Sec

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS, DSO., Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 93/4042

566. SCORPION BITES

Scorpions are thought to be plentiful throughout camp area, and two cases of bites on the feet have already been treated by the RAP. All ranks are advised to shake out their boots and clothing, before dressing, and to exercise care when cleaning out tents.

567. SICK PARADE

Sick parade will be at 0615 hrs Mon - Sat incl, and 0645 hrs Sun.

568. TENT PEGS

Loose tent pegs in coy areas will be collected and held in coy QM stores. Any surplus to anticipated requirements will be returned to RQM. RSM will be responsible for BHQ.

569. RATIONS

Rations which are likely to deteriorate will NOT be exposed to the sun, but will be kept under cover at all times. This particularly applies to vegetables.

570. LATRINES & URINALS

Coys will provide receptacles for paper at latrines, and will construct urinals throughout their lines.

571. VILLAGE WELL

The village well in the camp area, is out of bounds. Personnel detected washing thereat will be severely dealt with.

572. INTERNAL SECURITY - CIVILIANS

It will be the responsibility of each sub-unit to keep civilians beyond the authorised limits of its locality. Offrs will ensure that gds and picquets clearly understand their duties in this regard, and that those found failing to carry out these duties efficiently, are dealt with appropriately.

573. SECURITY - ARMS, AMN

(a) All previous orders and instns ref security of arms and amn, and responsibilities ref same, apply with equal force to the present location. It must be impressed upon all ranks, at frequent intervals, that AIF Standing Orders (ME) make it the personal responsibility of each individual offr and soldier to safeguard such arms or amn, govt or private, as may be issued to him, placed in his charge, or belonging to him.

(b) The following extract, from Bn R/O No 18/4042, para 107, is rptd :-

"In Coy Q stores, LIGs will be continuously guarded by a sentry, storeman, or orderly on duty. Coy comds will immediately report to BHQ, if it should occur, the loss of any arms or amn, govt or private, and will ensure that the site of loss is left untouched."

The full procedure of such reports is given in Bn R/O No 64/4042 para 394.

574. BOUNDS - VILLAGES

- (a) All villages except BECHMEZZINE will be considered out of bounds to all ranks.
- (b) The following nightly leave allotment is made for BECHMEZZINE :-

HQ Coy	14
Each Rifle Coy	8
BHQ	4
- (c) This BECHMEZZINE leave is a concession, and its continuance will depend on the maintenance of good order, behaviour, and proper military bearing and dress by the tps. All personnel will return to camp before Lights Out.

575. PREMATURE EXPLOSIONS

The following, ref premature explosions, is the interpretation of Ninth Army R/O 133 so far as affects sub-units :-

- (a) In the event of any accident, premature explosion, serious misfire or hangfire, occurring with any type of amn in any wpn, BHQ will IMMEDIATELY be advised of the following particulars, so that these may be signalled to GHQ (ME), in accordance with requirements of King's Regulations 1935 :-
 - i. Location of sub-unit at the time
 - ii. Nature of accident
 - iii. Calibre, type, and registered No of wpn
 - iv. Type of amn, lot, and date
 - v. Fuse, primer etc, as applicable; also lot No, date of filling etc.
- (b) This preliminary notification will be followed as soon as possible by full details per proforma below, together with a brief report on the accident.
- (c) Fragments of amn found after premature explosion will be sent with the report.
- (d) Similar action will be taken by sub-unit comds in the event of any explosion or fire affecting amn or explosives in store on their charge.
- (e) Proforma :-

REPORT ON ACCIDENT OR PREMATURE EXPLOSION WITH AMN

Station..... Unit.....

Nature of Accident
(i.e. premature, misfire, etc).....

Type of Wpn.....

Reg No of Piece.....

Calibre
(Where applicable).....

AMN

Type.....

Lot No.....

Date of Manufacture.....

Fuse No.....Mk.....Lot No.....

Date of Filling.....

Primer No.....Mk.....Lot No.....

(as applicable) Date of Filling.....

Type of Tube(PSA, etc).....Mk.....Lot No.....

(as applicable) Date of Filling.....

REMARKS -

576. INSTN - FIRST AID

A series of weekly courses in first aid will be conducted by the RMO, starting Mon, 27 Apr, each course to be attended by 3 personnel per Coy, and 1 from BHQ. Students will RV at RAP, 1400 hrs daily.

[Handwritten Signature]

Adj't, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Capt

NOTICE

FOUND

Vicinity Village Well, one pair anklets, web. Owner may obtain same from Bn Ord Room.

T Sec

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

For Official Use Only

ROUTINE ORDERS

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
AIF (ME),
21 Apr 42.

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS, DSO, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I

No 94/4042

577. PERSONNEL - DREDGER CREWS

GHQ (ME) has advised that OR personnel are required to operate dredgers.

- (a) Returns are required at BHQ by Retreat 22 Apr 42, of OR personnel experienced in such work.
- (b) Returns will specify class of work in which applicants' are experienced. e.g.

Master
Engineer
Mate
Operator.

578. DRESS - COURTS MARTIAL

All offrs attending Courts Martial will wear authorised summer dress only, with pistols.

579. PUNISHMENTS BY COURT MARTIAL

9 Aust Div R/O No 239 is rptd :-

- (a) A private soldier convicted of AWL, striking another private soldier, striking a superior offr, resisting an escort, and discharging his rifle without sufficient cause, was sentenced to 120 days detention.
- (b) A private soldier convicted of leaving his post before he was regularly relieved was sentenced to 40 days detention.
- (c) A private soldier convicted of striking his superior offr and resisting an escort was sentenced to 60 days detention.
- (d) A warrant offr (class II) convicted of being found out of bounds was sentenced to be reduced to the rank of sgt and to be severely reprimanded.
- (e) A cpl convicted of AWL and when in open arrest escaping, was sentenced to be reduced to the ranks and to 60 days detention.
- (f) A private soldier convicted of AWL failing to appear at a place of parade and losing by neglect his clothing was sentenced to 60 days detention.
- (g) A private soldier convicted of striking his superior offr was sentenced to 50 days detention.
- (h) Two private soldiers each convicted of receiving public property (one motor tyre) knowing it to have been stolen, were each sentenced to 90 days detention.
- (i) A private soldier convicted of SIW was sentenced to 90 days detention.
- (j) A private soldier convicted of striking his superior offr was sentenced to 60 days detention.
- (k) A private soldier convicted of striking his superior offr and resisting an escort was sentenced to 160 days detention.
- (l) A private soldier convicted of leaving his post before he was regularly relieved was sentenced to 60 days detention.

580. RUBBER STAMPS

- (a) Rubber stamps used for military purposes will in future only be ordered through and obtained from the P & S Directorate.
- (b) Such stamps will under no circumstances be purchased from private firms.

581. CLUTCH DISC FAILURE

The practice of coasting vehs down hill with the clutch disengaged and the transmission in gear is bad driving, and is liable to cause serious damage to the clutch. Offrs will ensure that the attention of all MT drivers under their comd is drawn to this, and that orders are issued that the practice must cease forthwith.

582. UNIT SIGNBOARDS - REMOVAL OF UPON CHANGE OF LOCATION

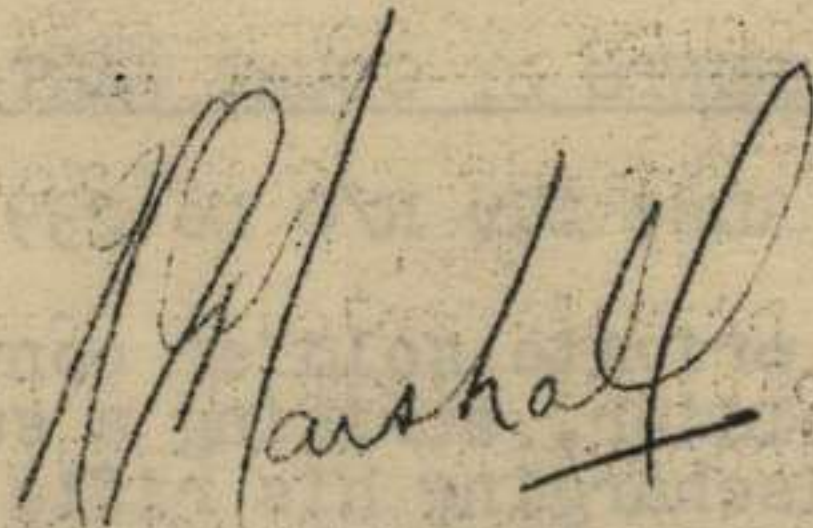
(a) Instances have occurred recently where units upon changing their location have failed to remove signboards erected by them for guidance of tpt etc. This has resulted in unnecessary confusion.

(b) When this unit changes location in future, HQ Coy will be responsible for the removal, and re-erection in new situ, of all unit signboards.

583. BDE FD DAY

Elimination tests for teams nominated by Coys, will be held at 1400 hrs on Thu, 23 Apr 42, on Bn parade ground under direction of Bn Sports Offr (Lieut H.F.K. McLeod), in the following events :-
Nos 3, 4, 6 and 7.

Winning teams will represent the Unit in these events at 26 Aust Inf Bde Fd Day on 25 Apr 42.



Adjut, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Capt

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS, DSO, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

R/O Part I - No 95/4042

584. OLIVE TREES - DAMAGE BY AT

- (a) Cases have occurred recently of damage to olive trees by mules and horses.
- (b) Sub-units will ensure that, when olive groves or similar areas have necessarily to be occupied or traversed, all possible care is taken, whether or not AT is employed.
- (c) Any damage caused will immediately be reported to BHQ for investigation by Unit or Bde Compensation Offr.
- (d) Compensation Offrs are advised that cases involving amounts in excess of their financial powers, should be referred to AHO.

585. BATTERIES, GASKETS, SPARKING PLUGS

9 Aust Div R/O No 254 is rptd :-

- (a) Owing to the need for rigorous economy, installations have been set up for the repair and remaking of batteries, gaskets and sparking plugs.
- (b) All repairable and unserviceable stores of these types will be carefully packed and returned to the Ordnance Fd Pk or Depot from which replacements were issued.
- (c) Ordnance Fd Pks and Ordnance Depots will return these items to 6 Adv Ord Depot for repair and remaking in "B" Base Ordnance Wkshps.
- (d) It is essential when replacements are made by the issue of serviceable stores that immediate action be taken by all units to return an equal quantity of the repairable or unserviceable stores to the Issuing Ordnance Fd Pk or Depot. If the stores are not available for return, a Certificate will be rendered by the OC Unit concerned stating the reasons.

586. CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

9 Aust Div R/O No 255 is rptd :-

- (a) In terms of Army Act 175 and 176, all non-enlisted persons who are employed by, or in the service of, any tps and all persons who are followers of or accompany any tps are subject to military law.
- (b) The above will be brought to the notice of all civilians employed by the Forces in any capacity and all such civilians will be required to complete the proforma below :-
"I understand that when employed by, or in the service of, or accompanying His Majesty's Military Forces now on active service, I become subject to Military Law under the Army Act.

Place..... Signature.....
Date..... Witnessed by.....

587. VEHS LEFT UNATTENDED

9 Aust Div R/O No 259 is rptd :-

A Ford Utility Car recently broke down on the ALEXANDRIA - CAIRO rd. The driver left it unattended, but took the precaution of removing all loose fittings. On arrival in CAIRO, he immediately reported the matter. By the time the car could be recovered the following articles had been stripped from it :-

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Radiator | 4 Body window glasses |
| 2 Radiator top hoses | 2 Windscreens |
| 1 Generator | 4 Inside door handles |
| 1 Carburettor | 2 Outside door handles |
| 1 Air Cleaner | 1 Rear seat |
| 1 Distributor | 2 Dornelights |
| 1 Coil and condenser | 3 Window blinds |
| 1 HT lead assembly | 1 Front bumper |
| 1 Battery | 2 Headlamp glasses |
| 2 Battery cables | 2 Headlamp bulbs |
| 1 Fuel pump | 1 Wheel, tyre & tube, complete |
| 1 Oil filter pipe | 2 Electric horns |
| | 2 Pedal rubbers. |

DON'T IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES LEAVE A VEH UNATTENDED.

588. SALVAGE - WASTE OIL

- (a) New instns for salvage of the three main grades of oil, other than petrol and AGO, in general use in the Army, are outlined in 9 Aust Div R/O No 260, full extracts of which have been supplied to QM and TO for immediate and thorough action.
- (b) This general reference is to bring to the notice of all ranks, the urgent necessity underlying this new form of salvage. Engine oil (M160 and M220), and gear and axle oil (C600), are MT oils supplied entirely from abroad. Furnace fuel, Diesel or Pan oil, are produced locally, costing only about 1/3rd of the present market price in EGYPT of waste MT oil.
- (c) As it has now been decided to economise shipping space by trading waste MT oils for regeneration and re-issue, the use of these for sanitary, cooking, and other purposes, will cease forthwith.
- (d) TO will be responsible, under QM's direction, for implementing new instns.
- (e) 9 Aust Div R/O No 260 directs that disciplinary action will be taken in all cases in which these orders are not complied with.
- (f) It should be impressed on all ranks that if only 1/10th of the oil issued to the Army in the ME were recovered, regenerated and re-used, more than one million gals of new oil would be saved in one year, resulting in a corresponding economy of shipping space, and of risk to sailors' lives.

589. PETROL TINS - 1-TIN WOODEN CASES

- (a) Petrol tins are now being issued packed singly in wooden crates.
- (b) The tin is NOT to be withdrawn from these crates, which are to be returned with the tin.
- (c) Two holes will be made in the usual manner with the opening tool in the exposed portion of the top of the tin for pouring out the contents.

590. BTERRAM CINEMA

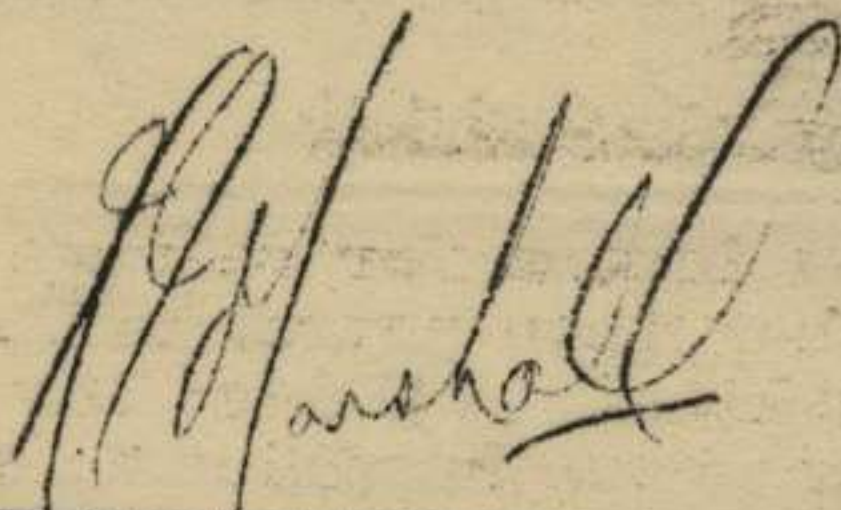
- (a) Wef 22 Apr, this cinema will show 2 sessions nightly -
1745 hrs and 2015 hrs
- (b) 26 Aust Inf Bde has requested that this Unit, as far as possible, restrict its patronage to the first session, because of close proximity to the theatre, thus guaranteeing entry at second session to other units who have to travel some considerable distance.

591. TRADING - TRIPOLI CIVILLANS

- (a) Some civilians, who were camp followers of this unit, both in Barracks and at Oil Tks site, have been noted arriving in vicinity present location by taxi, presumably to solicit further trading, such as laundry.
- (b) All ranks will be notified that trading with these TRIPOLI civilians is to cease entirely, as it is felt that the

Unit's internal security may be prejudiced by some ulterior motive pursued by these civilians in following the camp, legitimate trading with which would scarcely repay the cost of hired cars.

- (c) RP Sgt, and HQ Coy, will organise surveillance of main camp entrances, and order the departure of such civilians.
- (d) ALL civilians, local or otherwise, will be prevented from trespassing within Coy areas. Sentries and prowler picquets will be instructed to eject any but authorised personnel from vicinity of their beats.



Adjut, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Capt

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS, DSO, Comd, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/O Part I - No 96/4042

592. LEAVE - BEIRUT

- (a) The following leave allotment is made for BEIRUT, 27-29 Apr :-
- | | |
|----------------|----|
| HQ Coy | 10 |
| Each Rifle Coy | 6 |
| BHQ | 3 |
- (b) Offrs i/c Unit leave party will be Lieuts C.G. RIGG, MM and T.D. DWYER.
- (c) Nominal rolls of leave personnel will reach BHQ not later than 0900 hrs 26 Apr.
- (d) HQ Coy will arrange tpt for leave personnel. Tpt under direction OC convoy will return empty to Unit areas in convoy.
- (e) Leave personnel will parade at BHQ at 0715 hrs 27 Apr for inspection by Bn Ord Offr; embus 0725 hrs at tpt lines.
- (f) Summer dress will be worn, after sundown changing to trousers KWD and sweaters.
- (g) Unit convoys will form up facing NORTH on rd BECHMEZZINE - TRIPOLI, with leading veh at rd junc of rds BSARMA - TRIPOLI and BECHMEZZINE - TRIPOLI by 0745 hrs. Convoy will leave at 0800 hrs 27 Apr.
- (h) Reports from Offrs i/c unit leave party, as required by 9 Aust Div Adm Instn No 65, para 7, will reach BHQ by Retreat 29 Apr.
- (i) Sub-unit comds are warned that all provisions of Bn R/O No 62/4042 para 383 with amendment in Bn R/O No 66/4042, para 405, must be complied with.
- (j) Return journey - Tpt of 24 Aust Inf Bde Gp will be responsible for returning all tps to Unit areas.

593. SHOVELS - REPLACEMENT OF HANDLES

- (a) The hy programme of defence wks now in hand in the ME is raising exceptional demands for picks and shovels. The fact that numerous demands for replacements of complete shovels are being received but none for shovel handles gives rise to the fear that shovels are being abandoned because the handles have broken.
- (b) Shovels of which the handles are broken will not be abandoned by reason only of this, but will be returned as soon as possible through Ordnance channels to Ordnance depots, where large stocks of shovel handles are held.

594. TNG PAMPHLETS - CANCELLATION

The following Military Tng Pamphlets are notified as cancelled, in accordance with AIF (ME) Order No 1066 :-

- No 20 - Camflg, Disruptive Painting of Vehs, 1939 (superseded by No 46 - Camflg - Part 4, Vehs, Wheeled and Tracked, 1941).
- No 23 - Part VII - The Employment of Air Forces in Direct Support of the Army.
- No 24 - Tng of Motor Cyclists, 1939 (superseded by 1941 Edition).

595. KIT STOPPAGES

AIF (ME) Order No 1069 is rptd :-

With reference to AIF Standing Orders, 1940, para 224, it is advised that units will prepare Kit Stoppage Sheets for issues on repayment in quadruplicate, three of the copies being for use of Chief Paymaster.

596. LINES - INSPECTION ORDER

- (a) It is felt that insufficient attention to the placing of Coy lines in inspection order is being paid by Coy Ord Duties.
- (b) In future, Coy Ord Duties will make a rigorous inspection of

Coy lines, and pass them as being fit for Bn inspection, rectifying any faults before arrival of Bn inspection party.
(c) Coy Comds are requested to ensure compliance with this.

597. ANZAC DAY - OBSERVANCE

Anzac Day 1942 will be officially observed on Sunday 26 Apr 42.

598. CHURCH PARADE

C of E

Holy Communion in Recreation Room (Rear of Canteen) at 0715 hrs.
Bn Church Parade 0900 hrs on Bn Parade Ground. Markers will report to RSM on Bn Parade Ground at 0845 hrs.
Dress as in Bn R/O No 90/4042, para 545.

R.C.

Mass will be celebrated at BTERRAM Theatre at 0830 hrs.
Personnel will fall in on C Coy parade ground at 0800 hrs, Capt J. M. METHEVEN i/c party.

Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Capt

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

For Official Use Only.

ROUTINE ORDERS

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
AIF (ME),
25 Apr 42.

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS DSO, Comd, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/O Part I - No 97/4042

599. LOSS - SPARE WHEEL COMPLETE

The following loss is promulgated in accordance with AIF (ME) Order No 596, to impress upon all ranks the necessity for rigorous safeguard of WD stores and eqpt in their charge.

(a) WD Eqpt lost :-

CVT	Wheel	
"	Rim	
"	Tyre	32 X 6
"	Tube	"

(b) Identity of Loser -

VX32536, Pte BURNETT B. A. (Driver of veh at the time).

(c) Veh was left unattended in TRIPOLI Town in a veh pk apparently guarded by personnel of 1 Aust HQ Gd Bn.

It will again be brought to the notice of all drivers that vehs will NOT be left unattended, in any circumstances.

600. TRAFFIC - CAMP RDS

The directions of traffic entering and leaving Unit camp area will be reversed forthwith. Entry will be made from rd TRIPOLI - BECHMEZZINE, and exit will be on to rd TRIPOLI - AMIOUNE.

601. BN ORD OFFR

Ref Bn R/I No 2 para 12, introduction of new Duty Offr system makes it no longer necessary for Bn Ord Offrs to sleep the night of their tour of duty in Bn Ord Rm.

Except that such offrns will sleep in own lines, all previous orders and instns to Bn Ord Offrs will apply.

602. CANTEEN ORDERS

In future, Canteen Orders will not be accepted at Unit Canteen unless they bear the Unit Stamp, and are signed by an Offr.

Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Capt

by
Lt-Col B. EVANS DSO, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
R/O Part I - No 99/4042

608. COURTS OF INQUIRY

A C of I consisting of the undermentioned offrs -

President

Capt F.R. MONETTI - 2/24 Aust Inf Bn

Member

Lieut P. HAYMAN - 2/24 Aust Inf Bn

will assemble at such time and place as the President may appoint for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting upon the circumstances of the loss of one wheel, rim, tyre and tube, all from CVT 3-ton veh No 58304, on charge to 2/23 Aust Inf Bn, during night 23/24 Apr 42.

The attention of the Court is directed to 9 Aust Div R/O No 470.

609. PAYBOOKS

All ranks are again reminded that paybooks will be carried on the man at all times. Many instances have occurred recently of personnel being refused entry to certain official buildings through contradiction of this order.

610. COLOUR PATCHES - 26 Aust Inf Bde R/O No 132 is rptd.

It is realised that many personnel in this Bde are without the correct colour patch entitlement. Steps have already been taken to overcome this shortage with ADOS, 9 Aust Div. However, personnel possessing colour patches will NOT accept this shortage as an excuse for not wearing same at all times.

Contradiction of this order will be treated as a serious offence and the appropriate disciplinary action taken.

This instn is further to Bn order to Coys - ref sig A116, 28 Apr.

611. FORMATION OF A TK PL

Coys will invite applications from personnel for transfer to A Tk Pl now in the process of formation within the Bn. The following NCOs, specialists and ORs are required :-

<u>Classification</u>	<u>No required</u>
Sgts & Cpls	To be selected
Mechanics MT Gp II	1
" " Gp III	2
Drivers MT	10
Storeman	1
Artificer Gp I	1
Orderlies	3
ORs	20

Preference will be given to personnel with A Tk or similar experience, and full particulars of such experience should be stated in applications. Good opportunities exist for promotion, and Coys are instructed to give widest publicity to this order.

All applications, together with Coy Comds recommendation, will be fwded to BHQ by 0900 hrs 30 Apr.

612. LEAVE - OFFRS

Local leave will not be granted to Offrs on the nights of Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of each week.


613. 1 AUST CORPS SKI SCHOOL - PHOTOGRAPHS

Copies of a number of photographs taken by department of MH & I at 1 Aust Corps Ski School, are available for inspection at BHQ up to Retreat 30 Apr 42.

Personnel requiring prints of these photographs may lodge orders for same with Ord Rm Sgt. Cost of prints has not been advised, but it is understood that this is quite small.

614. NOTES ON INSPECTION - 28 APR 42

- (a) Latrines - The attention of all Coys is again directed to flyproofing of latrines. This will be attended to immediately.
- (b) Refuse Tins - Coys will ensure that covers are provided for these.
- (c) Towels - Throughout the Bn these are generally dirty, and Coys will take steps to have this rectified.


 Adjt 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
 Capt

4012

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
AIF (ME),
29 Apr 42.

For Official Use Only
ROUTINE ORDERS

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS, DSO, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/O Part 1 - No 100/4042

615. LEAVE - TRIPOLI TOWN

Bde allotment of leave for units has been amended, and in future, Coy allocations will be as under :-

Mondays - Leave 1700 - 2200 hrs

BHQ	4
HQ Coy	15
Each Rifle Coy	8

Wednesdays - Leave 1700 - 2200 hrs

BHQ	1
HQ Coy	7
Each Rifle Coy	3

Wednesdays - Pictures ONLY (Early Session)

BHQ	5
HQ Coy	19
Each Rifle Coy	9

Thursdays - Pictures ONLY (Early Session)

BHQ	3
HQ Coy	13
Each Rifle Coy	7

616. BN SPORTS MEETING

Bn Sports Meeting is to be held at a date to be fixed, probably in 3 or 4 weeks time. Full programme of the events listed are available to Coys through Coy representative on the Bn Sports Committee.

Coys are requested to give wide publicity to this meeting, and conduct elimination trials to determine the Coy representatives for each event. Bn Sports ground will be available for the purpose, and will be allocated to Coys by Bn Sports Offr. Nominations of entries for the Bn meeting to be lodged with Sports Offr by 9 May 42.

617. LOSS - KIT BAG, EQPT ETC

The following loss is promulgated in accordance with AIF (ME) Order No 596, to impress upon all ranks the necessity for rigorous safeguard of WD stores and eqpt in their charge.

1 Kit Bag Universal
Webbing & Bayonet
Respirator
Helmet Steel
2 Prs Boots
Khaki Sweater
1 Pr Shorts
1 Shirt
Personal gear.

Identity of Loser - VX28467, Pte FORSTER L.I.

618. SUMMARY OF RESULTS - BDE FD DAY

	<u>First Place</u>	<u>Second Place</u>	<u>Third Place</u>
2/23 Aust Inf Bn	1	5	4
2/24 Aust Inf Bn	7	1	2
2/48 Aust Inf Bn	2	4	4

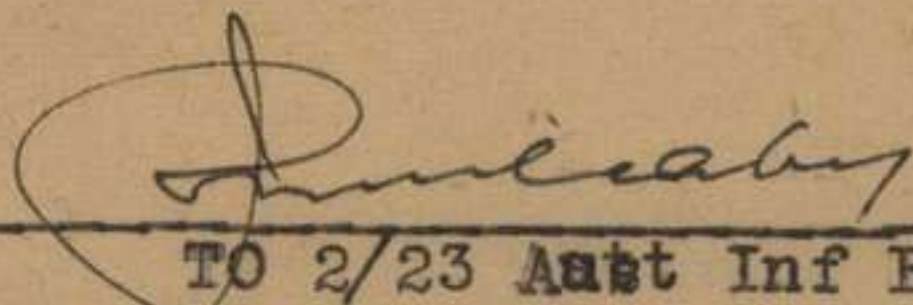
[Handwritten Signature]
 Capt
 Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
 A.O.D.

No 6 Pl, HQ Coy,
2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
30 Apr 42.

OC
HQ Coy.

MONTHLY REPORT FOR INCLUSION IN WAR DIARY

- EQPT : Vehs on strength 31. Although from a numerical point of view Bn has more tpt than for a long period, a number of them are in poor condition mechanically. Whilst these vehs have some value from a training aspect, they could not be expected to stand up to the hard work entailed by active service conditions. Difficulty is still being experienced in obtaining accessories. Quality of petrol is still of low standard.
- PERSONNEL : Pl strength 63, some of whom, however, can NOT be classed as 100% efficient, but are showing considerable improvement as experience is being gained.
- TRAINING : Lack of sufficient vehs makes it difficult to give adequate driving instn to personnel, as vehs are utilised on Bn duties for a considerable portion of the day. Two drivers have been allotted to each veh - an experienced driver teamed with one not so advanced in training, and this practice is having happy results, as the backward drivers are showing marked improvement. Night exercises have been held, as a sequel to lectures given during the day, and such subjects as convoy driving, map reading, compass marches, siting of vehs, and camouflage have been practiced. The pl as a whole is keen and intelligent, and shows a lively interest in their work, and as training proceeds should develop into an efficient MP section. However, Bn duties, picquets, etc., often leave only five or six men available for training, and makes it difficult for a hard and fast syllabus to be adhered to.
- CARRIERS : On strength 3, but of these 2 have been away for the greater part of the month undergoing repair. The remaining carrier is also in poor mechanical order.
- CAMP FACILITIES : Good.


Lieut
TO 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

ack

orig

175

SECRET

13. JULY 1942

WAR DIARY

2/23 AUST INF BN

VOL XXII _____ MAY 42

MAY MONTH
1942 YEAR

A.I.F. FORM C 2118A

WAR DIARY

(RENDER UNDER SECRET COVER)

UNIT 2/23 AUST INF BN

For material required, see F.S.R. Vol. 1, Sec. 174

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS Routine training details and information given in Casualty Returns are NOT required	REFERENCES TO APPENDICES	C.O.'s REPORT AND COMMENTS ON MONTH (On Operations, Equipment, Movement, Health, Administration, etc.)
BECHMEZZ- INE, SIDA	1	Weather : Warm, sultry - Two pls A coy act as enemy in 26 Aust Inf Bde exercise. Tng by Coys as per syllabus. Two parties of 12 offr's visit HQ 9 Aust Div for inspection of aerial photos prepared by AAPIU of TRIPOLI fortress area. Recce FIH area for forthcoming ex.	Appx 1.	Trg for the month has been prolific and varied. Also I returned to the Bn in the middle of the month, my posn as acting Bde Comd enabled me to still see quite a lot of the unit. Many new operational roles were set up and handed over to the 24th Bde, while this Bn moved to the right sector of the Tripoli Fortress FDLs vacated by 2/28 Bn.
	2	Weather : Fine, windy. Recce of coastal area by A coy ref special duties for nights 3/4 4/5 May - coast defence. TEWT for offr's (2 per coy) FIH area. 1420 hrs unidentified aircraft reported in our theatre of war. 2 pl relieved by personnel from 4 pl on gd CHEKKA tunnel. Tng by coys as per syllabus.	Appx 1	Trg generally may be said to be approaching a satisfactory standard with the possible exception, in the case of rifle coys - of musketry. Particularly with the Bren. The standard is very low and more range practice than has up to the present been available will have to be sought.
	3	Weather : Fine. Bn Church parade. Cricket Bn v Bde offr's. Unit receives 7 additional new Bren Carriers. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op O (Ex) No 10.	Appx 2	Now that the Bn has practically its G 1098 of Brens some progress should be made. In the case of HQ coy - Carrier Pl is lacking in tactical knowledge and trg. More carriers have now come to hand and it is hoped that general improvement will be effected.
	4	Weather: Fine. Bn parade followed by march to BTERRAM cinema where Lt-Col SPOWERS DSO MC of 2/24 Aust Inf Bn delivered a lecture on observations made during his recent visit to the TOBRUK battle area. p.m. CO's conference ref Bn exercise. A coy act as enemy during Bde ex.	Appx 2	It is interesting to note that our greatest weaknesses in trg are in those sub-units where adequate eqpt is, lacking.
		Weather : Hot. 0900 - lecture by Sgt from NINTH ARMY FSW, attended by 2 offr's, 4 NCOs from each coy and Int Sec. 1400 - Bn moves off to bivouac in FIH area, Details vide appx 2 and action diary att to	Appx 2	Thefts within the Bn increased during the period and rigorous steps are being taken to trace whether any of them were "inside" work. The formation of the new Inf Bn A/Tk Pl was commenced and is functioning although it has not as yet received any wpns. Generally it may be said that the Bn is capable of moving quickly as a whole, battle procedure is good, troops take some interest in exercises and their morale is good.

Handwritten signature: Marshall
Capt.
Adjutant 2/23 Bn.
Handwritten signature: Shoau

A150 Mob Print Sec AIF-25M-441-G.

Signature *Handwritten signature: [illegible]*

MAY MONTH
1942 YEAR

A.I.F. FORM C 2118A

WAR DIARY

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UNIT 2/23 AUST INF BN

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BECHME- ZZINE.	6	<p>appx 3. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op O (Ex) No 11 issued at comd's conference 2100 hrs.</p> <p>Weather : Very hot, humidity high. Bn ex in progress, vide appx 3 with att infm. Ex ends 1530 hrs. The ex was of greater value because of the co-operation between units of the Bde in the use of each other's tpt. On return to camp, tps appreciated provision by water carriers of facilities for shower baths. A coy act as enemy during ex. Party of 10 marched in - X list personnel and reinfts.</p>	Appx 3. Appx 3.	
	7	<p>Weather : Very warm. Conference at HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde ref ex, attended by senior offrs. Swimming parades for tps. 0845 C coy move out on 3 day ex in mountainous country. Camp site night 7/8 DEIR BALA (vide appx 4). Instn from NINTH ARMY to increase security vigilance on account of possible reaction by local pro-Vichy elements to MADAGASCAR incident. Gd strength to be reviewed; any increase to be notified to HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde. Particular care to be exercised ref military installations and dumps.</p>	Appx 4.	
	8	<p>Weather : Fine Trg by coys as per syllabus. p.m. B coy provide gd, strength 1 offr, 4 NCOs 33 ORs, to relieve gd from 4 pl on CHEKKA tunnel. C coy on 3 day bivouac ex, camp night 8/9</p>	Appx 1	Signature.....

AI50 Mob Print Sec AIF-25M-1/41-G.

Shaw to be
Marshal
Capt.
Adjutant 2/23 Bn.

MAY MONTH
1942 YEAR

A.I.F. FORM C 2118A

WAR DIARY

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BECHME- ZZINE.	9	BEIT MENDER vide sketch map. Weather : Cool, cloudy. C coy complete 3 day bivouac ex L Sec Sigs (2) and one int pte join CHEKKA tunnel gd for comms by W/T.	Appx 4.	
	10	Weather: Fine. Bn church parade. Sight seeing tour for tps to KRAK DE CHEVAL- IERS.	Appx 4.	
	11	Weather : Fine. Body armour report following try-out by coys. Cadre for NCOs commenced. CO's recce of TRIPOLI fortress, sector B, rt fwd bn, held by 2/28 Aust Inf Bn. Recce by Capt J M Methven for Coast Defence mobile coy role. B coy return from CHEKKA runnel gd. Carrier pl bivouac AZIZIEH area.	Appx 5.	
	12	Weather : Fine. Fd firing B and C coys with 2 dets mortar. G (R) sec trg in disposal of UXBs. Carrier pl return from bivouac.	Appx 6	
	13	Weather; Fine. AA practice - heavy barrage put up in TRIPOLI area. TRIPOLI town picquet drawn from 1, 3, 6 pls; strength 1 offr 35 ORs, duration one week 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Instn (SYRIA) No 3 issued.	Appx 6.	
	14	Weather : Fine. Warning order issued for Bde ex, for unit and sub-unit HQs. BATROUN area. Unit comd resumed by Lt-Col B Evans. D S O		

Shoaul
Adjutant 2/23 Bn.

Signature.....

MAY MONTH
1942 YEAR

A.I.F. FORM C 2118A

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BECHME- ZZINE	15	Weather : Fine and warm. 1330 hrs Bde ex for BHQ and coy HQs. Move to bivouac area vicinity DEDDE. Maj H R Birch, B, C coy comds recce 2/28 Aust Inf Bn area. Free issue of beer by unit to all personnel.		
	16	Weather : Fine and hot. Issue of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn O O (Ex) No 12. Recce by A and C coy comds of 2/28 Aust Inf Bn area 2030. Practice - "Turn out CD mob coy" by C coy. Completion at 1800 hrs of Bde ex commenced 16 May.	Appx 9 Appx 6	
	17	Weather : Fine and warm. Bn church parade and march past. Sightseeing tour for tps to BCHARRE. Recce party of offrsg from 2/28 Aust Inf Bn inspect unit area. D coy relieve C coy as CD mob coy. Advice from 26 Aust Inf Bde that naval patrol boat operates on our section of coast.	Appx 6	
	18	Weather : Fine and warm. Discussion of HQ ex at 26 Bde attended by 2 i/c Adjts, IO. 208 personnel practice for 9 Aust Div ceremonial parade at BTERRAM. WO(I) K Wiseman of 2/23 Bn appointed RSM for parade; 2/23 Bn to provide the band. Lecture at Offrs Mess 1130 hrs by Capt Westmorland - "Male Management". Issue of movement Order (Ceremonial Parade)	Appx 7	
	19	Weather : Fine and windy. Lecture on Russia by Maj Dewhurst to offrsg, at TRIPOLI.		

Stoaul Sol
Adjutant 2/23

Signature.....

A150 Mob Print Sec AIF-25M-4/41-G.

MAY MONTH

1942 YEAR

A.I.F. FORM C 2118A

WAR DIARY

(RENDER UNDER SECRET COVER)

UNIT 2/23 AUST INF BN

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BECHMEZZ- INE.		Ceremonial Parade at ENFEH L G by tps of 9 Aust Div, 208 personnel taking part. H R H Duke of Gloucester inspects and addresses the parade. 0010 hrs 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order No 3 issued. 1445 hrs 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Movement Order No 1 issued. Adv parties 2/28 Bn and 2/23 Bn arrive each other's area.	Appx 7.	
HARET JEDIDE	20	Weather : Fine and windy, later becoming dusty. 2/23 Bn relieved 2/28 Bn as per Op Order No 3.	Appx 8. Att appx 8.	
	21	Weather : Cloudy and mild. Tps settling into new camp, and carrying out recces of new area. Unit snack bar instituted in canteen building.		
	22	Weather : Fine and warm. Trg by coys as per syllabus.	Appx 1.	
	23	Weather : Fine and warm. 76 personnel see film of AA trg methods, at LEGOULT BARRACKS theatre. 1030. Lecture for offr's by Maj S L Edwards "Air Recce and Air Support".		
	24	Weather : Fine and warm. Church parade for BHQ and HQ coy gps. Enemy sub reported off coast LATTAKIA. Stand to for CD personnel. 38 offr's, NCOs and OR's from Bn see AA trg film		
	25	Weather : Fine. Trg by coys - fd wks in pl areas	Appx 1.	
	26	Weather : Fine. B coy plus one sec carriers in mobile ex in HOMS area.		
	27	Weather: Fine and warm.		

A159 Mob Print Sec AIF-25M-441-G.

Signature.....

MAY MONTH

A.I.F. FORM C 2118A

WAR DIARY

(RENDER UNDER SECRET COVER)

UNIT 2/23 AUST INF BN

1942 YEAR

For material required, see F.S.R. Vol. 1, Sec. 174

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS Routine training details and information given in Casualty Returns are NOT required	REFERENCES TO APPENDICES	C.O.'s REPORT AND COMMENTS ON MONTH (On Operations, Equipment, Movement, Health, Administration, etc.)
HARET JEDIDE		<p>2-day leave BEIRUT for 37 personnel. C coy plus one sec carriers in mob ex EL ABDE, HAMIDIH areas.</p> <p>28 Weather : Fine and warm. D coy plus one sec carriers mob ex, rd TRIPOLI-HOMS. Three carriers added to unit strength bringing total to 12 (2 US, being repaired). 26 Bde reports two enemy agents posing as hygiene personnel. These two visited unit on 27 May and inspected water carts "for rust" at HQ and BHQ cookhouse lines. Shower parades for tps twice weekly,</p> <p>29 Weather : Fine warm. A coy mob ex, one sec carrier pl co-operating - route BSARMA BTERRAM FIH DEDDE TRIPOLI. Trg by coys vide syllabus. Issue of 2/23 Bn Op Instn (SYRIA) No 4.</p> <p>30 Weather : Fine, warm. 9 Army Amenities concert. 172 seats for unit personnel. D coy trg AT. IO's recce for Bn ex. Conference Bn and coy comds. Issue of O O (Ex) No 13.</p> <p>31 Weather : Fine and hot. Church parade for BHQ and HQ coy gps. Sightseeing tour for tps to BANIAS.</p>	<p>Appx 11.</p> <p>Appx 1. Appx 10.</p> <p>This appx to be fwded with War Diary for Jun.</p>	<p>Signature.....</p>

MAY

MONTH

A.I.F. FORM C2118A

WAR DIARY

(RENDER UNDER SECRET COVER)

UNIT 2/23 AUST

1942

YEAR

For material required, see F.S.R. Vol. 1, Sec. 174

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS Routine training details and information given in Casualty Returns are NOT required	REFERENCES TO APPENDICES	C.O.'s REPORT AND COMMENTS ON MONTH (On Operations, Equipment, Movement, Health, Administration, etc.)
HARBT JEDIDE		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>LIST OF APPXS</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trg infm - syllabus, etc. 2. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn O O (Ex) No 10. } 3. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn O O (Ex) No 11. } 4. Report on C Coy 3 day bivouac. 5. Body Armour Report. 6. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Instn (SYRIA) No 3. 7. Movement Order for Ceremonial Parade. 8. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn O O No 3. 9. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn O O (Ex) No 12. 10. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Instn (SYRIA) No 4. 11. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Adm Instns Nos 5 - 8. 12. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn ROs 101/4042 - 113/4042. 13. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn RI No 60. 14. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Staff Tables. 15. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Fd Return ORs 16. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Fd return Offrs. 17. G (R) Report. 18. HQ Coy reports Carrier Offr) TO) QM) 19. RMO's report. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>LIST OF APPXS</u></p> <p><i>unavailable (led by/CO)</i></p>	

Signature.....

~~IO will arrange for chalking of all vehs.~~

~~(a) CO, Adj, I Sgt in one Car DS
2 i/c, Int Pte in one Car DS.~~

~~(b) IO, remainder Int Sec, RP Sgt.~~

~~(c) RSM, remainder BHQ personnel.~~

~~(d) RAP~~

~~(e) 5 of these 3-tonners are Coy B Ech vehs.~~

Handwritten signature

YBBX T

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

561269

HQ 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

20 Apr 42

HQ
26 Aust Inf Bde

SUMMARY

Ref 26 Aust Inf Bde Tng Instn No 25, following is
summary of Tng Programme 1 - 15 May 42 :-

Coy inspection	6 hrs
Route marches	11 "
Lectures	3 "
Exercises - Mountainous Country	2 "
Consolidation	2 "
Close Country Fighting	4½ "
Recce Patrol	2 "
Lecture & Demo - Camflg	2½ "
Wpn Tng - Recapitulation	½ "
Miniature Range	3 "
Sports & Recreation	<u>2½ "</u>
	<u>39 hrs</u>

In addition one night exercise and one night
lecture.

W. H. M. M. M. M.
Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Lt-Col

TNG PROGRAMME

1 - 15 MAY 42

(IN CONJUNCTION WITH SYLLABUS 15/30 APR 42)

2/23 AUST INF BN

PERIOD	1st DAY	2nd DAY	3rd DAY	4th DAY	5th DAY	6th DAY
1. 0830-0930	Coy inspection	Coy inspection	Coy inspection	Coy inspection	Coy inspection	Coy inspection
2. 0930-1030	Route march through mountainous country Minimum 15 miles (Using pack tpt if available)	Lecture - Mountain Warfare	Lecture - Consolidation	Miniature range	Lecture - Fighting - Close country	Route march minimum 20 miles
3. 1030-1130		Patrols in Mountainous country	Demo and exercise - Consolidation			
4. 1130-1230		Recce patrol supported by fighting patrol	Lecture and Demo		Sports and Recreation	
5. 1400-1500		ditto (METP 5 Part 2 FSR II, 97)	Camflg (As per Ninth Army Instn 13 Apr 42)			
6. 1500-1600		Wpn tng - Recapitulation	Night movement in mountainous country (Maintenance of direction and silent movement)	Lecture - Night navigation using stars with and without compass		
7. 1600-1630						
8. Night						

TEWTS for NCOs prior to exercises indicated

Mountain Warfare	F	FSR II 97 METP 5 Part 2
Consolidation		FSR II 59(2) IT 71(3)
Fighting - Close Country		FSR II 98 IT 87

26 Aust Inf Bde Tng Instn No 34

TEWTS for Offrs prior to NCOs' TEWTS as above.

HQ2/23 Aust Inf Bn

6 May 42.

HQ
26 Aust Inf BdeSUMMARY

Ref 26 Aust Inf Bde Tng Instn No 25, following is summary of Tng Programme 16 - 31 May 42.

Coy inspection		6 hrs
Route marches		11 hrs
Lectures		1 hr
Exercises	Mountainous country consolidation	5½ hrs
Pack Tpt Tng		3 hrs
Classification range		3 hrs
30x Range		3 hrs
Unarmed combat		2 hrs
Sports & Recreation		2½ hrs
Recapitulation.	Weapons Bayonet Anti Gas	2 hrs
		<hr/> 39 hrs <hr/>

In addition one three day Coy Bivouac, 1 night exercise and one night lecture.

A. R. Birch
Lt-Col.
Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

TNG PROGRAMME

16 - 31 MAY 42

(IN CONJUNCTION WITH SYLLABUS 1 - 15 MAY 42)

2/23 AUST INF BN

PERIOD	1st DAY	2nd DAY	3rd DAY	4th DAY	5th DAY	6th DAY
1. 0830-0930	Coy inspection & Adm Pde	Coy inspection & Adm Pde	Coy inspection & Adm Pde	Coy inspection & Adm Pde	Coy inspection & Adm Pde	Coy inspection & Adm Pde
2. 0930-1030	Pack transport	Coy attack in mountainous country followed by consolidation including digging into weapon pit stage and establishment of communications.	Route march, 15 miles through mountainous country including use of Pack Transport. Practice to be given in off-loading weapons amn into action positions.	EL ABDE Rifle Range. Ø	30 x Range	Route march minimum 20 miles.
3. 1030-1130	training					
4. 1130-1230	and tests -K-					
5. 1400-1500	Weapon recapitulation					
6. 1500-1600	Unarmed combat			Sports and recreation	Bayonet tng recapitulation	
7. 1600-1630	Anti Gas recapitulation				Unarmed combat	
					Lecture Security	
8. Night		Lecture Beach Defence		Night march followed by night advance in mountainous country.		

1. ~~X~~ To be completed and report submitted to BHQ by 21 May 42, vide 9 Aust Div G221/80/14 dated 29 Apr 42.
2. Ø Lecture on Grouping and Theory of Small Arms Fire to be given prior to firing Range Practices.
3. In addition to above syllabus, Coys to live out and train minimum three days. Coys to submit own syllabus for approval 48 hrs in advance, (at least one night exercise to be included). One day of main syllabus may be included at discretion of Coy Comds.
4. Commencing Monday 12 May and thence each subsequent Monday, 3 N.C.Os and 3 potential N.C.Os per Coy will parade at BHQ at 0830 hrs for 6 days Cadre Tng. These men will be struck off all Coy and Bn duties for the period they are attending Cadre.
5. All Offrs not on duty will attend lectures at 1930 hrs Mondays in Offrs Mess.
6. TEWTs for NCOs prior to exercises indicated.
TEWTs for Offrs prior to TEWTs for NCOs.

Ref to Manuals:-

Mountain Warfare
Consolidation

F S R II 97 MET P5, Part 2.
F S R II 59 (2) I.T. 71 (3)
26 Aust Inf Bde Tng Instn No 34.

Coy in attack

I.T. Sec 66
F S R II 62

Night operations

I.T. 78, 80.

APPX 4.

Report on 6 day 3 Day Bivouac
in mountainous country. 7 8 9 MAY 42
by E. Stuart. Int. Pte. at 0900 hrs 10 MAY

Day 1. Left camp area Bechmezzine at 0900 hrs
marching in echelon formation with clock
halts at every hr
1st halt at 1597 2610
2nd " " 1589 2582
3rd " " DEIR BILLA 1588 2567 1145 hrs
Dinner at 1230 hrs
Departed at 1345 hrs
Arrived at bivouac area ZIRI 1445 hrs
and settled down to camp.
1600 hrs Visit by Maj. H.R. Birch who was pleased to see
Aps enjoying swimming and relaxation after
the hot day's march.

Day 2.

0630 Reveille
0730 Breakfast.
0815 Break camp.
A stiff mountainous climb in the first hrs of
marching, climbing 1200ft from bivouac area to
the ridge. All Aps over and rested in the hr.
0915 moved on halted at 1620 2564
arrived at 1660 2566. at 1055. hrs.
Dinner at 1230 hrs.
Fresh water stream here and Aps
bathed and visited flour mill and ancient
church in deep gorge.
Departed at 1515 hrs by pls.
A climb here of 450 feet in the first mile of
journey through KNATE.
BEIT MENDER reached at 1630 hrs 1675 2579.
Visit again by A/Comd. Maj. H.R. Birch.

night 2/3 gusty, slight rain

Day 3.

0630 Reveille
0730 Breakfast
0815 Break camp
1st halt 1668 2585

(over)

2nd halt 1664 2596.

3rd halt 1633 2617 at 1115 hrs.

Dinner at 1135 hrs.

Depart at 1230 hrs

moved to camp area through KEAR AKKA
and olive groves arriving 1400 hrs.

1400 hrs.

Lessons to be learnt from bivouac

- (a) Shorter halts after the first hr on day 1
One 50 min too long marching in uphill
country
- (B) Same bivouac areas recommended.
- (c) Right hand side of stream in day 1 bivouac
area to be used by swimming Aps. Stream
dangerous in mid stream.

Pte Eric Stuart,

Lt Sec


7²³ Aust Inf Bn

10 May 42

C. COY. 3 DAY. BIVOUCAC.

MOUNTAINOUS. COUNTRY.

BECH. EZZINE


123 CAMP

LUNCH

2nd NIGHT. BIVOUCAC
Beit Mender

Deir. Billa.
LUNCH

1230. Feet.
Climb

LUNCH

BIVOUCAC.
1st NIGHT.

<u>RED</u>	1 st DAY.	10 miles
<u>GREEN</u>	2 nd "	8 "
<u>PURPLE</u>	3 rd "	10 "

INT. SEC
2/23 Aust. INF. BN.
8 MAY. 42.

APPX 5

HQ 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

11 May 42

HQ
26 Aust Inf Bde

BODY ARMOUR - REPORT

Ref 200/210/6 of your HQ, 28 Apr 42, and GHQ MEF letter CRME/14755/1/GSD 2A, 16 Apr 42, the following report is submitted in terms of para 5 :-

- (a)
- i. Should NOT be issued to all ranks of all arms.
 - ii. Issue recommended only to tps of front line fighting units, because it is considered that tps will fail to wear it if NOT in direct contact with enemy.
 - iii. Generally, it is considered that efficiency is NOT affected to any appreciable extent. However, one coy cmd's report contends that inf efficiency is impaired when the respirator AG is worn at alert posn, the back piece then cutting into the back, and the chest piece being held too harshly against the chest.
 - iv. Generally considered comfortable, except by coy cmd referred to in sub-para iii. above, who maintains it is comfortable when worn with drill order, but NOT with battle order.
 - v. Consensus of opinion favours wearing armour over blouse or tunic, although one coy cmd advocates that it be worn underneath to hold abdominal piece steady in posn and to avoid armour becoming hot in direct sunlight.
 - vi. One coy report recommends additional straps to steady lower portion of armour, and another cmd's that the armour is most uncomfortable for tps in MT, carriers, or AFVs.

(b) Coys generally were satisfied with general protection afforded by this set of armour, although one coy cmd recommended that the back piece, which he described as really uncomfortable, be dispensed with to effect improvement in the abdomen piece.

HR Smith
Lt-Col
Cmd. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

APPX 6

(a) 2 of these 3-figures are 200 2 non zero
(b) 100
(c) 1000
(d) 10000
(e) 100000
(f) 1000000

War Diary

MOST SECRET

Ref Maps : TRIPOLI 1/50,000.
LEVANT SERIES 1/200,000.

COPY NO 19

13 May 42.

2/23 AUST INF BN OP INSTN (SYRIA) NO 3

INFM

1. Enemy -

- (a) It is considered probable that enemy activity of all kinds in SYRIA and PALESTINE will coincide with enemy action in LIBYA, with increased possibility of landings on SYRIAN Coasts.
- (b) The following are considered likely :-
 - i. Agents and small sabotage parties landed from submarines.
 - ii. Commandos and raiding parties of varying strengths from fast motor landing craft.

2. Own Tps -

- (a) Coast watching dets are manned.
- (b) Security gd of one pl mounted at CHEKKA Tunnel.
- (c) Units located near coast are responsible for defence of beaches in their vicinity.
- (d) 26 Aust Inf Bde has been allotted, for additional defence, a sector excl CARACOL, 159274, to excl AABARJA, 141233.

3. Ground -

- (a) On calm nights, landings are possible at many points.
- (b) Likely enemy objectives incl CHEKKA Tunnel and Military HQs.

INTENTION

- 4. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will assist coast defence by providing CD Mob Coy, and assuming role of Mob Bn.

METHOD

5. Tps Taking Part -

CD Mob Coy will comprise :-

Comd - OC Coy	}	2/23 Aust Inf Bn
One rifle coy		
3 manned carriers		
2 MC DRs		
Wireless van		L Sec Sigs, 9 Aust Div
One Pl MMGs		2/2 Aust MG Bn
One MT Sec (Eight 3-ton vehs)		10 Coy AASC

- 6. CD Mob Coy will be maintained DURING HRS OF DARKNESS at 30 mins notice to move.

7. Order to assemble -

- (a) On sig from 26 Aust Inf Bde "TURN OUT CD MOB COY" sigs will notify Duty Offr, who will :-
 - i. Order duty bugler to sound turn out call (3 Gs rptd several times).
 - ii. Telephone Coy Comd concerned.
 - iii. Telephone Carrier Offr.
 - iv. Notify Adjnt.

(b) Action to be taken on turn out call :-

- i. Coy Comd will IMMEDIATELY report to HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde for orders.
- ii. Carrier Offr will order and supervise RV of his carriers with Coy concerned.
- iii. Wireless van will report from HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde and join Coy concerned.

- iv. Coy will embus under orders Coy 2 i/c, and move out of Coy lines, halting with leading veh at junc of camp rd and rd TRIPOLI - AMIOUNE, to RV with Coy Comd returning with orders from HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde.
- (c) Pl MMGs will report to Coy Comd at a RV which will be ordered by HQ 9 Aust Div.
8. Time Factor -
CD Mob Coy should be halted, ready to move, at junc ref para 7(b)iv above, within 15 mins of turn out call.
9. Tasks -
CD Mob Coy may be ordered to :-
(a) Reinforce positional tps.
(b) Oppose attempted enemy landings.
10. Res -
When CD Mob Coy is called out, remainder of Bn will be held ready to move ONE HR after CD Mob Coy has left. Normal leave facilities for tps other than CD Mob Coy will continue.
11. Allotment of Duty -
C Coy will provide CD Mob Coy, with att details, nightly to Wed, 20 May incl; thereafter each rifle coy will take one nights tour of duty in turn, starting with D Coy night 21/22 May.
12. Recces -
Recces of under-mentioned areas will be carried out by all rifle coy comds, sig offr, carrier offr, mortar offr, before 20 May :-
(a) Security Gd at CHEKKA Tunnel.
(b) Beach NORTH of EL KALMOUNE
(c) Beach NORTH of BATROUNE
(d) General area of CD responsibility.
These recces will be made in co-operation with Capt J.M. METHVEN, who completed general bn reece, 11 May.
In ensuing week to 27 May, Coy comds will conduct TEWTS for pl comds to familiarise them with the above areas. Pl comds in turn will conduct NCOs TEWTS at earliest convenience.
- ADM
13. Wpns - QM will ensure that CD Mob Coy and att details are, as far as possible, equipped to G1098 scale.
14. Ann - Normal allotments on man and with gun will accompany CD Mob Coy and Bn. Bn res ann will accompany Bn.
15. Tpt - Vehs, vide para 5 above, will report nightly to water pt on camp rd, between 1800 hrs and 1900 hrs, where they will be met by guide from Coy concerned to lead them to Coy lines. They return to their own camp at Reveille daily.
16. Loading - On arrival of vehs, Coy will load them with ann and rations, and will picquet them. Ann issues and loading of bren mags will be commenced, in the vehs, immediately tps embus on turn out.
17. Rations -
(a) One days res rations on man.
(b) Extra days res rations in vehs.
18. Veh allotment -
(a) Leading veh - Coy Comd and Coy HQ.
(b) Two vehs per pl, leading one for pl HQ and one sec, other for remaining two secs.
(c) One veh for CQMS, stores etc.
19. POL for 100 miles will be carried by all vehs, in addition to full tks.

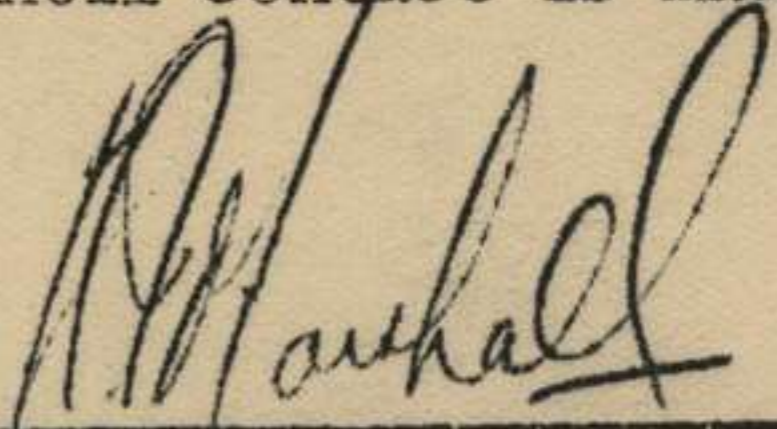
- 20. Tools - As made available by QM, tools up to scale of 12 picks and 12 shovels per pl will be loaded into vehs.
- 21. Medical - RAP ord and four stretcher bearers will turn out, and embus at tpt park in veh detailed by TO, joining tail of convoy when it moves out of camp rd to rd TRIPOLI - ANIOUNE.

INTER-COMM

- 22. Reports - Bn Duty Offr will report progress by telephone to Duty Offr 26 Aust Inf Bde, as follows :-
 - (a) 25 mins after receipt of turn out order - present state of det.
 - (b) Time of departure of det, immediately it leaves.
- 23. DRs - On arrival in area of ops, one DR will return to report location of det to Bn and Bde HQ.
- 24. (a) Wireless van will provide W/T comm with HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde.
 (b) Wireless silence will be maintained until contact is made with enemy.

ACK

Signed at 1934 hrs
and issued through sigs.


 _____ Capt
 Adjnt 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBUTION

Copy No	1	HQ Coy	Copy No	12	2 i/c
" "	2	A "	" "	13	Adjnt
" "	3	B "	" "	14	QM
" "	4	C "	" "	15	RMO
" "	5	D "	" "	16	IO
" "	6	9 Aust Div Sigs	" "	17	RSM
" "	7	10 Coy AMSC	" "	18	26 Aust Inf Bde
" "	8	2/2 Aust MG Bn	" "	19	WD
" "	9	Carrier Offr	" "	20	WD
" "	10	TO	" "	21	File
" "	11	CO	" "	22	Spare

12
APPX 7

1914 1914 1914
1914 1914 1914
1914 1914 1914

1914 1914

1914 1914

1914 1914

1914 1914 1914
1914 1914 1914

1914
1914
1914

(1) 1914 1914 1914
(2) 1914 1914 1914

1914
1914
1914 (3)
1914 (3)
1914
1914 (3)
1914
1914
1914

Ref Maps : TRIPOLI 1/50,000.
 BATROUN 1/50,000.

OFFER ONLY

COPY NO 10

CEREMONIAL PARADE - MOVEMENT ORDER

18 May 42.

GENERAL

1. Strictest adherence to timings, speed, and density is essential for success of move.

METHOD

2. (a) 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp will comprise the following units :-
 - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
 - 2/24 Aust Inf Bn
 - 2/48 Aust Inf Bn
 - 2/8 Aust Fd Amb
 - Ordnance Units
 (b) Units will move in this order.
3. Comd - Convoy Comd 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp - Major T. SCOTT (2/48 Aust Inf Bn).
4. Assembly Area -
 - (a) Petrol Point at 15762647.
 - (b) Unit convoy will move into Assembly Area by entrance on rd BTERRAM - AMIOUNE at 15782646, exit by track to rd BTERRAM - BECHMEZZIE.
 - (c) Move of unit convoy to Assembly Area will be under unit arrangement, to be completed by 0815 hrs.
5. Route, Timings, Speed and density, vide Appx A.
6. Traffic Control -
 - (a) IO will instruct one RF as follows :-
 Report to Major T. SCOTT at Assembly Area, vide para 4(a) above at 0745 hrs; on orders then received guide unit vehs into posn, on arrival at Assembly Area; then travel with Major SCOTT.
 - (b) Other traffic control arrangements under orders of DAPM and Convoy Comd.
7. Dispersal Area -
 - (a) Vicinity immediately SOUTH of CHEKKA JEDIDE. Bde convoy will be guided in, and dispersion of vehs directed.
 - (b) Drivers will remain with their vehs while in the dispersal area.
8. Debussing & Embussing -
 This will be carried out in dispersal area, tps marching to and from parade ground.
9. Return to Unit lines -
 - (a) 26 Aust Inf Bde convoy will move from the general parade area prior to all other convoys.
 - (b) Return route same as in Appx A.
10. Band - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Band will move independently, embussing at tpt pk at 0730 hrs, debussing in vicinity of parade ground, on which they will report NOT later than 0830 hrs; their two vehs will then move direct to dispersal area, where Band will embus after parade. IO will instruct Band Sgt, as above.
11. Action on Air Alarm -
 - (a) In dispersal area, drivers will dismount and stand by their vehs, in event of air alarm, taking fire extinguishers with them.

(b) Should a direct air attack occur, drivers will remain by their vehs, but will lie down.

ADM

12. Mid-day Meal -

Each veh will carry cut lunches for its personnel, to be consumed at an area indicated by convoy comd, during return journey.

13. Cleaning of Boots -

Under direction of Major R. E. WALL, Unit Sub-gp (Coy) for parade will provide sufficient materials for boots to be polished on arrival at parade ground, after march from dispersal area.

14. Latrines -

Shallow trench latrines will be dug in luncheon area under unit arrangement, and filled in before departure. TO, in liaison with QM will ensure that 3 picks and 3 shovels are carried in unit vehs.

15. Medical -

One MO with first-aid eqpt and two motor ambbs will be at NORTH end of parade ground during parade.

[Signature]
Capt

Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBUTION

Copy No	1	HQ Coy	Copy No	8	QM
" "	2	A "	" "	9	IO
" "	3	B "	" "	10	CO
" "	4	C "	" "	11	2 i/c
" "	5	D "	" "	12	Adjt
" "	6	Major R.E. WALL	" "	13	File
" "	7	TO	" "	14	Spare

MOVEMENT TABLE

MOST SECRET

OFFR ONLY

COPY NO.

(Appx A to Ceremonial Parade Movement Order)

- (a) Starting time is for first veh leaving Assembly Area.
- (b) No of vehs allotted to Unit must NOT be exceeded.
- (c) Route - Unit lines to PF 15762647 to KPARHAZIR 154263 to CHEKKA JEDIDE 150265.
- (d) Tps will move under Coy arrangement to Unit tpt pk, where they will be embussed ready to move at 0745 hrs.
- (e) Convoy comd - Major T. SCOTT (2/48 Aust Inf Bn)

Serial	Unit	No of vehs	Start Time	Speed & Density	Arrive at Dispersal Area
1.	2/23 Aust Inf Bn (Main body only, Band moves independently.)	14	0845 hrs	10 mih 20 vtm	0930 hrs

APPX 8

War Diary

SECRET

Ref Map : TRIPOLI 1/50,000.

COPY NO 21

18 May 42.

2/23 AUST INF BN OP ORDER NO 3

INFM

1. Enemy -
Vide Int Summaries to date, and 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Instn (SYRIA) No 3, para 1.
2. Own Tps -
26 Aust Inf Bde has been ordered to relieve 24 Aust Inf Bde which, on relief, will move to BECHMEZZINE.

INTENTION

3. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will relieve 2/28 Aust Inf Bn in posns already recced.

METHOD

4. Coy Disposns -
As recced, coys making letter-to-letter relief.
5. Mortar Pl -
Mortar pl will travel with HQ Coy, stage night 20/21 MAY at HQ Coy location, and move out to rifle coys on 21 MAY by unit tpt.
6. Security Duties
 - (a) TRIPOLI Town Picquet will remain on duty until Thu 21 MAY, proceeding direct to new location on relief. HQ Coy will tpt surplus kit of picquet personnel, with CQMS store.
 - (b) ASD Gd (B Coy) will be relieved on 20 MAY, at time to be arranged with relieving bn, and tpted to new location under separate arrangements.
7. Move of Main Body (Excl Sig and Carrier Pls)
By tp-carrying MT, reporting 1800 hrs 19 MAY and remaining overnight. Veh allotments, loading, timings etc according to Movement Order, to be issued separately.
8. Sig and Carrier Pls
To move separately, vide Movement Order (separate), with all eqpt.
9. Adv Parties
 - (a) The following adv parties will be exchanged by each unit, arriving in the other's area at 1700 hrs 19 MAY :-
120 all ranks, comprising Bn 2 i/c, 4 rifle coy 2 i/cs, 12 rifle pl sgts, 1 OR per rifle sec, 5 offrs' batmen, HQ Coy party of 56 all ranks (detailed by OC), BHQ party of 1 NCO and 5 ORs (to be detailed).
 - (b) Unit tpt will be used for 2/23 Aust Inf Bn party, on allotment at Appx A.
10. Regtl and Coy Q Establishments
These will be lifted by a pool of unit tpt, vide Movement Order (separate), move to be co-ordinated by QM, who will issue separate adm instns direct to CQMSs.

ADM

11. Camp Timings 20 MAY

- (a) Reveille - 0530 hrs
- (b) Breakfast - 0615 hrs
- (c) Site cleaning etc - 0645 hrs on.

12. Dress

Marching order, respirator "alert", helmet steel slung from shoulder.

13. Bed Rolls

Personnel will travel with bed rolls, to be used as seats in tp-carrying vehs. Separate orders will be issued by message form ref paliasses.

14. Trunks, Kitbags etc

The following will be lodged at CQMS stores by 2000 hrs 19 MAY :-

- (a) Offrs' steel trunks, suitcases (other offrs' gear to be packed in coy vehs).
- (b) ALL kitbags universal.

15. Tentage and Hutments

All tentage and hutments will remain in present locations, except for two EPIP tents, to be taken to new area by QM.

16. Stores, Eopt, Wpns, Amn, Rations

- (a) Following will be left in present location :-
 - i. Messing tables and messing forms.
 - ii. Latrines wooden.
 - iii. All beds (various types)
 - iv. Res rations.
 - v. Cupboards, tables etc in tents.
- (b) Following will be taken to new location :-
 - i. All office furniture.
 - ii. 1st line amn and tng amn.
 - iii. All paliasses.
 - iv. Camflg nets.
 - v. Wpns.
 - vi. All other stores.

17. Tpt Allotment

Vide Movement Order (separate).

18. Q Loading Parties

- (a) For RQM store, loading party will be provided by C Coy (1 Cpl 4 ORs) and HQ Coy (5 ORs). This party will report to QM by 0700 hrs, and on completion of work will be tpted in unit vehs.
- (b) Each coy will detail its own loading party for CQMS store, of NCO and 4 ORs, who on completion of work will travel with coy stores in unit tpt.
- (c) All above parties will assist in off-loading at new locations.

19. Medical

RMP will move under RMO's orders, in allotted veh, which will travel independently and return to come under QM's orders, immediately off-loaded in new location.

20. Security

Throughout and after move, all sub-units will be entirely responsible for own security (personnel, arms, amn, eqpt, stores, etc).

21. Existing sanitary and refuse drum arrangements will be exchanged with 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

INTER-COMM

22. (a) BHQ will close present location at 0800 hrs 20 MAY, and comd pass to 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

(b) BHQ becomes mob, and re-opens in new location at 1200 hrs.

23. Sub-units will report completion of move to BHQ at new location by code word "SIXTY".

ACK

Signed at 2325 hrs
and issued by runner.

Capt

Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

DISTRIBN

Copy No	1	HQ Coy	Copy No	13	Sig Offr
" "	2	" "	" "	14	Tpt Offr
" "	3	B "	" "	15	Plr Offr
" "	4	C "	" "	16	Carrier Offr
" "	5	D "	" "	17	Mortar Offr
" "	6	CO	" "	18	2/28 Aust Inf Bn
" "	7	2 i/c	" "	19	26 Aust Inf Bde
" "	8	Adjt	" "	20	War Diary
" "	9	QM	" "	21	War Diary
" "	10	RMO	" "	22	File
" "	11	IO	" "	23	Spare
" "	12	RSM	" "	24	Spare

APPX A - VEH ALLOTMENT

ADV PARTY TIT

Serial	Sub-Unit	Vehs	
		No	Type
1.	D Coy and 10 Pl B Coy	1	3-ton
2.	B Coy less 10 Pl	1	30-cwt
3.	A Coy	1	30-cwt
4.	C Coy	1	30-cwt
5.	E Coy	2 2	3-ton 30-cwt
6.	BHQ	1	15-cwt

War Diary

SECRET

COPY NO 20

19 MAY 42

2/23 AUST INF BN MOVEMENT ORDER NO 1

OBJECT

1. Issued as addendum to 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order No 3, to give detailed veh allotments, timings etc.

UNIT VEHS

2. Allotment and tasks given at Appx A.
3. The following will proceed to new location independently :-
 - (a) 3 MCs, 2 lorries 30 cwt water tk, 1 V/T van 8 cwt, under orders TO.
 - (b) 2 cars DS, under orders CO and 2 i/c respectively.

TP CARRYING VEHS

4. Convoy Movement Table, with veh allotments to sub-units, at Appx B.

ACK

Signed at 1430 hrs and issued by runner.

Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. Capt

DISTRIBN

Copy No	1	HQ Coy	Copy No	13	Sig Offr
" "	2	A "	" "	14	Tpt Offr
" "	3	B "	" "	15	Pnr Offr
" "	4	C "	" "	16	Carrier Offr
" "	5	D "	" "	17	Mortar Offr
" "	6	CO	" "	18	2/28 Aust Inf Bn
" "	7	2 i/c	" "	19	26 Aust Inf Bde
" "	8	Adjt	" "	20	War Diary
" "	9	QM	" "	21	War Diary
" "	10	RMO	" "	22	File
" "	11	IO	" "	23	Spare
" "	12	RSM	" "	24	Spare

APPX A

UNIT VEH ALLOTMENT

ADDENDUM TO 2/23 AUST INF BN OP ORDER NO 3

Ser	Purpose	Veh Type					Remarks
		8 cwt	15 cwt	1 ton	30 cwt	3 ton	
1.	Coy HQ vehs, one per Coy		5				Coy Comd's vehs with ord rm & offrs' light gear.
2.	BHQ Offrs Baggage				1		
3.	Sigs				2		Independent move, personnel & essential eqpt.
4.	I Sec		1				
5.	Bn Ord Rm	1		1			
6.	RAP					1	AASC att; one lift only, then back-load 2/28 Aust Inf Bn stores.
7.	QM Pool				6	6	
8.	QM Stores					3	AASC att, one lift, then back load relieving gd for ASD and tpt B Coy gd personnel to new location.
9.	QM Stores					1	AASC att; to be available to 2/28 Aust Inf Bn by 1130 hrs.

Ser	Convoy No	Sub-unit	Tp-Carrying vehs 3-ton	Embussing Pt	Ready to Move	Pass SP	Remarks
1.	1	D Coy less 7 ORs	6	D Coy Lines	0705	0715	Vehs in Ser 1 to lead, halting on Camp Track just in rear SP, until vehs in Ser 2 join tail of coln to complete convoy.
2.	1	10 Pl B Coy plus 7 ORs 3 Coy	1	D Coy Lines	0705	0715	
3.	2	A Coy	5	A Coy Lines	0725	0730	As above, reading Ser 3 and 4, for 1 and 2 respectively.
4.	3	C Coy	5	C Coy Lines	0740	0745	
5.	3	Remainder B Coy	1	B Coy Lines	0740	0745	
6.	4	HQ Coy and BHQ details	7	Bn Parade Ground	0755	0800	A Tk pl personnel from rifle coys, as ordered will report on Bn parade ground at 0740 hrs, for embussing.
7.	5	B Coy (ASD Gd personnel)	3	ASD	1400	-	These vehs will lift stores out to new location; backload 2/28 Aust Inf Bn relief ASD Gd, await completion of relief, and tpt B Coy gd personnel to new location.
8.	6	Carrier Pl	-	Own Pk	0955	1000	Independent convoy observing usual rules of march discipline for tracked vehs - Comd, Lieut C. G. RIGG MM.

CONVOY MOVEMENT TABLEADDENDUM TO 2/23 AUST INF BN OP ORDER NO 3

ROUTE - As recced.

SPEED, DENSITY - 20 mih 10 vtm (except for Ser 8)

SP - Junc CAMP TRACK - Rd BTERRAI - AMIOUNE.

DISPERSAL - Direct to sub-unit areas in new location.

HALTS - Normal

CONVOY COMDS - Convoy No 1 Capt G. F. URQUHART
 " " 2 Capt G. G. ANDERSON
 " " 3 Capt R. RATTRAY MC
 " " 4 OC, HQ Coy (or offr detailed)
 " " 5 OC, ASD Gd personnel
 " " 6 Lieut C. G. RIGG IM.

(over)

APPX 9

RECEIVED

Ref Map: TRIPOLI 1:50,000

COPY NO 2416 May 422/23 AUST INF BN OP ORDER (EX) NO 12INFM

1. (a) Enemy force, all arms, estimated one bde, sighted BECHARRE 176256 at 1830 hrs 15 May 42.
(b) As in I summaries and sitreps to date.
2. (a) 26 Aust Inf Bde is moving to BSARMA, commencing 0800 hrs 16 May, and will occupy defensive posn with FDLs on following line:-
Pt 274 - 16022655 - rd bend 16072650 - NE to convent 16172658.
(b) Disposns ordered :-
2/48 Aust Inf Bn rt fwd.
2/23 Aust Inf Bn Left fwd.
2/24 Aust Inf Bn res.

INTENTION

3. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will move to new location, 16 May, and occupy defensive posn incl rd BSARMA - KOUSBA to left flank of bde posn.

METHOD

4. OP will be in two phases:
Phase one - Bn moves.
Phase two - Bn occupies defensive posn.
5. Phase one
 - (a) Start Pt - WEST end BTERRAM.
 - (b) Start Time - 0830 hrs.
 - (c) Order of March - Aston 15 May (less car DS and 15 cwt BHQ luggage van).
 - (d) Vehs will form up in convoy, leading BHQ veh at Start Point, and across it at Start Time.
 - (e) 20 m i h. 10 v t m.
 - (f) Coy runners will return to Coys at 0800 hrs and travel with them.
 - (g) OC convoy, Adjnt, (in office van, leading veh).
 - (h) Adv party:- R and O Gps at BHQ with CO at 0735 hrs; move on recce of defensive posn, using car DS and 15 cwt BHQ baggage van, ~~xxx~~ at 0745 hrs. Coy runners and one RP (with I Offr) will act as guides into new sub-unit areas, vide para 6(a) below.
6. Phase two.
 - (a) Guides - Await oncoming unit vehs at rd junc 16082657, and lead them direct by covered approach to sub-unit localities, on orders given by sub-unit comds as result of recce.
 - (b) Timing - Guides to be in posn by 0840 hrs.
 - (c) Disposns - A Coy - rt fwd
C Coy - left fwd
B Coy - rt res
D Coy - left res
 - (d) Detailed Orders
According verbal orders to be issued by CO on ground after recce.

ADM

7. For Phase one - As hitherto.
8. For Phase two -
 - (a) Dress - Battle Order.
 - (b) Amn, Rations - Normal battle scales on man, with gun, and in sub-unit res.

- (c) Bn SAA and RAP locations to be notified.
- (d) First line Tpt to remain in covered posns, vicinity sub-unit locations; B Ech under separate orders of QM.

INTERCOMN

- 9 BHQ
 - (a) Closes present location 0815 hrs and becomes mob at head of coln.
 - (b) Reopens in new location, to be notified at 0900 hrs.
- 10. SDF
 - (a) By L/T if working
 - (b) If not, by Verey - red, green, red.
- 11 Sig Offr responsible linking Coys with BHQ by L/T, soon as established.

ACK

Signed at 0655 hrs and issued through Sigs.


 Adjnt 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. Capt

DISTRIBUTION

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------------------|------------|------------------|
| Copy No 1 | A. Coy | Copy No 19 | 2/48 Aust Inf Bn |
| 2 | B " | 20 | 2/24 Aust Inf-Bn |
| 3 | C " | 21 | 26 Aust Inf Bde |
| 4 | D " | 22 | War Diary |
| 5 | HQ " | 23 | " " |
| 6 | Tp Carrying Coy AASC | 24 | File |
| 7 | CO | 25 | Spare |
| 8 | 2 i/v | 26 | " |
| 9 | Adjnt | | |
| 10 | QM | | |
| 11 | I O | | |
| 12 | RMO | | |
| 13 | RSM | | |
| 14 | Sig Offr | | |
| 16 | Mor Offr | | |
| 17 | Pnr Offr | | |
| 18 | Tpt Offr. | | |

R.I. Maps : TRIPOLI 1/50,000.
BATROUN 1/50,000.
KARTABA 1/50,000.

prepared during 6X

att to app 9

SECRET

COPY NO *400*

16 May 42

2/23 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY NO

(for 24 hrs ended 0700 hrs 16 May 42)

SEC A - OP INT

GENERAL

A considerable enemy force possibly one bde with high degree of mobility appears to be conducting rear-gd action in area SOUTH of ENFEH at approx 152266. Small dets have been left behind for apparent purpose of harrassing action and defensive recce. Presence of large number of EA indicates possibility of low level attacks. From examination of captured enemy eqpt it appears new type choking gas may be used.

1. Enemy Disposns -

- (a) Inf 1400 hrs sq 151269 Enemy force approx 1 bn holding high ground in area.
1430 hrs sq 151267 500 tps with supporting arms in area preparing defensive posns.
- (b) MT 1420 hrs 15132694 15 hy MT dispersed on open ground.
- (c) Arty 1430 hrs sq 151267 2 btys arty in posn
0200 hrs Hy gunfire and flashes reported on bearing 205° from ref 15672680.
- (d) AFVs 1400 hrs 151267 16 AFVs dispersed in vicinity ENFEH.

2. Observed Movement -

- (a) 1000 hrs C Coy engaged enemy patrol pt 306. Enemy quickly withdrew.
- (b) 0600 hrs Enemy MT movement reported in vicinity CHEKKA JEDIDE throughout 15-16 May.

3. Enemy air-activity - General

- 2112 hrs Approx 20 EA over bn area flying NW.
0145 hrs 14 bomb explosions heard in vicinity ENFEH.
0630 hrs 8 planes then passed over bn area flying SOUTH.
18 EB escorted by 17 fighters flying SOUTH over bn area.

4. Flares & Sigs

- 2123 hrs Three green, two red flares intervals 15 secs reported NORTH of FIH approx 2 miles from bn area.
0145 hrs 4 parachute flares dropped over ENFEH.
0302 hrs Sig lights observed in village of FIH.

SEC B

TECH & ADM INT

1. Enemy Eqpt -

Mortar bomb, gas.

- (a) Mortar bombs captured from enemy were found upon examination to contain an unknown choking gas. These bombs were of 125 mm and were distinguished by a purple and green band on a grey surface. Further details of this bomb are not available at present.

Conclusion -

Ref para (a) it is apparent that the enemy were prepared to use this gas if conditions had been favourable.

(over)

SEC C

1. Enemy Method of Deception

(a) PWs captured in vicinity of bn area on night 15/16 May disguised themselves as shepherds. Some even went to the extent to disguise themselves as the sheep.

2. Our Patrol Activity

(a) Numerous patrols, sent out from all coys were successful in numerous clashes with enemy patrols. Patrols investigating flares and sigs in vicinity of FIH captured PWs who proved to be enemy agents.

IO, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. Lieut

prepared by Ptes L.R. Wemyss
G.A. Windebank

APPX 10

Ref Maps : LEVANT 1/200,000 Series TRIPOLI
1/50,000 Series TRIPOLI
SIR ED DANIE

War diary
COPY NO 22

29 May 42.

2/23 AUST INF BN OP INSTN (SYRIA) NO 4

INFM

1. Enemy -

In the event of enemy attack upon SYRIA, the following threats are to be anticipated :

- (a) Agents and small sabotage parties landed from submarines.
- (b) Commandos and raiding parties of varying strengths landed from fast motor craft.
- (c) A force of all arms having the object of seizing and holding tactical features.
- (d) Air-borne tps (particularly para-tps).
- (e) Full-scale invasion.

Any combination of the above methods is to be expected.

2. Own Tps -

- (a) Units of NINEH Army have been disposed to meet and counter these threats.
- (b) 26 Aust Inf Bde has been given the following roles :
 - i. Defence of Sector B of the Fortress area.
 - ii. Res for CD in the event of attack by sea-borne tps.
 - iii. Defence against attack by air-borne tps.

INTENTION

3. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will defend sub-sector 1 (vide trace Appx A) of Sector B against attack by air-borne tps.

METHOD

4. Tps Taking Part -

- (a) Air-combat force ~~would~~ ^{will} be constituted :-

Comd - OC No 4 (Car) Pl
Tps - No 4 (Car) Pl (less 2 secs)
No 2 (A.A) Pl
No 5 (Pnr) Pl
One det No 3 (Mor) Pl

- (b) Sole task of this force will be to deal with enemy air-borne tps.
- (c) The force will be carried in unit MF, as detailed for the purpose by TO.

5. Ops -

Comd Air-combat force, with IO, will receive one OP, as a minimum, in sub-sector 1. More than one may be received, if regarded as advisable, but these would be alternative or supplementary to the one selected sub-sector OP.

6. Action on receipt of warning -

On receipt of warning of imminent enemy action indicating possibility of air-borne attack, following action will be taken :-

- (a) Duty officer will immediately inform :-
 - i. IO
 - ii. Comd Air-combat force
 - iii. Adjt
 - iv. TO

(b) I Sec, with detail^s of No 1 (Sig) Pl, will man sub-sector OP.

(c) Air-combat force will stand-to, prepared to move on immediate notice.

(d) Comd Air-combat force will inform Adjt by runner when his force is complete and ready for instant movement.

7. Action in event of attack -

- (a) As speed is the essential factor in dealing with air-borne attack, the unit will:
 - i. Order out Air-combat force.
 - ii. CO will then take any such further action as may be considered necessary to deal with the threat.
- (b) In the absence of any specific order from the CO or his representative, Comd Air-combat force will act on his own responsibility.

8. Current Doctrine -

Attention of Comd Air-combat force is directed to METP 1, Parts I and II, which are on loan from HQ, 26 Aust Inf Bde to I Sec until 31 May, and may be studied on application to IO.

ADM

9. Wpns -

Full WE scale, plus 6 machine carbines; QM to co-ordinate.

10. Amn -

Normal scales on man and with wpn, plus 48 grenades 36 M, distribn of which will be decided forthwith by Comd Air-combat force, and made known to the sub-units under his comd.

11. Tpt -

Unit tpt will be used, allotted by TO in liaison with Comd Air-combat force.

12. POL -

Sufficient for 200 miles to be carried.

13. Sups -

- (a) Two days res rations will be held available by QM at RQM store, ready for immediate loading, to be carried with Air-combat force.
- (b) Emergency rations will be substituted when available.

14. Dress - Normal; battle order with respirator at gas alert posn.

15. Medical -

RAP Ord and 4 SBs, as detailed by RMO, with necessary emergency kit, will travel with HQ, Air-combat force.

INTER-COMM

16. ~~By~~ Air-combat force HQ to OP or BHQ (a) By MC DR, who will travel with force HQ, or by runner.
(b) Possibility of W/T will be investigated.

17. OP to BHQ -

- (a) V/T, supplemented where possible by line comm; sig offr to confer with Comd Air-combat force and IO.
- (b) Should V/T be impracticable, sig offr will report accordingly to BHQ forthwith, and possibility of W/T will be investigated.

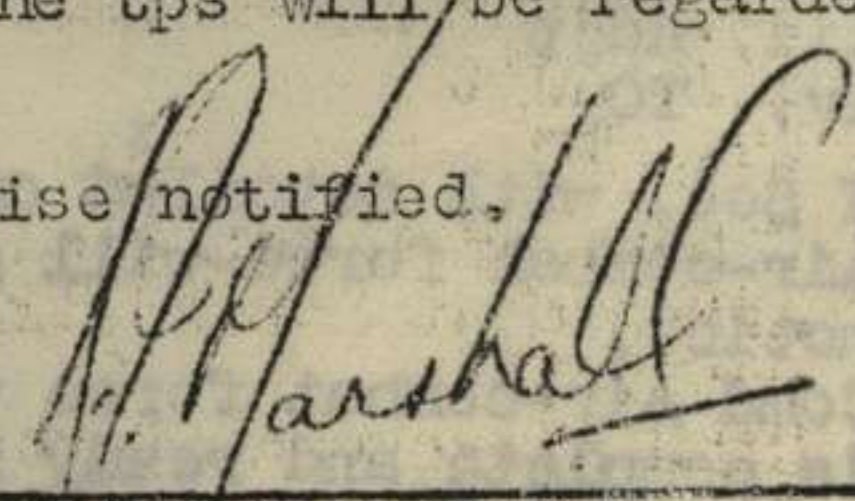
18. Reports -

- (a) Every endeavour will be made, throughout any type of operation undertaken, to keep BHQ informed of progress.
- (b) Duty offr will relay progress reports to duty offr, 26 Aust Inf Bde.
- (c) Result of any action against air-borne tps will be regarded as especially important infm.

19. BHQ - In present location, unless otherwise notified.

ACK

Signed at 1024 hrs and issued through Sigs.


Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

Capt

DISTRIBN OP INSTN :

Copy No	1	HQ Coy	Copy No	14	Adjt
" "	2	Carrier Offr	" "	15	A Coy
" "	3	AA Offr	" "	16	B "
" "	4	Pnr Offr	" "	17	C "
" "	5	Mortar Offr	" "	18	D "
" "	6	TO	" "	19	26 Aust Inf Bde
" "	7	IO	" "	20	2/24 Aust Inf Bn
" "	8	Sig Offr	" "	21	2/48 Aust Inf Bn
" "	9	QM	" "	22	War Diary
" "	10	RMO	" "	23	War Diary
" "	11	RSM	" "	24	File
" "	12	CO	" "	25	Spare
" "	13	2 i/c	" "	26	Spare

DISTRIBN APPX A :

Copy No	1 - 8	incl
" "	12 - 14	incl
" "	22 - 26	incl

APPX A

4/23 PARATP DEFENCE AREA

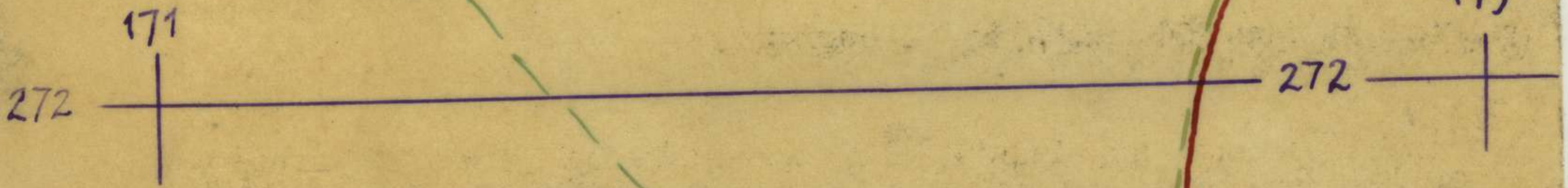
Refs: TRIPOLI 1:50000

SIR ED DANIE 1:50000

LEGEND

Bde bndy —————

Bn bndy - - - - -



Int Sec 4/23 Aust Inf Bn
28 May 42

APPX II

Include into May Diary

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

29 Apr 42.

2/23 AUST INF BN ADM INSTN (SYRIA) NO 5.

The following instns, in accordance with requirements of 26 Aust Inf Bde Exercises, 30 Apr - 6 May 42, are promulgated for necessary action by Coys.

1. Enemy for Bde Exercise -

- (a) A Coy will supply two complete pls (riflemen only - no automatic wpons or mortar 2") to act as portion of enemy force for whole period of Bde Exercises. Pls will report to Capt BRIANT, 2/48 Aust Inf Bn (OC Enemy), at rd and track junc 15842625 at 0730 hrs on each of following days :-
 - 1 May 42
 - 4 May 42
 - 6 May 42
- (b) Pls will march to RV and return to Camp area each night.
- (c) Dress - Battle order, hats KFF, capes AG not required.
- (d) Cut lunches will be carried.

2. Carriers -

Carriers from all Bns, 26 Aust Inf Bde will RV rd junc 15842653 at 0630 hrs daily on dates shown, and will be under comd of Bn carrying out the Exercise.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Under Comd</u>
1 May 42	2/24 Aust Inf Bn
4 May 42	2/48 Aust Inf Bn
6 May 42	2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Cut lunches will be carried - Carriers will return to Camp each night.

Dress - Battle order with capes AG.

No LMGs are available for use in Carriers.

3. Bn Duties -

Mounting Retreat -

30 Apr 42	B Coy
1 May 42	C Coy
2 May 42	A Coy
3 May 42	C Coy
4 May 42	D Coy
Mounting 1000 hrs until 1900 hrs	5 May 42
6 May 42	Balance of A Coy not employed as enemy
Mounting 1900 hrs	6 May 42
Mounting Retreat	7 May 42
Thereafter,	in accordance with Bn Syllabus.

4. Coy Security -

Bn will be engaged in Bde Exercise 5/6 May, and Coys will detail security picquets in Camp area under offr or senior NCO.

5. 26 Aust Inf Bde Mob CD Coy -

A Coy will assume these duties on nights 3/4 and 4/5 May 42, (vide 26 Aust Inf Bde Op Instn No 6) as already arranged.

6. Ration Strengths -

Coys will submit direct to QM by 1200 hrs 4 May, statements showing -

- (a) No of personnel proceeding on exercise.
- (b) No of personnel remaining in Camp area. And, in the case of HQ and A Coys
- (c) No of personnel acting as enemy or in Carrier role absent from Camp area for midday meal 6 May.

QM will co-ordinate messing arrangements. All Camp duties 5/6 May will mess with HQ Coy.

James ... Capt
Adj. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. *Adj.*

DISTRIBUTION : CO, 2 i/c, Adj. QM, IO, RSM, A,B,C,D,HQ Coys, File (2).

File 14

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Ref Maps : TRIPOLI 1/200,000.
LATTAKIA 1/200,000.

25 May 42.

2/23 AUST INF BN ADM INSTN (SYRIA) NO. 6

MALARIA CONTROL - RD TRIPOLI-LATTAKIA

GENERAL

1. Although the following infm may not have immediate application in the present tng programme, it is promulgated for future reference, should any bivouacs etc, be carried out along the general line of rd TRIPOLI - LATTAKIA.

ACTION TAKEN

2. The following action has been taken ref bivouac sites :-
- (a) At rd junc LATTAKIA - HOMS, a large notice has been erected, stating that the whole coastal belt is dangerous.
 - (b) As moderately safe areas, 12 sites have been selected, and signboards erected on track or rd juncs leading to them from the main rd.
 - (c) These notices state :-
ARMY CAMPING SITE
- MILES ALONG THIS TRACK
NETS MUST BE USED.
 - (d) It must be clearly understood that these sites are not definitely "safe areas", but they are selected as relatively the safest available.

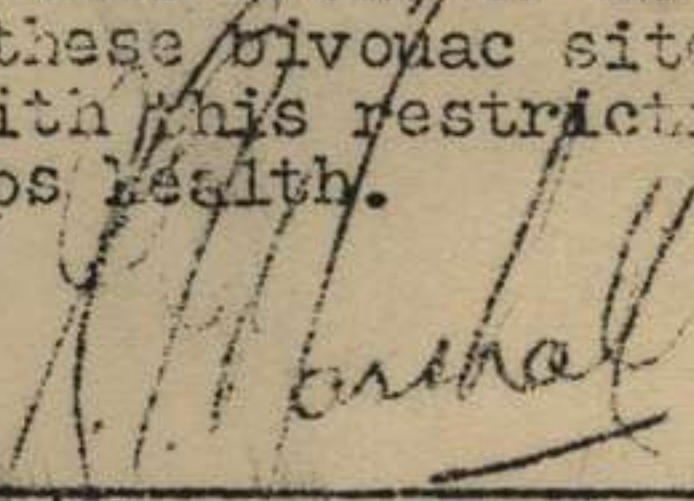
LOCATIONS

3. Signboards are located as follows :-

171308	1 1/2 miles EAST
170315	1 1/4 " "
169319	1 1/4 " "
167322	xxxxx 1/2 mile EAST
167337	on rd
168341	on rd
169354	1/2 mile EAST
173362	" "
177372	1 " "
175378	3 " "
168391	2.8 " "
166532	on rd

SUB-UNIT RESPONSIBILITY

4. It will henceforth be the responsibility of the sub-unit comd conducting exercises, bivouacs, etc, in this area, or moving tps through this area, to ensure that only these bivouac sites are used, and that all ranks are familiar with this restriction, which is imposed in the general interest of tps health.


Adjt 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Capt

DISTRIBN

CO, 2 i/c, Adjt, HQ Coy, A Coy, B Coy, C Coy, D Coy, QM, RMO, IO, TO, RSM, File, Spares (2).

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

2/23 AUST INF BN ADM INSTN (SYRIA) NO 7

AMENDMENT NO 1

1. Owing to long distances between coy localities and ZGHORTA Shower House, coupled with shortage of tpt and trg requirements, para 6 of above Adm Instn is cancelled.
2. Allotments in table, para 2 of above Adm Instn, still stand, but it is no longer obligatory for coys to avail themselves of the full allotments.
3. Henceforth, use of ZGHORTA showers is optional, the only restriction being that a coy intending to use the showers will do so ONLY on the day and between the hrs laid down in table, para 2, of the Adm Instn.
4. Additional tpt requirements will be notified direct to tpt office at least 24 hrs in adv.

Handwritten signature
Adit 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Capt

List

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

2/23 AUST INF BN ADM INSTN (SYRIA) NO 7

SHOWER PARADES

LOCATION

1. Shower House operated by personnel of Mob Bath Unit, 9 Aust Div, is situated at ZGHORTA, and is now under control of HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde.

SUB-UNIT ALLOTMENTS

2. Sub-unit allotments and timings are shown in Table below :-

DAY	1100-1200		1300-1430		1430-1630	
	Sub-unit	allotment	Sub-unit	allotment	Sub-unit	Allotment
MON						
TUE			A Coy C Coy	40 80		
WED					D Coy A Coy	110 50
THU	HQ Coy BHQ	65 15			B Coy C Coy A Coy	110 30 20
FRI						
SAT					HQ Coy BHQ	140 20

CONTROL

3. Attention is directed to Bn R/O No 112/4042, para 711(b) & (c).
4. Bde R/O No 159 lays down that as near as possible, personnel will be sent to the Shower House in parties of 36 at one time. An offr will be i/c each party, and will carry out the duties stated in sub-para (c) of the Bn R/O (ref above).

GENERAL

5. Unit tpt will be used, incl veh or vehs allotted to each sub-unit. Tpt requirements will be co-ordinated by HQ Coy, which will also ensure that each Coy is notified of an embussing time sufficiently early to enable allotments to adhere punctually to the specified hrs.
6. Any sub-unit unable to fill its shower allotment will notify BHQ 24 hrs in adv, stating the number deficient for the ensuing shower parade, and the reason. Shower parades are to be regarded strictly as PARADES.
7. Sub-units will ensure the following :-
 - (a) That all provisions of Bn R/O No 112/4042 para 711, and of this Adm Instn, are complied with.
 - (b) That offr i/c sub-unit parties rigidly insist on compliance with Bn R/O No 112/4042 para 709(a).
 - (c) That ALL tps are clear of Shower House area at termination of each shower parade.
 - (d) That tps carry towels and soap.
 - (e) RSM will detail BHQ parties, and co-ordinate their embussing etc with HQ Coy.

NOTE : Because of extensive demands on unit tpt for tng purposes, Coys will be notified direct by TO of the tpt arrangements for each shower parade, as may happen best to suit the immediate circumstances. This will apply for A & C Coy ~~parties~~ parties on TUE, 26 May and for all other future parades.

[Signature]

 Capt
 Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

28 May 42.

2/23 AUST INF BN ADM INSTN (SYRIA) NO 8

7-DAY LEAVE.

1. It has been decided by Higher Formation to grant 7 days leave to all ranks of 9 Aust Div, to BEIRUT only. Tps in SYRIA are not permitted to take leave outside SYRIA.

2. ALLOTMENTS

(a) Vide Appx A.

(b) Some offrs will be required for Camp Duties, at discretion of Camp Comdt, AIF Camp, and OC Leave and Transit Camp. Such offrs will, at completion of Camp, be given a certificate that they have been on duty during the leave period, and will then be eligible for inclusion in a further leave party.

3. HOTELS AND PENSIONS

(a) Hotels and Pensions for ORs, will be controlled by ACF.

(b) Charges for Hotels and Pensions will be :-

Bed, Breakfast	-	£ S.	1.50
Lunch	-		1.00
Dinner	-		1.00

(c) £ S. 10.50 from each man for 7 beds and breakfasts will be collected by OC Unit leave party, before departure Unit lines, and will be paid to ACF Commissioner on arrival.

(d) Senior offr of each Unit leave allotment, will be regarded as offr i/c Unit leave party. His duties are few and simple, and will not interfere with his leave as such.

(e) Lieut J. W. Hipsley will be leave offr for 26 Aust Inf Bde, for period 3 - 10 Jun. He will report to Major ALLEN, ACF Commissioner, SYRIA, at Hotel Metropole on arrival in BEIRUT, and will be detailed for duty for the leave period by him. He will submit a claim for accommodation, on his return.

4. ACCOMMODATION FOR SENIOR OFFRS

(a) Allotments are at Appx A.

(b) The cost will be :-

i. Single Room	"	250 S. piastres per day
" " with bath	"	375 " " "
Double Room	"	375 " " "
" " with bath	"	600 " " "

If extra beds are put in double rooms, they will be charged at 200 S. piastres per day.

ii. Charges for meals will be :-

Breakfast (French)	75
" (English)	150
Lunch	250
Dinner	300
Tea (Simple)	25
" (Compleat)	75

(a) Leave parties will all be sent complete with empty palliasses, ground sheets, 2 blankets, sandfly nets, eqpt, arms and amn, messing utensils.

(b) Offrs staying in Leave, and Leave and Transit Camps, will require bedding, and those in Leave and Transit Camp will require eating utensils.

(c) Senior offrs staying at New Royal Hotel, will take pistols with them, and will hand them to MP HQ on arrival.

(d) On alarm being given, these offrs will collect their pistols, and report to Garrison Adjnt, 84 Base Sub Area, for orders.

6. ACF PENSIONS

Tps will not take bedding or eating utensils to Hotels or Pensions, but will take arms and eqpt.

7. DISCIPLINE

- (a) It will be the responsibility of the offr i/c Unit leave party, to ensure, before leave parties depart, that personnel are warned of the necessity for :-
- i. Maintaining discipline
 - ii. Being correctly dressed when in the Town
 - iii. NOT visiting areas which are out of bounds
 - iv. Paying strict attention to instns for use of prophylactics and PAC.
- (b) Any person may be returned to his Unit immediately by the Camp Comdt, for any breach of discipline.

8. SECURITY

Tps will be warned that they may be required for a picquet duty. This duty will not fall to any individual on more than one occasion during his leave period.

9. DRESS

- (a) Dress will be as already ordered for all BEIRUT leave parties, and for Sunday leave trips. Sub-units will ensure that only correctly dressed personnel are sent on leave. STRICT ATTENTION will be paid to this.
- (b) All personnel swimming must wear trunks or V's.

10. PASSES

Leave passes will be issued under sub-unit arrangement, and will be handed into BHQ on return for checking against nominal roll. Passes will then be destroyed.

11. UNFILLED QUOTAS

Any sub-unit unable to fill quota, will IMMEDIATELY notify BHQ, so that it may be re-allotted.

12. PAY

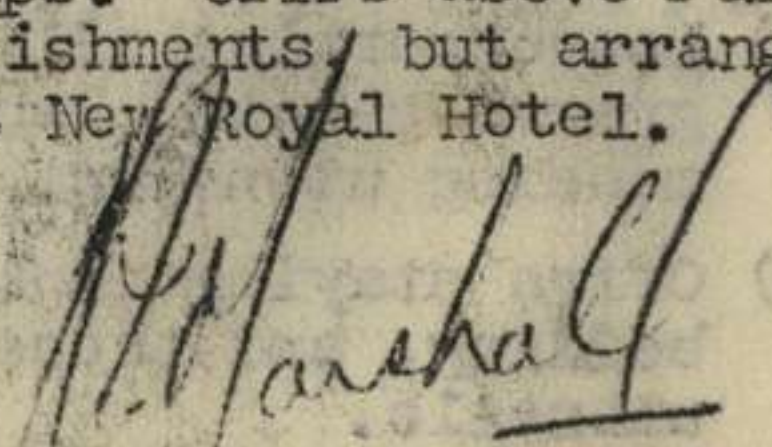
Pay Sgt will arrange for leave personnel to be paid before departure. Limited pay will be available at Leave Camp in emergency only, and then to be paid only on the authority of the Camp Comdt.

13. MOVEMENT, TPT

- (a) Unit tpt will be used, co-ordinated by HQ Coy.
- (b) Personnel will RV at BHQ at a time to be notified.
- (c) Movement instns will be issued separately.

14. OFFRS LEAVE

Offrs up to, and incl rank of Capt, will take their leave in either the Leave or Leave and Transit Camps. Offrs above rank of Capt may take their leave in these establishments, but arrangements are being made for ~~their~~ accommodation at New Royal Hotel.


Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. Capt

DISTRIBN :

CO, 2 i/c, Adjt, HQ, A, B, C, D Coys, QM, RMO, IO, Padre, RSM, Pay Sgt, File, Spares (2).

APPX A - ALLOTMENTS

Sub-Unit	Date	Leave Camp		Leave & Transit		Pensions on Payment (ORs)	New Royal Hotel Senior Offrs Only
		Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs		
BHQ	3-10 Jun		4			1	
	10-17 Jun		3			1	1
HQ COY	3-10 Jun		12	1	10	4	
	10-17 Jun		13	1	10	4	
A COY	3-10 Jun	1	8			2	
	10-17 Jun		9			1	
B COY	3-10 Jun	1	8			1	
	10-17 Jun		9			2	
C COY	3-10 Jun		9			1	
	10-17 Jun	1	8			1	
D COY	3-10 Jun		9			1	
	10-17 Jun	1	8			1	

NOTE : (a) These allotments will be strictly adhered to.
 (b) Movement instns, timings etc, to be notified later.

APPX 12

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS DSO, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 101/4042

619. AA DEFENCE - CAMP AREA

In accordance with instns received from Higher Formation, Coys will receive suitable posn adjacent to Coy Q Store, where MG may be mounted in event of air raids. Tripods, if available, will be kept constantly erected on this site and all personnel of Coy, particularly Ord Rm and Q Store staff, will be acquainted with location. Gun will be manned in event of air raid. Fire will NOT be opened without instns from BHO.

620. BUGLARS

It is desired to train one man per Coy as bugler, and each Coy will, therefore, nominate one man to report to Band Sgt at BHO 1400 hrs 2 May; thereafter each afternoon at the same time until course is complete.

621. BDE EXERCISE - CAPES AG

Bde Exercise in which this Bn will participate 5/6 May, requires all personnel to wear capes AG. Coys will arrange to draw by 1200 hrs 2 May, sufficient from QM to provide for personnel participating in the exercise only. Capes will be retained in present cartons in Coy stores until morning of 5 May, except for small quantity to be used to provide thorough tng for all ranks in rolling and use of capes. Capes will be withdrawn from issue and returned to QM by Retreat 7 May 42.

622. REGTL CANTEN - STAFF

Applications are invited for posn of assistant in Regtl Canteen. Applicants should preferably have had some retail sales experience. Nominations to BHO by Retreat 2 May.

623. CHURCH PARADES

C of E

In accordance with Bn R/O No 96/4 042 para 598.

R.C.

Mass will be celebrated at BURRELL Theatre at 0830 hrs. Parade will fall in under Capt J.M. Methven at 0800 hrs.

624. LATRINES

Alternative latrine pits, minimum depth 15', will be constructed by Coys, forthwith.

625. HEAD-DRESS

Head-dress will be worn by all personnel outside their tents etc, at all times.

[Signature]
Adjt 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Capt

by

Lt-Col E. EVANS DSO, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 102/4042

626. CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

Sub para (b) of Bn R/O No 95/4042, para 586, is cancelled.

627. USE OF TPT WK TICKETS - AF G3518.

9 Aust Div R/O No 278, is rptd :-

- (a) The following instns regarding the use of AF G3518 will be brought into use forthwith.
- i. The authority for issuing AF G3518 will be the OC Unit (or his representative) holding the veh on charge.
 - ii. AF G3518 will be issued for each veh and M/C operated until the form is completed, or for a period of 7 days (whichever is the earlier). The detail at the head of the form will be completed on issue -- the space provided for the date to be inserted will show the date of issue of the form, and the space for the hr of parade will be left blank. Coln 10 (to show the speedometer reading at time of issue) and coln 12 (amount of petrol to be written in words) will also be completed at the same time.
 - iii. (a) The unit providing the veh for duty will complete colns 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 in accordance with the detail to be carried out. Coln 2 must give full details of load and service for each separate journey. General descriptions such as "Coy Duties", "Camp Details", "Staff Car Duties" etc, will NOT be used.
(b) In all cases where the unit supplying the veh is not in possession of sufficient data to complete the colns detailed in iii.(a) above, colns 1 (to show date, time and for whom journey is required) 2 (as far as possible) and 6 only will be completed. The individual or establishment accepting the veh for duty will complete the outstanding colns before the veh commences the detail, and for each subsequent journey which the veh in question may be required to carry out.
 - iv. Tpt wk tickets will be used for all vehs utilised for tng purposes. The details required under colns 3 to 8 will be completed as far as it is feasible to do so.
 - v. A summary of all petrol issued for the period the form is in operation will be recorded on the reverse of the AF G3518 in the space provided at colns 19 or 20, whichever is convenient. This must also appear in AB412 in the appropriate record.
 - vi. Colns 7, 8 and 9 will be completed by the driver at the end of each detail, and the remaining colns will be completed before the AF G3518 is handed in prior to the issue of a new form, i.e. at the end of 7 days or until the form is completed, vide ii above.
 - vii. Vehs carrying out details on repayment will have the word REPAYMENT endorsed in red ink on the AF G3518.
- (b) The above will be strictly complied with except in fwd areas, and disciplinary action is to be taken against anyone reported for an infringement of this order.
- (c) Army HQ will lay down in orders those areas where, for operational reasons, tpt wk tickets will not be used.

628. WASTAGE RETURNS OF WARLIKE STORES

9 Aust Div R/O No 279 is rptd :-

(a) As from 1 Apr 42, units will report wastage twice a month instead of monthly.

(b) Reports will be made as follows :-

i. For the period 1 - 15 of each month, the wastage of all items shown on IE 45 will be reported by units to Bde, Div or Area HQ, for consolidation and transmission to Comds. Statements will be fwded to DOS, GHQ by Comds, not later than the last day of each month.

ii. For the period 16 to the end of each month, the wastage will be reported by units on IE 45A. The heading of the last coln of the return will be amended accordingly. This wastage will then be consolidated in the normal way by Divs, Bdes and Areas, and incl in their consolidated return, which is to reach GHQ by 14 of the following month.

(c) Wastage to be reported is defined as :-

i. Destroyed by Enemy Action or by other means.

ii. Abandoned or Captured.

iii. Rendered unserviceable or Beyond Local Repair.

(d) NIL returns are required.

629. MATCHES - PROHIBITION OF TRANSMISSION BY POST

In view of the serious risk of damage to mails, matches of all kinds incl safety matches, will on no account be sent by post to any address, whether inland or abroad, however carefully packed. Matches come within the category of dangerous or explosive substances and any person who sends or attempts to send matches through the post is liable to prosecution.

630. KIT STOPPAGES

9 Aust Div R/O No 283 is rptd :-

With reference to AIF Standing Orders, 1940, para 224, it is advised that units will prepare Kit Stoppage Sheets for issues on repayment in quadruplicate, three of the copies being for use of Chief Paymaster.

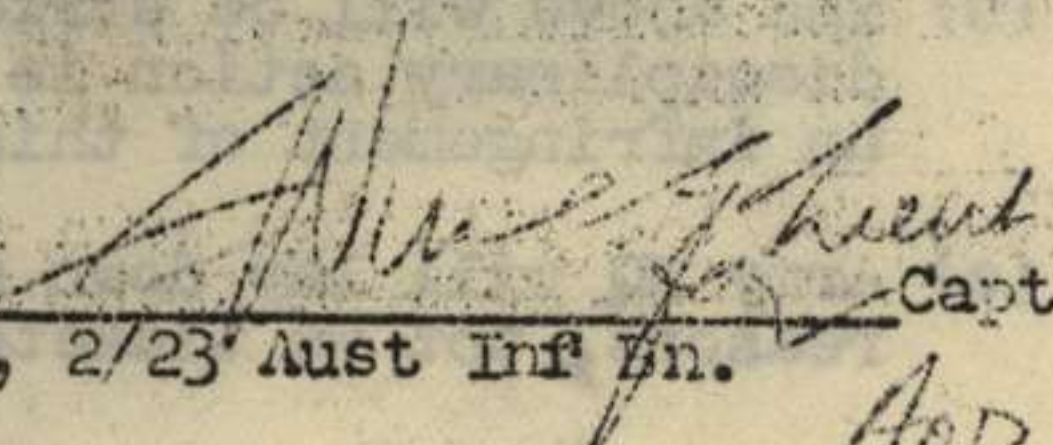
631. ANKLETS, WEB

Anklets, web, will remain on issue to all ranks, but will NOT be worn, except with SD uniform.

Particular attention will be paid to anklets, web, at kit inspections, to ensure that they are not mislaid, and are in serviceable condition.

632. FIRST LINE AMM BOXES

It has been noted that some units have opened boxes of first line amm for the purpose of practicing loading drills and for other reasons. This practice will cease.


Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

Capt

AOD

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS DSO, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 103/4042

633. CORRECT USE OF WATER POINT

The water pt, situated on the rd BECHMEZZINE - AMIOUNE, will be used only as a source of water supply for unit requirements. In the past personnel have been washing clothing and showering under the standpipe at this pt. This practice will cease immediately.

634. PETROL IN HYDRO-BURNERS

The practice of filling Cookers, Portable No 1 Burners (Hydro-Burners) with petrol, in place of kerosene, will cease forthwith. It is pointed out that the slightest leak in the tk of these burners allows sufficient fumes to rise and possibly be ignited. If these are petrol fumes, a large explosion inevitably results. Comds will give this matter their strict and urgent attention. Centravention of this order should be the subject for severe disciplinary action.

635. BDE EXERCISE - SECURITY CAMP AREA

Bn Ord and Gd duties, and Bn Duty Offr at Rear BHQ, as arranged Coy. Comds conference, will mount 1000 hrs 5 May 42.

636. STRAW

Issue of 7 lbs of straw per man for use in palliasses, will be made on 7 May. Coys will arrange for old straw to be burnt. RSM will supervise arrangements BHQ personnel.

637. REMITTANCES - AUSTRALIA TO ME

Personnel who have received advice of remittances from AUSTRALIA, which have so far not been credited in their paybooks, will submit through Coys to Bn Pay Sgt, a full statement of the particulars of the remittance, incl No, rank, name of intended recipient, date and identity of sender, and amount of remittance. Pay Sgt will investigate and endeavour to expedite.

638. BOUNDS - VILLAGES

Ref Bn R/O No 93/4042, para 574.

- (a) Local leave may now be granted to the villages of BECHMEZZINE and/or AMIOUNE. Leave passes will bear the name of village to which leave has been granted.
- (b) Total of personnel per Coy proceeding on leave to either villages, will NOT exceed allotment given in para (b) of above order.
- (c) It is again emphasised that leave to these two villages is a concession, and its continuance will depend on maintenance of good order, proper military bearing and dress by tps. All personnel will, as hitherto, return to Camp before "Lights Out".

639. C of I

A C of I consisting of the under-mentioned offrs --

President

Major R. E. WALL - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Members

Capt J. S. CUMPSTON - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
Lieut R. PAINE - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

will assemble at such time and place as the President may appoint, for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting upon injuries sustained by VX42340, Pte LAPPIN C. J., at BECHMEZZINE on 25 Apr 42.

[Handwritten Signature]
Adj 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. Capt
AOD

For Official Use Only

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ROUTINE ORDERS

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
AIF (ME),
7 May 42

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS DSO. Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 104/4042.

640. C of I

The C of I convened in Bn R/O No 103/4042, para 639, will also assemble at such time and place as the President may appoint, for the purpose of inquiring into, and reporting upon the circumstances of the accident in which injuries were sustained by VX28976, Col O'SHAUGHNESSY K.

The attention of the Court is directed to 9 Aust Div Adm Instn No 37.

641. RECCE - FD FIRING

Further to Bn R/O No 81/4042, para 507 of 21 Mar 42, the following will accompany Major H. R. BIRCH on recce conducted by HQ, 26 Aust Inf Bde of fd firing range, near ZNABILE on 11 May, embussing at BHQ at 0840 hrs, for RV at HQ, 26 Aust Inf Bde at 0900 hrs :-

Rifle Coy Comds
2 i/c's A & D Coys
I.O.
Sig Offr
Mortar Offr
Safety Offrs (Lieuts J.V. HIPSLEY, and
E.J.P. JONES)

Haversack lunch required.

HQ Coy to arrange one veh to accompany CO's car.

[Handwritten signature]

Capt

Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

NOTICES

APPRECIATION -

A message has been received from CO, 2/48 Aust Inf Bn (Lt-Col J. HAMMER), expressing thanks and appreciation for the co-operation of personnel and vehs from this Unit with his bn in the recent 2-day exercise.

Following this Unit's exercise of 5/6 May, a similar message has been sent to 2/24 and 2/48 Aust Inf Bns to express thanks and appreciation for their co-operation.

FILMS - DEVELOPING

Films may be deposited at Unit Canteen for developing on Mondays and Wednesdays. These may be picked up on Wednesdays and Mondays respectively, when payment will be made.

"GONE WITH THE WIND"

During its screening at the Roxy and Rex theatres, TRIPOLI, tps will be permitted to see this film during afternoon session only, 1400-1800 hrs. This Unit has been allotted 180 seats for Rex theatre, 13 May, sub-divided as follows :-

BHQ 10
HQ Coy 54
Each Rifle Coy 29

Passes - Sub-units will issue leave passes to personnel attending this screening, with destination "Gone with the Wind ONLY".

Prices - Balcony 120 PT, Stalls 80 PT.

Control - The following will be incl in above sub-unit allotments :-

- BHQ One NCO
- HQ Coy 2 offr, 5 NCOs
- Each Rifle Coy 1 offr, 3 NCOs

Unit tpt will be used, tps embussing at tpt lines at 1300 hrs.
 Convoy will travel back empty to Unit lines, and return to theatre to
 embus tps at conclusion of screening, approx 1745 hrs.
 Senior offr present will be i/c convoy and party.

T Sec

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

For Official Use Only

ROUTINE ORDERS

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
AIF (ME),
9 May 42.

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS DSO, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Og Part I - No 105/4042

642. LEAVE - BEIRUT

(a) The following leave allotment is made for BEIRUT, 15 - 17 May :-

HQ Coy	10
Each Rifle Coy	5
BHQ	2

- (b) Offr i/c Unit leave party will be Lieut H. J. BOAS, who will NOT be incl as part of A Coys leave allotment.
- (c) Nominal rolls of leave personnel will reach BHQ not later than 1000 hrs 11 May.
- (d) HQ Coy will arrange tpt, which will tpt personnel of RAA 9 Aust Div to their Unit areas on return journey, under direction OC convoy.
- (e) Leave personnel will parade at BHQ at 0715 hrs 15 May, for inspection by Bn Ord Offr; ombus 0725 hrs at tpt lines.
- (f) Summer dress will be worn, after sundown changing to trousers KD and sweaters.
- (g) Unit convoy will form up facing NORTH on rd BECHMEZZINE - TRIPOLI with leading veh at rd junc of rds BSARMA - TRIPOLI, BECHMEZZINE - TRIPOLI by 0745 hrs; convoy will leave at 0800 hrs 15 May.
- (h) Report of Offr i/c Unit leave party, as required by 9 Aust Div Adm Instn No 65, para 7, will reach BHQ by Retreat 17 May.
- (i) Sub-unit comds are warned that all provisions of En R/O No 62/4042 para 383, with amendment in Bn R/O No 66/4042 para 405, must be complied with.
- (j) Return journey - Tpt of 20 Aust Inf Bde Gp will be responsible for returning all tps to Unit area.

643. ILLICIT TRADING

- (a) Illicit trading by tps in this area has been detected.
- (b) All ranks are again warned that trading of clothing, eqpt and foodstuffs is a most serious offence, and will be accordingly dealt with.
- (c) Sub-unit comds, assisted by all other offr, will give this matter their strictest attention.

644. CAFES - BECHMEZZINE - AMIOUNE

26 Aust Inf Bde R/O No 146 is rptd, for infm and action :-

(a) The following cafes have been placed "IN BOUNDS TO TPS" in the above villages.

i. BECHMEZZINE

<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Proprietor</u>	<u>Licence No</u>
Victory Bar	SALIM TANNOUS	38
Windsor Bar	ELIAS TANNOUS	39
Kangaroo Bar	GEORGE BARAKAT	53
"V" Bar	ELIAS G. JEHA	52
Imperial	ASSAD BARAKAT	40
Warren Bar	ABDULL. SALVIDOR JEHA	54
Aussie Bar	ASSAD JEHA	41
Rising Sun Bar	FARID I. MILKIE	55

- 3 -

A Coy - Lieut H. J. BOAS
" R. BUICK

B Coy - Lieut R. PAINE

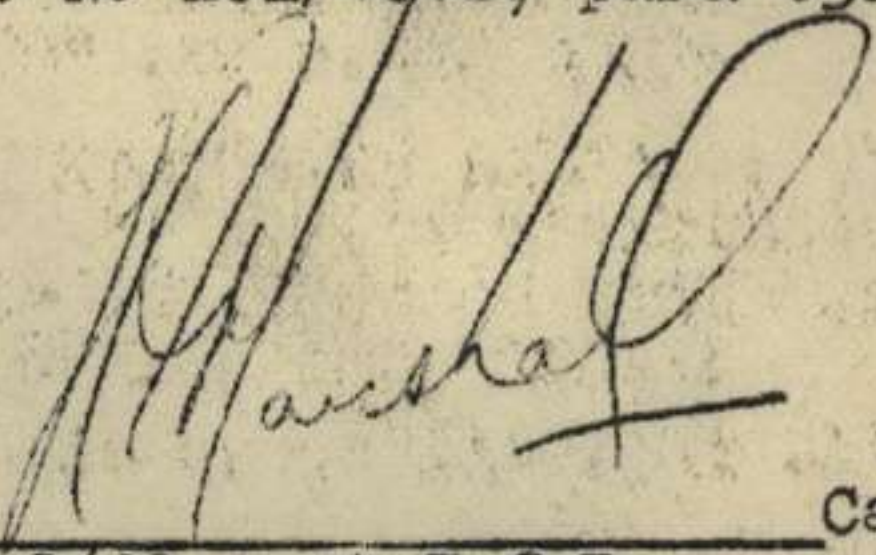
C Coy - Capt J. M. METHVEN
Lieut H. F. K. McLEOD

D Coy - Lieut F. V. TIETYENS
" W. J. VINES

647. CHURCH PARADES

C of E - In accordance with Bn R/O No 96/4042, para 598.

R.C. - In accordance with Bn R/O No 101/4042, para 632.


Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Capt

by

Lt-Col R. EVANS DSO, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 106/4042

648. KIT LOSSES - 9/10 MAY 42

The following kit losses are promulgated in accordance with AIF (IE) Order No 596, to impress again on all ranks the necessity for rigorous safeguard of WD stores and eqpt on issue or on charge to them :-

Identity of Loser . VX48182 L/Sgt ABBISS G H

1 Pr Khaki Shorts	2 Prs Boots AB
1 Khaki Shirt	1 Pr Trousers KB

Identity of Loser. VX29820 Pte CUNNINGHAM J G

1 Sea Kitbag	1 Universal Kit Bag (No and Name on bag)
1 Waterbottle	
1 " Carrier	2 Prs Drawers (cotton)
2 Woollen Shirts	2 " " (woollen)
1 Khaki Shirt	2 Singlets (woollen)
1 Pr Khaki Shorts	1 Singlet (cotton)
1 Holdall	3 Prs Socks
	1 Housewife

Identity of Loser. VX48342 Pte BLACK G

1 Sea Kitbag	1 Universal Kitbag (No and Name on bag)
2 Woollen Shirts	
2 " Singlets	1 Pr Braces
2 Cotton " "	1 Cap FS
2 Prs Cotton Drawers (long)	3 Prs Socks
2 " " " (short)	1 Housewife
	1 Dental Plate

649. CUT STONE - REMOVAL OF

- Stone will NOT be removed from any quarry without the approval of CRE, 9 Aust Div.
- Sub-units will make application for such approval to BHQ.
- Under no circumstances will cut stone be removed from any building, wall or stack.

650. BROTHEL - CHEKKA

The brothel at CHEKKA is for the use of BASUTO tps only. Severe disciplinary action will be taken against any other troops using it.

651. DRESS - LEAVE

9 Aust Div RO No 297 states that troops are still arriving in TRIPOLI on leave untidily and improperly dressed. Sub-unit comds will ensure that all ranks are properly dressed before proceeding on leave.

652. FISHING

9 Aust Div RO No 298 is repeated :-

- A party of approx 50 Australian troops recently borrowed boats from the R.N. and went fishing in dangerous areas outside the harbour.

(b) In order to prevent a recurrence of this breach of Port Regulations, in future this HQ is to be advised of the name of the O.C. and the size of the party and its time of arrival at the harbour.

653. SHIRTS - PERSONNEL ENTERING TRIPOLI TOWN

9 Aust Div RO No 299 is repeated :-

(a) Under no conditions will personnel enter the town of TRIPOLI on foot or on vehicles unless wearing shirts.

(b) Disciplinary action will be initiated by anyone apprehending personnel committing a breach of this order.

654. DISCIPLINE - SALUTING OF ALLIED OFFICERS

9 Aust Div RO No 300 is repeated :-

When two or more officers meet an Allied officer or officers, all the officers will either salute or acknowledge the salute of the Allied officers as the case may be.

The rank of British or Allied officers is immaterial.

655. TIMBER SHORTAGE - MIDDLE EAST

9 Aust Div RO No 303 is repeated :-

(a) Owing to a world shortage it is necessary to ensure extreme economy in wood and the use of wooden articles in the Middle East.

(b) Great care will be taken to conserve wooden articles in general use, such as tables, trestles, forms, tent poles, tent pegs, etc; they will be repaired when damaged and retained in use until completely worn out. Wooden packing cases are of equal economic value and will on no account be destroyed or used as firewood.

(c) This shortage^{of} wood can only be made good by all personnel obeying this order in the right spirit and co-operating in economy of this important commodity.

656. Cs of I - ILLEGAL ABSENTEES

Sub-unit Comds are informed that the CO will order Cs of I in all cases in which a period of illegal absence exceeds 20 clear days, and immediately on the expiration of such period.

657. SIGNAL TIME

9 Aust Div RO No 307 is repeated :-

Throughout the Middle East all the Services will use the Greenwich time signal for synchronisation. This is radiated by the B.B.C. Empire Service at frequent intervals during the day. The exact time is recorded by the last "pip". The necessary corrections will be made in local time.

658. POL - OPENING OF 4 GALL TINS (LIGHT)

(a) Many 4 gall tins (light) are being opened with beer tin openers, thus completely ruining the tins either for refilling or reconditioning.

(b) Correct way to open 4 gall tins (light) is to pierce the top $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch away from the edge leaving cap untouched; special opening tool should always be used.

(c) Disciplinary action will be taken against those rendering tins US through improper opening.

[Signature]
dit 2/23 Aust Inf Br Capt

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS DSO, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 107/4042

659. CASH PAYMENTS TO SOLDIERS IN HOSPITAL

9 Aust Div R/O No 302 is rptd :-

- (a) In consequence of the introduction of war pay under A.O.161 of 1941, the max cash payments issuable to military patients have been revised, and, in future, such payments will not exceed the following weekly amounts :-

WOs	-	13/6
S/Sgts & Sgts	-	10/6
Cpls & Bombardiers	-	8/6
Ptes or equivalent ranks		8/6
Boys		2/-

- (b) In the case of a patient of the rank of pte or equivalent rank who is subject to hospital charges owing to sickness due to his own fault, or certified to have been caused by an offence under the Army Act, the cash payment issuable will not exceed a max of 5/6 per week.
- (c) It must be understood that the amounts shown above are the max weekly cash payments issuable to military patients in hospital.
- (d) Cash payments to all soldiers are governed by the net rate of pay shown in their A.Bs 64 (Part II) and cash payments in hospital must be based on such net rate of pay subject to the max quoted above.
- (e) Where the patient's A.B.64 (Part II) indicates that the individual is in debt, weekly cash payments while in hospital must be limited to the appropriate restricted rate laid down in Army Order No 66 of 1941.

660. ARMS - LOOT TRAFFIC

9 Aust Div R/O No 305 draws attention to GHQ (ME) General Order No 614, which it repeats :-

"It has been definitely established that members of H.M. Forces have been selling captured arms and amm.

From this, it is clear that the existing orders on this subject are not being obeyed. All ranks are reminded that it is forbidden to retain in their possession any public property found on the battlefield. Anyone who disposes of captured arms to other persons is directly assisting the enemy, since such arms find their way to those who work for the enemy. Such action is an offence punishable by a sentence of two years' imprisonment.

Any captured war material in the possession of army personnel will be surrendered immediately.

This order will be rptd in all unit orders and brought to the notice of all ranks"

661. ANTI-WASTE

9 Aust Div R/O No 306 is rptd :-

There is considerable wastage of envelopes consequent upon the failure of senders to use Economy labels in the correct manner.

- (a) If envelopes with gummed flaps are used --- labels will be used and the flaps will NOT be sealed down.
- (b) If envelopes with gumless flaps are used --- the flaps will NOT be sealed down with adhesive in addition to the use of the labels.

662. GRENADES, No 36 M - PINHOLES IN DETONATOR SLEEVE

9 Aust Div R/O No 311 is rptd :-

Pinholes are sometimes present in the partition between the detonator sleeve and the striker sleeve of grenades, No 36 M, and this defect has recently been the subject of complaints to the War Office. In order, therefore, to ascertain whether or not prematures can arise from this cause, extensive trials have been carried out on selected grenades showing this defect, and also on grenades prepared as follows :-

- (a) With 8 or 9 holes of 3/32 inch diameter drilled through the partition.
- (b) With the partition entirely removed.

All grenades in these trials fired successfully without mishap.

It appears, therefore, that in a grenade showing this defect, the flash from the cap will not penetrate the detonator body and that the possibility of prematures from this cause is extremely remote; no further reports of this fault will therefore be made.

Grenades found with holes or cracks elsewhere in the body should, however, continue to be reported to inspecting ordnance offrs in the normal way.

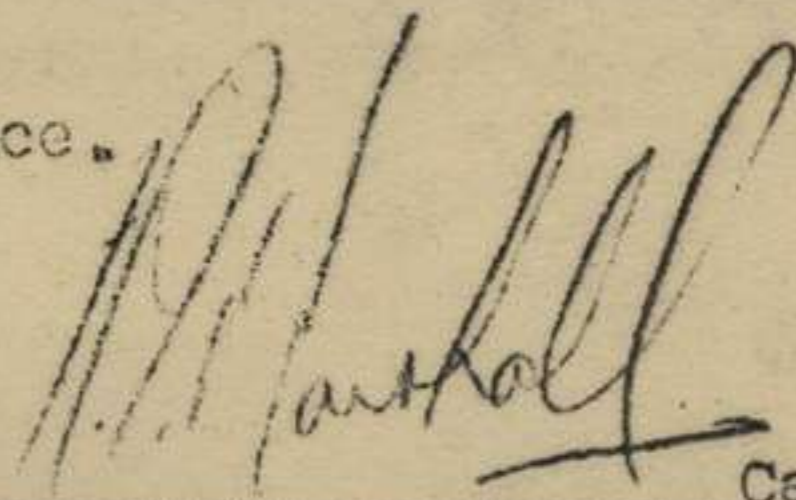
663. ANKLETS WEB

Until issue of puttees short to all ranks is completed, Bn R/O No 102/4042, para 631 will be suspended.

664. WHEAT HARVEST - SYRIA

Nominations are required at BHQ NOT LATER THAN 1300 hrs 13 May, of experienced offrs and ORs to assist in the wheat harvest in SYRIA.

Applicants will briefly state experience.



Capt

Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

NOTICES

PENTECOST SERVICE

A Pentecost Service will be held at TRIPOLI Synagogue at 0930 hrs on 22 May 42.

All Jewish personnel may attend.

PICTURE SHOW

Pictures, operated by Chap Porter, will be shown on Bn Parade ground, Wed 13 May, commencing at 1945 hrs.

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS DSO, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 108/4042.

665. ARMY DRIVING LICENCES

Name of Unit will be deleted immediately from all Army driving licences (AAF G11) and will NOT, in future, be entered in them.

666. EVACUATION OF CAPTURED MATERIAL FROM FWD AREAS

AIF (ME) Order No 1087 is rptd :-

- (a) Experience has shown that the value to Intelligence, and therefore to the prosecution of the war, of captured material of every type is not realised by all ranks. This lack of understanding has resulted in delay in handing over and reporting captured stores.
- (b) Wef the date of this order, whenever a unit or formation captures and retains any enemy material, a report will be rendered as soon as possible to the higher formation concerned with copies direct to GSI, GHQ, MEF, in triplicate.
- (c) Whenever practical and necessary, a gd will be mounted over any article obviously of special value from an Intelligence point of view immediately it is captured.
- (d) If a unit or formation wishes to retain an article, this fact, and the reasons for wishing to retain it, should be noted in the report called for in para (b) above. Permission to retain any article may be granted by the higher formation to whom the report is made, but this permission may be withdrawn later on instns from GHQ, MEF. Full use will be made of Intelligence offrs of the staffs of formations to decide whether a captured item is of value to intelligence. Any articles so retained will be counted as being on unit charge and will be taken into consideration when deficiencies in G1098 eqpt are made good.
- (e) Any requests from units which have already been sent direct to GHQ, MEF for permission to retain captured articles, and for which no authority for retention has yet been received from GHQ, MEF, will be considered cancelled. Such requests should now be re-submitted to the next higher formation for decision.
- (f) Disciplinary action will be taken in any case of breach of this Order or in any case of stealing, tampering with, or being in unauthorised possession of, captured enemy material.
- (g) The term captured enemy material includes any and every store or article of eqpt or documents. It also includes re-captured British eqpt.

667. ALLOTMENT OF PAY - ACTING RANK & ACTING TRADE CLASSIFICATION

The following is rptd from AIF (ME) Order No 1089 :-

- (a) Approval is given for soldiers granted acting rank and acting trade classification to increase their allotments if they so desire.
- (b) Before such allotment is increased, the soldier will be warned that any overpayment caused by the continuance of such increased allotment, after his reversion to substantive rank or relinquishment of trade classification, will be liquidated by restricting his drawing rate.
- (c) It is therefore incumbent on the soldier to reduce his allotment immediately he reverts to substantive rank or relinquishes his trade classification.

668. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CASUALTIES

AIF (ME) Order No 1090 is rptd :-

(a) The effective date of casualties will be determined as follows :-
PROMOTIONS, REVERSIONS, etc. The effective date is that date mentioned in Unit Part II Orders, and any variation of pay will operate on and from that date, e.g.;

A Pte promoted to Cpl on 1 May 42 will be paid as a Cpl on and from that date. A Cpl reverted to the ranks on 1 May 42 will be eligible for pay as a Cpl on 30 Apr 42 and as a Pte on and from 1 May 42.

TRADE GROUPINGS. A specialist (Pte) who is promoted will relinquish his trade grouping on the date prior to that on which he is promoted, e.g.;

A specialist promoted to Cpl on 1 May 42 will be eligible for pay as a specialist up to and including 30 Apr 42, and his pay as a Cpl will commence on 1 May 42. He will be shown in Part II orders as :-

Relinquished Trade Group Grade (-) 30- 4-42
Promoted Cpl 1- 5-42

(b) AIF (ME) Order No 110 of 22 Nov 40 is cancelled.

669. INTESTINAL DISEASES

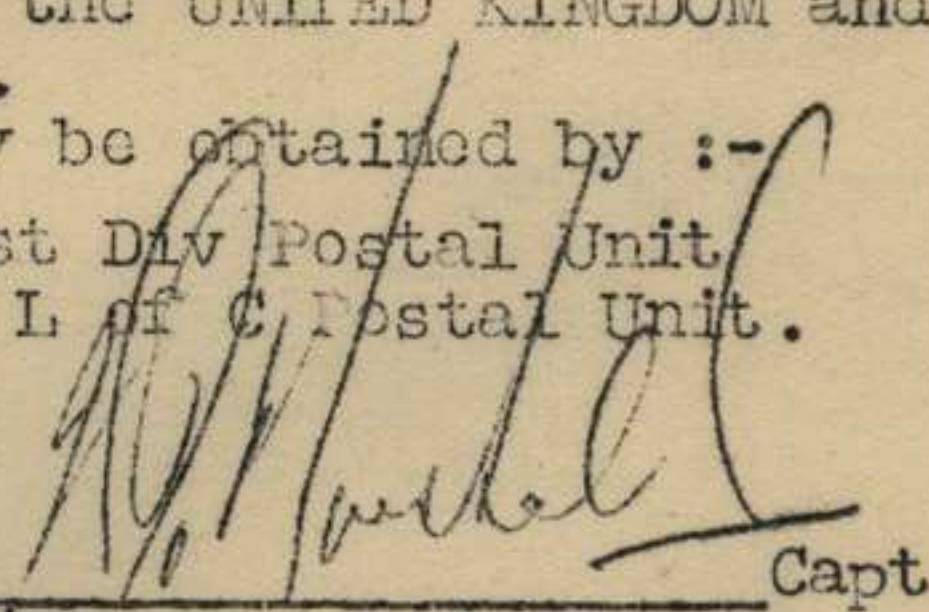
- (a) Cases admitted to hospitals and CRS's suffering from dysentery, enteritis, etc, are increasing in number.
- (b) That this increase represents a seasonal incidence due predominantly to the prevalence of flies is obvious, and it devolves upon all sub-unit comds, orderly offrs and medical offrs to ensure that no effort is spared to remove the possibilities of fly breeding, protect food from contamination, and destroy adult insects.
- (c) Aust Fd Hyg Secs are at all times prepared to demonstrate methods of fly control to representatives of units seeking such advice.

670. AIR MAIL LETTER CARDS

The following is rptd from AIF (ME) Order No 1101 :-

- (a) Although Air Mail for AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND is NOT at present acceptable, the air mail services to the UNITED KINGDOM and other Empire countries are still operative.
- (b) Supplies of air mail letter cards may be obtained by :-

9 Aust Div Units - From 9 Aust Div Postal Unit
Base & L of C Units - From No 1 L of C Postal Unit.



Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

NOTICES

ANZAC DAY MESSAGE

The following cable has been received from the Chief of the Imperial General Staff on the occasion of Anzac Day :-

"Please convey the following message to all Australians and New Zealanders serving in the Middle East :-

We are thinking with pride of Anzacs, who, on this Anzac Day, stand so themselves in preparation for the time when offensive war will be waged on the enemy."

CAIRO CASH OFFICE

It is advised that AIF Cash Office at CAIRO has been closed.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

For Official Use Only

ROUTINE ORDERS

HQ 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
AIF (ME)
15 May 42

by

Lt-Col E. EVANS DSO, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 109/4042

671. FIRE PRECAUTIONS

All sub-unit lines will be inspected once weekly by Unit PAD Offr (Lieut F. W. Tietyens) to ensure that appliances are adequate, and in satisfactory condition.

672. WORLD PRESS REVIEW

9 Aust Div R/O No 301 is rptd :-

- (a) The attention of all ranks is drawn to the announcement of the beginning of a new series for the above publication, commencing 3 May.
- (b) World Press Review, as from the above date, will be on sale to all ranks of the Fighting Services ONLY at the price of PT(EGY)2 per copy.
- (c) Subscriptions are invited. The only way to procure a copy is to place an order. Individual subscriptions may be taken out at the rates specified below or Units may place orders in bulk which will be invoiced monthly at the price given above, less 10% discount.
- (d) Subscription rates are as under. These cancel all previous announcements :-

	<u>Sterling</u>	<u>Palestine</u>	<u>Syrian</u>
3 months	5/-	250 mils	LS2.20
6 "	10/-	500 "	LS4.41
12 "	20/-	LP 1	LS8.83."

- (e) Coys will give wide publicity to above announcement and will notify BHQ by Retreat 16 May of the number of copies required or likely to be required each week in their Coys. RSM will collate BHQ requirements. Unit arrangements will be made to purchase this publication in bulk.

673. GDS & SENTRIES

Sentries and picquets both on bn and coy gds, must be impressed with the necessity for halting and correctly identifying all people attempting to enter camp area whether in military uniform or not. This will apply to anyone whom the sentry is unable to identify positively as a member of the unit. Normal proof of identity such as paybook or identity discs must be produced. In cases of doubt or where identification is unsatisfactory, the person will be escorted to BHQ for further investigation of his credentials.

Existing orders for bn gd will be amended to incl this instn, and coys will ensure that it is also incl in orders to coy picquets.

674. COURT OF INQUIRY

A C of I consisting of the under-mentioned offrs -

PRESIDENT

Capt D. MAXWELL-WRIGHT - 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

MEMBER.

Lieut N. McMASTER - HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde

will assemble at such time and place as the PRESIDENT may appoint for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting upon the circumstances of the loss of personal kit and issue eqpt on charge to 2/23 Aust Inf Bn during night 9/10 May 42.

The attention of the Court is directed to 9 Aust Div R/O No 470.

675. CAFES - BECHMEZZINE & AMIOUNE

(a) Further to Bn R/O No 105/4042, para 644, the following additional cafes have been granted liquor licences to sell Beer, Light Wines and Soft drinks in the following villages and, therefore, place "IN BOUNDS" to tps of this bn :-

i. BECHMEZZINE

<u>Cafe.</u>	<u>Proprietor</u>	<u>Licence No</u>
ROYAL EXCHANGE BAR	MICHAEL ELIAS	56

ii. AMIOUNE

ST GEORGE BAR		57
OCCIDENTAL BAR	ANTONIOS KHOZAMI	58
ALEXANDER BAR	SAID AMINTOUMA	59
ESPLANADE BAR	ABRAHAM JURJUS SOUAD	60

(b) The cafe in BECHMEZZINE, known as "MENZIES" (proprietor GEORGE GAZI) and holding licence No 56, is to be considered forthwith "OUT OF BOUNDS" to all tps. The licence, therefore, has been withdrawn from the proprietor.

[Handwritten signature]

Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Capt

[Handwritten initials]

NOTICES

FREE POSTAGE - CIVIL ADDRESSES, PALESTINE

The PMG, PALESTINE, has given approval for the extension to the AIF (ME) of the same concessions as apply to the British Army in respect to postage to civilian addresses in PALESTINE.

This provides for free postage on articles up to two ounces.

All such articles should be endorsed at the top of the envelope with the words, "On Active Service".

LECTURE - ALL OFFRS

A lecture will be given at 1130 hrs Mon 18 May in Offrs' Mess, by Capt Westmoreland, OC 10 Mule Coy, RIASC.

Subject - Mule Management. All offrs, except duty offr, will attend.

[Handwritten 'Rec' with arrow]

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

For Official Use Only.

ROUTINE ORDERS

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
AIF (ME),
18 May 42.

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS DSO, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 110/4042

676. BOTTLED LIQUOR

Attention of all ranks will be drawn immediately to Bn R/O No 66/4042, para 403.

677. LIQUOR - LEAVE PARTIES

Attention of all ranks will be drawn immediately to Bn R/O No 74/4042, para 462.

678. GDS & SENTRIES - SECURITY

All sub-units will again read on parade, Bn R/O No 109/4042, para 673, followed by 9 Aust Div R/O No 321, which is rptd below :-

- "(a) All ranks will carry paybooks or identity cards at all times for identification purposes.
- (b) All sentries will be instructed that they will examine the paybook or identity card of every individual approaching their posts, by day or by night, if the identity of that individual is not personally known to them. This order will be carried out irrespective of rank or of the uniform (AIF, British, Dominion or Allied) that the individual may be wearing.
- (c) If an individual fails to produce a paybook or identity card, the sentry will on no account permit him to enter military premises or areas without first securing the authority of an offr personally known to him.
- (d) Sentries will be instructed to scrutinise carefully all passes carried by civilians and will be warned that permits to carry on business as bootblacks, etc, will NOT be considered as authority to enter Military premises or areas."

679. LOOTING - BATHING BOXES - HAKIM PLAGE

By removing planks, tps have been destroying bathing boxes on Hakim Plage, SOUTH of TRIPOLI. This looting will cease.

The CO will hold as personally responsible to him, any sub-unit comd whose tps are apprehended contravening this order. All offr will co-operate, to ensure that there are no further breaches.

680. CIVIL CEREMONIES - ATTENDANCE

NO OFFR may attend Official Civil Ceremonies without applying first to BHQ, so that advice may be obtained from 9 Aust Div HQ, and/or the local Political Offr consulted.

681. HARVEST - CULTIVATED AREAS

During approaching harvest, special care will be taken to avoid damage of crops and olive trees.

During harvest, an increase in number of civilians working in Camp vicinity must be expected, and security measures will, therefore, be maintained at a high level.

682. BOOTS - RETURN TO ORDNANCE

Boots returned to RSDs will be tied in pairs. To prevent pilfering, boots will whenever possible, be despatched in cases, packing, or in sacks.

110 incomplete

683. UNIT SECURITY OFFRS

9 Aust Div R/O No 317 is rptd :-

Middle East General Order 59 is republished for inclusion in Unit Orders :-

- (a) In every Headquarters, Unit or Establishment, one offr will be detailed as Unit Security Offr. The most suitable Senior Offr will be selected; normally the Second-in-Command.
- (b) Security Offrs will be instructed in their turn by Intelligence Staff of Higher Formations, who from time to time assemble the Security Offrs and explain to them their share in current work outside their normal responsibilities in their unit, and any points of detail that require their special attention.
- (c) The duties of Unit Security Offrs are given in :-
 - i. M.M.I. in the Field pamphlet No. 2 (7938).
 - ii. Army Tng Manual No. 38 appx "A".
 - iii. Middle East Tng Pamphlet No. 9 (To be published shortly).

684. POSTAL - DISCLOSURE OF LOCATION OF UNITS BY MILITARY PERSONEL.

- (a) A widespread disregard of Fd Censorship Regulations and the ordinary dictates of security is existent. Units, messes and Offrs, particularly of Base Installations, constantly offend by disclosing to tradesmen, banks and the like, the name and location of their particular unit.
- (b) To give personnel sufficient time to notify their correct Military Address to correspondents and also to warn correspondents against using incorrect forms of address, a period of grace will be granted.
- (c) All correspondence addressed to Military Formations, Units or Personnel, disclosing location, will be returned to the sender as undeliverable.

685. SECURITY - DESTRUCTION OF INTELLIGENCE SUMMARIES.

9 Aust Div R/O No 320 is rptd:-

- (a) Subject to any necessary cutting for collation purposes, all Intelligence Summaries, whether issued by this HQ or by Higher Formations, will be burnt within ten days of receipt.
- (b) During active operations all Intelligence Summaries will be burnt within 48 hrs of receipt.
- (c) Formations and Units will review their files immediately and will ensure that destruction, in accordance with this order, is completed without delay.

686. VISITS TO SOUTHERN PALESTINE.

9 Aust Div R/O No 334 is rptd:-

Under no conditions will any visits be made to Southern PALESTINE by any Offrs or personnel, without authority from this HQ as it is now AIF HQ Area.

687. CANTEEN STORES LABELLED A.C.F.

9 Aust Div R/O No 335 is rptd:-

It has been noted that a small number of tins containing fine cut tobacco and bearing the A.C.F. label, have been included with

cartons of tobacco purchased by A.A.C.S.

Any tins purchased by units from A.A.C.S. which are marked with an A.C.F. label will be returned to A.A.C.S., and will NOT be sold.

687. WIRING PICKETS.

9 Aust Div R/O No 336 is rptd :-

Wiring pickets will NOT be used for purposes other than wiring, such as supporting overhead cover, etc.

689. BOUNDS.

9 Aust Div R/O No 337 is rptd :-

Units are reminded that the village of ALMA is "OUT OF BOUNDS" except for R.A.E. personnel billeted therein.

690. USE OF PRIMUS STOVES AND NAKED LIGHTS IN TENTS.

9 Aust Div R/O No 341 is rptd :-

The use of primus stoves or naked lights in tents will cease forthwith.

Any further losses due to fires caused by disobedience of this order will be charged against the C.O. or individual concerned.

691. AIRGRAPH ENVELOPES - RECOVERY OF.

9 Aust Div R/O No 342 is rptd :-

In the interests of economy all 'Airgraph' envelopes which are fit for re-use will be collected by Units and returned in bulk to the nearest A.L.O.

692. ARMY POSTAL SERVICES - ALLIED FORCES SERVING IN EGYPT.

9 Aust Div R/O No 349 is rptd :-

The Egyptian Postal Administration has generously agreed to afford the same privileges of free postage on ordinary letters posted by members of the Allied Forces serving in Egypt as are now enjoyed by the Imperial Forces. The conditions governing the concession are rptd for infn.

(a) The concession applies to letters posted to destinations within the British Empire or the interior of Egypt, but not to other countries.

(b) The limits of weight will be 2 ozs for all parts of the British Empire, and 30 grammes for Egyptian addressees.

(c) The covers of all letters should be marked "On Active Service".

(d) All letters must be posted in an Army Post Office.

693. COURTS MARTIAL - WITNESSES FOR.

9 Aust Div R/O No 350 is rptd :-

Many cases have recently occurred of persons subject to Military Law being kept in arrest for an unreasonable length of time and their trial by Court Martial delayed, owing to witnesses having been posted away from, or left, the Station.

In future, all Offrs, Warrant Offrs, NCOs and men whose evidence has been recorded in a Summary of Evidence will not on any account be

posted away from or leave the station without reference to the authority whose duty it is to convene the Court Martial in the particular Instance.

Casualties amongst such witnesses through wounds or sickness will be reported to the convening authority and the fact of their being waiting witnesses at a Court Martial reported on the Casualty report.

694. FD CENSORSHIP.

9 Aust Div R/O No 351 is rptd :-

The next-of-kin of all casualties is notified as soon as possible after the casualty occurs. It is earnestly desired to shield relatives from the unnecessary suffering that might be caused through wrong infm being sent by individuals albeit with the best intentions. Therefore, private cables and telegrams reporting individual casualties are forbidden. Such telegrams, whether handed in by offr, ORs, their wives, families, dependents, or private individuals, will be stopped by censorship. No refund of transmission charges on such telegrams will be considered. Details in regard to casualties may be given in letters. When writing, details may be given in letters despatched by ORDINARY mail only and will NOT be given in letters sent by AIR MAIL.

695. CARTONS, ANTI-GAS STORES.

9 Aust Div R/O No 355 is rptd :-

Attention is drawn to the necessity for careful handling of cartons for anti-gas stores. These cartons can be utilised several times, therefore, all serviceable surplus cartons will be returned to the nearest Ordnance Depot or Railhead Ordnance Ofcr.

Adj't, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. Capt.

NOTICES

ACCIDENT - ALMA RD - 22 APR 42.

On 22 Apr 42 at about 1030 hrs a Sgt riding a motor cycle along the ALMA Rd, was involved in an accident with a W.D. truck. Following this Sgt was a D.R. on another Motor Cycle who must have witnessed the accident.

If the D.R. referred to belongs to this unit, he will report to BHQ immediately.

LOST.

A brown leather wallet at Empire Cinema on the night 15 May 42. Finder please return to HQ 9 Aust Div.

AMENITIES.

All tps should be advised that 15% of nightly takings from all theatres controlled by the AIF, of which the BERRAM THEATRE is only one, are placed to the credit of AIF Amenities Services in order to purchase sporting goods, comforts etc.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

For Official Use Only

ROUTINE ORDERS

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
AIF (ME),
22 May 42.

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS DSO, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 111/4042

696. CENSORSHIP - REGISTERED ARTICLES

AIF(ME) Order No 1108 is rptd :-

- (a) Para 14(v) of Notes on Censorship is rptd for guidance of all concerned :-

"A registered article will be franked in the presence of the sender or his representative. The article will then be closed in the presence of the sender or his representative, who will be responsible that the contents are complete except for any censored matter".

- (b) The sender or his representative will then pay the registration fee and postage (if any) to the franking offcr, who will be responsible for despatching the article and passing the receipt back to the sender or his representative.

697. WEARING OF FOREIGN DECORATIONS IN WAR TIME

AIF(ME) Order No 1110 is rptd :-

- (a) The King has been graciously pleased to grant a general permission for the acceptance and wearing without restriction of decorations and medals conferred by the Allies upon British subjects of whatever category for services in connection with the prosecution of the war.

- (b) His Majesty has also been graciously pleased to approve that British subjects holding restricted permission from His Majesty to wear decorations conferred upon them in peace time by the Heads of States which are fighting in alliance with this country in the war now in progress, shall be allowed to wear such decorations (or their ribbons) without restriction while the war continues, in whatever capacity and locality they may be serving in His Majesty's Forces or the auxiliary services, or as civilian officials if actively employed in the prosecution of the war. In the case of military personnel this is subject to the proviso that ribbons only, and not the decorations, will be worn during the war.

698. UNATTENDED VEHs

AIF(ME) Order No 1114 is rptd :-

- (a) Attention is drawn to AIF(ME) Order No 301 of 11 Apr 41, which provides that no veh will be left unattended in a city street.

- (b) Owing to the acute shortage of spare parts in the Middle East the possibility of thefts from vehs is considerably increased. For example, a veh left unattended recently on the rd ALEXANDRIA - CAIRO was stripped of such things as radiator, generator, air cleaner, fuel pump, window glasses, etc.

- (c) Accordingly, in future, no veh will be left unattended or unguarded in any area. CO's will ensure strict compliance with this Order by all ranks.

699. TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

AIF(ME) Order No 1115 is rptd :-

- (a) Traffic regulations for AIF(ME) have been issued separately to this Order and will come into operation on 20 May 42.
- (b) These regulations will be strictly complied with.
- (c) All previous orders, regulations and instns in regard to traffic, convoys etc, are cancelled.

700. CHIN STRAPS, HELMETS ETC - CLEANING

Dirty or greasy chin straps on steel helmets will be washed in warm soapy water, and then thoroughly rinsed in clean water to remove all traces of soap. In NO circumstances will web eqpt cleaner be applied to chin straps.

701. LIQUOR - OFFERING DRINKS TO NATIVES

9 Aust Div R/O No 359 is rptd :-

Disturbances have been caused through the practice of offering drinks to natives.

This practice will cease forthwith.

In future, disciplinary action will be taken against offenders in this regard.

702. LIQUOR - LEAVE PARTIES

Attention is again drawn to Bn R/O No 74/4042, para 462, and to 9 Aust Div R/O No 135, which is rptd :-

- (a) No beer or other liquor will be carried by personnel proceeding on, or returning from, leave, and no purchase of liquor will be made en route.
- (b) Picquet ofrs and ofrs i/c leave parties will be responsible that this instn is carried out.

703. WATER - ECONOMY

During summer, water consumption will increase in TRIPOLI area, and supply is likely to decrease. Water duty personnel will ensure that no water is wasted at water points. Fire hydrants must not be used, except in case of fire.

704. DISPOSAL, MORTAR BOMBS, GRENADES

- (a) Grenades - Full instns are in SAT Vol I, Pam 13, 1937, lesson 10.
- (b) Mortar Bombs, incl 29mm Spigot Mortar (Blacker Bombard) and Ordnance Smooth Bore 3" (Smith Gun) - Instns, taken from 9 Aust Div R/O No 364, are at Appx A to this Order.

705. PERSONNEL - AWL

Any infm relative to the following AWL personnel, should be reported immediately to BHQ :-

NX59583	Pte ANDERSON	Depot Detention, NUSEIRAT (Escapee)	8- 5-42
VX 2546	" BATEWELL J.	Engr Tng Wing	5- 5-42
OX10972	" BRENNAN E.J.	Inf Comp Tng Bn	8- 5-42
NX46954	" CUSACK J.S.	" " " "	3- 5-42
NK13340	" ELLIOTT J.A.	HQ Gd Bn	2- 5-42
VX11710	" FISCHER H.	3 Aust Det Barracks (Escapee)	10- 5-42
NX 1941	" HERON R.J.	" " " "	11- 5-42
VX39119	" LONGDEN R.F.	HQ 17 Aust Inf Tng Bn	27- 2-42

NX15357	Pte	LACHMUND	V.	Inf Comp Tng Bn	10-	5-42
NX41766	"	MILLER	K.A.	" " " "	3-	5-42
VX 1278	Cpl	MILLER	S.J.	Services Tng Wing	9-	5-42
NX41629	Pte	O'HARA	P.	Inf Comp Tng Bn	3-	5-42
VX 2368	Pte	SULLIVAN	T.B.	" " " "	8-	5-42
QX17654	"	THOMPSON	S.H.	HQ Gd Bn	2-	5-42
NX31705	"	WRIGHT	R.	Engnr Tng Wing	5-	5-42
VX 1861	"	WEDGEWOOD	J.	8 Aust Spec Hospital	9-	5-42
SX 4580	"	GIBSON	G.M.	2 Aust L of C Prov Coy	12-	5-42
VX 2634	"	BARNES	H.H.	Inf Comp Tng Bn	13-	5-42
NX27016	"	O'HALLORAN	F.	" " " "	13-	5-42

706. MISSING RIFLE

2/28 Aust Inf Bn report one rifle missing, from their adv party, following departure of personnel of this unit to new locality on 20 May.

The bolt, which had been removed from the rifle, is in possession of 2/28 Aust Inf Bn.

Boss No of missing rifle is 54086.

All sub-units will make a thorough check of rifles held. Reports will be rendered to BHQ by sig, by Retreat 23 May.

NIL returns required.



Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

Capt

NOTICES

SPECIAL ORDER :

Comd 9 Aust Div has received the following message from HRH, The DUKE OF GLOUCESTER :-

"HRH DUKE OF GLOUCESTER sends following message to Lieut-Gen SIR LESLIE MORSHEAD and offrs, WO's, NCO's and men of 9 AUST DIV. 'I was very glad to have opportunity of seeing dets of 9 AUST DIV today. I was particularly struck by arms drill steadiness on parade, and physical fitness of all ranks. I feel certain all ranks know that their being in MIDEAST is of greatest importance for future conducting of the war. I know that wherever you are called upon to fight you will maintain high standard conduct in battle as during the last year and a half. I feel you must all be thinking of your own country's position which is now being given adequate protection. I wish you all success in your future operations'.

POSTAL :

A parcel has been received by a member of 2/8 Aust Fd Amb, which was broken in transit and contains articles which are apparently from another parcel.

These articles were birthday presents inscribed "from Melva" and "from your small son Peter".

Should these articles be intended for any member of this unit, he may collect them from 2/8 Aust Fd Amb.

(To Bn R/O No 111/4042, para 704)

MORTAR BOMBS (incl 29mm Spigot Mortar (Blacker Bombard) and Ordnance Smooth Bore 3" (Smith Gun) -

These bombs may be dealt with by the offr supervising the firing in the same way as laid down for grenades, but in addition the following must be carried out:-

- (a) A 15 oz slab of guncotton must be used in conjunction with the primer and detonator.
- (b) The safety fuze used must be of sufficient length to allow the offr destroying the blind to reach cover, or, when cover is not available, to proceed on his feet at least 250 yds from the bomb before it explodes.
- (c) HE powder filled and smoke bombs will all be dealt with in this way.
- (d) Blind bombs may be found on the surface or embodied in the ground below the surface. The procedure will be :-
 - i. For those on the surface, place the guncotton slab, with the primer and detonator inserted, against the side of the bomb and as close to the fuze of the bomb as possible. When available, place two or three filled sandbags carefully around and over the bomb.
 - ii. For those below the surface, dig down carefully without striking the bomb until a part of the surface of the bomb is exposed and the hole is large enough to insert the guncotton, primer and detonator. Place these so that the guncotton is in contact with the surface of the bomb.

NOTE :- On no account should any attempt be made to interfere with or move the blind bomb, and it must on no account be fired from the mortar a second time.

A.C.I. 1457 of 1941 is hereby CANCELLED.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

For Official Use Only

ROUTINE ORDERS

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
AIF (ME),
24 May 42.

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS DSO, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 112/4042.

707. SECURITY OF MILITARY INFM

In accordance with ACI 2348 of 29 Nov 41, and 9 Aust Div R/O No 126 of 25 Feb 42, the substance of Bn R/O No 73/4042, para 455 is rptd :-

The following extract from the General Staff Pam "Instns for the Security of Documents, infm, etc", is reproduced for the attention of all concerned:-

"All offrs and ORs working in military offices and ord rooms, and any other persons, incl Auxiliary Territorial Service Volunteers, etc, who, in the course of their employment, have access to secret documents or infm, incl teleprinter and switchboard operators, are required to sign a certificate in form similar to that set out in Appx "A" of this pam. Before signing the certificate, the attention of all such persons should be drawn to the paras in "Instns for dealing with documents and correspondence in Military Offices, 1934", which are reprinted in Appx "B" of this pam".

708. LEAVE - TRIPOLI TOWN

- (a) Bn R/O No 100/4042, para 615 is cancelled.
- (b) Bde allotment of TRIPOLI leave and pictures for this Unit has been amended as follows :-

Tuesdays Leave (1700 - 2200 hrs)

BHQ	5
HQ Coy	27
Each Rifle Coy	12

Saturdays Pictures Only (Early Session)

BHQ	4
HQ Coy	23
Each Rifle Coy	9

- (c) NO leave, or authority to visit TRIPOLI Town other than on **duty**, may be granted beyond above allotments.
- (d) Apart from allotment figures, all previous orders and instns ref TRIPOLI leave and pictures still apply.
- (e) While in present location, HQ Coy and BHQ will travel in Unit tpt from HQ Coy tpt pk. Rifle Coys will use own tpt.
- (f) HQ Coy, BHQ Party, and each Coy Party, will be accompanied by a senior NCO i/c, who will be responsible for the good conduct and punctual departure from TRIPOLI of his party.

709. VILLAGES - OUT OF BOUNDS

- (a) ZGHORTA is out of bounds to all ranks at all times. Offrs i/c sub-unit shower parades will ensure that personnel visiting ZGHORTA Shower House pass through the village and do NOT stop therein.
- (b) MADJLAYA is out of bounds to all personnel of this Unit.

- (c) HARET JEDIDE is similarly out of bounds. This is the village immediately adjacent to BHQ - HQ Coy location, and is used extensively by Sypriot Mule Coy personnel, with whom there will be NO fraternization by personnel of this Unit.
- (d) Rifle Coy personnel will be especially warned that the villages adjacent to their localities are not to be trusted, and will be treated as suspect, every security precaution being taken.
- (e) ALMA is out of bounds to all ranks.

710. PICQUET - ZGHORTA

26 Aust Inf Bde R/O No 158 is rptd :-

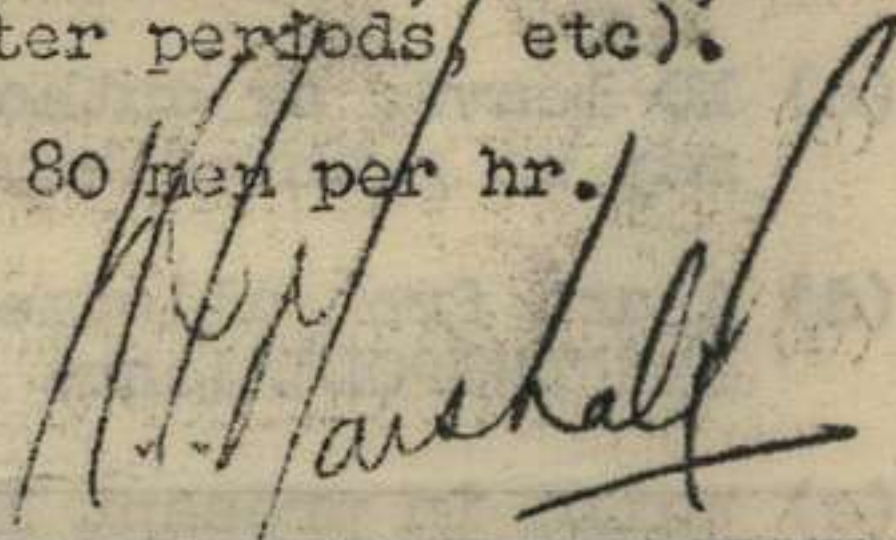
- (a) 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will supply the ZGHORTA TOWN PICQUET (strength 1 sgt, 1 cpl, 10 ORs) commencing 23 May 42, and nightly thereafter until further notice.
- (b) Hrs of Duty -
 - MON - SAT incl - 1700 - 2300 hrs
 - SUN - 1200 - 2300 hrs
- (c) SOs for Picquet to be issued separately.

711. ZGHORTA SHOWER HOUSE

- (a) This Unit has been allotted the following periods at ZGHORTA Shower House. These times are subject to alteration at an early date :-

<u>TUESDAYS</u>	-	1300	-	1430 hrs.
<u>WEDNESDAYS</u>	-	1430	-	1630 hrs.
<u>THURSDAYS</u>	-	1100	-	1200 hrs; 1430 - 1630 hrs.
<u>SATURDAYS</u>	-	1430	-	1630 hrs.

- (b) Sub-unit allotments, when issued, will be strictly adhered to.
- (c) Sub-unit parades will be accompanied by offr, as nearly as possible, to a scale of one offr per 36 ORs. The offr i/c shower party will contact the senior OR present at the shower house, before personnel debus, and will be responsible for informing his party of the arrangements made, (i.e., shower time available to each man, hot water periods, etc).
- (d) Capacity of shower house is approx 80 men per hr.



Adj. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

Capt

NOTICES

LEAVE

Very shortly, leave will be granted for a period of 7 days. It is estimated that 10% of the total strength of the Unit will be away at one time.

Accommodation will be provided free to either DAMASCUS (limited) and BEIRUT.

All ranks are strongly advised to save for their leave period, to ensure maximum benefit.

(OVER)

NOTICES (Continued) -

CINEMA PROGRAMMES

The screenings at the TRIPOLI THEATRES for the week commencing Monday, 25 May, are as under :-

TRIUMPH - Monday 25 May - Wednesday 27 May

"A MAN'S GAME"

starring Tim McCoy.

Thursday 28 May - Sunday 31 May

"BEHIND THE EVIDENCE"

with Norman Foster, Donald Cook & Sheila Mannors.

EMPIRE - Tuesday 26 May - Thursday 28 May

"ARIZONA"

with Jean Arthur & William Holden

Friday 29 May - Monday 1 June

"LADY IN QUESTION"

with Brian Aherne & Rita Hayworth

ROXY - Monday 25 May - Wednesday 27 May

"ANOTHER THIN MAN"

with William Powell & Myrna Loy.

Thursday 28 May - Sunday 31 May.

"WITHIN THE LAW"

with Ruth Hussey & William Gargan.

REX - Monday 25 May - Wednesday 27 May

"TOO MANY HUSBANDS"

with Jean Arthur, Fred McMuray & Melvyn Douglas.

Thursday 28 May - Sunday 31 May

"I TAKE THIS WOMAN"

with Spencer Tracy & Hedy Lamarr.

by

Lt-Col B. EVANS DSO, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 113/4042

712. LEAVE - BEIRUT

(a) The following leave allotment is made for BEIRUT 27-29 May :-

HQ Coy	11
Each Rifle Coy	6
BHQ	2

- (b) Offr i/c Unit leave party will be Lieut H. F. K. McLEOD, who will be incl as part of C Coy leave allotment.
- (c) Nominal rolls of leave personnel have already been fwded to HQ, 26 Aust Inf Bde. Any amendments will be notified to Bn Ord Rm Sgt before departure on 27 May.
- (d) HQ Coy will arrange tpt, which will tpt personnel of RAA 9 Aust Div to their Unit areas on return journey under direction of OC Convoy. Name of OC Convoy will be notified to Tpt Office.
- (e) Leave personnel will RV Bn HQ at 0630 hrs 27 May, for pay parade, and inspection by Bn Duty Offr. Personnel will embus at Tpt lines at 0725 hrs.
- (f) Summer dress will be worn after sundown, changing to trousers KD and sweaters. All sub-units are warned that stricter attention to correct dress must be paid. Dress on recent Sunday leave trips has given cause for dis-satisfaction.
- (g) Unit Convoy will form up facing NORTH, on rd TRIPOLI - ZGHORTA, with leading veh at main entrance to HQ, 26 Aust Inf Bde, by 0745 hrs 27 May; convoy will leave at 0800 hrs.
- (h) BEIRUT Picquet, in accordance with instns already issued by sig A282 of 26 May, comprising 1 offr 11 ORs, will be provided by A Coy, reporting to DAPM BEIRUT on arrival.
- (i) Reports from offr i/c Bde and Unit Leave parties, in accordance with 9 Aust Div Adm Instn No 65, para 7, will be submitted to BHQ on 29 May as soon after Retreat as possible.
- (j) Sub-unit comds are warned that all provisions of Bn R/O No 62/4042 para 383, with amendment in Bn R/O No 66/4042 para 405, must be complied with.
- (k) Return journey - Tpt of 24 Aust Inf Bde Gp will be responsible for returning all tps of this Bde to Unit areas.
- (l) Between 0630 hrs and time of departure from Unit lines on 27 May, Offr i/c Unit leave party will act in accordance with Bn R/O No 91/4042, para 555.
- (m) Major R. E. WALL is Fd Offr i/c Bde Gp leave party.

713. ENTERTAINMENT - 10 CORPS CONCERT PARTY

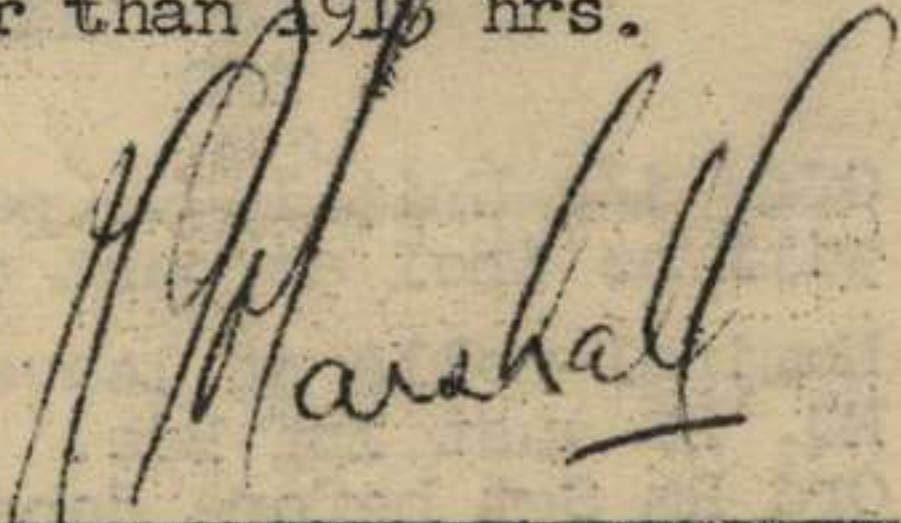
- (a) By courtesy of Ninth Army Amenities, 10 Corps Concert Party will play at the Perroquet Theatre at 1930 hrs 27 May - 9 Jun, (Sundays Excl).
- (b) The following allotment has been made to this Unit :-

Sat 30 May	172 seats
Fri 5 Jun	50 seats

(c) Sub-unit allotment will be :-

Sat 30 May	HQ Coy	56 seats
	Each Rifle Coy	26 "
	BHQ	12 "
Fri 5 Jun	HQ Coy	18 seats
	Each Rifle Coy	7 "
	BHQ	4 "

- (d) There will be no charge for admission.
- (e) Above allotments will be strictly adhered to.
- (f) Sub-unit tpt, augmented by one veh per rifle coy, reporting to Coy locality not later than 1830 hrs, will be used. BHQ and HQ Coy party personnel will embus from HQ Coy tpt lines.
- (g) Vehs will pk on vacant allotment at rear of MOULIN BLEU. Sub-unit parties will move from this parking area to the theatre, and on return to embus, in formed **bodies**
- (h) An offr will be i/c each sub-unit party, and will ensure that his personnel are seated NOT later than 1916 hrs.



Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

Capt

I.C.

APPX 13

ROUTINE INSTNS NO 60

8 May 42

2/23 AUST INF BN

274. SECURITY

No civilians are to enter the Camp area at any time, unless escorted for the whole period by a member of the gd.

The only civilian vendor permitted to enter, is the ice contractor.

275. NEWSPAPERS

These are available from the Canteen, and Coys are requested to place definite daily orders with the Canteen Cpl.

276. SLIT TRENCHES

Attention is again drawn to the use of slit trenches as refuse pits.

Bn R/I No 59, para 273(c) must be observed.

277. TENTS - ROLLING

Some tents are still found to be rolled incorrectly. It is :-

- (a) The duty of Coys to ensure that all ranks are familiar with correct manner of rolling of tent flaps.
- (b) The responsibility of Coy Ord duties to rectify any errors in this regard before daily bn inspection.

278. REFUSE PITS

Sub-units are directed, for action, to para 3 of Bn Instn, subject DIARRHOEA, dated 1 May 42.

Coys and QM will signal "Action Completed" to BHQ by Retreat 9 May.

Adj't, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Capt

APPX 14

STAFF TABLE - 2/23 AUST INF BN

SHEET TWO

SERIALS	SUB-UNIT	VEHICLES																				TOTAL VEH ALL TYPES.		NOTES REF STAFF TABLE ENTRIES	
		BI-CYCLE		MC		MC COMB		CAR DS		CAR UTY		VAN 15 cwt		VAN(b) 1 ton		LORRY 30-cwt		LORRY 3-ton		LORRY 30 CARRIERS CWT WATER TK UNIV		VE	HELD		
		WE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD				
1	BHQ	3		8				-	1	2	1	1	1	1		1	1	1				1	17	6	(a) Incl pistol sig No 4 (Carrier) Fl. 24 on BHQ allotted as required. (b) Incl Van office. (c) For Chaplains att from 26 Aust Inf Bde. (d) Chaplain, RMO. (e) 4 RAP; Pay Sgt; Chaplain batman. (f) 6 AAOC; 1 AA Postal C.
2	HQ COY	8	1	18	1	4					17	4			4	13	6	2	2	20	2	82	20		
3	A COY	5									5	1			1							10	2		
4	B COY	5									5	1			1							10	2		
5	C COY	5									5	1			1							10	2		
6	D COY	5									5	1			1							10	2		
7	TOTALS SERIALS 1-6	31	1	26	1	4			1	2	1	38	9	1	1	9	14	7	2	2	21	2	139	34	(g) These are 2 Vans 8cwt (HQ Coy) 07 vans 15cwt
8	ATTACHMENTS BHQ											1(c)													
	TOTALS ALL SERIALS	31	1	26	1	4			1	2	1	39	9	1	1	9	14	7	2	2	21	2	140	34	

NOTES REF STAFF TABLE ENTRIES

(a) Incl pistol sig No 4 (Carrier) Fl. 24 on BHQ allotted as required.
(b) Incl Van office.
(c) For Chaplains att from 26 Aust Inf Bde.
(d) Chaplain, RMO.
(e) 4 RAP; Pay Sgt; Chaplain batman.
(f) 6 AAOC; 1 AA Postal C.

(g) These are 2 Vans 8cwt (HQ Coy) 07 vans 15cwt

Capt Adj, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

STAFF TABLE - 2/23 AUST INF BN

SHEET TWO

SERIALS	SUB-UNIT	V E H I C L E S																				TOTAL VEHs ALL TYPES.					
		BI-CYCLE		MC		MC COMB		CAR DS		CAR UTY		VAN (g) 15 cwt		VAN (b) 1 ton		LORRY 30-cwt		LORRY 3-ton		LORRY 30 cwt WATER TK		CARRIERS UNIV		VEHs	HELD		
		WE	HELD	VE	HELD	WE	HELD	VE	HELD	WE	HELD	WE	HELD	WE	HELD	WE	HELD	WE	HELD	WE	HELD	WE	HELD				
1	BHQ	3		8				-	1	2	1	1	1			1	1						1	17	6		
2	HQ COY	8	1	18	1	4						17	4			4	13	6		2	2	20	9	82	27		
3	A COY	5										5	1			1								10	2		
4	B COY	5										5	1			1								10	2		
5	C COY	5										5	1			1								10	2		
6	D COY	5										5	1			1								10	2		
TOTALS																											
7	SERIALS 1 - 6	31	1	26	1	4		1	2	1		38	9	1	1			9	14	7		2	2	21	9	139	41
<u>ATTACHMENTS</u>																											
8	BHQ											1(c)															
TOTALS ALL SERIALS		31	1	26	1	4		1	2	1		39	9	1	1			9	14	7		2	2	21	9	140	41

NOTES REF STAFF TABLE ENTRIES

(a) Incl pistol sig No 4 (Carrier) Pl: 24 on BHQ allotted as required.
 (b) Incl Van office.
 (c) For Chaplain; att from 26 Aust Inf Bde.
 (d) Chaplain, RMO.
 (e) 4 RAP; Pay Sgt; Chaplain batman.
 (f) 6 AAOC; 1 AA Postal C.

(g) These are 2 vans 8cwt (HQ Coy) & 7 vans 15cwt.

Capt
Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

STAFF TABLE - 2/23 AUST INF BN

SHEET TWO

SERIALS	SUB-UNIT	V E H I C L E S																				TOTAL VEH ALL TYPES.		
		BI-CYCLE		MC		MC COMB		CAR DS		CAR UTY		VAN (g) 15 cwt		VAN (b) 1 ton		LORRY 30-cwt		LORRY 3-ton		LORRY 30 CARRIERS SWI WATER TK UNIV		VE	HELD	
		VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	
1	BHQ	3		8				-	1	2	1	1	1	1		1	1	1					17	6
2	HQ COY	8	1	18	2	4					17	4			4	13	6	2	2	20	9	82	28	
3	A COY	5									5	1			1							10	2	
4	B COY	5									5	1			1							10	2	
5	C COY	5									5	1			1							10	2	
6	D COY	5									5	1			1							10	2	
7	TOTALS SERIALS 1-6	31	1	26	2	4		1	2	1	38	9	1	1	9	14	7	2	2	21	9	139	42	
8	ATTACHMENTS																							
	BHQ										1(c)													
	TOTALS ALL SERIALS	31	1	26	2	4		1	2	1	39	9	1	1	9	14	7	2	2	21	9	140	42	

NOTES REF STAFF TABLE ENTRIES

- (a) Incl pistol sig No 4 (Carrier) Fl 24 on BHQ allotted as required.
- (b) Incl Van office.
- (c) For Chaplain att from 26 Aust Inf Bde.
- (d) Chaplain, RMO.
- (e) 4 RAP; Pay Sgt; Chaplain batman.
- (f) 6 AAOC; 1 AA Postal C.

(g) These are 2 Vans 8 cwt (H960j) and 7 vans 15cwt.

Capt
Adj, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

Posn as 0 830 hrs

(Date) 18 May 42

THIS CANCELS ALL PREVIOUS INSTNS.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

STAFF TABLE - 2/23 AUST INF BN

SECRET

COPY NO File

(DATE) 18 May 42

SERIAL	SUB UNIT.	PERSONNEL						WEAPONS																						
		OFFRS			OTHER RANKS			PISTOLS ALL TYPES		RIFLES .303		MACHINE CARBINE		LMG .303		TWIN LMG		A TK RIFLE.		PISTOLS SIG (a)		MORTAR 3"		MORTAR 2"		CUPS DIS-CHARGER				
		WE	WITH UNIT	DEFICIENT	SURPLUS	WE	WITH UNIT	DEFICIENT	SURPLUS	WE	HELD	WE	HELD	WE	HELD	WE	HELD	WE	HELD	WE	HELD	WE	HELD	WE	HELD	WE	HELD	WE	HELD	
1	BHQ	4	4			47	45	2		13	9	41	14	2		1				24									2	
2	HQ COY	9	9			269	267	2		17	13	248	269	4	4	13	2	4		13		14	9	6	6	4		7		
3	A COY	5	10	5		124	126		2	5	7	118	130	9	8	9	1		3	1					3	3	10	4		
4	B COY	5	7	2		124	119	5		5	5	118	126	9	8	9	2		3	1					3	3	10	6		
5	C COY	5	7	2		124	126		2	5	6	118	127	9	8	9	2		3	1					3	3	10	6		
6	D COY	5	7	2		124	121	3		5	8	118	123	9	8	9	2		3	1					3	3	10	6		
7	TOTALS SERIALS 1-6	33	44	11		812	804	12	4	50	48	761	789	42	36	50	9	4	25	4	38	9	6	6	16	12	49	22		
8	ATTACHMENTS BHQ	2(d)	2			6(e)	4	2		1	1	1																		
9	HQ COY					7(f)	7					7	7																	
	TOTALS ALL SERIALS	35	46	11		825	815	14	4	51	49	769	796	42	36	50	9	4	25	4	38	9	6	6	16	12	49	22		

STAFF TABLE - 2/23 AUST INF BN

SHEET TWO

SERIALS	SUB-UNIT	VEHICLES																								TOTAL VEH ALL TYPES.		NOTES REF STAFF TABLE ENTRIES		
		BI-CYCLE		MC		MC COMB		CAR DS		CAR UTY		VAN (a) 15 cwt		VAN (b) 1 ton		LORRY 30-cwt		LORRY 3-ton		LORRY 30 SWT WATER TK		CARRIERS UNIV		VE	HELD					
		VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD			
1	BHQ	3		8				-	1	2	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1						1		17	6	(a) Incl pistol sig No 4 (Carrier) P1 24 on BHQ allotted as required. (b) Incl Van office. (c) For Chaplain: att from 26 Aust Inf Bde. (d) Chaplain, RMO. (e) 4 RAP; Pay Sgt; Chaplain batman. (f) 6 AAOC; 1 AA Postal C. (g) These are 2 vans 8 swt (HQ Coy) and 7 vans 15 swt.
2	HQ COY	8	1	18	3		4					17	4			3	13	6	2	2	2	20	9			82	28			
3	A COY	5										5	1			1										10	2			
4	B COY	5										5	1			1										10	2			
5	C COY	5										5	1			1										10	2			
6	D COY	5										5	1			1										10	2			
7	TOTALS SERIALS 1-6	31	1	26	3		4			1	2	1	38	9	1	1		8	14	7	2	2	2	21	9	139	42			
8	ATTACHMENTS BHQ												1(c)																	
	TOTALS ALL SERIALS	31	1	26	3		4			1	2	1	39	9	1	1		8	14	7	2	2	2	21	9	140	42	Capt Adj, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.		

STAFF TABLE - 2/23 AUST INF BN

SHEET TWO

SERIALS	SUB-UNIT	V E H I C L E S																						TOTAL VEH ALL TYPES.			
		BI-CYCLE		MC		MC COMB		CAR DS		CAR UTY		VAN (g) 15 cwt		VAN (b) 1 ton		LORRY 30-cwt		LORRY 3-ton		LORRY 30 CARRIERS		CANNIERS		VE	HELD		
		VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD	VE	HELD				
1	BHQ	3		8						2	2	1	1	1	1			1	1	1				1		17	6
2	HQ COY	8	1	18	3	4						17	4			3	13	6		2	2	20	12			82	31
3	A COY	5										5	1			1										10	2
4	B COY	5										5	1			1										10	2
5	C COY	5										5	1			1										10	2
6	D COY	5										5	1			1										10	2
TOTALS																											
7	SERIALS 1-6	31	1	26	3	4				2	2	38	9	1	1			8	14	7		2	2	21	12	139	47
ATTACHMENTS																											
8	BHQ											1(c)															
TOTALS ALL SERIALS		31	1	26	3	4				2	2	39	9	1	1			8	14	7		2	2	21	12	140	47

NOTES REF STAFF TABLE ENTRIES

- (a) Incl pistol sig No 4 (Carrier) Pl 24 on BHQ allotted as required.
- (b) Incl Van office.
- (c) For Chaplain att from 26 Aust Inf Bde.
- (d) Chaplain, RMO.
- (e) 4 RAP; Pay Sgt; Chaplain batman.
- (f) 6 AAOC; 1 AA Postal C.
- (g) These are 2 vans 8cwt (KPBs) and 7 vans 15cwt.

Capt
Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

APPX 15

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

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.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL
Bricklayers																				
Butchers																				
Carpenters and Joiners ...																				
Clerks																				
Cooks																				
Despatch Riders																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked) ...																				
" " (Wheeled) ...																				
Drivers-Mechanics																				
Drivers-Operators																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers																				
Fitters																				
Machine Gunners																				
Masons																				
Motor Mechanics																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters ...																				
Range Takers																				
Saddlers & Harness Maker																				
Saddle Tree Makers																				
Sanitary and Water Duties																				
Signallers																				
Storemen technical																				
Tailors																				
Wheelers																				
General duty personnel ...									6	6										
TOTALS (to agree with Col- umns 3 and 4 of Part A).									6	6										

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Unit.

Adjutant 2/23 Bn.

Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 2 Nov 42

Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

APPX 16

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

(Unit.)

2/23 1956 1st BA

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits one establishment)
*			
*			
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels ...			
Majors ...	1		
Captains ...	3		
Lieutenants ...	9	5	
2nd Lieutenants ...	24		
Quartermasters ...			
District Officers ...	2		
Totals ...	39	5	

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc).

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Major	SPZAR P. H.	2/23 BA	26 APR 56	82 from BA Combined Sig Centre.
Lieut	BRUNN-ROSE H.A.	2/23 BA	27 APR 56	82 from 1st BA to 82 Sig Co, 82 ABN, via 26 ABN.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	D'Harville G. A.	26 ABN 555	1 May 56	to 7 ABN 1st BA 50000

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.)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/23 1942 1st Inf

(Unit.)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits one establishment)
Lieut.-Colonels ...	1		
Majors ...	3		
Captains ...	3		
Lieutenants ...	24	5	
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...	1		
District Officers ...			
Totals ...	30	5	

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc).

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lt-col	B. Evans	2/23 1st	17 May 42	From 26 Aust Inf Regt
Lieut	Gray H.	2/23 1st	22 May 42	From 26 Aust Inf Regt
Warrant Officer	McQuinn	2/23 1st	21 May 42	From 26 Aust Inf Regt
Lieut	Stewart	2/23 1st	16 May 42	From 26 Aust Inf Regt

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Major	P. S. Miller	2/23 1st	15 May 42	Detached as G.I. to Medical Centre

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.)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

(Unit.)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits one establishment)
*			
*			
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels ...	2		
Majors ...	3		
Captains ...	3		
Lieutenants ...	25	6	
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...	2		
District Officers ...			
Totals ...	39	6	

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc).

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	Walter ...	2/23 Inf	21 May 42	From 2/3 A Coy

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	...	2/23 Inf	21 May 42	attached to 9 Div Cav Regt.
Lieut	...	26 ...	18 May 42	attached to 9 Aust Div Cav Regt.

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.)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

(Unit.)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits one establishment)
*			
*			
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels ...	1		
Majors ...	2		
Captains ...	20		
Lieutenants ...	23	4	
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...	2		
District Officers ...			
Totals ...	30	4	

*Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary (e.g., Major-General, Brigadier, etc).

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Capt	F. S. Tandy	2/23 Bn	25 May 42	From detachment to 26 Bn

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	F. S. Tandy	2/23 Bn	23 May 42	Detached to 26 Aust Inf Bn
"	"	"	25 May 42	Transferred to 26 Bn
"	"	"	28 May 42	"
"	A. H. Kelly	"	30 May 42	Detached to 34/7th Coy.
Capt	R. S. Crofts	"		Dep course of A/1st Bn

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.)

APPX 17

Tng Report - G(R) Unit.

1. GENERAL

The tng of G (R) personnel until recently, was of a most comprehensive nature. Object of the tng syllabus was to accustom personnel to all types of tasks requiring stamina, fd craft, wpn tng, map reading, technical and mechanical handling of all types of tpt (carriers, trucks, MCs etc).

2. PHYSICAL CONDITION

Personnel were gradually 'hardened' up' by route marches, PT and correctional exercises. A course of unarmed combat was beneficial to all, instilling confidence. At conclusion of tng, men were very fit and hard.

3. FD CRAFT

Numerous patrols (by day and night), and stalks, were carried out. Appreciation of correct ground, movement and camflg were practiced frequently.

4. WPN TNG

Unorthodox handling of all wpns was taught, particularly with TSMG, rifle, bayonet, knife and bren. A large number of all types of grenades were used. The experience gained by the men in range and grenade practice would be invaluable. Markmanship was excellent.

5. MAP READING

Personal tuition was given to all personnel in compass and map reading. The map reading was appreciated by all, and the men were very efficient. All personnel plotted patrols, determined posns and generally used maps, protractors and compasses as often as stores would permit. Descriptions of ground features etc proved men's ability to read the map and appreciate the ground correctly.

6. TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

With the limited stores available, demolition work, was carried out and all men instructed in the use of explosives, fuses and incendiaries. This part of the syllabus is the most important, as it is the main function of G(R) personnel, but it is reliant on a plentiful supply of tng stores.

7. MECHANICAL KNOWLEDGE

It had been intended to carry out a course of utility, truck and carrier driving, but shortage of vehs precluded this portion of the syllabus.

8. CONCLUSION

At present, all G(R) personnel have been returned to their own Coys. As OC G(R) Unit, I feel that the organization of G(R) Units has been overlooked by the higher authorities. The function of G(R) personnel seems mainly sabotage, demolition and recce. Therefore, the provision of tng stores is a main consideration. Tng stores have been scarce, enabling only a few days tng with explosives and incendiaries. The type of men in this unit are keen, and rather than allow staleness to develop, I think it best that they should work with their sub-units until such time as G(R) stores are accumulated, thus enabling a full tng programme to be carried out.

(Signed) Noel H Hodges Lieut
OC G(R) Unit, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

APPX 18

HQ Coy 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
4 Jun 42.

HQ 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

MONTHLY REPORT FOR INCLUSION IN WAR DIARY

Eqpt :- Vehs on strength 29
The majority of these vehs are NOT in a good mechanical condition, and with particularly heavy Bn duties and roads NOT in a good condition, more than the average defects have occurred.

Personnel
Pl strength 58, has decreased owing to 5 transfers to A/Tk Pl.

Trg
With Bn duties making such a demand on vehs it is difficult to give adequate driving instn, and the practice of teaming an experienced driver with one not so advanced has been continued.
Bn and Coy exercises held, have enabled the whole Pl to gain field experience.
Coy Driver - Mechs have been attached to our L.A.D personnel for instn and they together with M.T personnel have carried out considerable practical maintenance tasks.

Camp
Facilities
Good.

P.O.L.
Petrol is still of poor quality.

*W Bennett Sgt for
Major
O C HQ Coy 2/23 Aust Inf Bn*

2/23 Aust Inf Bn.,
AIF - (ME).
12 Jun, 42.

REPORT FOR WAR DIARY - May, 42.

CLOTHING.

Owing to conditions, SHIRTS and SHORTS have worn poorly. The Unit's 5% reserve has not been sufficient to cope with replacements. Larger demands have been approved by DADOS 9 Aust Div. SHORTS have been received and the SHIRTS are expected in the near future. All other clothing issues are satisfactory.

ANTI-MALARIAL PRECAUTIONS.

The Unit is now fully equipped with these stores.

RATIONS.

Local meat is again a permanent issue in lieu of Aust and NZ frozen meat. The quality is very poor, and often pressed veal is issued to make up the deficiency of the fresh meat. Occasional issues are quite satisfactory. Vegetables are still poor in quality and variety, but the quantity is sufficient. Rice has been cancelled as an issue and flour substituted.

W.E.

Equipment has been as usual "trickling" in very slowly.

Weapons. A considerable quantity has been received, namely -
Guns, machine Bran .303-in
Rifles, Boys A/Tk., .55-in
Gun, sub-machine Thompson, .45-in
also 1 Spigot Mortar 29 m/m. "Bombard Type".

Carriers Universal. during the month 10 of these vehicles have been collected, but a deficiency of tools and minor parts with each vehicle was reported.

Amn. W.E. 1st Line scale amn is now up to strength, with the exception of .380 REV (54 rds) and DOUBLE 5 IN (4,010 rds).

Blankets Withdrawal of the 3 blankets ^{per man} on issue, was ordered by DADOS, 9 Aust Div, and the new Summer scale of 2 new blankets substituted.

Anti Gas. Replacements of cracked eyepieces also other spare parts for respirators are still awaited.

John F. Fallon
Capt.
QM.2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

APPX 19

RMO's REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 42

During this month the advent of sandfly fever has made itself manifest, resulting in twice the normal weekly evacuations.

In the early part of the month a complete malarial survey was made of the BECHMEZZINE - KFAR HAZI - AMIOUNE - BZIZA area.

In the latter part of the month the malarial section was greatly expanded and carried out the work of an anti-malarial unit in Sector B TRIPOLI defences, which is a comparatively seriously infected zone.

RMO 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Capt