

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

Item number: 8/3/23

2/23 Infantry Battalion

June 1942

ack

SECRET

orig 175

WAR DIARY

2/23 Aust Inf Bn



2/23 AUST INF BN

175

SYRIA - EGYPT

JUN 42

MOVEMENT

SYRIA -
EGYPT

Unit leaves Tourbol area, Tripoli Fort-
ress 26 Jun. Reaches Egypt 29 Jun and
nearing Amiriya when month closes.

2/23 AUST INF
BN
JUN 42.



VOL XXIII

JUN 42

JUNE 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

SECRET

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	1	Weather : Fine and warm. Bn tps taking part in 2-day ex ferried to bivouac area by unit vehs. Mules co-operating from 10 Mule Coy RIASC move to bivouac independently. BHQ established in bivouac area EL ABDE at 1730 hrs, vide trace att to appx 1.	Appx 1	The tempo of exercise work increased steadily for the month as indicated in the diary.
	2	Weather : Fine and warm. Bn breaks camp 0500 hrs, vide action diary att to Appx 2. Bn bivouac for night 2/3 vicinity GEBRAIL.	Appx 2	The cancellation of the Forqloss exercises was a great disappointment as it was felt that great benefit in our standard of mobile discipline and general battle drill would have resulted.
	3	Weather : Fine and warm. Bn formed up in bivouac area, where ex was discussed by Lt-Col B EVANS DSO. Tps ferried back to camp area by unit vehs, commencing 0815 hrs. Remainder of day spent by tps in "cleaning up" after ex. First party of 83 personnel go on 7 day leave to BEIRUT. 6 ORs marched in from 26 AITB.		Always, the Bn has felt the lack of normal tpt facilities, never once in its 2 years history has it possessed its G1098 of tpt. What vehs it has had have been changed about so many times and to so many types, that Pl and Coy drill has been impossible.
	4	Weather : Fine and warm. Coys trg in lines and on FDLs, vide syllabus. 20 ORs previously 26 A Tk Coy personnel marched in. 2/23 Bn Op Instn (SYRIA) No 5. 2/23 Bn Op Instn (SYRIA) No 6.	Appx 3 Appx 4 Appx 5	The 7 days leave period at last initiated by Div filled a great need. Very little leave worth calling the name has been enjoyed by the Bn since its formation. Some 250 men were enabled to rest and play entirely unrestricted and for the first time, with accommodation provided free. The only pity is that it was not started earlier to have allowed the whole Bn to have enjoyed the spell.
	5	Weather : Fine and warm. Coys trg in lines and on FDLs. D Coy trg in river crossing.	Appx 3	A long and loyal association was broken during the month by the departure for Aust of Major H. R. BIRCH, my 2 i/c since the formation of the Bn, and Capt RATTRAY and Lieut BYRON-MOORE. All original offr.
	6	Weather : Warm, cloudy, gusty wind. 0935 26 Bde advise presence of E aircraft in our theatre of war. 1137 26 Bde advise unidentified aircraft in our theatre of war. 1200 All clear sig.		I named Major BIRCH for return as I felt he would have better opportunities for promotion in Aust than over here, where no opportunities appear to exist. We wish him the very best of luck in his new sphere. The same applies to the other offr, all of whom should receive promotion. We are glad to leave SYRIA with its nebulous tasks, but will miss the scenic beauty of the LEBANON.

K. Benson Lieut TO.

*Spencer
Advt. 7/22 sent by Bn*

Signature *[Signature]*

JUNE MONTH
1942 YEAR

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	6 cont	Trg by coys vide syllabus.	Appx 3	
	7	Weather : Windy with rain. Church parade for BHQ and HQ Coy gp.		
	8	Weather : Fine and warm. B Coy on ex with supporting arms. Trg by coys as per syllabus. G(R) tps commence 2 weeks school under instn from Int Sec personnel.	Appx 6 Appx 3	
	9	Weather : Fine and warm. Trg by coys as per syllabus.	Appx 3	
	10	Weather : Fine and warm. C Coy on ex with supporting arms. Trg by coys as per syllabus. Second party (strength 82) commence 7 day leave BEIRUT.	Appx 6 Appx 3	
	11	Weather : Fine and warm. D Coy on ex with supporting arms. Trg by coys incl crossing river BARID. TEWT commences - Ex for Bde and Bn HQ gps vic- inity LITANI River.	Appx 6 Appx 7 Appx 8	
	12	Weather : Fine and hot. A Coy on ex with supporting arms. Trg by coys incl crossing river BARID.	Appx 6 Appx 3	
	13	Weather : Fine, hot. Under instns from 26 Bde, outpost posn DAHR EL HOUSSAIN area will now be held by one pl. P1 drawn from A Coy. D Coy march out of outpost area and occupy site vicinity BHQ.		
	14	Weather : fine. Church parade for BHQ, HQ and D Coy gps.		

K. Benson Lieut IO.

*A. Howard Lieut
Adj. 7/23 Aust Inf Bn*

Signature *Thomas L. Lal*

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

JUNE MONTH

1942 YEAR

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<i>K. Benson Lieut T.O.</i>	14 Cont	CO marched out to senior offrs' school in PALESTINE. Unit Comd assumed by 2 i/c Major H R BIRCH. 2306 hrs. Unidentified aircraft in our theatre of war. A/CO attends conference at HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde at 2300 hrs.		
	15	Weather : Hot, humid. Order from 26 Bde that 23 Bn assume responsibility for defence of the whole of Sector B, TRIPOLI Fortress, wef 1800 hrs 16 Jun. Issue of Bn Op Order No 4.	Appx 9	
	16	Weather : Hot, humid. Bn takes over whole of Sector B, TRIPOLI Fortress. Disposns as per Op Instn (SYRIA) No 6 (fwded with May WD). Mountain ex with FF TCHERKESS gp.	Appx 10	
<i>TOURBOL</i>	17	Weather : Hot, humid. 1400 hrs. Bn move to TELL KALAKH for ex. 2/23 Op Order (Ex) No 15 with action diary for ex. 7-day Leave for 80 personnel to BEIRUT.	Appx 11	
<i>Adj. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.</i>	18	Weather : Hot, humid. 2/23 Bn Op Order (Ex) No 16. 2/23 Bn Op Order (Ex) No 17. Picquets provided by coys for ZGHORTA town and shower parades.	Appx 12 Appx 13	
	19	Weather : Hot and humid. 0119. Ground recce party under Lieut E J JONES commences march to SYR via LEBANON ranges (vide Op Order (Ex) No 17). 1600 hrs ex ends.	Appx 14	
	20	Weather : Hot and humid. Security gds for 26 Bde drawn from unit. 49 reinforcements marched in.		Signature <i>Edward L. Tol</i>

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

JUNE MONTH
1942 YEAR

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WAR DIARY

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UNIT 2/23 AUST INF BN

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

K. Benson Lieut 70.

*Atch. heard
Adj. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn*

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	20 Cont	Narrative and commentary on Bn Ex in co-operation with FF TCHERKESS gp (vide Appx 14) from 2/12 Aust Fd Regt. Comments on above by 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.	Appx 15 Appx 16	
	21	Weather : Hot and humid. Maximum temperature 115°. 26 Bde Coast Defence and Paratp role allotted to Bn. Ground recce party returned - arrived SYR at 1910 hrs, BHQ at 1300 hrs. 0845 hrs Major H R BIRCH and Capt R RATTRAY MC marched out en route for AUSTRALIA.	Appx 14	
	22	Weather : Hot and humid. Max temperature 110° 26 Bde Gp Trg Programme 26 Jun - 10 Jul 42. 2/23 Bn Adm Instn (SYRIA) No 9. Relief of the 2/23 Bn by 2/43 Bn commenced. Adv party arrives. Move to be completed by 25 Jun.	Appx 17 Appx 18	
	23	Weather : Fine and warm. A Coy outpost pl reports 3 red flares seen approx 200° at 0300 hrs, reported to Bde at 0925 hrs. A/CO (Maj R E WALL) attends conference at Bde at 0935 hrs ref FORQLOSS desert trg. Main body of 2/43 Aust Inf Bn arrives. 2/23 Bn Trg Instn (FORQLOSS) No 1. 2/23 Bn Adm Instn (SYRIA) No 10. 2/23 Bn Op Order No 5.	Appx 17 Appx 19 Appx 20 Appx 21	
	24	Weather : Fine and windy. Middle East Trg Pamphlet No 4 Part 1 (Protection against Gas) issued to all tps.		
	25	Weather : Fine and warm.		

A150 Mob Print Sec AIF-25M-1/41-G.

Signature *[Handwritten Signature]*

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	25 Cont	2/23 Bn Movement Order No 3. 2/23 Bn Op Order No 6. CO's conference 2030 hrs disclosed infm that Unit received orders to move to unknown destination. Projected manoeuvres at FORQLOSS cancelled.	Appx 22 Appx 23	
En route TRIPOLI - HOMS - BAALBECK	26	Weather : Fine. 0530 hrs. Bn departs by rd from present location in TOURBOL area TRIPOLI Fortress for unknown destination. 0615 hrs. Bn joins 26 Bde convoy at EL ABDE. 1415. Complete stage 1, via HOMS, leaguering at site 10 miles NORTH of BAALBECK. 2105 hrs. Bn departs leaguer area, moving by rd in convoy via BAALBECK - RAYAK - ZAHLE - TIBERIUS - HADERA.		
	27	Weather : Fine, warm. Bn on move SOUTH into PALESTINE. 1245 hrs. Bn bivouac near TULQARM.		
	28	Weather : Fine, hot. 0400 hrs. Bn leads Bde convoy from TULQARM via PETAH TIQVAH - RAMLE - JULIS - GAZA - BEERSHEBA. 1200 hrs. Bn leaguers at BIR ASLUJ.		
	29	Weather : Fine, hot. 0400 hrs. Bn continues movement in convoy into EGYPT via desert rd. 1515 hrs. Bn in leaguer area ISMAILIA.		
	30	Weather : Hot. 0600 hrs. Bn departs ISMAILIA, crosses SUEZ CANAL in convoy via CAIRO - MENA. 1230. Bn in leaguer at COWLEY. 1845. Bn moves by desert rd toward AMIRIYA.		

A. Brennan Lieut 10

Ady: 7/23 Austral Inf Bn

Signature *[Handwritten Signature]*

A150 Mob Print Sec A11-253-141-G.

JUNE MONTH
1942 YEAR

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		<u>LIST OF APPENDICES</u>		
		1. Tac Ex Mountain Warfare.		
		2. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order (Ex) No 14 with action diary.		
		3. Trg Syllabus.		
		4. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Instn (SYRIA) No 5.		
		5. " " " " " " " " No 6.		
		6. " " " " Coy Ex.		
		7. " " " " Demo River Crossing.		
		8. TEWT LITANI River.		
		9. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order No 4.		
		10. Mountain Ex with TCHERKESS Gp.		
		11. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order (Ex) No 15, with action diary.		
		12. " " " " " " " " No 16.		
		13. " " " " " " " " No 17.		
		14. Report - recce route ANDEKET - SYR.		
		15. Report by 2/12 Aust Fd Regt on FF TCHERKESS Ex.		
		16. " " 2/23 Aust Inf Bn " " " "		
		17. Trg Programme for FORQLOSS desert exs.		
		18. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Adm Instn (SYRIA) No 9.		
		19. " " " " Trg Instn (FORQLOSS) No 1.		
		20. " " " " Adm Instn (SYRIA) No 10.		
		21. " " " " Op Order No 5.		
		22. " " " " Movement Order No 3.		
		23. " " " " Op Order No 6.		
		24. " " " " ROs 114/4042 - 121/4042.		
		25. Staff Table - 19 Jun.		
		26. Field Returns, Offrs and ORs.		
		27. Reports - HQ Coy RMO.		

A. Benson Lieut. I.O.

*Atter's Study
Adpt. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn*

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

Signature *[Handwritten Signature]*

APPX 1

29 May 42.

TACTICAL EXERCISE MOUNTAIN WARFARE - HALBA AREA

1. INTRODUCTORY

This exercise is designed to practice a bn gp in offensive mtn warfare.

Marching personnel, AT and MT will RV at an assembly area about 5 miles from the approach to a pass. An adv will then be made into the pass against enemy posns. After the initial move to the assembly area, all A ech tpt (other than fd arty) will be by pack, MT being used only for details who can use the rd, e.g. Main HQs and B echs. Supply to tps off the rd will be by pack or man-carry from meeting pts on the rd.

2. SECURITY

In order to secure the max benefit from the exercise, offrs are requested NOT to recce the area before the exercise commences and to ensure that no members of their gps do so.

3. TPS TAKING PART

(a) British Force 2/23 Aust Inf Bn, with under comd

One bty 2/12 Aust Fd Regt
One pl 2/2 Aust MG Bn
One det 2/11 Aust Fd Amb
Details 10 Mule Coy RIASC

(b) German Force OC - Capt J. M. METHVEN - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Tps - 23, 24, 48 Bns will each supply two complete pls. The personnel comprising this force will remain unchanged for each date on which the exercise is carried out.

4. DATES OF EXERCISE

1 - 3 Jun - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Gp.

5. OUTLINE TIME TABLE

D 1 1800 hrs British Force completes close leaguer area 175286 - 176286, avoiding crops.

D 3 0600 hrs Exercise ends. Return to unit areas under orders of Bn Gp Comd.

6. UMPIRES

This unit will supply the following umpires :-

(a) Capt J. S. CUMPSTON)) BHQ
Sgt JACOB F. H.)	
(b) Lieut W. C. HARDING)) B Coy
Sgt KENDALL F. J.)	

7. MOVEMENT

- (a) Op Order and Movement Table will be issued 30 May.
- (b) A meeting pt will be arranged, clear of the leaguer area, at which guides will be available to direct sub-units to posns in the area. Timings will be co-ordinated so that any congestion on rd TRIPOLI - LATTAQUIE will be avoided.
- (c) Unit tpt will ferry marching personnel from camp to leaguer area, if necessary, commencing early on D 1. Sub-units with more than one hr to wait at leaguer area will arrange some form of trg to occupy the time usefully.

8. PERSONNEL

(a) Sub-unit comds will ensure that as large a proportion of their comds as possible takes part in this exercise, which is under direction HQ, 26 Aust. Inf Bde. Each Coy will be less inlying picquets of adequate size to guarantee security of Coy camps.

(b) HQ Coy personnel, as detailed by OC, will participate, as in a fd operation in which the bn was engaged.

(c) One complete pl of "enemy" will be provided by each of A and D Coys, who will thereby become 2-pl Coys. C Coy, providing duty pl at BHQ - HQ Coy area, will be on a similar basis.

9. AT -

Details 10 Mule Coy RIASC will be under cmd, with a full bn scale of AT.

10. MT -

Very few A ech vehs will be used.

11. RATIONS

(a) For D 1 and D 3, normal scale.

(b) Rations for consumption on D 2 will be a special battle ration, drawn by QM from DID.

12. DRESS

(a) Tops Taking Part - Battle order; "enemy" will wear white band on front of hat.

(b) Umpires - Two white arm bands.

Capt

Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

DISTRIBN

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

Send with Jim Dring

WD

EXERCISE SECRET

Ref Maps : LEVANT 1/50,000 series
HAMIDIEH HALBA Sheet.

COPY NO 25

30 May 42.

2/23 AUST INF BN OP ORDER (EX) NO 13

INFM

1. Enemy -

- (a) German forces operating in coastal sector, have been steadily driven back towards TAREOUSSE by 9 Aust Div, strongly supported by armoured formations.
- (b) Small German force has withdrawn EAST in mountain country, vicinity HALBA. When received, further info anticipated will be promulgated by quickest available means.

2. Own Tps -

- (a) 26 Aust Inf Bde has been ordered to despatch a bn gp to clear this enemy pocket.
- (b) 2/23 Aust Inf Bn, for this task, has the following under comd :-
 - One bty 2/12 Aust Fd Regt
 - One pl 2/2 Aust MG Bn
 - One det 2/11 Aust Fd Amb
 - Details 10 Mule Coy RIASC.

INTENTION

- 3. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will move to close leaguer area, vicinity 175286 - 176286, on 1 Jun, to make RV with supporting sub-units; close leaguer to be completed by 1800 hrs.

METHOD

- 4. Marching personnel will be ferried by unit tpt, vide Movement Table, Appx A.
- 5. Sub-unit SP's - Embussing pts, vide Appx A.
- 6. Recce party, guides -
 - (a) One guide per coy, and one I Sec man, with full eqpt, will RV with Major R. E. WALL at BHQ ready to move at 0815 hrs 1 Jun.
 - (b) Party will meet supporting sub-unit guides at junc rd and track 17432863, 1000 hrs.
 - (c) Sub-unit areas for leaguer will be indicated on ground to guides, during recce by Major WALL; guides will then remain at junc 17432863 for their respective incoming sub-units, and lead them to posn.
 - (d) Veh, detailed by TO for party in sub-para (a) above, will return to tpt lines not later than 1200 hrs, for later use according to appendices.
- 7. Carriers -
 - Secs of No 4 (Car) Pl, as detailed by OC HQ Coy, will move independently, arriving at leaguer area NOT later than 1700 hrs.
- 8. Embussing and debussing -
 - Under sub-unit comds orders, according to pts and timings laid down in Appx A; RSM to control BHQ details.

ADM

- 9. Amn - All SAA will be withdrawn from tps before start of exercise, except for small proportion, at discretion of coy comds, to be carried and distributed for security purposes.
- 10. Rations -
 - (a) Evening meal 1 Jun at leaguer area, 1830 hrs.
 - (b) All other ration arrangements according QM's instns to sub-units through COMSSs..

11. Water - Two lorries 30 cwt water tk will supply tps throughout exercise, operating under direction QM.

12. Dress -

- (a) Battle order etc, as already advised.
- (b) Blankets and ground sheet will be carried in pack for 2-night bivouac.

13. Tpt -

- (a) Tp-carrying ferry gps vide Appx A.
- (b) Allotment of sub-unit A and B Ech vehs, vide Appx B.
- (c) AT - Full Bn scale of AT, supplied by 10 Mule Coy RIASC, under comd, will be allotted to sub-units at leaguer area.

14. Medical -

- (a) R&P will close present location 1630 hrs, thereafter will move and bivouac in vicinity BHQ, unless otherwise notified.
- (b) Med ords and SBs, as detailed by RMO, will travel with coys.

15. Malarial control -

- (a) Trousers KD will be carried, for wear after sundown.
- (b) All usual precautions will be taken.

INTER-COMN

16. BHQ -

- (a) Closes present location 1630 hrs.
- (b) Becomes mobile with ferry gp 3.
- (c) Re-opens at leaguer area at 1730 hrs.

17. L/T in leaguer - Sig offr responsible for earliest possible linking of all sub-units and BHQ by L/T in close leaguer area.

18. Conference - All coy comds, IO, and comds supporting sub-units, will RV with CO at BHQ (leaguer area) at 1800 hrs.

ACK

Signed at 2250 hrs and issued through Sigs.

Capt

Adjt 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBN :

Copy No	1	HQ Coy	Copy No	17	Sig Offr
" "	2	A "	" "	18	AA Offr
" "	3	B "	" "	19	Mortar Offr
" "	4	C "	" "	20	Carrier Offr
" "	5	D "	" "	21	Pnr Offr
" "	6	2/12 Aust Fd Regt	" "	22	TO
" "	7	2/2 Aust MG Bn	" "	23	26 Aust Inf Bde
" "	8	2/11 Aust Fd Amb	" "	24	War Diary
" "	9	10 Mule Coy RIASC	" "	25	War Diary
" "	10	CO	" "	26	File
" "	11	2 i/c	" "	27	Umpire
" "	12	Adjt	" "	28	Umpire
" "	13	QM	" "	29	Spare
" "	14	RMO	" "	30	Spare
" "	15	IO			
" "	16	RSM			

MOVEMENT TABLE. TP-FERRY GP'S - APPX "A"

ROUTE :- As recced, under TO's orders.

GP COMPOSITION: Unit tpt, as under, will be reshuffled by TO, from time to time, to constitute three ferry gps, shown with timings in Table below :-

5 lorries 30 cwt; 6 lorries 3 ton.

Punctuality is positively essential :-

- (a) in formation and reporting at embussing pts of ferry gps.
- (b) in embussing and departure from sub-unit localities.

SPEED DENSITY : MIH (a) For Ser 1, 2, 3 and 5 - 12½
(b) For Ser 4 - 10

VIM - 20.

DISPERSAL PT : Sub-unit localities at leaguer area.

HALTS : None necessary.

Ser	Gp No	Ferry Gp		Sub-Unit	Embus Pt	Report At	Depart	Arrive Leaguer	Depart Leaguer		Remarks
		Vehs							Destination	Time	
		30cwt	3 ton								
1.	Gp 1		3	A Coy less one pl	A Coy veh pt	0850	0900	1050	C Coy HQ	1100	
2.	Gp 1		3	C Coy less pl	C Coy HQ.	1250	1300	1450	BHQ	1500	Gp returns to tpt lines by 1600 hrs
3.	Gp 2	5	2	B Coy	B Coy HQ.	0935	0945	1130	D Coy HQ	1140	
4.	Gp 2	5	2	D Coy plus pl A Coy	D Coy HQ.	1240	1250	1350	BHQ	1400	Gp returns to tpt lines by 1500 hrs
5.	Gp 3		6	BHQ HQ Coy	Main Camp rd	1620	1630	1730	BHQ	1740	Four vehs stay at leaguer for mess, then tpt "enemy" to posn; two remain with "enemy", other two return to tpt lines.

SUB-UNIT A & B ECH VEH ALLOTMENT - APPX "B"

Ser	Sub-Unit	VEHS				Office	REPORTING AT		TRAVELLING WITH		Remarks
		8 cwt	15 cwt	30 cwt	3 ton		Place	Time	Ferry Gp.	Ser in Appx A.	
1.	No 1 (Sig) Pl, eqpt & details.			1			HQ Coy	1300	-	-	Travel independently under Sig offr, reporting to Maj R. E. WALL at leaguer; surplus sig personnel in tp-carrying vehs.
2.	No 3 (Mor) Pl, eqpt & details.			1			HQ Coy	1500	Gp 3	5	Surplus of mortar personnel in tp-carrying vehs.
3.	RAP		1				RAP	1500	Gp 3	5	Normal allotments SBs will travel with rifle coys, detailed by BMO.
4.	QM		1	5			Regtl Q Store.	1530	-	-	Unit B Ech. These vehs remain under QM's orders for duration of exercise.
5.	Coys		5				Respective Coys HQs.	0800	-	-	Coy Comds' vehs.
6.	OC Enemy	1					C Coy HQ.	1400	-	-	Under orders Capt J. M. METIVEN for duration of exercise.
7.	BHQ		1			1	BHQ	1400	Gp 3	5	Van 15cwt is BHQ offr's baggage, batman, etc.
8.	TOTAL Ser 1 - 7	1	8	7		1					One van 15 cwt, one lorry 30 cwt, on loan, reporting BHQ 1100 hrs.

Tp-Carrying vehs.

APPX 2

Ref Maps : LEVANT SERIES 1/50,000:
FAMIDIH - HALBA Sheets.

COPY ID

2 Jun 42

2/23 AUST INF BN OP ORDER (EX) NO 14

INTENT1. Enemy -

- (a) Tac R 1600 hrs 1 Jun disclosed enemy had withdrawn EAST towards GEBRAIL 138286. Movement observed between GEBRAIL and HALBA 185289.
- (b) Force is apparently remnants of 104 Lorried Inf Regt, approx half original strength.

2. Own Tps -

26 Aust Inf Bde has ordered clearance of enemy from this area, by move as soon as possible after first light 2 Jun.

3. Ground -

Rd is mostly B2, with many sharp bends, and dominated in most places by high ground on one or both sides.

INTENTION

4. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Gp will move 2 Jun, and clear enemy from area HALBA - GEBRAIL.

METHOD

5. Marching personnel will move on foot with MT.

6. Order of March -

(a) Adv Mob Screen - No 4 (Car) Pl less one sec.

(b) Adv Gd - C Coy
Arty OP offr
One sec carriers
Two dets No 3 (Mor) Pl
One sec A Tk Pl
Recco party No 5 (Pnr) Pl
One MG DR

(c) Main Body -

BHQ (with supporting arms comds)
No 1 (Sig) Pl
No 3 (Mor) Pl less two dets
A Coy
Pl 2/2 Aust MG Bn
D Coy
2nd line details 10 Mule Coy RLASC
B Coy (less one pl)
RAP
23 Bty 2/12 Aust Fd Regt (less one tp)

7. Route - Main rd to HALBA - GEBRAIL.

8. SP -

- (a) Rd junc 17712868
(b) RP Sgt will check units across for order of march.

9. Time of Move -

- (a) Head of main body to pass SP 0515 hrs.
(b) Supporting arms comds RV with BHQ at junc MAIN RD - LEAGUE R TRACK at 0500 hrs, ready to move.

10. Intervals -

Sub-unit gps in main body will maintain 150 yd intervals.

11. Task - Adv Mob Screen -

To report following bounds clear of enemy, and hold each until reached by head of adv gd.

- (a) High ground both sides rd 18022876.
- (b) " " " " " 18462880.
- (c) All cuttings and defiles between bound (b) and succeeding bound 18702870.

12. Movement - Adv Mob Screen -

Will move to first bound with adv gd, thereafter independently within scope of para 11 above.

13. A Protection -

- (a) No 2 (A.A) Pl will picquet route of main body, paying especial attention to defiles in para 11 above.
- (b) Movement by bounds in MT.

14. A Tk Protection -

- (a) A Tk Pl, less one sec, to picquet route of main body, siting guns at all rd and track juncs.
- (b) Movement by bounds in MT.

15. Traffic Control -

RPs will establish TCPs at entrance to each defile, cutting etc to :-

- (a) Regulate traffic
- (b) Check sub-unit intervals
- (c) In event of enemy air attack in a defile, halt oncoming sub-units for dispersal.

16. Gas Attack -

- (a) Normal AG measures
- (b) Personal decontam on move
- (c) RAP, following through at rear of main body, will attend serious gas casualties.

17. B Ech -

Remain present location until ordered up; local protection by one pl B Coy.

ADM

18. Dress -

Battle order, helmet steel.

19. Amn Res -

- (a) Sub-units will carry own res.
- (b) Bn SAA res at rear of BHQ gp.

20. Rations -

- (a) Battle ration will be issued to sub-units night 1/2 Jun, and carried on man.
- (b) On order of sub-unit comds, meals will be eaten when situation permits.

21. Blankets -

To be carried on 1st-line AT.

22. Medical -

- (a) RAP will close present location 0500 hrs and move with main body at rear of B Coy.
- (b) SBs and med orderlies with sub-units as detailed by RMO.

INTER-COMM

23. BHQ -

- (a) Will close present location 0500 hrs.
- (b) Will become mob at head of main body.

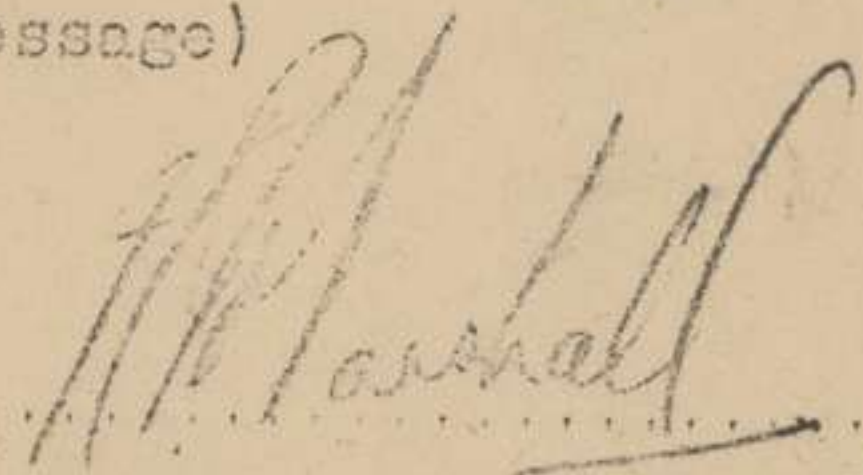
24. Reports to BHQ During Move -

Success of each bound will be reported to mob BHQ by -

- (a) Adv Mob Screen Comd, by carrier (message)
- (b) Adv Gd Comd, by MC DR.

ACK

Signed at 0047 hrs and issued through Sigs.



 Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Capt

DISTRIBN :

Copy No	1	HQ Coy	Copy No	18	Sig Offr
" "	2	A "	" "	19	AI Offr
" "	3	B "	" "	20	Mortar Offr
" "	4	C "	" "	21	Carrier Offr
" "	5	D "	" "	22	Pnr Offr
" "	6	23 Bty 2/12 Aust Ed Regt	" "	23	TO
" "	7	Pl 2/2 Aust MG Bn	" "	24	Comd A Tk Pl
" "	8	Det 2/11 Aust Ed Amb	" "	25	26 Aust Inf Bde
" "	9	Details 10 Mule Coy RLASC	" "	26	War Diary
" "	10	CO	" "	27	War Diary
" "	11	2 i/c	" "	28	File
" "	12	Adjnt	" "	29	Umpire
" "	13	QM	" "	30	Umpire
" "	14	RMO	" "	31	Umpire
" "	15	IO	" "	32	Umpire
" "	16	G(R) Offr	" "	33	Spare
" "	17	RSM	" "	34	Spare

2/23 AUST INF BN - EX 1 - 3 JUN 42

HALBA AREA

ACTION DIARY

Serial	Time	From	To	Event	Action
1	1730	BHQ	26 Bde	BHQ est Leaguer Area at 17592865	Sigs
I 1/4	1740	"	A,B,C,D HQ.	Appointments, Coy Bn Code, map ref code, will be used.	Sigs
3	1800	"	do	Coy Comds conferance	IO aware
4	1900	"	do	CO, Adjnt, SO, and Sig runner leave BHQ on recce	" "
5	1901	D Coy	BHQ	Sitnor	" "
I 1/3	1902	BHQ	ABCDHQ Car pl B Ech Arty, MMG, Sec 2/11 Fd Amb, 10 Mike Coy	PW 1/2 Jun - BALLS (I 1/3)	Sigs
7	1912	Car Pl	BHQ	Sitnor	
8	1913	WIND OP	"	OP est at 17662864. one flying boat flying WEST towards TRIPOLI speed 100 mph height 2000. air-craft proved friendly beach patrol. single engine machine	IO in- formed
9	1930	Sigs	"	Advising unable contact 26 Bde by W/T. ref our message serial No 1	do
10	1950			CO and party return from recce	do
11	1955	B Coy		Sitnor	do
12	2000	BHQ	LO Bde	BHQ est at 17592865 (this on a/c W/T not available)	Handed Capt GEBHARDT
13	2000	C Coy	BHQ	Sitnor	IO aware
14	2000	D Coy	"	"	do
I 1/5	2001	BHQ	B, Car pl	recce 1900 hrs 1 Jun revealed det enemy inf strength unknown vicinity 180286. car pl recce patrol strength 2 ORs to recce area for further infm. B Coy fighting patrol strength 1 pl will accompany patrol for protection. time out 2100 hrs in 2400 hrs. Water truck & 2 PsW captured	Sigs
16	21	Car pl	BHQ	Water truck & 2 PsW captured	
17	21	D Coy		SP est on rd HALBA opposite WEST end bivouac area 17482864 (I 1/6)	IO in- formed

Serial	Time	From	To	Event	Action
I 1/6		BHQ	Arty,MMG, Car pl	SP D Coy at 17482864	Sigs
19	2055	C,HQ,D		Sitnor	IO
20	2105	A,B		"	
21	2115	A		Ack I 1/5	
22	2130	D		ditto	
23	0952	C		Sitnor	
24	0954	A		"	
25	0956	D,B,		"	
26	1010	A,D,Car Pl,B,C		"	
27	2346	A,C,D, HQ		"	DO in- formed
28	2405	B		Report patrol in :- ref I 1/5 infm, bright lights observed for few seconds at . 288 presumed E veh	DO "
29	2410	Car pl		2 pls inf, 1 MT & some mules lightly guarded ref 17902865 (approx)	DO "
<u>2 JUN</u>					
30	0035	A,C,D		Sitnor	DO "
31	0110	B,HQ		"	DO "
32	0145 0157 0214	B CDA FISH		" " "	DO "
33	0215	D		Ack Op Order Ex No 14	DO "
34		B,C		Sitnor	DO "
I 2/1	D300	BHQ	ABCDHQ Arty,MMG, Bde	Car patrol night 1/2 Jun reports 2 pls inf, mules, 1 MT at 17902865	Sigs
V35	0350	C Coy A "		Sitrep & patrol reports Sitnor & close down	DO in- formed
V36	0400	B, D		ditto Sitnor	do
V37	0410	D		Close down	do
38	0440			BHQ closes leaguer area	
39	0516			Cross start line	
40	0540			Move from start line	
C26	0505	Car pl		Bound A secure. no enemy in vicinity. Patrol pushed fwd in direction HALBA	Seen by CO File

Ser	Time	From	To	Event	Action
41	0510	IO		Lucas sigs from C Coy at TELL ARNO apparently reporting bound clear of enemy	
CE 22	0515	C Coy		Bound "A" reported clear of enemy. no movement seen in vicinity	Seen by CO File
A 315	0602	BHQ	2 i/c, Arty 23 bty MMG, ADB, Mule Coy OC RMO BHQ	Enemy now in occupation. TELL ARNO. C Coy attacking	File
CE2/3	0545	C Coy	BHQ	Enemy now in occupation TELL ARNO. am attacking	File
C 27	0610	Car pl	BHQ	Enemy MG post located in vic 18162877. fire subdued	File
CE 24	0613	C Coy	BHQ	attack successful. am continuing adv	File
A 316	0620	BHQ	Arty, MMG, 2 i/c, AD, Mule Coy OC B, RAP, Fd Arb	C Coy reports attack ref A315 successful. adv continuing. all informed	File
A 317	0638	BHQ	do	C Coy reports enemy MG post 18162877. fire subdued. main gd clear of bound "A". enemy remnants withdraw EAST after C Coy successful attack	File
CE2/5	0630	C Coy	BHQ	main gd clear of bound A. remnants of enemy attacked withdrew EAST	File
CE2/6	0648	C Coy	BHQ	Small scattered enemy force 17732867. apparently letting mob screen proceed without interference & concentrating on foot tps & AT. attack launched 0635 hrs. attack successful 0645. am continuing adv	File
A318	0710	BHQ	Car pl	herewith typical C Coy report to BHQ. are you ensuring areas clear before proceeding. MUST be prepared adv & fight dismounted	File
A319	0713	BHQ	C Coy	should map ref read 18732867 instead 17732867. as in your sig. can you report second bound clear. map ref confusing	File
A320	0717	BHQ	Car pl (copy for infm)	C Coy message T00 0648 hrs rptd. sig A318 refers. text begins small scattered enemy force 17732867. apparently letting mob screen proceed without interference & concen-	File

Ser	Time	From	To	Event	Action
				trating on fwd tps & AT. attack launched 0635 hrs successful 0645 hrs. am cont adv. end of text	File
C 28	0710	Car pl	BHQ	hy LMG fire covering rd 18462884 carriers held up. no other opposition en- countered up to this pt	File
A322	0726	BHQ	Car pl	CO enquires what are you doing about it	File
A323	0726	BHQ	C Coy, Car pl	TacR 0825 hrs reports 6 tkts on track 18522873. 5 hastily dug wpn pits 18452876. MG pit 18492868. 8 MT on rd 18672872. all informed	File
C 29	0730	Car pl	I Sec	very strong hy MG posn above cutting 18512871. posn is beyond range our wpns. will require mortar or arty to subdue fire. strong LMG posns at 1846 2876 can engage these effectively. movement off rd impossible	File
A 325	0815	BHQ	2 i/c,arty, MMG,A,D,Mule Comd,B,RAP, Amb	very strong hy MG posn above cutting 18512871. beyond range our wpns. adv gd attack is being mounted with arty sp. Car pl reports can ef- fectively engage strong LMG posns 18462876 but movement off rd impos- sible	File
A 326	0835	BHQ	ditto	C Coy reports an attack- ing LMG posn 18452875. arty mortar fire on MMG posns line 18492868 18532871. if attack succ- essful carriers coy tps will clear enemy from MMG posns	File
CE 2/8	0820	C Coy	BHQ	context as A 326	
CE2/9	0955	B Coy	BHQ	attack on MMG posns 18512872 successful. am continuing adv	File
I 2/1	1010	BHQ	2 i/c,arty, MMG,A,D,Comd Mule Coy,B, RAP,Fd Amb	ditto	File
V 42	1035	Chief Umpire		adv gd inf & carriers annihilated	Coys in- formed
V 43	1040	CO		CO orders O Gp to RV at 18432885 1200 hrs (can- celled). 1145 hrs - 1245 hrs halt for lunch	

Ser	Time	From	To	Event	Action
327	1145	BHQ	A, C, HQ, Car pl, XXXX rept 2 i/c, arty, MMG, RAP, Fd Amb	infm. adv gd driven off enemy & holding line astride rd 18422870. enemy last seen embussing & disappear- ing direction GEBRAIL. we suffered 20% casualties. 1 sec cars mob screen in front adv gd. adv will cont with main body leaving pres- ent posn 1245 hrs. order of march adv gd A Coy, OP Offr, 1 sec cars, 2 fresh dets mor- tar, 1 sec A Tk pl, recce party pms, 1 M/C DR. adv gd pass thro' C Coy present posn. cars to be provided by present adv mob screen. main body R Gp, BHQ, Sigs, mortar pl less 2 dets, D Coy pl, MMG, B Coy, second line mules, C Coy, RAP, arty.	File
A 329	1225	BHQ	Arty, MMG, A, B, Mule Coy, RAP, Fd Amb	O Gp RV head of coln on rec- eipt this sig	
A 330		BHQ		Resistance overcome in GEBRAIL. tps now passing this village	
TacR	1430	Bde		Up to 20 wpn pits 19152872. more at 19212863. 4 guns 1931 2870. sikt	All in- formed
I 2/2	1503	BHQ	All adds	adv Tac R	Sigs
13	1530	C Coy	B, C, D	move coys direct to rd junc 18872861 where you will be met by guides who will lead you to biv area	
GG2	1534	A Coy	BHQ	carrier patrol returned 1525 hrs. encountered MMG A Tk rifle fire vic 19052867. one car knocked out. present loc- ation car 18882862	File
V44	1607			BHQ arrives leaguer area 18802869	do
A 332	1620	BHQ	A Coy rptd HQ, B, C, D & MMG	one tp arty has NR def fire task on rd fork 18882862	Sigs
I 2/4	1645	BHQ	A Coy	continue present arrangements. occupy outpost line & with- draw carriers behind same	File
DE 5	1630	BHQ	D Coy	D Coy now in biv posn 1630 hrs	IO adv
		A Coy	BHQ	ditto	
I 2/3	1719	23 Bn	26 Bde	Bn biv atea night 2/3 vic 18802869 (ref HALBA 1/50000)	Sigs

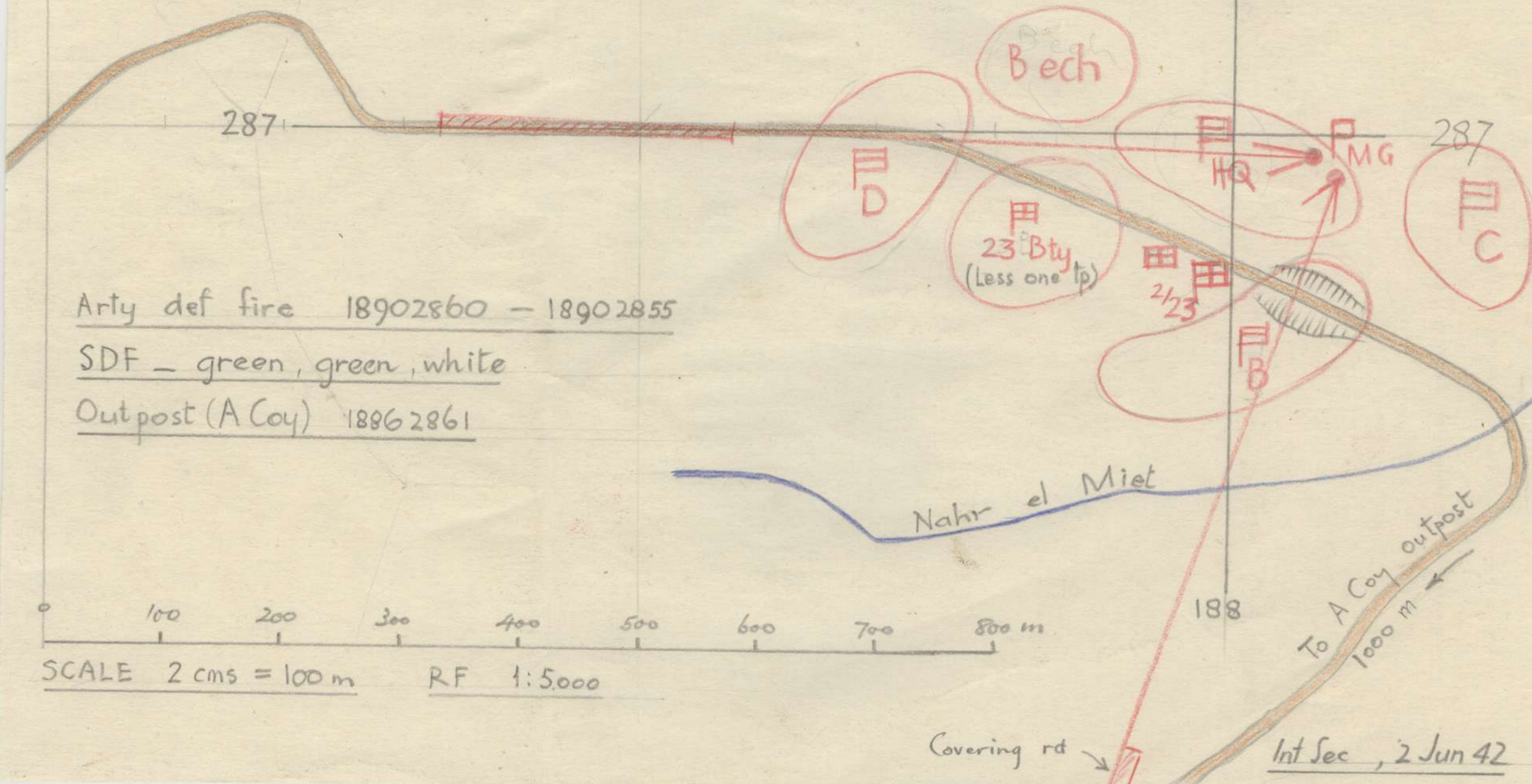
I 2

Ser	Time	From	To	Event	Action
I2/5	1720	BHQ	2 i/c, A, B, D, C, HQ, Car, Arty, MMG, Fd Amb	Sitreps required hrly from 1900 hrs till 0600 hrs 3 Jun. Reveille 3 Jun 0530 hrs breakfast present loc- ation 0600 hrs. ferrying of tps back to the camp starts probably 0700 hrs 3 Jun definite arrangements to be notified later. sub- units responsible for own security in biv areas	Sigs
	1825	Arty	LO adv	sig for def fire is green, green, white	
I2/6	1830	BHQ	A, B, C, D, HQ, Arty, MMG, Fd Amb, Car	A Coy SDF green, green, white flares. on SDF all sub-units will stand to & await further orders. Pass word night 2/3 Jun MULE	Sigs
GG4	1815	BHQ	A Coy	SDF green green white. no more mortars necessary	File
I2/7	1845	BHQ	Mor Pl, Sig pl, Pnr pl, HQ coy	BHQ duty offrs roster night 2/3 Jun	File
V45	1905	C, HQ	BHQ	Sitnor	DO ad- vised
V46	2000	A, B, C, D, HQ	BHQ	"	"
V47	2044	L Sec Sigs	BHQ	Unable to contact Bde by W/T	"
V48	2100	A, B, C, D, HQ	"	Sitnor	"
V49	2200	"	"	"	"
V50	2300	"	"	"	"
V51	2355	"	"	"	"
	2220			2/23 Adm Instn Ex 2 Jun issued re order of return move to camp	
V52	0045	"	"	Sitnor	"
V53	0150	"	"	"	"
V54	0245	"	"	"	"
V55	0350	"	"	"	"
V56	0450	"	"	"	"
V57	0550	"	"	"	"
CE3/1	0600	C Coy	BHQ	Ack Bn Adm Instn Ex	
M4	0605	RMO	"	"	

Ser	Time	From	To	Event	Action
	0745	BHQ		conference all tps for discussion on ex by CO	
V58	0820			BHQ closes down biv area 18802869	
V59	0825			BHQ convoy leaves biv area vide movement table	

2/23 Bn BIVOLIAC AREA night 2/3 188

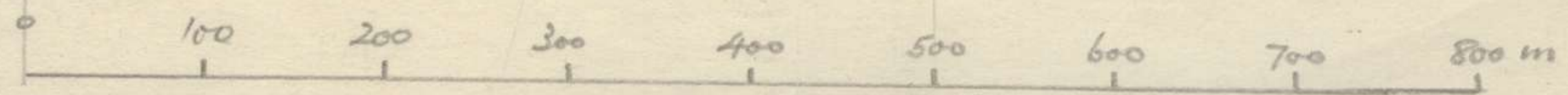
enlarged from HALBA 1:5000



Arty def fire 18902860 - 18902855

SDF - green, green, white

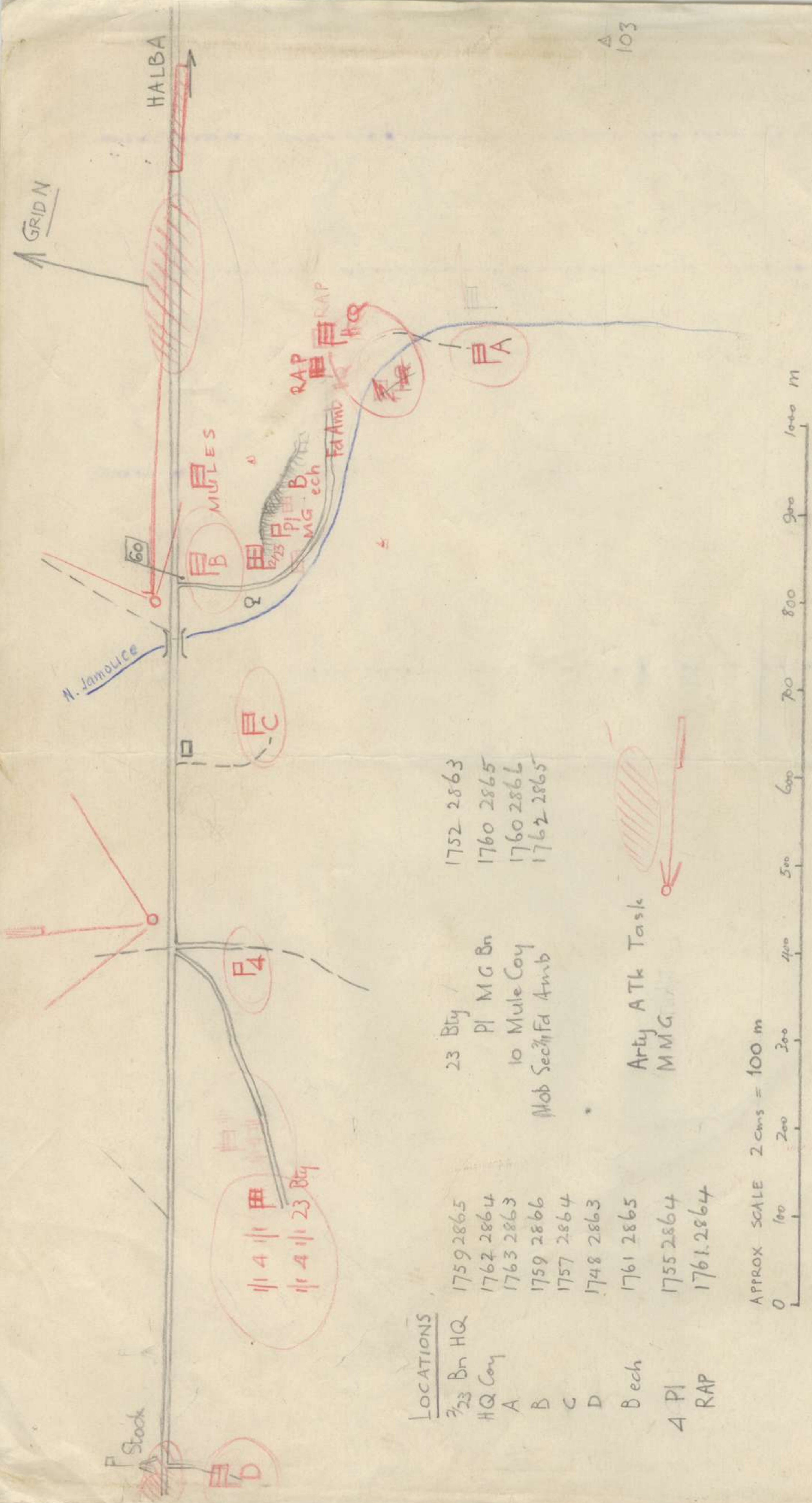
Outpost (A Coy) 18862861



SCALE 2 cms = 100 m RF 1:5,000

Covering rd →

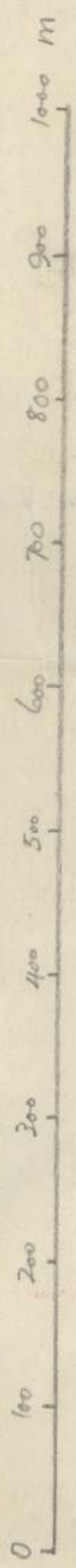
Int Sec, 2 Jun 42



LOCATIONS

23 Bn HQ	1759 2865	23 Bty	1752 2863
HQ Coy	1762 2864	PI MG Bn	1760 2865
A	1763 2863	10 Mule Coy	1760 2864
B	1759 2866	Mob Sec ² /Fd Amb	1762 2865
C	1757 2864		
D	1748 2863		
B ech	1761 2865		
A PI	1755 2864	Arty ATk Task	
RAP	1761 2864	MMG	

APPROX SCALE 2cms = 100 m



APPX 3-

56/326

3
HQ 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

20 May 42

26 Aust Inf Bde

SUMMARY

Following is summary of tng programme 1-15 Jun 42
in accordance with 26 Aust Inf Bde Tng Instn No 25 :-

Bn Attack in Mountainous Country	14 hrs
Pl and Coy Tng in Unopposed River Crossing	7 "
Route March in Mountainous Country	7 "
Bn Exercise - Demo of Pl in Unopposed River Crossing	7 "
Pack Tpt Tng and Tests	4 "
Recapitulation - LMG	1 "
Machine Carbine	1 "
Gas Decontamination Lecture and Demo	1 2
	<u>42 hrs</u>

In addition, two night exercises in mountainous
country.

Donald Evans

Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Lt-Col

Period	1st DAY	2nd DAY	3rd DAY	4th DAY	5th DAY	6th DAY
1. 0830-0930	Bn attack in mountainous country under Bde direction		Pl and Coy tng in unopposed river crossing, to decide best methods and select best pl to represent coy in Bn Demo, 6th Day.	Pack Tpt	Route March, 12 miles in mountainous country using A/T, with frequent practices in off-load- ing wpns and amn into action posns	Bn Exercise :- Demo of pl in unopposed river crossing, to be carried out in succession by one specially trained pl per rifle coy, re- mainder of bn watching. Con- ference on ex- ercise to follow with decision on which coy's pl carried out best crossing.
2. 0930-1030				Tng		
3. 1030-1130				and		
4. 1130-1230				Tests		
5. 1400-1500				LMG recapit- ulation.		
6. 1500-1600				Gas decontam- ination lecture and demo.		
7. 1600-1700				Machine car- bine recapit- ulation.		
8. Night		Night movement in mountainous country stres- sing mainten- ance of direct- ion silence etc.	Night march fol- lowed by night adv in mountain- ous country.			

75

TRG PROGRAMME

16 - 30 JUN 42

2/23 ABT INF BN

1st DAY	2nd DAY	3rd DAY	4th DAY	5th DAY	6th DAY
<p>Exercise</p> <p>as Bn Gp</p> <p>co-operating</p> <p>with FFL</p>		<p>Bn in Bde Mob Trg, FORGLOSS,</p> <p>26 Jun - 10 Jul.</p>			

APPX 4

MD (4)

MOST SECRET

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

COPY NO 70

4 Jun 42.

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

INFORM

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 IC DRs		
Wireless van		L Sec Sigs, 9 Aust Div
One pl MGs		2/2 Aust MG Bn
One MP Sec (Eight 3-ton vehs)		12 Coy ASC

6. CD Mob Coy will be maintained DURING HRS OF DARKNESS at 30 min notice to move, HQ Coy details remaining with coy concerned between Retreat and Reveille daily.

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. Telephone Coy Comd concerned.
- ii. Notify adjt.

(b) Action to be Taken on Turn Out Call -

- i. Coy Comd will IMMEDIATELY report to HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde for orders.
- ii. Wireless van will report from HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde and join Coy concerned.
- iii. Coy will embus under orders Coy 2 i/c and move out of Coy lines to a meeting pt ordered by Coy Comd, who will RV there on his return 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 -

It should be the Coy Comd's aim, by frequent practice, to reduce the period specified in para 6 to a minimum.

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 -

B Coy will furnish CD Mob Coy until further notice.

12. Recces -

These were carried out from BECHMEZZINE Camp, in accordance with 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Instn No 3, but a "refresher" may be ordered, at discretion of Coy Comd.

ADM

13. Wpns - QM will ensure that CD Mob Coy and att details are, as far as possible, are equipped to G1098 scale.

14. Amn - Normal allotments on man and with gun will accompany CD Mob Coy and Bn. Bn res amn will accompany Bn.

15. Tpt - Vehs, vide para 5 above, will report nightly to coy locality, returning to own camp at Reveille.

16. Loading - On arrival of vehs, Coy will load them with amn and rations and will picquet them. Amn issues and loading of bren mags will be commenced, in the vehs, immediately tps embus on turn out.

17. Rations -

- (a) One day's res rations on man.
- (b) Extra day's 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 - As ordered by RMO.

INNER-COMM

22. Reports - Bn Duty Offr will report progress by telephone to Duty Offr 26 Aust Inf Bde, as follows :-

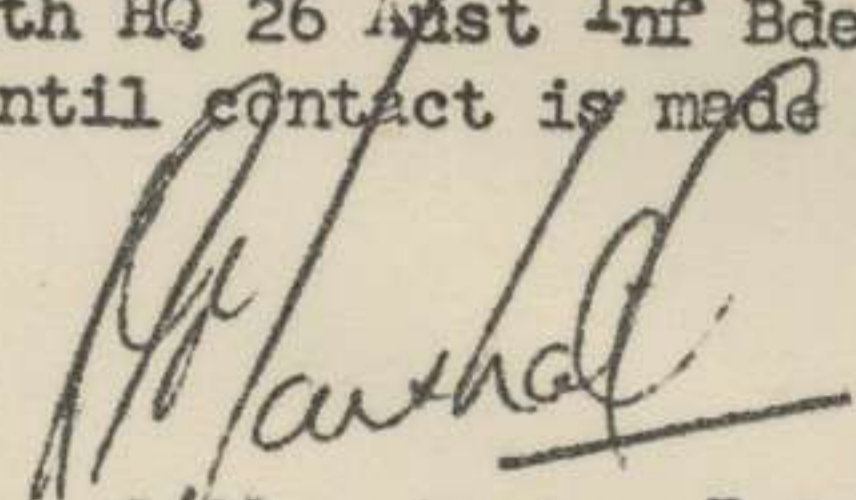
- (a) 25 mins after receipt of turn out order - present state of det.
- (b) Time of departure of det, immediately it leaves.

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.

CK

Signed at 1430 hrs
and issued through sigs.


 Adj. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Capt

DISTRIBUTION

Copy No	1	B Coy	Copy No	12	2 i/c
" "	2	HQ Coy	" "	13	Adj. 2/23
" "	3	A "	" "	14	QM
" "	4	C "	" "	15	RMO
" "	5	D "	" "	16	IO
" "	6	9 Aust Div Sigs	" "	17	RSM
" "	7	12 Coy ASC	" "	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

APPX 5

WD (5)

MOST SECRET

COPY NO 22

4 Jun 42

2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Instr (SYRIA) NO 6

Ref Maps : LEVANT SERIES 1/200,000.

INFM

1. Vide 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Instr (SYRIA) No 5.
2. FDLs of Sector B will be held with a reduced force, when 26 Aust Inf Bde assembles to fulfil role as res to bdes holding the coastal defences.

INTENTION

3. On sig "COASTGUARD", 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will man entire FDLs of Sector B.

METHOD

4. Res coy to be at full strength, outpost pl being provided by RIGHT fwd coy. (This has already been effected).
5. Skeleton dispose
Action on "COASTGUARD" will be :-
 - (a) LEFT fwd coy will take over and hold (in addition to own locality) the RIGHT fwd coy posn of LEFT bn.
 - (b) Res coy will occupy, with one pl each, the other three coy posns of LEFT bn.
 - (c) Outpost (centre) coy, on withdrawal, will occupy 2/23 Aust Inf Bn's res coy posn.
6. Recce
Coy comds, under own arrangements, will recce localities, routes, etc; action to be completed by 2359 hrs 6 Jun.

ADM

7. Res rations, amn, etc, will be moved with sub-units.
8. Estimate of essential tpt will be rendered to BHQ by coy comds by 2359 hrs 6 Jun.
9. Dress
Marching order, with blankets on pack.
10. Medical
 - (a) Existing allotment of SBs to move with coys.
 - (b) 2/23 Aust Inf Bn RAP in present location, unless otherwise notified.
 - (c) RMO to investigate possibility of manning LEFT fwd bn's RAP.

INTERCOMN

11. BHQ will move to RIGHT bn tactical HQ.
12. During recce (vide para 6), each coy comd will ensure that his orderlies become familiar with location of, and route to, BHQ.
13. Sig Offr will investigate and report on arrangements for manning LEFT bn switchboard, and duplicating link-line between the two HQs.

ACK

Signed at 1955 hrs
and issued through sigs.

Adjt 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Capt

DISTRIBN

Copy No	1	A Coy
" "	2	B "
" "	3	C "
" "	4	D "
" "	5	HQ "
" "	6	CO
" "	7	2 i/c
" "	8	Adjt
" "	9	IO
" "	10	QM
" "	11	RMO
" "	12	RSM
" "	13	Sig Offr

Copy No	14	AA Offr
" "	15	Mor Offr
" "	16	Carrier Offr
" "	17	Pr Offr
" "	18	Tpt Offr
" "	19	26 Aust Inf Bde
" "	20	2/48 Aust Inf Bn
" "	21	War Diary
" "	22	War Diary
" "	23	File
" "	24	Spare
" "	25	Spare

2/23 AUST INF BN OP INSTN (SYRIA) No 6.

INTERCOMMUNICATION

The att diagram illustrates how communication would be built up on Bn on right's system.

The switchboard of Bn on left would be immediately manned by Bn on right, at the same time duplicate line would be laid. This line would be laid in a posn parallel to but approx 200x south of existing line.

A recce disclosed that lines already laid by left Bn are not to Coy battle areas which means that lines would have to be laid to these posns.

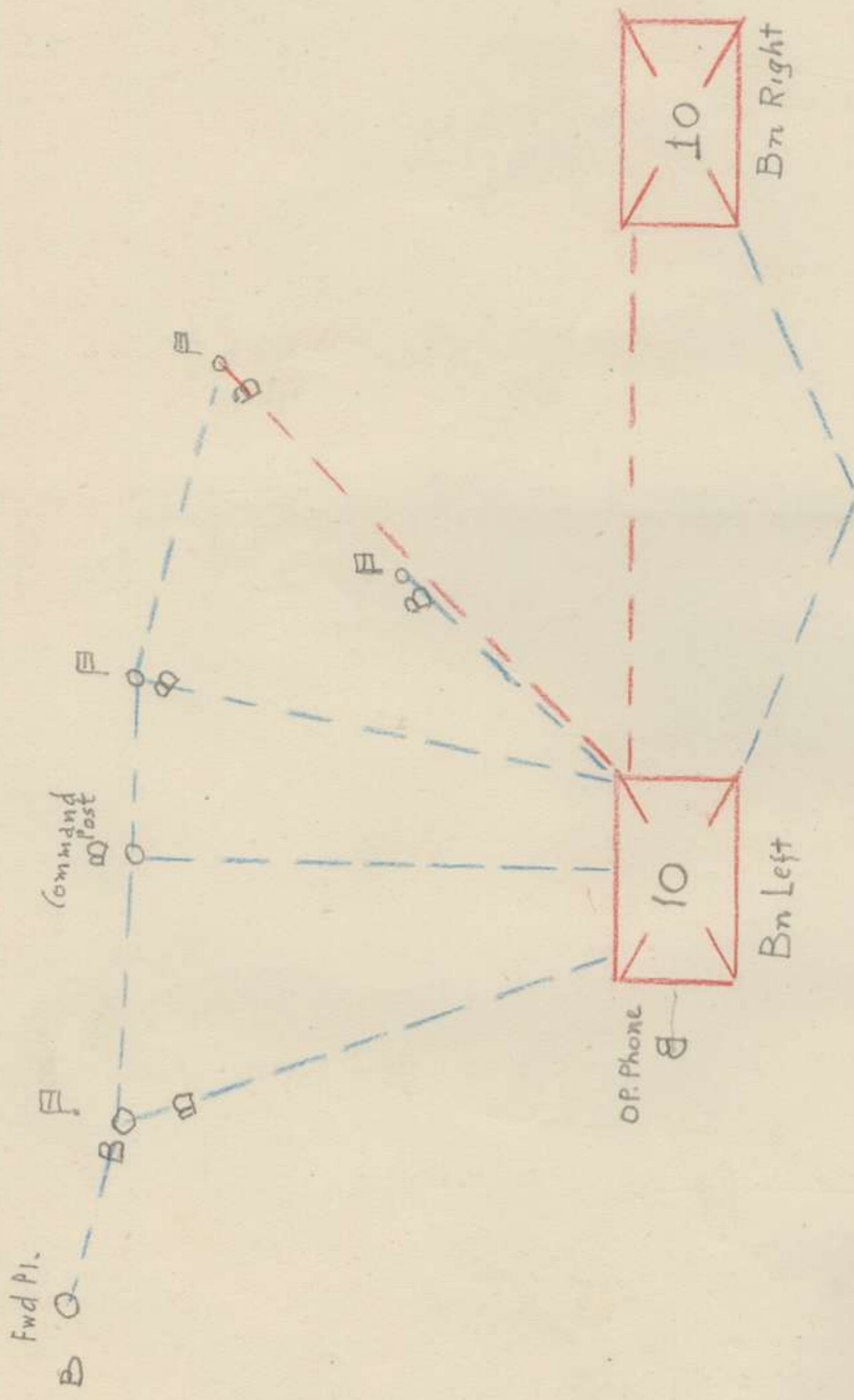
Phones would have to be withdrawn from rt Bn platoons (excepting outpost pls) and placed at left Bn coy posns.

Extra cable required for new posns. Approx 8000yds D III
Single.

6 Jun 42.

Howell Lieut.
Sig Offr, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

2/23 Aust INF BN OP INSTN (Sytia) No 6



— Line To Be Laid
 - - - Line Existing

O.C. 1 PI
 6 JO 42

APPX 6
a

(6) 7 Jun
2/23 AUST INF BN

COY EXERCISE

Ref Maps : HAMIDIEM, HALBA, TELL KALAKH, 1/50,000.

OBJECT

To practice the rifle coy with att arms in rapid moves by MT and the occupation of hasty defensive lines in :-

- (a) Holding bounds in an adv,
- (b) The withdrawal.

LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

1. Rapid embussing and debussing of tps. and dispersal and camflg of vehs thereafter.
2. Approaching by MT in adv gd action.
3. Withdrawal after holding a line, using IT.
4. Hastily occupied defensive posns require long range fds of fire and good observation. Hold the high ground. This applies equally in holding a bound as an adv gd as to denying a line to the enemy in a withdrawal.

COMPOSITION OF FORCE

One rifle coy
1 Lt pl
One sec carriers
Two dets mortars
One tp 2/12 Aust Fd Regt
One tp 3 Aust A Tk Regt

NARRATIVE

(a) Force has been ordered to secure and occupy the following bounds :-

1. TELL ARHO 18032876
2. TELL NEBI 18512931
3. .440 KAOUCHRA and .438 19502965 and 19572948
4. .556 feature 20472965

(b) When final bound is reached, Force becomes rear gd with orders to deny following lines to enemy :-

1. .318 feature at 20253022, astride rd.
2. .282 at 19703040
3. ABOUDIEM at 18702990

(c) Exercise ends at ABOUDIEM (18702990) where sub-units will re-organize and return to respective camp areas.

2/23 AUST INF BN

COY EXERCISE

INSTNS FOR EXERCISE

1. GENERAL: Exercise will be carried out as follows :-

~~Cooy on 8 Jun
B " " 9 "
C " " 10 "
D " " 11 "~~

B - 8 Jun
C - 10
D - 11
A - 12

HQ Coy will provide :-

One sec carriers
Pl
Two dets mortars
Normal sig allotment and one MC DR
on all dates.

DIRECTOR - Lt-Col B EVANS.

2. ASSEMBLY: Personnel taking part will assemble at 17252856 at 0800 hrs on respective days.
Adv Gd Comd will issue his verbal orders for the move at 0800 hrs in that Assembly area.

3. UMPIRES: Chief Umpire - Maj R E WALL
Coy - Capt E P FIVEY
Pl - Lieuts PAINE, RUNDLE, BYRON-MOORE
Carriers - Lieut C G RIGG
Tpt - Sgt F J HENDERSON

4. CONFERENCES

(a) Before exercise - 0900 hrs 7 Jun. All umpires.

(b) After exercise :-

Umpires } Date and time to be notified.
All offrs and umpires }

5. ADM

Dress - fighting order.

Umpires will wear white arm band on right arm.

Rations - midday meal will be carried in haversacks.

Tpt - HQ Coy to provide (Coys to notify TO by 1000 hrs on date preceding exercise, no. of own tps taking part), also spare "learner" dvr.

6. SPECIAL INSTNS

Vehs which are "knocked out" by umpires owing to bad dispersion, concealment or camflg will be returned to camp by independent dvr, all personnel occupying veh being left on the spot.

7. Exercise ends at about 1800 hrs.
-

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

PLACE	MAP REF	TIME FROM PREVIOUS STAGE	TOTAL TIME (excl actions)	MILES DISTANCE FROM PREVIOUS STAGE	MILES TOTAL DISTANCE	PROPOSED ACTION	REMARKS
EL ABDE		000	000	000	000	Coy Gp ass area	Coy areas both sides of rd.
TELL ARHO	18032876	20'	020	4.8	4.8	Bound to be secured by adv gd	
TELL NEBI ▲ 183	18512931	20'	040	4.9	9.7	Bound to be secured by adv gd	
.440 YAOUCHAR. .438	19502965 19572948	30'	1 hr 10'	5.9	15.6	Bound to be secured by adv gd	
.556 feature	20472965	2 hrs 30'	3 hrs 40'	12.5	28.1	Bound to be secured Rear gd action begins	
.318 feature	20253022	35'	4 hrs 15'	5.1	33.2	Bound to be held by rear gd	
.282	19703040	12'	4 hrs 27'	3.8	37.0	Bound to be held by rear gd	
ABOUDLEH	18702990	15'	4 hrs 42'	6.3	43.3	Final bound exercise ends	

II 239 015'
~~WINDY~~ ~~pink 288~~
WINDY 8748 2998

APPX 7

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
AIF (ME),
11 MGK Jun 42.

DEMO RIVER CROSSING

OBJECT

1. To exercise rifle coy pl in river crossing, and to demonstrate best methods evolved by previous practices.

TPS TAKING PART

2. One pl per rifle coy.

MOVEMENT

3. Coys will move independently to selected location for demo river crossing, ref 17632775, vide trace attached, arriving by 1100 hrs.
4. Spectators will take up vantage points on high ground at SOUTH side of crossing.

METHOD

5. Pls will make the crossing in alphabetical order of coys.
6. On completing its crossing, each pl will move clear of the site, joining the spectators to watch succeeding attempts.
7. No more than ten mins will elapse between the completion of one crossing and the start of the next.

AIM

8. WONS -
(a) Full pl G1098.
(b) Every precaution must be taken against risk of loss of wons in river; this is a coy responsibility.
9. Dress - Battle order.
10. Rations - Haversack lunch under coy arrangement.
11. Dispersal - After conference on best methods shown in the four pl crossings, coys will move independently to own localities.
12. Medical - Medical orderly and four stretcher bearers, as detailed by RMO, will be on duty at the point of crossing.

ACK

[Signature]
Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Capt

DISTRIBN :

HQ, A, B, C, D Coys, CO, WD, WD, File.

Ex was cancelled

APPX 8

9 Jun 42

TEWT : LITANI R - 11 - 13 JUN 42GENERAL INSTNS

Ref Maps : LEVANT 1/500,000 series File 4
 1/200,000 " BEIRUT
 1/50,000 " MERDJAYOUN, NABATIYE - TYR

1. OBJECT

This TEWT is designed to study two major subjects :

- (a) One inf bde as the left fwd bde of one inf div holding and fighting on the line of LITANI R.
- (b) One bde gp denying the coastal approach from the NORTH by holding the SOUTH bank of the LITANI R as a delaying posn.

Each subject is quite distinct from the other and each will be taken separately.

2. INTRODUCTORY

In the present theory of warfare the importance of retaining territory at all costs appears to have given away to another factor - the desirability of drawing on the enemy in order to extend, if possible to the pt of strain, his maintenance orgzn.

3. GENERAL NARRATIVE

The month is Jun 1943. In conformity with a policy similar to the above, TWELFTH Army, of which 9 Aust Div is a part, is withdrawing toward PALESTINE. On 11 Jun 43 our forces have reached a general line EL LEJA 2826 - MERDJAYOUN LL 1315 - LITANI R - the sea. The enemy force has NOT followed closely and, for the moment, we are out of contact.

4. NARRATIVE 1.

The decision has been taken to hold and fight on the above line. 9 Aust Div has been given the task of holding the LITANI R from excl MERDJAYOUN to the sea, with right bndy excl rd MERDJAYOUN - JEZZINE.

As a result of a conference at Div main HQ, Bde Orders are now issued.

ADM INSTNS1. Personnel to Attend - 6 Offrs 9 Ors, comprising :

(a) Adm Comd	Maj H R BIRCH
I Offr	Lieut R K REID
Sig Offr	Lieut K E LOVELL
Mor Offr	Lieut A H RUNDLE
Carrier Offr	Capt G H BLAND
A Tk Offr	Capt R C CROMIE

(b) I Offr to nominate one OR of I Sec.

(c) QM to nominate one cook and one storoman.

(d) Batman - Will be on scale of one per rank, capts and lieuts sharing.

(e) 3 drs.

2. Vehs - Car DS
15 cwt (personnel; offrs baggage etc)
15 cwt (Q veh).

3. Time Table

11 Jun a.m. TEWT commences
1600 hrs Answer to Problem 1.
Issue of Problem 2.
12 Jun 1600 hrs Answer to Problem 2.
Issue of Problem 3.
13 Jun 1330 hrs Answer to Problem 3.
1430 hrs TEWT ends.

4. Movement

(a) Unit car party (Car DS and personnel truck) will move from TRIPOLI independently, RVing at LL 10651600 (NORTH of K in K.F.R. BADA) 1600 hrs 11 Jun, after solving Problem 1.

(b) Q truck will RV Bde HQ 0900 hrs 11 Jun and will be led under bde arrangements to the bivouac area.

5. Bivouac

Central bivouac area has been selected by SC and will be notified.

6. Rations

(a) Unit syndicate will carry own rations, and do own cooking etc.

(b) Haversack lunch will be carried by all personnel for 11 Jun.

7. Supps

(a) Fresh scale rations for consumption 11 Jun 42 to be carried from present camp site to bivouac area on 11 Jun.

(b) Fresh scale rations (less meat) for consumption 12 Jun 42 to be picked up from 25 DID BEIRUT by Q veh on 11 Jun.

(c) Fresh meat for consumption 12 Jun 42 to be collected from 25 DID by a veh returning from bivouac area on 12 Jun 42. This veh will also collect "hard" scale rations for consumption 13 Jun 42.

8. Water

To be supplied by 2/24 Aust Inf Bn's water truck.

9. POL

(a) 300 miles per veh to be carried.

(b) Replenishment possible at BEIRUT.

10. Dress

(a) Summer dress.

(b) Trouser KD and shirt sleeves buttoned at wrist after dark.

(c) Offrs will wear pistols.

(d) ORs- marching order.

11. Maps

The two 1/50,000 maps will be issued, when available, without indent.

12. Malaria Control

Normal precautions; curtains sandfly and Dover's cream to be taken.

13. Security

Party responsible throughout for its own security.

14. Intercomn

Back, to HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde, by W/T (L Sec Sigs).

ACK

Signed at 1648 hrs
and issued by runner.

W. Marshall
 Addit. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
 Capt

DISTRIBN

- | | | | |
|------|----|----|--------------|
| Copy | No | 1 | Adm Comd |
| " | " | 2 | I Offr |
| " | " | 3 | Sig Offr |
| " | " | 4 | Mor Offr |
| " | " | 5 | Carrier Comd |
| " | " | 6 | A Tk Comd |
| " | " | 7 | Tpt Office |
| " | " | 8 | QM |
| " | " | 9 | WD |
| " | " | 10 | WD |
| " | " | 11 | File |
| " | " | 12 | Spare |

APPX 9

WD

9

SECRET

COPY NO 20

2/23 AUST INF BN OP ORDER NO 4

15 Jun 42.

Ref Map : TRIPOLI 1/50,000.

INFM

- 1. Enemy - Vide latest Int Summaries to hand.
- 2. Own Tps - 20 Aust Inf Bde is leaving TRIPOLI Fortress, for other duties.

INTENTION

- 3. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will man entire FDLs of Sector B.

METHOD

- 4. New disposns will be in accordance with 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Instn (SYRIA) No 6, the only amendment to which is para 11, where LEFT will now be read in place of RIGHT.
- 5. Time of Relief -
 - (a) Skeleton relief (Adv parties) was completed by 1500 hrs 15 Jun.
 - (b) Full relief to be completed by 1800 hrs 16 Jun.

- 6. Order of March, Timings -

Vide Movement Table, Appx A.

- 7. No 1 (Sig) Pl - will move independently under Sig Offr's orders.
- 8. No 3 (Mor) Pl - will move with HQ Coy, and on arrival at new area, will be tpted on to LEFT fwd Coy locality.

- 9. No 4 (Car) Pl -

The following moves will be carried out independently, under Carrier Offr's orders :-

- (a) Three manned carriers will transfer to D Coy, living in res coy area of present unit location.
- (b) Remainder of pl will move to HQ Coy new location, keeping the rd clear for 2/48 Aust Inf Bn downward traffic between the following hrs :-

0830 - 1200 hrs
 1500 - 1645 hrs

- 10. Security Duties -

Unit will continue to provide all present security duties, which are re-allotted as follows, wef 0600 hrs 16 Jun :-

- (a) A Coy - ZGHORTA Town Picquet
- (b) C Coy - ZGHORTA Shower-house Picquet
- (c) D Coy - CD Mob Coy
- (d) A Tk Pl (Capt R.C. CROMIE OC Camp)
 - Rear BHQ

Details of (a) and (b) above will be obtained by direct liaison with HQ Coy.

ADM

- 1. Q Establishments -

- (a) Coy Q Establishments will be moved with the Coy, in tpt allotted in Appx A.
- (b) Regtl Q Establishment will be moved by pool tpt under separate arrangements.

Above moves will be co-ordinated by QM, who will issue separate adm instns direct to CQMSs.

12. Camp Timings, 16 Jun -

- (a) For D Coy, as ordered by Coy Comd.
- (b) For BHQ, HQ Coy - Normal.

13. Dress - Marching order.

14. Trunks, kit bags, etc -

In the case of BHQ and of HQ Coy, the following will be lodged at Regtl and Coy Q stores respectively by 1000 hrs 16 Jun :-

- (a) Offrs steel trunks
- (b) Suit cases.

15. Tentage -

All surplus tentage in sub-unit areas will be struck, and collected under QM's arrangements, a dump being made in old Sgts' Mess hut.

16. Hutments -

All hutments remain in present location.

17. Accommodation Stores -

To be taken to new location under QM's separate instns.

18. Veh allotment - Vide Appx A.

19. Q Loading Party -

For RQM store, HQ Coy will detail 1 cpl and 9 ORs, reporting to QM by 0930 hrs, and being tpted on completion of work in Q vehs.

20. Medical -

RAP will move under RMO's orders in allotted veh, which will travel independently between 1200 and 1500 hrs, returning to present location immediately off loaded, to come under QM's orders.

21. Security -

- (a) Throughout and after move, all sub-units will be entirely responsible for own security (personnel, arms, amn, eqpt, stores etc).
- (b) As OC Camp at Rear BHQ, Capt R. C. CROMIE will be directly responsible to the CO for security of that area, and for performance of gd duties in accordance with Bn gd orders, but with such alterations in posts as he may consider necessary.

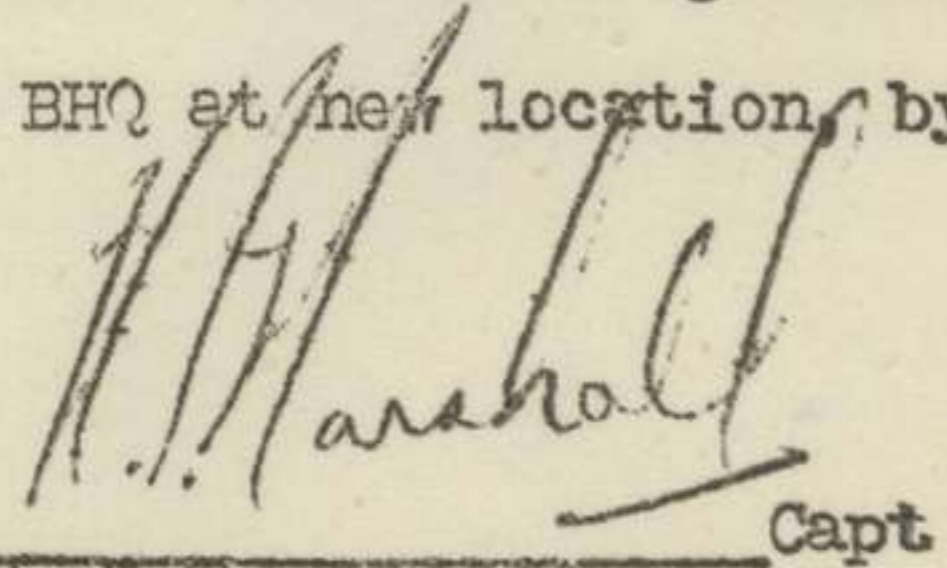
INTER-COMM

- 22. (a) BHQ will close present location at 1130 hrs, 16 Jun.
- (b) BHQ will become mobile, and re-open in new location at 1300 hrs.

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

ACK

Signed at 2015 hrs and issued by Sigs.



Capt

Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

DISTRIBN :

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

APPX "A" - MOVEMENT TABLE

Ser	Sub-Unit	VEHS			Embussing Pt	Depart	Remarks
		15 cwt	30 cwt	3 ton			
1.	D Coy	2	2	5	D Coy Lines	0500 hrs	Q vchs to report for loading, at 1830 hrs 15 Jun
2.	B Coy	2	2	5	B Coy Lines	0645 hrs	Back loading on vchs in Ser 1. Convoy debusses coy at new location, then returns to tpt lines, present location.
3.	Regtl Q		2	4	Regtl Q Store	1200 hrs	Must leave rd clear for downward 2/48 Aust Inf Bn traffic between 1500 hrs and 1645 hrs. Tpt to be available for tp-carrying at Rear BHQ, 1600 hrs (Ser 5).
4.	BHQ	2	2X	1	Rear BHQ	1200 hrs	X Incl 1-ton office van.
5.	HQ Coy details	1	3	5	Main Camp rd	1630 hrs	At completion of this lift, TO to report to BHQ in new location for further veh order.
6.	Q pool tpt.			4	Regtl Q Store		Under QM's orders; vchs on loan from HQ, 26 Aust Inf Bde, available from 1200 hrs.

APPX 10

WD. (10)

SECRET

MOUNTAIN EXERCISE WITH FF TCHERKESS GP

COPY NO 30

16 Jun 42.

1. OBJECT

(a) The object of the exercise is to practice and test the disposns and comns of the FF TCHERKESS Gp in its operational role : by operating against it with an "enemy" force supplied by units of 9 Aust Div.

(b) In addition, it is intended to exercise the "enemy" force in :
Movement through mountainous country
Use of pack tpt
Use of arty OPs (pack tpt)

The max use is to be made of AT, with a corresponding min of MT.

2. TPS TAKING PART

(a) FF TCHERKESS Gp under Comdt de JOLINIERE.

(b) "Enemy" force comprising :-
Comd - Major H. R. BIRCH, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
2/23 Aust Inf Bn less B Coy & security details
One Tp 2/12 Aust Fd Regt
One Pl 2/2 Aust MG Bn
8 Mule Coy RIASO (less mules not required).

3. PROGRAMME

17 Jun - Gp concentrates NEEL KALAKH area.
(a) Tps taking part (less A & C Coys) by 1800 hrs
(b) A & C Coys by 0040 hrs.

18 Jun - 0800 hrs adv commences

19 Jun - 1600 hrs Exercise ends.

4. BOUNDARIES

The exercise will take place within the following boundaries :-

NORTH - EAST WEST line through Trig 224 LL 193304

EAST - 21 Grid line

SOUTH - 27 Grid line

WEST - 18 Grid line.

5. GENERAL SITUATION

"German" forces have advanced SOUTH through SYRIA and are now in contact with TRIPOLI and DJEDEIDE Fortress areas on their Northern perimeters.

The "enemy" Comd has decided to try and outflank the TRIPOLI Fortress area, by advancing through the mountains between the two fortresses with a force of all arms.

The "enemy" have air superiority over area.

6. BN GP TASK

The task of the Bn Gp Comd is to prepare and carry out plan for outflanking movement, in as far as it can be carried through between 0800 hrs 18 Jun 1600 hrs 19 Jun.

7. REPORTS

Reports are requested, by 1800 hrs 20 Jun, from Coy Comds, IO, and HQ Coy Specialist Offrs, referring to any special points or lessons which arose.

2

8. MOVEMENT

- (a) Guides will meet incoming personnel, clear of Leaguer Area, at ref 20183022, midway between WEST extremity TELL KALAKH, and junc rd - rail. Sub-unit localities in Leaguer Area will be pointed out on ground, in adv, to the guides by Major R.E. WALL, whom they will accompany in an independent veh, a.m. 17 Jun.
- (b) Unit tpt will ferry marching personnel from Camp to Leaguer Area, vide Appx A. Sub-units with more than one hr to wait at Leaguer Area, prior to concentration by 1800 hrs, will arrange some form of trg to occupy the time usefully.

9. SECURITY

Throughout duration of exercise, each sub-unit will be responsible entirely for its own security of personnel, arms, amn, eqpt, stores etc. Comds will take every precaution to avoid loss or damage, and will be directly responsible to the CO for the adequacy of their measures.

10. AT

Details 8 Mule Coy REASC will be under comd with a full scale of AT, which will be allotted to sub-units as they arrive at Leaguer Area.

11. RATIONS

- (a) Under separate instns to be issued by QM through CQMSs.
- (b) During exercise, the following cookhouses will operate, each with one lorry 30 cwt :-
- i. BHQ, HQ Coy personnel
 - ii. C Coy (Feeding A Coy personnel also)
 - iii. D Coy

12. WATER

Bn Gp will be replenished by unit lorries 30 cwt water tk, under instns issued by QM to water duties NCO.

13. DRESS

Battle order (helmets steel).

14. ANTI MALARIA CONTROL

All normal malarial precautions to be taken, incl curtains sandfly.

15. UMPIRES

The umpiring team will comprise oftrs and NCOs from other units of 26 Aust Inf Bde, in addition to those already nominated from this unit (Lieuts A.N. MCKOY, M. GOLDSTONE, W.J. VINES, Sgts McCALLUM, DUNCAN and SELLECK). ALL umpires will RV junc rd - rail (20333025) at 1800 hrs. Umpires from this unit will travel as follows :-

Lieut McKoy, Sgts McCallum, Duncan, Selleck - With BHQ, HQ Coy.
Lieut Goldstone - With D Coy.
Lieut Vines - Under separate instns.

16. CARRIERS

Secs of No 4 (Car) Pl, as detailed by OC HQ Coy, will move independently, arriving at Leaguer Area before 1730 hrs.

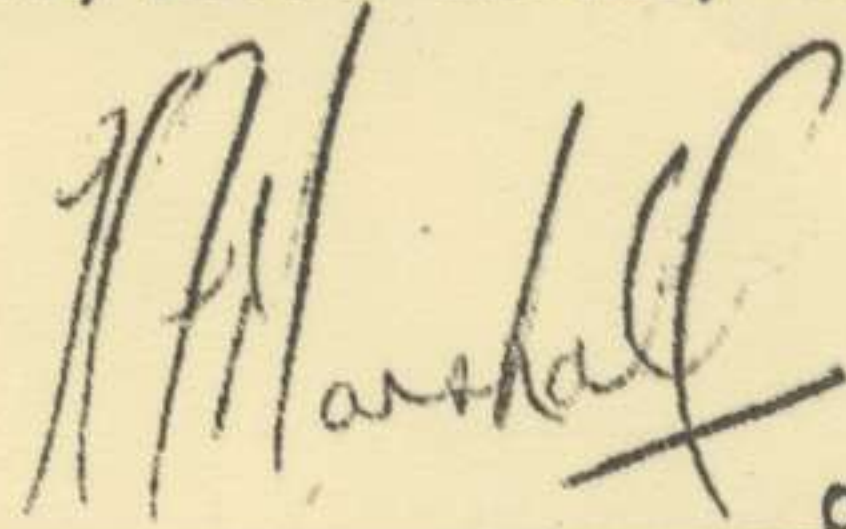
17. AMN -

All SAA will be withdrawn from tps before start of exercise, except for small proportion, at discretion of coy comds, to be carried and distributed for security purposes.

18. INTER-COMM

BHQ will close present location 1400 hrs, become mobile, and re-open at Leaguer Area 1630 hrs.

Signed at 2310 hrs
and issued by Sigs.



Capt

Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

DISTRIBN :

Copy No	1	HQ Coy
" "	2	A "
" "	3	B "
" "	4	C "
" "	5	D "
" "	6	2/12 Aust Fd Regt
" "	7	2/2 Aust Inf Bn
" "	8	8 Mule Coy RLASC
" "	9	CO
" "	10	2 i/c
" "	11	Adjt
" "	12	QM
" "	13	RMO
" "	14	IO

Copy No	15	RSM
" "	16	Sig Offr
" "	17	AA Offr
" "	18	Mortar Offr
" "	19	Carrier Offr
" "	20	Pnr Offr
" "	21	TO
" "	22	26 Aust Inf Bde
" "	23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28	Umpires
" "	29	War Diary
" "	30	" "
" "	31	File
" "	32	Spare
" "	33	Spare

APPX "A" - MOVEMENT TABLE

ROUTE - as ordered by TO, after liaison with Int Sec.

GP COMPOSITION - The following unit tpt will be reshuffled by TO, from time to time, to constitute three Ferry Gps, shown with timings in Table (below) :-
5 lorries 3-ton; 5 lorries 30-cwt.

VEHS ALLOTTED - The following are allotted, apart from Ferry Gps :-
5 lorries 15-cwt (one Major R.E. WALL; one per Coy HQ)
1 lorry 30-cwt (No 1 (Sig) Pl)
1 office van (BHQ).

SPEED, DENSITY - (a) For Ser 1, 2, 4, 5 - 17 m.i.h. 20 v.t.m.
(b) For Ser 6 - 12½ " 10 "
(c) For Ser 3 and 7 - m.i.h. optional, within veh speed limits.

DISPERSAL PT - Sub-unit localities in leaguer area

HALTS - Normal

/OVER

Ser	Ferry Gp			Sub-Unit	Embus Pt	Report at	Depart	Arrive Leaguer	Depart Leaguer		Remarks
	Gp No	Vehs							Destination	Time	
		30cwt	3-ton								
1.	Gp 1	4		D Coy	D Coy HQ	0750	0800	1035	BHQ-HQ Coy	1045	
2.	Gp 1	4		BHQ-HQ Coy	BHQ Area	1350	1400	1640	BHQ	1650	Report back to QM at BHQ, and come under his comd as B Ech Q vehs.
3.	-	-	-	A & C Coy adv HQs	Respective Coy lines			Before 1800			Using Coy HQs: 15 cwt vehs, coy comds will move their adv HQs to leaguer, leaving 2 i/cs (or deputies) to move main bodies vide Ser 4 and 5 below.
4.	Gp 2		2	A Coy (less 9 PL personnel)	A Coy veh pt	2150	2200	0040	-	-	Remain with leaguer B Ech under comd TO.
5.	Gp 3	1	3	C Coy plus 9 PL personnel	C Coy HQ	2140	2150	0030	-	-	
6.	-	-	-	No 4 (Car) PL	HQ Coy Pk	-	-	By 1730	-	-	Independent move under pl comd's orders.
7.		1		No 1 (Sig) PL	HQ Coy	-	-	-	-	-	

A P P X M

17 Jun 42

2/23 AUST INF BN OP ORDER (EX) No 15

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

INFORM

1. Enemy -
 - (a) Allied tps are holding Fortress areas of TRIPOLI and DJEDEIDE.
 - (b) Local inhabitants report small force holding passes in mountains.
2. Own Tps -
 - (a) Are now in contact on NORTHERN perimeter of each Fortress.
 - (b) Will attempt an outflanking movement of the TRIPOLI Fortress area by advancing through the mountains between the two Fortresses with a force of all arms.
 - (c) Have air superiority over area.
3. Ground -
 - (a) HILL ROUTE is known to be passable to tracked vehs and MT as far SOUTH as KOUBAIYAT, but further SOUTH will probably be impassable.
 - (b) Terrain compels max use of AT and minimum of MT.
 - (c) Pts en route at which cols may be visible to enemy observers SOUTH on high features are :-
 - i. Rd junc HOMS Rd 20453020
 - ii. Pt 556 feature at 20472963
 - iii. Vicinity Pt 593 20442944
 - iv. Ridge SOUTH of ANDEKET 20332926.
 Detours and careful use of ground may avoid observation of inf at these places.

INTENTION

4. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Gp will develop outflanking movement of TRIPOLI Fortress, by mountain penetration, starting 18 Jun.

METHOD

5. Marching personnel will move on foot with AT.

Order of March

- (a) Adv Mob Screen - No 4 (Car) PI less two secs.
- (b) Ground Recce Party - (Vide para 7 below).
- (c) Adv Gd - Comd, Capt G. F. URQUHART
 - D Coy
 - One pl A Coy for picqueting
 - Arty OPO
 - One Sec A Tk pl
 - Recce party No 5 (Pnr) PI
 - One MC DR.

Each sec of A Coy, having completed its picquet rôle, will rejoin own comd as it passes through with main body.

- (d) Main Body -
 - BHQ (With Supporting Arms Comds)
 - No 1 (Sig) PI
 - No 2 (A.A) PI
 - No 3 (Mor) PI less two dets
 - A Coy less one pl
 - Pl 2/2 Aust IG Bn
 - B Coy less one pl
 - 2nd line details 8 Mule Coy RLASC
 - C Coy
 - RAP
 - E Tp 2/12 Aust Fd Regt.

7. Ground Recon Party -

(a) Composition - Capt G. H. BLAND

One Int Sec OR

Three ORs for protection.

(b) Task - From Pt 556 feature, proceed independently to KOUBAIYAT by MT; thence on foot, less OC who remains at MP track junc 20192914, to receive info from foot party and relay it to Main Body through Adv Gd.

8. SP -

(a) Track at 20453013

(b) RP Sgt will check sub-units across for order of march.

9. Route - Track from SP, general direction SSW.

10. Timings -

(a) Head of Main Body to pass SP 0830 hrs.

(b) Supporting Arms comd RV with BHQ at rd track junc 20453020, 0815 hrs.

11. Intervals - Sub-unit gps in Main Body will maintain 150 yds intervals.

12. Tasks - Adv Mob Screen -

To report following Pts clear of enemy, and hold each until picquetted by Adv Gd :-

(a) Pt 556 feature 20472964

(b) Ridge SOUTH of ANDEKET 20382933

(c) Defile SOUTH of KOUBAIYAT 20192905.

13. Movement - Adv Mob Screen -

Will pass SP with Adv Gd, thereafter independently within scope of para 12 above.

14. Traffic Control -

RPs will establish TCPs at entrance to each defile to :-

(a) Regulate traffic

(b) Check intervals

(c) Halt on-coming sub-units for dispersal, in event of air attack.

15. ATK Protection -

(a) ATK pl less one sec to picquet route of Main Body, paying special attention to defiles in para 12 above.

(b) As long as possible movement by bounds in MT.

16. Arty Support -

E Tp will det from Main Body, and remain vicinity 20542996, prepared to give immediate support, and in readiness to leap-frog through by secs, during later adv.

17. Arty Protection -

To be provided, at vicinity 20542996 by diversion party (vide para 18 below) on its return.

18. Diversion Party -

(a) Composition - Comd, Sgt G. G. ANDERSON

One sec No 3 (Car) P1

One sec A Coy in 3 MT

(b) Task - Purely diversion and recon. Will pass rd-track junc 182294 at 0800 hrs and proceed generally SE along track; at discretion of comd, return and fulfil role in para 17 above.

ADM

19. Dress - Battle Order, helmet steel.

20. Ann. Res. -

- (a) Sub-units will carry own res.
- (b) Bn SMA res at rear of BHQ Gp.

21. Rations -

- (a) Meal morning 18 Jun, 0615 hrs.
- (b) On order of sub-unit comds, other meals will be eaten when situ permits; ration arrangements co-ordinated by QM through CQISSs.

22. Blankets - To be carried on first line AT.

23. Medical -

- (a) RAP will close present location 0730 hrs and move with Main Body at rear of C Coy.
- (b) SBs with sub-units as detailed.

24. Gas Attack -

- (a) Normal AG measures
- (b) Personal deen on move
- (c) RAP, following through, will attend serious gas casualties.

25. B Ech -

Remains present location until ordered up; local protection by one Pl B Coy.

INTER-COMM

- 26. BHQ - (a) Will close present location 0730 hrs
- (b) Will become mob at head of Main Body.

27. Reports to BHQ during move -

Success of each bound will be reported to mob BHQ by -

- (a) Adv Mob Screen Comd
- (b) Adv Gd Comd

Message in each case to be by MC DR or carrier.

ACK

Signed at 2023 hrs and issued by Sigs.

[Signature]
.....
Adjts, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Capt

DISTRIBN

Copy No 1	HQ Coy	Copy No 18	Sig Offr
" " 2	A "	" " 19	M Offr
" " 3	B "	" " 20	Mer Offr
" " 4	C "	" " 21	Carrier Offr
" " 5	D "	" " 22	Pnr Offr
" " 6	E Tp 2/12 Aust Fd Regt	" " 23	TO
" " 7	Pl 2/2 Aust MG Bn	" " 24	Cond L Tk Pl
" " 8	Details 8 Mule Coy RIASC	" " 25	26 Aust Inf Bde
" " 9	CO	" " 26	War Diary
" " 10	2 1/c	" " 27	" " "
" " 11	Adjts	" " 28	File
" " 12	QM	" " 29/34	Unpites
" " 13	RMO	" " 35/36	Spare
" " 14	QM		
" " 15	IO		
" " 16	RSI		
" " 17	RP Sgt		

Action Diary

with Free French Ex

at Tell Kalakh and
Koubayet.



Action Diary

17 JUN

Signal No	Time	To	From	Senders No	Event	Action
1	1630				BHQ arrives in leaguer area. 201302 to 2035302.	
2	1700				CO rece start line + topography for next day.	
3	1800	26 Bde		I/7/5	Location 1730 h 202530231/110MS1:000000.	No comm with Ede. To go with 1st D RALO
4	1945				conference called by Maj BIRCH of buy bomb support groups at BHQ.	
5	2023				Issue of 2/33 hush/ Bn Op Order (Ex) No 15.	
		18	JUN		18 JUN	
6	0739				Move from leaguer area	
7	0842				BHQ crossed SP	
8	0800				Mobile screen passes SP 20453013	
9	0808				Pt Pl crosses SP	
10	0815				D boy all over SP	
11	0830				Head of main body crosses SP	
12	0840				Mobile screen observed going up towards pt 556 feature 1st bound	
13	0850				Adv get same posn	
14	0905		D boy		Report from Capt Turquhart's taking NOT reached pt 556.	
15					Pt Pl 200 yds in rear base which clearing bounds at approx ref 20532954.	
16	0945		Adv get		1st bound reported picquet not taking 10 mins halt awaiting further word from mobile screen before continuing.	
17	1000				BHQ continue after long halt at 20532992	
18	1020				BHQ stop 20472968 just short of pt 556	
19	1130		Prisoner		wants to know location of the enemy Adv get in clear not to use map ref code	
20	1225				BHQ moves on	
21	1250				stops after going on to 20432942 and returning to 20432950	

Action Diary

18 JUN

Serial No.	Time	To	From	Sender's No.	Event	Action
22	1205		Force C1	1021	Enemy LMG encountered vicinity HALBAO Town occupied by Enemy at 0953 hrs LMG fire covers rd HALBA-KOUBAYAT map refs 18322895 to 18232990 Under arty fire at 1020 hrs map ref 18382914	Adj't.
23	1000				pt pl adv got moves fwd from 556	
24	1010				Comd post - OP est 556	
25	1012				Sounds distant firing heard - direction thought to be SOUTH - NOT confirmed	
26	1015				Comd post moves on to 20432948	
27	1042	CO D Coy	Halbay		enemy OP pt 674 square 20302930 arty fire in square 203292 mortar and LMG carrier trying to clear up posn we shelled pt 674	
28	1050					
29	1100	CO	arty		Enemy shelling 2025 2930	
30	1103	CO	D Coy		I will prepare to assist clear Enemy @ my adv got not under fire I am at ANDEKET	
31	1145		LO		cars under SA fire from left of rd at 20322925 @	
32					pl with LMG's located 674 feature 2940 2933 @ adv got attacking @ arty fire on rd NORTH ANDEKET sporadic only 2042 2938.	
33	1155	Adj't 2ic C.O.	I 18/2		adv. got attacking Enemy posn estimated one pl on pt 674 ref 20302933 @ move F gp to assembly area vicinity 20432950 @ maintain rear and flank protection @ have O gp in readiness for further orders	Adj't Boys
34	1155	CO	cars I 18/3		one sec piequeting hill right of rd one sec - - left - -	Adj't Boys

Action Diary

18 JUN

Serial	Time	To	From	Event	Action
				in area 2033 2924 @ right see in readiness to cut off retreat of Enemy now being attacked @ desultory shell fire now falling	
35	1340			stopped for lunch ref 2043 2942	
36	1258	CO	cars	by MG and Lt shelling encountered in area 2023 2918 @ both types of fire increased making it impossible for us to proceed beyond pt ref 2018 2916 @ MG fire coming from hills area 2014 2905 and 2025 2905 @ own RV 2025 2924	
37	1325	CO	plg D3	car message ref @ am watering mules at ANDEKET and resting men @ patrol engaging Enemy post left of rd supported by mortar fire	
38	1426	BHQ	alarms A7	Bechelon follow route of bn adv to new location 500 ^x NORTH of ANDEKET where guide will meet @ cook meal immediately on arrival @ await orders distribution	
39	1450			recommenced adv	
40	1400			ANDEKET information from local inhabitant @ 2nd p3rd Bn Chasseurs Lebanese and one Lgm car in hills round KOUBAYAT	
41	1430			meeting of O group ref 2043 2942. halting place for lunch	
42	1500			stopped in ANDEKET 2040 2937	
43	1340	BHQ	De Col G2	Est contact arty 1340 hrs	
44	1830			conference of C and R gps at forward post ref 2039 2932	

Action Diary

Serial	Time	To	From	Senders No	Event	Action
45	1818				Issue of Cp Order (Ex) clo 16.	
46	1930				Leaguer area est ref 20432943	
47	1930				Pl of A Coy crosses SL ref 20452921 (approx)	
48		Observations from 2nd post			E observed moving on LEFT KNOLL * taking up fire positions our sps observed * fired on	C.O. advised
49	1938				B Coy cross SL desultory firing from Enemy (SA fire)	- -
50	1952				Our troops observed carrying out assault on LEFT KNOLL	- -
51	2005		A Coy		By L/T - A Coy on top of hill	" "
52	2007		A "		Enemy moving off both objectives B Coy moving on to 2nd objective	" "
53	2021				Success signal - Phase 2. (6 dots)	" "
54	2120				Conference of O gfr at Leaguer area	
55					Issue of Cp order	
		19	JUN		19 JUN	
1	0730				left bivouac area	
2	0745				reached RV	
3	0828		Adv. gdt		SITNOR now at ref 20442910	Advised
	0925		Adv. gdt.		halted map ref 20432908	
					C Coy halted firing heard O gfr goes fwd to investigate	log
	0940				recommenced adv	
	0950				halted again approx 20402902 MG fire heard	
	0950	CO	Adv. gdt		held up by fire from 20342903 Enemy strength approx 12cc 17 pl will attack - zero 1005	2cc advised

Action Diary

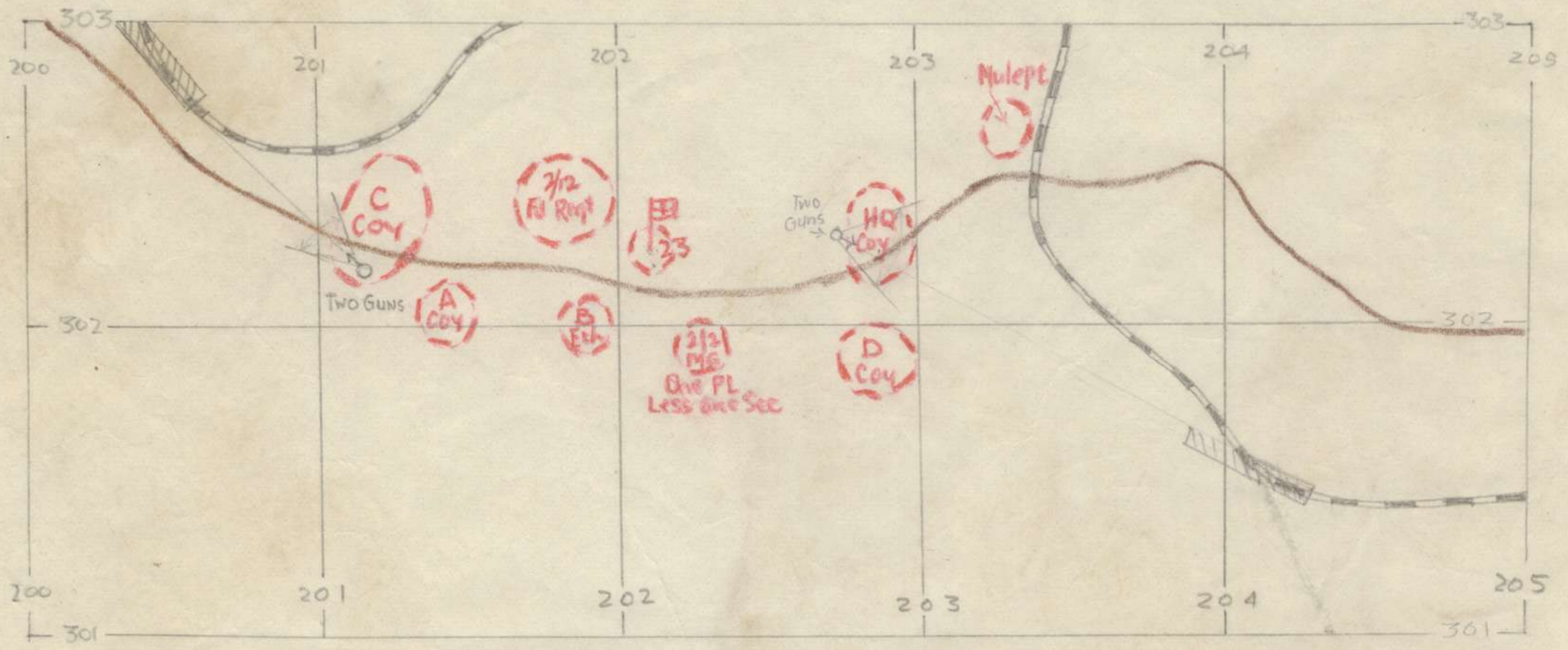
Time	To	From	Senders	Event	Action
				Westmoreland force will create diversion by attempting to come in from the rear of KOU BAYAT MAI MOUR MINE	
				2020 2900	
1000	CO	adv gdt		Have been fired upon from pt 694 2042 2899 O Enemy strength approx one section O Adv gdt will attack If successful adv gdt will move to 2035 2895 for lunch	2 i.e advised
1110	2 i/c	CO	1 i/c	Adv will continue with O Gp available at head of main body O F Gp to be prepared for action henceforth as far as colr will permit	2 i/c advised
1130		CO		present Adv gdt has sent fwd fighting patrol with object capture features 2035 2895 O move main body all possible speed along present route with D Coy replacing present Adv gdt O Suggest one or both remaining mortar det at discretion Capt Urquhart proceed with new adv gdt	2 i/c informed
1155		CO		Adv gdt attacking enemy posn estimated 1 Pt or 674 O mountain rear and flank protection O have O Gp in readiness for further orders	Adv gdt & 2 i/c informed
1155		CO		To Capt WEST MOORELAND - Subject to exigencies of situ please move fwd as adv gdt mobile screen O Main body will NOT continue adv after 1200 hrs	
1300				ACTION FINISHES.	

17 June

LEAGUER AREA

SCALE 4 Cms = 1 Kilo

Ref TELL WALAKH 1:50,000

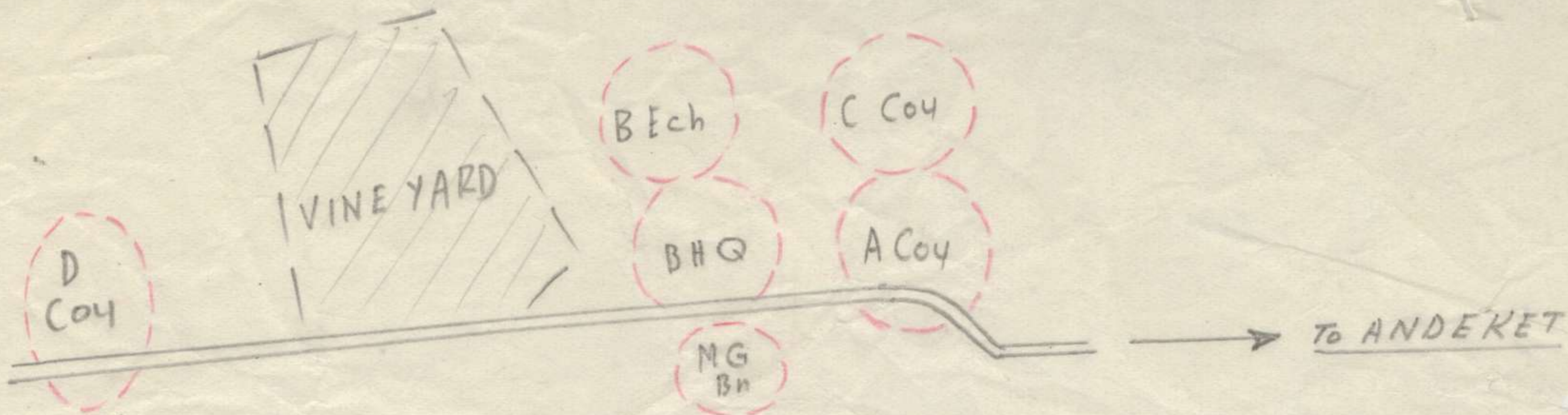


A
C
D
HQ

BO.
Arty

1 Sec
2/23 and 1st Bn
17 June 42

10 June



LEAGUER AREA

Scale 1 inch = 100 yds
(Approx)

1st Sec
2/25 Aust Inf Bn
18 June 42

APPX 12

2/23 MUST INF BN OP ORDER (EX) NO 16

18 Jun 42

Ref Maps : TELL KILAKH 1/50,000
 HOIS 1/200,000
 HALB 1/50,000.

INFM

1. Enemy and Own Tps - As given at R & O Gps conference.

INTENTION

2. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will capture LEFT and RIGHT Knolls

METHOD

3. Phase 1 - A Coy less two pls capture LEFT Knoll
Phase 2 - B Coy less one pl will follow through A Coy and capture RIGHT Knoll.
Res - C Coy.
4. Assembly Area - Present posns
5. FUP - Under cover immediately in rear of Start Line.
6. Start Line -
 EAST WEST line through GREEN TREE (POG), approx 20452921.
7. Start Time - 1930 hrs.
8. Rate of Adv - 100 yds in 3 mins
9. Direction of attack - Approx SW.
10. Coy Interval - B Coy will cross Start Line 400 yds behind A Coy, who will cross at Start Time (Z).
11. Consolidation - Coys will consolidate on objectives; recce to be the only fwd movement until further orders at first light.
12. Supporting Fire Plan -
 (a) Arty - Z - 3 to Z plus 15 on LEFT Knoll, 3 rmpg
 Z plus 16 to Z plus 20 on RIGHT Knoll; 4 rmpg
 Z plus 21 to Z plus 25 on BALD PATCH, 3 rmpg
 (b) MGs - Z - 3 to Z plus 15 - LEFT Knoll
 Z plus 16 to Z plus 20 - RIGHT Knoll
 Z plus 22 to Z plus 32 - BALD PATCH.
 (c) Mortars - 2 Dets -
 Z to Z plus 15, each 80 bombs HE on each Knoll.
 (d) Inf Wpns - D Coy from present posns.

ADM

13. Blankets, res emn - will be carried up by AT from FUP after success.
14. Medical - R&P vicinity BHO.

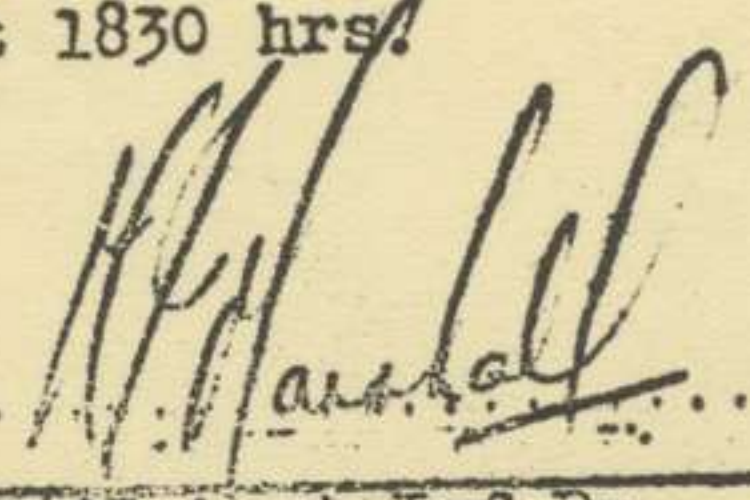
INTER-COMM

15. Success Sigs -
 (a) Phase 1 - L/T, followed by lamp (6 dots rptd)
 (b) Phase 2 - L/T, followed by lamp as above (for MGs).

16. I/T - Sig offr responsible for running line with each fwd coy.
17. BHQ - (a) Comd Post corner of orchard 20392932.
 (b) Rear BHQ - Until first light with B Ech.
18. B Ech - At mid-day Assembly Area.
19. Co-ordinating Conference at BHQ, Comd Post 1830 hrs.

Ack

Signed at 1818-hrs
 and issued vide para.19.


 Capt
 Ltjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

DISTRIBN :

Distribn List as for 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
 Op Order (Ex) No 15.

.....

APPX 13.

(73)

War Diary

SECRET

COPY NO 26

2/23 AUST INF BN OP ORDER (EX) NO 17

18 Jun 42.

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

INTEL

1. Enemy & Own Tps -

As for 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order (Ex) No 16, except that Bn Gp has captured LEFT and RIGHT Knolls.

INTENTION

2. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Gp will continue development of outflanking movement of TRIPOLI Fortress, by mountain penetration.

METHOD

- 3. (a) All personnel will move on foot, with AT.
- (b) All INT will report to TO at B Ech by 0700 hrs 19 Jun.

4. Ground Recce Party -

- (a) Composition - Comd Lieut E.J.P. JONES
One Int Sec OR
9 Rifle Coy ORs
- (b) Start Time - 0100 hrs 19 Jun.
- (c) Task - Night infiltration, by LEFT route, with final objective SIR. If serious opposition encountered during first four miles, two men to be returned to Main Body with info.

5. Order of March -

- (a) Adv Gd - Comd Capt J.H. MITHVEN
C Coy less one pl
One pl D Coy (For picquetting for tures throughout route)
Arty CPO
Two Dets No 3 (Mor) Pl
Recce Party No 5 (Pnr) Pl

(b) Main Body -

- BHQ (With Supporting Arms reps)
- No 1 (Sig) Pl
- No 3 (Mor) Pl (Less two dets)
- D Coy less one pl
- Pl 2/2 Aust IG Bn
- B Coy less one pl
- 2nd line Details 8 Mule Coy RLASC
- RAP
- A Coy less one pl

6. SP - June rd - track at 20402936.

7. Route - Track LEFT from SP, generally SOUTH.

8. Timings - (a) Head of Main Body will pass SP at 0800 hrs.
(b) Supporting Arms reps RV with BHQ immediately in rear of SP 0750 hrs.

9. Intervals - As before.

10. Arty Support -

E Tp 2/12 Aust Fd Regt, having moved up, will be prepared to give supporting fire from posn immediately fwd of Pt 556, especially for any enemy activity arising on BALD PATCH.

11. Tk Protection -

A Tk pl will remain B Ech location, for local protection, and picquetting of rear of Main Body.

12. Special Roles -

(a) Force on LEFT and RIGHT Knolls - Lieut C DUKE and pl will move fwd, just prior to first light, up SPUR of present posn to be in posn on Pt 336, ref 20382908, at first light. After holding this posn until passage of Main Body, pl will join Rear Gd, and then rejoin own comd in Adv Gd at first opportunity. Lieut H.J. BOAS and pl will rejoin own comd immediately Main Body has cleared present pl posn.

(b) No 4 (Cor) Pl (less one Sec) will move to covered posn at 20362930, and dismounted personnel (less drivers) will adv to within effective range of enemy posn at 20152908 (Rocky Face Hill). In posn as inf, they will give observed fire, both as a harassing task and a diversion. Withdraw to B Ech at discretion of comd.

13. Traffic Control - As before.

ADM

14. Rations - Morning meal 19 Jun, 0615 hrs, when midday rations will also be drawn, C Coy HQ drawing for detached pl.

15. Blankets - All bedding will be stowed in IT and left at B Ech.

16. All other Adm as before.

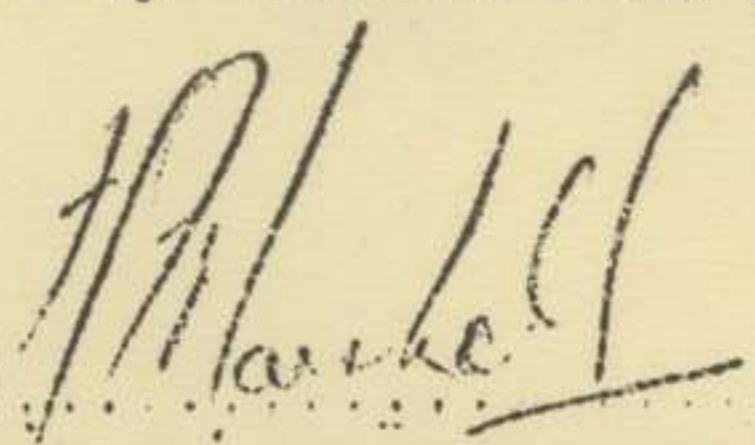
INTER-COMM

17. BHQ will close present location at 0730 hrs, and become mob at head of Main Body.

18. Reports to BHQ during move - As often as situ demands, and at least once in every hr, Adv Gd Comd will report by written message (runner) to BHQ.

ACK

Signed at 2355 hrs
and issued through Sigs.


.....
Adj, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn C-apt

DISTRIBN :

As For 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order (EX) No 15.

APPX 14

14

REPORT ON RECCE OF ROUTE

FROM

ANDEKETE - SYR

STRENGTH : 1 Offr, 10 ORs.

OUT : 0119 hrs 19 Jun 42.

IN : 0910 hrs 21 Jun 42.

Ref Maps : HOMS 1/200,000

TELL KALLAKH 1/50,000

SIR ED DANIE 1/50,000

PART I

QUESTION :

Is there a possible route from ANDEKET to SYR for a fighting force, strength one Bn, to proceed to outflank TRIPOLI Fortress area.

ANSWER :

Yes, possible under certain conditions, refer Part II.

PART II

DAY I :

Map Ref	Ground	Cover	Going	Water	Infm
HOMS 1/200000 ANDEKETE 204293 - 20412095	Very stony & numerous terraces little track.	Good for tps only.	Fair	Good	-
20412095 - 20352885	Precipitous Heavy scrub No track	Good for tps only.	Bad	NIL	-
20352885 - 20302870	Up hill Good track.	Good for AT & tps	Fair	NIL	-
20302870 - 20222861	Up hill Fair track.	Poor	Fair	Good Spring water Channels.	-
20222861 - 20102835	Undulating & up hill. Fair track.	Poor	Fair	Good	Ration shortage - 7/Rs returned to Camp.
20102838 - 20242834	Undulating - Fair track.	Poor	Good	Springs on Northern slopes - Southern slope strong supply.	Possibility of landing ground for light air-craft. extent 1000 acres.

DAY 2

20242834 - 20082790 JBABE	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Crossed fertile valley then series of ranges 1600 metres high - slow going - Next into arid valley 4 Kilos in length - At JBABE numerous wells dug in ground. Natural springs on west side. There is a suitable track for AFVs from this valley to HERMEL - Military camping ground. (a) Vichy French. 800 AT. There for 12 mths. (b) Free French AFV & men for 1 mth. (c) NZ & Brit tps.
20082790 - JBABE 19902794	Very steep Loose stone	NIL	Bad	NIL	1 OR ill. Hired donkey - Arabs appear friendly.

REPORT ON RECCE OF ROUTE

FROM

ANDEKETE - SYR

PART II

<u>Map Ref</u>	<u>Ground</u>	<u>Cover</u>	<u>Going</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Infin</u>
19902794 - 19702784	Very steep down hill loose stone	NIL	Bad	Spring	-
19702784 - 189275	Undulating Fair track	NIL	Fair	NIL	Crossed very steep wadi.
189275 - 18502700	Undulating ground along heads of wadis	NIL	Fair	Running water in wadis	-
18502700 - 18352693	Undulating along heads of wadis rough track	Poor	Fair	Running water in wadis	-

DAY 3

18352693 - 18002701	Steep descent rough stony track	Poor	Bad	Running water in wadi	-
18002701 - 17902710	Down hill rough track	Cover in Orchard	Slow	Water in channel	-
17902710 - 17852715 SYR	Down hill made rd rough	Cover in Orchard	Fair	Water in channel	-

REPORT ON RECCE OF ROUTE

FROM

ANDEKEME - SVR

GENERAL COMMENT

As the route generally is very hard, it would be necessary to have highly physically trained men in the force - Even then men would need a period of rest depending on the time taken to cover the route. Supply, arms and amm would have to be taken by AT.

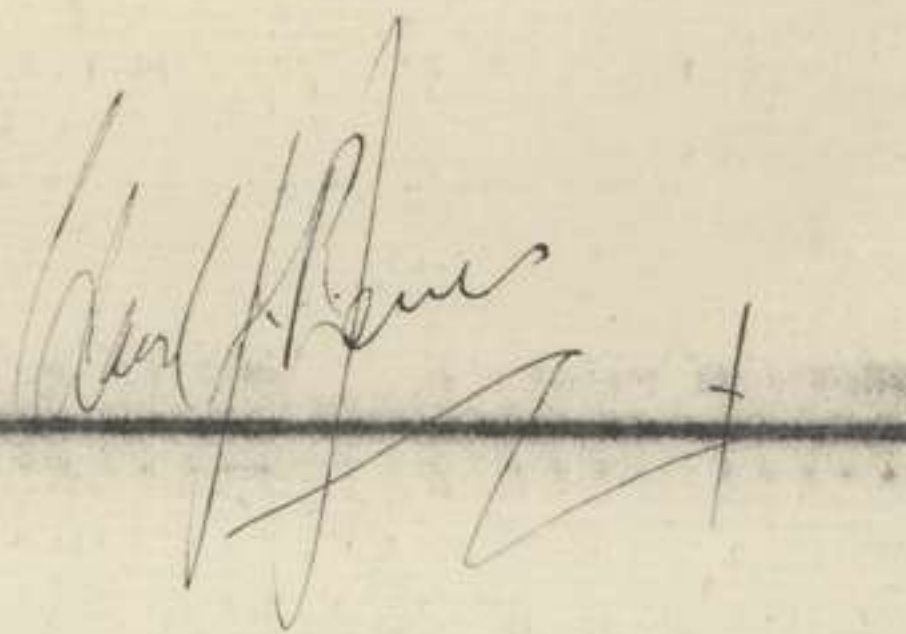
The lines of comm would be difficult and slow. With small effort the best part of the track could be improved a good deal.

Total time taken by the Recce Party, dressed in battle order, less amm, was 56 hrs. The actual travelling time was approx 30 hrs.

The distance on a 1/200,000 map was 26 miles. This, however, is well under the distance on foot.

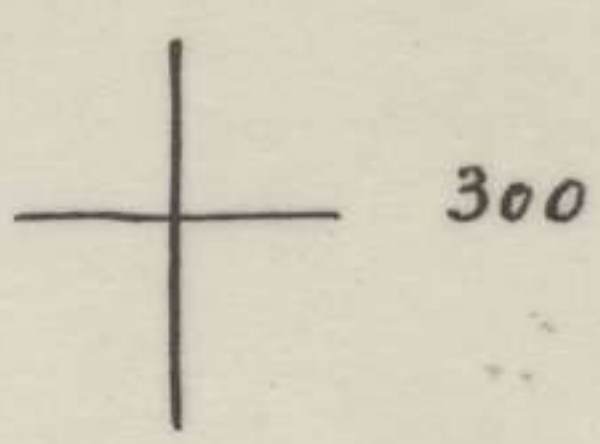
CONCLUSION

The route is possible throughout for parties of foot tps and cavalry. The party did not at any time see the Fortress defenders, nor was it challenged by them.

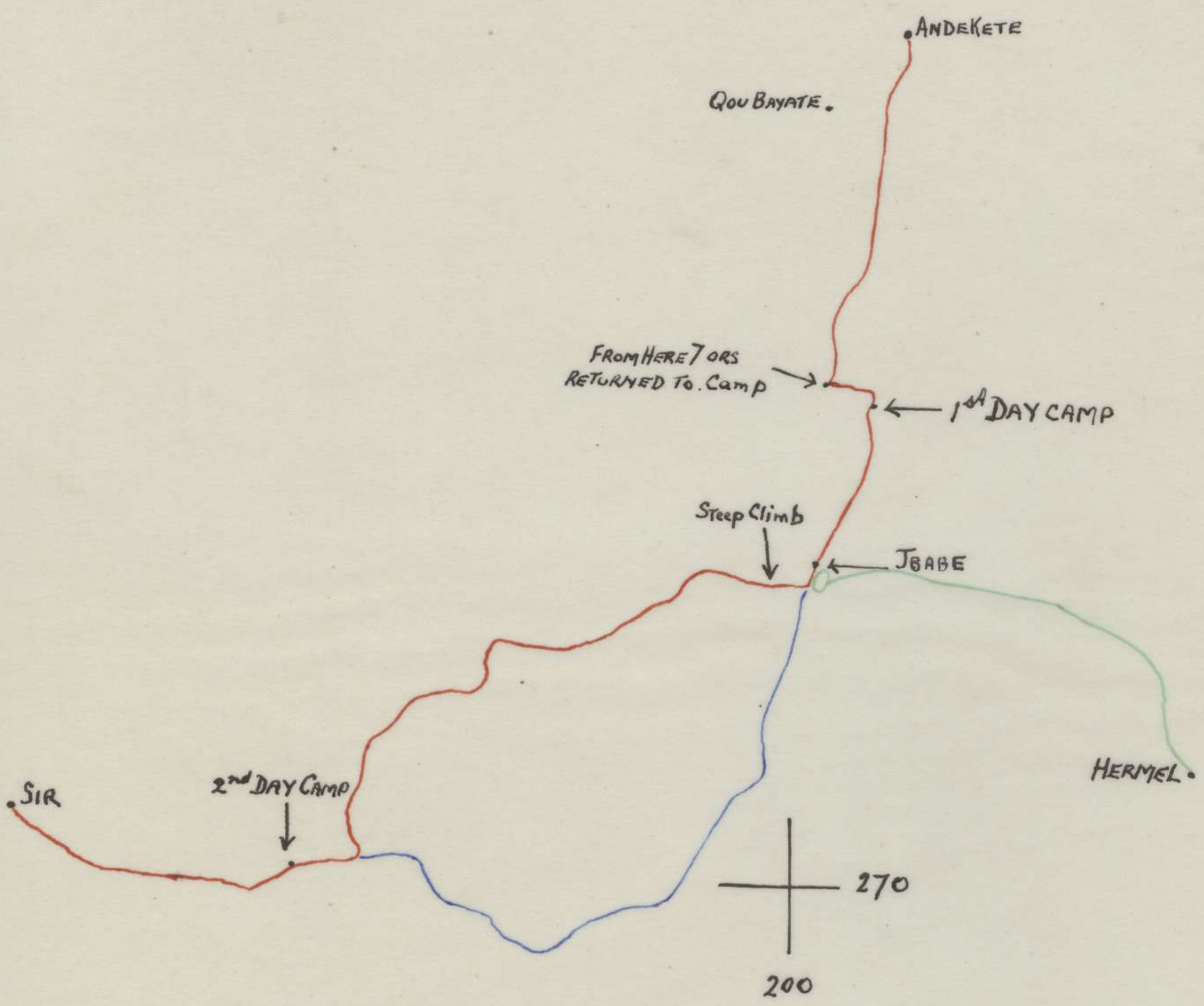


APPX. A.

Ref. HOMS 1/200,000



180



BLUE PROPOSED ROUTE
RED - ACTUAL ROUTE
GREEN - AFV.

INT. Sec
2/23 AUST INF BN
21 JUN 42

APPX 15

20 Jun 42

CO
2/23 Aust Inf Bn

RE MOUNTAIN EXERCISE WITH FF TCHERKESS GP

Sir,

In response to your request I respectfully submit the following narrative and commentary:

At 0800 hrs 18 Jun 42 one FOO (in R/T veh) advanced with OC Adv Gd.

Arty LG (in veh) accompanied Bn Comd with Main Body.

All guns (4) of tp remained in action in leaguer area until 1st objective was taken. One sec then advanced to an intermediate posn. On 2nd objective being reached rear sec of guns moved fwd to a posn between 1st and 2nd objectives. It was then joined by the other sec.

COMMENTARY:

Whilst certain advantages derive from having two guns always in action, the disadvantages, which incl complexity of comd and comms and division of fire power, should be considered. In reasonably open country with many suitable areas of deployment, coming into action should not exceed 15 mins. If he cannot see his way clear to achieve this standard, the GPO should then consider leap-frogging defiles. Normally, I prefer the tp to be as mobile and as far fwd as possible.

THE FOO'S TASK:

In response to the requests of the Bn, or Adv Gd Comds, the following tasks were undertaken and completed:

- a. A short (3 mins "Intense" - 5 RPG PM) Tp Concentration on high ground to the right of axis of adv, just beyond 2nd objective. Target - enemy OP protected by MGs.
- b. A long (28 mins) series on 3 pts of high ground to the left of axis of adv. This area was subsequently attacked at last light by our inf in force.

COMMENTARY:

The arty is always willing and eager to assist the inf to their max, but most serious difficulty is amn supply. In this regard it may be suggested that it is easier to tpt shells to arty in rear if coln than to move large sups of bombs fwd to mortars. Where we can save their precious fwd sups we probably should. Continuous replenishment of amn in these mob colns is chief source of worry to GPOs in undertaking tasks.

COMMS:

R/T from FOO to GPO at one (or both) sec of guns. During 1st day of exercise an arty cable laying veh moved in rear of main body laying cable fwd.

COMMENTARY:

Despite necessity for having as few vehs as possible in adv gd area, it is suggested that if cable-laying (15 cwt) veh were allowed somewhere in rear of but handy to Adv Gd, the passage of streps back to rear incl MAIN BODY)

(who could tap wire continuously) would be facilitated. Alternatively, it is suggested that Arty HQ be asked to allow such a detached tp to be equipped with a third R/T set (perhaps from Bty HQ allotment) for the Arty LO. This would, I believe, be invaluable for both inf and arty for both sitreps and tasks.

19 Jun 42:

Most interesting and educational feature of this part of exercise from arty pt of view, was facility which (in proper position) wireless material for a portable sta could be used by mules. 4 were supplied and found to be ample for wireless and provision needs of OP party of 4. Cable laying as alternative comm was not attempted in such an area where large numbers of men and mules and other factors would entangle the line on such restricted paths. Heliograph (or flag) by day and Lucas Lamp by night are suggested as better alternatives.

Arty targets should be selected carefully, in mountainous and wooded country especially, as many useful rds may be wasted on small areas nearest tasks, leaving insufficient for neutralising such targets as mountain batteries, MG posts, etc.

CONCLUSIONS:

Main points raised are:-

1. Supply of amm.
2. Comm: a. Provision of R/T set for LO.
b. Cable-layer fwd near Adv Ci.
3. Arty tasks to be selected with view to most useful employment of amm.
Inf Comd, with major strategy in his mind, can act in this matter even more usefully than Arty Comd, whose technical knowledge excludes strategical situation.
fwd
4. Keep arty mob and as far/as possible:-
a. For max use of range of fire.
b. A Tk protection of main body from rear and rear-flank attacks.
5. Allow OPD max time possible to "ground" wireless from mules and select good OP when in difficult country.

(Signed) J H WAGSTAFF, Lieut
RAA

APPX 16

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

HQ,
 26 Aust Inf Bde

BN GP EXERCISE - FT TCHERKESS GP

1. Principle problem arising in this exercise was inter-comm. Full allotment, both of MC DRs and W/T sets, would have solved the problem, both for movement on MF rds, and for narrow mountain tracks.
2. V/T was attempted, but it proved unsuccessful, especially between the Adv Mob Screen and the Adv Gd, chiefly because of undulating ground and winding rds.
3. L/T was, of course, both successful and reliable, whenever practicable. In long moves however, it is too expensive in cable and in personnel to lay and reel in continually.
4. For modern conditions of warfare, with a coln on the move, runner is obviously too slow.

Inter-Comm Suggestions -

5. W/T, if available, would have been used a great deal, and would have speeded up the comm. It would probably have overcome difficulties that arose out of non arrival at the Sig Office of several messages originated from fwd elements.
6. Messages to be despatched from Sig Office must be lodged there either in duplicate or in triplicate according to the number and disposals of addressees.
7. Except when obvious delay will arise, it is suggested that all messages should be despatched through the Sig Office, thus enabling some measure of control and later check.

Mortars -

8. Inclusion of two Mortar dets in the Adv Gd speeded up support. When mortar fire was called for, these dets were able to give the Adv Gd comd support within mins. If the dets had been in the Main Body, it would have been difficult to bring them fwd through the coln, and support might have taken up to 45 mins to secure.
9. With the Mortar Comd in the R Gp, it is suggested that the snr det comd with a runner, be incl in the O Gp. The advantage of this would be that while the Mortar Comd is on recce, dets can be grought up by runner, this simultaneous preparation enabling support to be given in the shortest possible time. The snr det comd, on the spot, could guide and pass infm to the det coms.

Adv Mob Screen @

10. As long as the terrain permits use of carriers, they function most satisfactorily as an Adv Mob Screen. In the exercise, however, sharp bends and steep hills, imposing a short limit on visibility made the adv of the mob screen comparatively slow, and on several occasions Adv Gd was almost on its heels. It is suggested that the Adv Gd always halt when within sight of the Mob Screen, to enable it to get ahead.

11. Another factor in the slow adv was the employment of a carrier for inter-comm between Adv Mob Screen, Adv Gd, and BHQ. MC DR or W/T, according to normal establishment, would have overcome this.
12. Once coln was forced to detour into country impassable for carriers and MF, the value of horsed cavalry became immediately apparent. As an experiment, a half tp was formed by OC 8 Mule Coy RIASC (Capt WESTMORLAND), comprising VCOs, Daffadders, and mounted orderlies. This half tp not only acted as an Adv Mob Screen, but also undertook valuable flank ops, clearing ground in half the time that it would have taken inf to reach it, and thus enabling the coln to continue the adv.
13. It is suggested that for any op role in mountain country impassable to MF, a bn gp should incl at least one tp of horsed cavalry.
14. Fd Craft - The exercise showed an occasional lack of common sense in application of fd craft lessons which have in themselves been mastered. It seems that future trg could well lay emphasis on the necessity for applying all lessons, at ALL times, with common sense. For instance, the move on the first morning from Leaguer Area to Start Line showed obvious failings in fd craft. Even if the exercise officially did not start until 0800 hrs, the movement of the coln to the Start Line could have been much less pronounced. After leaving the Start Line, the fd craft was good throughout.
15. Helmets steel - In the prevailing sunlight, it is quite apparent that more attention must be paid to the covering or dulling of helmets steel, which on this exercise proved an inevitable give-away even in the best bush cover.
16. Int Sec - It was found that the most useful place for the Int Sec, in this type of movement, was at head of Main Body with Comd Post, where guiding duties, resection, and recce, could be easily and quickly performed. The I Ofir's place would seem to be with the CO in his carrier, the Adjut leading the Comd Gp ahead of Main Body in car DS, with office van immediately behind, followed by sigs.
17. O Gp - When an op appears imminent, it seems advisable to summon members of O Gp to head of Main Body, where they can continue the adv, in readiness to be called fwd by the CO.
18. Arty - Report from Comd E Tp 2/12 Aust Fd Regt is not yet to hand, but it is understood that it will contain ref to the necessity for an additional W/T set, ~~for~~ over WE scale, when a single tp is under comd a bn gp. The third vital link is the Arty IO, with Comd Gp, between Arty OPO with Adv Gd, and the gun posns.
19. AT - No special difficulties were encountered with AT, but some note of appreciation is due to OC, 8 Mule Coy RIASC (Capt WESTMORLAND) for his enthusiastic co-operation and assistance, which greatly assisted in the painting of a realistic picture.

W Marshall
Lt-Col
Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Asst
Asst

APPX 17

(17)

SECRET

War Diary

26 AUST INF BDE GP

Proposed Trg Programme 26 Jun - 10 Jul 42

Serial	Day	Date	Exercise	Notes
1	D1	26 Jun	Bde Gp: Movement by MT on one rd.	Rd movement and control during i. Lt air attack ii. Intense air attack.
2	D2	27 Jun	Bn Gp: Movement by MT on one rd and Deployment.	a. Rd movement and control. Protection on the move. b. Rapid debussing and deployment. Dispersion of vehs. c. Desert Navigation. (Note - Fd Arty NOT available)
3	D3	28 Jun	Bn Gps: as for D2	As for D2, plus deployment in Desert Formation. (Note - Fd Arty NOT available).
4	D4	29 Jun	Bn Gps: Desert Formation i. Day ii. Night.	a. Protected and controlled movement in featureless country. b. Desert Navigation. (Note - Fd Arty may NOT be available).
5	D5	30 Jun	Bde Gps: Formation from Bn Gps and Movement in Desert Formation.	As for D4.
6	D6	1 Jul	Spare	Maintenance and as ordered.
7	D7 D8	2/3 Jul	a. Withdrawal over Desert Country and Occupation of hastily organised Def Posn, incl laying of minefields. b. Army support of Inf. c. Employment of Mob Coln.	a. Hasty defence. b. Rapid laying of mines. c. Test formation. d. With-holding of fire. e. Formation, orgzn and tactical employment of mob colns.
8	D9	4 Jul	Spare	Maintenance and as ordered
9	D10 D11 D12	5/7 Jul	a. Adv against Delaying Action by enemy mob forces followed by attack on hastily organised posn in conjunction with I tks and arty. Consolidation. b. Attack with I tks & Inf by night. c. Employment of Mob Coln.	a. Rapid deployment from IT : Rapid mounting of attack. b. Inf and I tks in attack.

/D13

Serial	Day	Date	Exercise	Notes
10	D13 D14	8/9 Jul	Bde Gp: Withdrawal in MT on one rd, under pressure.	Delaying action.
11	D15	10 Jul	Bde Gp: Movement by MT on one rd.	

Distribn :

All Offrs.

A P P X 18

2/23 AUST INF BN ADM INSTN (SYRIA) NO 9

ANTI MALARIA PRECAUTIONS

1. The attention of all ranks, and particularly of subordinate comds, will be drawn to Bn R/O Part I No 84/4042 para 520, 85/4042 para 524, and 92/4042 para 560.
2. Malaria control is essentially a matter of sub-unit discipline. The best orders in the world can be defeated merely by neglect or apathy, on the part of junior Offrs and NCOs.
3. Medical opinion shows that several recent cases of malaria in this Unit arose from the neglect of the individual soldiers to use curtains sandfly, and other precautionary measures, as ordered by the above Bn R/Os.
4. In future, each Offr will be responsible personally, to the CO, for strict compliance by all men under his comd with provisions of the above Bn R/Os, and any other orders or instns ref malaria control, which may be promulgated from time to time.
5. Breaches of these orders WILL be treated as serious offences, and the appropriate disciplinary action taken. The offence of a man moving about after 1800 hrs either in shorts, or with shirt sleeves rolled up, must NOT be condoned; nor will neglect to use curtains sandfly be overlooked.
6. The following extracts are taken from comn of HQ, 9 Aust Div of 21 Jun 42, headed ANTI MALARIA PRECAUTIONS :-
 - i. The incidence of malaria can be kept to a very low figure by the vigilance of unit offrs.
 - ii. Every case of primary malaria investigated to date has been due to carelessness or disobedience of orders by the individual, which means slackness on the part of unit offrs. The men concerned have admitted that they wore neither gloves nor veils, nor did they use anti-mosquito cream, when on guard or picquet duty, though in known bad areas.
 - iii. Throughout the whole of SYRIA all ranks must :-
 - (a) Sleep under nets.
 - (b) Wear trousers, and sleeves rolled down, after sundown.
 - (c) Apply anti-mosquito cream to exposed skin at least 2-hourly after sundown until under nets.
 - (d) When on guard or picquet after sundown, wear veils and gloves and in bad areas an extra shirt or pullover.
 - iv. On an exercise or during a move, it is better to go to considerable inconvenience and put up with some unreality to get to a good camping area, than to risk a number of casualties in a single night. It is useless to go a short distance from a stream or low-lying ground. Two or three miles is much better than one.
7. In future before moving out of sub-unit areas for trg, offrs i/c will notify BHQ, so that advice may be obtained in time from ADMS Office, or CG 2/4 Aust Fd Hyg Sec. BHQ, and therefore, all sub-units will be guided by advice so given ref areas to be occupied over night.

Adj't, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. Capt

APPX 19

23 Jun 42.

GENERAL

Forloss trg period will afford 12 clear days in desert, and 2 further days involving tactical moves out and back.

METHOD OF TRG

The following notes were compiled at conference of all Comds at HQ, 26 Aust Inf Bde, 23 Jun.

2. Working hrs - No definite direction has yet been given, but probable programme is an early Reveille, a long luncheon interval, and dismissal about 1800 hrs, except when night trg is involved.
3. Air -
 - (a) Air co-operation is doubtful, but even if it is not available, enemy Air Force's must be considered active, and included in the Comds plan. Make-believe will be avoided with the tps.
4. Employment of offrs - All offrs, whether posted or supernumerary, will be kept as fully employed as possible. Offrs will ensure that their batmen, when not performing a batman's duties, are trained either as ordinary tps or as orderlies.
5. Arty - Arty will not be available for at least first two days, and thereafter, application will be made to Bde HQ for its co-operation in Bn exercises.
6. Bn Exercises - In these, Units and sub-units will continually practice all ground protection, including protection of HQs. Specially detailed vehs, representing enemy armour, will be likely at any time to swoop on to a HQ, to test protection measures and alarm posns allotted to HQ personnel.
7. Promulgation of infm - In all exercises throughout Forloss period, special care will be taken to put all ranks in the picture thoroughly, to secure intelligent co-operation.
8. Lights -
 - (a) Blackout will be observed.
 - (b) Driving at night, unless otherwise ordered, will be done with present regulation dimmed head-lights.
9. Track discipline - This MUST be observed. Drivers will be cautioned to travel at low speeds when passing near or through other Unit lines to minimise dust.
10. Veh Maintenance -
 - (a) This must be continuous, to enable the Unit to move at shortest notice, when ordered, at any time.
 - (b) A Unit grounded by an accumulation of veh maintenance, is thereby inefficient.

ADM

11. Dress -
 - (a) According to conditions, CO will rule whether helmets steel or hats fur felt are to be worn.
 - (b) Respirators will be taken, but NOT worn. Sub-units will be responsible for ensuring against loss.
12. Water -
 - (a) Water discipline MUST be enforced to utmost.
 - (b) If proved necessary, ration of one gal per man per day will be increased.
 - (c) QM and COMSs, on advice of sub-unit comds, will ensure that tps are not left out, without water.

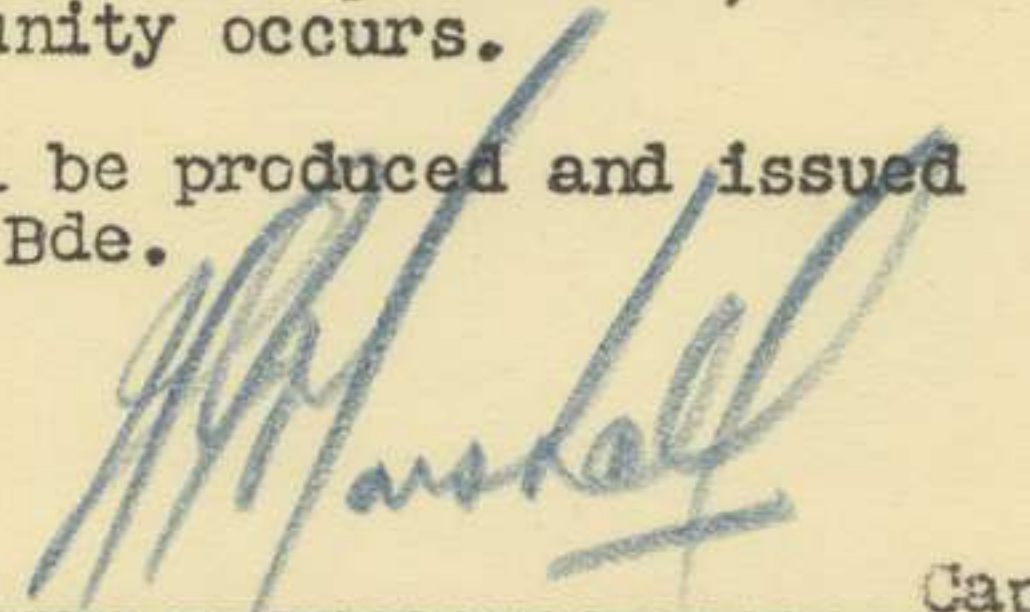
13. Sanitation - All concerned will be responsible for ensuring that adequate attention is paid to sanitation.
14. Malaria Control - Curtains sandfly will NOT be taken to Forqloss, but throughout period, trousers KD and long shirt sleeves will be worn between dusk and dawn.
15. Canteen Supplies -
 - (a) Canteen supplies will be co-ordinated by Pay Sgt.
 - (b) Two days supply will be taken with sub-units from present location.
 - (c) Indents for D3 will be collected by Pay Sgt and lodged at Bde HQ by D - 1 (25 Jun).
 - (d) Thereafter canteen supplies will be indented for 3 days ahead.
 - (e) NO Offr or OR will be permitted to visit canteen store, HOMS, in any circumstance.
16. Pay -
 - (a) Pay day will be 1 Jul.
 - (b) Pay Sgt will notify Bde HQ by 28 Jun of pay requirements, and will draw from Det 9 Aust Div Fd Cash Office after 0700 hrs 1 Jul.
17. Fd Hygiene - QM, after consultation with RMO, will notify requirements to 2/4 Aust Fd Hygiene Sec forthwith.
18. Blankets - Scale of two per man to be taken.
19. Traffic Control - Sec 9 Aust Div Prov Coy will be attached throughout period.
20. Trg Amn - The two trg allotments due (monthly allotment and special Forqloss allotment), when available, will be collected by 12 Coy AASC, and will be drawn from AP in normal operational manner when required.
21. Carriers - These will be transported by rail to HOMS, leaving TRIPOLI 0700 hrs DL. Detailed instas later.
22. Veh Allotments - To be notified.
23. POL -
 - (a) POL issues from PP will be in returnable containers.
 - (b) Units must make a complete and prompt return of containers to PP, in good condition.
 - (c) Pet will be issued only in a quantity equivalent to the number of containers returned.
 - (d) Oil in all vehs will be changed before departure present location.

INTER-COMM

24. Flag Sigs - A special code of flag sigs for MF on move, will be issued later. Flags will be taken over from 24 Aust Inf Bde.
25. R/T - It is felt that insufficient use of R/T has hitherto been made in this Bde. In modern operations, it is the quickest method of inter-comm, in any circumstances favourable to its use. All offrs will acquaint themselves with R/T procedure, and practice its use as often as opportunity occurs.
26. Daily News - A daily news sheet will be produced and issued throughout the Gp by HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde.

ACK

Signed at 1900 hrs and issued
at 0 Gp Conference.


Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Capt

Attached at Appx A, is re-posting of offrs for Forqloss trg. This list may be varied by later demands for umpires.

Distribn / over.

DISTRIBN

- (a) One copy per Offr.
- (b) RSM
- (c) Pay Sgt
- (d) War Diary, (2), File, Spares (2).

APPX "A" - REPOSTING OF OFFERS

FORLOSS TRG

BHQ

CO	Maj R E WALL
2 i/c	Capt G F URQUHART
Adjt	Capt H I MARSHALL
IO	Lieut R K REID

HQ COY

A/OC	Capt G H BLAID
No 1 (Sig) Pl	Lieut F K LOVELL
No 2 (AA) Pl	" E J P JONES
No 3 (Mor) Pl	" A H RUNDLE
No 4 (Car) Pl	" G G RIGG
No 5 (Pnr) Pl	" J W HIPSLEY
Tpt Comd	Sgt F J HENDERSON

A COY

OC	Capt G G ANDERSON
A/2 i/c	Lieut H J BOAS
	" G S RUSSELL
	" E J BULCK

B COY

OC	Capt K O NEUBENDORF
A/2 i/c	Lieut A N MCKOY
	" G M THRELBELL
	" G W LUSKY
	" N H HODGES

C COY

A/OC	Capt R C CRONIE
2 i/c	" J M BERTINEN
	Lieut K C CLARKE
	" T D DWYER
	" C DUKE

D COY

A/OC	Capt E P TIVEY
A/2 i/c	Lieut M GOLDSTONE
	" W J VINES
	" J W DUNHAM
	" H F McLEOD

UMP IRES

Capt J S CUMSTON
Lieut W C HARDING

A P P X 20

20

W.D.

SECRET

COPY NO 22

2/23 AUST INF BN ADM INSTN (SYRIA) NO 10

23 Jun 42.

GENERAL

- 1. This instn deals with Adm arrangements for relief of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn by 2/43 Aust Inf Bn in Sector B, 24/25 Jun.
- 2. This instn is to be read in conjunction with 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order No 5.

ARRIVAL - RELIEVING UNIT

- 3. Relieving Unit has already sent Adv Party, and Main Body will be in TRIPOLI area at some time after 1600 hrs 23 Jun.

BIVOUACING - PRESENT AREAS

- 4. Personnel of relieving unit will bivouac in sub-unit areas until night 24/25 Jun incl, using desert shelters issued for Forqloss trg.
- 5. On 25 Jun, these desert shelters will be taken over by this unit on following basis :-
 - (a) One per offr
 - (b) One per 2 ORs
- 6. Personnel of this unit will bivouac in sub-unit areas, using desert shelters, night 25/26 Jun.

MOVEMENT

- 7. Unit will move to Forqloss on 26 Jun, under orders to be issued separately.

TPT ALLOTMENT

- 8. The following allotments of tpt will be promulgated, by later instn as soon as notified by HQ, 26 Aust Inf Bde :-
 - (a) Vehs of 101 Aust General Tpt Coy (Tp-Carrying)
 - (b) Vehs issued from AASC 9 Aust Div (To make up unit first line deficiencies).

TENTAGE AND ACCOMMODATION STORES

- 9. These will be exchanged with relieving units by mutual arrangements, under QM's instns. AF G1033 will be passed, as required.

RE STORES AND TOOLS

- 10. RE stores and tools loaned by RAE 9 Aust Div, to 24 Aust Inf Bde (to make up E2 deficiencies) will be handed over to 26 Aust Inf Bde on 24 Jun. QM will notify Bde HQ of any deficiencies after hand-over, as soon as possible, so that these may also be made up by RAE 9 Aust Div.

DESERT SHELTERS

- 11. (a) Vide para 5 above.
- (b) The Unit should receive approx 500.

WATER CONTAINERS

- 12. During period of relief, unit will take over water containers, on scale of E2 deficiencies made up plus 2 containers per veh (total 123) from relieving unit. No of containers found to be US will be notified to Bde HQ by QM on 24 Jun, so that this deficiency can be made up before departure for Forqloss on 26 Jun.

13. As supply of containers is limited, as many damaged ones as possible must be repaired within Unit lines.

CIVILIAN LABOUR

14. Supervision of civilian labour now employed on defence works will be taken over by relieving unit during period 24/25 Jun, under Pnr Offr's direction.

DISPOSAL - (a) Accommodation Stores
(b) Tentage
(c) Personal Gear Etc.

15. Operational scale of accommodation stores will be taken to Forqloss.

16. NO tentage will be taken.

17. All surplus accommodation stores and personal gear (including steel trunks, suit cases, kit bags etc) will be stored in rooms allotted at LEGOULT Barracks, tpt collecting from sub-unit QMS stores as follows :-

HQ Coy, BHQ	1900 hrs	23 Jun
C Coy	0800 hrs	24 Jun
B "	1100 "	24 "
D "	1400 "	24 "
A "	1800 "	24 "

Tpt allotted - One 30-cwt, three 3-ton vehs.

Sub-units will provide own loading parties which will travel on vehs for unloading at LEGOULT Barracks, and will be returned to sub-unit areas by Tpt Sgt.

18. Curtains Sandfly - These will not be taken to Forqloss, but will be moved by this unit Rear Party, assisted by 24 Aust Inf Bde personnel, to store rooms, LEGOULT Barracks, morning 26 Jun; QM to co-ordinate this move.

19. Palliasses - Under separate instns to be issued by QM, these will be emptied on 25 Jun, and moved to store rooms LEGOULT Barracks.

REAR PARTY

20. This Unit will contribute one NCO and four ORs (to be detailed).

SALVATION ARMY CPL

21. From 0600 hrs 26 Jun, Salvation Army Cpl will be attached for tpt, rations and discipline, to RAF.

ACK

Signed at 1936 hrs
and issued through Sigs.

W. Marshall

Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Capt

DISTRIBN :

As for 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order No 5.

APPX 21

Has disappeared into thin air!

APPX 22

SECRET

13

2/23 AUST INF BN MOVEMENT ORDER NO 3 COPY NO

Ref Map : TRIPOLI & QUARIATEINE Sheets,
1/200,000.

25 Jun 42.

INFM & INTENTION

1. As in 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order No 6.

METHOD OF MOVE

2. Route -

TRIPOLI - HOMS rd and track junc 24183060 - FORQLOSS Camp Area 292288.

3. Speed & Density -

10 m.i.h.
50 v.t.m.

4. Halts -

20 min halts from 20 mins to every even hr, from HOMS to FORQLOSS Camp Area.

5. Rail Move -

- (a) Carriers will be railed from TRIPOLI to HOMS, leaving TRIPOLI 1135 hrs 26 Jun and arriving HOMS 1715 hrs.
- (b) Carriers lift full crews, will move independently to arrive at TRIPOLI Ry Sta by 0600 hrs 26 Jun, for loading.
- (c) Capt H. RASH (i/c Carrier Pl 2/24 Aust Inf Bn) will be OC Bde Carrier Party.

6. Guiding -

- (a) Unit RP will meet Bde convoy at rd and track junc 24183060 at 1900 hrs.
- (b) Another Unit RP will meet Bde convoy at Pipe Line 800 yds WEST of FORQLOSS Camp Area, and guide own carriers to unit locality.

ADM & INTER-COMM

7. Vide 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Adm Instn (SYRIA) No 10, Trg Instn FORQLOSS No 1, and Op Order No 6.

ACK

Signed at _____ hrs and
issued through Sigs.

Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Capt

DISTRIBN :

Copy No	1	HQ Coy	Copy No	10	RP Sgt
" "	2	No 4 (Car) Pl Comd	" "	11	TO
" "	3	CO	" "	12	Capt H. RASH, 2/24 Bn
" "	4	2 i/c	" "	13	War Diary
" "	5	Adjnt	" "	14	" "
" "	6	QM	" "	15	File
" "	7	RMO	" "	16	Spare
" "	8	IO	" "	17	"
" "	9	RSM			

APPX 23

FORQLOSS
Cancelled
op. EGYPT (23)

WB

SECRET
COPY NO 23

2/23 AUST INF BN OP ORDER NO 6

Ref Maps : TRIPOLI & QUARIATEINE Sheets,
1/200,000.

25 Jun 42.

INFNM

1. Vide latest Int Summaries.
2. 26 Aust Inf Bde will be relieved in TRIPOLI Area 25 Jun by 24 Aust Inf Bde, and will concentrate at FORQLOSS for trg period.
3. Following Units come under comd 26 Aust Inf Bde from 1800 hrs 25 Jun :-
 - 2/12 Aust Fd Regt, Sig Sec, 61 LAD
 - A Sqn 9 Aust Coy
 - 27 Mtn Bty
 - 10 Aust A Tk Bty
 - 10 Aust Lt AA Bty
 - 1 Sec 2/13 Aust Fd Coy
 - A and C Coys 2/2 Aust MG Bn, 77 LAD
 - 12 Coy AASC
 - 101 Gen Tpt Coy AASC
 - 2/11 Aust Fd Amb
 - 1 Rec Sec 2/1 Aust A Fd Wkshops
 - "H" Div Sec Aust Ord Fd Pk
 - One Sec 9 Aust Div Pro Coy

INTENTION

4. As part of 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will move to FORQLOSS on 26 Jun.

METHOD

5. Order of March -

BHQ
 HQ Coy
 E " "
 C " "
 D " "
 A " "
 RAP
 B Ech

- The move will be operational, with normal distribn along coln of No 2 (A.A) Pl, and of LMGs for AA action.
7. Route, timings, and other details ref movement are contained in Movement Table, attached Appx A.
8. Formation of Convoy -
 Diagram at Appx B (attached only to copies No 1 - 6 incl, 8, 9, 12, 14, and 18) show formation of convoy behind unit Start Point.
9. Carriers -
 Orders for movement of carriers are issued separately as 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Movement Order No 3.

ADM

10. Vide 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Adm Instn (SYRIA) No 10, and Tng Instn FORQLOSS No 1.
11. Traffic -
 Sec 9 Aust Div Pro Coy will provide route control at :-

- (a) Bde Start Point -
- (b) Rd junc HOMS - BAALBECK
- (c) Pipe Line turn-off 24183060.
- (d) Dispersal point Camp area.

12. Veh Allotments -

Allotments of AASC vehs on loan (to make up first line scale), and tp-carrying vehs of 101 Aust Gen Tpt Coy will be notified separately as Appx C. Allotment of unit vehs will also be shown.

13. Guides -

Veh guides (two per sub-unit) will RV BHQ 1230 hrs 25 Jun, after mid-day meal, for tpt to EL AYOUN Water Pt, whence they will guide respective allotments of vehs back to sub-unit areas; Tpt Sgt to direct and supervise, and be responsible for the chalking of vehs.

14. Water -

- (a) WP at 275296.
- (b) Lorries 30-cwt water tk will move filled, and replenish on arrival FORQLOSS.

15. Petrol -

- (a) All petrol pumps and 44 gal containers will be handed over to relieving unit in present location, 2 and/or 4 gal containers issued for recent trg being taken over in return. These containers will be carried filled during the move.
- (b) PP will open 275294 at 1600 hrs, remaining open until further notice.
- (c) When replenishing, units will return all petrol containers to PP, incl all WE containers.

16. Supplies -

Supply Pt opens 280293 at 1900 hrs 26 Jun, closing 2000 hrs.

17. Amn -

First line scale, less ST Grenades, will be carried.

18. Adv Parties -

As already ordered, reporting at Camp site to SO, 26 Aust Inf Bde, at 1900 hrs 25 Jun.

19. Medical -

- (a) RAP vide para 5 above.
- (b) One Amb veh (with MO) at rear of Bde Gp convoy.
- (c) One Amb veh (with MO) at rd junc HOMS - TRIPOLI and HOMS - BAALBECK, waiting passage of convoy, and evacuating to TRIPOLI any serious casualties.

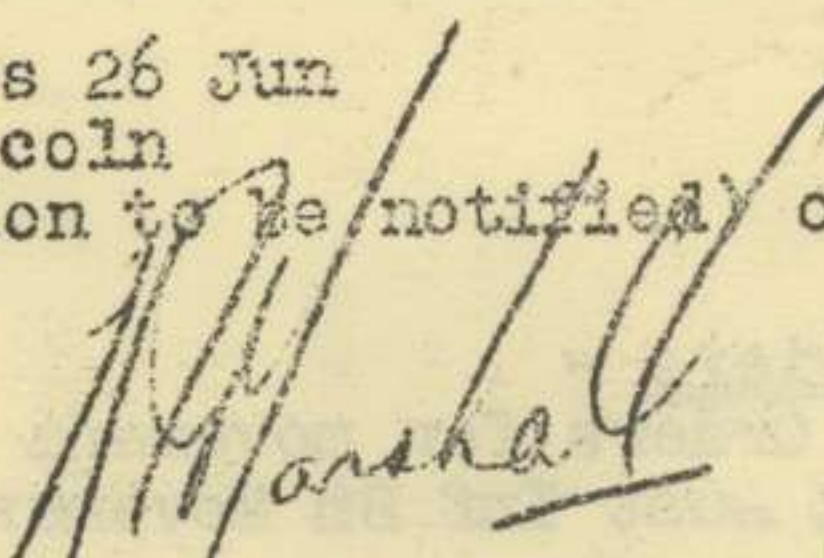
INTER-COMM

20. Sig Offr responsible for one W/T set No 101 to be netted to Bde frequency, for passage of infm during move. Frequency will be notified separately.

21. BHQ - (a) Closes present location 0600 hrs 26 Jun
(b) Becomes mobile at head of unit coln
(c) Re-opens FORQLOSS (exact location to be notified) on arrival.

ACK

Signed at 11/5 hrs and issued through Sigs.


Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Capt

DISTRIBN :

As for 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order No 5 (Delete Copy No 21).

APPX A - MOVEMENT TABLE

SPs - (a) Unit : Rd junc DID RAMLIEH, 16772747 (Times past, vide Table below).
 (b) Bde : Rd junc EL ABDE, 17382862 (Head of unit coln to pass at 0815 hrs, tail at 0835 hrs).

ROUTES -
 (a) Unit SP to Bde SP : Rd junc 16422780 - rd junc 16402794 - EL ABDE rd junc 17382862.
 (b) From Bde SP : To rd junc LATTAKIA - TRIPOLI and HOMS - TRIPOLI - HOMS rd to track junc 24183060 - FORQLOSS
 Camp area 292288.

SPEED, DENSITY - 20 mih; 20 vtm.

HALTS - 20 min, at 20 min to each even hr.

DISPERSAL - To sub-unit localities at FORQLOSS Camp area, picking up guides of adv party at TELEGRAPH LINE turn-off.

Serial	Sub-Unit	Total vehs less MCs	Pass Unit SP	Pass Bde SP		Remarks
				Head	Tail	
1.	BHQ, HQ Coy	21	0730	0815		(a) RP Sgt will control coy convoys for order of march past track junc and bridge at EL AYOUN. (b) Sub-units must time own moves out of present locations so that halts before reaching Unit SP will NOT be necessary. (c) ALL vehs must pass Unit SP punctually and at correct speed and density, which will thereafter be strictly maintained. (d) From rd and track junc 24183060 to FORQLOSS, mih will be :- Tracked vehs 10 mih; Wheeled vehs 15 mih.
2.	B Coy	11	0734			
3.	C Coy	12	0736			
4.	D Coy	11	0738			
5.	A Coy	11	0740			
6.	RAP	1	0742			
7.	B Ech	14	0742 $\frac{1}{2}$		By 0835	

APPX C - VEH ALLOTMENT

Serial	Sub-unit	Unit Vehs							AASC vehs on loan	TOTAL	
		MC	8 cwt	15 cwt	30 cwt	3 ton	Office	Car DS			Lorries 30 cwt Water Tk
1.	BHQ	2			2	1(RAP)	1	1			7
2.	Each Rifle Coy			1 (4)	1 (4)					3 (12)	20
3.	HQ Coy (Coy HQ)			1							1
4.	No 1 (Sig) Pl	2								2	4
5.	No 2 (A.A) Pl									4	4
6.	No 3 (Mor) Pl									3	3
7.	No 4 (Car) Pl									1	1
8.	No 5 (Pnr) Pl									1	1
9.	No 6 (Adm) Pl		2	1 (QM)	1	4			2	4	14
10.	Padre			1							1
11.	Canteen				1						1
12.	Adv Party				1						1
13.	Totals Ser 1 - 12	4	2	7	9	5	1	1	2	27	58

APPX 24

24

ROUTINE ORDERS

by

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

R/Os Part I - No 114/4042

714. TYRES. RECORDS OF

AIF (IE) Order No 1128 is rptd :-

In order to render assistance to the Provost Corps in the tracing of stolen army tyres, the following procedure will be followed :-

- (a) Drivers will enter particulars of all tyres fitted to their vehs in the veh log book or a note book. These particulars will include size, make, maker's registered number, whether branded D.D. and any other particulars which would enable a driver to identify the tyres from his records.
- (b) Ordnance installations and units will keep a list of makes and sizes and registered numbers of tyres passing through their hands, so that reference to these lists may help to prove that a recovered tyre is stolen property.

715. CORRESPONDENCE

AIF (ME) Order No 1134 is rptd :-

To facilitate filing and prevent mutilation of reference numbers, etc, all correspondence will be prepared with the top left corner of the page left blank.

Marshall
 Adjt 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Capt

NOTICES

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

Amenities 9 Aust Div has started a Mobile Library, which has issued one case of 55 books to units of the Formation. In this Unit the case is in the custody of the Padre.

When the books at present held are considered of no further use, the Padre will contact Amenities Offr, HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde, and receive a replacement case in exchange. This is the only way in which transfers will be effected.

All books are stamped and numbered according to list placed on the lid of each case.

These books cannot be replaced in the ME so that the utmost care should be taken to ensure that no books are lost, and that they are properly cared for during circulation.

For Official Use Only

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ROUTINE ORDERS

HQ 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
AIF (ME),
8 Jun 42.

by

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

R/Os Part I - No 115/4042

716. RATIONING - BEER

- (a) To ensure a fair distribution of available beer, both local and imported, it has been agreed that EPI and ACS will ration beer on the same basis.
- (b) W.e.f 8 Jun, the ration will be 3 bottles per man per week.
- (c) No guarantee can be given regarding the proportions of local and imported beer, but it is anticipated that the present 50:50 ratio will be continued until the end of Jun at least.

717. KIT LOSSES - REAR BHQ

The following kit loss is promulgated in accordance with AIF (ME) Order No 596 to impress again on all ranks and especially those who perform gd and piquet duties, the necessity for rigorous safeguard of all kit and stores :-

(a) Articles Lost -

- 1 GLORIA Pressure Lamp
- 2 prs Trousers KD (issue pattern)
- 1 Tunic KD (offrs pattern, complete with buttons, badges, and rank badges).
- 1 pr Trousers KD (offrs pattern).

(b) Identity of Loser - Lt-Col Bernard EVANS.

718. FWD COY PERSONNEL MESSING AT REAR BHQ

- (a) On occasions hitherto, rations for BHQ and HQ Coy personnel have been shortened by the arrival of fwd coy personnel for meals without prior notice.
- (b) In future, fwd coys will either give 12 hrs prior notice to QM of messing requirements for personnel visiting BHQ - HQ Coy area or will ensure that such personnel are accompanied by unexpended portion of ration for the meal or meals involved.

719. CONSUMPTION OF LOCAL FRUIT

- (a) Local fruit is becoming ripe and already some cases of DIARRHOEA have been attributed to it.
- (b) All ranks are warned of the danger of eating fruit which has been purchased from natives and which has NOT been thoroughly washed.

720. COURT OF INQUIRY

A C of I consisting of the undermentioned offrs :

PRESIDENT

Capt C WILLIAMS - 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

MEMBER

Lieut M WRIGHT - 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

Will assemble before 14 Jun 42 at such place as the President may appoint for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting on the circumstances of the loss of personal kit belonging to Lt-Col B EVANS, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn during night 30/31 May 42.

The attention of the Court is directed to 9 Aust Div RO 470.

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

NOTICES

SKI SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde advise it is regretted that photos of tps trg at 1 Aust Corps Ski School are not available.

REGTL CANTEEN

Canteen hrs are :-

1315 - 1345 hrs
1900 - 2130 hrs

Under no circumstances will personnel be served outside the above hrs.

(a) The canteen will be open during the above hours and will be closed during the above hours.

(b) The canteen will be open during the above hours and will be closed during the above hours.

(c) The canteen will be open during the above hours and will be closed during the above hours.

(d) The canteen will be open during the above hours and will be closed during the above hours.

(e) The canteen will be open during the above hours and will be closed during the above hours.

(f) The canteen will be open during the above hours and will be closed during the above hours.

(g) The canteen will be open during the above hours and will be closed during the above hours.

(h) The canteen will be open during the above hours and will be closed during the above hours.

(i) The canteen will be open during the above hours and will be closed during the above hours.

AUSTRALIAN - IMPERIAL FORCE

For Official Use Only

ROUTINE ORDERS

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
AIF (ME),
10 Jun 42.

By

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

R/Os Part I - No 116/4042

721. PUNISHMENT BY COURT-MARTIAL

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

TX3893 Pte BIRRELL H.E. and VX40070 Pte BROWN C.J. charged with having, while being soldiers of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia on War Service, committed the following offences :-

First Charge
Army Act Sec 15(1) When on active service absents himself without leave in that he at BECHMEZZINE absented himself without leave from 1745 hrs 7 May 42 till 2230 hrs 7 May 42.

Second Charge
Army Act Sec 18(4) (alternate to third charge) When on active service stealing public property in that he at BECHMEZZINE on the night of 7/8 May 42 stole two bags of rice, each weighing approx 180 pounds, public property.

Third Charge
Army Act sec 18(4) (alternate to second charge) Withdrawn

Fourth Charge
Army Act Sec 40 When on active service conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline in that he at TRIPOLI on the night of 7/8 May 42 improperly disposed of two bags of rice, public property, to MINNIE BRACE, a civilian, for £S60 (sixty pounds in Syrian currency).

Fifth Charge
Army Act Sec 40 When on active service conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline in that he at BECHMEZZINE on the night of 7/8 May 42 improperly used a military motor veh for his private purposes.

Court found the accused guilty of first, second, fourth, and fifth charges.

Each accused was sentenced to undergo field punishment for 60 days.

Date of trial was 3 Jun 42.

In each case, date of confirmation was 6 Jun 42, the confirming offr being Lt-Gen Sir Leslie Morshead, GOC 9 Aust Div, AIF (ME).

722. AIR CO-OPERATION

9 Aust Div R/O No 366 is rptd :-

When practice low-flying attacks are being carried out on tps, the latter will on no account try to interfere with the aircraft, e.g. by throwing stones. Such action is highly dangerous to the aircraft.

723. USE OF SAA - INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES

9 Aust Div R/O No 367 is rptd :-

Except on ranges, after proper precautions have been taken, live SAA will on no account be used for instructional purposes. When drill amm is not available, instn will proceed without it. This instn will be interpreted intelligently, e.g. tps in camps in desert areas can erect local sandbagged stop butts, or use nearby sand dunes, hillocks, etc, as butts. Tps in fwd areas will act as circumstances dictate. Tps in permanent barracks in closely inhabited areas are, however, to comply rigidly with this instn.

The attention of instructors will be drawn to the safety precautions necessary during trg laid down in Small Arms Tng, Vol 1, pam No 1, 1937, Sec 1, para 15, and their personal responsibilities.

724. INSPECTION OF RESPIRATORS

Recent tests have shown some cases of red rubber connecting tubes becoming cracked and perished, both at the ends and inside. Such tubes are not gastight.

Sub-units will carry out an inspection of red rubber connecting tubes, and render a return to BHQ by 1200 hrs 13 Jun, showing the number US.

To carry out this inspection thoroughly, it will be necessary to remove the wire binding from each end of the tube.

725. VEHS - SPEEDING

In some recent cases, drivers apprehended exceeding speed limits claimed that they had not been informed of the speed limit for their particular vehs.

Immediate steps will be taken to ensure that EVERY driver is familiar with the speed limits imposed on any type of veh which it may be his duty, from time to time, to drive.

"Action Completed" will be signalled to BHQ by 1800 hrs 14 Jun.

726. ACF BEACH HUT

9 Aust Div R/O No 371 is rptd :-

The ACF have opened a beach hut on the HAKIM beach. A cup of tea and a biscuit will be available from 1500 hrs - 1630 hrs. Men desiring to partake of same MUST bring their own drinking utensils.

727. BROADCASTS

9 Aust Div R/Os Nos 372 and 373 are rptd :-

(a) The following programme amendments are notified :-

The World News Summary is incl in the FORCES PROGRAMME broadcast between 1730 and 1800 hrs daily.

The time of broadcast of the AUSTRALIAN NEWS BULLETIN has been altered from 1745 - 1800 hrs to 1805 - 1815 hrs daily.

A special Sunday programme for the AIF will be broadcast between 1200 and 1300 hrs weekly.

(b) Wireless programmes of special interest to the AIF in the ME are as follows :-

i. Broadcast from JERUSALEM on 668 kcs/sec (449 metres)
Daily from 1730 hrs till 1815 hrs local time

1730 - 1800 Light entertainment for the Forces

1800 - Headline World news for the Forces

1805 - 1815 AIF News Bulletin

Sunday from 1200 hrs till 1300 hrs local time

"AIF Hour"

ii. Broadcast from London in the African Service

Saturday from 1945 hrs till 2030 hrs local time

"Australian Magazine" - programme for the

AIF and RAAF in the Middle East.

728. BATHING

Nude bathing near dwellings, rds, or places frequented by women MUST cease immediately. This order is to be enforced rigidly by offrs or NCOs i/c bathing parties.

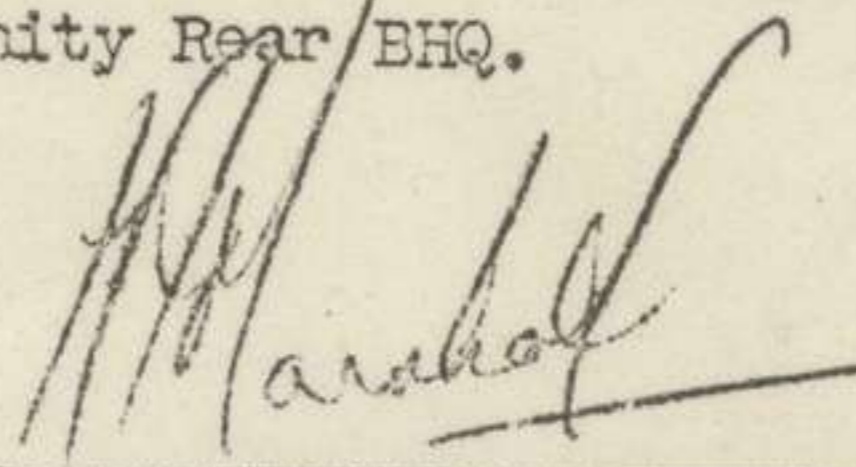
729. STAGING - LATTAKIA

- (a) No accommodation or rations can be provided by 9 Aust Div Cav, LATTAKIA.
- (b) There is no staging camp in LATTAKIA area.

730. LOSS FROM COOKHOUSE - NIGHT 7/8 JUN

Details of the following loss are promulgated, in accordance with AIF (ME) Order No 596, to impress again on all ranks, the necessity for rigorous safeguard of WD stores etc, on issue or on charge to them, or in their charge :-

- (a) Stores lost - 80 tins pressed meat; one case (48 tins) branded "LIBBY'S"; and one case (32 tins) assorted brands.
- (b) Identity of loser - Cookhouse, vicinity Rear BHQ.



Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Capt

NOTICES

9 DIV CONCERT PARTY

Vacancies exist in the Divisional Concert Party for Instrumentalists (Accordion player, trumpet player etc) comedians, singers and specialty artists (conjurers, tap dancers, impersonators etc). Applications will be fwded to BHQ.

LOST CAP

The offr who removed by mistake, a cap from AIF Offrs' Club, TRIPOLI on the evening of Saturday 30 May 42, is requested to return it to 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn, AIF.

Description - English made by Truss & Co with celluloid sheet and
Cotton Lining (quantity, inside).

by
Lt-Col B. EVANS DSO, Comd, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
R/Os Part I - No 117/4042

731. SCHOOLS & COURSES - LEAVE

Bn R/O No 22/4042 para 138 is cancelled, following cancellation of AIF (ME) Order No 690.

- (a) In accordance with AIF (ME) Order No 1138, no leave will be granted to AIF students at termination of Schools & Courses, except at ME Staff School.
- (b) Return of students to Unit will be effected as quickly as possible, offr's proceeding direct, and ORs being staged through 1 Aust Depot Bn. ME OCTU students will be returned to AIF (ME) Reinf't Depot.

732. ARREST PENDING TRIAL

AIF (ME) Order No 1139 is rpt'd :-

- (a) Attention is drawn to the provision of AMR & O with regard to arrest of offr's and soldiers pending trial by summary authorities or by Courts-Martial.
- (b) Arrest may be open or close. In the case of an offr, WO or NCO, close arrests means being placed in charge of an escort etc. In the case of a private soldier, close arrest involves confinement in safe custody.
- (c) Many cases have recently occurred of NCOs and private soldiers being retained under close arrest, sometimes for a considerable period, awaiting trial. Close arrest is to be used only in extreme cases.
- (d) The rule in the case of private soldiers has been stated as follows :-
"He will not be placed under close arrest unless confinement is necessary for his safe custody or for the maintenance of discipline." (MML, Aust Edn, p 28).
A similar principle should be observed in the case of offr's, WOs and NCOs.
- (e) Even where close arrest is considered necessary, the period will be kept to a minimum and every step taken to expedite trial.
- (f) A soldier under close or open arrest may be "released without prejudice" pending trial.

733. PRIVATE BANK ACCOUNTS

AIF (ME) Order No 1140 is rpt'd :-

- (a) In view of the importance of the infn insofar as the interests of the soldier and his dependants are concerned, personnel who have opened private banking accounts in the Middle East will furnish forthwith particulars thereof through the usual channels to Chief Paymaster, AIF (ME).
- (b) This infn is required in order that balances of bank accounts will not be overlooked in the event of decease.
- (c) AIF (ME) Order No 530 of 2 Aug 41, is cancelled.

734. OFFERS' SHOP - PAPER WRAPPINGS

AIF (ME) Order No 1144 is rpt'd :-

- (a) In the interests of economy, no articles purchased from Offr's' shops will be wrapped in paper.
- (b) Offr's who intend to purchase any considerable quantity of goods should provide themselves with a haversack, suitcase, or other suitable container.

735. PUNISHMENTS BY COURT-MARTIAL

9 Aust Div R/O No 382 is rptd :-

The following punishments inflicted by Courts Martial held under direction of 9 Aust Div are published for info.

- (a) A pte soldier convicted of AWL (3 days) and striking his superior offr (Sgt) was sentenced to 60 days field punishment.
- (b) A pte soldier convicted of disobeying a lawful command and using violence to his superior officer (Lieut) was sentenced to 120 days detention.
- (c) A corporal convicted of forcing a sentinel and drunkenness was sentenced to be reduced to the ranks and to 60 days detention. The sentence of detention was suspended.
- (d) A pte soldier convicted of assaulting a civilian and striking his superior offr (a L/Cpl) was sentenced to 60 days field punishment.
- (e) A pte soldier convicted of disobeying a lawful command, AWL (6 days) and stealing from a civilian was sentenced to 112 days detention.
- (f) A pte soldier convicted of using threatening language to his superior offr offering violence to a pte soldier, creating a disturbance in his unit lines and striking his superior offr (a captain) was sentenced to detention for one year.
- (g) A pte soldier convicted of striking his superior offr (L/Cpl) and using insubordinate language was sentenced to detention for 6 months.
- (h) A pte soldier convicted of using insubordinate language was sentenced to 60 days detention.
- (i) A pte soldier convicted of three charges of insubordinate language and one of disobeying a lawful command was sentenced to 9 months detention.
- (j) A pte soldier convicted on five charges of selling public property to a civilian was sentenced to 9 months imprisonment with hard labour. The following additional sentences were passed on another pte soldiers for the same offence, 50 days field punishment (2 cases) 60 days detention (2 cases).
- (k) A pte soldier convicted of AWL (30 days) was sentenced to 6 months detention.
- (l) Three pte soldiers convicted of selling public property to a civilian were sentenced to 12 months imprisonment without hard labour, six months imprisonment without hard labour and six months detention respectively.

736. COURTS-MARTIAL - LEAVE CAMPS

Personnel on leave at Leave Camp or Transit Camp, who are charged with an offence sufficiently serious to be tried by Court-Martial, will be returned to Unit immediately.

737. CAR PARK

- (a) Car park near Moulin Bleu is NOT guarded by personnel of Aust HQ Gd Bn.
- (b) All drivers are to be warned accordingly, and to be reminded that in NO circumstance will a veh be left unattended.

738. RD ACCIDENTS

In every traffic accident involving a civilian or civilian property, the driver MUST report immediately to nearest Gendarmerie. It is important that the completion of accident reports be expedited to the utmost.

739. TRAFFIC DISCIPLINE

9 Aust Div R/O No 388 is rptd, for infm and action :-

It is observed that drivers of WD vehs are driving dangerously in that they overtake slow traffic when vehs are approaching from the opposite direction.

All drivers will be warned that no veh may pull out to overtake, if a veh is approaching, unless it is clear that this can be done without causing the oncoming veh to slow down.

Drivers will be made to understand that they are responsible for any accident which may occur if at the time of such accident they are not on their own side of the rd.

The fact that drivers are being held up by slow moving traffic is no excuse for overtaking when the rd is not clear. Drivers must, if necessary, halt and wait for an opportunity to pass.

The above will be read over and explained to all drivers.

740. US 4 GALL TINS (LIGHT)

9 Aust Div R/O No 391 is rptd :-

Units are reminded that even when 4-Gall light tins are completely US for any purpose, they are still valuable salvage as scrap tin.

Irrespective of condition, all 4-gall tins must be returned to salvage after use.

741. CABLEGRAMS & TELEGRAMS

9 Aust Div R/O No 392 is rptd :-

- (a) Inland and International Telegrams will be accepted at Army Post Offices provided that they comply with the following conditions :-
- i. All cablegrams and telegrams, with the exception of Expeditionary Force Messages (EFM) which are not subject to unit censorship, must be officially franked and stamped with the unit censor stamp.
 - ii. Must be wholly printed in BLOCK letters.
 - iii. Senders surname must appear in the signature for transmission.
 - iv. Place of destination must be a telegraph or telephone office.
 - v. Army No, Rank and name of sender must appear at foot or on back of the telegram form.
 - vi. Messages must be definitely addressed. Two word and code addresses are not accepted.
 - vii. Messages addressed to members of the Forces cannot be accepted.
- (b) The various classes of cablegrams addressed to Australia and UK which can be accepted, are listed hereunder in order of priority of transmission. Infm in respect to the lodgment of cablegrams addressed to other countries can be obtained at Army Post Offices.

Class of Cablegram	Prefix (Counted as 1 word)	Rates (Syrian Currency)	
		TO AUST	TO UK
Full rate	(No prefix)	PT 55 per word	PT 55 per word
Deferred	LC	PT 27½ " "	PT 27½ " "
Daily Letter)	DLT	PT 18½ " "	(No rate)
Telegram)		with min of PT 464 (25 words)	
Night Letter)	NLT	(No rate)	PT 17 per word min of PT 420 (25 words)
Telegram)			
Expeditionary)	EFM	PT 110½ for up	PT 110½ for up
Force Message)		to 3 standard texts	to 3 standard texts

/over

TELEGRAM RATES (SYRIAN Currency)

SYRIA & LEBANON	PT 38 $\frac{1}{2}$	for 1st 10 words,	PT 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	for each addtl word.
PALESTINE	PT 45	" " 10 "	PT 9	" " " 2 "
EGYPT	PT 54	" " 6 "	PT 9	" " " word.

Handwritten signature: Marshall

Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Capt

NO. 10 (1917)

9 Aust Div R/O No 391 is typed :-

Units are reminded that even when 4-Gall light lines are completely used for any purpose, they are still valuable always as scrap paper. Irrespective of condition, all 4-Gall lines must be returned to always after use.

NO. 10 (1917)

9 Aust Div R/O No 391 is typed :-

(a) Inland and International Telegrams will be accepted as Army Telegrams if they are properly stamped with the following conditions:-

- i. All telegrams and telegrams, with the exception of Expeditionary Force Messages (EFM) which are not subject to such censorship, must be officially stamped and stamped with the unit censor stamp.
- ii. They must be wholly printed in BLOCK letters.
- iii. Sender's address must appear in the appropriate form in the appropriate place of destination must be a telephone or telephone office.
- iv. Army No. Rank and name of sender must appear at top or on back of the telegram form.
- v. Messages must be definitely addressed. The word and code addresses are not accepted.
- vi. Messages addressed to numbers of the Forces cannot be accepted.

(b) The various classes of telegrams addressed to Australia and NZ which can be accepted, are listed hereunder in order of priority of transmission. In respect to the location of telegrams addressed to other countries can be obtained at Army Post Offices.

Class of Telegram	Rate (Syrian Currency)	TO AUSTR	TO NZ
Full rate	(No prefix)	PT 55 per word	PT 55 per word
Deferred	LD	PT 25 "	PT 25 "
Day Letter	DL	PT 15 "	PT 15 "
Telegram		with min of PT 45 (25 words)	(No rate)
Night Letter	NL		
Telegram			
Expeditionary Force Messages	EFM	PT 150 for up to 3 standard	PT 150 for up to 3 standard

BY

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

R/Os Part I - No 118/4042

742. GUNS, MACHINE, BREN - .303-in Mk I

AIF (ME) Order No 1122 is rptd :-

- (a) It has been decided that Guns, Machine, Bren, .303-in Mk I, will no longer be fitted with straps, butt plate.
- (b) Units in possession of guns fitted with straps will remove the straps and return them, together with the stems, springs, nuts and screws, to 4 Base Ord Depot.

743. COURTS OF INQUIRY

(a) A C of I consisting of the undermentioned offrs :-

PRESIDENT

Capt E. BAILLIEN - 2/24 Aust Inf Bn

MEMBER.

Lieut R. McLEOD - 2/24 Aust Inf Bn

will assemble before 19 Jun 42 at such place as the President may appoint for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting on the circumstances of a rd accident in which veh No 24573846, a 15 cwt FDN, on charge to 2/23 Aust Inf Bn, was involved on 21 May 42.

The Court will report on :-

- i. The injuries sustained by the Arab in the case (Name unknown)
- ii. Negligence, if any, on the part of VX44063, Dr WOODHOUSE C, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

(b) A C of I consisting of the undermentioned offrs :-

PRESIDENT

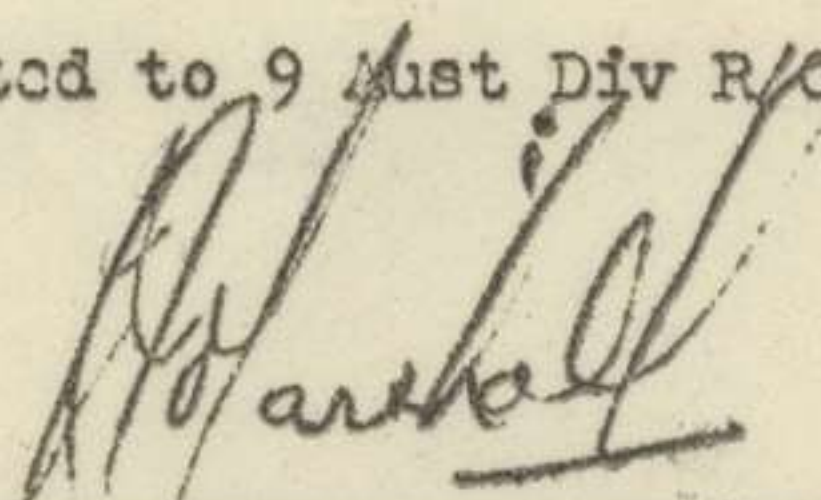
Capt C. WILLIAMS - 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

MEMBER.

Lieut M. WRIGHT - 2/48 Aust Inf Bn

will assemble before 19 Jun 42 at such place as the President may appoint for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting on the circumstances of the loss of 80 tins of "LIBBY'S" Preserved Meat from Bn HQ Cookhouse, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn, during night 7/8 Jun 42.

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


Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. Capt

by

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

R/Cs Part I - No 119/4042

744. KITS - PATIENTS EVACUATED MDS

Sub-units will ensure that each man takes his messing utensils when evacuated to MDS.

745. RAIL TRAVEL - MEAL AT HAIFA

EPI facilities exist at HAIFA where travellers travelling between EGYPT or PALESTINE and SYRIA, whose journey exceeds 8 hrs, will be granted a free meal.

746. COOKING - SAND & PETROL

9 Aust Div R/O No 407 is rptd :-

- (a) Large quantities of petrol are being wasted on cooking. Personnel are in the habit of digging a hole in the sand and indiscriminately pouring petrol into the cavity. This practice will cease forthwith.
- (b) Cooking by means of sand and petrol will only be used as a last resource when cooking apparatus and other types of fuel are not available. Every care will be taken to economise in the use of petrol and to utilise a properly constructed tin to act as the cooker and burner unit.

747. PARCELS POST - RESTRICTIONS

9 Aust Div R/O No 403 is rptd :-

- (a) Parcels for civil addresses in PALESTINE containing goods the value of which exceeds £1, cannot now be imported into PALESTINE without an Import Licence.
- (b) Import Licences can be obtained only by the addressee from "The Director of Customs, Excise and Trade, PALESTINE".
- (c) Parcels which contravene this regulation are liable to be confiscated.

748. PETROL ECONOMY - DISPLAY OF LABELS

Beneath is the wording of a petrol economy label, which will be supplied by Stationery Depot, and will be displayed on every petrol driven vehicle on unit strength. The attention of all drivers will be frequently drawn to it :-

. P E T R O L
W I L L W I N T H I S W A R
E V E R Y D R O P C O U N T S
S A V E I T

749. REINFETS - COLOUR PATCHES

Reinfets who joined the Unit on recent drafts, having been re-posted from some other unit no longer in the ME, will remove their old colour patches, and take immediate steps through CQMS to procure an issue of correct Regtl colour patches.

750. WEARING OF DECORATIONS AND MEDALS OF ENEMY COUNTRIES

AIF (ME) Order No 1249 is rptd :-

- (a) The following extract which appeared in Gazette No 62 of 1942 is published for the info of all concerned :-

"It is notified for general infm that His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve of the withdrawal of all permission to persons of Australian origin for the wearing of decorations and medals of enemy countries".

- (b) The countries with which Australia is at present at war are GERMANY, JAPAN, HUNGARY, ROUMANIA, FINLAND, THAILAND, BULGARIA and ITALY, and the wearing of decorations and medals of these countries shall be discontinued forthwith.

7. LOSS OF AUTOMATIC PISTOL

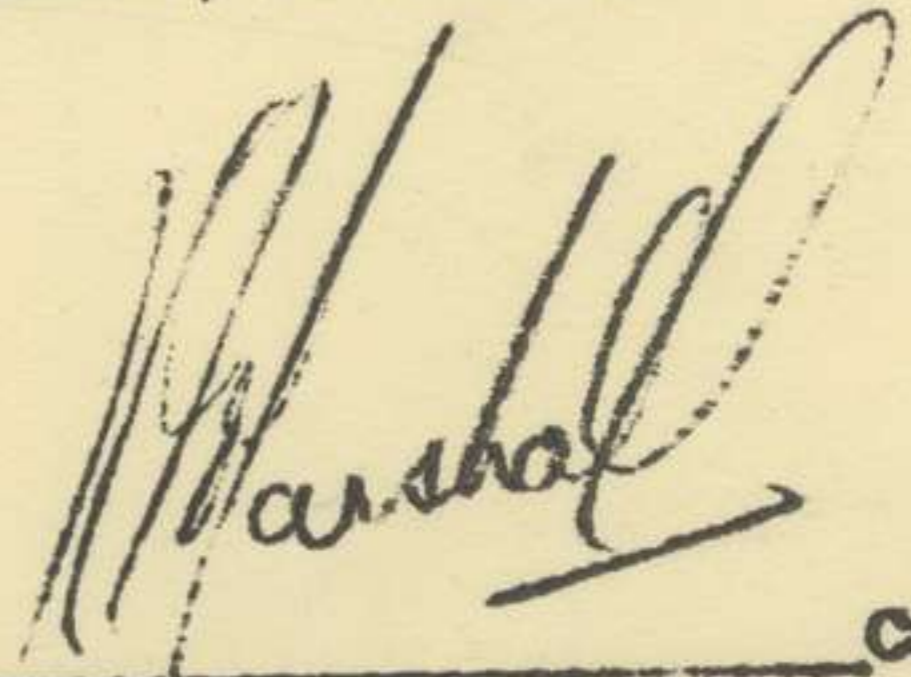
Details of the following loss are promulgated, in accordance with AIF (ME) Order No 596, to impress again upon all ranks the necessity for personal and individual safeguard of arms, ~~amm, eqpt and VD~~ stores etc, on issue or on charge to them.

(a) Stores lost -

One automatic pistol, colt .32 Calibre, No 295263.

(b) Identity of Loser -

Capt K. O. NEUENDORF.



Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

Capt

by

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

R/Os Part I - No 120/4042

752. LOSSES -

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

- (a) Kit bag Universal, containing rifle bolt and other gear.
Identity of loser - VX47418, Pte McLEAN G. W.
- (b) Rifle No 89487, bolt No 1927.
Identity of loser - VX40096, Sgt FRANCIS T.

753. FD CENSORSHIP

AIF(ME) Order No 1153 is rptd :-

- (a) Accounts in letters of personal experiences in battle are not permitted unless specifically authorised.
- (b) Recital of personal experiences in all operations up to and including the last adv to EL AGHEILA - but not the subsequent withdrawal - is hereby authorised.
- (c) Green envelopes will NOT be used for this purpose.
- (d) Unit censors will handle such correspondence with due regard to security, criticisms and alarmist statements.

754. FS PERSONNEL - IDENTIFICATION

AIF(ME) Order No 1154 is rptd :-

- (a) A number of cases have occurred of offrs and ORs representing themselves falsely as being FS personnel.
- (b) All ranks of the FS personnel carry the green "SECURITY PERSONNEL Authority and Identity Card" issued to all Security personnel.
- (c) Persons claiming to be FS personnel should be asked to produce their card as proof of their statement. If they are unable to do so they should be detained and handed over to the Military Police.
- (d) Care will be taken in asking for proof of identity, to do it in such a way as to avoid revealing the identity of genuine FS personnel to civilians.

755. DISCIPLINE

AIF(ME) Order No 1156 is rptd :-

The undermentioned sentences by Courts-Martial are published for info :-

- (a) A pte soldier, convicted of leaving his post without orders from his superior offr (AA6(2)(f)) and drunkenness (AA19) was sentenced to undergo detention for 60 days.
- (b) A pte soldier, convicted of AWL (AA15(1)) for 24 days, losing by neglect certain items of his clothing (AA24(2)) and losing by neglect certain items of his eqpt (AA24(2)) was sentenced to undergo detention for 10 months.
- (c) A pte soldier convicted of common assault (AA41), conduct to the prejudice etc (AA40) and AWL (AA15(1)) for one day, was sentenced to undergo detention for 18 months.
- (d) A cpl, convicted of AWL (AA15(1)) for 5 days, was sentenced to be fined £10.
- (e) A L/Sgt convicted of disobeying a lawful cmd given by his superior offr (AA9(2)), was sentenced to be reduced to the ranks and to undergo detention for 90 days.

USE OF ARMY VEHs

AIF(ME) Order No 1157 is rptd :-

- (a) Use of Army vehs for any pte purpose whatsoever is prohibited.
- (b) The following personnel will not be convey ed in any Army veh except with the written authority of an offr of the rank of Colonel or higher, or the CO of a Gen Hosp, a CCS, or a Fd Amb.
 - i. Members of the AANS below the rank of Matron
 - ii. Members of the VAD below the rank of Commandant
 - iii. All other female military personnel below the equivalent rank of Matron
 - iv. Civilians, male or female, provided however that civilians required as witnesses for Courts-Martials, Summaries of Evidence, Courts of Inquiry, or investigation connected therewith, may be conveyed in an Army veh by offr or soldiers of ES Service, SIB or Prov Corps while on duty.
- (c) AIF(ME) Orders Nos 237 of 7 Mar 41, and 879 of 22 Dec 41, are cancelled.

57. SYRIAN MONEY - SECURITY

To preserve essential security ref presen t movements, all ranks are advised that no SYRIAN money whatever will be spent, other than at Unit Canteen. Orders ref change of money will be promulgated as soon as direction of Higher Formation is received.

..... Capt
Adjnt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

NOTICES

MESSAGE FROM H.R.H. THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER

The following message has been received from H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, following his visit to 9th Australian Division :-

"I was very glad to have the opportunity of seeing detachments of 9th Australian Division today, and was particularly struck by the arms drill, steadiness on parade, and physical fitness of all ranks.

I feel certain that all ranks know that their being in the Middle East is of the greatest importance for the future conduct of the war, and I know that wherever you are called upon to fight, you will maintain the high standard of conduct in battle as during the last year and a half.

I feel that 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."

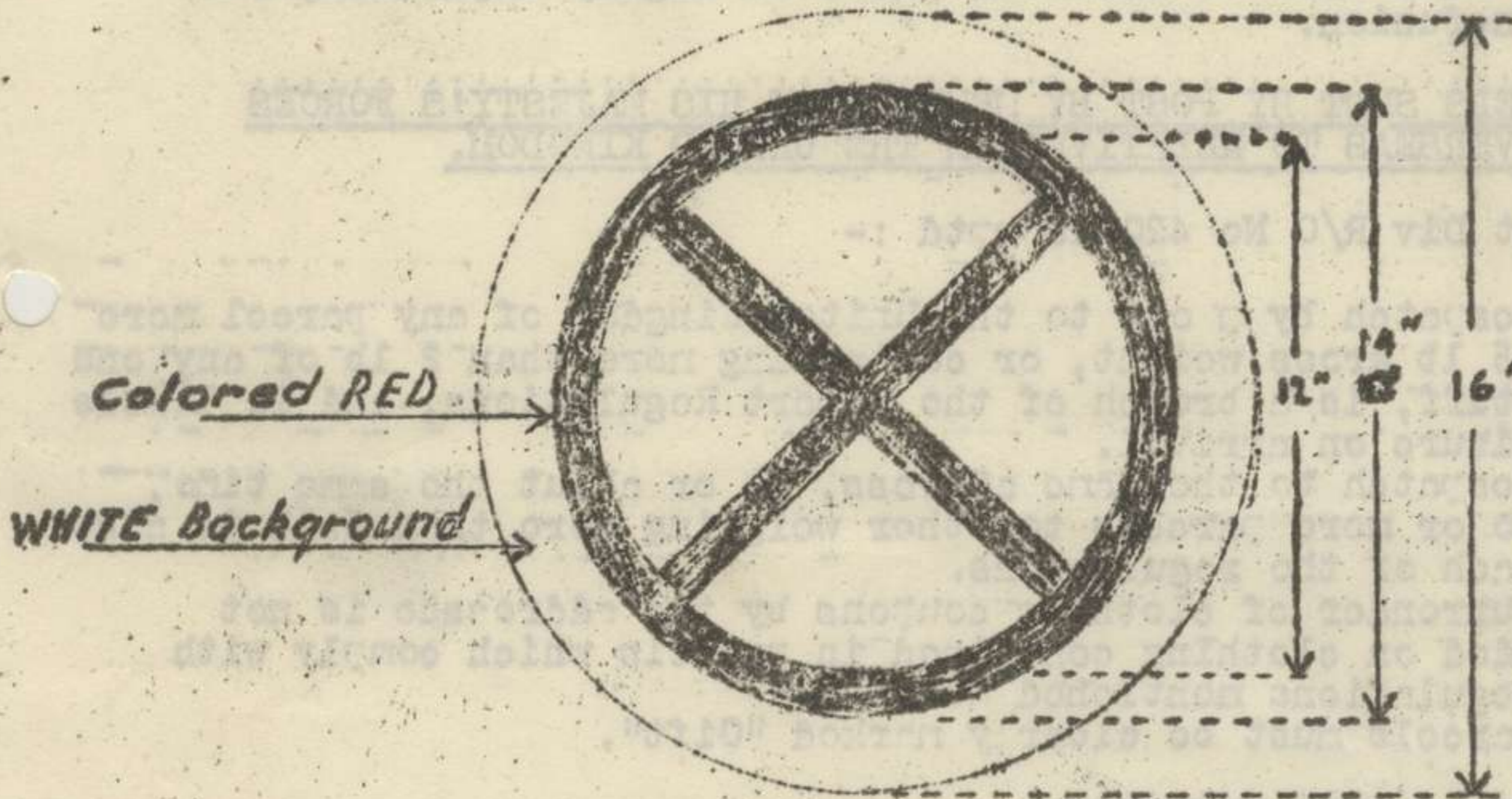
by

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

R/Os Part I - No 121/4042

758. OUT OF BOUNDS INDICATOR

- (a) To overcome language difficulties of Allied and other troops unable to read English, "Out of Bounds" notice boards in the ME will be supplemented by an additional sign, vide pattern below.



- (b) The sign and the notice board will be placed as close together as possible.
- (c) Under arrangements in all commands, these signs will be erected as soon as possible at boundaries of all "Out of Bounds" areas, especially Brothol Areas.

759. FIRST LINE AMN

The following is extracted from 9 Aust Div R/O No 414.

"A recent inspection of Unit First Line amn reveals the following :-

- An unnecessarily large proportion of seals on boxes have been broken.
- There has been insufficient use of dunnage and cover in storing.
- Large quantities of amn have been found to be rust affected. This can be directly traced to paras (a) and (b) by allowing moisture to come in contact with the amn.
- First Line amn has been used for practice carrying and loading into vehs, causing packages to be damaged and allowing infiltration of moisture.
- Regular internal inspections have not been carried out in many units. In many cases the amn was taken over as long ago as four months. If regular inspections had been carried out these faults must have been exposed."

In view of the above, QM will arrange frequent inspections of First Line amn, and turn over in accordance with lot numbers when applicable. Amn, so long as operational situation permits, will be kept in original packages, and stacked under the best available conditions.

Salvage arrangements will be carried out in full. Unpainted portions of amn will be smeared with linseed oil or mineral jelly in accordance with directions for its calibre, and any amn in bad or doubtful condition will be reported for inspection to the I.O.O.

760. WATER CONTAINERS - 2-GALL

Many water containers are becoming US through careless handling. Shortage of stocks may make replenishment impossible. All ranks will, therefore, take every reasonable care with water containers, ensuring especially that they are not thrown about or allowed to bump about on vehs, particularly when empty.

761. MALARIA TREATMENT - RECORD IN PAYBOOK

All tps commencing suppressive treatment for Malaria will immediately have a slip of paper pasted in their paybook, opposite medical page, showing date of commencement. Date of cessation of treatment will also be entered. This is highly important, ref blood transfusion.

762. GIFT PARCELS SENT BY POST BY MEMBERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES SERVING OVERSEAS TO RELATIVES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

9 Aust Div R/O No 420 is rptd :-

- (a) The despatch by post to the United Kingdom of any parcel more than 5 lb gross weight, or containing more than 2 lb of any one foodstuff, is a breach of the Import Regulations, and is liable to seizure on arrival.
- (b) The despatch to the same address, at or about the same time, of two or more parcels together weighing more than 5 lb is also a breach of the regulations.
- (c) The surrender of clothing coupons by the addressee is not demanded on clothing contained in parcels which comply with the regulations mentioned above.
- (d) All parcels must be clearly marked "Gift".

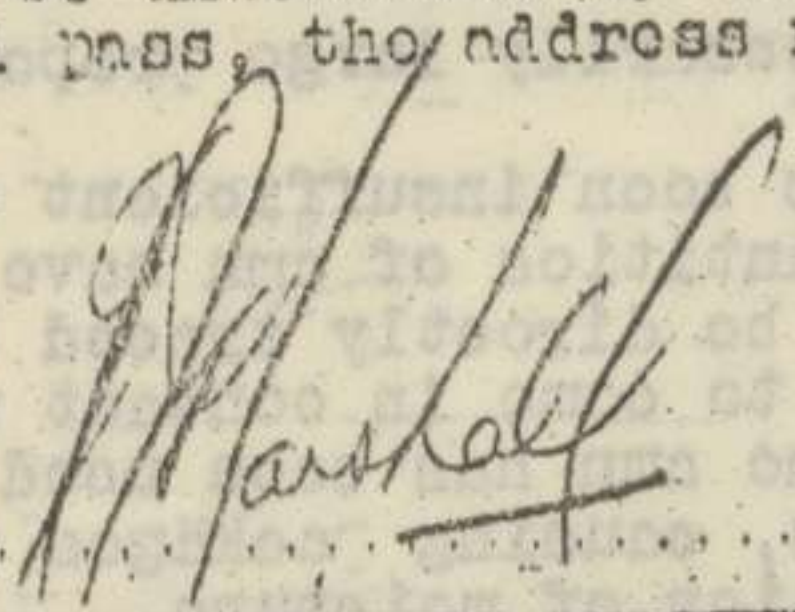
763. RECLAMATION - USED TEXTILES

Used rags, cotton waste, and other similar textile cleaning materials, will NOT be burnt or otherwise destroyed in future, but will be collected by salvage offr, and despatched to nearest salvage depot for cleaning and subsequent re-issue. Cotton waste will be kept separate from used rags.

764. POSTAL - USE OF ABBREVIATIONS

9 Aust Div R/O No 422 is rptd :-

Abbreviations on envelopes to be transmitted through the post will be confined to those in common use. If the writer is not certain that an abbreviation would be understood by all persons through whose hands the letter will pass, the address must be written in full.


Capt
Adjt, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

APPX 25

Posn as 0 830 hrs

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

SECRET

(Date) 19 Jun 42

STAFF TABLE - 2/23 AUST INF BN

COPY NO File

THIS CANCELS ALL

(DATE) 19 Jun 42

PREVIOUS ~~INFNS.~~ TABLES

SERIAL	SUB UNIT.	PERSONNEL								WEAPONS																							
		OFFRS				OTHER RANKS				PISTOLS ALL TYPES		RIFLES .303		MACHINE CARBINE		LMG .303		TWIN LMG		4 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	47	-	-	13	9	41	14	2	2	1						24	6									2	
2	HQ COY	9	11	2	269	301			32	17	16	248	318	4	4	13	8	4		13		14	14	6	6	4	2	7					
3	A COY	5	8	3	124	105	19			5	7	118	118	9	9	9	7			3	1					3	3	10	6				
4	B COY	5	6	1	124	120	4			5	6	118	121	9	9	9	7			3	1					3	3	10	4				
5	C COY	5	6	1	124	121	3			5	5	118	114	9	9	9	7			3	2					3	3	10	6				
6	D COY	5	8	3	124	118	6			5	8	118	112	9	9	9	7			3	2					3	3	10	6				
7	TOTALS SERIALS 1-6	33	43	10	812	812	32	32			50	51	761	797	42	42	50	36	4		25	6	38	20	6	6	16	14	49	22			
8	BHQ	2(a)	2			6(e)	4	2		1	1	1																					
9	HQ COY					7(f)	7					7	7																				
	TOTALS ALL SERIALS	35	45	10	825	823	34	32			51	52	769	804	42	42	50	36	4		25	6	38	20	6	6	16	14	49	22			

90

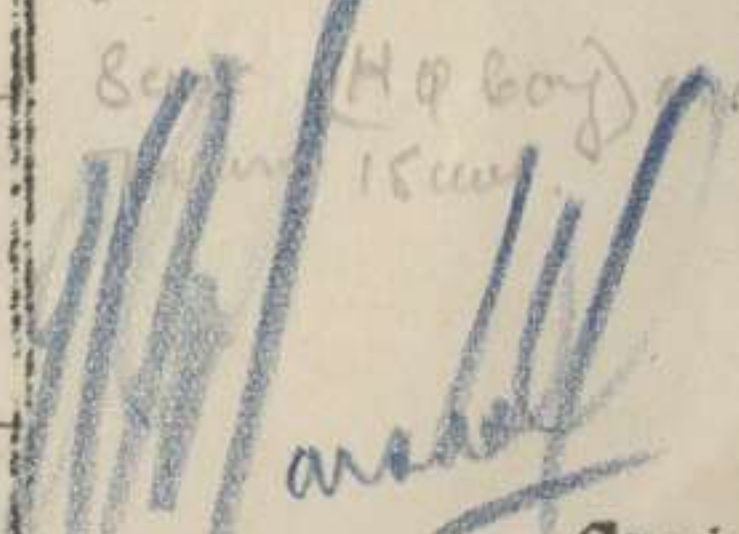
STAFF TABLE - 2/23 AUST INF BN

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 15 cwt		VAN(b) 1 ton		LORRY 30-cwt		LORRY 3-ton		LORRY 30 CARRIERS		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				
1	BHQ	3		8						-	2	2		1	1	1	1			1	1			1		17	5
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	7		14	7	2	2	21	12			139	44
ATTACHMENTS																											
8	BHQ											1(c)															
TOTALS ALL SERIALS		31	1	26	3	4				2	2	39	9	1	1	7		14	7	2	2	21	12			140	44

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; 1 Sgt; Chaplain batman.
- (f) 6 AAOC; 1 AA Postal C.

(g) incl 2 vans
 Sent HQ Coy and
 1500

 Capt
 Adj, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

APPX 26

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

2/23 AMB INF BN (Unit). 7 Jun 42 19 (Date).

(To be furnished by all units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.			1
W.Os. Class II.	5		1
W.Os. Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants			
Staff Serjeants	5		
Serjeants	31		
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals	69		
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	725	25	
TOTALS	835	25	2

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

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
1 Sgt	AMB		
1 Cpl	AMB (Trg Wing)		
2 Cr	AMB		
2 Cpls	AAC		
4 Crs	AAC		
1 SPl	AA Postal Corps		
12 Sgt	AMB		

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

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

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.									REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS.					
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	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.Q.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 ...										25	25	1	1						2		10 reinforcements not required.	
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A).										25	25	1	1									

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Unit.

Signature of Commander.
[Handwritten Signature]

Date of Despatch 7 Jun 42

26 Aust Inf Bn 9 Aust Div. Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

(Unit)..... 19..... (Date).

(To be furnished by all units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.			
W.Os. Class II.			
W.Os. Class III.	2		
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants	6		
Staff Serjeants			
Serjeants			
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.	5		
Corporals	31		
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusilliers, etc.	69		
	723	23	
TOTALS			

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

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
1 Sgt	AAC		
1 Cpl	AAC TFG Wing		
2 Cpls	AAC		
4 CPO	AAC		
(1) 2 CPO	AAC		
1 Sgt	AAC		
1 Cpl	AA Postal Corps		

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known)
VX 28830	Pte	Francis A.?	2/23 In	Present at 26 AIFB. Urgently required for cooking purposes, for In Riv exercise on extended per

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 Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers																				
Sanitary and Water Duties																				
Signallers																				
Storemen technical																				
Tailors																				
Wheelers																				
General duty personnel ...																				
TOTALS (to agree with Col- umns 3 and 4 of Part A).									23 23											
									23 23											

[Handwritten Signature]
Signature of Commander.

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Unit.

Date of Despatch

13 Jun 42

Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

26 Aust Inf Bn 9 Aust Div

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

Army Form W.3009
(Page 1.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

..... (Unit) 19..... (Date).

(To be furnished by all units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	<u>Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).</u>	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.			
W.Os. Class II.			
W.Os. Class III.	1		
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants	6		
Staff Serjeants			
Serjeants	5		
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.	31		
Corporals			
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	69		
TOTALS	763	68	

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

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
1 Cpl	AA Postal Corps		
1 Sgt	AAFC		
1 Sgt	AAFC		
1 Cpl	AAFC THE WING		
1 Cr	AAFC		
2 Cpls	AAFC		
4 Crs	AAFC		

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

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

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 ...																					
TOTALS (to agree with Col- umns 3 and 4 of Part A).																					

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Unit.

Date of Despatch

Signature of Commander.

26 Aust Inf Bn 9 Aust Inf Bn
Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

..... (Unit). 19 (Date).

(To be furnished by all units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1 Detail.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.		1	
W.Os. Class II.	6		
W.Os. Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants			
Staff Serjeants			
Serjeants	32		1
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals	87		
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	743	42	
TOTALS	831	43	1

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

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
1446	RA RIFLES		
1447	RAMC		
1448	RA RIFLES		
1449	RAMC TAWTON		
1450	RAMC		
1451	RAC		
1452	RAMC		

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

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

2/23 4th Div of 8th Div Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.									REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.						REMARKS.				
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	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 Makers ...																				
Saddle Tree Makers ...																				
Sanitary and Water Duties ...																				
Signallers ...																				
Storemen technical ...																				
Tailors ...																				
Wheelers ...																				
General duty personnel ...																				
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A).																				

2/23 4th Div of 8th Div Unit.

Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch *27 June 42.*

Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which unit is serving.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

(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 ...	10	1	
Lieutenants ...	23	4	
2nd Lieutenants ...	1		
Quartermasters ...			
District Officers ...			
Totals ...	38	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.
Lieut.	Wong A.S.	2/23 IN	1 Jun 42	From 2/21 IN AB
Lieut.	Bigg S.S.	2/23 IN	29 May 42	From det. to (9) unit by way of...
Capt.	Griffin S.S.	2/23 IN	4 May 42	From det. to 13 unit A/...
Lieut.	Duffell S.	26 IN	2 Jun 42	From 2 unit by school

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut.	Wong S.	2/23 IN	5 Jun 42	...
Lieut.	Hodges S.S.	2/23 IN	6 Jun 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		Hunter R.	2/23 BR	Yes	2/23 BR
Major		Hinch R.A.	"	"	2 IC 2/23 BR
"		Pull R.A.	"	"	IC 1st Coy
"		Spicer R.A.	"	No	Detached
Capt		Stroy R.A.	"	Yes	2 IC 1st Coy
"		Arncliffe R.A.	"	"	IC 1st Coy
"		Robson R.	"	"	IC 1st Coy
"		Christon J.A.	"	"	Super 1st Coy
"		Gordon R.A.	"	"	"
"		Mason R.A.	"	"	IC 1st Coy
"		Anderson R.A.	"	"	IC 1st Coy
"		Motson R.A.	"	"	1/215 B Coy
"		Mitchell H.A.	"	"	IC 2/23 BR
"		Handford R.A.	"	"	IC 1st Coy
"		Hollen R.A.	"	"	"
Lieut		Byrne R.A.	"	"	Super 10 B 1
"		Hodley R.A.	"	"	1/215 B Coy
"		Hodley R.A.	"	"	1/215 B Coy
"		Gray R.A.	"	"	Super 17 1
"		Clayton R.A.	"	"	1 Cont 14 1
"		Hall R.A.	"	"	A.S.
"		Hodgson R.A.	"	No	Detached
"		Holmes R.	"	Yes	2 Cont 16 1
"		Whitcomb R.A.	"	"	2 Cont 16 1
"		Rusby A.A.	"	"	for off
"		Frost R.A.	"	"	1 Cont 10 7 1
"		Boulter R.A.	"	"	1 Cont 10 8 1
"		Wilby R.A.	"	"	1 Cont 10 11 1
"		Wigg R.A.	"	"	car 1
"		Hedges R.A.	"	No	2 Cont 10, 12 1
"		Burton R.A.	"	Yes	1 Cont 10 10 1
"		Jones R.A.	"	"	1 Cont 10 8 1
"		Wright R.A.	"	"	2 Cont 10 17 1
"		Mason R.A.	"	"	2 Cont 10 17 1
"		Hunter R.	"	"	Super 10 7 1

(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		Hodgson R.A.	1st Div	16 Feb 42	IC 1st Coy
Capt		Hodgson R.A.	2nd Div	2 Apr 42	IC 1st Coy
Lieut		Hodgson R.A.	26 APR	3 Dec 41	IC 1st Coy
Lieut		Hodgson R.A.	"	3 Dec 41	IC 1st Coy
Lieut		Hodgson R.A.	"	3 Dec 41	IC 1st Coy
Lieut		Hodgson R.A.	"	3 Dec 41	IC 1st Coy
Lieut		Hodgson R.A.	"	3 Dec 41	IC 1st Coy

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

7 Jan 42

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

(Unit.)

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

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 ...	2		1
Lieutenants ...	9		
2nd Lieutenants ...	22	3	
Quartermasters ...			
District Officers ...	1		
Totals ...			

*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.
Capt	Retley R.	2/23 Inf	8 Jun 42	Seconded to HQ
Maj	Spier P.S.	"	15 May 42	Seconded to 2nd Tactical Centre.
Lieut.	Trotter P.S.	"	29 May 42	Seconded to 26 Aust Inf 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.)

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.	2/23 Inf	Yes	Comd 2/23 Inf
Major		Birch H.R.	"	"	2IC 2/23 Inf
"		Wall R.H.	"	"	OC 2nd Coy
capt		Tivy P.H.	"	"	2 IC 3 Coy
"		Thurston G.F.	"	"	OC 3 Coy
"		Stanton J.S.	"	"	Super 3 Coy
"		Cronle R.C.	"	"	1st Lt. 1st
"		Blair G.H.	"	"	Comd 1st
"		Anderson G.G.	"	"	OC A Coy
"		Matheson J.H.	"	"	2 IC 3 Coy
"		Marshall H.I.	"	"	Adj. 2/23 Inf
"		Houderoff E.O.	"	"	OC B Coy
"		Fallon J.P.	"	"	1st Lt.
2nd Lt		Byron-Coore H.G.	"	"	Super 10 3 12
"		Harding W.C.	"	"	A 2IC A Coy
"		McKoy A.H.	"	"	A/ 2IC B Coy
"		Urr J.H.	"	"	Super 12 12
"		Clarke E.C.	"	"	1st Comd 14 12
"		Holl R.K.	"	"	I.O.
"		Goldstone H.	"	"	1st Comd 16 12
"		Thirvell G. M.A.	"	"	1st Comd 19 12
"		Smile A.H.	"	"	1st Coy
"		Reed H.J.	"	"	1st Comd 7 12
"		Boulton R.B.	"	"	1st Comd 8 12
"		Lukoy G.W.	"	"	1st Comd 11 12
"		Rigg G.A.	"	"	1st Comd 10 12
"		Holmes H.H.	"	No	Detached
"		Burton J.J.	"	Yes	1st Comd 13 12
"		Jones R.J.P.	"	"	1st Comd 2 12
"		Vince W.J.	"	"	1st Comd 15 12
"		Russell G.S.	"	"	1st Comd 9 12
"		Maloney J.P.	"	"	1st Comd 10.

(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 H.J.	4th Div	16 Aug 42	1st Coy
Chap		McKoy A.H.	AA Chap	2 Aug 42	1st Coy
2nd Lt		Hinsley J.	26 AIFB	3 Dec 42	1st Coy
"		Maloney J.P.	"	3 Dec 42	1st Coy
"		Dryer J.P.	"	1 Aug 42	1st Coy

(Unit.) (Signature of Commander.)
(Date of Despatch.) (Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)
2/23 Aust Inf Bn 13 Jun 42 26 Aust Inf Bde 9 Aust Div

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 ...	2		1
Captains ...	10	1	
Lieutenants ...	37		
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters <i>capt</i> ...	1		
District Officers ...			
Totals ...	33	1	1

*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.
<i>Capt</i>	<i>R. Murray</i>	<i>2/23 Bn</i>	<i>16 Jun 42</i>	<i>rejoined unit from ...</i>
<i>Lieut</i>	<i>R. Army</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>16 Jun 42</i>	<i>" " " "</i>

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>Lieut</i>	<i>H. G. Byron-Boose</i>	<i>2/23 Bn</i>	<i>16 Jun 42</i>	<i>vacated to ...</i>
<i>"</i>	<i>H. Goldstone</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>17 Jun 42</i>	<i>" " " "</i>
<i>"</i>	<i>H. G. High</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>18 Jun 42</i>	<i>" " " "</i>
<i>"</i>	<i>H. G. Johns</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>17 Jun 42</i>	<i>attached to school</i>
<i>Lt-Col</i>	<i>H. G. ...</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>17 Jun 42</i>	<i>school</i>

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

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

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.
1st Col		A. Brown	2/23 Bn	No	Detached
Major		H.A. Birch	"	Yes	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Hill	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
Capt		H.A. Gray	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Lambert	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Murray	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Carpenter	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Smith	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Wilson	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Johnson	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Brown	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Marshall	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Hamilton	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Follen	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
1st Lt		H.A. Smith	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Taylor	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Lee	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. White	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Hall	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Mitchell	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Davis	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Ross	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Walker	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. King	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Lodge	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Green	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Jones	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Adams	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Vines	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Russell	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Nicely	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Lovell	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn
"		H.A. Harris	"	"	2/23 2/23 Bn

(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.
1st Lt		H.A. Smith	2/23 Bn	16 Nov 41	Detached
1st Lt		H.A. Taylor	2/23 Bn	17 Nov 41	Detached
1st Lt		H.A. Lee	2/23 Bn	18 Nov 41	Detached
1st Lt		H.A. White	2/23 Bn	19 Nov 41	Detached
1st Lt		H.A. Hall	2/23 Bn	20 Nov 41	Detached

(Unit.)

(Date of Despatch.)

(Signature of Commander.)

(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 ...	1		2
Captains ...	9		
Lieutenants ...	19		1
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...	1		
District Officers ...			
Totals ...	30		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	Goldstone M	2/23 Bn	20 Jun 42	From MDS
Lieut	Hodges H.H.	"	22 Jun 42	From Detto G (R) Special Trg Centre.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	J.D. Mulcahy	2/23 Bn	21 Jun 42	Evacuated to MDS
Lieut	C. Duke	2/23 Bn	25 Jun 42	Detached to school
Lieut	R.B. Boulter	2/23 Bn	3 Jun 42	"
Lieut	T. Dwyer	2/23 Bn	25 Jun 42	Evacuated to MDS

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-cdl		B. Evans	2/23 Bn	No	Detached
Major		R.S. Wall	"	Yes	OC HQ Coy
Capt	EP	P.H. Tivey	"	"	2 IC D Coy
"		G.F. Urquhart	"	"	OC D Coy
"		J.S. Cumpson	"	"	Super D Coy
"		R.C. Cronie	"	"	Post Pend
"		G.H. Bland	"	"	Car Pl
"		G.G. Anderson	"	"	OC A Coy
"		J.M. Methven	"	"	"2IC C Coy
"		H.I. Marshall Mxst.	"	"	Adjnt 2/23 Bn
"		K.O. Neuendorf	"	"	OC B Coy
"		J.F. Fallon	"	"	QM
Lieut		W.C. Harding	"	"	A/2IC A Coy
"		A.N. McKay	"	"	A/2IC B Coy
"		T.H. Orr	"	No	Detached
"		K.C. Clarke	"	Yes	Pl Comd 14 Pl
"		R.K. Reid	"	"	I O
"		G. H. Hesselwell	"	"	Pl Comd 16 Pl
"		A.R. Randle	"	"	Mor Offr
"		H.J. Boss	"	"	Pl Comd 7 Pl
"		R.B. Boulter	"	No	Detached
"		G.W. Luky	"	Yes	Pl Comd 11 Pl
"		N.H. Hedges	"	"	Pl Comd 12 Pl
"		W.J. Dunham	"	"	Pl Comd 18 Pl
"		H.J.P. Jones	"	"	Pl Comd 2 Pl
"		C Duke	"	"	Pl Comd 15 Pl
"		W.J. Vines	"	"	Pl Comd 17 Pl
"		G.S. Russell	"	"	Pl Comd 9 Pl
"		K. Lovell	"	"	sig Offr
"		R.G. Paine	"	No	Detached
<u>DETACHED FOR RE TURN TO AUSTRALIA</u>					
Major		H.R. Birch	2/23 Bn	No	Detached
Capt		R. Hattray	"	"	"
Lieut		H.G. Byron-Moore	"	"	From Hospital

(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		Delehery H.J.	AAIC	16 Mar 42	BMO
Chap		Porter F.	AA Chap Dept	2 Apr 42	Padre
Lieut		Hipsley J.	26 AITB	3 Dec 42	Pl Offr
Lieut		W. Lead	"	1 Dec 42	Super. 11 Pl
Lieut		D'Arville G.S.	"	1 Dec 42	Detached
Lieut		Bulck S.	"	30 Mar 42	Super 8 Pl

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

(Unit.)

(Signature of Commander.)

27 Jun 42

(Date of Despatch.)

26 Aust Inf Bde 9 Aust Div.

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