

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

Item number: 8/3/23

2/23 Infantry Battalion

September 1942

SEP MONTH

1942. YEAR

Pro-forma AIF Form
C2135A

WAR DIARY

SECRET

UNIT 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	References to appendices	CO'S REPORT AND COMMENTS ON MONTH (On Operations, Eqpt, Movement, Health, etc.)
WESTERN DESERT.	1	Weather fine. Coys on fd wks.		The month was probably the best from the trg point of view, in the history of the Bn. Many exercises were carried out, including one large scale one on a div basis. The Bn was the first in the Div to carry it out. It was quite well done.
	2	Weather fine. 1900 hrs conference CO and Specialist Offrs. Advice received of further members of Bn receiving mention in despatches for distinguished service in TOBRUCH during period Jul-Oct 41. Verbal warning received from Higher Formation that JU52's may be operating.	Appx 24	As usual the comms broke down. Making alternate means more and more important. But for very full orders and timings and alternate means of comn, such as tks and Lucas lamps, the exercise might easily have failed.
	3	Weather fine and hot. Anniversary of outbreak of war 3 Sep 39. HM the King directed day be set aside as a special day of prayer. Church services held in all Coy areas and at BHQ. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Adm Instn No 3 - Res Locality A. HQ Coy divided into HQ(A) and HQ(B) Coys under comd respectively of Major G. H. BLAND and Capt J. S. CUMPSTON. HQ(A) Coy to comprise all Unit Sp pls - HQ(B), adm and services. Lieut J. W. DUNHAM posted IO. Lieut K. I. BENSON 2 i/c No 4 (Car) Pl.	Appx 18	These lessons have been well learnt. All my offrs and NCOs (mostly new men) were exceptionally keen.
	4	Weather fine. Coys on fd wks.		Time was also spent in arriving at battle drill details for many minor aspects so often overlooked in the past.
	5	Weather fine. CO and IO recce def locality 'D' with COs of 2/24 and 2/48 Aust Inf Bns and rep from 2/3 Pnr Bn. D Coy sent out patrol during night to investigate suspicious light in Easterly direction. Found to be RAF beacon. Coys on fd wks. 18 "X" List personnel rejoined Unit.	Appx 1	More decorations were announced, bringing the Bn's total up to 38. There would most assuredly have been more had some of the 8 gallant Coy Comds, killed in action, survived.
	6	Weather fine. Church services held. IO i/c of recce to def locality D with Coy Comds and Specialist Offrs. CO, Adjt on recce def locality G. Message received from Comd Eighth Army congratulating tps on success of recent ops. Coys on fd wks. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Standing Orders for mob activities issued.	Appx 3 Appx 4	Salvage and Security were given great attention with the result that when the Bn took over the Northern Sector on coast, some very fine salvage patrols met with excellent results. We even salvaged a Valentine tk and got it home under its own power! Also 2 hy ITALIAN tk rec vehs and 2 ITALIAN cookers, one a mob trailer type. Large quantities

*Dunham's Unit
C.O. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn*

*Ames
Capt.
Adjt. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.*

Signature *Bruce Evans*

MONTH

YEAR

Pro-forma AIF Form
C2118A

WAR DIARY

PAGE 2

UNIT

SECRET

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	References to Appendices	CO'S REPORT AND COMMENTS ON MONTH (On Operations, Eqpt, Movement, Health, etc)
	7	<p>Weather fine and hot. CO attended investiture by GOC AIF(ME) Lieut-Gen Sir Leslie MORSHEAD KBE, CMG, DSO, ED, at Main HQ 9 Aust Div at 1500 hrs. The only recipient present from this Bn was VX40142 Pte CLAFFEY R. P. who received the Military Medal. The following recipients were not present :-</p> <p>Military Cross : VX37109 Capt CLARKE K.C. Hospital VX38918 " HARDING W.C. KIA VX27876 Lieut THIRLWELL G.M. Hospital</p> <p>Military Medal : VX26749 L/Sgt BOON S. KIA VX48276 Cpl DUNNE F.J.B. Hospital</p> <p>Gd of one pl from A Coy posted on locality amn res of 24 Bty 2/12 Fd Regt RAA. Patrol from D Coy investigated report from OP that suspicious figure was observed at 2140 hrs - NMS or H.</p>		<p>of tools and a food dump were all brought in. Our GOC personally called and offered his congratulations to the Bn as also the Corps Comd.</p> <p>The Xmas shop idea is being developed and we are buying goods in bulk to resell to the men for sending to Aust as Xmas Gifts. We hope to establish a little dugout shop for this purpose!</p> <p>Generally the morale is high. The usual broken reeds among our "reos" committed the usual SIW offences and there is a percentage of anxiety neurosis cases. The general standard of reinforcement types is very low. Many have been the cast-offs of other units and come to us with very bad records. NCOs who are substantive but have never been section leaders or any kind of leaders for that matter, are useless and will have to be reverted.</p>
	8	<p>Weather fine and warm. Courses of instn for all ranks in mine laying and lifting to be conducted in Bn area by 4 Sec 2/7 Fd Coy RAE. Security gds and Coast Watching Posts to be relieved in order to arrange for fuller attendance at courses. CO's conference with Coy Comds - Orders issued for trg in pl battle drill in attack.</p> <p>Issue of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Instn No 4.</p> <p>9 "X" List OR's returned to Unit.</p>	Appx 5	
	9	<p>Weather fine and warm. 1430 hrs CO attends 26 Bde conference on trg. As part of a programme of physical hardening, CO ordered the whole Bn - less security gds - to march to the beach each morning at 0630 hrs for swimming parades.</p> <p>New maps received of local area - EL IMAYID 1/50,000. EL ALAMEIN 1/100,000. MAGHRA 1/100,000.</p>	Appx 6	<p>Staff were again sent away for the ITB in PALESTINE. It is ^{to be} hoped that the types of "reo" to come from Aust will not be too hopelessly culled over before they reach the Bn. Otherwise, as the standard of intelligence goes lower and lower with the reduction of original members left in the Bn (casualties) so our difficulties will increase in the production of specialists, such as sigs.</p>

Signature

Ronald Brown

MONTH

YEAR

Pro-forma AIF Form
C2318A

WAR DIARY

PAGE 8

SECRET

UNIT

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	References to Appendices	CO'S REPORT AND COMMENTS ON MONTH (On Operations, Eqpt, Movement, Health, etc.)
	10	Weather fine and warm. CO addressed all Coys on the new trg syllabus and later made preliminary recce of area for Coy trg fwd of FDL and in the vicinity of rd junc SYDNEY RD - MATRUH RD. Lecture to all Coys by Lieut HALL, 9 Div Salvage Offr. Subject - Salvage Operations. 5 "X" List personnel rejoined Unit.		A Tk and Mortars and MG Pls. There are some 300 original members of the Bn still serving with the Unit. Many of these have now become unfit for rifle coys service and are being used as MF drivers, etc. Good men all, but with minor physical disabilities. With the Bn aiming more and more at high fire power and more specialised wpns in the Inf Bn, the position is aggravated by a strength lacking some 160 men. And this 160 men represent the ordinary fighting men of the rifle coys. Hence my apprehension as to what sort of personnel are to be sent to us eventually.
	11	Weather fine and warm. Major BLAND acting CO during absence of CO who proceeded to ALEXANDRIA in company of Lt-Col HAMMER, CO 2/48 Aust Inf Bn. Major WALL appointed Unit Camflg Offr, to be assisted by Pnr Offr and all CSMS.		In our present FDLs, the Bn organzn has gone quite awry, as pnrs, MF drs, even student cooks and A Tk personnel, are all serving as rifle men!
	12	Weather fine and warm. CO returned from ALEXANDRIA at 1230 hrs. Visit by Brig D. A. WHITEHEAD DSO, MC, who assumes comd 26 Aust Inf Bde in succession to Brig R. W. TOVELL DSO, ED, the latter having been recalled for duty in AUSTRALIA. Brig R. W. TOVELL DSO ED, Brig D. A. WHITEHEAD DSO MC, Lt-Col B. EVANS DSO, BM(L), Adjt and IO inspected all Coy areas after which CO visited HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde. Special Order issued by Brig R. W. TOVELL DSO ED.	Appx 7	The Inf Bn can never reach the pitch of efficiency that it should enjoy as the spear-head of battle so long as only the dregs and the ignorant and the weak in intellect are allowed to reach it.
	13	Weather fine - moderate wind. Ceremonial parade in area BHQ. Bn formed up in mass. Brig R. W. TOVELL DSO ED and the BM arrived at 0945 hrs. After taking the General Salute, Brig TOVELL inspected the tps, stopping at intervals to talk with men whom he had known since the Unit was first raised. The CO then, on behalf of all ranks, made a farewell address to the Brig and presented him with a set of brass candlesticks made by members of the Pnr Pl from materials collected on the battle field. Brig TOVELL told the parade that because of his continuous association with the 26 Aust Inf Bde since		As I have some 18 new offr, I have adopted a very hy patrolling policy across the whole front. All with the object of "breaking in" all ranks. As many as 12 and 14 patrols of all types are out every night and quite good results were obtained. Bad patrols were ordered out again. They invariably reached their objectives the second time out.

Signature

Bruce Toavel Col

Dines
 Capt.
 Adj. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

MONTH

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WAR DIARY

SECRET

YEAR

PAGE 4

UNIT

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	References to Appendices	CO'S REPORT AND COMMENTS ON MONTH (On Operations, Eqpt, Movement, Health, &c)
		its formation, and despite the fact that he was returning to his native land, he was very loath to leave, especially at this time. Continuing, he said that he had been associated in the early days more with this Bn than the others in the Bde, and recalled that his HQ and the 2/23 Bn had been together at the Showgrounds in ALBURY and later at BONEGILLA. At the conclusion of Brig TOVELL's address, the Bn marched past, the Brig taking the salute. During the General Salute, inspection and march past, two pipers played appropriate music. Brig TOVELL, accompanied by BM, SC and LO attended a farewell "At Home" by Offrs of the Bn in the Mess at 1830 hrs. 3 Reinfts (CP) and 3 "X" List personnel taken on strength.	Appx 8	The 2nd Seaforth Highlanders sent reps to live with us for a period and to enable us to exchange ideas. We will probably be working with them in the future. Our Women's Committee in Aust are still doing Trojan work for the Bn. And conditions must be very difficult for them now. We received a cheque for £100 during the month - which was expended on hair-clippers for each pl and stock of cocoa for cold nights.
	14	Weather fine and moderate. Permission granted by Higher Formation for limited leave to ALEXANDRIA and CAIRO as laid down in 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Adm Instn No 3. Coy trg from 14 Sep-27 Sep as per Syllabus.	Appx 9 Appx 10	
	15	Weather warm. CO and Adjt attended conference at Bde HQ regarding new trg periods. Route march by D Coy to def locality D. 2 "X" List personnel re-joined Unit. Increase in rates of AIF pay as from 14 Aug. 9 Div GS Instn No 74 advising affiliation of 51 Highland Div with 9 Aust Div. Affiliation arranged with the object of enabling each Div to derive benefit by exchange of ideas and in particular to enable 51 Highland Div to study the lessons learnt by 9 Aust Div in its practical experience of Desert warfare. 2 Bn Seaforth Highlanders to be affiliated with this Unit. Issue of 26 Aust Inf Bde Trg Instn No 3.	Appx 24 Appx 19	

Signature

Edward Evans

MONTH

YEAR

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C211/5A

WAR DIARY

PAGE 5

SECRET

UNIT

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	References to appendices	CO'S REPORT AND COMMENTS ON MONTH (On Operations, Eqpt, Movement, Health, &c)
	16	Weather fine. RV of Bn Recce Gp at 1400 hrs for Bn night exercise under direction of HQ 9 Aust Div. Bn Orders Gp RV at 1600 hrs. CO issued orders. Orders Gp warned for co-ordinating conference at 1600 hrs 17 Sep. Trg Syllabus issued for period 14-27 Sep 42. Major WALL resumes his Regtl duties as Bn 2 i/c, after short period of detachment to HQ 30 Corps as 9 Aust Div LO.	Appx 10	
	17	Weather fine and warm. Co-ordinating conference re Bn exercise at 1600 hrs. Op Order Ex WESTERN DESERT No 2 issued. Col WELLS OBE, GSO I 9 Aust Div attended. Exercise commenced at 1840 hrs with Coys marching to Assembly Area. 7 "X" List personnel taken on strength.	Appx 11	
	18	Weather fine and warm. Exercise ended 0730 hrs. CO, Adjt and Coy Comds attended conference at 1700 hrs at HQ 26 Bde for discussion by DS and Umpires. Working party of 70 men supplied by HQ Coy to unload 360 tons of foodstuff at EL ALAMEIN Sta.		
	19	Weather fine and warm. Conference of all offr's at 1600 hrs; discussion of exercise. Various suggestions considered. No 2 (AA) Pl to be trained by I Sec as Unit guides to supplement Int Sec establishment. 2 i/c and IO on recce for Bn exercise, fwd of own FDL's. 3 "X" List personnel taken on strength.		
	20	Weather mild. CO, IO and Coy Comds attended night demonstration by 2/7 Fd Coy of lifting of minefds.		
	21	Weather fine and warm. Coy Comds conference at 0900 hrs. CO issued orders for exercise. LO informs CO of pending move by Bn back into the front line. 26 Aust Inf Bde to relieve 20 Aust Inf Bde on Coastal		

Signature



War Diary
S. J.

Ames.
Captn
Adj., 2/23 Aust. Inf. Bde.

MONTH

YEAR

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WAR DIARY

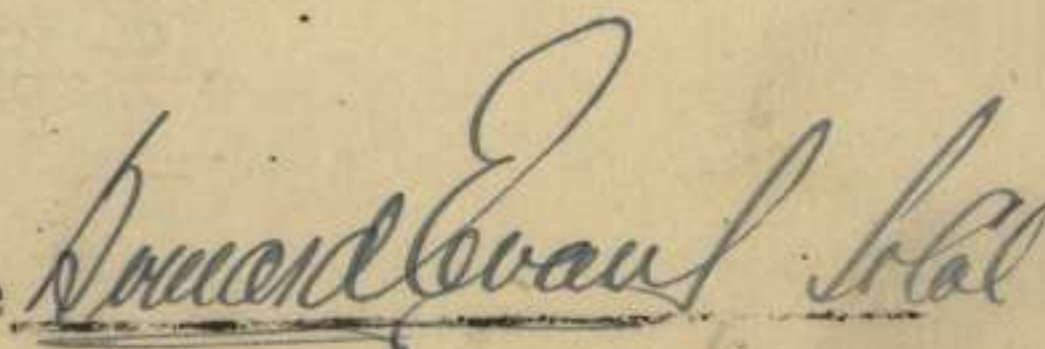
PAGE 6

SECRET

UNIT

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	References to Appendices	CO'S REPORT AND COMMENTS ON MONTH (On Operations, Eqpt, Movement, Health,
		<p>Sector. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn to relieve 2/13 Aust Inf Bn on RIGHT of Coastal Sector - (Sector A). 2/23 Aust Inf Bn OO Ex (WESTERN DESERT) No 3 issued. Advice received from 26 Bde that adv parties were to go fwd night 21/22 Sep. As a result, CO cancels Bn exercise. 2000 hrs adv parties leave under comd Major BLAND, OC HQ Coy. 2200 hrs Major SIMS with 4 other offr from 2 Seaforth Highland Bn arrived BHQ. At their request, guide from Int Sec took them to area where 2/48 Bn were carrying out ex previously done by the Bn on 17 Sep 42.</p>	Appx 12	
	22	<p>Weather fine. Bn prepares to move up to FDLs. CO, Adjnt and IO make recce in morning and arrange change over. 2/23 Bn OO No 12 issued. Convoy moved off 1930 hrs and arrived at new location 2100 hrs. Change over completed by 2400 hrs without incident. 2/13 Bn provided protective patrols fwd of the FDLs until relief complete. Personnel from 2 Seaforth Highland Bn under Major SIMS moved with Bn, one offr with each Coy, Major SIMS with BHQ. 1 "X" List OR rejoined Unit.</p>	Appx 13	
	23	<p>Weather fine and warm. Quiet day. Few shells landing in this area. Patrolling commenced with a view to gaining knowledge of area fwd of our FDLs and enemy disposns. Major SIMS still with Bn gaining knowledge of our methods and ideas. Brig D. A. WHITEHEAD DSO MC, Comd 26 Aust Inf Bde visited Bn area with Lt-Col TURNER, Adm Comd 20 Aust Inf Bde. Trace of disposns - Sector A.</p>	Appx 14	
	24	<p>Weather fine. Dense mist up to 0920 hrs. Bn completely settled in. Patrols more actively engaged in obtaining infm. Major SIMS and Seaforth</p>		

Signature



PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	References to Appendices	CO'S REPORT AND COMMENTS ON MONTH (On Operations, Eqpt, Movement, Health, etc)
		Highland Bn personnel leave the Unit after a stay of 3 days. Bn received 2 Vickers MMGs with fd mountings. 2000 hrs CO, and Adjt with SC 26 Bde visited C Coy and Carrier Pl. <u>Note</u> : Standardisation of scale for battle maps throughout the Div would save a considerable amount of unnecessary work and facilitate inter-bn reliefs.	Appx 1 (Patrol reports)	
	25	Weather fine and warm. 30 personnel from 2 Seaforth Highland Bn att for experience in FDL's. Brig D. A. WHITEHEAD DSO MC Comd 26 Bde visits BHQ. 1430 hrs Brig Whitehead returned with Bde Comd 152 Highland Bde, and with CO, inspected D Coy.		
	26	Weather fine and warm. Issue of 2/23 Bn OO No 13, covering counter-attack role of res Coy.	Appx 15	
	27	Weather fine. Personnel att to Bn from 2 Seaforth Bn recalled to their Unit. They assured the CO their short stay had been very valuable to them in gaining experience in the conditions of desert warfare. Conforming to CO's policy, fwd Coys D, B and C are maintaining outposts manned by 2 or 3 men to observe enemy movement and disposns by day and by night. 3 "X" List personnel taken on strength.		
	28	Weather fine. Hy dust storm in the morning and B, C and D Coys took advantage of it to send out patrols. At noon dust lifted forcing the patrols to withdraw under enemy mortar and shell fire. 1 Offr, 1 WOII, 1 S/Sgt, 4 Sgts and 1 Pte detached as Staff to 26 AITB in PALESTINE. A special course commenced at 26 Bde to train operators of W/T No 18 sets.	Appx 1 Appx 20	2 Offr

Signature

Donald Paul

MONTH

YEAR

Pro-forma AF Form
C2135A

WAR DIARY

PAGE 8

SECRET

UNIT

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<i>W. Dunbar</i> <i>L.O.</i>	29	Weather fine. Bn Rest Camp established on beach for benefit of personnel in fwd pls. CO issues instns for concentrated shoots on known enemy posns in co-operation with 14 Bty 2/7 Aust Fd Regt, A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn, and Bn mortars. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Instn No 5.	Appx 20	
	30	Weather fine and hot. Patrolling continues. VALENTINE tk salvaged from 'No Man's Land'. Driven in under own power by personnel of B Coy assisted by mechanics from No 1 Rec Sec. Salvaging of WD stores and eqpt in Bn area fwd of our FDL's continues. 5 "X" List personnel taken on strength.	Appx 16 Appx 1	

Ames
Capt
Adj. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Signature *Donald Paul*

MONTH

YEAR

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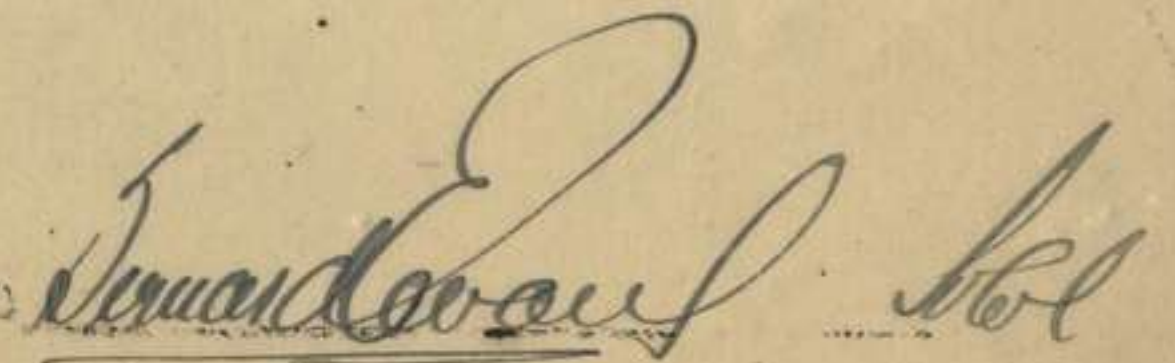
B DIARY

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UNIT

PLACE	DATE	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	References to appendices	CO'S REPORT AND COMMENTS ON MONTH (On Operations, Eqpt, Movement, Health,
		<u>LIST OF APPENDICES - SEP</u>		
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patrol reports 2. Shelling reports 3. Congratulatory message from Comd Eighth Army 4. 2/23 Bn Standing Orders for Mob Activities. 5. Screed - Mine laying and lifting course. 6. 2/23 Bn Op Instn No 4. 7. Special Order by Brig R. W. TOVELL DSO ED. 8. Screed - Ceremonial Parade. 9. 2/23 Bn Adm Instn No 3 - Leave. 10. Trg period - 16-20 Sep with Syllabus. 11. 2/23 Bn OO (Ex) WESTERN DESERT No 2. 12. 2/23 Bn OO (Ex) WESTERN DESERT No 3. 13. 2/23 Bn OO No 12. 14. Trace of Bn disposns - Sector A. 15. 2/23 Bn OO No 13. 16. 2/23 Bn Op Instn No 5. 17. Reports of Coys on BATTLE DRILL. 18. 2/23 Bn Adm Instn No 3 - Res Locality A. 19. 26 Bde Trg Instn No 3. 20. Screed - Bn Rest Camp. 21. 2/23 Bn Int Summaries Nos 111-129. 22. Action Diary. 23. Observers logs. 24. 2/23 Bn R/Os No 139/4042 - 145/4042. 25. QM's Report. 26. RMO's Report. 27. TO's Report. 28. F'd Returns Offrs and ORs. 29. Mud & Blood. <i>not attached</i> 		

Signature



Benhamy first
L.O.

Ames
 Capt.
 Adj. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Night 5/6 Sep 42

2/23 AUST INF BN - PATROL REPORT

Coy	Type	Strength	Out	In	Report
D	Recce	1 Offr 1 Sgt 1 Cpl 8 ORs	2155	0145	Patrol travelled Eastwards along Main Rd towards ALEXANDRIA, Distance 19.1 miles, then proceeded due SOUTH, distance 2.9 miles to objective. Objective - Mob 230 candle power revolving light - controlled by RAF. Light used as Pin Point for night flying aircraft. This Unit has been in operation for 10 weeks and the light is moved to a new area once a week.

Patrol Report:

(88)

Patrol by 16 Pl D Coy Night 4/8 Sep 42.

Strength 1 Offr — 14 ORG. Weapons TSMG0 — 3
(Lieut Gilmore) Rifles — 12.

Time out. 2250 hrs

Grenades HE. 36 M. — 40.

Time In. 0130 hrs.

Vehicles Van 30 cub. — 1

Route: MAIN Road EAST.

Bantam — 1

The patrol proceeded eastwards along MAIN Road to a point where easting grid 442 cuts MAIN Road. Debussing at this point and leaving vehicles in a suitable position. Patrol Leader contacted TOBU^{OP} and received their version of the suspicious incident. Patrol Leader then arranged his force into extended line and carried out a series of sweeps backwards and forwards over flat ground S. of MAIN Road. Nothing was seen or heard. Patrol Leader then moved patrol across MAIN Road and using same formation patrolled area NORTH of MAIN Road to coast between easting grids 441 - 443, again nothing was seen or heard.

John P. Zallou Capt.
O.C. "D" Coy.

CO.

File

P A T R O L R E P O R T

2/23 AUST INF BN, Night 22/23
Sep 42

No	Coy	Type	Strength	Times		Route	Object	REPORT
				Out	In			
1	C	Covering	1 NCO 6 ORs	2030	2330	<i>out. in.</i> 87513009 - 87423007 - 87463015 - 87513009	Covering relief of 2/13 Aust Inf Bn by 2/23 Aust Inf Bn	NMS/H
2	C	"	1 NCO 6 ORs	0015	0530	87513009 - 87453015 - 87423007 - 87513009	do	NMS/H
3	B	"	1 NCO 6 ORs	2030	2330	87513017 - 87463019 - 87513027 - 87583021	do	NMS/H
4	B	"	1 NCO 6 ORs	0015	0530	87583021 - 87503026 - 87453020 - 87513017	do	NMS/H
5	A	"	1 NCO 6 ORs	2030	2330	87583021 - 87523027 - 87493038 - 87613029	do	NMS/H
6	A	"	1 NCO 6 ORs	0015	0530	87613029 - 87503032 - 87533023 - 87583021	do	NMS/H

Appx 1

[Handwritten signature]
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23/9/42

Patrol personnel supplied by 2/13 Aust Inf Bn

[Signature]
(J W DUNHAM) Lieut
IO 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

P A T R O L R E P O R T

2/23 AUST INF BN
Night 23/24 Dec 42

No	Coy	Type	Strength	Times		Route	Object	REPORT
				Out	In			
1.	B	Recco	1 HQ 5 ORs	130	2000	87583021 - 87483032 - 87433026 - 87583021	1. Recon of area incl of P.M. to become familiar with ground. 2. Gain info re- garding enemy dispos.	Movement of inf thought to number 12 (approx) men seen near large white covered truck at 87493032. When patrol was within 100 yds of this veh, the movement ceased. Between 87483032 and 87433026 two trucks were searched and numerous old 18" slit trenches were seen.
2.	B	R.A	1 HQ 5 ORs	200	-	87543037 - 87583043	1. Move present standing patrol incl to HQ feature ref 87513043 for closer observation. 2. Report on enemy movement, dispos and working parties 3. Direct arty fire on observed targets. 4. Endeavour to flush small enemy patrols or working parties.	New outpost seen at 87513043 occupied - observation good. Outpost was fired on by MG from 87413025. One man was seen moving on ridge 87433044. At 0300 hrs, digging and driving of wooden and iron pickets was heard at 87513045 the estimated number of men engaged being four. Iron stakes were heard to be driven in at approx 87473048.
3.	B	Recco	1 Offr 1 HQ 5 ORs	200	2300	87513010 - 87433006 - 87423012 - 87513010	1. Familiarise ourselves with ground incl of P.M.s. 2. Gain info of enemy dispos or working parties.	Unoccupied slit trenches observed at 87433010. No enemy were seen but slight movement was heard in general area 87423017.
4.	B	Recco	1 Offr 1 HQ 5 ORs	300	0045	87513010 - 87423013 - 87473015 - 87513010	1. Do. 2. Do.	From 87443012, probable working parties were heard in vicinity of 87423017. Slight movement of enemy inf incl driving pickets was heard at 87403012.

P A T R O L R E P O R T

23/24 Sep

No	Coy	Type	Strength	Times		Route	Object	REPORT
				Out	In			
5	C	Recco	1 OFFR 1 HQ 6 ORG	0200	0330	87513010 - 87433013 - 87493016 - 87513010 - 81515014	As in re- jected patrol report.	minefield running approx N - S consisting of SP and British Mk IV mines seen at 87433013. Minefield not penetrated. Movement of approx 10/12 men seen at 87423015. Short pickets had been driven in the ground on our side but no wire.
6 7	C	SP	2 ORG	2000	0600	87533014 - 87523004	ditto	NR
9	B	SP	1 HQ 6 ORG	2200	0600	87503018 - 87553022	ditto	NR
10	D	R & F	1 HQ 6 ORG	Outpost posn		87543037	Observe enemy movement & dis- posals & direct arty IF	IG fire heard from CLOVER LEAF area 87413042 - otherwise NR/N.

J. W. [Signature]
 (J. W. [Name]) Ident
 23/24 Sep 1944

P A T R O L R E P O R T

24/25 Sep.

No	Coy	Type	Strength	Times Out	In	Route	Object	REPORT
1	B	R	1 HQO 5 ORG	2130	2300	OUT 87553021 87433027 87483028 IN 87553021	See projected patrols	From approx 87433027 stray shots (SA) and 2 explosions heard from CLOVERLEAF area. A body was discovered approx 87453026 identified as VX 7505 A HOLT - otherwise NTR
2	B	S	1 HQO 6 ORG	2200	0600	87503018 87553022	Continuous patrolling of Coy FDLs	NTR
3	D	F	1 OFF 12 ORG	2130	0015	87603029 87503039 87483038 87443039 87523039 87603029	As per projected patrol notification.	At 2155 hrs enemy mortars, MG, and possible a tk gun fired on area of carriers 87513035. Our outpost posn at 87513041 was contacted at 2230 hrs and relief of this outpost was carried out while covered by this patrol - no contact with enemy.
4	D	S	1 HQO 6 ORG	2200 23 Sep	2320 24 Sep	87513041	Outpost posn observe enemy movement and disposn and direct arty M.	Digging and possible wiring heard at 87503044. 3 men observed at 87513046 smoking. Working party heard at approx 87453042 and 87473046. Twelve mortar bombs (6 dud) evidently searching for outpost posn. This fire appeared to come from behind the MG feature 87513046. Small gps of men were observed moving area CLOVERLEAF xxxx feature to the NORTH WEST at 2000 hrs. At 2030 hrs 24 Sep single MT moved from NORTH WEST and proceeded to rear of CLOVERLEAF feature and contacted a gp of approx 8 men and served rations. Truck stayed 20 mins at first gp and 10 mins at each of 3 other gps (suggest rationing of coy). Truck then proceeded back in same direction on bearing of 305° from 87513041 to escarpment and then NORTH to bearing 310° from 87513041 and contacted 6 men - moved WEST over escarpment along MATRUH rd - working party heard driving pickets at 87483043. At 2155 hrs 24 Sep mortars and MG opened up from CLOVERLEAF area. The following distances and bearings were noted from flashes.

P A T R O L R E P O R T

24/25 Sep

No	Coy	Type	Strength	Times		Route	Object	REPORT																
				Out	In																			
								<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td><u>Bearing</u></td> <td><u>Approx distance</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>MO</td> <td>275° M</td> <td>800 x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"</td> <td>274° M</td> <td>700 x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"</td> <td>275° M</td> <td>700 x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mortar</td> <td>280° M</td> <td>800 x</td> </tr> </table>		<u>Bearing</u>	<u>Approx distance</u>	MO	275° M	800 x	"	274° M	700 x	"	275° M	700 x	Mortar	280° M	800 x	
	<u>Bearing</u>	<u>Approx distance</u>																						
MO	275° M	800 x																						
"	274° M	700 x																						
"	275° M	700 x																						
Mortar	280° M	800 x																						
5	Carrier Pl	Carrier	1 NCO 3 ORs	1940	2150	87603022 - 87513035 - 87603022.	Three disabled carriers at 87513035 with a view to salvage	One carrier had an 8 Tk shell hole in the radiator and engine - other four appeared to be in going order - all carriers were well bogged. It appeared that 2 carriers had made a previous attempt to salvage the 3 with chains etc but themselves became bogged. Bren guns are missing. Crew's rifles still in carriers - innumerable booby traps had been laid in and around these vehs resembling stick bombs with wires att - wires were also stretched to the steering wheels and gear levers. A cylindrical object with wires connected to a carrier was also seen. Dimensions of object - 8 ins diam 6 ins deep. The general condition of the ground was; thin hard crust with a boggy condition underneath																
6	C	R	1 OFtr 1 NCO 6 ORs	2200	2400	OUT 87513010 87423012 IN 87403010 87513010	See projected patrol notification	MT and M/Cs heard moving behind enemy's lines between 2215 and 2315 hrs but NIS.																
7	C	R	1 OFtr 1 NCO 6 ORs	0030	0230	87513010 87443015 87483016 87513010	See projected p.trol notification	Small party of approx 6 men observed near enemy posns at 87433017.																
8	C	Standing Patrol	3 posts of 2 men	2200	0600	87523013 - 87523006	Continuous patrolling of coy FDLs	NIR																

P A T R O L R E P O R T

24/25 Sep

No	Coy	Type	Strength	Times		Route	Object	REPORT
				Out	In			
9	B	Recon	1 HQ 2 OR	2130	2300	87543019 - 87553028 - 87543019	Ascertain whether whether dark objects seen durin day were bodies of dead	
10	C	Recon	1 OR 1 HQ 6 OR	0230	0400	87513010 - 87463011 - 87513010	Identify dead bodies at 87463011.	Following particulars were obtained : 1. Helmet steel marked WK 6894 A CHITTY. Dixies with initials "A C" near body. 2. Helmet steel K P WAR near body. No further identifications obtained.

R. Dunham Lieut.
19 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

P A T R O L R E P O R T

2/23 JUST INF BN
Night 25/26 Sep 42

No	Coy	Type	Strength	Times Out	In	Route	Object	REPORT
1	C	R	1 NCO 3 OR	2200	0600	87513010 - 87473004 - 87483010 In 87513010	Recess enemy minefield	no mines encountered east of rd running 87473000 - 87483004. The rd conforms to pattern to 87483008 but has no set layout - mines used are Gk Mk IV. Rd commenced again at approx 87463012 but it was not followed owing to C Coy's SP at carrier 87463012. Various boxes containing Gk Mk IV mines are scattered along the rd which is marked with a trip wire on both sides. An enemy vlg party was heard vicinity strong pt 87423013 but HNS.
2	C	SP	1 NCO 1 OR	2100	0130	87463012 In 87513014 - 87513010	To observe possible use of disabled carrier as enemy OP	HTR
3	C	SP	"	0130	0600	"	"	HTR
4	C	SP	1 NCO 2 OR	Last Light	First Light	87523013 - 87523005	Constant vigilance on wire & minefield.	NHR
5	B	Out post	1 NCO 6 OR	2130	2230	87513041	To report on discoveries, movement, & direct arty W	0250 hrs - 4/5 enemy seen on ridge feature ref 87513044. 1730 - 3 enemy in diggings approx 87443042. Sounds of digging heard a prox 87473037 for short period. Triple danner wire observed on SE slope of CLOVAN LEAF feature.
6	B	R	1 NCO 3 OR	0015	0300	Out 87613029 - 87443036 - 87433029 In 87613022	Recess of a post fwd slopes of ring contour	Patrol moved across flat past carriers to approx 87453035 where they observed for $\frac{1}{2}$ hr but saw no movement. Again observed for 15 mins at 87423028 but no indications of enemy movement in diggings on fwd slopes of ring contour.
7	B	R	1 NCO 5 OR	2130	2330	Out 87503017 - 87383026 In 87543019	Investigate well	At 87383026 disused mortar pit with 2 sig wires running into pit from rear. sounds of picking and pickets being driven in were heard approx 87363024, and a voice to call the word "Low" whereupon pace of work increased but HNS
8	B	S	1 NCO 6 OR	2200	0600	87503018 - 87553022	Controlling coy	HTR
	B	Out	1 ORCP	2130	2320	87513041		Arrived outpost 2205 hrs. At 2240 hrs observed large enemy patrol 40/50 strong moving down right fwd slopes of CLOVAN LEAF feature. Rear portion of CLOVAN LEAF patrol split into 2 gps and continued moving direct to outpost. Right gp approached sandhills 200x ft of outpost, left gp approached across flat for distance of 300x. Our patrol then withdrew

WD

REPORT

No	Coy	Type	Strength	Times		Route	Object	REPORT
				Out	In			
1		out-post	2 ORs	230		87603024 - 87503039	To observe enemy dispositions and movement.	utpost established reports to follow.
2		high-tide	2 ORs	230	0215	87603024 - 87503039 87463037 87603024	To cover establishment of outpost at 87503039 and to intercept enemy patrols.	Patrol moved out from 87603024 to 87503039. Our sign moved from there to 87553036 and established camp by using an on wire leading to old outpost posn. Shortly afterwards an enemy patrol strength approx 12 was observed moving towards the sign posn. Enemy divided into two parties one half moving towards beach, other half moving out onto the flat. Patrol sent half its force to engage enemy moving towards sign posn, the remainder covering the outpost. On approach of our parties, the enemy withdrew behind the sandhills near the HOG feature and into the CLOVER LEAF feature respectively, thus avoiding contact with our parties. Our patrol then moved fwd to within 200 yds of enemy fire fwd of CLOVER LEAF feature, but saw no sign of enemy movement. Their wiring was triple concertina. No identification of enemy patrol was possible. On return aoby trap was discovered at 87523037 as follows - trap placed between two shell holes 3 ft 6" apart. Wire was stretched between holes and 6" above ground. protruding from ground underneath this wire was a sheet of tin 6" high and 8" long.
3		carrier	2 ORs	0945	1140	87613024 87593031 87513035 87613024	Party incl sign to investigate possibility of salvaging carriers at 87513035.	signs, reporting results of inspection of carriers to their HQs. HQB or H.
4		B Recon					CANCELLED	
5		out-post	2 ORs	0030		87533018 87433031	Observe enemy activity and dispositions.	reports to follow.

Coy	Type	Strength	Times		Route	Object	REPORT
			Out	In			
6	Out-post	1 HQ 1 OR	2000		87513009 87403020	Observe enemy activity strong pt area 87413017.	Reports to follow.
9	Recon	1 OR 1 HQ 4 ORs	2130	0030	87513009 87433014 87533013	Investigate enemy plans area 87413014 and observe activity generally.	Enemy patrol of 8 men moved NORTH and SOUTH in front of area of enemy post. Approx length of beat 400 yds. The enemy patrol was outside the triple concertina wiring of the post. No other movement was seen or heard.
8	Stand-by	2 posts of 2 ORs	2000	0000	87523013 87523006	Constant vigilance on wire and minefields on Coy FFLs.	OR or H.
9	Stand-by	1 HQ 6 ORs	2100	0000	87503018 87553022	Continuous patrolling on Coy FFLs.	OR or H.

J. W. HURMAN Lieut
 ID. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
 (J. W. HURMAN)

WD

No	Coy	Type	Strength	Times		Route	Object	REPORT
				Out	In			
1			1 Offr 2 OR			87613029 87493039 87613029	Outpost	Outpost established at 87303038 but returned on a/c of poor observation.
2	F		1 Sgt 6 OR	2100	0220	87613029 87493039 87613029	Cover establishment of outpost post and obtain info of enemy dispositions and intercept patrols.	Enemy patrol of approx 15 observed moving towards post. Our patrol moved fwd and enemy party withdrew behind wire at 87463044. Wire was patrolled by 4 men. Our patrol, 250 yds from wire saw enemy patrols disappear over a small ridge near CLAWHILL feature 87453045. No other movement seen or heard.
3	Carrier		1 Offr 6 OR	2130	2330	87613023 87553027 87583031	Salvage of eqpt	7 Jerry cans are salvaged, other items in the form of food and cookers seen but too bulky to carry back. Several 44 gal drums were also located.
4	B	Recco	1 NCO 2 OR	2330	0010	87533017 87463018 87533017	Recco Valentine tk for salvage of eqpt and identification of body.	Tk located at 87463017, body hanging out of turret in a decomposed state. Spallote and locket taken from body and filed here-with. Tk appears undamaged and nothing could be seen inside. HE/H in the vicinity.
5	B	Recco	1 NCO 5 OR	0400	0600	87543018 87423026 87533022	Investigation of suspected N No HE located at 87423026, slight digging movement	heard in the vicinity behind ring contour at 87343024
6	C	Outpost	1 Offr 1 OR	2200 26 Sep	2200 27 Sep	87403010	Outpost	Old digging at 87413014 HE/H . Enemy wire runs SOUTH to ry line. Gp of four men moved at 87313020. At strong point area 87423018 HE/H but observed what resembled two Jerry bodies in same post all day.
7	C	Recco	1 Offr 3 OR	0200	0400	87523010 87403012 87423008 87513013	Recco suspected enemy post at 87413014.	Re wire encountered at 87413014 and HE/H .
8	C	Recco	1 Sgt 2 OR	1930	0030	87513013 87423016 87403014 87413011 87513013	Recco area 87413014 for wire and minefd	No wire or mines seen. HE/H . Sample of sigcable brought for inspection. Truck loading from WEST to EAST to area 87413014 appeared to be well used.
9	C	standing		2000	0600	87523013 87523006	Constant vigilance	HE/H .

No	Coy	Type	Strength	Times		Route	Object	REPORT
				Out	In			
10		Outpost		0130	140	87533018	Outpost	Slight general movement seen CLOVERLEAF feature. at 1816 hrs such movement of by MY heard from the SOUTH WEST (SW of ring contour). OP pole 30 ft high and unoccupied observed at 87423031.
		1 HQ		21	27	87433031		
		2 OP		30p	30p			
11		Outpost		2030	0115	87503037	Outpost	Voices and sound of pickets being riven into ground at 87503041. Sound resembling compressor near AGO feature area 87503043.
		1 HQ		21	27			
		2 OP		30p	30p			

Jonathan Field
 (J. S. DUNNARD)
 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

P A T R O L R E P O R T

Night 28/ Sep

42

No	Coy	Type	Strength	Times		Route	Object	REPORT
				Out	In			
1.	B	F	1 offr 13 OR	1150	1340	87613029 87533035 87613029	Observe enemy activity and contact enemy patrols, whilst taking advantage of duststorm	Dust lifted when patrol reached 87543035 and was observed by enemy from GLOVER LEAF feature 87433043 and SSG feature 87523044. Enemy patrol of approx 20 men in gns of three or four with LMG to each gns moved from 87453043 towards 87523044. Patrol moved to 87543036, took up def posn and observed our arty fire falling right amongst enemy patrol which very rapidly dispersed in direction of SSG feature. During return 10 mortar bombs and 4 air burst shells were fired at our patrol.
2.	B	F	1 offr 9 OR	1115	1130	87533018 87473027 87533018	do	On reaching 87473027 patrol was bombed by mortars, the posn of which is not known. Patrol withdrew as dust had cleared and visibility was good. NS.
3.	C	F	1 offr 11 OR	1110	1300	87523010 87463016 87523010	do	Patrol reached 87463016 when dust lifted allowing good visibility. Patrol went to ground to observe enemy posns. NS/H.

J W DUNHAM

(J W DUNHAM) Lieut
IC 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

P A T R O L R E P O R T

Night

29 Sep 42

No	Coy	Type	Strength	Times		Route	Object	REPORT
				Out	In			
			1 OR 2 OR			87523018 87463019 87523016	Enemy tank and and salvage fittings	No further identification of tk cond who was buried at 87463018 by patrol. The wireless set (No 19) and parts off the 2 pdr gun and Besa MGs were recovered. It is thought that the tk is repairable and could be dragged away as tracks were complete and motor does not appear to be damaged. One A tk shell hole (approx 50 mm) had penetrated the turret just below level of the top of the track. No tools could be found but the rations were still intact. No of tk is T32537. a misfire rd was in the breach of the 2 pdr and firing mechanism locked. No other bodies were found in or near the tk.
		Out-post	1 NCO 1 OR	0300		87533018 87383031	Outpost	Established at 87383031.
		"	2 NCO 1 OR	2145 27 Sep	2200 28 Sep	87403010	Outpost	Dummy bodies still intact in same posn in strong pt - diggings at 87383020 - extensive concertina wire. Diggins at 87423020. Between 87423020 and strong pt is single concertina wire (strong pt 87423017). Trailer at 87423016 is sandbagged underneath. Concertina wire between 87353021 and 87283022. Diggins behind wire. Vicinity 87313022. continuous movement and gas of 3 or 4 men. Sound resembling stone being knocked against iron heard at 87453013. Sounded artificial and may have been to draw our patrols.
6	C	R	1 OFFR 1 NCO 3 OR	2130	0100	87523010 87453013 vicinity 87423016, 87403013,	Recco strong pt area 87423017 ----- 87393018, 87523010	Three men were seen at trailer driving pickets. Movement (numbers unknown) heard in strong pt and 3 lights resembling glow from lighted doorway seen in same area.
7	C	R	1 Sgt 3 OR 4 Engps	0200	0530	87523010 87383016 87523010	Recco enemy mine fds and FILEs	Area 87383016, 87383011, 87463012, 87453016 was searched with assistance of engps and no mines were located. Wkg party heard in strong pt area 87423017.
8	C	SP	3 posts of 2 OR	2000	0600	87523013 87523006	Constant vigilance on FILEs	MB/H

28 29 Sep

R E P O R T

No	Coy	Type	Strength	Times		Route	Object	REPORT
				Out	In			
9	Carriers	R	1 Offr 6 OR 2 Jeeps	2130	0020	87613024 87593031 87513035 87613024	Salvaging of WD stores and eqpt.	The patrol salvaged and brought in to our lines the following - 45 c/s cornbeef, 15 c/s margarine, 6 c/s jam, 2 c/s cheese, 4 hot boxes (ITALIAN), 1 ITALIAN cooker, 1 large tarpaulin, 2 (BRITISH) truck wheels with tyres and tubes the former in good condition, 1500 rds Schwarzlose am boxed. An ITALIAN truck which appeared to be in good order was seen and attempts will be made to salvage it. (Owing to the soft nature of ground this would preferably be done in daylight). 6 Mk 13 tks were also observed but they had been blasted by enemy
10	C	R	3 OR	2300	0030	87523010 87453017 87523010	Identification of bodies.	3 bodies were found at 87453017. Two identified as follows, late of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn, Pte CHITTY A W, Cpl CHUMBEY J A. 3rd body had no identification whatever. Bodies in adv stages of decomposition. Papers fwded herewith. Wkg party heard at 87463020, pickets being driven in.
11	D	R	1 Sgt 2 OR	2000	0300	87623029 87413040 87623029	Recco enemy dispoens and observe movement.	At approx 87463044 rattling of dioxies heard and single M. Booby traps found at 87413040. Wire of 1 was broken accidentally but trap did not explode. Description - cylindrical black object, 3" diameter, 4" long - plunger protruded to which was att two strings running at right angles to each other. These strings were fastened to stakes similar to tent pegs and were very taut. Traps had appearance of being laid fairly recently. Around cylinder was a band used for clipping trap to stake. These booby traps appeared to stretch in a line fwd of CLOVER LEAF and in front of mine fd. Mks dispoens of mine fd seemed to be approx 100x. Mine fd marked on NORTH side by concertina wire. Handling of tools heard on CLOVER LEAF and also wkg parties of approx 8 were seen moving in that area. A wire patrol of approx 15 men was also observed.
3	D	Out- post	1 Sgt 2 OR	2630		87623029 87523039	Outpost	Established at 0010 hrs

No	Coy	Type	Strength	Times		Route	Object	REPORT
				Out	In			
4	D	F	1 HQ 7 OR	2000	2300	87623029 87603030 87513041	Search sand ridge for of files for enemy outposts & ops.	In sanga at 87523041 which was previously occupied by us a blanket was found- on top of blanket was a tin box 6" x 6". These items which were not there when occupied by us were thought to be booby traps and were not touched.

W. D. ...
2/23 Aust Inf Bn

No	Coy	Type	Strength	Times		Route	Object	REPORT
				Out	In			
1	Car-	Sal-	2 Sgt 6 OR				CANCELLED	
2	D	Recce	1 Sgt 2 ORs 3 Sappers	1945	2345	87613029 87433038 87513035 87613029	Observe enemy movement and recce ground	Enemy patrol of approx 20 encountered near bogged carriers 87513035. Enemy patrol came from SOUTH to carriers and moved back to enemy lines.
3	D	Out-post	1 Sgt 2 OR	2000 27/28	2200 28/29	87623029 87533028	Outpost	Gps of 2 or 3 seen on CLOVER LEAF. M/C stopped at TWIN PALMS 87343032. Gp 4 to 5 men seen on SGG feature. MMS fire from RING BUSHY COMBOUT area.
4	C	Out-post	1 NCO 1 OR	2100 28/29	2300 29/30	87403010	Outpost	1900 hrs 29 Sep - 3 mortar bombs landed at 87433012. Gp of 6 men was observed at strong pt 87413018.
5	C	Fighting	1 Sgt 8 OR	1930	2230	87503010 87463011 87463013 87503010	Ambush enemy working parties and patrols area 87453014.	MMS or H.
6	C	Recce	1 NCO 2 OR	0300	0430	87503010 87433013 87423015 87483015 87523010	Observe enemy movement area 87423015.	Working parties heard at strong pt 87433018 - MMS.
7	C	standing	3 posts 7 men	1930	0600	87523013 87523006	Patrol coys FMS	MMS or H.
8							CANCELLED	
9	B	Out-post	1 NCO 1 OR	2000		87543018 87423014	Outpost	Outpost relieved. During prev us 24 hrs slight movement seen in distance on CLOVER LEAF otherwise MMS or H.
10	B	Covering	1 Offr 2 OR 3 Rec Sec	2030	2330	87543018 87473017 87543018	Inspect Valentine tk and salvage instruments.	Tk compass salvaged. Tk tracks and suspension seems OK. Electrical system dead. Rec see personnel recommend that BTR Sec lift tk bodily on Scammel tpt or tk to be towed by another.

OVER

No	Coy	Type	Strength	Times		Route	Object	REPORT
				Out	In			
1		mine	3 Sprs 3 OR	2130	0130	87523010 87503007 87453016 87523010	minefield	Mined 40 yds wide - 4 to 5 mines deep - irregular spacing - 8 to 10 paces between mines - Types G9 Mk IV and V - working party heard at 87433018.

J. W. Dunham Lieut.
 IO. 2/23 Aust. Inf Bn.
 (J. W. DUNHAM)

No	Coy	Type	Strength	Times		Route	Object	REPORT
				Out	In			
1	C	R	1 Offr 3 OR	2100	0300	87513010 87433013 87403015 87413012 87463011	To observe movement in area of trailer	Searched area but not occupied - MS/H. <i>SIT MAP</i>
2	C	F	1 Sgt 8 OR	2200	0100	87403015 87453017 87443013 87503011	Covering force for patrol Serial No 1	MS/H
3	C	Cancelled						Cancelled
4	C	S	3 posts of two men	1900	0600	87523013 87523006	Constant vigilance of Coy PDLs	MS/H
5	C	Outpost	2 OR	2100	-	87513010 87453006	Outpost	Movement heard in vicinity strong point 87433018
6	B	R	1 NCO 2 OR 2 sappers	2200	0000	87543018 87453028 87543018	Recco enemy minef	Enemy patrol (numbers unknown) moving to and fro at 87443029 and another patrol of approx 6 men at 87443027 endeavoured to encircle our patrol. Our patrol withdrew. Our arty dispersed movement on CLOVHURAF 87403043 at 2300 hrs.
7	B	Outpost	1 NCO 1 OR	2000 29 Sep	2000 30 Sep	87413027	Outpost	MC arrived at PALMS 87343032. Truck moved from HERN SOUTH WEST to PALMS at 1930 hrs followed by rattling of dixies. Slight movement of 5 or 6 MT after last light in PALMS area
8	B	Covering & Salvage	1 Offr 2 OR 3 Rec See Para	2030	0005 2345	87523018 87473018 87513017	Salvage Valentine Mk	Batteries taken out by party in a Jeep. Tk found to be in going order and was driven in under own power by No 1 Recovery Sec Personnel. Salvage report to follow

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

P A T R O L R E P O R T

Night

30 Sep 1 Oct 42

No	Cof	Type	Strength	Times		Route	Object	REPORT
				Out	In			
9	D	F	1 Oftr 1 Sgt 13 OR	2045	2335	87613029 87513042 87513041 87513035 87613029	Intercept suspected enemy outposts and patrols at 87513041 and search sand ridge back to own FDL.	Noise of metal being dropped on ground heard (possibly steel helmet) at area 87573042. No movement in area of carriers at 87513035.
10	D	Outpost	1 NCO 3 ORs	2045 29 Sep	2130 30 Sep	87523039	Outpost	2 men tested LMGs on CLOVERLEAF at 0800 hrs, white object passed over outpost and landed 50 yds away - no explosion on landing. Receiving patrol could not locate missile.

J W Durham
 (J W DURHAM) Lieut
 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

HOSTILE SHELLING AND MORTARS - REPORT FOR 24 HRS ENDING

HRS / /

23 Sep 42 *Appx 2*

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
From	Map ref of Observer's posn	G bearing (see footnote)	Time From	Time To	Area Shelled	Damage	Nature of Fire - Registration, Area Shoot, Bombardment etc	No of Guns, Type of Gun, Calibre	Time from Flash to Bang
<i>UNR</i>	87633013	230	0800	0805	87493000		5 rds	81mm mortar	
		267	0805	0808	87553011		3 "	"	
		267	0815	0816	87583012		3 "	"	
		217	0825	0827	87522999		3 "	"	
		252	0827	0828	87483007		3 "	"	
		231	0900	0901	87462996		15 "	75 mm	
		217/242	0915	0915	87322996		40 "	"	
		"			87452986				
		95			87823022		3 "	105mm	
<i>Visibility poor</i>		263	1615	-	87283006		1 2	"	
		245	1615		87322997		3 "	"	
		205/261	1630		87532990		20 "	"	
					87253012				
<i>B</i>	8753530185	325	2000	2005	8753530185		4 "	"	
<i>C</i>	87623012	2290/295	2000	2015	87543015	<i>NIL</i>	Registration	88 mm <i>Approx</i>	
<i>C</i>	87623012	2292	2230	2300	875300	<i>NIL</i>	Area	75 mm	

J W Dunbar
 (J W DUNBAR) Lieut
 22/23 Sep 42

NOTE : In coln 3 put Grid bearing of Flash, Sound or Groove made by Shell, according to which is being reported.
 e.g. FL 118° - Flash observed on Grid bearing 118°. Colns 1, 2, 5 MUST be completed.

20-17

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
From	Map ref of Observer's posn	G bearing (see footnote)	Time From	Time To	Area Shelled	Damage	Nature of Fire - Registration, Area Shoot, Bombardment etc	No of Guns, Type of Gun, Calibre	Time from Flash to Bang
B	87543017		1815	1817	87543017			6 shells	4 explosions to one bomb
OP	87533013	250 sound	1705		87533005			10 shells 105 mm	
OP	87633013	260 sound	1812	1822	87533018			5 shells 105 mm	
29 Sep									
UNDER	87633013	Name	1815	1837	TRIG 33 200x 100		H.F. area shoot	9 shells 105 mm	
"	87633013	235°M 236°M	1914	1914	87583013		H.F.	3 shells 105 mm	20 Sec
UNDER	87633013	CB		1045 hrs		Sound bearing	1 heavy gun	87113073	

NOTE: In coln 3 put Grid bearing of Flash, Sound or Groove made by Shell, according to which is being reported. e.g. F118° - Flash observed on Grid bearing 118°. Colns 1, 2, 3 MUST be completed.

1000 hrs 28/9/42

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
From	Map ref of Observer's posn	G bearing (see footnote)	Time From	Time To	Area Shelled	Damage	Nature of Fire - Registration, Area Shoot, Bombardment etc	No of Guns, Type of Gun, Calibre	Time from Flash to Bang
C	87593006	210	1605	1608	87593006	NIL	Registration	3 shells 88 mm	
B			1630		87543018	NIL		7 mortar	
D	87663026		1655	1700	87673024	NIL		1 shell	
D	"		1655	1700	87653023	NIL		1 shell	
D	"		1655	1700	87623028	NIL		1 shell	
				<u>SEP 28</u> from 1000 hrs					
B	87543017	—	1815	1817	87543017	NIL	Harassing fire	6 shells	4 Explosions 1 on bank
OP	87533013	250 Sound	1705	—	87533005		3 shells HF	3 shells 105MM	
OP	87533013	260 Sound	1812	1822	87533018		H.F	5 shells 105MM	
				<u>SEP 29</u> From 1000 hrs					

NOTE : In coln 3 put Grid bearing of Flash, Sound or Groove made by Shell, according to which is being reported.
 e.g. F118° - Flash observed on Grid bearing 118°. Colns 1, 2, 3 MUST be completed.

File
77

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
From	Map ref of Observer's post	G bearing (see foot-note)	Time From	Time To	Area Shelled	Damage	Nature of Fire - Registration, Area Shoot, Bombardment	No of Guns, Type of Gun, Calibre	Time from Flash to Bang
	87633014		0705		87653013		1 shell	1 gun	
	"		1815		87563015		1 shell area harassing	1 gun 75	
	"		1820		87563015		1 shoot	1 gun 75	
	"		1825		87563015 87533016		2 "	1 gun 75	
	"		1827		87553015		1 "	1 gun 75	
	"		1830		87563017		1 "	1 gun 75	
	"		1832		87543017		1 "	1 gun 75	
	"		1832		87543014		1 "	1 gun 75	
	"		1835		87533015		1 "	1 gun 75	
	"		1837		87533018		1 "	1 gun 75	
	"		1837		87533017		1 "	1 gun 75	
	"	235°M 236°M	1914		87383013		3 shells	105. 3 guns	20 secs

NOTE : In coln 3 put Grid bearing of Flash, Sound or Groove made by Shell, according to which is being reported. e.g. F118° - Flash observed on Grid bearing 118°. Colns 1, 2, 3 MUST be completed.

Appx 3.

ARMY FORM C2128. (Pads of 100).

MESSAGE FORM

INWARD DIARY

Serial No.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS

IN

OUT

Promulgated all copies of 13 Dec 1942, 1330 hrs 6 ship

COV
Dec

P

No. of Groups GR.

OFFICE DATE STAMP

- 6 SEP 1942

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

2/23 Bn 2/7 Mtd Coy

FROM

26 Bde

Originator's Number

093

Date

6

In Reply to Number

-

Wt. 32412/1098. 750M. 12/40. P.I. 51-8146. Wt. 32412/1098. 750M. 12/40. Wt. 32412/1098. 750M. 12/40. Wt. 32412/1098. 750M. 12/40.

Following message from army command for promulgation to all ranks begun. The battle of ALAMEIN has now lasted six days and the enemy has slowly but surely been driven from eight army area. 5 Sept his rear guard is being driven WEST through minefields area NORTH of HISEIMAT all formations and units both arms and armoured have contributed toward this striking victory and have been magnificently supported by RAF I congratulate all ranks of eight on devoting to and good fighting qualities which have resulted in such a by defeat of the enemy and which will have far reaching results. I have sent a message to the AOC western desert expressing our thanks to the RAF for their splendid sp. I all informed

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS.

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

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

1146

SIGNED

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I.

1155

SYSTEM IN

TIME IN

READER

SENDER

SYSTEM OUT

TIME OUT

READER

SENDER

SYSTEM OUT

TIME OUT

READER

SENDER

4/1300 Reeves

Bde

T.O.R.

Appx 4

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

2/23 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION GROUP

STANDING ORDERS

FOR

MOB ACTIVITIES

Printed by 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

31 AUG 42

WESTERN DESERT

STANDING ORDERS

FOR

2/23 AUST INF BN GP - MOB ACTIVITIES

FOREWORD

OBJECTS

To lay down a standard procedure for all sub-units to adopt and train for, with particular reference to "Battle Drill".

With the provision of tpt to enable a complete Bn striking force to move swiftly to a task in desert country, certain other aspects of Bn trg and battle procedure must also be speeded up.

These orders cover the main aspects -

If an inf force is speeded up practically - i.e. with MT - it must perforce be speeded up mentally too.

BATTLE DRILL

The term "Battle Drill" is used throughout to denote a standard procedure that must be learnt by heart by all ranks.

The various battle drills will be applied to each different standard situation as it crops up. Battle drill will in no way destroy initiative - rather will it give confidence to our tps and a feeling that they KNOW what to do. Their inherent initiative will do the rest.

Battle drill saves conferences, interminable orders, and most important - TIME.

A mob force has no time to spare. Normal battle procedure is cut to a minimum by Battle Drill.

Battle drill must not be confused with tactics. A Bn Gp with good battle drill leaves its comd free to deal exclusively with the tactical situation, confident in the knowledge that all the normal precautions have already been taken by the automatic application of Battle Drill throughout the Gp. A mob force must be a defensive force on the move, capable of fighting on the spot.

All sub-units will study the following orders, and practice the battle drill involved, whenever the opportunity offers.

Bernard Evans Lt-Col
Comd. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
(BERNARD EVANS)

WESTERN DESERT

31 AUG 42

SECTION ONE - FORMATION OF GPS

1. PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS

(a) Diagram

- (i) Of layout of gp will be prepared by Gp HQ on receipt of orders for assembly of force. Diagram will indicate exact posn of EVERY veh in the Force, and the grouping of unit and sub-unit secs. As composn of force will vary under different circumstances, diagram will only be prepared after close liaison with HQs of all supporting arms, who will supply exact figures of their veh requirements for the task.
- (ii) Scale, numbering - Diagram will be to scale of half inch to 100 yds and will be marked off into squares, each square representing one veh. Each vertical coln of squares from left to right will be numbered for easy reference. The centre coln will always be the centre line or axis of adv of Gp.

(b) Assembly Orders

Orders to sub-units and supporting arms for assembly of Gp will comprise -

- (i) Signal ordering assembly and specifying time and date, location of assembly area, forming up places, time by which all units and sub-units must be in forming up places, direction of head of gp, and, usually, indication of task and probable direction of move.
- (ii) Trace indicating forming up areas for each serial in gp.
- (iii) Table indicating allotment of serial numbers to sub-unit gps and showing a standard interval for movement by serials from forming up areas to assembly pt.
- (iv) Copy of diagram.
- (v) Specimens att as Appx "A".

Above may be regarded as standard practice. After Gp is formed for first time, (i) and (ii) above will not be re-issued for subsequent assemblies, providing no major alteration is made in composn of force.

2. ASSEMBLY

- (a) Units and sub-units will report to forming up areas by time indicated in assembly order, and will move thence to assembly pt.
- (b) RSM will post markers drawn from leading rifle coy, each marker representing the head of a vertical coln on the diagram.
- (c) RSM will supervise general forming up of gp and will report to Adjt when finally assembled.
- (d) RPs will be posted as guides on routes from forming up areas to assembly pt by RSM, and will work under his supervision to assist in marshalling of the colns.

SECTION T/10 - COMMUNICATIONS

1. WIRELESS

Gp will move with whatever wireless comms available, distributed so far as inf bn is concerned, between carriers and rifle coys according to situation. For preference, six No 11 W/T vans should be obtained from Higher Formation for distribution as under :-

- One with Gp Comd
- One with Sig Centre as rear link to Bde HQ
- One per Rifle Coy

Above would permit of full scale distribution of No 18 or No 108 sets on the basis of one per carrier sec. Also ensures economy of use of btys of these sets for roles when gp is stationary in defence.

2. VISUAL SIGNALS

- (a) All movement will be ordered by flag signals in daylight, and Lucas lamp signals at night. Lucas lamps may also be used by day if visibility is poor and flags are indistinguishable.
- (b) Signals will be raised by Gp Comd and will be repeated by all sub-units. NO flags will be lowered until comd flag is dropped, when movement will be immediately carried out, the dropping of the flag thus indicating the executive word of comd.
- (c) Important or unusual moves (e.g. moves not dictated by navigation requirements) will usually be warned beforehand to gp sub-units by DR or W/T.
- (d) Issue of special signal flags will be on basis of one set per pl and one set per coy HQ of all rifle coys, plus one set to sub-unit gps of principal supporting arms. One set of Lucas lamp eqpt only will be issued per rifle coy and equivalent.
- (e) Observers will be provided on every veh to maintain constant watch to centre of gp at all times. Such observers must be relieved, on a regular roster in each veh, to avoid fatigue and poor observation. Where Comd veh is not visible to observers, they will maintain watch on intervening sub-units and will be prepared to repeat and act on their signals.
- (f) All flag and lamp signals repeated by sub-units must be displayed in such a way as to be visible to own tps and those of adjacent sub-units.
- (g) Dimensions of flags will be -
 - Gp Comds flags 6' x 4'
 - Sub-unit flags 4' x 3'
 Material must be light in weight and texture, and of bright and distinct colouring, mounted on 7' poles.
- (h) Signal code as under :-

DAY (Flag Sigs)	NIGHT (Lamp Sigs)	MEANING	REMARKS
RED BLUE GREEN	RED YELLOW GREEN	"HALT" "ADVANCE" "ABOUT TURN") Displayed on Comd veh for 1 min. Lamp turned slowly to all flanks.
BLACK (Jolly Roger)	WHITE	"PREPARE TO DEFEND" and "HARBOUR"	

DAY (Flag Sigs)	NIGHT (Lamp Sigs)	MEANING	REMARKS
RED & BLUE	RED & YELLOW	"RIGHT TURN"	
BLACK & GREEN	WHITE & GREEN	"LEFT TURN"	
RED - Waved with circular motion.	RED - vertically up & down.	"COMDS TO BHQ"	Used only for final & urgent conferences. Usually all inf Spec arms will have been allotted tasks before this signal and they will NOT attend.

Right and Left wheel signals are not required - Navigating Coy will initiate all wheels by pivoting on centre line.

About turns - will be made by the Right.

DAY (Flag Sigs)	NIGHT (Lamp Sigs)	MEANING	REMARKS
RED & BLUE	RED & YELLOW	"RIGHT TURN"	
BLACK & GREEN	WHITE & GREEN	"LEFT TURN"	
RED - Waved with circular motion.	RED - vertically up & down.	"COMDS TO BHQ"	Used only for final & urgent conferences. Usually all inf Spec arms will have been allotted tasks before this signal and they will NOT attend.

SECTION THREE - NAVIGATION

1. GENERAL

So far as compatible with strength and composition of force, Bn Gp will be square formation. Consequently it must be capable of movement with ANY flank leading.

There is no front or rear or sides. Each flank will be directed by a rifle coy. A Tk guns and carriers moving outside the close gp formation will not participate in navigation, but will conform to general movement and direction of adv of gp.

2. NAVIGATION BY DAY

- (a) OC of navigating coy will be instructed by Gp Comd before commencement of move, and provided with trace of route and destination.
- (b) Navigating coy will detach offr with veh and necessary staff to travel ahead of centre line of coln, at sufficient distance to permit navigator to halt and check bearings as required, without being over-run by main body, but not so far as to be out of visual range.
- (c) Member of Navigating Offr's staff will act as observer, and will respond to all flag or lamp signals.
- (d) Navigating coy will also ensure that an offr or responsible NCO will check distances and act as pace maker. Pace maker will travel on centre line of coln.
- (e) Navigating veh will be provided with flag and lamp signals by coy responsible, also with R/T set.
- (f) Navigator will ensure that:
 - i. Completion of legs are signalled to Comd.
 - ii. Halt signal is displayed on arrival at objective.
- (g) I Sec will provide check on course as plotted by navigator.
- (h) Navigating coy must ensure that front line of vehs is at all times at right angles to centre line of adv. Following vehs will then conform to movements of leading files.
- (i) On long or difficult moves, assistant navigator, staff and veh will be provided by Comd. Function of assistant navigator will be, in addition to checking of course and distances, to remain at all times on centre line, thus enabling navigator to move, if necessary, to flanks to examine country ahead or to resect.

3. NAVIGATION BY NIGHT

As for daylight navigation with following variations :-

- (a) Two navigating vehs will ALWAYS be used by night.
- (b) Int pte will move with navigator's veh up to 7000 yds ahead of coln and place shaded lamps along centre line at 1000 yd intervals.
- (c) Suitable veh (i.e. Jeep or carrier, capable of fast movement over desert country) will be detailed to collect lamps as coln passes, and ferry these back to navigating veh.

4. GENERAL

- (a) Navigating coy will always provide for breakdown or bogging of navigating veh and arrange automatic substitution of another veh.
- (b) Force will NOT be halted unless absolutely necessary. If, however, navigator is doubtful of his course, he will inform Comd by R/T and request halt be made.
- (c) Navigator will obey all signals from Comd irrespective of whether course has been completed or not.
- (d) Gp will obey any signals initiated by navigator. Navigator will however, be required to explain any unnecessary halts.

(1) On field of difficult moves, assistant navigator, staff and veh will be provided by Comd. Transition of assistant navigator will be, in addition to checking of course and distances, to remain at all times on course line. This enabling navigator to move, if necessary, to track to examine country ahead or to retrace.

(2) Navigator will ensure that

(3) Navigating veh will be provided with tank and lamp signals by day or night, also with R/T set.

(4) Navigator will ensure that an efficient system of communication will be maintained between the navigating veh and the observing and will respond to all day or night signals.

(5) Navigator will ensure that front line of veh is at all times at right angles to course line of day. Following veh will then observe to movements of leading veh.

(6) Navigator will ensure that front line of veh is at all times at right angles to course line of day. Following veh will then observe to movements of leading veh.

(7) Navigator will ensure that

(8) Navigator will ensure that front line of veh is at all times at right angles to course line of day. Following veh will then observe to movements of leading veh.

(9) Navigator will ensure that front line of veh is at all times at right angles to course line of day. Following veh will then observe to movements of leading veh.

INITIATIVE BY NIGHT

As for daylight navigation with following variations:-

- (a) Two navigating vehs will always be used by night.
- (b) The veh will move with navigator's veh to 500 yds ahead of him and place shaded lamp along course line at 1000 yds intervals.
- (c) Suitable veh (i.e. tank or crawler) capable of fast movement over desert country will be detailed to collect lamps as soon as possible, and ferry these back to navigating veh.

SECTION FOUR - MOVEMENT

1. RATES OF MOVEMENT ACCORDING TO GROUND

- (a) By day - Maximum 10 mph
- (b) By night - Maximum 5 mph

2. BOGGED VEHS

- (a) When bogged MF exceed total of 5% of veh strength, Gp will halt, on situation permitting, and will proceed to extricate such vehs.
- (b) Similar action will be taken when guns equivalent to one tp are immobilised.
- (c) RSM will travel in rear of gp, and will maintain tally of guns and vehs immobilised, reporting to Comd through nearest R/T sta.
- (d) Breakdowns or bogged vehs on scale less than above will receive normal attention of rec vehs.

3. INTERVALS

- (a) By day - 100 yds
- (b) By night - 30 yds. On exceptionally dark nights or over difficult country, special instns may be issued by DR and R/T to close to 10 yd intervals.
- (c) Change from day to night dispersion will be made at last light and coln will open out to daylight interval one hr before first light. Move will be automatically initiated by navigating coy.

4. NIGHT MOVEMENT

- (a) Vehs will move without lights of any description. No smoking.
- (b) Screens will be arranged over wireless valves etc, to prevent these being mistaken for signals.

5. AIR DEFENCE

- (a) All vehs will move with LMG mounted for active air defence. EA will be automatically engaged by every veh in gp.
- (b) Force will halt on being attacked except when isolated aircraft are encountered.
- (c) Personnel may debus or remain in vehs at discretion of unit and sub-unit comds, but under all circumstances, every veh MUST continue to engage aircraft.
- (d) Object must be to maintain maximum volume of SA fire over Force.

6. CARRIER ROLE

- (a) One sec will act as scouting force on each of the four flanks, but must retain fd glass visual contact with the Force.
- (b) Each sec will be equipped with No 18 or 108 wireless set and lucas lamp.
- (c) Carrier object must be to give maximum warning to gp comd of enemy activity.

(d) Secs will also report on terrain and give warning of approach to natural or artificial obstacles in sufficient time to enable detour to be made. These reports should indicate accurately, amount of deviation necessary to avoid encountering obstacles.

(e) Carriers must maintain watch on nearest elements of gp for display of flag or lamp signals.

7. INT SEC TASKS

(a) Sec will provide before move commences, traces showing route, bearings, distances and destination together with requisite maps to following :-

- Gp Comd
- Arty Comd
- Carrier Comd
- Each Rifle Coy Comd

Further distribn down to sub-units will be made if time permits. Above represents minimum requirements.

(b) Provide personnel to check navigation.

(c) Be acquainted with such special infm as times of first and last lights, moon rise and time of setting.

8. A TK GUNS

(a) Will move on the flanks, but independently of main body.

(b) Distance of guns from flanks of force will be governed by nature of ground, but in any case will not exceed maximum of 750 yds.

(c) Task will be to engage enemy raiding AFVs at sufficient range to prevent their fire on vulnerable MT of our force.

(d) Matter of ground protection must be constantly borne in mind by A Tk gun comds, who will ensure that their movements do not dissociate their guns from protection of main body.

(e) In close country, distance of guns from gp will be much less than in open desert, and this distance will be increased only to enable them to move out and cover defiles or likely tk approaches.

9. GENERAL

All units must constantly maintain their posn in various colns, and will conform to movement of centre line and of fwd navigating coy.

CARRIER ROLE

(a) One sec will act as scouting force on each of the four flanks, but must retain 1d glass visual contact with the force.

(b) Each sec will be equipped with No 18 or 108 wireless set and lamps.

(c) Carrier object must be to give maximum warning to gp comd of enemy activity.

SECTION FIVE - HARBOURING

GENERAL PROCEDURE

- (a) Force will halt in close formation.
- (b) All vehs remain facing direction of next days march.
- (c) Automatic defensive battle drill will be immediately applied as follows :-

1. RIFLE COYS

- (a) Coys will move out from gp on their respective flanks to approx 175 yds from vehs, and will dig in.
- (b) Each Coy will maintain standing patrol across its front at least 200 yds beyond Coy posns. Contact will be made with corresponding patrols of coys on either flank at every hr.
- (c) Personnel not patrolling will rest, except one offr or responsible NCO who will be constantly awake and on duty in vicinity Coy phone.
- (d) Coy reports to BHQ every 30 minutes.
- (e) On alert - Coys will stand to, prepared to fight.

2. ARTY

- (a) Trails down, guns ready for action against attack from any quarter.
- (b) LMGs sited to thicken def fire.
- (c) Slit trenches for personnel.
- (d) Gp Comd will nominate automatic SOS tasks around Harbour area.
- (e) Arty may also be required on occasion to provide one tp for A Tk role.

3. MMGs

Will automatically site one sec each at two diagonally opposite corners of Harbour area. Each sec will lay fixed lines along each of the two flanks of the Gp. This drill is based upon normal MMG force of one pl.

4. A TK

Following will be applicable to A Tk guns both Regtl and under comd units :-

- (a) A Tk guns will withdraw into perimeter. Will be sited immediately in rear of rifle coy disposns.
- (b) Guns will take up these posns on the flank to which they are normally allocated during a move.
- (c) Guns will be dug in and prepared for immediate action. Crews will arrange sentry rosters.
- (d) A Tk def may be supplemented by addition of 25-prs in A Tk role, to enable A Tk units to rest.

5. MORTARS

- (a) All dets sited, dug in, and ready for immediate action. Special precautions against flash.

- (b) One det under comd each rifle coy. Two dets in res sited near centre of harbour area.
- (c) Mortar Offr remains normal posn in Comd Gp. Arranges SOS task with Comd.

6. CARRIERS

- (a) Remain out at practically daylight stations - rest in reliefs.
- (b) Must be able to give alarm at approach of any hostile force.
- (c) All secs, will report through Carrier Comd to BHQ every 30 minutes.

7. SIGS

- (a) Provide L/T to all Coys.
- (b) Arrange for one runner per Coy to remain vicinity Sig office.
- (c) Provide DR for delivery urgent messages.
- (d) Ground strips, recognition sigs ready for use.
- (e) Service and maintenance gp sig eqpt.

8. RAPs, AMB DET

- (a) Will leaguer towards centre of gp, allot SBs to Coys.
- (b) Will arrange normal evacuations where possible.
- (c) Amb det must be prepared to function as ADS.

9. PNRS, ENGRS

- (a) Lay mines on surface around leaguer area, and fwd of outpost posn, except on flank which is nominated as the direction of move in event of Alarm Movement Sig.
- (b) Be prepared to lift and disarm mines prior to onward movement.

10. TPT

- (a) Vchs remain at normal close interval.
- (b) Drs will construct slit trenches in vicinity of their vchs from which to fight in event of attack on harbour area.
- (c) TO will supervise and co-ordinate these fire posns.

11. ALARM SIGS

- (a) General alert - will be given by constant sounding of all veh horns.
- (b) Alarm Movement Sig -
 - (i) Six vercy lights fired at 30 second intervals.
 - (ii) Engines will be started up on the first flare, movement will be commenced when last flare is extinguished. This sig allows maximum of three minutes for collection of eqpt, limbering of guns etc, and embussing. It is, therefore, essential that eqpt and wpsn be in such posn as to be immediately available for movement.

(c) Tasks -

- (i) Long range observed fire on enemy concentrations.
- (ii) Thickening of def fire.
- (iii) Counter penetration.

5. A TK GUNS

- (a) Battle drill to be co-ordinated by senior A Tk Comd prior to commencement of move.
- (b) On sig being given, guns will withdraw to within rifle coy disposn on their respective flanks and dig in. Guns will always be enfiladed and sited to fire to flanks.
- (c) Tasks of both supporting and Regtl guns will be identical.
- (d) Aim must be to achieve all round A Tk protection for force.

6. MORTARS

- (a) One det under comd each rifle coy. Two dets in pos with mortar posns near centre of force.
- (b) Mortar Comd will report to Gp Comd for recce of force defences and allocation of task to res dets.
- (c) Mortars must be prepared -
 - (i) To switch at short notice when direction of attack is known.
 - (ii) Produce range cards rapidly.
 - (iii) To shoot at short range against enemy AFVs.

7. CARRIERS

- (a) Remain in flanking posns as long as possible to harass enemy force, making fullest use of Arty OPOs to break up concentrations.
- (b) When finally forced to withdraw, bring back accurate infm as to estimated size and posn of enemy force, with particular note of AFVs.
- (c) Withdraw into inner defences and dig in with wons sited to thicken up inner defensive screen. Primary role counter penetration.
- (d) Carrier Comd remains vicinity Comd Gp throughout operation.

8. SIGS

- (a) Establish HQs. Run lines to Coys.
- (b) Adjust all comms R/T and L/T.
- (c) Provide runners for simultaneous delivery of messages to all coys.
- (d) Have ground strips ready.

9. RAP, AMP DET

Establish RAPs and ADS.

Note : Amb drs must be prepared to navigate back to original base with casualties. Otherwise casualties may have to be held for some considerable time.

10. PNRS, ENGRS

(a) Will collaborate before move and arrange drill, for provision of standard set of stores to create G room, Sig office, I office and RAPS immediately signal "Prepare to Defend" is raised. These stores must be suitable for quick dismantling on move being ordered.

(b) Engr and Pnr Offrs will report BHQ immediately signal is given for siting and construction of Battle HQ.

(c) Other tasks -

- (i) Destruction of enemy AFVs, MT and eqpt after action.
- (ii) Demolition of captured dumps.

11. TPT

(a) As for Harboursing.

(b) Drs must be organised to extinguish fires in IT.

12. AA FL

(a) Primary role AA def.

(b) Wpns must be sited to be able to thicken inner ring of def, with secondary task counter penetration.

"Don't leave anything - You'll want it before the operation is over."

- (iii) Alarm Movement Sig will be fired only in extreme emergency - probably when attack by enemy is in progress. It is NOT a panic sig. Good battle drill must apply.
- (iv) Force will move in direction it is facing when alarm is given. Any required change of direction will be signalled in the usual manner.

2. Rifle Coys

(a) Do not quickly. Do not move on ground and in. Force will be according to established drill for rifle coys. One Coy will move across Coy front and co-ordinate fire with the other work as prescribed.

(b) Development of force will continue until actual contact is made with enemy. For the enemy in."

3. Tank

(a) Tank to engage enemy targets on any front.

(b) COY commander will co-ordinate. One COY always loaded with leading Coy. Tank commander in accordance with situation.

(c) Automatic tanks for each in A TK. This will apply. Tank commander will co-ordinate with leading Coy (i.e. tank commander will co-ordinate in which event gun teams will be engaged.

(d) Tank will immediately report to Gp Comd on the sig to forward. Tank to survey disposition with Gp Comd and co-ordinate the tanks.

(e) Any tank in order of priority will be -

(i) To engage enemy targets at long range by direction from carriers or COY.

(ii) Long range fire on enemy BT concentrations.

(iii) SPS tanks two of TMA.

(iv) A TK counter penetration role.

(f) Preparation of gun teams will be assisted, when possible, by bulldozer (mounted on 3-ton truck).

4. Mine

(a) Immediately sig is given, Mine will virtually "jump" into Gp Comd's pocket. Mine immediately around by direction with Gp Comd, who will indicate weak spots in the defence.

(b) Mine will then be sited after preparation of rifle coys. Actual gun teams will never be in TMA.

MESSAGE FORM

TO : 32 Fd Regt RA, A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn, 12 Aust A Tk Bty,
2/7 Aust Fd Coy RAE, 2/11 Aust Fd Amb, HQ, A, B, C, D Coys,
Nos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Pls, IO, TO, RMO, RSM 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
rptd 26 Aust Inf Bde.

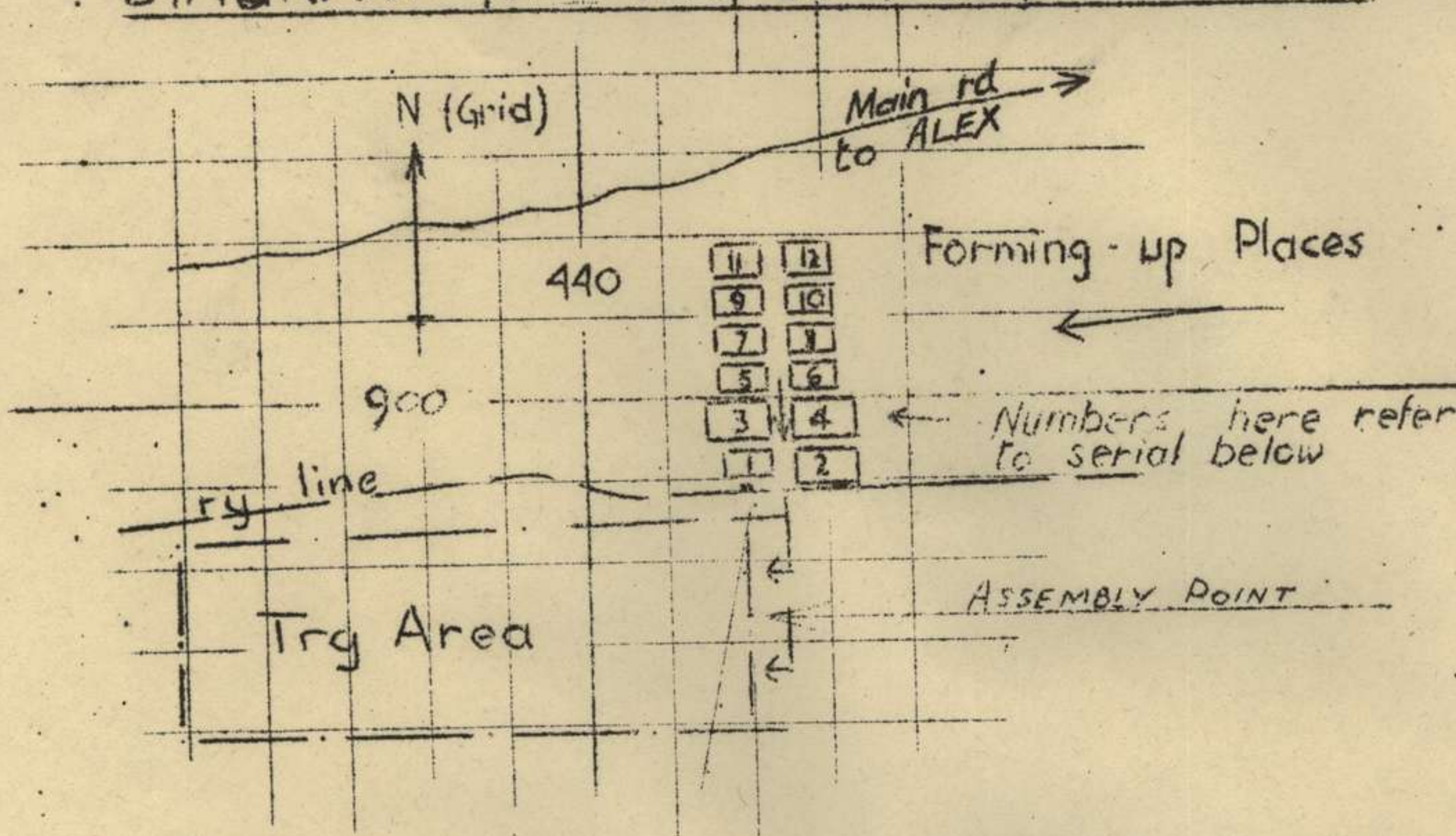
FROM : 2/23 Aust Inf Bn A 96 17: -

Secret	(.)	2/23	Bn	Gp
will	assemble	facing	WEST	at
ref	EL RAHMAN	1/100,000	44208973	19
Aug	vide	att	Gp	diagram
trace	serial	number	and	assembly
table	(.)	All	units	in
forming	up	areas	by	0900
hrs	(.)	Serial	number	one
reports	assembly	pt	zero	0915
hrs				

DR
[Signature]
Capt.

TOO
1750

DIAGRAM NO - ref EL HAMMAM 1:100000



2/23 AUST INF BN GP

ALLOTMENT SERIAL NOS - ASSEMBLY TABLE

Serial No	Composition	Report at Assembly Pt
1.	D Coy 2/23 Aust Inf Bn 2 vehs No 2 (A.A) Pl	Z
2.	107 Bty 32 Fd Regt RA	Z plus 5
3.	Comd Gp - (As per Diagram No 7)	Z plus 10
4.	115 Bty 32 Fd Regt RA	Z plus 15
5.	Pl A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn	Z plus 20
6.	C Coy 2/23 Aust Inf Bn	Z plus 25
7.	A Coy 2/23 Aust Inf Bn	Z plus 30
8.	No 3 (Mor) Pl 2/23 Aust Inf Bn	Z plus 35
9.	Medical Gp - RAP 2/23 Aust Inf Bn RAP 32 Fd Regt RA Det 2/11 Aust Fd Amb	Z plus 40
10.	Engnr Gp - No 5 (Pnr) Pl 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Pnr, Engnr Stores Det 2/7 Aust Fd Coy RAE	Z plus 45
11.	B Coy 2/23 Aust Inf Bn 2 Vehs No 2 (A.A) Pl	Z plus 50
12.	All other vehs	Z plus 55

INF BN GP - DIAGRAM NO

		ONE		SEC		CARRIERS								
		NAVIGATOR												
		(37)	(37)			(37)	(37)			(37)	(37)			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
A Tk Tp Comd		16	16A	17	17A	OC D Coy	BC 107 Bty	a/a		a/a	2 i/c D Coy	18A	18	A Tk Tp Comd
O		OFO 107 Bty		Arty	Arty	Arty	BC R/T veh	Arty	Arty	Arty	Arty		OFO 107 Bty	O
N							HQ 107 Bty	Arty	Arty	25	Arty	25	13	N
E		7	25	Arty	25	Arty		Arty	Arty	25	Arty	25	13A	E
		7A	25	Arty	25	Arty		Arty	Arty	25	Arty	25	13A	
S		8	TO	Comd A Tk	Comd MMG	2/23 Bn	32Fd Regt	RHQ veh	RHQ veh	RHQ veh	RHQ veh	Carr A Ech	14	S
E		8A	Rec veh	Comd RAE	Int veh	Sig off	RHQ veh	RHQ veh	RHQ veh	RHQ veh	RHQ veh	RP's	14A	E
C		OC A Coy	a/a	OC HQ Coy	Off van	Comd Mort		RHQ veh	RHQ veh	RHQ veh	RHQ veh	a/a	OC C Coy	C
		Alt Posn 115Bty	Alt Posn R/T veh	Arty	Arty	Arty		Arty	Arty	Arty	Arty	BC R/T veh	BC 115 Bty	
A		2 i/c A Coy	25	Arty	25	Arty	HQ 115 Bty	Arty	Arty	25	Arty	25	2 i/c C Coy	A
R		9	25	Arty	25	Arty		Arty	Arty	25	Arty	25	15	R
R		9A	SAA	Wat- er	MMG	MMG	MMG	MMG	MMG	MMG	Sigs A Ech	Wat- er	15A	R
I														I
E		Pnrs	Engrs	Engrs	Bull Dozer	RAP 2/23	RAP 2/23	RAP 32 Regt	RAP 32 Regt	Mort A	Mort	Mort	Mort	E
R														R
S		Pnrs	Mines	Engr Sto- res	Engrs	AMB	AMB	AMB	AMB	Mort A	Mort	Mort	Mort	S
A Tk veh		12	12A	11	11A	OC B Coy	a/a	Rec veh	a/a	2 i/c B Coy	10A	10	OFO 115 Bty	A Tk veh

ONE SEC CARRIERS

SCALE 1/2" = 100x

COMPOSITION OF GP

2/23 Aust Inf Bn
 32 Fd Regt RA - Less 1 Bty
 2 Tps - 12 Aust A Tk Bty
 1 Pl A Coy - 2/2 Aust MG Bn
 Det - 2/7 Aust Fd Coy RAE
 Det - 2/11 Aust Fd Amb

LEGEND

Each Sq - 1 veh
 Numbers - Fls
 A - A Ech vehs
 a/a - Bn AA Pl
 37 - Bn A Tk Pl
 25 - 25 Fr Guns
 || - A Tk Guns,
 12 Aust A Tk
 Regt.

Prepared by
 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
 15 Aug 42.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Appx 5.

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
In the Fd,
8 Sep 42.

MINE LAYING AND LIFTING COURSE

1. Course of instn for ALL ranks will be conducted in Unit area by 4 Sec 2/7 Aust Fd Coy RAE. Personnel of each Coy and other sub-units will pass through **Day One** of the course, which will be followed by **Day Two** on following roster :-

		<u>Approx Strengths</u> <u>Sub-units attending</u>	
<u>DAY 1 of Course</u>			
9 Sep 42	(a) B Coy	60	
	(b) HALF the strength of Coy HQ of HQ(A) Coy, No 1, 2 and 5 Pls -		
	Total 80 =	<u>40</u>	100
10 Sep 42	(a) C Coy	70	
	(b) Remaining half of HQ(A) Coy HQ, No 1, 2 and 5 Pls	<u>40</u>	110
11 Sep 42	(a) A Coy	80	
	(b) No 3 (Mor) Pl	<u>40</u>	120
12 Sep 42	(a) D Coy	60	
	(b) A Tk Pl	<u>55</u>	115
13 Sep 42	(a) No 4 (Car) Pl	40	
	(b) Half of strength No 6 (Adm) Pl - 50 and BHQ - 10	<u>60</u>	100
14 Sep 42	(a) Remaining half strength of No 6 Pl and BHQ	60	
	(b) MMG Pl personnel (Balce not attending Div Sch)	<u>15</u>	<u>75</u>
			<u>620</u>
			<u>620</u>
<u>DAY 2 of Course</u>			
15 Sep 42	As for 10 Sep 42		100
16 Sep 42	As for 9 Sep 42		110
17 Sep 42	As for 12 Sep 42		120
18 Sep 42	As for 11 Sep 42		115
19 Sep 42	As for 13 Sep 42		100
20 Sep 42	As for 14 Sep 42		<u>75</u>
			<u>620</u>

2. Os C Coys will ensure that all ranks attend this course on above basis, minimum security gd only being left in Coy areas. These security personnel will attend on the day immediately following. All offrs and NCOs are to be included in the parties.
3. Sub-units will RV 100 yds below main rd due SOUTH from BHQ daily at 0820 hrs. Timings of classes will be 0830 to 1230, and 1330 to 1600 hrs. Senior offr present will handover to OC 4 Sec 2/7 Aust Fd Coy RAE.

4. Security gds-Coast Watching posts -

To enable full attendance of Coy personnel involved, following reliefs will be made.

- (a) 24 Bty 2/12 Aust Fd Rest Locality Res Gd -
 A Coy will mount duty 2000 hrs on 11, 15, 19, 23 Sep.
 B Coy will mount duty 2000 hrs on 9, 13, 17, 21 Sep.

- (b) Coast Watching Posts -
 B Coy will relieve D Coy posts during the hrs 0700 to 1800 hrs on 12 and 17 Sep 42.

(Signature)
 Adit: 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
 (W. J. VINES) Capt

DISTRIB N

List "B", excl 26 Aust Inf Bde.
 Plus 4 Sec, 2/7 Aust Fd Coy RAE.

2/23 AUST INF BN OP INSTN NO 4

8 Sep 42.

Appx 6

Ref Map : EL QUASABA 1/50,000.

Additional to 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Instn No 3, which still applies.

INFM

1. The enemy may carry out raids by small or large landing parties of commandos or other tps along the coast-line of Locality A.
 - (a) in conjunction with other ops, or
 - (b) independently.
2. WEST of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Sector, similar CW Sta's and LP's are maintained by 2/24 Aust Inf Bn, 2/1 HQ Gd Bn, 2/7 Aust Fd Coy RAE.

INTENTION

3. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will defend Locality A between Easting grids 435 and 437, against attack by sea-borne tps.

METHOD4. Sectors

2/23 Aust Inf Bn Sector is sub-divided into

Subsector A - From 435 to 436 grids
 " B - " 436 to 437 "

5. CW Posts, Patrols

- (a) D Coy will maintain one pl on the coast in each subsector.
- (b) Each pl will
 - (i) Establish LP's to be manned constantly.
 - (ii) Maintain beach patrols across the subsectors from 2100 hrs to 0500 hrs daily.
 - (iii) Arrange contact between subsector patrols at 30 minutes past the clock hour throughout the night.
- (c) Subsector A patrol will contact similar patrol of 2/7 Aust Fd Coy RAE every clock hour between 2100 hrs and 0500 hrs.

6. On Alarm(a) Action by CW Pls

- (i) Alarm will be given by Pl Comd on report of enemy action by LP or patrol.
- (ii) Verey Flares - RED RED RED will be fired and whistles blown.
- (iii) 2nd Mortar illuminating flares will be fired.
- (iv) Report will be telephoned to BHQ and will include indication of direction of enemy attack.
- (v) Pl will then proceed to oppose enemy landing.

(b) Action by Remainder of Bn

- (i) Coy Comds, all sp arms Comds, report immediately to BHQ.
- (ii) Coys will form up facing EAST at interval of 150 yds in Assembly Area - Wadi immediately NORTH of BHQ.
Assembly Order - B, A, C Coys.
- (iii) Sp arms move direct to action sta's.

7. Recce

Capt E. H. McRAE, B Coy, will recce routes from assembly area to subsectors A and B, and will ensure that OSC A and C Coys are familiar with them.

8. Mortars

- (a) Will receive three M1 fire posns vicinity Pt 19 at 43559023.
- (b) Will be prepared to establish ALL dets in any one of these posns on alarm.
- (c) Def fire task on beaches in either subsector, and supporting fire for Bn counter-attack on landing tps.

9. MMG's

- (a) Will also receive gun posns vicinity Pt 19.
- (b) Tasks - (i) Supporting fire on beaches
(ii) Observed fire seawards.

10. A Tk Pl

- (a) Will site A Tk gun posns NORTH of main rd.
- (b) Be prepared to deny main rd to enemy.

11. Carriers

- (a) Two secs will patrol EAST of Subsector B. Task - To prevent enemy infiltration, or outflanking of Bn sector.
- (b) Two secs report BHQ for carrying tasks to Coys.

12. Sentries

- (a) Will be maintained by all Coys during hrs of darkness to report alarm signals.
- (b) OC HQ(A) Coy will arrange method of notifying ALARM to sp arms Comds.

ADM

13. Amn - Normal battle scale, plus 2" Mortar illuminating flares with CW Fls.

14. Rations - Normal battle scale.

15. Tpt - No A Ech vehs fwd of Bn assembly area.

16. Med -

- (a) Four SB's per Coy - report in assembly area.
- (b) Two SB's each to Mortar, MMG, A Tk Pls - report direct to alarm posns.

INTER-COMM

- 17. (a) BHQ remains present location.
- (b) L/T to Mortar, MMG, A Tk posns - lines to be laid on ALARM.
- (c) L/T to CW Fls - lines to be laid immediately.
- (d) R/T with A, B, C Coys.
- (e) ALARM Sig - (i) Verey Flares - 3 REDS.
(ii) By L/T. Codeword - POPCORN.

ACK

Signed at 1800 hrs and issued through Sigs.

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

DISTRIBUTION : List "B"
Plus 2/7 Aust Fd Coy, RAE.

War Diary

Appx 7

-- SPECIAL ORDER --

- by -

Brigadier R W TOVELL, DSO ED

Commanding 26 Australian Infantry Brigade AIF

In the Field

12 Sep 42

Having been recalled for duty with the Aust Forces in our own country I must bid you all farewell, which, after our long and varied association does not come easily. The change is not of my seeking but being a soldier I must obey without demur.

You may rest assured however that I shall always recall with pride and affection the honour which has been mine in forming, training and leading 26 Aust Inf Bde through its many vicissitudes.

As I write this parting message my thoughts pass in retrospect over the events of the past two years and more - I recall the hectic initial stages of giving birth to a Bde in difficult surroundings in Victoria Barracks, MELBOURNE; the gradual development of units at ALBURY, WANGARATTA and WAYVILLE; our preliminary training at BONFILLA and WOODSIDE; embarkation and the sea voyage to EGYPT; then the strenuous days of training at DIMRA tempered with the interest of the Holy Land; our hurried and unexpected transfer to LIBYA; our long and successful offensive defence of TOBRUCH; the welcome change to PALESTINE and SYRIA and finally the secret flight into EGYPT culminating in the heavy fighting to take and hold TELL EL EISA.

Through all these events no leader could have received greater loyalty and cooperation than has been accorded to me and for this I thank you one and all from the bottom of my heart.


Nor do I forget those splendid fellows who did so much in founding the tradition of the Brigade and who are no longer with us. A proud and grateful memory.

On the experiences of the past you must mould your future conduct; pay particular attention to your training and physical fitness and make full use of the valuable lessons learned in so hard a school - you have proved that, man for man, the enemy is by no means your equal in courage, strength or skill.

What lies ahead of you none can say but it will be stiff fighting, hard conditions and further successes. You have already shown that all these you can take.

In handing over command to my successor I do so with the fullest confidence that you will accord him the same loyal support which I have always received at your hands.

Remember the Brigades motto : Loyalty - Cooperation.


(R W Tovell) Brig
Comd 26 Aust Inf Bde

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
In the Fd,
12 Sep 42.

CEREMONIAL PARADE

1. Special Bn Parade will be held on Sunday, 13 Sep 42. Brig R. W. Tovell, DSO ED, who has been recalled for duty in AUSTRALIA, will address the tps.
2. Bn will parade in mass on flat ground vicinity BHQ and will face SOUTH.
3. One NCO marker per Coy and from BHQ will report to RSM at 0900 hrs. Coys will march on in order BHQ, HQ, A, B, C, D Coys, at two minute intervals commencing 0905 hrs.
HQ(A) and HQ(B) will parade as a single Coy under comd Capt J. S. Cumpston.
BHQ personnel under comd IO.
4. RSM will hand over parade at 0920 hrs.
5. Air Sentries
No 2 (A.A) Pl will be responsible for AA Gd.
Alarm sig - long burst of LMG fire.
6. Dispersal - in event of air alarm.

BHQ	WEST
HQ Coy	SOUTH
A, B, C Coys	NORTH
D Coy	EAST

7. Dress

- ORs - Shirts, shorts, boots (clean), stockings or sock tops, puttees, hats KFF turned UP.
Drill order.
- Offrs - As above. Web eqpt, pistols.

8. Other Arrangements

(a) Church Parades will be varied from times shown in R/Os 11 Sep 42 as follows :-

A Coy	1400 hrs
B Coy	1430 hrs
C Coy	1500 hrs

Parades for D Coy and HQ Coy remain unchanged.

(b) Offrs Reception

Offrs will assemble at 1830 hrs at Offrs' Mess instead of 1700 hrs as previously advised.

9. Special Note

CO has directed that particular attention be given within Coys to smartening up arms drill prior to parade. Careful attention must also be given to turnout and dress, as it is desired that the final Bn Parade before Brig Tovell should be in full accord with the standards and traditions of the Unit.

Wines
Capt
Adit. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
(W. J. VINES)

DISTRIBN :

CO, 2 i/c, Adj. IO, HQ(A), HQ(B), A, B, C, D Coys, RMO, Padre, RSM, War Diary (2), File (2).

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Appx.
9

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
In the Fd,
18 Sep 42.

LEAVE

Further to 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Adm Instn No 3.

1. Allotment for period 21 - 26 Sep 42, for ORs ONLY, is as under.

Proceeding on Leave on	BHQ		HQ		A		B		C		D	
	CAIRO	ALEX	CAIRO	ALEX	CAIRO	ALEX	CAIRO	ALEX	CAIRO	ALEX	CAIRO	ALEX
22 Sep	1		2		2		2		2		2	
23 Sep		1		3		1		1		1		1
25 Sep	1		2		2		2		2		2	

Allotment to Offrs -

Major G. H. BLAND	ALEXANDRIA	23 Sep 42
Lieut J. W. HIPSLEY	CAIRO	25 Sep 42
Lieut K. I. BENSON	CAIRO	25 Sep 42

2. All instns of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Adm Instn No 3 still apply. Attention of offrs is specially drawn to para 15(b).

(Signed) W. J. VINES, Capt
Adit. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

2/23 AUST INF BN ADM INSTN NO 3

LEAVE

War Diary

1. It has been decided by Higher Formation, to grant leave to commence 14 Sep 42 to be spent in ALEXANDRIA or CAIRO. This is subject to cancellation at any time.

2. PERIOD OF LEAVE

Four clear days in either City (as allotted below) - plus one day travelling time in each direction.

3. ALLOTMENT

(a) Parties will proceed on leave daily from the Bde.

(b) Allotment for week 14-20 Sep 42 (for ORs ONLY) is as under :-

Proceeding on Leave on	BHQ		HQ		A		B		C		D	
	CAIRO	ALEX	CAIRO	ALEX	CAIRO	ALEX	CAIRO	ALEX	CAIRO	ALEX	CAIRO	ALEX
14 Sep						4						
16 Sep	1		4				2		2		2	
17 Sep				1				1		1		1
19 Sep			4		1		2		2		2	
20 Sep		2		2								
TOTAL	1	2	8	3	1	4	4	1	4	1	4	1

(c) Allotment for week 21-27 Sep will be notified when advised by 26 Aust Inf Bde.

(d) HQ(A) and HQ(B) Coys will share allotment to HQ Coy as above by mutual arrangement between respective OsC.

(e) Personnel detached for duty with other sub-units will be allowed leave by the Coy of which they are members, NOT by the Coy to which they are detached.

4. PRIORITIES IN ALLOTMENT

Coy allotments to individuals at discretion OsC Coys. Higher Formation have directed that units will give priority to personnel, who, due to operational activity, are in need of a rest. OsC Coys will adhere to this instn when making sub-allotments.

5. NOMINAL ROLLS

To enable Unit rolls to reach 26 Aust Inf Bde by the time stipulated, Coys will submit nominal rolls of personnel nominated to reach BHQ by 1200 hrs THREE days prior to the commencement of leave by each party.

6. LEAVE PASSES

Will be completed and issued to Coys by BHQ.

7. PAYBOOKS

MUST be carried on leave.

8. PAY

- (a) NO pay available either in ALEXANDRIA or CAIRO.
- (b) Pay for personnel proceeding on leave will be available from Pay Sgt at BHQ at 1400 hrs on day prior to commencement of leave.
- (c) Married Ptes only may, on recommendation and responsibility of OC Coy, be advanced up to £(E)5 from Regtl Funds. Such advances to be repaid over ensuing 3 pay periods.

9. DRESS

- (a) Shirts, shorts, Hat (turned down), boots, puttees short. Pullovers may be worn.
- (b) Coys will ensure that men proceeding on leave are well turned out, if necessary by interchange of some articles of clothing within the Coy.

10. EQPT

- (a) Personal gear, incl knife, fork, spoon, mug. Web eqpt, rifle, amm. Rifles, amm will be handed in immediately on arrival at Leave Camp and receipt obtained.
- (b) Mess tins, bedding NOT required.

11. ACCOMMODATION

- (a) In ALEXANDRIA - At Eighth Army Leave Camp AGAMI.
- (b) In CAIRO - At Leave and Transit Camp ABBASSIA.
- (c) No restriction will be placed on local movement of personnel from these Camps. Every effort will be made to afford as many facilities as possible for their comfort and entertainment.

12. MOVEMENT

- (a) Personnel RV at BHQ Ord Rm 0700 hrs on day of leave.
- (b) TO will arrange tpt (using if necessary vehs already sub-allotted to Coys) to leave BHQ at 0715 hrs, arriving at 26 Aust Inf Bde RV on Main Rd at Kilo 92 Post by 0800 hrs.
- (c) TO will also arrange tpt for returning personnel. Such tpt will report same Bde RV at 1600 hrs on 19, 21, 22, 23 and 25 Sep 42.
- (d) Movement of parties from 26 Bde RV will be by AASC tpt under arrangements by Higher Formation.

13. HAVERSACK LUNCH - Will be carried when departing on leave.

14. DISCIPLINE & SECURITY

- (a) Continuance of leave in any centre depends on maintenance of good discipline.
- (b) OsC Coys will warn personnel of necessity for
 - i. good behaviour,
 - ii. correct dress at ALL times,
 - iii. strict attention to notices limiting areas.
 - iv. Correct use of prophylactics and PAC's.
 - v. NO TALKING on military matters when on leave.
- (c) Offrs, NCO's are responsible on leave for taking necessary action in respect of breaches of discipline, irrespective of whether offender is member of this Unit or not.

(d) The Commanding Officer is particularly desirous that as a matter of Unit pride, the bearing of members of this Bn on leave shall be exemplary. Any failure will inevitably result in curtailment.

15. OFFRS

(a) It is anticipated that allotment for week 21-27 Sep will incl small proportion of offrs. Sub-allotment will be made by BHQ.

(b) All offrs proceeding on leave will familiarise themselves with instns in paras 18 and 19 of 9 Aust Div Adm Instrn No 92, available at BHQ.

[Signature]
Adit. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
(W. J. VINES) Capt

DISTRIBN :

Copy No	1	CO	Copy No	11	A Coy
" "	2	2 i/c	" "	12	B "
" "	3	Adj t	" "	13	C "
" "	4	IO	" "	14	D "
" "	5	RSM	" "	15	War Diary
" "	6	RMO	" "	16	War Diary
" "	7	Padre	" "	17	File
" "	8	HQ(A) Coy	" "	18	File
" "	9	HQ(B) Coy			
" "	10	TO			

Appx 10

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

SECRET

2/23 AUST INF BN

16 Sep 42.

TRG PERIOD - 16-20 SEP 42

1. Next 14 to 21 days 26 Aust Inf Bde and tps under Comd will train intensively to prepare for resumption of offensive.
2. Period 16 - 20 Sep will be devoted to Unit trg on syllabus as under.
Period 21 - 26 Sep will be devoted to Bde trg - further orders will be issued for period thereafter available.
3. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Syllabus issued 14 Sep 42, and programme of lectures for A Tk Pl, are cancelled.
4. Trg of Spec Pls of HQ Coy will continue on present Syllabi, except in so far as these are effected by programme of Bn and Rifle Coy trg hereunder.

KEY TO SYLLABUS

<u>Period No</u>	<u>Nature of Exercise</u>
1.	Bn exercise in co-operation with tks (Directed by HQ 9 Aust Div).
2.	Bn attack exercise using sp arms EXCL tks. NO MT in use until success. Exercise will incl clearing minefd gap, mopping up, rapid reorgzn, exploitation.
3.	March to beach - swim.
4.	At Coy Comds disposal.
5.	Coy attack exercise with Bn sp arms (Directed by BHQ).
6.	Coy skill at arms contests.
7.	Live grenade practice - 2" Mortar shoot.
8.	Coy discussion and practice on lessons emerging from Div exercise.
9.	Coy Battle Drill lectures and practice in : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Preparation for attack. (b) Passing of infm. (c) Signals and inter-comm within the Coy during attack. (d) Mopping up. (e) Reorgzn.
10.	Coy Church Parades.

SYLLABUS/OVER

SYLLABUS

DATE	TIMINGS	A COY	B COY	C COY	D COY
		Period No	Period No	Period No	Period No
16 Sep	0630	3	3	3	3
	0830-1230	4	5	4	4
	1400-1800	5	4	6	9
17 Sep	0630	3	3	3	3
	0830-1230	6	9	5	7
	1400-1800	9	7	9	5
18 Sep	Timings not known	1	1	1	1
19 Sep	0630	3	3	3	3
	0830-1230	8	8	8	8
	1400-1800	7	6	7	6
20 Sep	0200-1400	2	2	2	2
	1700-1900 (As arranged by Padre)	10	10	10	10

Wives
 Capt
 2/23 Aust Inf Br.

2/23 AUST INF BN TRG SYLLABUS - RIFLE COYS - PERIOD 14-27 SEP 42.

14 Sep 42

APPX 10

DATE	A COY						B COY					
	0630	0700-1000	1000-1200	1400-1600	1600-1730	2000-2130	0630	0700-1000	1000-1200	1400-1600	1600-1730	2000-2130
14 Sep	Swim	Range	Reserved	Bayonet trg	Reserved	-			Bayonet trg	Respirator inspection & Gas Trg.		
15 Sep	Swim		Unarmed combat	Reserved	Range to 1900 hrs	Patrols			Coy inspection	Reserved		Patrols
16 Sep	Swim	Range	Reserved	Coy sports and skill at arms.					Coy attack. (Exercise Directed by BHO)			
17 Sep	Swim	Range	Coy inspection	Reserved		Pl night attack			Reserved	Coy Assault Exercise (Directed by BHO)		
18 Sep	Swim	Route march to def Locality "D". (Route vide trace att).							Reserved	Coy Sports and skill at arms.		
19 Sep	Swim		Reserved	Respirator inspection & Gas trg.		Pl night attack			Bayonet trg	Unarmed combat	Reserved	
20 Sep	Swim		Bayonet trg	Reserved		Pl night attack			Bayonet trg	Reserved		
21 Sep	Swim	Route march to def Locality "G" (Route vide trace att).					Swim	Range	Reserved	Bayonet trg	Range to 1900 hrs	
22 Sep	Swim	Coy attack exercise (Directed by BHO).					Swim		Mines			Coy Assault Exercise.
23 Sep	Swim		Unarmed combat	Reserved		Patrols	Swim	Route march (vide att trace Route A) to "D" Def Locality.				
24 Sep	Swim		Mines				Swim		Wpn Trg	Reserved		Pl night attack
25 Sep	Swim		Reserved	Coy assault Exercise (Directed BHO)			Swim		Unarmed combat	Coy inspection	Reserved	Pl night attack
26 Sep	Swim		Wpn Trg	Coy sports and skill at arms.		Coy Assault Exercise	Swim		Reserved	Coy sports and skill at arms.		Patrols
27 Sep	Swim		Bayonet trg	Reserved			Swim		Reserved			Pl night attack.

Handwritten signature/initials

/OVER.

DATE	C COY						D COY						
	0630	0700-1000	1000-1200	1400-1600	1600-1730	2000-2130-	0630	0700-1000	1000-1200	1400-1600	1600-1730	2000-2130	
14 Sep	Swim	Route march (vide att trace Route A) to "D" Def Locality.						Swim	Range	Bayonet trg	Reserved		Patrols
15 Sep	Swim	Range	Bayonet trg	Reserved		Pl night attack	Swim	Route march (vide att trace Route A) to "D" Def Locality					
16 Sep	Swim	Range	Coy inspection	Coy sports and skill at arms.		Pl night attack	Swim		Coy inspection	Respirator inspection & Gas Trg		Pl night attack	
17 Sep	Swim	Coy attack exercise (Directed by BHQ)					Swim	Range	Unarmed combat.	Coy sports and skill at arms.		Coy Assault Exercise	
18 Sep	Swim		Bayonet trg	Respirator inspection & Gas Trg		Pl night attack	Swim		Reserved	Bayonet trg	Reserved	Pl night attack	
19 Sep	Swim		Reserved	Coy Assault Exercise (Directed BHQ)			Swim	Route march (vide att trace Route B) to "G" Def Locality.					
20 Sep	Swim		Reserved			Coy Assault Exercise	Swim		Unarmed combat.	Reserved		Pl night attack	
21 Sep	Swim		Mines			Patrols			Reserved	Coy Assault Exercise (Directed BHQ)			
22 Sep	Swim	Route march (vide att trace Route B) in "G" Def Locality.						Coy attack exercise (Directed by BHQ)					
23 Sep	Swim		Unarmed Combat.	Reserved				Mines			Patrols		
24 Sep	Swim		Reserved	Wpn Trg					Bayonet trg	Coy sports and skill at arms.			
25 Sep	Swim		Bayonet trg	Coy sports and skill at arms.					Coy inspection	Reserved			
26 Sep	Swim		Reserved	Unarmed combat	Reserved	Patrols			Reserved	Bayonet trg	Unarmed Combat.		
27 Sep	Swim		Bayonet trg	Reserved					Reserved				

COY SPORTS AND SKILL AT ARMS CONTESTS

Will be organized by each coy on days shown on syllabus. CO has allotted prize funds to each Rifle Coy of £A5 and to HQ Coy of £A7-10-0 for contests in LMG, TSMG, 2" Mortar, Rifle, Bayonet Trg, Unarmed Combat and Musketry. Prize winners will be announced by Coys by 1 Oct 42.

2/23 AUST INF BN

COPY NO 37

OP ORDER EX (WESTERN DESERT) NO. 2

17 SEP 42.

Ref Maps : EL QASABA 1/50,000.

INFM1. Enemy -

Vide latest sitreps. Detailed disposns EAST of EL AJAMEIN
Def Locality as shown on att trace Appx A.

2. Own Tps -

(a) 20 and 26 Aust Inf Bdes are attacking to the EAST, and will
capture general line shown as First Objective on att trace.
It is expected that this action will be complete by dusk,
night 17 Sep 42. 26 Bde attacking with two bns fwd.

(b) 2/23 Aust Inf Bn, with under comd -

No 4 Sec, 7 Aust Fd Coy

In support -

40 RTR less one Sqn (For exploitation Phase only)
P Tp, 12 Aust A Tk Bty
No 1 Pl, A Coy, 2/2 Aust MG Bn
62 Bty 2/12 Aust Fd Regt
Det 3 Lt AA Regt

INTENTION

3. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn with tps under comd and in sp will

(a) Capture general line FT 25 (Sq 429897) to FT 19 (Sq 429896)
night 17/18 Sep 42.

(b) Exploit fwd of objective at first light to limit indicated on
att trace Appx A.

METHOD

4. Operation will be in 2 Phases.

Phase 1 - night 17/18 Sep 42 - Capture of objective (Vide trace)

Phase 2 - Exploitation at first light supported by tks.

PHASE 1

5. Assembly Area - Vide att trace Appx A.

6. Route to Assembly Area - Vide att trace Appx A.

7. Route to FUP - Vide att trace Appx A.

8. FUP - Vide att trace Appx A. Vicinity 42658990. Will be taped
and guides posted by Int Sec.

9. Objective -

General line PT 25 to FT 19. Coy disposns vide trace
Appx A.

10. Bearing of Attack -

125° magnetic. Int Sec will navigate.

WAR DIARY
Appx 11.

11. Adv to Objective -

All Coys will check bearings on route and provide connecting files to Centre Line. Centre Line will be marked by lamps spaced 250 yds apart under direction of IO.

12. Rate of Adv - 100 yds in 2 minutes. Must NOT be exceeded.

13. Formation in Assembly Area - Vide att diagram Appx B.

14. Formation at FUP - Vide att diagram Appx B.

15. Movement to FUP -

Coln of route, 20 yds between Coys. Order of march C Coy, D Coy, A Coy, B Coy. Vehs in line ahead.

16. Timings - Vide Time Table, Order of March, att Appx C.

17. Start Line - Coy posns on FUP. Taped by Int Sec.

18. Rifle Coys -

- (a) C Coy centre of objective
- D Coy LEFT of objective - 300 yds NW PT 24.
- A Coy RIGHT of objective - 300 yds NW PT 19.
- B Coy res - 1000 yds in rear C Coy. Special role, protection of rear and flanks, covering approaches to minefd gaps.

(b) Coys will move through minefd and secure objective before Engr lifting operations commence.

19. Engr Task -

(a) Engrs will move immediately in rear BHQ, and will, on encountering minefd, proceed to clear and mark two lanes, each 6 yds wide, 150 yds on either flank of Centre Line.

(b) On completion of lanes, Comd will report to CO on Centre Line at Fwd Report Centre.

(c) Engr sec will picquet and protect lanes through minefd.

20. Fire Plan -

(a) Arty -

- (i) Div concentrations as arranged by CRA on known enemy posns.
- (ii) Bty Comd 62 Bty with BHQ.
- (iii) FOC with C Coy - Wireless set carried on stretcher.

(b) Mortars - Will establish fire posns NW slopes of enemy ridge on capture of objective. Be prepared to bring down def fire fwd of Coy posns.

(c) MM's - Bn guns - move fwd to vicinity C Coy. Guns to be sited in depth to provide def fire. No 1 Pl A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn - See (e) below.

(d) A Tk - Bn A Tk guns move fwd on success, and form A Tk screen fwd of objective. P Tp - see (e) below.

(e) Page 2 (a).

21. Report Centres and Traffic Control -

(a) One in rear of FUP. One NW enemy minefd at 42748981.

(b) TO will move to Report Centre at FUP with BHQ, thence fwd to Second Report Centre. He will be responsible for moving of tpt through gaps. Time of commencement of movement will be ordered according to situation.

(e) Minefd Gap Gp -

On movement fwd of Assaulting Coys, a def gp will be established in vicinity of lanes through second minefd. BHQ will be located on Centre Line at fwd Report Centre. Following units will be disposed in rear of minefd to prevent break through on counter-attack.

No 1 Pl A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn.
P Tp 3 Aust A Tk Bty.

These sub-units will move fwd to next task when ordered.

No 5 (Pnr)Pl less det. 4 Sec 2/7 Aust Fd Coy RAE.

ALL above sub-units will debus NOT nearer than 400 yds of Fwd Report Centre.

Order of Movement -

- (i) Carrier for FOO.
- (ii) Bn A Tk guns.
- (iii) No 3 (Mor) Pl
- (iv) Bn LMG Pl
- (v) Coy A Ech carriers
- (vi) 40 RTR with No 4 (Car) Pl - less two secs - att.
- (vii) Coy A Ech vehs (if required).
- (viii) One Pl A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn.

22. Pnr Pl Tasks -

- (a) Prepare Fwd Report Centres as above.
- (b) Convert Second Report Centre at 42748981 to temporary BHQ.
- (c) Establish BHQ on objective.

23. Zero - 0210 hrs.

PHASE 2

24. Exploitation - Not beyond general limit indicated on att trace Appx A. Suspected enemy gun posns at 43188968 and 43168957 must be neutralised.

25. Axis of Adv - Telegraph line from 42948973 to bend at 43128966.

26. (a) First wave - A Sqn 40 RTR with No 4 (Car) Pl, less two secs.

- (b) Second Wave - B Coy RIGHT of axis
C Coy LEFT of axis
B Sqn 40 RTR in sp both Coys.

(c) Third Wave - Regtl HQ, 40 RTR.

27. Fire Plan -

(a) Arty -

- (i) One FOO with Regtl HQ 40 RTR. Will remain after action with C Coy HQ. Bty Comd with BHQ.
- (ii) Observed fire on known enemy posns, and as directed by FOO.

(b) A Tk Role -

- (i) Regtl guns remain in posn to protect "firm base" established on objective.
- (ii) P Tp 5 Aust A Tk Bty adv behind Second Wave to flanking posns 700 yds fwd of line PT 25 - PT 19.
Task - Flank protection of Exploiting Force.

(c) Mortar Task -

- (i) One det with each sec A Tk guns. Will move with A Tk guns to flanking posns to sp fwd coys.
- (ii) Remainder - fire by observation from posns on objective.

(d) MMGs - Fire by observation from posns on objective.
Task - to protect flanks of exploitation.

28. Action of A and D Coys -

At Zero for Phase 2,

(a) D Coy will move fwd one pl and occupy area PT 25.

(b) A Coy will move fwd one pl and occupy area PT 19.

29. Special Note -

All tps remaining on objective MUST remember the vital importance of retaining the "firm base" for exploiting force.

30. Zero Phase 2 - will be notified after completion of First Phase. Probably 0600 hrs.

31. Co-ordinating Conference -

Coy Comds, Comds all sp arms, BHQ 0500 hrs, when IO will indicate posn of new taped Start Line.

ADM

32. Amn. Water - Normal battle scale.

33. Tools -

Transported to Assembly Area in A Ech tpt. Carried on the man from Assembly Area to objective.

34. Re-organization Stores - On A Ech Carriers.

35. Meals -

Under direction QM -

- Evening meal - present locations
- Hot tea - Assembly Area
- Breakfast 18 Sep - on the man
- Lunch 18 Sep - Hot meal.

36. Tpt -

- (a) Rifle Coys - One Carrier, one 15 cwt veh for A Ech requirements.
- (b) Unit Sp Arms - Present scale.

37. Medical -

- (a) Four SB's with each Rifle Coy.
- (b) Posn of RAP -

In rear FUP until success, then takes over Fwd Report Centre at 42748981.

(c) Evacuations - by SB's to Coy HQs. RAP truck will collect at Coy HQs.

INTER-COMM

38. (a) L/T -

- (i) From Assembly Area to Fwd Report Centre. Phone at FUP. All lines laid along Centre Line.
- (ii) Lines to Coys on objective on success. Cable to be laid SOUTH of Centre Line to a pt beyond tk harbour, thence branching to Coy areas. Tk bridge over line to D and C Coys.

(b) R/T - Control with BHQ. No 18 sets with Rifle Coys.

(c) Reports - To Fwd Report Centre every 30 minutes or more frequently if required.

(d) V/T - All Coys carry Lucas Lamp. RED lamp winked for one minute by A, B, D Coys indicates re-organization on objective commenced. GREEN lamp winked similarly by C Coy for same report.

(e) Alternative comms - Comn facilities of Sp Arms.

(f) Report Centres - Vide para 21(a), will be manned by IO and Staff.

(g) BHQ closes present location 2130 hrs. Opens Assembly Area 2230 hrs.
Closes Assembly Area 0035 hrs. Re-opens in rear FUP 0120 hrs.
Moves to objective on success.
Remains objective area until further advised.

39. Password - TOOTHs.

40. Synchronisation - at 1400 hrs conference, 17 Sep 42.

ACK

Signed at 1330 hrs and issued at conference 1400 hrs.

W. J. Vines
Adj. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
(W. J. VINES) Capt.

DISTRIBN

<u>Copy No</u>	<u>O.O No 2</u>	<u>Appx A</u>	<u>Appx B</u>	<u>Appx C</u>
1.	CO	-	1	1
2.	2 i/c	-	1	1
3.	Adj. t	-	1	1
4.	IO	-	1	1
5.	A Coy	1	1	1
6.	B "	1	1	1
7.	C "	1	1	1
8.	D "	1	1	1
9.	HQ "	1	1	1
10.	No 1 (Sig) Pl	-	1	1
11.	No 2 (A.A) Pl	-	-	-
12.	No 3 (Mor) Pl	1	1	1
13.	No 4 (Car) Pl	1	1	1
14.	No 5 (Pnr) Pl	1	1	1
15.	QM	-	1	1
16.	TO	1	1	1
17.	HQ (E) Coy	-	1	1
18/20.	40 RTR	1	3	3
21.	62 Bty 2/12 Fd Regt	1	1	1
22.	P Tp 12 Bty A Tk	1	1	1
23.	1 Pl A Coy 2/2 MG Bn	1	1	1
24.	4 Sec 2/7 Fd Coy	1	1	1
25.	26 Aust Inf Bde	1	1	1
26/27.	9 Aust Div	1	2	2
28.	Chief Umpire	1	1	1
29/34.	Umpires	-	6	6
35.	RSM	-	1	1
36/37.	War Diary	1	2	2
38/42.	File	-	5	5

ISSUED AS APPX C

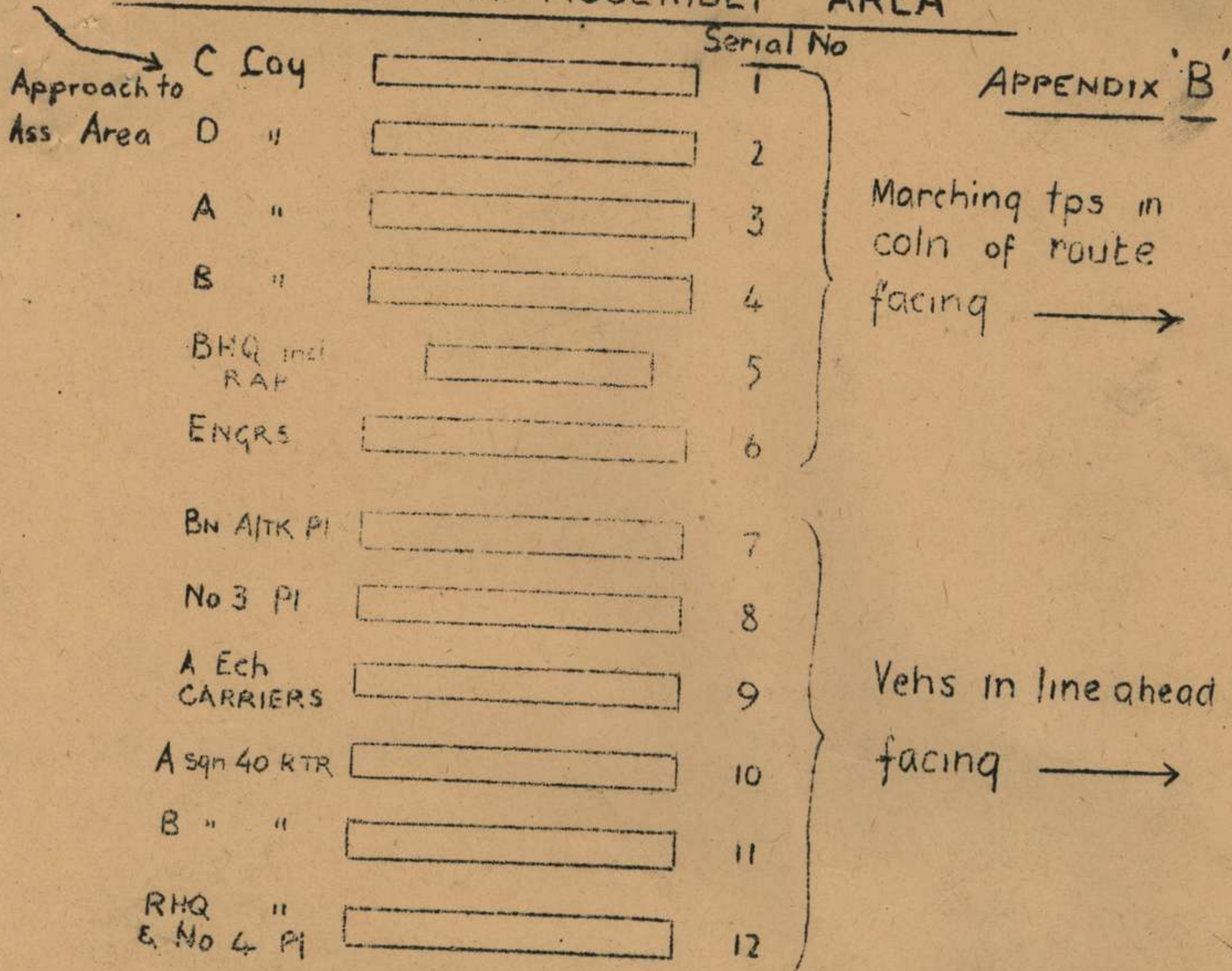
TO

2/23 AUST INF BN O.O. EXERCISE (W.D.) NO 2

TIMETABLE - ORDER OF MARCH

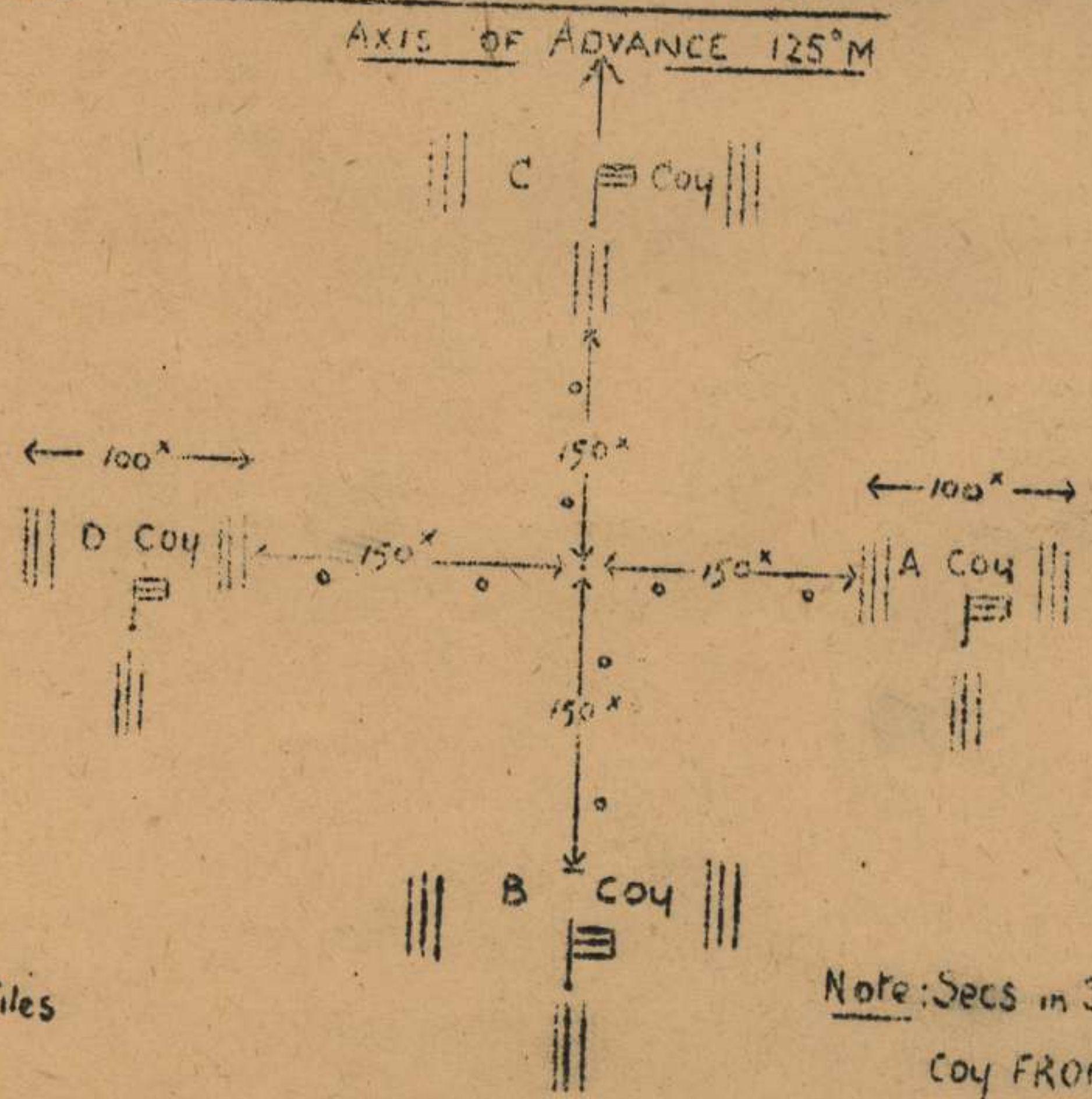
Serial No	Composition	Pass Minefd Gap at 43479017.	Arrive Assembly Area.	Leave Assembly Area.	Arrive FUP.
	<u>COLN NO 1</u>				
1.	C Coy 2/23 Bn	1840 hrs	2230	0030	0115
2.	D " " "	1845 "	2235	0031	0116
3.	A " " "	1850 "	2240	0032	0117
4.	B " " "	1855 "	2245	0033	0118
5.	BHQ				
		Separate Timings			
6.	4 Sec 2/7 Fd Coy RAE	Own Timing	2250	0035	0120
7.	No 3 (Mor) Pl	2145 hrs	2255	0036	0121
8.	A Tk Pl 2/23 Bn	2150 "	2300	0037	0122
9.	P Tp 12 Aust A Tk Bty	Own Timing	2300	0038	0123
10.	No 1 Pl 2/2 MG Bn	" "	2300	0040	0125
	<u>COLN NO 2</u>				
11.	A Ech Carriers and trucks ALL Rifle Coys.	In convoy under Comd TO 2210 hrs	2310		When signalled by CO. Move direct to Coy posns on objective.
	<u>COLN NO 3</u>				
12.	A Sqn 40 RTR	Not Applicable	0200		When signalled by CO 2/23 Bn. Move direct to Leaguer Area NW of objective (vide diagram)
13.	B Sqn " "	"	0215		
14.	Regtl HQ "	"	0230		
15.	No 4 (Car) Pl less two secs.	0130 hrs	0230		

(i) DISPOSNS IN ASSEMBLY AREA



Vertical interval between colns - 50^x

(ii) FORMATION ON FUP



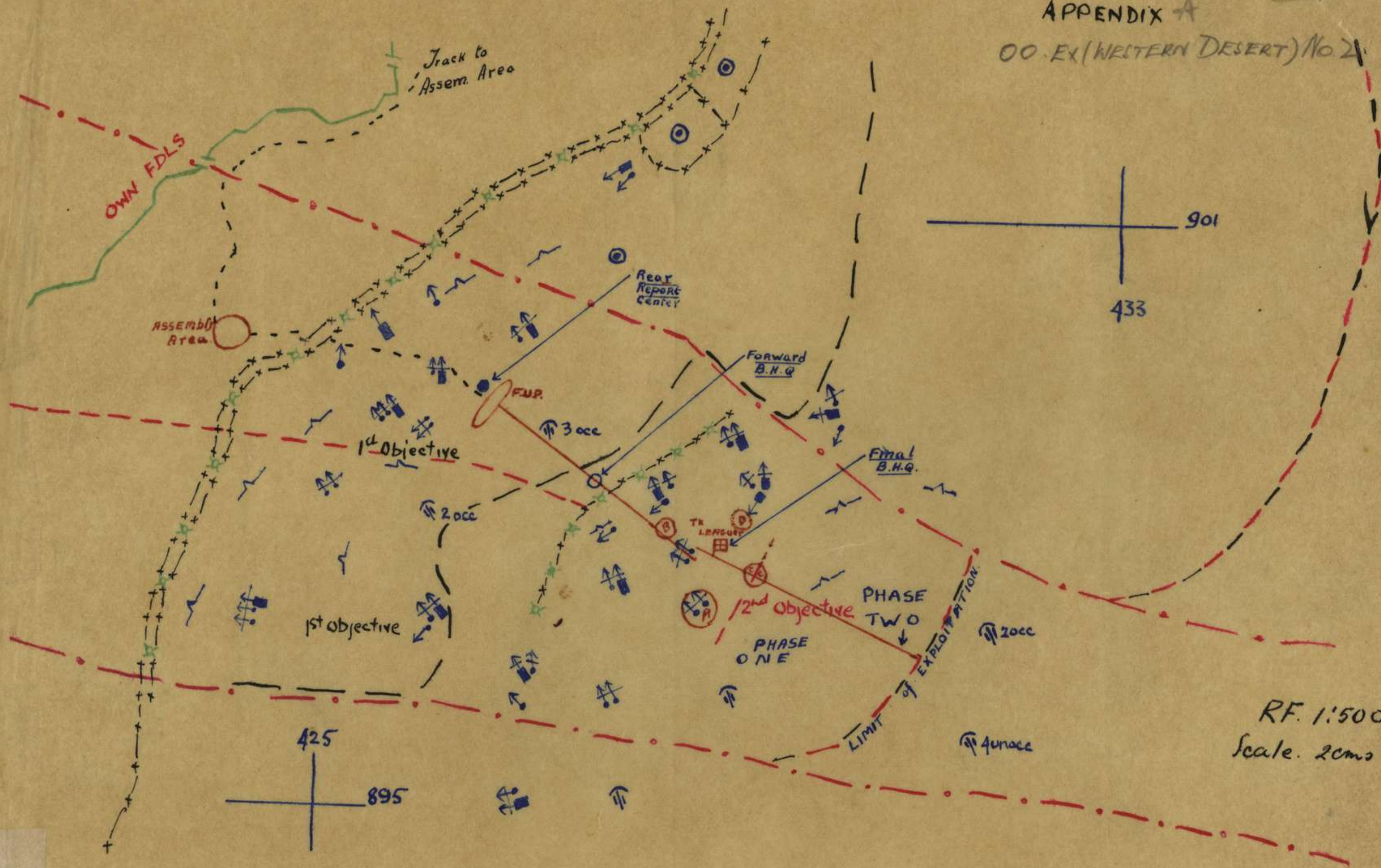
o Connecting Files

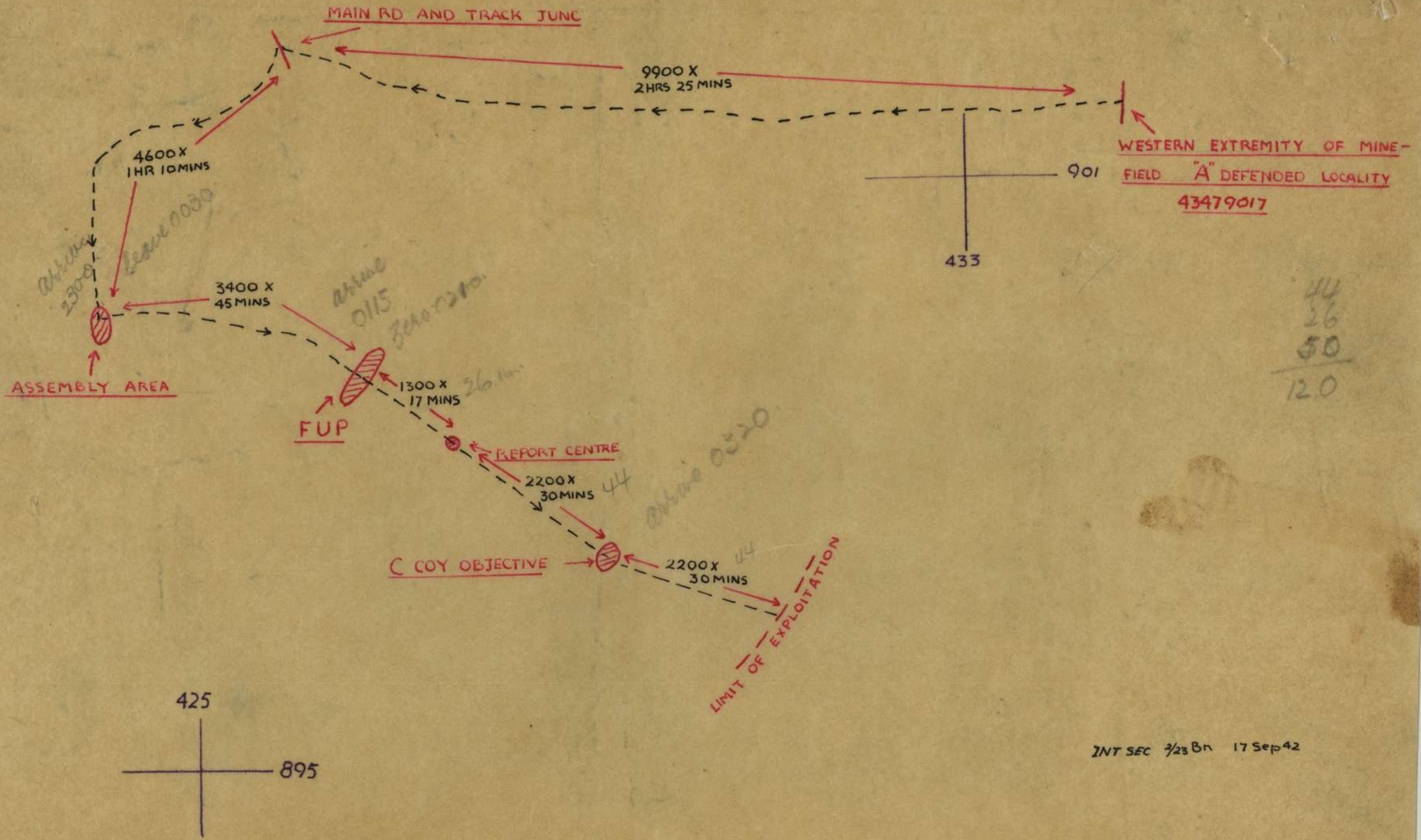
Note: SECS in SINGLE FILE
COY FRONTAGES - 100^x

I Sec

APPENDIX A

OO. EX (WESTERN DESERT) No 2





ZNT SEC 3/23 Bn 17 Sep 42

EL SHAMMANA AREA

EXERCISE SEP 17/14

No	Time	From	To		
1	2210			C.O. arrives at Assembly Area ^{1st P.} 42428989 = comp and sp arms getting into pos.	
2	2120			A+B Sqns, RTR of 40 RTR arrive at assembly	
3	2145			C+D Coys in pos	
4	2203			A+B	
5	2300	Sgt.		All coys reported in assembly area. C.O. visits each coy. C Coy complains of lack of guide lights on route and R.P. and light at same point.	C.O. instructs TO re had going and deviation.
6	2330			C.O. reports to Brig. for info. Deviation in axis of advance owing to bad going. 48 Bns struck trouble but took Bns on objectives.	
7	2400			by comd. Sp. arms in conference with C.O.	
<u>18. SEP.</u>					
8	0005			C.O. issues special orders to ATK. comd. re disposal of reserve M.F.	
9	0020	C.O.	A.TK.	Situation normal. move according to plans.	Sgt.
10	0030			Start of move to F.U.P.	
11	0115			B.H.Q. at Rear Report Centre. Some delay owing to wrong guidance at deviation some vehicles bogged.	C.O. orders M.T. brought up to rear.
12	0130			C.O. visits all coys on F.U.P. coys move off on 1st phase to time	litmov. B.H.Q. move
13	0235	C. Coy		Capt BROWN reports his coy under by m.g. fire but NOT held up. C.O.'s carrier away to show out bogged high truck. Remainder to rear elements to stay 400 yards in rear of coy.	find to Fuel B.H.Q.

ACTION DIARY

Page II

No	Time	From	To		
14	0315	CP	TKCont	C.O. orders also to move to Pt 17 and await orders. Sigs comm ordered.	
15	0325	A.B.C		A.B.C. copy on objectives. C.O. orders M.T. forward.	
16	0345			all sp. arms in posn and gaps party ready. B.H.Q. moves.	C.O. inform Bde.
17	0425			Final B.H.Q. ent. 42848977	
18	0530			Co-ord conference called at B.H.Q. at which no change in original plans.	
19	0615			all sp. arms move to start line for 2 nd phase. Sigs comm difficult. Attack ready to start and 2 nd phase commenced at time	
20	0640	C.O.	B.H.Q.	Det engrs required to clear gaps in minefield.	
21	0657			Cond. grp. comes under hostile fire. Intercept message on sps under by M.G. fire from Rl. flank. Under C.O.'s instructions the adv. and m.m.g.s dealt with promptly	C.O. by A/T from TKCont to TK.
22	0654			Reported leading sqn the on limit of exploitation area. went 500x beyond. N.T.R.	
23	0702			Still no direct comm with corp. Dml's telephone set ordered to be sent up to Cond grp.	Sigs comm find with line
24	0710	C.O.		Reported inf have advanced 2500x but are returning 500x to posns.	C.O. orders reorganization on line 2000x from Cond post

ACTION DIARY

No	Time	From	To	Page	iii
25	0712			Jk sqrs report destroying nest of A.TK guns on Rt. flank	
26	0715			C.O. orders sq. ATK. guns fwd on center line to reorganise. A ech units to move fwd and reserve coy to be ready to move at 5 mins notice	
27	0722			Engs sqt reports his det. r stands by.	
28	0725			Enemy the menace on rt flank. Comd gfs disperses on C.O.'s order. C.O. moves to B.H.Q.	A.TK. deploy to engage enemy
29	0745			Jk attack repulsed. Reported that by losses were inflicted on enemy A.F.V's.	
30	0750			Exercise ended in sq. Coy ordered to proceed to own lines by most direct route.	

1850

Start of corps in order marching to assembly area along main rd.

1900

IO and party of ~~pm~~ RP I see move to assembly area to key up lighting system

2300

all lights to FUP in order and FUP marked out.

enemy sent up two flares.

engs have also already marked gap in minefield

a slight deviation made in route to by pass sandy stretch

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Appx 12
SECRET

COPY NO. 28

2/23 AUST INF BN

OF ORDER EX (WESTERN DESERT) NO 3

Ref Map : EL QASABA 1:50,000.

INFM

1. Enemy -
Vide latest sit reps, Div Summaries and 2/23 Bn sit map (produced at conference). Minefds as shown on att trace, Appx "A".
2. Own Tps -
2/23 Aust Inf Bn, with in sp

X Bty 2/50 Aust Fd Regt
200 RTR, less 1 sqn (available for exploitation phase only and represented by 2 secs carriers).

INTENTION

3. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn with tps in sp will capture ridge Pt 23 in sq 435898 to Pt 21 in sq 436898.

METHOD

4. Operation will be in 2 phases

Phase 1 - Establishment of minefd gap and adv to ry line.

Phase 2 - Capture, after first light, of final objective ridge Pt 23 - Pt 19, with sp of 200 RTR less 1 sqn.

PHASE 1

5. Assembly Area. Wadi - vicinity 43509020. Used only by 200 T Tks and Bn sp arms.
6. Route - Assembly Area to FUP.
From Wadi - SOUTH along SYDNEY Rd to TCP thence WEST to Rear Report Centre - Vide trace Appx "A".
7. FUP. Vide trace Appx "A". Will be taped and lighted by Int Sec. Rifle Coys will move independently to FUP arriving there at following times -

D Coy	Z - 25
B "	Z - 20
C "	Z - 15
A "	Z - 10

Reports to Rear Report Centre on arrival.

8. Formation at FUP - Vide trace Appx "A".
9. Bearing of Attack - 177 Degrees Mag.
10. Objective - Vide trace Appx "A".
11. Adv to Objective
 - (a) Rate of adv - 100x in 2 minutes must NOT be exceeded.
 - (b) One Int Sec guide with each B, D and C Coys to first minefd.

All Coys will check bearings. B and D provide connecting files to Centre line.

12. Coy Tasks

- (a) B and D Coys - adv through minefd and secure first objective.
Re-organise - protect minelifting operations of C Coy.
- (b) C Coy - adv to minefd. Assisted by Pnr Offr & Det Pnrs, open
2 8-yd gaps 150x on either flank of Centre line.
- (c) A Coy - adv to within 100x of minefd.
Re-organise - tasks -
 - i. Rear protection minelifting party.
 - ii. Ground protection sp arms in Minefd Gap Gp.

13. Minefd Gap Gp

Will be established in rear of minelifting coy.

Composn and Task :

A Coy - as above.

A Tk Pl - Guns sited for all round defence.

MMG - Counter penetration task on flanks B and D Coys.

Mortars - Def fire task fwd of B and D Coys.

14. Pnr Pl Tasks

- (a) Pnr Offr and 3 Pnrs with C Coy.
- (b) Prepare Report Centres vide Para 15.
- (c) Prepare R.P, BHQ in final location.

15. Report Centres

- (a) Rear Report Centre
Location vide trace Appx "A" - Will be established by Int. Sec
at Z - 35.
- (b) Fwd Report Centre
Location vide att trace Appx "A" - Will be established by Int
Sec at Z plus 35.

16. Traffic Control Points

- (a) Vide att trace - at turnoff on SYDNEY Rd at 43799007.
Opens at Z - 35.
- (b) At Rear Report Centre - opens Z plus 10.

Both TCPs established and controlled by TO and staff with, under comd 2 RPs.

17. Movement of Sp Arms

Sp Arms will move from assembly area through TCPs to posns in Minefd Gap Gp as under -

<u>Sp Arm</u>	<u>Cross Main Rd at SYDNEY Rd Corner</u>	<u>Pass through Rear Report Centre</u>
A Tk Pl	Z	Z plus 15
Mortar Pl	Z plus 5	Z plus 20
MMG. Pl	Z plus 10	Z plus 25

18. Fire Plan

Arty -

- (a) Concs on first objective from Z - 5 to Z plus 5, lifting to strong posts on general line Old Matruh Rd until Z plus 15.
- (b) Thereafter as directed by FOO with B Coy.
- (c) Bty Comd with BHQ.

Mortars)
MMG) Vide Para 13.
A Tk Pl)

19. Protective Patrol - A Coy will supply patrol of strength 1 pl for protection FUP area from Z - 40 to Z. Alarm sig - 3 reds.

20. Adv from Minefd Area - On completion of minefd gaps sub-units as under will move to posns NORTH of second minefd (vide att trace Appx "A") on receipt of codeword "BONOX".
On receipt of this sig -

- (a) A and C Coys will move immediately - and signal by V/T and other means, when in posn.
- (b) Sp arms (less tks) will adv through gaps and take up posns as under :
 - i. A Tk Pl. Guns sited fwd covering flank approaches around second minefd.
 - ii. MMG Pl. Sited within Bn def locality. Task - def fire fwd of new FDLs.
 - iii. Mortar Pl. As for MMGs.
- (c) Finally when all sp arms are in posn B and D Coys on signal from BHQ "FINAL BONOX" will move fwd to posns indicated on trace Appx "A".

21. Zero - 2335 hrs.

PHASE 2

22. Special Note. This phase will not actually be carried out EXCEPT as indicated in following para.

23. 200 RTR

- (a) Will report to Rear Report Centre at Z plus 60.
- (b) TO will dispatch tks to fwd rallying pt NORTH of second minefd on signal from BHQ.
- (c) Tks will travel EAST of and parallel to Centre line and will use EASTERN minefd gap.

24. Exercise Ends. On general dispersal order being signalled.

ADM

25. Amn, Water, Rations. Normal battle scale. Bn SAA res at TCP - 43799007.

26. Tools. Carried on the man.

27. Reorgzn Stores. On A Ech carriers.

28. Tpt

- (a) Rifle Coys. One carrier, one 15 cwt veh for A Ech requirements.

Vehs report Rear Report Centre Z plus 30.
Despatched fwd on orders from Fwd Report Centre.

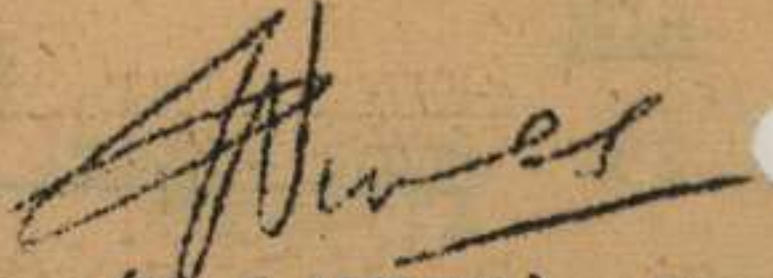
- (b) Sp Arms. As for Exercise No 2.
 - (c) All Vehs. Will travel EAST of, and parallel to Centre Line.
29. PsW. PWCP at Rear Report Centre. RP Sgt, 4 RP.
PsW passed through A Coy to PWCP, thence to 30 Corps Cage at 43239016.
30. Medical
- (a) 4 SBs per Coy.
 - (b) Posn of RAP. Remains present location. Fwd aid post at Rear Report Centre.
 - (c) Evacuations. By SBs to Rear Report Centre.

INTERCOMM

31. (a) L/T
- i. From present BHQ to Rear Report Centre by Z - 45.
 - ii. Rear Report Centre to Fwd Report Centre - linesmen with A
 - iii. To all Coys on first objective.
 - iv. To all Coys on final reorgzn.
 - v. All lines to be laid 100x WEST of Centre line.
 - vi. Tk crossing on line to B Coy on final objective.
- (b) V.F.
- i. Lucas lamp with each Coy.
 - ii. Coy colours - A Coy - RED
B " - AMBER
C " - GREEN
D " - BLUE
 - iii. Lamps winked for one minute to indicate arrival at objective on each change of posn.
- (c) R/T. Control Sta at BHQ. No 18 Sets with Rifle Coys.
- (d) Reports by ANY means to FWD Report Centre every 30 minutes - or more frequently if warranted - by all Rifle Coys.
- (e) BHQ
- i. Closes present location Z - 45.
 - ii. Reopens Rear Report Centre Z-35.
 - iii. Moves to Fwd Report Centre Z plus 8.
 - iv. Moves to def locality SOUTH of second minefd - when advised
32. Password. "ABBOTTS"
33. Synchronisation. 1900 hrs through Sigs.

ACK

Signed at 0800 hrs and
issued at conference and
through Sigs.


(W J VINES) Coy
Adit 2/23 Aust Inf. B.

DISTRIBN

<u>Copy No</u>	<u>OO No 3</u>	<u>Appx "A"</u>	<u>Appx "B"</u>
1	CO	-	-
2	2 i/c	-	-
3	Adjt	-	-
4	IO	-	-
5	A Coy	1	1
6	B "	1	1
7	C "	1	1
8	D "	1	1
9	HQ (A) Coy	1	-
10	HQ (B) "	1	-
11	No 1 (Sig) Pl	1	-
12	No 2 (A.A) Pl	-	-
13	No 3 (Mor) Pl	1	-
14	No 4 (Car) Pl	1	-
15	No 5 (Pnr) Pl	1	-
16	A Tk Pl	1	-
x 17	MG Pl	1	-
18	QM	1	-
19	TO	1	-
20	RMO	1	-
21	RSM	-	-
x 22	X Bty 2/50	-	-
x 23/25	Aust Fd Regt	1	-
26	200 BTR	3	-
	26 Aust Inf Bde (for infm)	1	1
27/28	WD	1	1
29/30	File	-	-

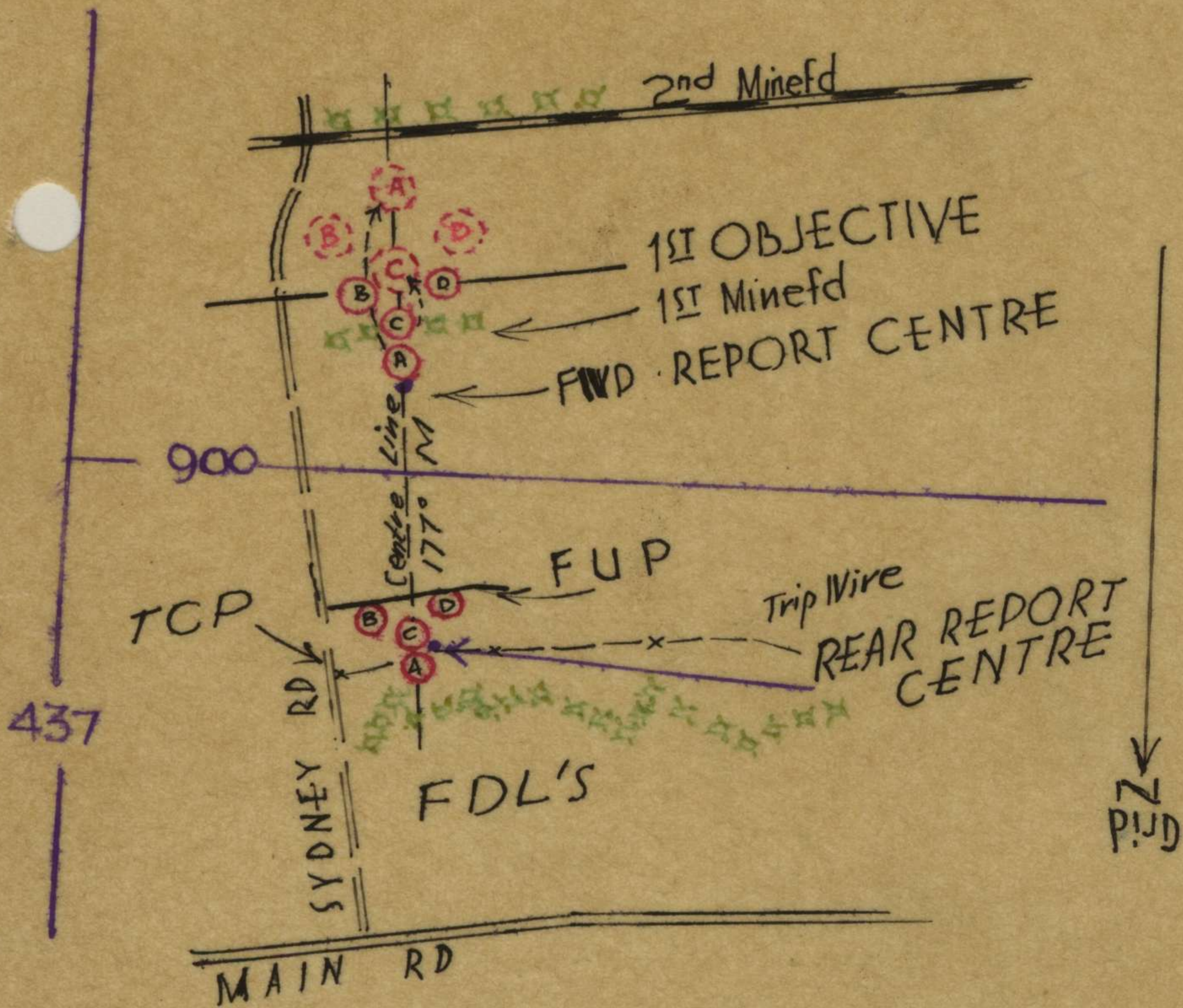
x Non-existent Units.

WD

2/23 Aust Inf Bn O.O. Ex (Western Desert) No 3

Ref EL QASABA 1:50,000

APPX "A"



1st Sec. 2/23 Bn.

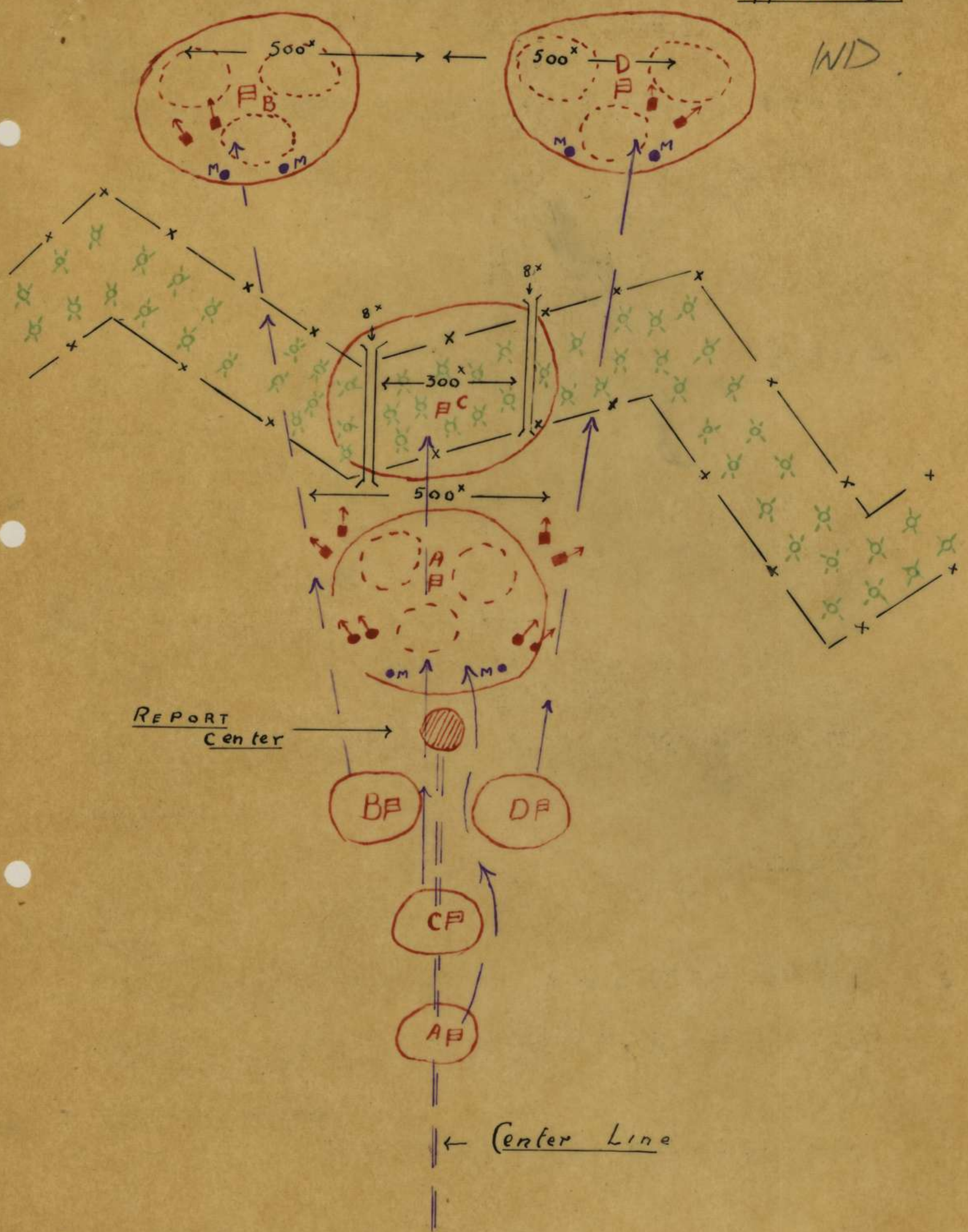
— 20 Sep —

2/23 Aust Inf Bn O.O. EX. (Western Desert) No 3

Formation of Bn Bridgehead over Minefield without Engrs

Appendix B

IND



Scale 1cm = 100x

I Sec. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
20 Sep 42

2/23 AUST INF BN - NIGHT EXERCISE 21/22 SEP 42

1. OBJECT

To further develop the lessons learnt during recent Div controlled exercise, and in particular to :

1. Test the use of Lucas lamp with special Coy colours.
2. Practice Coy drills for clearance of mined gaps.
3. Practice in traffic control.
4. Experiment with methods of avoiding damage to sig cable by tracked vehs.

The tactical picture in this exercise is of minor importance. The main object is to gain practice in above.

2. GENERAL IDEA

2/23 Aust Inf Bn with, in sp

X Bty 2/50 Aust Fd Regt,

has been ordered to capture the low ridge NORTH of Old MATRUH Rd as shown on Appx "A" to OO Ex (Western Desert) No 3.

After first light with additional sp

200 RTR, less 1 sqn
(Represented by 2 Secs
of No 4 (Carr) Pl)

the Bn is to adv to the second objective - ridge SOUTH of ry from Pt 23 in sq 435898 to Pt 21 in sq 436898.

3. NARRATIVE

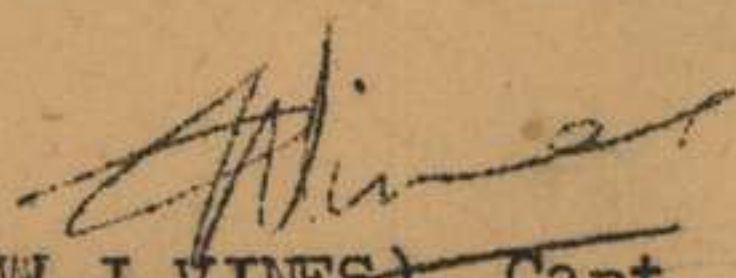
At 2330 hrs on night 21 Sep 42 2/23 Aust Inf Bn is in FUP adjusting Coy disposns on taped Start Line. 200 RTR (less 1 sqn) is in leaguer in wadi 43509018 to 43600020.

4. ENEMY

- (i) Composition issued separately to OC Enemy - Lieut R B BOULTER.
- (ii) Enemy plan will be co-ordinated by Maj R E WALL, who will issue instns direct to OC.

5. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

NO ball amn will be loaded. Bayonets will NOT be fixed.


(W J VINES) Capt
Adit 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBN

As for 2/23 Aust Inf Bn OO Exercise (WD) No 3.
Plus - Lieut R B BOULTER
" A BATESON.

Appx. 13.
File:

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Ref Maps : EL ALAMEIN 1:50,000
 EL QASABA 1:50,000

SECRET

COPY NO 27

22 Sep 42

2/23 AUST INF BN OO NO 12

INF

1. Vide latest sitreps, summaries and 26 Bde Int. Report No 2 att Appx "A".
2. On occupation of fwd bde sector, 26 Aust Inf Bde will have the following additional tos in sp :

C Sqn 9 Aust Cav
2/7 Aust Fd Regt
9 Aust A Tk Bty
10 Aust Lt AA Bty
2/13 Aust Fd Coy
A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn (plus one pl B Coy)
12 Coy AASC
2/3 Aust Fd Amb

INTENTION

3. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will relieve 2/13 Aust Inf Bn in right fwd sector.

METHOD

4. Relief will take place night 22/23 Sep 42 and will be completed by 2400 hrs 22 Sep.
5. Subunits will relieve opposite sub-units of 2/13 Bn as reced.
6. Adv Parties as already ordered.
7. Route. Main Rd - rd junc 88042973 - rd junc 88152991 thence coast track WEST.
8. Guides in Fwd Area. Meeting pt will be advised later.
9. Order of March
 - (a) BHQ, C, D, A, B, HQ Coys.
 - (b) Head of coln passes minefd gap 43069017 Locality A at 1930 hrs.
10. Speed, Density - 12½ mih, 30 vtm.
11. Tp Carriers
 - (a) Allotment.

Each Rifle Coy	4
HQ Coy	3
BHQ	1
 - (b) Sub-unit Guides. Report Tpt Sgt HHQ 1645 hrs to guide vehs to Coys.

On completion of fwd move of each sub-unit, this tpt will lift outgoing sub-units 2/13 Bn.

12. Patrolling. Responsibility 2/13 Bn up to and INCL night 22/23 Sep.
13. Handover. All documents, traces etc, relative to Locality A will be handed over to incoming unit.

ADM

14. Res - Locality A

(a) Rations - 3 days veh ration will be taken fwd.

(b) POL - 100 miles res per veh will accompany vehs fwd.

(c) Amn - Spec Locality res dumps will be handed over to incoming sub-units and receipts obtained (triplicate) in accordance with pro-formas and instns previously issued.

15. Res - 2/13 Bn Area

(a) Rations, Water - Spec FDL res will be taken over on relief. 2 copies of receipts to BHQ by 2400 hrs 23 Sep 42.

(b) Amn - Spec amn res will also be taken over. Receipts to BHQ as above.

16. Wpns

(a) All wpns will be taken fwd.

(b) Two copies of receipts for foreign wpns passing on relief to this Bn will be fwded to BHQ by 2400 hrs 23 Sep 42.

17. Amn - First line holdings will be taken fwd.

18. Sups etc

(a) Sup Pt - Notified daily to QM.

(b) PP - " " " "

(c) AP - Continuous at 42559025.

(d) WP - EAST of EL ALAMEIN Sta.

19. Rec

(a) 78 Aust LAD to be at 88892952.

(b) Rec Post of 1 Rec Sec 2/1 Aust Fd Wkshops will be located at 42459030.

(c) "G" Div Sec 1 Aust Ord Fd Pk now located at 89082932. 78 Aust LAD may deal direct from this sec.

20. Med - 2/8 Aust Fd Amb will be in sp of 26 Aust Inf Bde

ADS established at 88272981

MDS established at 89042943.

21. FW - 9 Aust Div Cage at 89132932.

22. B Ech

(a) Location 88762948.

(b) Move under direction QM. To be completed by 1200 hrs 23 Sep.

INTERCOMM

23. (a) BHQ closes present location 1925 hrs, reopens 87683018 at 2200 hrs.

(b) 26 Bde HQ remains present location until 1800 hrs 23 Sep, reopens 88023007 same time.

24. Synchronisation. 1600 hrs through Sigs.

ACK

Signed at 1100 hrs
issued through *[initials]*

[Signature]
for
(W J VINES) Capt
Adit 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBN

Copy	No	1	CO
"	"	2	2 i/c
"	"	3	Adjt
"	"	4	IO
"	"	5	RMO
"	"	6/7	HQ Coy
"	"	8	No 1 (Sig) P1
"	"	9	No 3 (Mor) P1
"	"	10	No 4 (Car) P1
"	"	11	No 5 (Pnr) P1
"	"	12	A Tk P1
"	"	13	MIG P1
"	"	14	QM
"	"	15	TO
"	"	16	A Coy
"	"	17	B "
"	"	18	C "
"	"	19	D "
"	"	20	RSM
"	"	21	101 Tp-Carrying Coy
"	"	22	2/13 Aust Inf Bn
"	"	23	26 Aust Inf Bde
"	"	24	War Diary
"	"	25	" "
"	"	26	File
"	"	27	File

Ref Map : EL ALAMEIN 1:50,000.

1. GENERAL

There have been no marked alterations in the line of enemy FDLs as depicted on the EL ALAMEIN overprint 23 Aug 42.

The latest infm shows that these FDLs are a series of strong pts protected by wire, mines and booby traps. British, German, Italian and French mines have been used. Behind these strong posts and up to 5 kilos in rear the enemy has prepared his defended line. In this northern sector there have been many enemy working parties, generally guarded by strong patrols. This seems to indicate that the enemy is strengthening his northern posts.

The enemy consists of German and Italian units which have probably had the opportunity to bring their complements to full strength. Some PsW have been recent reinfts to these units.

The role in which the German is using the Italian is already well known, but it is pointed out that in this sector there is no very great preponderance of Italians over Germans as in the sector immediately to the SOUTH.

2. DISPOSNS

From coast to northing grid 290 the enemy order of battle is as follows :-

Situated on the coast is a small pocket of ITALIANS (probably Bersagheri); then comes the 125 Inf Regt, the bns of which are dispersed as follows :-

- 3 Bn 305 northing grid to main rd
- 1 Bn main rd to ry
- 2 Bn ry to 300 northing grid

382 Inf Regt

- 1 Bn 300 northing grid to 298
- 3 Bn 298 northing grid to 296

62 Inf Regt

- 1 Bn 296 northing grid to 294 or 300 northing grid to 299

382 Inf Regt

- 2 Bn 296 northing grid to 294

62 Inf Regt

- 3 Bn 294 northing grid to 292
- 2 Bn 291 northing grid to 290?

3. STRENGTH

164 Inf Div

- 125 Inf Regt
 - 8 37 mm A Tk 8 Inf guns 2500 men
- 382 Inf Regt
 - 8 37 mm A Tk 8 Inf guns 2500 men

433 Inf Regt

A Tk and Inf gun coys not yet equipped
men ?

Estimate 11 Aug 42 - Div strength 48 guns incl inf. guns
45 A Tk 10000 men.

TRENTO DIV

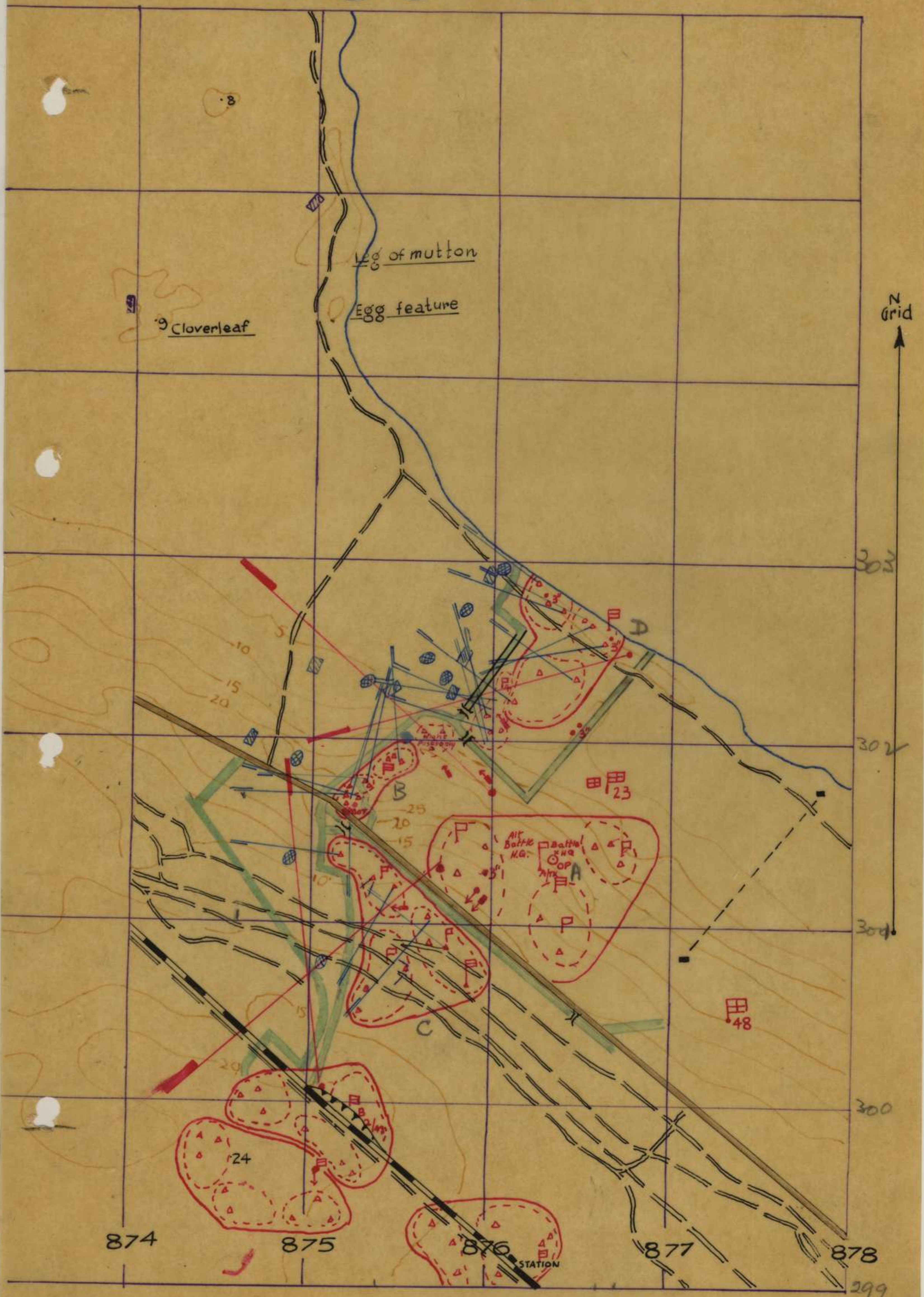
62 Inf Regt

3 bns each of 4 coys - regt mortar coy, 36 A Tk guns, strength 2057.

Div strength	6664	48 Fd
	9 x 77/28	72 A Tk

Enlargement 2/23 Bn Disposns - Ref EL ALAMEIN 1:50,000

Sector A *Appx 14*



RF 1:25,000
VI 5 Metres

Int. Sec.
2/23 Aust. Inf. Bn
1 Oct 42.

Ref Map : EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000.

26 Sep 42.

INFM

1. Enemy Disposns - Vide current Summaries, Sitreps, and as supplied with Warning Order.
2. Own Tps - Vide trace issued separately to all Coys.
Res Coy 2/23 Aust Inf Bn has in sp :-
2 Dets No 3 (Mor) Pl.

INTENTION

3. Res Coy (less one Pl) with Mortars in sp, will deliver an immediate counter-attack to restore any Sector of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn front.

METHOD

4. Sector sub-divisions -

2/23 Aust Inf Bn front is divided into three sectors, each separated by transverse minefd leg (vide att trace Appx A).

- Sector A - Coast to first minefd.
- Sector B - First to second minefd along Main Rd.
- Sector C - SOUTH of Main Rd to Bn left boundary.

5. Assembly Area - Res Coy posn (Vide trace Appx A).

6. Warning Order -

Res Coy will be prepared to cross start line for counter-attack in any sector of Bn front within 15 minutes of receipt of warning order.

7. Infm with Warning Order -

On issue of Warning Order, BHQ will indicate :-

- (a) Bearing to objective.
- (b) Approx strength of breakthrough and gap width.
- (c) Arty and MMF sp available.

8. Preparation Tasks -

- (a) Res Coy - Will forthwith :-

- (i) Recce shortest route to centre of each of the three Bn sectors.
- (ii) Lay out suitable start lines for counter-attack in each sector.
- (iii) Prepare Coy counter-attack order.
- (iv) Carry out practice alarms and moves to start line for each sector. Such practices to be notified in adv to BHQ.

- (b) No 3 (Mor) Pl - will :-

- (i) Prepare posns for two dets to sp counter-attack. These posns will be such as to enable fire to be brought down on gaps in Bn front indicated in Warning Order.
- (ii) Establish liaison with OC Res Coy.

ADM

9. Ann - Normal attack scale. Bn SAA res - present location.

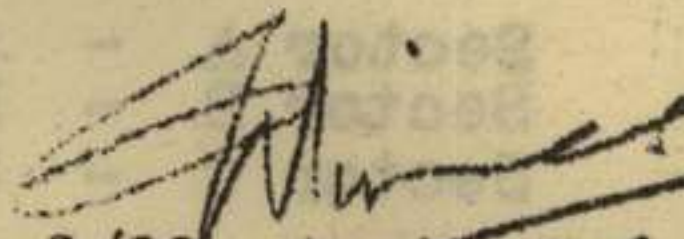
- 10. Rations, Water - Normal attack scale.
- 11. Tpt - Coy A Ech veh to be kept loaded with re-orgzn stores.
- 12. Med -
 - (a) 4 SB's with Res Coy.
 - (b) RAP - Present location.
- 13. Psw -
 - (a) RP's will operate PW cage in Assembly Area.
 - (b) Psw passed back to 9 Aust Div Cage at 89132932.

INTERCOMN

- 14. (a) No 18 Set with Res Coy. Control sta BHQ.
- (b) L/T - Linesmen will follow Coy. Res of cable to be held at Coy HQ.
- (c) V/T - Lucas lamp with Coy colour flashed rearwards, to indicate success.
- (d) BHQ - Remains present location unless otherwise notified.

ACK

Signed at 1715 hrs and issued through Sigs.


 Adit. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
 (W. J. VINES)

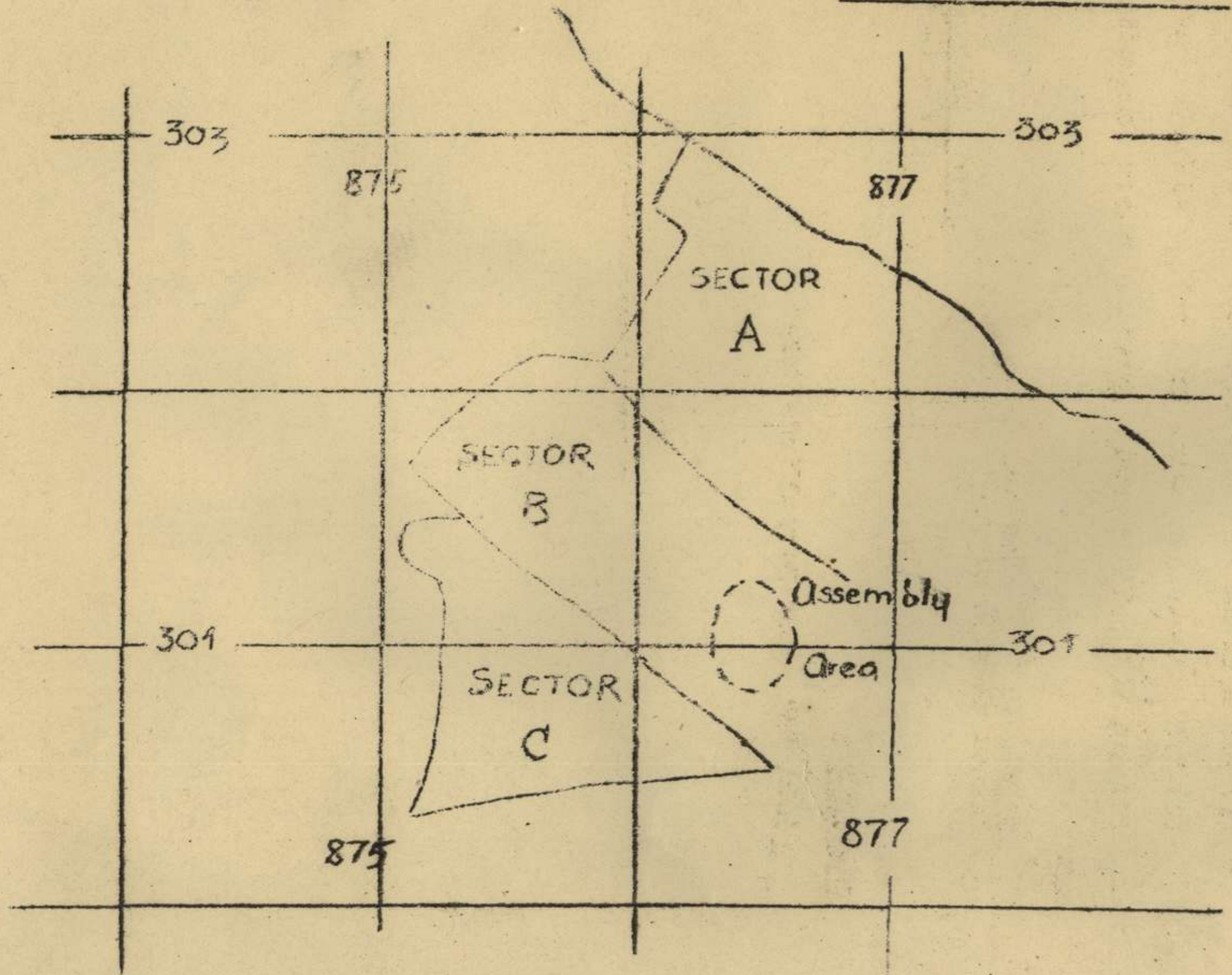
DISTRIBN :

List "B", plus Duty Offr's File.

Sector Subdivisions - ²/₂₃ AUST. INF BN FRONT - RF. 1:25,000

Issued as APPX A to ²/₂₃ Aust Inf Bn O O No 13

Ref: EL ALAMEIN - 1:50,000



2/23 AUST INF BN OP INSTN NO 5

29 Sep 42.

Ref Map : EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000.

INFM

1. (a) Enemy -
Wide Intelligence Summaries, Patrol and Outpost Reports.
- (b) Own Tps -
14 Bty, 2/7 Aust Fd Regt, and one Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn, are in sp harassing fire tasks of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

INTENTION

2. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will carry out concentrated shoots on known enemy posns.

METHOD

3. Shoot to be in accordance with Table at Appx A, on targets vide Appx B.
4. All rounds and bombs to fall within confines of square indicated.
5. Coys will instruct outposts to listen and observe for effects.
6. Coys will adjust all patrols to fit in with Appx A.
7. Synchronisation -
Watches synchronised at Comd Post at 1800 hrs daily.

8. Gun Posns -

Shoots will NOT be carried out from Coy localities. Temporary posns will be occupied and vacated immediately after shoot. Mortars and MMGs posns fwd of FDLs.

INTER-COMM

9. Coys will fwd reports to BHQ with morning patrol reports.
10. Any change in Time Table will be notified 24 hrs beforehand.

ACK

Signed at 2130 hrs and issued through Sigs.

W. J. Vines
Capt
Adit. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
(W. J. VINES)

DISTRIBN

Copy No	1	A Coy	Copy No	10	Adjt
" "	2	B "	" "	11	IO
" "	3	C "	" "	12	14 Bty 2/7 Fd Regt
" "	4	D "	" "	13	A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn
" "	5	HQ "	" "	14	2/48 Aust Inf Bn
" "	6	No 3 (Mor) Pl	" "	15	26 Aust Inf Bde
" "	7	No 4 (Car) Pl	" "	16	War Diary
" "	8	CO	" "	17	" "
" "	9	2 i/c	" "	18	File

APPX "A"

TO 2/23 AUST INF BN OP INSTN NO 5

Date	Unit	Zero		Target vide Appx B	Remarks
		From	To		
1 Oct	2/2 Aust MG Bn 14 Bty 2/7 Fd Regt No 3 (Mor) Pl	0630 0634 0643	0633 0636 0646	No 1 " "	One Coy to fire Gunfire 3 Mortars 150 bombs
2 Oct	2/2 Aust MG Bn 14 Bty 2/7 Fd Regt No 3 (Mor) Pl	2030 2034 2043	2033 2036 2046	No 2 " "	As above " "
3 Oct	2/2 Aust MG Bn 14 Bty 2/7 Fd Regt No 3 (Mor) Pl	2030 2034 2046	2033 2036 2049	No 3 " "	As above " "
4 Oct	2/2 Aust MG Bn 14 Bty 2/7 Fd Regt No 3 (Mor) Pl	0530 0534 0538	0533 0536 0541	No 2 " "	As above " "
5 Oct	2/2 Aust MG Bn 14 Bty 2/7 Fd Regt No 3 (Mor) Pl	0630 0634 0642	0633 0636 0645	No 3 " "	As above " "
6 Oct	2/2 Aust MG Bn 14 Bty 2/7 Fd Regt No 3 (Mor) Pl	2100 2104 2112	2103 2106 2115	No 4 " "	As above " "
7 Oct	2/2 Aust MG Bn 14 Bty 2/7 Fd Regt No 3 (Mor) Pl	2200 2204 2209	2203 2206 2212	No 1 " "	As above " "

305

Appx B

HARASSING TASKS

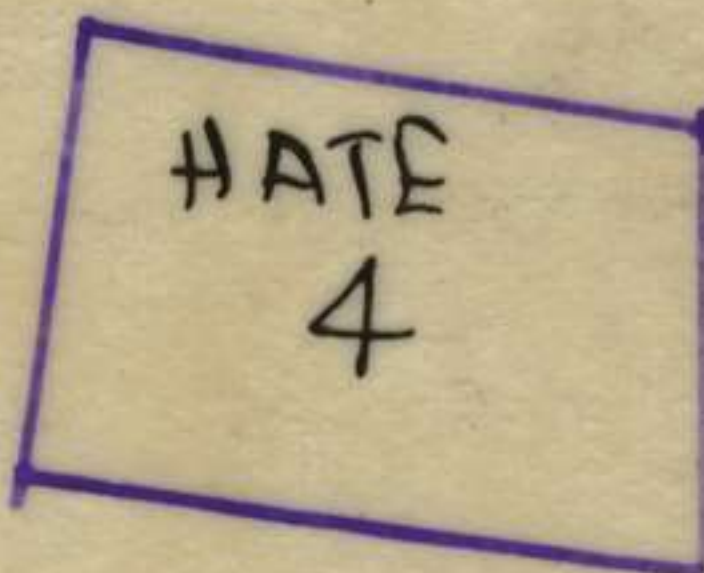
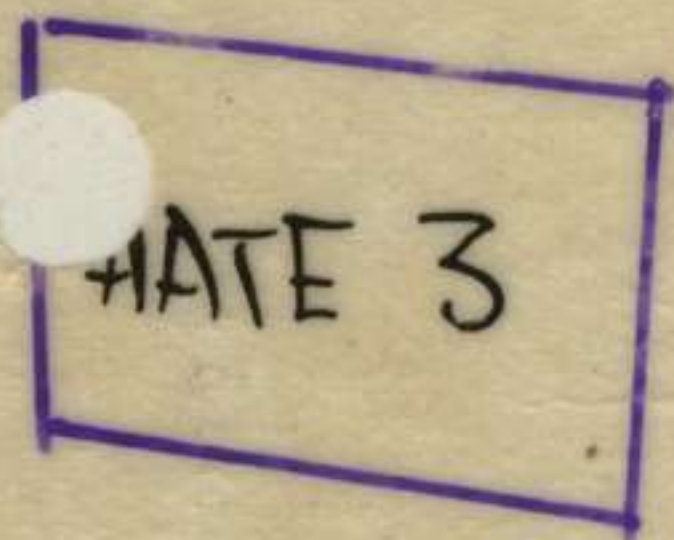
Ref EL ALAMEIN 1:50,000

RF 1:25,000



303

874



2/23 Bn Inf Sec
29 Sep 42

Appx. 17.

W.D.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
In the Fd,
29 Sep 42.

Herewith is fwded a summary of main ideas presented by Coys in their respective reports on battle drill (Pls).

Coy Comds are requested to study same so that at the next Coy Comds conference they will be able to discuss the various suggestions and offer criticism.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

SUMMARY OF MAIN IDEAS PRESENTED BY COYS IN

REPORT ON BATTLE DRILL - PLS

1. Offrs Eqpt

- A Coy : Binoculars in shirt, map in pocket, carry wpn, possibly Bren Gummer's rifle.
- B Coy : Mens eqpt, rifle, binoculars in shirt or basic pouch, pistol and compass, map unmarked in basis pouch. 2 36 Grenades, whistle.
- C Coy : Compass, binoculars, pistol, verey pistol, two red, two green cartridges by day, plus two illuminating by night, one shovel.
- D Coy : Exactly same as men plus compass carried in pocket, binoculars inside shirt. Map carried inside shirt. Pistol carried in haversack.

2. Location of Pl HQ.

- A Coy : With res sec in same formation as fwd Coys.
- B Coy : As a separate sec, in same formation as other secs, in rear of leading sec or secs on right flank.
- C Coy : 75x in rear of inside sec.
- D Coy : Pl Comd and orderly as rear file of either fwd sec. Pl Sgt and batman as leading file of res sec.

3. Formation

- A Coy : Secs will move under shellfire in file, each man four paces apart and each single file 8 yds apart. When within small arms range extended order will be adopted with sec leader on inside. 75x gap between leading two secs. Res sec 75x in rear.
- B Coy : During adv, secs in arrowhead formation. 75x gap between leading secs. Res sec 50x in rear of No 1 sec. Pl HQ in rear No 2 Sec.
- C Coy : Staggered arrowhead, 3 paces between men until range of SA fire is reached, thence open out to 8 paces. Sec leader in centre of sec.
- D Coy : Secs in file with 10 yds between each man. To move within shouting distance of Pl HQ. When SA fire encountered change to extended line.

4. Wpns and Amn

- A Coy : 2" mortar to be taken into attack. Amn normal scale. ST Gren 2 per sec carried in haversack.
- B Coy : Mortar, 6 smoke 6 HE bombs. All ranks carry 2 36 Gren. 200 rds SAA per rifle and TSMG, 400 rds SAA per IMG.
- C Coy : Verey pistol, 2" mortar, 6 HE bombs, 250 rds each TSMG. 50 rds per rifleman, 2x36 and 2x68 Gren per sec.
- D Coy : Pl comd TSMG or rifle. 2" mortar and amn. A Tk rifle will NOT be carried into attack, but come up with A Ech tpt. Rifles 100 rds. Each man to carry 2x36 1x73 Gren. 3x68 and 3x69 Gren per sec. 250 rds per IMG.

5. Picks and Shovels

- A Coy : Carried on the man slung through haversack on back. Two picks 4 shovels per sec.
- B Coy : Pl HQ 3 shovels. Sec 1 pick 3 shovels.
- C Coy : Pl HQ 1 pick 1 shovel. Sec 2 picks 3 shovels carried in sandbag slung across soldiers back.
- D Coy : 1 pick or shovel per man to be carried into the attack.

to be attacked
More shovels less picks if ground/is known to be soft.

6. INTER-COMM

- A Coy : Voice control only in Pl. No waving of arms about.
- B Coy : Pl Comd carries whistle. Voice control.
- C Coy : Res sec within voice control. Runner will NOT be used unless absolutely necessary.
- D Coy : Pl HQ always within shouting distance. Verbal control and hand sigs. From pl to coy by hand sigs where practicable, otherwise by runner.

7. SUNDRY SUGGESTIONS

- A Coy : Brens should not be carried across the shoulder. Considered that centre is logical target. Therefore leaders should keep to flanks. Should be no waving of arms about when giving orders. All PW to be handled by res sec. Where possible, sec leaders should be given pl objective and make for pts 30x on either side of it. Haversack will be carried on back. Pl frontage in manpower should be 75x.
- B Coy : On receipt of warning order all papers by which enemy might obtain identification to be bundled and placed in sec sandbags and sent to pl HQ for despatch to coy 2 1/c.
- C Coy : No haversacks to be carried.
- D Coy : Respirators to be left with A Ech tpt. Haversacks at side, as if on back when men go to ground they are a good target through haversack sticking up. Telephone D Mk V to be carried into attack by batman.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE


SECRET
3 Sep 42.

2/23 Aust Inf Bn Adm Instn No 3

Res - Locality A

1. This instn deals with handover of special locality res of sups, water, amn, POL. Unless specifically ordered, normal Unit and Coy res (3 days) of sups, water and amn will not be handed over to incoming Unit on relief.
2. Location of dumps in each coy area are to be indicated to representative of incoming Unit, and detailed check of res made with such representative.
3. Receipts
 - (a) In detail for handover of stores, are att to this instn. Receipts will be obtained for contents of each dump, and will be completed in triplicate, one copy to be retained by incoming Unit, two copies fwded to QM within 12 hrs of completion of relief.
 - (b) As it is not anticipated that these res will be used prior to relief of bn in this area, Coys and Pls will, as soon as possible, complete details of quantities etc on receipts, in anticipation of relief.
4. QM will check Coy receipts and fwd copy to BHQ, together with copy of receipts for B Ech res and special bn 2 day res, for transmission to 26 Aust Inf Bde.

ACK


Adit. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. Capt Bn.

DISTRIBN :

Adm Instn No 3

Pro-forma Receipts

Copy No	1	HQ Coy	12
" "	2	A "	12
" "	3	B "	12
" "	4	C "	12
" "	5	D "	12
" "	6	QM	12
" "	7	RSM	3
" "	8	CO	1
" "	9	Adjt	1
" "	10	War Diary	1
" "	11	" "	1
" "	12	File	1
" "	13	" "	3
" "	14	26 Bde (For infm)	3

WD.

Appx. 19

26 AUST INF BDE TRG INSTN NO 3

1. During the next 14 to 21 days, 26 Aust Inf Bde and tps under comd will train intensively to prepare for the resumption of the offensive.
2. Attack and exploitation in all phases will be practised and the following pts will receive thorough attention :
 - (a) Recce and lifting of enemy minefids and booby traps.
 - (b) Capture of posns to cover (a) above.
 - (c) Capture of enemy defences with and without tks.
 - (d) Rapid reorgzn.
 - (e) Mopping up.
 - (f) Exploitation using bn sp wps and observed arty sp.
3. Exploitation will be practiced with and without tks with special attention to :
 - (a) Capture of additional areas in depth to secure posns gained incl enemy OP areas.
 - (b) Location, lifting and marking gaps of enemy minefids in depth.
 - (c) Rapid reorgzn incl all round fire of all arms.
4. In implementing this policy of trg, the period 14 - 20 Sep will be devoted to unit trg with all arm sp.
The period 21 - 26 Sep will be devoted to Bde trg.
5. Such further period as may be available thereafter will be devoted to recapitulation and special attention to certain phases which require it.
6. Units will give every thought to methods of maintaining the impetus of the attack by the rapid use of res to meet unexpected situations.
7. The importance of the passage of infm in battle must be drilled into every individual. A comd can only carry out his function successfully if he has accurate infm.
In this connection, the importance of comms in battle cannot be overstressed.
8. There has been a tendency in units to overlook V/T comms in battle.
All units possess heliographs and Lucas lamps and, used securely, these represent a reliable means of comms only slightly lower than W/T or L/T.
9. In all future exercises within this bde, each phase will include an unexpected situation involving a quick decision exercise for the unit or sub-unit comds concerned. Under no circumstances will an exercise consist of an uneventful move from a start line to an objective.

10. In all exercises, particular attention will be paid to the tactical handling of the 2" mortar in order by trg to make the fullest use of the characteristics of the weapon.
11. Success in any operation is in most cases the result of being able to forestall ones enemy. To do this against our present enemy we must think in terms of the greatest possible speed - this is attained by :
 - (a) Anticipation - try and see his pt of view.
 - (b) Quick thinking and rapid planning.
 - (c) Rapid and accurate comms.
 - (d) High trg in battle drill.
12. During all exercises, Units will ensure that the next for comd both of the unit and subunit is fully in the picture and capable of taking over the unit at any pt in the exercise.

"Casualties" will be created during exercises in order to test this pt.
13. The previous div trg area has been partially occupied and a recce is now being made to delimit a new area. As soon as this posn is clear, bn trg areas will be notified.
14. Co-operation in exercises of sp arms incl tks will be arranged through these HQ.
15. Units will submit as early as practicable syllabus of trg covering bn trg period to include the following exercises under bde control.
 - 17 Sep - 2/48 Bn with sp arms - Capture of enemy FDLs incl making gap in minefd and rapid reorgzn.
 - 18 Sep - 2/23 Bn with sp arms - Capture of enemy FDLs incl making gap in minefd and rapid reorgzn.
 - 19 Sep - 2/24 Bn with sp arms - Capture of enemy FDLs incl making gap in minefd and rapid reorgzn.

Minefd to be used will be laid specially unarmed for the purpose.

(C H FINLAY) Major
BM 26 AUST INF BDE.

Appx. 200.

File

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
In the Rd,
28 Sep 42.



BN REST CAMP

1. Operating as from night 29 Sep 42, a Bn Rest Camp will be established, situated on beach, 100x EAST of HQ Coy.
2. Personnel, on basis of two per Pl, will be despatched per returning evening ration truck, and will remain for 24 hrs, returning to their Coys on upward trip of ration truck.
3. Personnel selected will be those who, in the opinion of the OC Coy, are most in need of a rest.
4. Personnel arriving first night will bring picks and shovels to dig themselves in, and will take these back with them when returning the next day. Succeeding personnel will occupy these diggings.
5. Coys will supply desert shelters at rate of two per pl. These shelters will remain at Rest Camp during its continuance, and will be returned to respective Coys when the Camp is discontinued.
6. QM will establish a kitchen on site at present being utilised as kitchen by HQ Coy, and will provide first meal on morning of 30 Sep.
7. HQ Coy personnel at present in this locality will be rationed from this kitchen.
8. HQ Coy will be responsible for the discipline and good running of the Camp, and will return daily ration strength to BHQ.
9. All personnel returning to their Coys will leave the area clean and tidy, and in good order for the incoming personnel.

W. J. Vines
Adit. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
(W. J. VINES)

DISTRIBN :

- A Coy
- B "
- C "
- D "
- HQ "
- QM
- RMO
- Padre
- CO
- 2 i/c
- File.

Appx. 21.

SECRET
(To be destroyed within 48 hrs).

2/23 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO111

(Based on infm received to 1400 hrs 30 Aug)

30 Aug 42

Ref Maps : EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000.

1. GENERAL

There has been considerable arty activity incl a hy exchange of fire from 2030 to 2130 hrs 28 Aug in the Central Sector.

A patrol in area 873297 sighted a party of 20 Germans wearing steel helmets, and a second patrol saw two gps of 25 to 30 each Italians in the area 87442949, but no close contact was made in these or other sectors.

"The following infm has been obtained from an escaped Libyan Arab soldier.

On 20 Jul an enemy force composed of Italians with a German HQ entered SIWA, consisting of 30 soldiers in two lorries and an aeroplane carrying 6 persons. A third lorry had been apparently blown up by a mine at GIARABUB. There was thought to be an A Tk gun mounted in a truck.

On 25 Jul several planes and an unspecified number of cars arrived and were dispersed over the oasis. It is believed that posts were made on the rds to QARA, MATRUH and GIARABUB.

A hy AA gun was mounted in the compound of the rest-house.

Although the source had heard that tks and armd Cs had been seen, he had not seen any. The lorries were Italian 6-wheeled Diesel type and the planes were twin-engined German.

By the 28 Jul it was estimated that there were about 600 enemy tps in the oasis, of which the Italians were apparently Blackshirts. It is believed that some "Young Fascists" had been recently sent to GIARABUB and it is not unlikely that these had also been given the opportunity of taking possession of the already evacuated SIWA".

2. ENEMY MORALE

The deserter from 10 Coy 39 IR BOLOGNA Div is of Slav origin, and deserted with the intention of fighting against his former masters. He states that he discussed his intention to desert quite openly, and ten other men of Slav origin and some others would have come too but for fear of what might happen to their families at home. The PW packed his kit, said good-bye to the sentry and asked him not to shoot" because he was only deserting". The sentry wished him luck and regretted he could not accompany him. The prisoner said that the offr's had put the fear of God into the men by telling them that Aust and NZ tps killed all PWs.

3. ENEMY METHODS

- (a) Patrol in area 87572918 night 27/28 Aug found a gp of about 10 derelict vehs. Mines and booby traps were scattered throughout these vehs with a large number of trip wires att to sticks and bushes.
- (b) Patrol reports booby trap consisting of an Italian rifle connected to a Mk IV mine.
- (c) According to an order published end of Jul, all villages on the south coast of HERAKLION province were to be evacuated. The area affected was from the LASSITHI province only to AG.GALENE for a depth of 5 miles from the coast. Armed patrols would be sent out and anyone seen in the area after 3 Aug would be shot.

Comment - The guarding of the Cretan coastline against sabotage parties appears to exercise the enemy considerably. The above order is doubtless his solution for coping with the situation with a reduced garrison.

4. ENEMY EOPT

An AP shell which fell in area 881293 27 Aug has been identified as a German 50 mm. Markings on base are indistinct but appear to read :- "41 JVI 153 C RES" with figures "13" on other side of base.

5. GROUND OPS

Our arty continued their HF on an increased scale throughout 28 Aug. During HF at 0730 hrs an enemy dump was hit approx 87243022 which was still burning at 1030 hrs.

Our CB fire silenced 6 enemy guns at 86673035 and these guns were rapidly withdrawn.

During night 28/29 Aug a patrol saw an Italian party of 25 men at 87442949. Our patrol opened fire and the enemy replied with a few rifle shots before withdrawing south. A scout saw a further gp of 30 enemy in the same area but these moved away before they could be engaged.

Enemy inf and MT at 866305 were reported engaged and dispersed by our arty at 1230 hrs 29 Aug.

Flanking formation reports that during night 28/29 Aug in area 878290 40 enemy advancing in open order were engaged by one of our patrols at 50 yards range. Enemy party suffered casualties.

Sound of movement of hy MT and/or AFVs along track following 25 contour along 8675 easting grid was reported for 1 hr after last light 28 Aug.

6. METEOROLOGICAL

Moon rises at 2215 hrs.

7. AIR OPS

At 1945 hrs an enemy bomber was seen flying west over the div area with smoke pouring from one engine.

Our fighter bombers by day and Wellingtons by night continue their attacks on enemy rear areas.

Boston bombers on 25 Aug report destruction of at least 4 MT and a Hurricane fighter intercepted and shot down a JU88 engaged on recce of the Delta area.

Low
St Jn *K. I. Benson* Lieut
IO, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
(K. I. BENSON)

(a) Patrol in area 877218 sight 2/28 Aug found a gp of about 10 German Veps. Mines and body traps were scattered throughout these veps with a large number of traps wired off to sticks and ditches.

(b) Patrol in area 866305 engaged enemy arty at 1230 hrs 29 Aug. Our arty dispersed the enemy.

(c) According to an order published end of Jul, all villages on the south coast of HELLASION province were to be evacuated. The area affected was from the IASSIHI province only to the south for a depth of 5 miles from the coast. All patrols would be sent out and anyone seen in the area after 3 Aug would be shot.

Comment - The guarding of the Greek coastline against sabotage parties appears to exercise the enemy considerably. The above order is doubtless his solution for coping with the situation with a reduced garrison.

105

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

SECRET

(To be destroyed within 48 hrs)

2/23 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY NO 112

(Based on infm received to 1400 hrs 1 Sep)

1 Sep 42.

1. GENERAL

Period of quiet was broken with activity on almost every part of the front, from the coast to QATTARA Depression.

Enemy launched an unsuccessful raid on our FDLs supported by arty, mortar and MG fire.

Flanking units staged raids on enemy lines, one party taking PW, 55 Italians of 1/61 IR TRENTO, and one German from 1/433 IR. Another formation took 30 Italian PW but so far we have not been advised of identification.

Enemy, believed German Paratps attacked RUWEISAT Ridge 0330 hrs and after some initial success were driven out by 0607 hrs. No tks were used.

Enemy main drive with armour is operating south 260 grid. First engaged by our tps at 0130 hrs, enemy have made some progress moving generally east to ENE and fighting is still going on. It appears that elements at least of both 15 and 21 Armd Divs are involved in the south. 90 Lt Div is also reported in this area. There are, however, no reports of enemy inf being engaged.

A British OR reached our lines during the night after having escaped from TOBRUK and spending the intervening time in the desert. He had started with a party of over 100 strong but it gradually dwindled as more and more were captured. He had marched on his own from the vicinity of SOLIUM. The general procedure was to walk by the beach turning inland when opposition was encountered. He states that most of the MT used by the enemy appears to be British. He reports by and continuous blasting ops on the SOLIUM escarpment and many vehs transporting cement to that area. He existed on what food and water he could find, principally cheese, or what food was provided for him by Senoussi. He found the Senoussi friendly and helpful.

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS

PWs confirmed the present general allotment of units on Div front. I/125 IR, previously of doubtful location is stated by PW to have elements at least between main rd and ry. This may mean that both I/125 IR and II/125 IR are between the ry and northing 300. This is borne out by the PWs statements of the depth of the posns. Layout is said to be fwd wire and minefields 1 km sq with strongpts in between them. Main coy posns are then some distance to the rear (none of the PWs could give any clear idea of distance). PWs also stated that, strongposts were alternatively German and Italian and further a screen of Italians was often placed fwd of the minefields and wire in dug-in posns to act as "Bait" for our patrols.

3. ENEMY METHODS

Sp for raid on our FDLs was provided by MGs and mortars well fwd on the flanks. Attempts had been made to dig these wpns in as far fwd as our minefields. At least one 20 mm posn was found close to our lines by daylight mopping up patrols. PW states these wpns intended to give very close sp during the actual assault.

Recently captured documents show that the Italians when in a defensive posn endeavour to put out short ranging posts for the A Tk guns at a distance of 300 metres. These are apparently marked in facing their own lines. 400 metres in front of their posn and at greater distances piles of stones with scrub on top are said to be erected for the same purpose.

British OR who walked into our lines reports the use of an object similar in size and appearance to a 12-volt car battery. These objects are laid in a chain of groups of five across his front immediately behind hos foremost posns. They are wired together with hy insulated wire. It was not able to be seen how the wire was att to the objects as the wire passed under a lid which could not be raised. One of the wires was cut with a clasp knife and proved to be very strong. The nature or purpose of these machines is not known.

4. GROUND OPS

At 2350 hrs enemy of approx strength 80 attacked our FDLs in area of CAIRN 875296 and at 0035 hrs two parties each of similar size moved against our posns north and south of ry at TWIN 24 feature and NE of Trig 33.

The attacks were preceded by arty and hy MG fire, the MGs and mortars later being brought well fwd to give sp to the raid. Arty SOS fire was called for, which combined with vigorous small arms fire of our fwd tps, rendered the attacks abortive in all sectors. Casualties were inflicted on the enemy and 4 PWs, two of whom were wounded were taken in the Trig 33 area. One was believed to be from 220 Engr Bn (badly wounded) and the others from III/125 IR.

At 0420 hrs the enemy made a further attempt on our posns. The arty again fired and this second attempt met with no more success than the first. Two further German PWs were taken, one from I/382 IR in vicinity CAIRN, and the others from I/125 IR 875301. By 0800 hrs situation was again normal.

PWs stated that the ops were raids only with the object of taking PWs.

5. AIR OPS

F and recce patrols were active over the fwd areas.

Boston B, until grounded through extremely poor visibility, inaugurated a "shuttle" service and heavily bombed enemy concentrations in the south. 40 to 50 MT destroyed.

9 JU 87s divebombed our fwd forces area 4288 and two were shot down by AA fire.

6. SUPPLIES

Strat/R 27 Aug reports a train of 20 trucks on the ry. Up to now, trains have consisted of only 5 or 6 trucks and this may indicate the arrival of new locomotives.

7. METEOROLOGICAL

Moon rises night 1/2 at 2355 hrs.
" " " 2/3 at 0015 hrs.

8. WARNING

One enemy UX bomb butterfly type in area 43548971.

A. J. Benson

Lieut
IO 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

War Diary

2/23 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 113

(To be destroyed within 48 hrs)

(Based on infm to 1200 hrs 2 Sep 42.)

3 Sep 42.

1. GENERAL

The activity which commenced night 30/31 Aug was continued on the Div front.

An attack on enemy posns area 872296 to 872297 was carried out on night 31 Aug/1 Sep. A total of 103 PW was taken. PW were all GERMAN and from I and III Bn 382 IR.

Night 1/2 Sep was quiet and only one patrol made contact with the enemy, fire being exchanged without observed results.

In the south the line of thrust appears to be towards ALAM BAOSHAZA and GEBEL BEINGABIR, and on 1 Sep some enemy tks were reported to have reached 435882. These tks were being squeezed out by pressure from the east. This move was apparently successful.

In the afternoon of 1 Sep 150 enemy tks were reported in the area 433878 and it is considered that this is the main German tk strength. The main MT concentrations appear to be 431875 500 MT, 890255 2000 MT and several tks, BIR EL RAGIL 1000 MT. At 427878 there are 75 tks thought to belong to AREITE.

At GABALA a successful action was carried out against enemy MT. There are thought to be no German tps north of 878 northing.

NZ tps in a night patrol knocked out 5 Italian M13 tks. During 1 Sep main enemy activity was apparently recce to find our exact disposns and endeavour to locate any weak pts.

The RAF has been heavily attacking enemy forces, particularly MT concentrations by night and day with some success.

So far no major clashes have occurred between the armd forces but it is estimated that German tk casualties are in the neighbourhood of 40/50 tks out of action.

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS

PW state area west pt 23 held by elements 1 and 111 Bn 382 IR. 111 Coy 382 IR held a fwd posn on the northern side pt 23 with 9 and 10 coys five kms to their rear, 10 Coy on the left. There was one 5 cm A Tk gun with 1 Pl.

In the south disposns on 1 Sep were roughly as follows -

Thesoft skinned vehs of the armd forces were in the general area BIR EL RAGIL with 90 Lt Div to the NW to protect them from our southern flank. To the north and NE of RAGIL were the 15 and 21 Armd Divs. Protecting their right flank were the two German recce units with possibly some Italians.

3. ENEMY METHODS

Among PW cap on night 31/1 Sep were several who had fought in RUSSIA. All these had been wounded in the fighting there and on recovery had been posted to AFRICA.

Further statements by PW showed that prior to the raids carried out on our FDLs night 30/31 Aug, recce had been made of our wire and minefds by small patrols of inf. During the raids engrs had been brought fwd with the inf to blow gaps in our wire.

German anti-personnel S mines have been located at 37273018 with pulltype igniters. Mines are laid in a straight line with taut trip wires fastened to pickets. The mines are laid ten yds apart and the pickets are in between the mines. Each mine has, therefore, two trip wires.

Further to sig I3/1, the following is a description of the 2Kg Butterfly Bomb which it is suspected the enemy has dropped in this area.

2 Kg ANTI-PERSONNEL BOMB (BUTTERFLY BOMB)

This bomb consists of a cylinder 6" long and 2 3/4" in diameter, surrounded by a coiled spring which breaks up into pieces when the bomb explodes. A type slightly larger in diameter may be met with, which has, instead of the coiled spring, double-walled sides filled with shrapnel embedded in concrete. The fuzing consists of an all ways striker, cap, and detonator, and the safety device consists of

a rod which is screwed into the rear of the striker housing and passes through the striker pellet. This rod is withdrawn during the fall of the bomb by the rotation of a single swivelling arming vane.

The bomb is in a safe condition if the safety rod is in posn. If not, the greatest care must be exercised, and the bomb must only be carried with fuze downward. Either the pistol adaptor of the rear end of the bomb should be unscrewed. Both these operations remove the detonator from the filling of the bomb.

ENEMY ORGANIZATION

A PW of 1 Coy, 1 Bn Parachute Regt stated that the Regt is organized into "Kampfgruppen" (Battle Groups) based on the original Bns with sub-units allotted from the Regt's HQ Coy. The basic organization has a Regt of two, three or four Bns and one Hy Coy with an unspecified number of hy MGs, 81 mm mortars and A Tk guns model 41. Each Bn had three coys of three pls, each pl of three rifle secs and a lt mortar sec. The strength of the pl was about 35 all ranks, and of the Coy about 120 all ranks. In addition, tpt and sup personnel with MF were allotted from an unspecified unit, believed to be inf, for the purpose of maintaining the parachutists in a ground role.

The PW added that all the parachute eqpt of the Regt had been left in GERMANY, and that as far as he knew, the Regt had no guns in AFRICA.

5. GROUND OPS

On night 31/1 Sep an attack sp by arty tks and MGs was launched against enemy posns in area 872296 - 872297 with the object of opening a corridor through which a raiding force including tks was to advance into enemy rear areas. The attack went in on time and the capture of the objective was only possible after hard fighting. Hy arty MG and mortar fire was brought to bear on the attackers from enemy posns sited in depth (PWs stated 5 kms). Owing to this very hy opposition the attacking force was unable to open the corridor for exploitation and it and the mobile force were withdrawn to our former posns. Hy casualties are known to have been inflicted on the enemy and 103 German PW incl 6 wounded were taken.

Night 1/2 Sep was quiet and only one patrol made contact with the enemy. Fire was exchanged without observed results. During the night the enemy showed all signs of being extremely nervous, firing illuminating flares without provocation at frequent intervals.

Enemy shelling on our FDLs, especially area ry cutting continued throughout the day.

6. AIR OPS

31 Aug - Ops planned on large scale restricted by dust rising in mid-morning and continuing throughout the day. Hurricanes carried out early recce battle area also strafing ME 109s on DABA LG 20 damaging five. Escorted by Kittyhawks Bostons, Baltimores and B.25 Mitchells delivered two early morning and one late afternoon attacks on hy concentration of ME moving east in southern sector. Bombing most successful and well amongst target without interference from enemy fighters. Despite weather conditions Spitfires and Hurricanes operating from alternative LGs ALEXANDRIA area carried out sweeps over battle area. Hurricanes intercepted escorted Stuka raid at midday claiming one JU87 probable and one damaged which later confirmed by ground forces as three JU87 destroyed. Hurricanes also intercepted Stuka raid NW of AMAMEIN late afternoon forcing them to jettison bombs and damaging two. Spitfires on independent cover sweep engaged escorting ME109s and destroyed one without loss. Earlier Spitfire sweep destroyed one MC202 and damaged one ME109 without loss. AA ground gns in fwd areas further discouraged the Luftwaffe by destroying three JU87s, three ME109s, one CR42 and one unidentified. Enemy air activity on increased scale started with early fighter sweeps to AMIRIYA and southern sector followed by six Stuka raids and ME109 and MC202 patrols battle area. Photo R showed proportion of divebomber force moved fwd from HANEESH to DABA LGs.

7. SPECIAL NOTE

As many German 17 series bomb fuzes as possible are urgently required in the UK. They are necessary for the carrying out of a series of experiments which will result in an enormous reduction in the risks involved in dealing with German clock type fuzes.

As the incidence of bombing has not been high in the UK in recent months, the ME must therefore be the main source of supply. All intact 17 fuzes and Zus 40's in the possession of any person or unit should be returned to this HQ forthwith. The desire to retain trophies should in this case be greatly outweighed by the possible enormous saving in life and property which may result from an adequate supply of these fuzes being obtained.

8. METEOROLOGICAL

Moonrise 3/4 Sep 0015 hrs
 4/5 Sep 0059 hrs

Sun rises 4 Sep 0633 hrs
 5 Sep 0633 hrs

H. J. Bennett
Lieut
IO, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

(Based on infm to 1200 hrs 5 Sep 42)

5 Sep 42.

1. GENERAL

The posn on the Div front remains quiet except for enemy shelling of FDLs and some air activity.

A very large explosion was observed at 87292931 at 1228 hrs yesterday, the cause being unknown.

In the south the enemy withdrawal is apparently continuing and has been subjected to extremely by air attack. Bombers and fighters have been attacking them 18 hrs out of every 24. 4000 lb bombs have been amongst those dropped by our aircraft.

A formation of Armd Cs reports a successful engagement of MT in the RAGIL area yesterday morning. They estimate that at least 100 vehs were destroyed.

Our tps are working south of former FDLs from left flank and by 1000 hrs today had reached the area of line 264 northing. A counter attack is expected and a strong force of bombers and fighters is standing by to assist.

With the losses he has sustained, a further adv was clearly impossible until some reorganisation had been carried out. This reorganisation could not be done in the face of harassing fire from three sides and continual by bombing. It seems that the enemy has decided to reduce the first risk at least and at the same time to concentrate his forces more compactly by withdrawing the main body of his attacking tps west of the minefd. Here they will be protected by the cliffs of the QATTARA depression on their right, by the minefd and no doubt a strong screen of tks and A Tk guns to the east. It remains to be seen whether the effects of the RAF attacks can be made good. If they can, the enemy's objective is likely to remain unaltered; for him speed is essential, he surely appreciates that if the DELTA is to be reached at all, it must be reached soon.

2. ENEMY METHODS

As at last light 3 Sep the enemy forces in the south were roughly disposed as follows :-

No enemy east of general line 430 easting with a screen of tks, inf and A Tk guns from DEIR EL TARFA 428875 to Pt 103 428864. The various units have not been definitely localised in the area to the west of this line as the formations have become scattered and their increasing dispersion due to our air attacks make them hard to identify. The armd forces are to the north and east as a shield for the soft skinned vehs, and inf with some tks is opposing the southern move by our forces mentioned above. The main enemy movement is still to the west.

Following the attack on west Pt 23 31/1 Sep it was found that in addition to the minefd on the fwd enemy wire there was at least one fd very well concealed and not marked outside the wire and likewise an interior fd concealed and not marked. These fds were also reported to have legs jutting out towards our lines so that any traffic travelling along the fwd edge of the minefd searching for a gap was stopped.

3. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

The enemy's dispozn between the coast and incl RUWEISAT ridge do not seem to have changed much since the attack in the south began.

North of the 298 Northing the inf defence is provided by 125 Inf Regt with perhaps one coy of Italians in area 875304.

Arty located in the area amounts to about 46 fd, 24 med, 8 hy and 17 DP. This shows an increase since 25 Aug of two fd btys.

Between the 298 and 289 Northings, Germans and Italians are apparently both still represented. In the northern half of this sector, 382 Inf Regt is mainly responsible.

I Bn is believed to be north of III Bn. On the night 31 Aug/1 Sep, 11 Coy was practically wiped out; according to some of our tps who have only just returned from this action, the lost coy in the area of pt 23 (872297) has been replaced in part by Italians.

A German PW captured during night 30/31 Aug said that Italians had not been in the line for a fortnight. This cannot be disproved. Recently there have been signs of a second line of defences in area 868299 and 868298 and it is possible that the Italians have been busy building them.

In the area of the MITEIRIYA ridge, the German tps belong to 433 Inf Regt.

Again, evidence of Italians is not recent, but there is nothing to show that III Bn 61 Inf Regt has moved from 874289 where a PW was taken on 27 Jul.

Arty in this sector now amounts to about 57 fd, 37 med, 11 hy and 20 DP guns, an increase of a few fd guns since 25 Aug.

Between the 289 and 283 northings the only Germans located have been I Bn 433 Inf Regt (PW from 3 and 4 Coys at 877284 on night 31 Aug/1 Sep) but it is likely that II or III Bn of the same regt overlaps slightly south of the 289 northing. Italian PW from the area have been plentiful.

Arty in this area, which is mainly Italian except for 8-12 DP guns, consists of 26 fd and 15 Med guns. This represents no change from 25 Aug.

South of the 284 Northing the Germans are the Parachute Bn commanded by Major V D HEYDTE; they are apparently in the area of Pt 63. The identity of the Italians is uncertain. PW have said that part of BRESCIA is in and around DEIR EL SHEIN, but other parts of the Div have been identified NE of QARET EL ABD so the evidence is not conclusive. Elements of BOLOGNA Div are a possible alternative, but it is known that the bulk of the Div is centred round the eastern extension of the MIREIR depression.

The arty numbers about 44 fd, 16 med, 4 hy and 13 DP guns. This represents a slight decrease in fd guns and a small increase in med guns since 25 Aug.

4. ENEMY LOSSES

It is now known that over 80 German tks are in our hands having been either destroyed by RE or found too badly damaged to need further attention. This means that one-third of the present German tk force is out of action for good. Italian losses are not known at all accurately, but it is thought that their runners may not be more than 50 per cent of the 245 tks with which they started. It is thought fair to add that many of these will probably have been mechanical casualties only.

5. GROUND OPS

A patrol in coastal sector fired at the sound of movement, and a daylight patrol in the same area this morning found a German cap, 3 German rifles and a pool of fresh blood.

Another patrol penetrated to 87143017 and was prevented from further action by a wired and strongly defended post. The covering party of this patrol exchanged fire with a patrol of 8 Germans without observed results.

6. AIR OPS

The Air Force continues to deal by blows at the enemy's forces though no further details are to hand since the last summary.

Two ME109s dropped bombs at 1210 hrs in area 87723001 without causing casualties or damage. There was also some haphazard machine-gunning of rear areas in the early hrs of the morning.

Night 3/4 an aircraft reported by coast watching sta to crash in flames in sea at 2240 hrs. At 2100 hrs 4 Sep German navigator of plane was captured area EL IMAYID Light House. PW states that he, with three others, were attacking ALEXANDRIA in JU88. Plane was damaged by AA and caught fire on way home. Crew bailed out. According to his statement the other three members were not good

swimmers. His own effort was particularly good. When taken, his clothes appeared almost dry and he did NOT appear exhausted.

7. SPECIAL

The following infm has been obtained from a South African soldier recently escaped from TOBRUK.

This soldier escaped the day after the fall of the town and walked to MATRUH where he suffered the indignity of being recaptured by SABRATHA. He was sent back to TOBRUK with a German driver in a truck, taking three days over the journey owing to the German's reluctance to return to "the bombing". By this time all prisoners except for a few who were working in the town had been evacuated.

The hospital also had been evacuated - to DERNA - but large hospital ships continued to arrive at TOBRUK, laden with guns and bombs. Our bombing was described as very frightening, and each morning there were enemy dead to bury. Practically no one lived in TOBRUK but all go each night to encampments on the GAZALA rd. Some days ago a million litres of oil was hit and burned for two days, and two ships were damaged recently.

The Germans were living on British rations and sending home small parcels of soap and coffee, both of which are severely rationed in GERMANY. There was a strong rumour amongst the German troops that a great attack was impending and our prisoner was often told of the parachutists eqpt and reinforcements which were arriving for this purpose.

Each morning, between the hrs of nine and ten, some 20 - 40 JU 52's arrived at TOBRUK LGs from BRINDISI via CRETE, each normally carrying 26 men and their personal kit. These are reinforcements for all regts. Returning aircraft take personnel going on leave and on courses. Ten days ago four aircraft full of men were shot down into the sea, there being only four survivors. One of these aircraft contained NCOs going home for a OCTU course. New reinforcements are taken to a L.T. camp 8 kilos on the rd to BARDIA, from whence - owing to shortage of MT - they hitch-hike their way to another camp near DABA where they are posted to units.

Two German communists were encountered, and these were prepared to desert, but for the fact that they feared being imprisoned by the English with Nazis.

The South African, together with five others, finally escaped by taking a truck, food, water and maps and driving SE to MADDALENA. There they encountered an Italian patrol of guns and Armd Cs, presumably returning from GIARABUB. These were successfully evaded and the party finally abandoned their truck NW of ABU D. WEIS returning through the Depression to our lines.

8. METEOROLOGICAL

Moonrise	-	0145 hrs
Moonset	-	1541 hrs

[Signature]
Lieut
IO, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

File

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

SECRET
To be destroyed
within 48 hrs.

2/23 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY NO 115.
(Based on infm to 1200 hrs 7 Sep 42)

SPECIAL NOTE

On two occasions in the recent fighting individuals dressed in the uniform of a British captain entered the lines of a fwd British unit and told it to be ready to move off at five mins notice. The tpt used was in one case a bantam and in the other a Morris 15 cwt. Similar incidents have occurred before and in all cases the visitors have been allowed to get away. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that ALL persons entering a unit or formation area MUST be challenged whenever there is any doubt as to identity. Failure to do so will lead to the enemy gaining valuable infm and may jeopardise the comd's plan and lead to serious loss of life.

1. GENERAL

Patrols were active on the Div front and report the enemy to be alert to the point of nervousness. Enemy working parties were busy in all sectors visited and the nature of the work is thought to be the laying of mines and wire.

Our arty continued its task of effectively harassing the enemy 24 hrs of the day.

On night 3/4 Sep, a plane was seen to crash into the sea to the North of the Div area. On the afternoon of 4 Sep the navigator came ashore in the vicinity of the ALAMEIN Light House. He stated the plane was a JU88 damaged by AA fire in a raid on ALEXANDRIA. The remainder of the crew were presumably lost. This brings out again that planes can be destroyed by AA fire without the actual gunners being aware of the fact.

The action in the South continues favourably for our forces, the enemy being forced to withdraw slowly Westwards under constant pressure from ground and air.

The PANZERARMEE's answer to the Southward push by our forces towards MUHAFID and MUNASSIB was to launch four separate attacks which rivalled each other in lack of success.

The first was by elements of BRESCL, which was broken up by bombing in its earliest stages. At about 1100 hrs 11 Bn, 200 Pz, Gren Regt, attacked from the SW but was repulsed. Later in the morning elements of the 155 Pz Gren Regt tried again from the SE supported by 14 tks but with no better results. 3 of the tks being reported as knocked out. The only details of the fourth attack are that it was unsuccessful. Hy casualties were inflicted on the enemy, and 20 German and 180 Italian PW were taken.

In the central sector our tps on RUWEISAT Ridge were subjected to bombing on night 3/4 Sep. The raiding aircraft were assisted by parachute flares and searchlights. Our maximum tk losses are considerably less than those known to be definitely lost to the Germans. They amount to the maximum total of 50 tks many of which are recoverable. This works out to something under 50% of German losses.

Sep 5 was a very quiet day in the Div sector. During the night 5/6 Sep a patrol to enemy strongpoints South of Ry at 87203018 was engaged by the enemy from within their defences. The enemy was very much on the alert and our patrols had difficulty in making close contact.

In the main action to the South the enemy withdrawal Westwards is reported to have taken in WEST of HINEIM.T, our forces having reached the 380 Easting grid during morning 6 Sep. During the morning there were continued signs of a thinning out Westwards and our arty shelled MAQB RALI 877250. During this operation the enemy left a covering screen of tks and inf to the EAST of his main body as a rear guard.

Further details are now available of the action by the NZ Div during night 3/4 Sep and morning 4 Sep. The following casualties were inflicted: Total killed 515, of which 150 to 200 German. The following eqpt was destroyed - 36 MMGs; 3 4 Tk guns; 1 hy mortar; some lt tks and probably 2 88 mm guns.

An interesting side issue was the now customarily abortive sabotag of the ry. This time it was the turn of the Italians. On 4 Sep 14 SAN MARCO Marines landed from a MTB in rubber boats at BIR MAHDI (477918). The blew a break of 15 ins in the ry and a breach in the pipeline. The latter was rapidly mended, and the Marines made prisoner and four trains passed successfully along the ry before their effort was noticed. Perhaps their attempt was planned to coincide with the enemy's hoped for success

at ALAM EL HALFA and somebody forgot to cancel it".

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS

The armd forces yesterday in the area of our minefields in the SOUTH are now shown from air reports to be WEST of these minefields and the general impression is gained that the Westward movement of the enemy forces continues.

The enemy withdrawal is covered with a strong screen of A Tk guns supported by some tks and inf.

3. ENEMY METHODS

PW from 4 Coy 61 IR stated :

The gap in front of 1 Coy posn has now been closed. 50 yds in front of the Coy's posn are four or five rows of AP mines set in gps of three.

These gps are connected by a trip wire, so that when the trip wire is pulled all three mines go up. The distance between the rows of mines is approx 3 yds.

A black tube about 50 cm long, is put into the ground above each mine. This is intended to guide their tps going out on patrol.

These minefields extend in a semicircle in front of the strongpoints. In front of the minefield is a trip wire.

PW does not know if the minefield extends along the whole front.

By Day : The Italians sleep keeping one or two sentries out.

By Night : All tps are awake, digging or standing to.

To the North of 4 Coy is a large abandoned tk, near to this is a slit trench in which the sentries keep a look out. This post is manned from 1900 hrs to 0500 hrs.

To give the alarm the sentries fire a white very light and pull a string leading to Coy HQ. This sets the alarm bell ringing and the men stand to. The sentries then withdraw to strongpoint. Between 2000 and 2200 hrs this system of warning is augmented by a patrol of 4 men with a Breda MG.

This patrol is supposed to go out in front of the minefields but in practice the patrol prefer to remain close in.

Our patrols are visible from 200 yds by moonlight but have never been heard approaching.

On night 3/4 Sep an enemy aircraft dropped five white flares fwd of our FDLs. Immediately afterwards red very lights were put up along the length of the enemy FDLs. It is thought that this is the enemy's sig indicating the posn of his FDLs to his aircraft.

4. ENEMY PROPAGANDA

A captured airman carried a booklet printed in German and Arabic. The booklet pointed out the friendly feeling which Germany had for the Arab people and asked that "Noble Arabs" into whose hands the bearer might fall if forced down, to extend their 'traditional hospitality' and give him all assistance in their power.

5. GROUND OPS

Patrols during the night moved to enemy's FDLs but could make no contact with the enemy, who is apparently content to keep behind his wire and work on improving his posns.

Daylight observation was carried out by 1 Offr and 1 Sgt from a posn under a derelict veh in the area 87423015. This posn is at the most 200 yds from the enemy fwd posns. Observation was difficult owing to the enemy using the veh covering the OP as a practice target for rifle and LMG. The infm gained from this observation is of great value to future patrols.

Patrol SOUTH of ry to 87203018 reported increased enemy vigilance. Enemy opened fire at short range on our patrols without warning with four MGs on fixed lines and one mortar. The bomb merely dribbled out of the mortar and landed in the enemy post, no further mortar bombs were fired.

A patrol at 87463043 encountered gps of enemy thought to be mixed German and Italian.

Our arty continued their harassing tactics and at night landed shells on selected targets at the rate of two every half hr until 0430 hrs.

At 1025 hrs vehs in the area of SIDI RAHMAN were observed apparently attempting to lay a smoke screen. As a screen for any possible movement it was not a success and no further movement was reported from the area.

6. AIR OPS

2 Sep - Beaufighters harassing enemy L of C strafed enemy lighters near BARRANI and coln on rd destroying 10 ton lorry with trailer, damaging two others. Hy scale of attack on enemy spearhead maintained by Boston Baltimores and B25 Mitchells throughout the day in the course of 167 sorties, which is record to date. Targets were very good and great damage was done, numerous fires being started. Air crews reported much MT already burnt out as a result of previous night's attack. Four Bostons damaged by intense Ack Ack. Enemy fighters made spirited attempts to intercept our bombers on three occasions when escorting Kittyhawks, Spitfires and Tomahawks destroyed 6 ME 109s with one probable and one damaged. USAAF fighter sqns took part in these patrols. In the course of continuous sweeps over the battle area, one formation of 14 Stukas with escort of 7 ME 109s was engaged by Hurricanes who shot down 6 JU 87s with 3 JU 87s probable and 4 109s damaged. Our losses - 1 aircraft forced landed, pilot safe. Hurricane and Spitfires attacked enemy fighter sweeps claiming in all 2 ME 109s, 1 Me 202 destroyed, 1 ME 109 probable and 1 ME 109 damaged. Our total losses 3 Spitfires (1 pilot safe) 1 Kittyhawk, 4 Hurricanes (2 pilots safe) and 2 Tomahawks (pilots safe). Our fighter aircraft sorties totalled 501. Enemy air effort on considerable scale included 3 raids by Stukas, 2 however bombed level and did not press home attacks. Their fighter effort in no way impaired our bombing of offensive.

Night 2/3 Sep - Continuing policy of giving enemy no rest Wellingtons with Albacores (some making double sorties) subjected concentrations of enemy forces engaged during the day to all night attack in which numerous direct hits scored on vehs causing over 30 fires of which three were petrol fires. Firm impression gained of most effective ops. Hurricanes on intruder patrols danged 1 ME 110.

Night 3 Sep - Beaufighters searching for enemy shipping for enemy shipping on enemy L of C destroyed 1 ME 111 off DERNA. Non-stop air offensive by Bostons, Baltimores and B25 Mitchells carried on throughout the day. Record number of 200 sorties against enemy MT contained by our forces Southern sector. Large number of direct hits and fires reported but efficacy of attacks may best be judged from widespread milling of MT (reported by ground forces) on approach of our bomber formations. Escorting Kittyhawks, Tomahawks and Hurricanes staved off 6 attacks by enemy fighters destroying 2 ME 109s with 5 ME 109s probable and 3 ME 109s damaged, for the loss of 4 Kittyhawks and 1 Tomahawk (1 pilot safe).

In sweeps over battle area Spitfires, Hurricanes and Kittyhawks, engaged formations of ME 109s and Me 202s, destroying 1 ME 109 and 5 ME 109s and 1 Me 202 probable plus 3 ME 109s and 1 Me 202 damaged. Our losses 2 Spitfires, 2 Hurricanes (2 pilots safe). Fighterbombers attacked gp of armd vehs scoring direct hits on three Mk 111 and two unidentified tks, 1 AMC and 1 lorry to SOUTH of main battle area at 890248. Hurri-bombers scored one direct hit, started two fires among 200 MT near GEBEL KALAKH, successfully avoiding attacks by two ME 109s over the target. Escorting Hurricanes lost three aircraft following engagement with other enemy fighters. Total fighter sorties 574. No Stuka attacks reported during the day, but enemy fighters operated mainly over battle area in effort to hinder our bomber offensive. Small number of fighter bombers attacked our fwd tps.

7. ENEMY MORALE

PW captured 5 Sep states that shortly after his arrival in AFRICA he received a letter from his "girl friend" wherein she expressed the hope that he would soon fall into English hands and thus be safe. The letter was censored and he was immediately awarded 10 days detention.

PW from 10 Coy, 104 Pz Gren Regt, at 425873 states that orders for withdrawal had been received 4 Sep but owing to lack of tpt 10 Coy were unable to move. They had only two out of twenty vehs left. Our bombing and arty caused numerous casualties. 10 Coy according to PW, had only 60 men left out of a total of 120. Morale was very low, and personnel in 10 Coy "fed up to the teeth".

ENEMY LOSSES

Tks: It is now estimated that between 31 Aug and 2 Sep 90 German tks were destroyed. Of these the following have been identified: 22 Mk 111; 3 Mk 111 (long); 1 Mk 1V; 1 Mk 11. Known Italian losses were 13, incl 5 M 13 and 1 L6. From reports received today, another 4 were destroyed (incl 1 on fire) and 2 damaged. The nationality of these has not yet been established. The RAF claimed 5 tks (incl 3 Mk 111) destroyed at 890249 on 3 Sep 42.

Armd Cs : One was reported on fire at 424865. One 4-wheeler destroyed at 424863. One German recce car was captured at 887265 on 3 Sep 42.

Guns : Destroyed : 1 x 150 mm gun at 428868
2 x 50 mm A Tk guns
3 x 75 mm guns (unconfirmed)
1 MG
1 A Tk gun

Captured : 1 x 50 mm A Tk gun.

PW : Unconfirmed reports of PW taken today are :-

German 60
Italian 180

Further to the above, it has been reported that two 88 mm DP have been destroyed, and one serviceable 150 mm inf gun on a French tk chassis captured. Reliable reports indicate that at least 300 casualties were inflicted on Italian Tps in the minefield night 31 Aug - 1 Sep.

NOTE : The extra 40 German PW were captured at RAGIL.

Armd Cs : Two are claimed destroyed in the area 888254. PW captured 4 Sep, states that 3 Recce Unit has now only 10 out of 17 armd Cs left.

MT : It is estimated that 500 MT have been left in the area evacuated by the enemy.

9. ROADS

Routes in 30 Corps area have been named as shown below and sign boards are being erected.

- (a) COAST ROAD - the track between the coast and the main tarred rd.
- (b) MAIN ROAD - the main ALEX tarred rd.
- (c) MATRUH ROAD - the old MERS MATRUH rd between the main rd and ry.
- (d) "C" ROUTE - as at present named.
- (e) SPRINGBOK RD - partially tarred and soled rd from the main rd SOUTH through ALAMEIN STA. and in a Southerly direction as on the 1/100,000 map.
- (f) SYDNEY ROAD - Runs SOUTH from the main rd at grid 436 to "C" Route at Pt 95 435892 and thence SOUTH to ALAM HALFA.
- (g) BOMBAY ROAD - runs SOUTH from the main rd at IM.YID Coastguard Sta 44259030 through IM.YID STA to BIR THEMID on "C" Route.
- (h) PERTH ROAD - runs from main rd to HAMMAM STA.

10. ENEMY MT

Large gps of MET have been observed in southern sector by our recce planes.

11. METEOROLOGICAL

7 Sep Moon rises 0325 hrs sets 1709 hrs
8 Sep Moon rises 0419 hrs sets 1750 hrs.

W J Dunham
(W J DUNHAM) Lieut
10 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

SECRET
To be destroyed
within 48 hrs.

2/23 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY NO 116.
(Based on infm up to 1200 hrs 9 Sep 42.)

1. GENERAL

Very quiet on Div front, even shelling was less than usual. Patrols report the continued activity of enemy working parties busy behind his FDLs.

Our Arty continues its policy of giving the enemy no rest day or night.

The indications in the south are that the enemy intends to retain some of his forces at least in the area east of the minefields. He still has his strong anti Tk screen to protect him from the constant pressure from our lt armd forces.

PW has stated that Maj Gen von BISMARCK, GOC, 21 Armd Div was killed in action 2 Sep.

10,000 rds of 20 mm amn has been salvaged in the RAGIL area.

Four more of our PWs have returned from TOBRUCH - this time they are Indians. They state that the ry is being continued to DERN. and it has progressed 6 miles.

2. GROUND OPS

Further patrol in Central Sector reported large working party behind enemy FDLs. Engrs with same patrol reported that mines were fitted with a device to prevent them from being lifted.

3. AIR OPS

RAF continues to give strong sup to our tps in battle area and to harass enemy concentrations.

5 Sep. On fourth night in succession Wellingtons operating with Albacores bombed withdrawing enemy cols in southern sector starting numerous fires, incl one in amn dump. Hurricanes patrolling our and enemy LGs sighted no enemy aircraft. Supporting pressure by our armd forces on enemy rearguard moving through minefield Baltimores made one early attack on target of 1000 MT scoring six direct hits causing two fires.

4. ENEMY DISPOSNS.

In the south it is considered that DEIR EL MUNASSIB and HIMEIMAT are held by German tps with some Italians in between these two points. Enemy arty is sited round about easting 875.

In the south, the enemy on 7 Sep was reported to be generally no further east than the 880 grid, except for some strong pts, and he maintains fwd armd patrols up to 1000/2000 yds. This gives him forces east of our mineflds which he apparently intends to try and hold. He is also laying further mines.

5. ENEMY EQPT.

A new German mine has been reported. This mine is adjustable and may be set A Tk, Anti-MT, Anti-personnel or booby trap. Fuller details will be promulgated as soon as they come to hand.

6. METEOROLOGICAL.

Sun rises	10 Sep	0636	sets	1907 hrs
	11 Sep	0637	sets	0916 hrs

Moon rises	10 Sep	0611	sets	1908 hrs
	11 Sep	0709	sets	1946 hrs.

7. SECURITY.

In the light of recent events, it is essential that all ranks appreciate the necessity for satisfying themselves as to the identity of

unknown personnel, irrespective of their rank or dress. In addition, since the 49 easting grid has been defined as the westerly limit to which local inhabitants may proceed, any Arab encountered must be fwded under escort to the above HQ.

8. SPECIAL.

Frequent reports of a revolving light, similar to a search light, operating in the rear areas have been received by this HQ.

It has now been ascertained that this light is a mobile 230 candle power revolving light controlled by RAF. The light is used as a pin-point for night flying aircraft and the location of the light is changed weekly.

9. Infm further to para 1 of I summary numbered 115, 7 Sep 42.

Five men described themselves "N" tps (Nuotatori) i.e. swimmers. The remainder mainly have been in army engr units. The offr is a sapper regular. They do not therefore appear to be the regular SAN MARCO MARINES, who are believed to be entirely recruited from Navy personnel.

Action

One PW stated that a previous attempt had been made on night 31 Aug /1 Sep by two MTBs (Nos 12 and 15), but owing to motor trouble in No 15 the enterprise was abandoned.

The second attempt was the action leading to capture. On this occasion two MTBs left MATRUH at about 500 hrs, 3 Sep 42, No 12 with a party of 20 men on board and another (No unknown) with 15 on board. Nothing is known of the role or the fate of the second MTB. Of the 20 on No 12, 5 did not leave the MTB (either because there was no room in the dinghies or because they lost their nerve).

The plan was for the "N" tps to swim ahead and recon the beach while the dinghies paddled in rear. Actually the sea was so rough that the swimmers had to cling on to the stern of the dinghies. The fifteenth man captured along was lost during ops. Also the dinghies landed at different points and in process of collecting the members of the party, manly fired on each other. The distance from the MTB to the shore was variously given as 2 kms and 2 1/2 miles. Time of landing was given variously between 2100 and 2300 hrs.

Having collected, the party proceeded inland, unchallenged and crossed the rd without difficulty. They encountered difficulty, however, in crossing the marsh on the other side of the rd. PW in general agreed that the objectives were :-

- (a) the pipeline (acquodotto) and
- (b) the railway.

Three charges seem to have been laid on the railway. The charges were unsuccessful, owing to having got wet while landing or while crossing the marsh. They reached the railway at about 0230 hrs.

When the demolitions were finished the party took refuge in a hut. They seem to have expected that by this time the Axis forces would be in the vicinity. With regards to future plans most PW agreed in stating that the dinghies had been destroyed. They denied any knowledge of a RV.

Eqpt -

The swimmers carried a type of Mae West jacket, automatically inflated and Tommy guns. Several PW carried pocket signalling lamps. Each man had emergency rations of chocolate, brandy etc. One man carried two days rations for the party.

The dinghies were made of rubber and worked by two pairs of paddles. The offr carried a marked map. The route marked crosses the narrowest part of the marsh at approx 479917.

Charges consisted of loose explosive with detonating and slow match fuse. The later was ignited by a capsule.

General Intentions -

German tps were expected to adv at the rate of 40 kms a day and reach the Nile in 3 days. "N" tps were said to be in res to establish bridgeheads on the Nile.

Morale - These prisoners were a tough lot, mentally and physically. Their morale was exceptionally high.

Robertson Lieut
10. 2/23 Just Inf Bn.

2/23 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY NO 117.

(Based on infm up to 1200 hrs 11 Sep 42.)

WD

1. GENERAL

Tac/R reports indicate no large activity but point out considerable increase in diggings over the whole front.

Patrolling on the Div front is becoming increasingly difficult owing to the improvement of the enemy's defences and his vigilance. In the dark he will fire at any noise. In moonlight there is little chance of a patrol penetrating between his FDLs without being detected.

There is no change in the south. The line set out yesterday as being held by the enemy is being developed by the inf and Tac/R reports show about 90 tks dispersed in the area GEBEL KALAKH. There are no large concentrations reported.

It is appreciated that MT losses alone will prevent the enemy initiating any immediate ops on a large scale.

2. GROUND OPS

Our arty continues to harass the enemy engaging a large variety of targets at night when he is working and also keep him awake during the day.

Patrol of one NCO and two ORs in Northern Sector moved through the enemy's wire and lay in wait on the enemy's side. German voices could be heard in the vicinity but Italian voices were heard on the right flank of the patrol. Patrol stayed in the area for two hrs but no contact was made.

Med arty conducted a successful shoot on HB posns on 8 Sep. The guns were moved well fwd while enemy OPs were neutralised by smoke and HE from our fd arty. A fighter cover was also provided for the med guns but no air interference was forthcoming.

The enemy replied with hy arty fire on area trig 33 but these guns were in turn engaged by fd arty. The fire from the medis was observed to fall right on the enemy's gun areas for the 90 mins of the shoot.

3. 11 Sep. Following a dog fight a few miles south of our lines at 1100 hrs one Hurricane fighter crash landed close to the ry line and burst into flames. The pilot is safe.

7 Sep. In early afternoon, Spitfires and Hurricanes escorted Tac/R Central Sector where 4 Me109s and Mc202s encountered, resulting 2 Me109s destroyed one Me109 and one Mc202 damaged. On return 3 Me109s flying east over BURG EL ARAB were intercepted, one being shot down LAKE MARIUT area and one damaged, all by Spitfires without loss. Later Kittihawks and Tomahawks on report of Stukas Central Sector patrolled that area engaging 2 Me109s which were destroyed at expense of 1 Kittihawk shot down and one Tomahawk damaged (pilot safe). Enemy air activity on reduced scale included sweeps by 4/10 Me 109s and Mc202s battle area, fighter bomber attacks battle area and one on a LG (where no damage reported) and one Stuka attack by 9 Ju87s. 3 pilots missing from ops on 3 Sep are now safe. 1 pilot missing on 4 Sep now safe and one Me destroyed in addition. Additional enemy casualties on 6 Sep - 1 Ju87 and 1 Me109 probable one Me109 damaged.

Bomber Ops Night 6/7 Sep. 15 Wellingtons attacked the TOBRUCK jetties and the area to the NQ, starting 3 fires. AA was intense and accurate and 12 searchlights were observed.

At 1915 hrs a JU52 escorted by Me109s flew low over TEL EL EISA. It was engaged with SA fire and flew off to the West with smoke pouring from the port engine. It was not seen to crash.

Night 5/6 Sep. Hurricanes patrolled the battle area and over enemy LGs DABA area sighting no enemy a/c

2/23 AUST INF BN INF SUMMARY NO 118

(Based on infm to 1200 hrs 13 Sep 42.)

*Was Running*1. GENERAL

- (a) Patrols report the enemy more active during the night, and there was one clash in the Coastal Sector; results could not be determined.

Patrols during the night 11 Sep had nothing of importance to report, the situation remaining quiet on the Div Front. Light Armd patrols in the SOUTH continue to watch the enemy, and take every opportunity of harassing his movement. Yesterday, it is reported, arty engaged the enemy in Southern sector, scoring a direct hit on a tk, which blew up, and also hitting a patrol lorry setting it on fire.

- (b) Enemy Arty - Air photographs of 6 Sep which cover most of the enemy gun area, have shown little change in the enemy arty disposns since 28 Aug except for an increase of 22 fd guns in the Northern Sector.

A new Hq of 3 Tps has appeared NORTH of the ry in the area 871305, 2 tps of which are in old pits. Some of the fd arty in the Northern sector appear to have a roving commission, and fire from the open and not from pits. Also at least 2 bty posns of 3 tps each have alternative sets of pits dug near by. Two tps of widely dispersed guns thought to be either A Tk guns or fd guns in an A Tk role, have appeared in the area 868304. The bulk of the med arty remains in the Central sector (that is between Northings 287 and 293), where it can oppose any thrust from the NORTH or SOUTH.

In the general area WEST of the DEIR EL SHEIN Depression, a line of diggings running NORTH and SOUTH has appeared in the area 871280. Some of these diggings are thought to contain A Tk guns. Several hy bty posns have become unoccupied since 28 Aug but these btys have probably moved into an area not covered by the latest photographs. The strength of hy guns is not thought to have changed.

An estimated total of enemy guns on the 30 Corps front is about 154 fd or inf guns, 68 med guns and 21 hy guns.

- (c) Recognition of own patrols - Patrol of 24 Aust Inf Bde encountered SA patrol in area 87772916 in approx area WEST of EL ALAMEIN. Before identities were established, SA patrol fired TSMG and we threw grenades wounding 3 members of SA patrol.

2. GROUND OPS

Observed results of our arty harassing fire during yesterday, were - One man carried by his comrades area 87202989 and in area 874304 2 men were buried under cover of a white flag and 3 stretcher parties were seen to be at work.

Enemy shelling on FDLs was in the neighbourhood of 400 shells.

Harassing fire and opportunity shoots were continued by our arty despite some attention by enemy bombers.

Enemy arty carried out airburst ranging shoots on the following areas, Pt 24, TEL EL EISA Sta area.

Enemy fire was of a harassing nature. CB Staff advise that 17 cm guns have been used by the enemy during the last few days.

3. AIR OPS

8 Sep - Main feature of quiet day was interception of heavily escorted Stuka formation (20 JU87s and 25 plus ME 109s/MC 202s), in early afternoon. Kittyhawks and top cover of spitfires sighted enemy aircraft shortly after attack in ALAMEIN area and engaged them following chase to DABA. Results 1 JU 87 and 2 ME 109s destroyed, 4 ME 109s probable, 4 ME 109s and 1 MC 202 damaged at expense of 1 Kittyhawk damaged (Pilot wounded). Other patrol by Spitfires, Hurricanes and Kittyhawks

over battle area uneventful. Other enemy air activity on reduced scale incl patrols morning and afternoon by small numbers of fighters and two raids by fighter-bombers fwd areas.

At 1230 hrs 12/14 JU 87s carried out a low level bombing attack on a gun area. Slight damage was reported. 4 ME 109s bombed the same area without result at 1850 hrs.

GENERAL

9 Sep- During day, uneventful both on the ground and in the air. Spitfires, Hurricanes and Kittyhawks carried out sweeps over battle area, but no a/c were sighted. Continuing policy of harrying enemy L of C, Beaufighters and Bisleys searched for but failed to find train earlier reported by Strat/R EAST of CAPUZZO. Bisleys bombed and strafed MT on rd SOLLUM - BARRANI, and collecting pt SOUTH of rd, seriously damaging articulated petrol trailer and hitting others, while Beaufighters strafed 6 F boats WEST of MATRUH with unobserved results, and destroyed one escorting ME 109. A Savoia - Marchetti S81 was also shot down. Enemy air activity on very reduced scale included small number fighter patrols, two fighter-bomber attacks and one morning Stuka attack battle area.

ENEMY METHODS

One of our OPs operating with a sniping tp, received a request, ostensibly from the tp, to "give last line and range". The voice sounded foreign and the operator at the OP asked the operator with the tp to give his surname. He got the reply "standby" and there-after silence. Later in the day, by and extremely accurate fire was brought down on the tp, first from 105 mm and then from 75 mm guns.

The enemy appears to be using strong standing patrols just fwd of his FDLs to deny us recce of his minefields and foremost defences.

5. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

ITALIAN -

(i) A PW states that 2 and 3 Bns A.S. 42 were brought to BENGHASI by S.S. ITALIA, arriving on 2 Aug 42. At DERNA on 18 Aug, the two Bns were disbanded, and reformed into six reinf't coys, the first two of which were drafted to TRENTO Div, 3 and 4 Coys to BRESCIA. These reinf't coys are known as "Compagnie di Marcia". PW believed that 1 Bn A.S. 42 had come to AFRICA before 2 and 3 Bns.

(ii) A postcard found at 892255 (addressed to 554 Bty) the writer of which belonged to 2 Bn, 36 Mot Inf Regt, PISTOIA Div (PM 76). Although this Div is known to be in AFRICA its whereabouts is still not known.

NOTE : The latest news of PISTOIA is now scarcely up to date. The Div was seen near BENGHASI on 2 Aug with MT standing by ready to move off. It seems possible, however, that its MT was taken away for more important duties on the L of C, leaving PISTOIA stranded meantime in the usual role of the newly arrived ITALIAN Div : base depot - cum - long stop. This awaits better evidence.

6. ENEMY MAINTENANCE

RY - Strat R today, 10 Sep reports a train of 20 trucks moving east between BELHAMED and GAMBUT at 1100 hrs. At 1125 hrs, a train of 12 trucks was seen between HABATA and MISMEIFA moving east.

6 Sep. Light bombers held at readiness but army made no calls for close sp. Hurricanes on Armd recce central sector bombed 50 MEI and 12 tks observing near misses on the tks. 10 Me109s then attacked escorting Hurricanes resulting 8 Hurricanes missing (4 pilots safe) for loss of 2 Me109 destroyed. In late afternoon Kittihawks and Tomahawks intercepted formation of 15 plus JU87s escorted by 15 plus Me109s in central sector. Tomahawks attacked Stukas shooting down 3 (confirmed by ground forces) and claiming one probable and 1 damaged. Our losses 3 Tomahawks and 1 Kittyhawk missing (1 pilot safe). Hurricanes engaged Me109s but combat inconclusive. Enemy air activity on moderate scale incl fighter patrols in strength over battle area morning and late afternoon with Stuks attacks at midday and evening. Fighter bombers made one attack battle area and one LG 28. No damage reported in LG attack.

4. ENEMY METHODS

Most valuable infm is being provided by duds and shell fragments. Today apart from the identification of 25 pr HB, it has been found that the enemy is using .106 fuzes for 25 prs.

The Germans are apparently making extensive use of British respirators several of which have been found on German vehs

A party of enemy inf were observed debussing behind his FDLs at last light. This party prepared to move to a line of white flags set in the ground running roughly parallel to the FDLs. It is thought the flags may have marked the limits of a task for a working party. The flags could not be seen in the morning.

A minor point of some interest is that comd 2 Tp, 155 Arty Regt came into battle with a 1:250,000 map showing our layout as on 25 Jul with 9 Aust Div and 1 SA Div in the north, 5 Ind Div on RUWEISAT Ridge with 1 Armd Div behind it, 2 NZ Div south of this, 7 Armd Div in extreme south with right Royals, centre 7 Mot Bde and left 4 SAAC. A second map shows the same layout on 1:100,000 scale. The draughtsman has not noticed the change of scale and by copying the former map exactly has made our extreme left rest on RUWEISAT Ridge.

5. ENEMY LOSSES

Tk Casualties

(a) GERMAN Previous estimates of Tk casualties have proved over-optimistic. A careful count of dioxlets in the area north of the 870 northing grid as far west as the junc of the purple and red grids gives a total of 38 of which 3 are Mk IIs. In addition 1 Mk III Long has been evacuated by us intact. South of this area it is estimated that there are a further 13 tks which may be in our hands, making a total of 52. The area concerned is still being searched. Senior offrs who took part in the battle on 31 Aug - 2 Sep confirm that 11 tks were towed out of action by other tks. In addition the enemy may have recovered a further 40 odd tks making a total off the rd of irrecoverable at the moment of approx 100.

(b) ITALIAN A total of 6 M13s have far been destroyed by the REs. A further four are probably in our hands but are not yet confirmed. PWs have already stated that many Italian tks suffered damage on our minefds during the night 30/31 Aug. Two L6s also have been destroyed.

6. ENEMY MINE

A new enemy mine has been encountered; weight of mine complete 8 - 9 lbs; weight of filling 3 - 4 lbs; it consists of a circular metal body 8" diameter by 1 1/2" deep and in the centre of the top of the lid the brass fuze assembly is screwed; a domed metal mushroom-shaped pressure plate, diameter 10", is positioned over the body and takes the load causing pressure to come onto the fuze assembly, thus detonating the mine. The fuze is a neat workshop job and has almost certainly been made in EUROPE; it has settings to use the mine as AP or A Tk or as a booby trap operated by a trip wire. Samples of this mine are urgently required and their location should be reported to the nearest RE Offr.

The chief interest of this mine is the fact that it contains only 3 to 4 lbs of explosive (compared with Tellermine 12 1/2 lbs) and it thus comes into line with our mines in this respect; it has no special holes to accept additional anti-lifting devices like the Tellermine, but these devices can be readily att to ANY mine, and care should be exercised accordingly.

Mines so far reported have been laid flush with thr ground.

[Handwritten Signature]
Lieut.
IO. 2/23 Aust

Photo R of 9 Sep over DABA, the eastern terminus of the ry, shows that there are now approx 350 trucks in the sta and sidings there.

7. ENEMY MORALE

The following are extracts from letters written by Cpl W. T. LEPPIN, 5 Bn, 115 Lorried Inf Regt :-

"30 Aug 42. In the next few days we expect the offensive to begin. I can tell you that Tommy will be thrown back to CAIRO and further as ROMMEL will soon forge victory.

Otherwise AFRICA is a comfortless place. We are lying in the desert worried by sand and flies. I can't describe the climate to you. 50-60 degrees heat by day and at night 5 - 6 degrees of cold, and when morning comes you are soaked through.

Still, thus far I have got over all these difficulties. Tommy's aircraft are like bees; you get a funny feeling when one of the bombs comes howling down - and you can't find a hole".

"30 Aug 42. Today, Sunday, I'm feeling well. Food and drink taste good as always. Here in AFRICA at the moment things are moving. I believe that ROMMEL's large scale ops are about to begin immediately. Poor Tommy! For this battle will mean the end of Tommy in AFRICA - and of even greater importance, the beginning of the end of the war."

8. ENEMY ORGANIZATION

GERMAN

A wpn register belonging to 3 Coy, 1 Bn, 115 Pz Gren Regt was picked up in the DEIR EL REGIL area on 7 Sep. It showed that on 25 Aug the Coy had only one 5 cm A Tk gun, 8 LMGs, 2 HMGs and 2 81 mm mortars. Spare parts were said to be available in "sufficient" quantities. (The est of a Pz Gren Coy includes 3x5cm A Tk guns, 3 Med 41 A Tk guns, 18 LMGs, 2 HMGs and 3 81 mm mortars).

The strength of the Coy was probably about 90 ORs and an unknown number of offrs.

9. METEOROLOGICAL

	<u>Sunrise</u>	<u>Sunset</u>	<u>Moonrise</u>	<u>Moonset</u>
13 Sep	0638	1904	1908	2103
14 Sep	0638	1903	1909	2144
15 Sep	0639	1901	1911	2229

Lieut
IO, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
(J. W. DUNHAM)

2/23 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY NO 119
(Based on infm up to 1400 hrs 15 Sep)

1. GENERAL

The situation along the whole front has been generally quiet with air activity on a slightly increased scale. Several small bombing raids in EL ALAMEIN Sector have taken place but damage and casualties were negligible.

2. GROUND OPS

A recce patrol salvaged Bren magazines from a derelict truck in central sector.

Working parties were reported EAST and SE of WEST Pt 23 and WEST of Pt 24 in northern sector.

The enemy at 1300 hrs sent out a patrol of 14 men from approx 87123000 to within 900 yds of WEST Pt 24. They were engaged by arty and a patrol moved from our lines to meet them. The enemy engaged our patrol with mortar and A Tk rifle fire before withdrawing in face of our SA fire. Patrol to area 87182983 captured PW from 3 Coy I Bn 62 IR. PW was one of offrs patrol of 13 in front of their wire. Patrol exchanged fire with enemy patrol and cries were heard from the enemy. Their fire ceased.

Arty apart from harassing programme engaged observed enemy movement at 877288.

Enemy Arty Activity : A noticeable item in the enemy arty activity today has been the absence of the usual early morning and evening straffe on TEL EL BISA. Shelling commenced at 0802 hrs, and continued until 1025 hrs, being mainly directed against our EDLs between northings 286 and 292. Hostile btys "RD", "FV" and "JY" were the most active during this period, and the Flash Spotting Tp ranged a tp of 1 Pd Regt SAA on to the latter, the subsequent bombardment falling in the target area. After 1025 hrs, there was only slight activity, apart from short bursts of activity at 1430, 1427, 1512 and 1753 hrs. Only 2 guns of HB "RD" were active today. Prior to the bombardment by 7 Med Regt R. this HB had three guns.

3. AIR OPS

EL ALAMEIN Sector - At 0833 hrs 3 enemy aircraft bombed area 88602945 and at 1045 hrs 9 JU 87s escorted by Me 109s carried out a low level bombing attack at 881298. No damage was caused by either attack. These and recent raids by Ju 87s on other parts of the front are noteworthy because of their manner of attack in that they have not carried out their characteristic dive. It has been confirmed that Ju 87s have no bomb sights, all level bombing is thus done at random.

Night 10/11 Sep - 7 Halifaxes and 12 Wellingtons attacked shipping and the jetties at TOBRUK, starting small fires on the south shore and 1 large fire with explosion. One Halifax attacked EL GUSI Set LG.

11 Sep.- Activity limited to fighter patrols during morning and late afternoon. Hurricanes and Spitfires intercepted early formation of 20 Ju 87s escorted by same number of fighters in Central sector destroying one Ju 87, one Me 109 probable, damaging 2 Me109s without loss. At midday Hurricanes and Spitfires escorting Tac R over fwd area encountered three separate formations of enemy fighters. Results one Me 109 destroyed, one Me109 probable and 6 Me202 damaged at expense of one Hurricane shot down (pilot safe). During other sweeps of battle area by Hurricanes, Tomahawks, Spitfires and Kittyhawks (incl those of USAAF) small numbers of enemy fighters were sighted but no engagements took place. One Kittihawk is missing possibly due to bad weather on late patrol. Enemy air effort on slightly increased scale included patrols in med numbers by Me109s and Me202, Stuka attacks by 20 plus and 16 a/c on NZ and Australians at 0830 and 1230 hrs, and fighter bomber attacks on Australians at 1830 and LG 222 at 1040 hrs, when Hurricanes under 252 Wing destroyed 1 Me109 without loss.

FACTS AND FIGURES. During period 31 Aug - 5 Sep, light bombers alone carried out 639 sorties and dropped 3265 bombs weighing 890,000 lbs.

On the "peak" day - 3 Sep - light bombers carried out 200 sorties dropping 1036 bombs weighing 269,750 lbs. This represents one bomb every 48 seconds during day-light hrs, and a weight of 6 lbs HE bombs per sec.

Raids on Div area were carried out as under :-

13 Sep 0833 hrs	3 Me109s area 88602945
1045 "	9 Ju87s escorted by 10-12 Me109 area 881298.
1800 "	2 Me109s area 888293
1820 "	11 Ju87s escorted by 7-9 Me109s area 881294
1849 "	4 Ju87s area 883296
14 Sep 0900 "	3 enemy aircraft area 43188987
1145 "	3 Me109s area 87753000.

Neither damage nor casualties are reported from these raids.

At 2110 hrs 14 Sep a stick of bombs was dropped about six miles EAST of our posns. No damage resulted. One OR was injured. The enemy is evidently systematically bombing our rear areas. He bombed the EL ALAMEIN area and the RUWEISAT Ridge area yesterday and at 1110 hrs today a gp of approx 6 Me109s dropped small calibre bombs in this area, a stick of bombs being dropped EAST of the minefields and another stick WEST of our posns. At least two of these burst in the air, a time fuse evidently being used to detonate same. Further infm on this type of aerial bomb will be promulgated on receipt.

4. ENEMY DISPOSNS

PW from I/62 IR states that his coy - 3 Coy - is in the line in area 87182983 with a coy of GERMANS on each side. 1 and 2 Coys are approx 2 kms in the rear adjoining each other with a coy of GERMANS on either flank of the two coy block. No 4 Coy is 1 km further back. ITALIAN arty is stated to be in sp.

5. ENEMY METHODS

(a) Minefield - A report has been received of a minefield laid by the enemy at 884365 in the recent ops. It consisted of a hurriedly laid fd of mixed Tellers, GS, Mk IV and the new enemy mine; mines were in 3 rows at approx 10 yds intervals; some mines were laid in pairs. There was no apparent marking of the fd.

(b) Arty - The enemy harassing programme throughout the day was from 25 prs, almost exclusively, firing 1, 2 or 4 guns at once from different posns, mostly in the open.

(c) PW statement brings out the following points :-

Passwords - There is a daily password for GERMANS and ITALIANS, which the PW did not know. It is however apparently sufficient to say "amico Italiano" to pass on patrol.

(d) Patrols - Independent GERMAN and ITALIAN patrols of up to 15 strong patrol each night for local protection fwd of their wire. In the case of the ITALIANS at least the depth of the patrol is governed solely by the individual courage of the patrol cond.

(e) Trip Wires - Patrol reports finding of a trip wire not attached to the supporting pickets but passing through eyes in the pickets. In some places the trip wire is connected to the dannert wire also. No anti-personnel mines could be located above ground though the trip wire was examined for some distance. It was observed however that in places the trip wire is connected to the ground by a short vertical wire and the end of the trip wire disappears into the ground also, not being fastened to the last supporting picket.

6. ENEMY MORALE

A letter written from ESSEN on 18 Aug 42 and addressed to Schutze Heiri Soilas of I Bn 155 PG Regt reads as follows :-

"Practically every night the air alarm is sounded. Even during daytime, in clear weather, alerts are frequent. Here in ESSEN we have always had a bit of luck, but as the war is not finished yet, we

should not be too happy about it. A little while ago and during the day, a few bombs were dropped on Krupp's Works and about 30 people were killed....."

"Yes, dear Heini, it is almost three years now and the end of this slaughter is still not in sight and the position regarding food gets worse day by day. One can definitely not satisfy one's appetite any more. What there is to eat is not at all good".

7. ENEMY LOSSES

Tks. 1 Mk III Special and 1 Mk IV damaged by our armd forces in the south at 88402506 were blown up by RE during the night 10/11 Sep. These should be added to the total of German tks destroyed.

Guns. 7 88 mm DP guns were definitely destroyed or captured during the recent battle.

It is reported that yesterday evening a broadcast was made in German, presumably from RUSSIA, on German casualties in the Russian campaign. Two lists of divs given, one list of those with over 50% casualties, the second of those with heavier casualties still. Included in the list was 22 Inf Div.

8. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

(a) Italian. 861 Tp 100/17 hows, 332 bis Bty, Littoria Armd Div (recently identified). It is now learnt that 332 bis Bty forms part of 330 G.a.F. Arty. 861 Tp is a new identification.

Distribn of Forces. 2 Coy, 1 Bn, 4 Inf Regt, 29 Piemonte Div has been identified in TRIPOLITANIA on 2 Jul. Piemonte Div, which is known to be in GREECE, has once again supplied what is probably not more than an isolated reinft, for it will be remembered that during May one tp of 24 Arty Regt was identified in NORTH AFRICA.

A captured letter dated 6 Aug 42, picked up in area 886268 on 8 Sep is addressed 3 Sqn LG 3 Armd Gp Novara Lancers PM 133.

Comment. - The "White Lancers" as they are called were previously under Centauro Armd Div; another card found in the same area is addressed HQ 3 Armd Gp and bears the Centauro PM 131. This card is dated 18 May.

German. A PW from 3 Coy, 155 PGR states that his coy formed part of the Kayser Battle Gp, which also included six captured British tks. In early Jul the Kayser Battle Gp consisted of 1 Bn 155 PGR (of which Capt KAYSER is OC) and 1 Coy 190 A Tk Bn, but the Battle Gp has not been identified in the ops just concluded. The PW's coy had three 5 cm A Tk guns and 1 Lt mortar and its strength on 4 Sep was reduced to 60 as a result of the hy arty fire to which it has been subjected since 31 Aug.

Three PWs were taken from Kampfstaffel D.K on 4 Sep south of the ALEM EL HALFA posn.

(b) Personalities. German. - According to a PW of 104 PGR, Maj-Gen von RANDOW now comds 21 Armd Div in succession to von BISMARCK. RANDOW was comd of 13 Cav Regt in 1938 with the rank of Lt-Col. He was promoted Col w.e.f. 1 Feb 42. For a time he was commandant of the "Panzer Trupper Schule "WUENSDORF" and on 1 Mar 42 was in comd of a Lorried Inf Bde in 24 Armd Div. PW gave the impression that the Gen was not popular with the tps.

Generalmajor Mormann Bernard RAMCKE. Age 53. Comes from SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN. Started with the Marines. Nothing further is known of his activities until at the age of 51 he volunteered for service with airborne tps. Was oberst in May 41 and took part in the CRETE ops apparently as 2 i/c of 1 Assault Regt under MEINDL. Took over comd of the attack on MALEME when MEINDL was wounded. Was also awarded the "RITTERKREUZ" in Jun 41.

It is not known what date he was promoted Generalmajor nor what appt he has filled between CRETE and his appearance in NORTH AFRICA in comd of the Battle Gp which carries his name.

9. ENEMY ORGANISATION

Italian. - PW states that during the ops on 12/19 Jul 42, 3 Bn

19 Inf Regt was practically wiped out and 1 and 2 Bns suffered losses. As a result of this action Maj CENZI, OC 3 Bn, who lost the Bn cash box with Lire 600,000 was court-martialled, and is at present at base - making up his accounts. Surviving elements of 3 Bn were posted to 1 and 2 Bns.

Ref WE German Parachute Rifle Bn. A check reveals that number of MGs per rifle coy should read 4.

J. W. Dunham
(J W DUNHAM) Lieut
IO 2/23 Aust Inf

2/23 AMBT INF BN INT SUMMARY NO 120
(Based on info to 1400 hrs 17 Sep).

1. GENERAL

Considerable northward movement of enemy MT continued throughout yesterday afternoon though this morning it was slightly reduced. The concealment of a large stationary convoy by smoke screen was unsuccessfully attempted on two or three occasions this morning by smoke laying veh.

2. GROUND OPS

Patrols in coastal sector to area of rd junc 875303, TELL EL EISA sector to area WEST Pt 23, 87183010 and in SW sector to 878291, 874294 and 875291, all report enemy extremely quiet during the night.

Our arty moved tp of guns well fwd in an attempt to engage the hy enemy traffic observed but even then the extreme range prevented very effective shooting.

Standing patrol of one pl in general area BIR EL MAQTUB 879292 was engaged in a clash with an enemy party. The enemy estimated to be 45/50 strong approached the right sec posn at 87852918 and fire was exchanged. Cries and groans were heard but nothing further. Recce patrol of 1 offr and protective sec after first light moved to the area and recovered, 1 Spandau MG, 2 empty and 3 full Spandau mags, 1 box amm. There were signs of 4 bodies having been dragged away and a blood stained GERMAN tunic was lying nearby.

3. AIR OPS

(a) General : Night 12/13 Sep. Bostons co-operating with Albatrosses attacked dispersed a/c on HANEISH LGs. Bombing reported good and one fire left burning in target area.

13 Sep. Spitfires, Kittyhawks and Tomahawks patrolled battle area during day and engaged four formations of enemy fighters resulting in 3 Me109s probable and 3 Me109s damaged for loss of one Kittyhawk (pilot safe) and damage to one Spitfire. Enemy air activity on small scale included patrols by small numbers of fighters morning and afternoon with two Stuka and fighter-bomber attacks Central and Northern Sectors.

Bomber Ops : 12/13 Sep. 23 Bostons co-operated with 3 Albatrosses who also bombed, in attacks against LGs 13 and 101. 8 bombs fell near 10/15 badly dispersed a/c and one fire was started in NW corner of LG. Slight inaccurate AA was encountered over target. A total of 79 x 250 lb bombs and 20 boxes incendiaries was dropped by the Bostons, and 19 x 250 lb bombs by the Albatrosses.

(b) Claiming Enemy Casualties.

The following clarification on claims of enemy casualties is reported here from a previous summary :-

"PROBABLY DESTROYED" means that the pilot is certain that the enemy must have been destroyed, but was unlucky enough not to have seen it actually crash, or go down in flames. It does not mean that the pilot was in doubt about it.

"DAMAGED" means that definite damage was inflicted, such as to disable the enemy aircraft or involve some major repair (equivalent to our category 2). An enemy aircraft which is merely "squirting" at is not necessarily DAMAGED.

Certain statistics are based upon our claims of "DESTROYED" "PROBABLE" and "DAMAGED" and the purpose of the foregoing remarks is to remove any doubts there may be about the meaning of the terms.

4. ENEMY DISPOSALS

PW captured during the night 13/14 Sep. has given the following

additional/

additional infm about his bn posn :-

In front of the posn is a continuous minefield 10 metres wide between 2 rows of Danner wire. The only gap through the fd known to PW is approx 1 metre wide and is used by a listening patrol 10/12 men strong which goes out 3/400 metres in front of the fd every night. PW concludes that there are no mines in front of the main fd but cannot say whether AP mines are included in the fd itself. 100 metres behind the fd is the coy posn divided into 5 "centri di fuoco" or strongpoints, 4 containing 1 47/32 A Tk gun, 1 MMG and 1 or 2 LMGs each and the fifth having a 20 mm Solothurn A Tk rifle in place of the A Tk gun.

It appears that this part of the front is held by alternate GERMAN and ITALIAN units and that bns are sited with a front of 500/1000 metres and 2/3 kms in depth.

Recent air photographs and CB reports show that a second line is being formed formed 2/3 kms WEST of the main minefield along the general line of the 25 metre contour and therefore overlooking the fwd line. According to PW's statements, 1, 2, and 4 Coys of his bn would be in the area through which the 25 metre contour passes.

A continuous line has been made and not a series of large strongpoints with gaps covered by fire as formed the defences on the EGYPTIAN frontier. German defensive practice in AFRICA has been to build a fwd line of "battle outposts" in front of which are a number of listening posts and OPs. This fwd line is manned by approx one third of the available force; behind it is the main defence line with the remaining two thirds out of which a mob res is formed. Priority for the construction of a posn is from front to rear, that is, the OPs and posns for covering parties first, then the "battle outpost" line and finally the main posn and battle HQ.

From PW statements and past experience it seems that the line on the 25 metre contour is to be the main defence line and is being built and manned by the main body of each bn. 1, or possibly 2, coys remain in the fwd line which till recently has been the only defence line.

5. ENEMY METHODS

To cover MI movement it has been observed that the enemy employs smoke carrying vehs which move up and down line of vehs in convoy laying smoke as they go.

There are indications that the enemy is becoming "Counter Bty Conscious". Apart from interfering with our Photo R he is thought to be using the following methods of deception :- dummy flashes, ranging guns placed well to the flank, dummy guns, alternate posns and synchronised firing of guns of different calibres.

A recce patrol reports the apparent reading of news by the enemy to tps in the front line. A man was seen reading to a gp, the words "STALINGRAD" and "FUEHRER" being plainly distinguished.

6. ENEMY MORALE

The PW of 3 Coy 1 Bn 62 IR states that when our patrol captured him he tried to tell them that there were 10 others of his party who would arrive back shortly, and that, if our patrol waited, the entire ITALIAN patrol could be captured. This, he considered, would be a much better fate than living in constant fear and trembling, on 2 litres of water per day. Our patrol did not understand and when the 2 patrols met in the dark, he shouted the password "CATANIA".

7. ENEMY RUMOURS

A PW states that there is a very strong rumour in the ITALIAN Army to the effect that Italo BALBO was in ENGLISH pay as a spy, that he is still alive and that is why the ENGLISH know so much about the Axis armies.

8. ENEMY LOSSES

PW states that of the original Trento Div which arrived in AFRICA 18 months ago there remains less than 400.

M. Ferguson
for (J W DUNHAM) Lieut
IO 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

2/23 AUST INF BN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 121

COPY NO

(Based on infm to 1400 hrs 19 Sep)

19 Sep 42.

1. GENERAL

The situation remains quiet with enemy air activity and shelling on a decreased scale throughout the period.

Few opportunity targets were located by our arty during daylight hrs, but continue with harassing fire throughout the night.

Patrols were out night 16/17 Sep and 17/18 Sep and report increased working activity SOUTH of ry line and quiet NORTH of line. Fire was exchanged with several enemy parties but no results were observed.

Flanking Formation reports by explosions in the area 874288 and interpret them as blasting ops. This suggests the enemy is busy on defensive works on MITEIRIYA Ridge.

In the SOUTH an armd patrol reports having reached 88152619 without interference from the enemy. Another patrol engaged enemy working party on old minefd from 879257 SOUTH to the 255 Grid.

2. AIR OPS

Night 13/14 Sep. Bostons, Albacores and B25 Mitchells dropped HE, incendiary and delayed action bombs on HANEISH LGs and among dispersed aircraft. 9 fires burning at conclusion of attack. 4 B25s Mitchells missing.

14 Sep. Spitfires, Kittyhawks, Warhawks and Hurricanes patrolled over battle area and west to DABA. In two engagements with small formations of Me 109s/Mc202s 1 Me 109 destroyed without loss. In other sweeps our only casualty 1 Kittyhawk forced landed, pilot safe. (slightly wounded). In afternoon Kittyhawks with escort bombed LG in DABA area but much cloud prevented observation of results. Enemy air activity over battle area much reduced and only two small fighter-bomber attacks during morning reported.

Night 13/14 Sep - Bomber Ops. 12 Bostons and 10 B 25 Mitchells with Albacores illuminating, attacked LGs 12, 13 and 101. A total of 44 x 500 lb and 52 x 250 lbs bombs (incl some delayed action) and 24 boxes incendiaries were dropped. All bombs fell in the target area, resulting one large and 3 other fires. 4 B 25 Mitchells are missing.

9 Albacores co-operating with Bostons dropped flares and 20 x 250 bombs on LGs 12, 13 and 101, and later spotted for a Naval op.

11 Liberators attacked shipping and the harbour at BENGHASI. One aircraft bombed a ship of 8,000 tons. Bursts seen in harbour area.

Northern defences and harbour installations at TOBRUK were attacked by 14 Halifaxes, 60 Wellingtons. 6 fires were seen, one of which lasted 1/2 hr, explosions and many bursts along the jetties and among gun posns were scored. Intense by AA experienced, and some night fighters were seen, but no combats took place.

6 Wellingtons attacked a camp 9 miles west of TOBRUK, dropping 1 4,000 lb bomb, 40 x 250 and 90 x 40 lb fragmentation bombs. 1 aircraft attacked gun posn at TOBRUK with 1 x 4,000 lb bomb from 7,000 ft.

Enemy Air activity -

Night 13/14 Sep. There were no ops.

14 Sep. Enemy air ops against the battle area were on a reduced scale, only two fighter-bomber attacks being reported at 0840 hrs against posns 4389 and at 1145 hrs against 8730, in both cases 3 aircraft took part. Two fighter bombers are reported to have attacked aerodromes south of AMIRIYA at 1325 hrs.

A considerable proportion of the enemy's effort was directed against our Naval units returning from TOBRUK. Stukas and fighter bombers carried out several attacks but few details are as yet available. One attack by 18 Stukas was intercepted north of FUKA by 2 Beaufighters, and 5 - 6 Ju 87s jettisoned their bombs; one Stuka was probably destroyed and 2 others damaged.

Battle of DEIR EL RAGIL - 31 Aug to 5 Sep. Facts and figures.

Over the whole period of the battle (31 Aug - 5 Sep) day and night, our bombers dropped 6,500 bombs weight 1,710,000 lbs. This

represents one bomb every 75 seconds. The average concentration of our bombing is estimated at 25,000 lbs per square mile per hr.

On the night 2/3 Sep and during the following day nearly 2,000 bombs were dropped weighing over half a million lbs (509,450 lbs). This represents one bomb every 44 seconds during the 24 hr period (incl some 4,000 lb bombs) and a weight of 6 lbs of HE per second.

During the battle period 14 bombers alone carried out 639 sorties dropping 3,265 bombs weighing 890,000 lbs.

On the "peak" day - 3 Sep - 14 bombers alone carried out 226 sorties dropping 1,036 bombs weighing 269,750 lbs. This represents one bomb every 48 seconds during daylight hrs, and a weight of 6 lbs HE per second.

During the 5 nights 31 Aug - 4 Sep our night bombers carried out 365 sorties dropping 3,172 bombs weight 816,300 lbs HE. (incl a number of 4,000 lb bombs).

On the night 2/3 Sep nearly 1,000 bombs were dropped. This represents one bomb every 40 seconds and over 6 lbs HE per second.

Our losses in aircraft were 3 day and 3 night bombers, two crews safe, all due to AA opposition.

At 1215 hrs today 9 Ju 77s escorted by Me 109s dive bombed 882298. The aircraft also used sirens. There was neither damage nor casualties.

Night 14/15 Sep. Hurricanes on intruder patrols DABA area sighted no e/a but strafed camps in area without observed results.

15 Sep. Spitfires, Kittyhawks, Warhawks and Hurricanes in course of patrols battle area had 3 engagements with enemy fighters. First combat with 7 Me109s no claims made and in second one Me 109 probable, without loss. Late afternoon Kittyhawks intercepted formation of 50 Me109s Me202s central sector claiming one Me109 destroyed 4 Me109 probable and 2 Me 109 damaged. Our losses 6 a/c missing (one pilot safe). Spitfires and Hurricanes provided cover for comprehensive Tac R battle area without incident. At 1300 hrs Stukas bombed posns in the north while enemy fighter bombers made 4 sorties with single a/c in morning and one late attack ALAMEIN area. Formation of 50 fighters put up by enemy late afternoon possibly as screen to Stukas combated by Kittyhawk wing and no reports of bombing received from our land forces. At midday special Spitfire closed with Ju 86 on recon DELTA area at over 40,000 ft attacked from close range and claims e/a probably destroyed over DABA.

From PW Sources. Referring to the attack on the most recent MALTA convoy a GAF prisoner from LG 1 said they received practically no assistance from the Italian fleet, but even worse two German aircraft were shot down by Italian fighters.

Two enemy planes carried out what was possibly recon of area of new minefd fwd of our FDLs in SW sector of Div front.

3. ENEMY DISPOSNS

A PW captured 17 Sep states that 21 Armd Div has moved back into res and it may now be in the area west and SW of QARET EL ABD. Today only 3 tks have been reported in the HIMEIMAT area and activity there is on a reduced scale.

The strength in which the enemy has decided to hold the Southern sector and the location of his main defences cannot be judged yet. It may be his intention to keep only a "forward posn" on approx the line of our western minefd and to re-establish his "main defensive zone" on the line QARET EL ABD - KALAKH - TAQA.

4. ENEMY METHODS

The method of tk destruction seen and used by a PW was as follows - The petrol tk cap is removed and a runlet made in the sand close to the petrol tk filled with petrol and ignited. German Tk Tactics - A reliable PW from 5 Tk Regt has given the following infm:-

During a tk attack A Tk guns are placed on both flanks. If a withdrawal is necessary the tks try to retire on the axis of the adv, and when they are through the guns move across to form a screen. Intercomn is in clear. All operators can listen in to the traffic but no one below a Tp Comd is allowed to transmit. Sgns retain their

upt when on the move and receive their POL, amm, water and ration from it, but it is brigaded when the Regt goes into action.

Enemy methods of clearing minefields -

Enemy methods of clearing minefields during his adv on 30/31 Aug were noted as follows :- During the night.

(a) (i) 3 or 4 men worked with spades, picking up the mines to make one narrow gap. Immediately behind each man was an AFV (tk or Armd C) covering him with its wps. As the digger moved a pace or two fwd, so the AFV followed up behind him. No lights were visible.

(ii) Up to 10 or 14 vehs or AFV's were driven straight at the minefield in an attempt to find at least one clear route through.

It is not known whether or not this was successful as the first minefield had to be abandoned before first light.

Mines were seen to explode however, and it is considered that several vehs must have been destroyed.

(b) After first light

On a front of about 400 yds, AFV's advanced 50 yds apart. In the front of each veh were men picking up mines covered by the wps of the AFV's. Between the AFV's, inf advanced across the minefield in line about 3 yds apart with bayonets fixed. In one area, an inf gun was seen to be brought into posn on the Western edge of the minefield, covering the adv.

(c) General

(i) Arty preparation was made on the Eastern edge of the minefield before the adv began. This appeared to be on areas selected for the break through.

(ii) No attempt was made to clear mines before the moon was up.

(iii) The enemy advanced on a wide front, finally selecting his routes where opposition was weakest.

5. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

German

A PW from HQ 2 Bn 104 P G Regt walked into our lines at 890257 today. States that he lost his way while walking from one coy to another.

According to PW 21 armd Div moved back to the QATTARA track a few days ago. I and III Bns 104 P G Regt had already gone back to rest and II Bn left yesterday, their place being taken by Italians already in that area. Recent enemy activity has been the laying of small mine marshes in the wadis east of our minefields.

6. ENEMY ORGANIZATION

Italian -

PWs of 9 Bn 3 Regt Folgore Div, captured on 3/4 Sep now reveal that 3 Regt consists of HQ Coy, 8, 9 and 10 Bns. This conflicts with the evidence previously given in which 7 Bn was stated to be in the regt. 7 Bn thus forms part of 186 Inf Regt. PWs state that 8 Bn was last seen in ITALY in May at the end of exercises in which all three bns took part. 10 Bn joined 9 Bn on 19 Aug at a posn approx 15 kms behind the line. 3 Regt was apparently numbered 187 Inf Regt for 1 day only while in TOBRUK. The composition of 9 Bn was given as follows : HQ and 25, 26 & 27 Coys, each Coy having HQ and three pls.

9 Bn HQ consists of :-

Mixed pl, Runners, sigs, medical and flame-throwing personnel.
Strength 30 men.

MG pl : Two secs of one MG per sec. Strength 23 men.

Mortar pl : Three secs of one mortar per sec. Strength 31 men.

Bn est is 400 men. At Regt HQ there are four 47/32 guns which are allotted to Bns as required.

7. ENEMY PROPAGANDA

An Italian postcard picked up fwd of our FDLs depicts a German and an Italian soldier holding a kneeling prisoner with the wording "Those who sacked BENGHASI will be brought to their knees". The prisoner has a British steel helmet on the ground beside him but his eqpt is identical with that of his German captor.

8. ITEMS OF GENERAL INFM

The PW from II Bn 104 PGR captured recently in the south has provided his share of evidence on subjects which are frequently mentioned by German PW. According to him, only five vehs of the bn are not British but all petrol is now German. He confirms that 164 Inf Div are not the only tps who are short of water by his story that his Bn, CO included, has neither washed nor shaved for several weeks. His report of the prevalence in the bn of "gyppy tummy" is interesting in connection with an order issued by 15 Armd Div that men suffering from dysentery must remain the responsibility of the fwd tps as it is not possible to get them back to the base. He added to the increasing membership of the German "bomb-bore" club, by confirming the devastation at COLOGNE and he had his own version of the recent failure at RAGIL: he said that ROMMEL who had been ill some weeks ago had called off the ops after a quarrel with the Italians who had not advanced rapidly enough.

Appx A shows extracts from a captured diary and letters.

9. DETAILED ENEMY DISPOSNS

MGs - 87352945.

Minefds - 87273016 'S' type and Mk IV British mines.

87213009 Mk II British on 320° 87453042 anti-personnel.

Posts - 86883056 with suspected OP.
87183021.

Working parties - 87303020, 87122995, 87163012 (German voices)
87312965.

OPs - 87193036.

Wire - 87332970 single dannert.

87312968 single dannert running due SOUTH.

Movement - 872302 - 20 men.

10. SECURITY - Reminder.

This document to be destroyed within 48 hrs. Other secret documents of non-permanent nature to be destroyed by fire after use.

J. W. Dunham
for J. W. Dunham Lieut
IO. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
(J W DUNHAM)

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS OF A CPL IN REGTL HQ
5 TK REGT

The following are extracts from the captured letters of a Corporal in the R.H.Q. 5 Tk Regt, from his mother in BREMEN and from a girl in HAMBURG :-

(7 Jul 42 - this letter describes a bicycle trip from HAMBURG to the sea). We got to LUBECK fairly quickly. From there we followed the TRAVE in the direction of TRAVE-MUNDE. As we were not quite certain of the way, we asked some people and were highly astonished to hear almost every time: "No understand, no understand" (nix verstehen). It is quite amazing how many foreigners you see here, immediately beyond LUBECK...however, every tenth person we asked, was usually a German, which gave us some comfort. Later, when we got closer to TRAVEMUNDE, we saw the innumerable camps of foreigners on the roadside. Poles, Russians, prison camps with Frenchmen, Croats, and God knows what mixture of people. They work in the surrounding factories, and we were glad when we had passed that zone - for the rabble we saw there was quite horrible.

(30 July 42 BREMEN).....

Here, everything goes on in the usual way - one longs for peace, for then one knows at least what one is working for.....

14 July BREMEN).....

A fortnight ago we had some dreadful nights. On the DOBBEN and in SCHWACH HAUSEN the sight is terrible. The HANSEATEN chocolate factory suffered tremendous damage - 170,000 bars of chocolate and 80,000 cases of sweets have gone up in flames - isn't it dreadful? Thank goodness we have been spared.

9 July 42).....

Rommel seems to be quite a wonderful chap, he looks so kind-hearted, but you poor boys must go through a lot, the hardships and that dreadful heat, those terrifying sandstorms and then the fat flies and mosquitoes. I do not think that you are getting much rest - you must always go on and on after that cursed Tommy - what horrible faces those prisoners have, one gets quite frightened, but what about you who see all this in the flesh - I think I would wet myself with fright.

(17 July 42).....

Wonderful - the good rations you have captured. When I think of it - ham, sausages etc - and peaches - it makes one's mouth water, as you can well imagine. What do Pork Sausages taste like? - Horse or Pork? I hope you are intelligent enough to send your mother some things. I do not mean food, but other bits of Tommy equipment. I am sure they have good socks.

(31 July 42 HAMBURG)

This place looks terrible. Tommy visited us properly on two consecutive nights. They were nights of horror - the worst since the war started. Terrible fires everywhere, no part of the city has been spared.

The following are extracts from the diary of a member of 104 Panzer Grenadiers.

- Jul 7 In ATHENS by the afternoon - a beautiful town.
8 1100 hrs, journeyed to aircraft. 1200 hrs, took off for KRETA - a quarter of an hour over KRETA.
9-10 Swimming and plenty of fruit.
11 Plane shot down over KRETA.
13 1230 hrs, took off in Junkers. After 60 miles we had to return as the right motor cut out and the left got hot. Jettisoned 1,000 litres of Benzine and everything was made ready to land on the sea. Still, in spite of our troubles we reached our aerodrome.
14 0500 hrs, flight to MALOMES. Another start 0730 hrs - arrived TOBRUK 0950 hrs - marvellous journey. Marvellous rations in TOBRUK all from Tommy. Journeyed to NIEDER SOLLUM where I spent the night.
15 Travelled to MERSA MATRUH.
16 On to EL DABA to the DEUTSCHER AFRIKA KORPS for posting to my unit - in the meantime had a swim for the last time.

- Jul 17 Went to Div - greeted by Tommy for the first time with bombs.
18 To HQ Coy 104 Inf Regt. Tommy every few minutes.
19 To RHQ in the evening - continuous arty fire and aircraft.
20 Spent the whole day in a hole - by arty fire both sides. shell splinter went through my blouse and haversack - in the evening, aircraft.
21 Arty and aircraft in the morning 0900 hrs.
22 Sister Marie's birthday. Aircraft. I've seen my first English prisoners. 0900 hrs back to B Ech. In the evening introduced to 1 Zug 2 Gruppe.
23 0400 hrs morning move fwd to posn. Continuous arty fire - spent the whole time in a hole. In evening back to res.
24 Arty fire etc. In the evening aircraft.
Aug 13 Digging.
14 Digging - in the evening stung by a scorpion; very painful.
15-23 Sick - clipping M3 amn.
24 English bombing throughout the whole night.
25 The same.
26 Quiet day, but in the night I was laying an axis (piste) for the div adv. During the night whilst on this job we were attacked by aircraft for three hrs.
28 Carried on with the job - the aircraft leave us in peace. At our resting place during the day an English plane was shot down, otherwise a quiet day.
29 Peaceful day.
30 Sunday. 1600 hrs, food. 1700 hrs, fall in. 1930 hrs the div goes through. GENERAL has fallen.
31 Adv a further 10 kms without disturbing the enemy. Everything is going according to plan.
Sep 1 Carried on still further. Two vehs knocked out during morning by arty fire. In posn during afternoon. Tommy will attack so we are building a strongpoint.
2 We are lying ready for defence. Tommy attacks with planes.
-

SPECIAL NOTE

Details are required of GERMAN tentage with particular reference to any special "black-out" devices or material. Any infm on this subject is required urgently.

1. GENERAL

There has been a substantial fwd move to our FDLs on the SW front of the Div sector. The new line had been planned, a protective mine-field laid over a period of three nights and on night 18/19 Sep the units moved fwd and dug themselves into their new posns. The move fwd was behind strong protective patrols and was carried out smoothly without any interference from the enemy, who, in fact, was observed this morning to be apparently registering with arty our former line.

This fwd move varies in depth from 1000 to approx 2000 yds which reduces the distance between our FDLs and the enemy in this sector to an average of 2000 yds. This move will amongst other things give increased observation of enemy territory and enable all arms to more effectively harass his defences.

During the night standing patrols covered improvement in the new posns and on other parts of the front recce patrols reported the continued activity of enemy working parties.

2. GROUND OPS

- (a) Patrol of 1 offr and 10 ORs when in general area 87383029 was challenged in GERMAN and fired on. Patrol returned the fire and heard cries coming from within the enemy posn. Patrol withdrew about 100 yds and continued recce of enemy wire without further interference.
Patrol to area 87323017 heard large enemy working party to their front. Triple dannert fence prevented closer investigation.
- (b) Patrols to 87292969 and 87162996 report working parties active. Latter patrol of 1 NCO and 2 ORs was forced to withdraw by the approach of a large enemy party before recce was complete.
- (c) Patrols report general activity of enemy working parties in the area from WEST pt 23 to the ry. The enemy was very alert and in most instances resorted to illuminating flares to prevent the close approach of our patrols.
Patrol to area approx 87372936 located three burnt out vehs in which 47 mm A. Tk guns were mounted.
- (d) Apart from several sharp sessions on area ry cutting trg 33 area enemy shelling was on a reduced scale

3. AIR OPS

- (a) 16 Sep. Spitfires, Kittyhawks, Warhawks, Tomahawks and Hurricanes carried out patrols over the battle area. In one engagement Spitfires destroyed 1 Me 109, 1 Mc 202 with 5 Me 109s and 1 Mc 202 damaged without loss to themselves. In three other engagements 1 Mc 202 was probably destroyed and 1 Me 109 damaged for the loss of one Spitfire.
- (b) Bomber ops night 16/17 Sep. Shipping, jetties and gun posns at TOBRUK were attacked by 23 Wellingtons. 1 near miss is claimed on a ship in centre of harbour, and bursts among docks and jetties scored, starting 2-3 small fires. Intense and accurate lt and by AA encountered, 1 aircraft being slightly damaged. 1 Wellington bombed SOLLUM, dropping 5 500 lb delayed action bombs.
- (c) Night 17/18 Sep. Wellingtons and Halifaxes attacked TOBRUK observing a direct hit on No 4 Jetty and leaving 6 fires burning in target area. Hurricanes on intruder patrols FUKA/DABA area

sighted no e/a but strafed camps coastal sector.

(d) 18 Sep. During day of reduced activity Spitfires, Kittyhawks, Tomahawks, Warhawks and Hurricanes patrolled battle area. In only engagement late afternoon formation of 10 Me 109s were intercepted resulting 2 Me 109s probable and 2 damaged without loss. Our losses 1 Hurricane (pilot safe) from Tac R escort during morning when 4 Me 109s unsuccessfully attempted to hinder the operation.

(e) Plane believed to be a FIESLER STORCH was seen to land in the vicinity of RAHMAN at 1748 hrs.

4. ENEMY DISPOSNS

GERMAN Ramcke Bde. Identified from eqpt 874273.

5. ENEMY METHODS

(a) It is now learnt that it was officially announced at an unspecified date this spring that members of the SA were "fulfilling their military duties at the front". The figure of 989,000 out of 1,400,000 party members was mentioned; of these some 33,000 being offrns and 100,000 NCOs. The announcement then went on to state significantly that there were some 10-20 SA men in every coy of the GERMAN Army.

Comment.- The party is this admirably placed to watch for disaffection or defeatism within the Army.

(b) The same report adds that a number of SA "Special Units" have been armed and formed for security police work, within GERMANY, normally the responsibility of the SS.

Comment.- This is the first time that the SA have been used as an armed force for internal security since the ROEHM Puge of 1934. The change of policy is doubtless dictated by the manpower problem.

6. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

A medical register captured in the fwd area shows entries dating from the middle of Aug to 3 Sep concerning personnel of 29 Bty 88 mm and 16 and 29 Tps 88 mm.

This would appear to indicate that 29 AA Bty with 16, 28 and 29 Tps of 88 mm guns, formerly at TRIPOLI, has now come up as Corps or Divisional Arty.

7. ENEMY EQPT

(a) The following is a brief description of an enemy Circular Variable Pressure Mine. This mine can be employed in an A Tk or anti-personnel role. The body of the mine, which is of steel, is circular and is approx 8" in diameter and 1 1/2" deep. The igniter assembly screws into the top of the body and projects upwards from it. A steel pressure plate 10 ins in diameter and slightly domed rests on the top of the striker pin which projects upwards from the body of the igniter assembly. The pressure plate is fitted with three studs equally placed round the circumference which fit into slits in three slugs which project sideways from the body of the mine, thus holding the pressure plate in posn. The igniter assembly is fitted with a knurled ring with a red pointer which can be set to the following readings :-

H, N, 3, 2, 1, K.

The settings N to K control the pressure at which the igniter is actuated. These settings represent the following pressures :-

K	-	a	pressure	of	35	kg.
1	-	"	"	"	100	"
2	-	"	"	"	200	"
3	-	"	"	"	300	"
N	-	"	"	"	350	"

When set at H, the mechanism operates as a pull trigger. This is actuated by a trip wire which is att to an eye in the projecting end of a cutting blade. A brass safety pin projects from a socket diametrically opposed to that of the cutting blade. The filling is $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of what appears to be poor quality TNT.

(b) GERMAN. A PW reports having seen tks mounting 8.8 cm guns. They were two in number, and PW is quite definite that the guns were 8.8 cm and not the long-barrelled 7.5 cm gun.

METEOROLOGICAL

	<u>SUN</u>		<u>MOON</u>	
	<u>Rise</u>	<u>Set</u>	<u>Rise</u>	<u>Set</u>
Sep 21	0642	1854	Sep 21/22 1653	0416
" 22	0643	1853	" 21/23 1738	0518
" 23	0643	1851	" 23/24 1819	0619

Ferguson
for (J W DUNHAM) Lieut
IO 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

2/23 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY NO 123
(Based on infm to 1200 hrs 24 Sep 42)

24 Sep 42

1. GENERAL

Enemy activity along the whole front has been generally quiet. As regards this sector, the previous calm has continued with intermittent shelling.

2. ENEMY DISPOSALS

(a) Own Sector - MG fired from 87413025. One man was seen at 87433044. Driving of pickets and possible wiring heard at 87513045 and 87473048.

The above confirm previous reports of enemy posts in these areas. Working parties have also been heard in an established enemy post at 87423017. Slight movement incl driving of pickets was heard SOUTH of this post at 87403012.

(b) According to PW from 2 Coy 3 Parachute Regt, 1 Coy was situated approx 400 metres in rear Pt 62, 87732793. On the left of 1 Coy, and in the depression, was 2 Coy while 3 Coy was situated on the right of 1 Coy. PW could give no indication as to the extent of the front occupied by any of the coys. PW stated that there was a fourth coy but had no knowledge of its location. A captured document dated 26 Jul 42 was mentioned which apparently showed five strong pts and two areas for def fire WEST of TELL EL EISA. Another document now makes it clear that the areas for DF were correct (871300 and 872297) but that the other areas were for arty concentrations. The DF areas are in front of two sectors which are believed to be strongly held by GERMANS; the other areas are behind the enemy FDLs (which have remained unchanged) and cover the immediate approaches to what is believed to be part of the main defences in 869399 and 869298. While it is not thought that there is any drastic change in enemy disposals on the Div front, air photographs show considerable thickening of defences in depth. This may mean some changes in unit disposals to man the new posns as they are completed. In this respect it is considered that tps will be placed so that all vital or commanding ground is held by GERMANS.

3. ENEMY MINEFD

Patrol located a minefd consisting of EP and British Mark IV mines at 87433013, marked by short pickets only on our side of the fd.

4. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

Except for isolated movement of small parties no other general moves have been observed on this sector. Such movement is mainly limited to working parties improving their FDLs.

5. SHELLING

The number of shells falling in this area has been very small - being mainly confined to the ridge and trig 33 area.

6. AIR OPS

20 Sep. In course of Tac/R escort over battle area Hurricanes encountered enemy fighters and one of/a/c is missing. Mid-morning Kittyhawks with bombs attacked 50 MT and some tents in northern sector observing all bombs in target area resulting one oil fire. 2 Me 109s encountered on return were engaged and one destroyed without loss. Late afternoon Kittyhawks and Warhawks with Spitfire cover engaged formation of Me 109s covering small number of Stukas bombing central sector. In resulting engagement one Me 109 destroyed, 2 probable and 2 damaged at expense 3 Kittyhawks (2 pilots safe). Enemy air activity on small scale included patrols morning and afternoon by fighters

battle area, 3 attacks by fighter-bombers and one attack by 6/8 Stukas with escort central sector.

7. ENEMY IDENTIFICATIONS

Central Sector - GERMAN.

2 PW ex 1 Bn 3 Parachute Regt captured night 21/22 Sep at Pt 62 87752793.

One PW stated that he belonged to 2 Coy (FPN L29959 B), while the other, according to first PW, belonged to 1 Coy. Letters belonging to the second PW bore the FPN L29959 A, and tends to confirm the above.

One PW was wearing the usual parachutists shoulder straps (Khaki with yellow piping) and a red strip running across the bottom end of the strap. This he states, was worn by all members of the regt. On the right arm above the elbow, a cloth sign (↑) is worn. This, according to PW, is worn solely by members of 2 Coy.

8. OWN PATROL ACTIVITY

Our patrols have been active on this sector endeavouring to gain infm of enemy disposns and at the same time becoming familiar with the ground fwd of our FDLs. The usual working parties have been heard. An outpost has been established by D Coy within 300 yds of enemy FDLs on the EGG feature ref 87513043. Enemy working parties on their FDLs were heard about 200 yds from our post during the night.

J. W. Dunham
(J. W. DUNHAM) Lieut
IO 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBN

As for 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Int Summary No 122
Plus 26 Aust Inf Bde.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

SECRET

2/23 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY NO 124
(Based on infm to 1200 hrs 25 Sep 42)

To be destroyed
within 48 hrs.

1. GENERAL

Own Sector - Generally quiet. Enemy continues to improve his defences by digging and wiring.

Central and Southern Sectors - Only slight enemy activity has been reported consisting mainly of working parties and covering patrols. Normal enemy MI movement and some harassing fire on FDLs.

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS

Previous enemy disposns in sq 874304 confirmed by our outpost. Approx 10 MGs and 1 mortar posn were located at 87423042, these wpns having opened fire on the area of the disabled carriers 87513035. An approx pl posn was manned in 87453046 area - also another pl posn 87523046 and listening post 400x fwd at 87523044.

3. ENEMY WORKS

(a) Wiring - Driving of pickets and movement of wkg parties appeared to indicate wiring between 87483041 and 87503044. Part of this wire has been established as concertina. Behind the line of wire are unoccupied diggings.

(b) Booby Traps - Our patrol inspecting carriers at 87513035 with a view to salvage discovered several stick bombs with wires leading to the carriers. Other wires were att to steering wheels and gear levers. Also an object, cylindrical in shape and 6" deep, was att by wire to one carrier.

4. ENEMY METHODS

Photos and activity show that the GERMAN is digging alternative posns about 500x from his previous pits, both after having been shelled and in anticipation of future bombardments.

Patrol reports finding of BRITISH mines laid by enemy without spare pins, making them anti-personnel.

5. ENEMY MORALE

Many thanks for your letter which I received this morning. As you see, I'm answering your letter right away for I know you like to hear some news from home. But dear Ernst, I really don't know whether you down under hear the army reports or have heard that the BRITISH airmen have completely ruined and wrecked our beautiful MAINZ. When I say this to you, believe me, 70% of MAINZ has been wiped out. In two nights the enemy have done all this, and brought misery and need on the population. If I only could, as I would like to, I would take my revenge on them, but one is so tied down and can do no more, but we do hope that you will make it hot for them, because what they have done in MAINZ is beyond description. Our district is still standing, but that is all. We have come out of it safe and sound, and we hope to be able to manage to survive the war. When you finally come home and have a look for yourself, then it will take 20 years before everything is reconstructed. Well Ernst, that was the latest that I had to tell you. I cannot write too much, for I really don't know just what happens with letters, but as an old "front-liner" I can write this to you as we are not the type to break up under all this, but rather we stand more united, for these fellows cannot shake us with these things, they only make us stronger in our attitude".

6. OWN PATROL ACTIVITY

Outpost established at 87513041 has reported on an estimated coy posn from EGG feature, 87523048 to CLOVER LEAF feature, 87403043. Patrol from Carrier Pl moved to 5 disabled carriers at 87513035 and found carriers with numerous booby traps wired thereto.

7. SECURITY

Attention is again drawn to the destruction of Int Summaries 48 hrs after receipt. As these documents contain infm of a secret nature strict supervision in this respect must be exercised.

8. REPORTING OF SHELLING AND MORTARS

In order to gain an accurate idea of the enemy's intention as regards his HF, it is essential that all infm regarding enemy arty and mortar activity be reported to this HQ in detail as set out in usual pro-forma.

For *Burgess*
(J. W. DUNHAM) Lieut
IO 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

2/23 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY NO 125
(Based on infm to 1200 hrs 26 Sep 42)

To be destroyed
within 48 hrs.

1. GENERAL

The situation remains quiet throughout. Patrols were out but no contact was made with the enemy. Our mortars carried out a successful shoot at 2030 hrs on an enemy strong pt 87433043, observers reporting that all bombs straddled the target.

2. ENEMY DISPOSNS

87383026 unoccupied mortar pit with 2 sig wires running in from rear. Triple danner wire observed on SE slope of CLOVER LEAF feature. Mortar - approx ref 87463038.

87413007 (approx) - old diggings in good state of repair found to be unoccupied. Telephone lines to some pits were discovered to be disconnected.

3. ENEMY WORKS

Sounds of enemy fd wks being carried out/in areas 87473037, 87363024 8742 3018. were heard

4. ENEMY MOVEMENT

0250 hrs 4/5 enemy observed EGG feature ref 87513044.

1730 " 3 " in diggings approx 87443042.

1915 " 20 " observed in area 87463038, then moved to 87463042 where they dispersed. 8 moving EAST 12 WEST, and disappeared from view behind sandhills.

1020 hrs 26 Sep Bn OP reported convoy approx 60 EMT moving SOUTH to NORTH along SIDI RAHMAN track.

87433017 - small party of men observed near enemy posns.

5. OWN PATROL ACTIVITY

4 standing, 3 recce and the relief of the outpost at 87513041 were carried out night 25/26 Sep. Outpost at 87513041 relieved 2205 hrs. At 2240 hrs enemy patrol 40/50 strong moving down right fwd slopes of CLOVER LEAF feature and adv on our posn from right and left flanks, whereupon our patrol withdrew to coy FDLs without further interference.

A patrol from C Coy investigated enemy mine fd running from 87473000 to 87453019. WEST of fd - 87473000 to 87483004 - no mines were encountered. The fd consisted of GS Mk 1V mines and although conforming to the pattern as shown on map, had no set layout. A gap was discovered between 87483008 and 87463012 but was not followed beyond the latter ref pt. A trip wire marked the fd and various boxes of mines were scattered along it.

6. ENEMY SHELLING

2255 hrs 10 mortar bombs fell in D Coy area.

1025 hrs 1 mortar bomb 87563017.

7. ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY

1040 hrs 1 lt unidentified plane dropped 2 bombs in C Coy area. OP reported an unidentified plane crashed in sq 873298 at 1020 hrs.

8. METEOROLOGICAL

Moon rises 2013 hrs, sets 0914 hrs.

J. W. Dunham
for J W DUNHAM) Lieut
IO 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

(Based on infm for 24 hrs ended 1200 hrs 27 Sep) 42.

1. GENERAL

Along front generally quiet conditions prevail.

Own Sector:- Normal amount of digging and movement heard and seen during activities of our patrols on all frontages.

2. GROUND OPS

- (a) Enemy patrols located fwd of CLOVER LEAF feature 87453043, but withdrew behind escarpment in same area when our patrol adv towards them. A further patrol of 8 men moved NORTH and SOUTH along a beat of 400 yds outside triple concertina wiring of MG Post area 87413014.
- (b) Booby Traps - discovered at 87523037 as follows :
Wire stretched between two shell holes 3 ft 6 ins apart - wire was 6 ins above ground and protruding from ground underneath wire was a sheet of tin 6 ins high and 8 ins long.
- (c) Shelling and Mortars - Very few shells or bombs have fallen in this area. Four mortar bombs fell at 87543018 at 1842 hrs but no damage or casualties resulted.

AIR OPS

22 Sep - During morning Spitfires and Kittyhawks patrolled battle area without incident. In late afternoon Hurricanes with Spitfire wing at height swept battle area NORTH to SOUTH and WEST to DABA but enemy fighters did not attempt interception. Enemy fighters operated on small scale over battle area while one small fighter-bomber attack reported morning and one attack by 8 Stukas with escort late in NORTHERN Sector. 8 fighter-bombers attacked AMIRIYA area ineffectively at midday.

4. OWN PATROL ACTIVITY

Patrol of D Coy covering establishment of OP saw enemy patrol of approx 12 approaching. The enemy patrol on seeing our patrol coming towards them, turned back into own lines. Another patrol was seen fwd of wire of MG Post at 87413014. Outposts consisting of either an Offr or NCO and 1 OR have been established well fwd of D, B and C Coy FDLs and are supplying valuable infm about enemy activity in those localities.

J W Dunham Lieut
IO. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
(J W DUNHAM)

(Based on infm received up to 1200 hrs 28 Sep)

1. GENERAL

- (a) Conditions over the whole battle area have been quiet. Enemy arty appears to be doing quite an amount of ranging shoots with his guns. Slightly above normal amount of MT has moved in fwd areas.
- (b) Own Sector - Quiet conditions prevail. A few mortars and shells were registered yesterday in the Trig 33 area and in D Coy area on the sand ridge. Movement of MT across out front increased.

2. GROUND OPS

- (a) Works - Sounds of pickets being driven into the ground at 87503041 and noise of a compressor at 87503043. An OP pole 30 ft high and unoccupied observed at 87423031.
- (b) Movement - At 1816 hrs much movement of MT was heard behind ridge in vicinity of CLOVER LEAF feature 87403045 and SW towards MATRUH rd. This movement is thought to indicate possible relief of Units in this area. An enemy staff car at 87453066 was harassed by our arty and moved WEST out of sight. A motor cycle was also seen at 87413070. An HQ may be in this area.
- (c) Methods - Two forms which resemble dummy bodies were seen in strong pt at 87423018 in same posn all day. No movement was seen in this area during the day and it is thought that this so called STRONG POINT may be just a blind while enemy tps are used elsewhere.
- (d) Shelling & Mortars - 7 Mortars and 6 shells fell in the bn area yesterday afternoon. No damage or casualties resulted.
- (e) Enemy patrols - A patrol from D Coy again made an enemy patrol disperse and return to his FDL's which were patrolled by a party of 4 men.

3. AIR OPS

Night 24/25 Sep. For third successive night LGs at SIDI HANEISH attacked by Wellingtons and Bostons resulting 2 fires, 2 explosions and many bursts among dispersed aircraft. One Wellington bombed train WEST of BAGUSH scoring near misses. Hurricanes flew uneventful intruder patrols BAGUSH area and strafed MT and guns RAHMAN area.

Day 25 Sep. Very small scale patrols battle area by our fighters without incident. Kittyhawks scored direct hit on EPIP amongst 200 MT GHAZAL area. Enemy apart from small fighter patrols put on one attack with 9 escorted Stukas central sector 1730 hrs and 4 fighter bombers 4385 at 1615 hrs.

4. OWN PATROL ACTIVITY

D Coy patrols covering establishment of outpost posn observed enemy patrol which on seeing our patrol turned and disappeared through their FDL's. Patrols of B and C Coys were also active, but no movement was seen. Patrols also went out from D, B and C Coys this morning under cover of the dust. The dust lifted and D and B Coy patrols were bombed with mortars before returning.

Own Salvage Ops - A patrol of the Carrier Pl made a recce of an area fwd of their posns and brought back 7 Jerrycans. A further visit will be made tonight with MT to carry back quantities of English foodstuff and an excellent Italian cooker.

Lieut
IO, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
(J. W. DUNHAM)

2/23 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY NO 128

(Based on infm received up to 1200 hrs)

Ref Map : EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000.

1. ENEMY DISPOSNS

Diggings located at 87383020 - 87423020 - 87313022. Concertina wire at 87383020 and also running between 87423020 and strong pt at 87423017. Movement was heard and 3 lights resembling glows from lighted doorways seen in strong pt area. The presence of enemy was again noticeable in the CLOVER LEAF area where dixies were heard rattling and one MT moved at 87463044.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

- (a) Patrols - Our patrols observed enemy patrol of 15 men on wire at CLOVER LEAF.
- (b) Works - Working parties of 8 men were seen in area CLOVERLEAF. Another working party heard at 87423017 and also at 87463020.
- (c) Shelling and Mortar - 21 shells have fallen in this bn area during last 24 hrs. Two of our patrols encountered mortar bombing, air burst shelling, approx 15 mortar bombs and 4 airburst shells falling.

3. ENEMY METHODS

- (a) What appears to be dummy bodies in post at 87383020 and reported yesterday were still in same posn.
- (b) Several times during the past few nights sounds of pickets being driven into the ground have been heard. At times the noise heard seems artificial. It is thought that the enemy may be trying to ambush our patrols.

4. BOOBY TRAPS

A fd of booby traps was encountered at 87413040. Description - Black cylindrical object 3" diam 4" long with plunger protruding to which are att strings. Around cylinder was a band used for clipping trap to stake.

5. ENEMY MORALE

PW is heartily sick of AFRICA and the war and gave infm readily. In spite of the recent "pep" talk by Lieut WAGNER who stated that the war would be over this Oct, the general feeling in PW's unit is low. Every man received per day one litre of coffee and one litre water for drinking purposes as well as some saltwater for washing purposes, the latter was just enough to clean his mess tin and to shave. PW stated that in ten weeks he washed twice.

6. OWN PATROL ACTIVITY

Our patrols were particularly active last night and good infm and quantities of WD stores were salvaged. One patrol by D Coy approached to within 200x of the wire fwd of CLOVER LEAF defences and encountered booby traps and minefd. The Carrier Pl has been successful in salvaging quantities of food and some cooking utensils. A patrol from B Coy and an Offr from 9 Div Cav Regt recovered a No 19 Mk II wireless set from a Valentine tk fwd of Trig 33.

7. METEOROLOGICAL

<u>Sun</u>			<u>Mon</u>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Rise</u>	<u>Set</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Rise</u>	<u>Set</u>
30 Sep	0647	1843	29/30 Sep	2210	1155

J. W. Dunham
Lieut
TO. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
(J. W. DUNHAM)

2/23 AUST INF BN INT SUMMARY NO 129

COPY NO

(Based on infm received to 1200 hrs 30 Sep 42)

30 Sep 42.

1. ENEMY DISPOSNS

No fresh enemy disposns have been reported. Usual activity continues on CLOVER LEAF feature ref 87423044 and EGG feature ref 87513044. Gp of 6 men was observed at Strong pt 87413018. M/C was seen to approach TWIN PALMS area 87343032. MMG fire was observed from RING CONTOUR area.

2. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY

- (a) Patrols - Patrol of 20 was observed moving from SOUTH to derelict carriers 87513035 and then NW to their lines.
- (b) Mineflds - Minefld at 87503007 is 40x wide and 4 to 5 mines deep, irregular spacing 8 to 10 paces between mines - type GS Mk IV and V.
- (c) Works - Enemy working parties heard at 87433018.
- (d) Shelling - During past 24 hrs the following shells are reported -
A Coy area 2, B Coy 6, C Coy 3.

3. AIR OPS

26 Sep 42 - Spitfires and Hurricanes escorted early Tac R battle area. Recce completed but 12 Me109/Mac 202 attempting hinder operation attacked by Spitfires from height resulting 2 Me109s destroyed 1 Me109 probable and 1 Me109 damaged. Our losses 1 Spitfire missing, 1 Hurricane and 1 Spitfire damaged (pilot safe). Early afternoon Kitty-bombers attacked 180/200 well dispersed MT GEBEL KALAKH without observing results. Spitfire sweep EL ALAMEIN area attacked by 2 Me109s resulting 1 Spitfire damaged (pilot safe). Enemy fighters patrolled battle area in small numbers. Land forces report 4 Me109s bombed Central Sector late afternoon, and 10/12 Stukas with fighter escort bombing Central Sector 1700 hrs damaging one gun wounding 4.

29 Sep 42 - 2 Me109 flying EAST to WEST approx 10,000 ft.

30 Sep 42 - after dogfight involving 6 planes, one unidentified plane crashed in flames in approx area 864302.

4. ENEMY EQPT

Butterfly bombs dropped in sq 882297 night 26/27 Sep, had yellow painted "wings" with a red stripe on each of the smaller "wings". The bombs themselves had a yellow stripe on each end and on each side. A portion of these bombs exploded on impact with the ground while others did not.

5. OWN PATROL ACTIVITY

Patrols were again active from B, C and D Coys. B Coy patrol escorted a tk rec party to Valentine tk fwd of Trig 33. The tk compass in good order was brought back. D Coy's patrol encountered an enemy patrol of 20 men. 3 Sappers went out with one of C Coy's patrols and gained infm about an enemy minefld fwd of their FDLs.

6. METEOROLOGICAL

<u>Sun</u>			<u>Moon</u>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Rises</u>	<u>Sets</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Rises</u>	<u>Sets</u>
1 Oct	0548	1742	1/2 Oct	2238	1235
2 Oct	0548	1740	2/3 Oct	2326	1321

W. Dunham
Lieut
IO. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

locality "A"

3509020

ACTION DIARY

1 SEP 42

Appx. 22.

Nº	Time	From	To	Event	Action
VI	0410	OP.1		Reported one E Aircraft machine gunned main rd. <i>Smithman</i>	DO infmd. no action.
98	0700		ABCD	Proposed Disporm Trace 1.50000	Sigs
086	0900	26Bde		ground to ground recognition Sigs 1-6 Sep and	Adj ABCDHQ Carving
12	0950	ToBU		aircraft unidentified crashed to earth in sq 444899. did NOT know.	Bde infmd
I299	2400 (approx)	26Bde		20 Bde Sitrep to 2000hrs Tac R 1900 hrs.	adjt.
I 1/2	1015		Corp OPs 1 Bde	repeating sigs from I299	Sigs
I300	1125	26Bde		9 Div sitrep to 1930 hrs	
I301	1125	26Bde		24 Bde sitrep to 2030 hrs	
I 1/3	1135		Corp + Capt	ref inst ops advise by 1800 hrs 1 Sep columns and number of flags held	Sigs
I302	1225	26Bde		20 Bde Sitrep to 0745 hrs.	Adjlt Coy.
I 1/4	1243		corp OPs capt Bde	repeating I302	(via sigs)
I303	1320	26Bde		Sitrep to 1100 hrs.	Adjlt & Corps.
I 1/5	1350		Corp OPs Caro Bde	Repty I300 I301	Sigs
I 1/6	1500		all Corps	notification of car patrol	Sigs
I 1/7	1500		2nd 748 26Bde	" " "	Sigs
I304	1535	26Bde		9 Div sitrep to 0900 hrs	adjt
I 1/9	1545		Boys cars Bde OPs	promulgating I304 (fresh meat only)	Sigs
I305	1600	26Bde		20 Bde sitrep to 1030hrs.	Adjlt
I 1/10	1630		all corps OP carriers	Repeating 20 Bde sitrep	Sigs
I 1/8	1520		all corps Bde	PW - ADELAIDE.	Sigs
M15	1830	26Bde		copy 9 Aust Div advise to cancel our P3/455 of 31 to instructions our C3/34. and appendix there to come into operations	
I307	1830	26Bde		20 Bde sitrep to 1300hrs. to	
I 1/11	1845		ABCDHQ Bde OPs Carriers	Repeating I307	
I306	1850	26Bde		9 Div sitrep to 1230hrs.	
I 1/12	2005		all corps Bde Carriers OP 1.2	Repeating I306 I307	Sigs

LOCALITY A

4350 9020

1 SEP 42

ACTION DIARY

No	TIME	FROM	TO	EVENT	ACTION
V3	2000	OP2		6 aircraft attacks in gunned & bombed area 448 895 and started three fires	D.O. infmd BM infmd.
V4	2025	Can 4th		reporting return of patrol no 1	CO infmd
I308	2040	26 Bde		Dispositions and fire plan of unit MMG will be submitted to this HQ. without delay.	
V5	2100	OP1 } OP2 }		Sitnov }	D/O advised
V6	2155	TITI } OP1 } OP2 }		Sitnov all coy's Sitnov	D/O advised
V7	2300	all coy's } OTIS } TOBU }		Sitnov	
V8	2330	26 Bde		Advising arty, moving out and others taking their place before first light	D/O advised
V9	2350	OP2 } OP1 } TITI } all coy's }		{ Sitnov "	D/O
<u>2 Sep</u>					
V1	0015	26 Bde		712 3d Regt and 11 Lt AA Bty come under comd 26 Bde and move into posn A at first light	D/O
V2	0100	TITI } TOBU } OTIS } all coy's }		Sitnov	D/O
V3	0200	TITI } TOBU } OTIS } all coy's }		Sitnov	
V4	0300	TITI } TOBU } OTIS } all coy's }		Sitnov	
V5	0345	TOBU } OTIS }		Large fire reported approx. 8 miles south of TOBU. @ OTIS gives bearing as 166°	Bde Duty offr informed.
V6	0400	TITI } TOBU } OTIS } all coy's }		Sitnov	
V7	0500	TITI } TOBU } OTIS } all coy's }		Sitnov	
V8	0600	TITI } TOBU } OTIS } all coy's }		Sitnov	
V9	0700	TITI } TOBU } OTIS } all coy's }		Sitnov	

Advised 0700 hrs

LOCALITY A

4350 9020

1 SEP 92

ACTION DIARY

No	TIME	FROM	TO	EVENT	ACTION
V3	2000	OP2		6 aircraft attacks in gunned & bombed area 448 895 and started three fires	D.O. infmd BM infmd
V4	2025	Can off		reporting return of patrol no 1	CO infmd
I308	2040	26 Bde		Dispositions and fire plan of unit MMG will be submitted to this HQ. without delay	
V5	2100	OP1 } OP2 }		Sitnov }	D/O advised
V6	2155	TITI } OP1 } OP2 }		Sitnov all coy's Sitnov	D/O advised
V7	2300	all coy's } OTIS } TOBU }		Sitnov	
V8	2330	26 Bde		Advising arty moving out and others taking their place before first light	D/O advised
V9	2350	OP2 } OP1 } TITI } all coy's }		{ Sitnov "	D/O
<u>2 Sep</u>					
V1	0015	26 Bde		7/2 7d Regt and 11 Lt AA bty come under comd 26 Bde and move into posn A at first light	D/O
V2	0100	TITI } TOBU } OTIS } all coy's }		Sitnov	D/O
V3	0200	TITI } TOBU } OTIS } all coy's }		Sitnov	
V4	0300	TITI } TOBU } OTIS } all coy's }		Sitnov	
V5	0345	TOBU } OTIS }		Large fire reported approx. 8 miles south of TOBU. @ OTIS gives bearing as 166°	Bde Duty offr informed
V6	0400	TITI } TOBU } OTIS } all coy's }		Sitnov	
V7	0500	TITI } TOBU } OTIS } all coy's }		Sitnov	
V8	0600	TITI } TOBU } OTIS } all coy's }		Sitnov	
V9	0700	TITI } TOBU } OTIS } all coy's }		Sitnov	

Advised 0700 hrs

Locality "A"

Sep 2

ACTION DIARY

No	Time	From	To	Event	Action
V10	0745	Car		Patrol notification: Carrier patrol of 4 carriers WNCOSGOR ^s out 0800 in 2000 to same area as yesterday	Adj't
I3/1	0750		all comp	Patrol notification	Sigs
I3/2	0750		26 Bde 24, 28	" "	Sigs
V11	0845		Z1-Z2	Jac R to 0645 hrs.	Adj't
V12	1040	OP1		Reports EA dropped stick bombs approx 436890	
I2/3	1050		HQ, ABC, D, Bech	PW for night 2/3 Sep @ MULGA	Sigs
I2/4	1050		RSM ABCD HQ	" " " "	Sigs
I2/5	1130		Car Bech	OPs rptd infm received from LO ref disposn our forces in battle area	Sigs
I2/6	1145		HQ, A, B, C, D, Car, Bech	Notification of minefield gaps closed	Sigs
V13	1155		HQ, ABC, D, OP1, Car	Warning from CO of possible airborne landings in area with instrns to be prepared. 26 Bde advised CO.	
I2/7	1205		HQ, ABCD, CAR, OP1+2, Coord, State, Bech	Description of JU52 ^s	Sigs
V14	1210			Car warned of JU52 ^s verbally with instrns to recall carriers from patrol	
I313	1310	26 Bde		20 Bde SITREP	Adj't. Repeated to boys
I2/8	1310		26 Bde	unit MMG sec located 43439011 @ fixed line 113° grid	Sigs
I2/9	1315		ABCD HQ, BECH OP192	in message I313 repeated.	Sigs
V15	1410	OP1		SITNOR	
I311	1420	26 Bde		Sitrep to 2000 hrs	1/2 CO
I2/10	1428		ABCD HQ, Car, Bech, OPs	advising I311	Sigs
V16/17	1500	OP192		SITNOR	
V18	1600	OP1.		SITNOR	Sigs.
V19	1620	OP1+v		reporting dogfight over area in which no planes shot down	
I214	1710	26 Bde		Sitrep 1200 hrs to 1300 hrs	
I2/11	1730		ABCD HQ, Car, Bech, OPs	advising I214	Sigs
V20	1730	TOBU		SITNOR	1 Sgt inf

LOCALITY 'A'
4355 9020

ACTION DIARY

2 Sep 42
3

No	Time	From	TO	Event	Action
V20	1545		26 Bde	advising new location BHQ	To Int Sec
V21	1557	OTIS		Sitnor	1 Sgt - Infd
V22	1855	OTIS		Two plumes of smoke beyond escarpment on bearings 120° and 180° (probably planes?)	IO advised.
				<i>J.P. Womph</i> 1900 hrs	
V23	2035		B.M.	S.O.S only fire will be called for by light sig Green white Green Def fire baskets will be called for by L/T by their respective names or numbers	I.O. + D/O advised.
	1900			C.O. called conference of Ops. Effrs to stress battle drill	W.O. notes.
V24	2100		O.P. 12	Sitnor	D/O Oxford
I3/6	2125	26 Bde	TIT	9 Des Sitnor to 1300 hrs	D/O infmd.
V25	2200	OP 2		Sitnor	left to comp. D/O infmd
V26	2300	"		"	"
V27	2400	"		"	"

3 SEP 42

V1	0100	OP 1, 2		SITNOR	D/O infmd.
V2	0120	Coast Sta OP 1		15/20 small bombs bearing 105°	<i>Skennie</i> D/O Bde
V3	0120	OP 2		1 bomb landed vicinity BHQ	D/O Bde advised
V4	0145	26 Bde		Warning that EA may have dropped BUTTERFLY type bombs. Dps to watch for UXBs	D/O infmd
V5	0200	OP 1		Sitnor	D/O "
V6	0300	Coast Sta OP 1, 2	ABCD HQ	Sitnor	D/O "
I3/1	0300			Car Bch rptng V4 and giving description of bomb	Sigs
V7	0400	Coast Sta OPs 2		Sitnor	D/O "
V8	0500	Coast Sta & OPs		Sitnor	D/O "
V9	0600	Coast Sta & OPs		Sitnor	D/O "
V10	0700	Coast Sta OPs		Sitnor	D/O "
V11	0859	OP 1, 2		Sitnor	IO advised
Z1	0905	26 Bde		} Tac R 0630/100	Adjlt - Sit Maps
Z2	0905				
V12	0955	OP 1, 2		Sitnor	IO infcl

ACTION DIARY

NO	TIME	FROM	TO	EVENT	ACTION
I315	0955	26Bde		notification mineflds being laid.	Adj't Coys intol
I312	1025	Corp		Adv'ising I315 MUST be by SECRET COVER	Pigs
V13	1026	BdeLO		At 1530 hrs. 2 Sep. our fighters destroyed six STUKAS, one probable, 11 damaged also two ME109's damaged	CO
V14	1026	BdeLO		5 Indian Bde at 1600hrs 2 Sep, moved from LOCALITY C to the NZ DIV area and came under comd NZ forces. 2 South African Bde moved one Bn gp from D to C locality for defence of area - 96 at ref 429 890	CO
V15	1100	OP1,2		Sit nor	IO informed
V16	1200	OP1,2		Sit nor	IO intol
V17	1300	OP1		Sit nor	1 Sgt l/d.
I314	1305	26Bde		9 Div. setup to 2100hrs. ^{Platoon 1300hrs}	CO.
V18	1500	OP1		Sit nor	1 Sgt intol.
V19	1525	OP.1		reported seeing black object in sea which moved off at 5 mps approx.	IO. intol.
2885	2760	100ftld		VX47481 Pte KELLY F removed SI list	IO intol
I317	26Bde	1615		change in minefield gaps	Adj't
T1	1835	OP.2		A/C seen to 1800 hrs. @ B 153 FB 23 F 82 rece 6 Hostile 1 ME 109 and some unidentified	IO. adv'ised
Z3	2000	26Bde		TAC R 20th up to report	D/O w/ld
V20	2600	TITI TOBU OTIS		Sit nor	" "
V21	2100	"		Sit nor	" "
I321	2140	26Bde		9 Div Sit rep	Coys a. a. o. b.
V22	2200	OTIS TOBU TITI		Sit nor	
V23	2205	OTIS		EA WEST dropped 6/7 parachute flares over front area - 240° from OTIS As these dropped several RED flares fired from ground	D/O w/ld
V24	2240	F100 Senter		1 plane shot down in flames in sea, at approx 436 grid Bde a. a. o. b. say 5 miles to sea	

LOCALITY 'A'

5 Sep 42

43559020

ACTION DIARY

Nº	TIME	FROM	TO	EVENT	ACTION
V25	2300	OTIS TOBU TITI		Sitnot	D/O info
V26	2400	"		"	"
<u>4 SEP 42</u>					
V27	0000	OTIS TOBU TITI		Sitnot	D/O info
V28	0200	"		"	"
V3	0215	TOBU		4 planes observed due NORTH & well out to sea - amber & put up air dunes.	D/O info
V4	0300	"		Sitnot	D/O "
V5	0400	"		"	"
V6	0500	"		"	"
V7	0545	OTIS		Dogfight over area (suspected 2 planes) no result.	D/O "
V8	0600	OTIS TOBU TITI		Sitnot <i>Augustine</i>	D/O info
V9	0910	DP112		Sitnot	"
L2	0945	TITI 26Bde		Jac R 0640 " 0645	Ref Sitnot
V10	1110	OTIS		Sitnot	"
I322	1200	26Bde		20 Bde Sitnot	I.O. promulgated to Cops
V11	1210	OTIS		Dogfight observed SPITFIRES & ME109s no results observed	I.O. info
I323	1230	26Bde		24 Sitnot to 0830 hrs @	"
I4/2	1240		all cop Bde Sigoff Camp all cop	Mc recy sigs. PW for night 4/5 BUNDABERG	Sigs.
I4/4	1250			Promulgating I.O.'s info	Sigs
V12	1300	OTIS		Sitnot <i>Blairie 1300hrs</i>	D/O info
V13	1400	"		"	"
T1	1440	TOBU		dog fight 1210 hrs @ sea between TOBU & OTIS @ 3 Hurricanes & 2 ME109s engaged @ No planes over	I.O. info
V14	1500	OTIS		Several planes in dogfight @ noise indicates one plane crashing @ dust & smoke area Sq 439893	I.O. info
V15	1600	OTIS TOBU TITI		Sitnot	"
V16	1700	"		"	"
V17	1800	"		"	"

LOCALITY 'A'

4~~3~~ Sep 42

43599020

ACTION DIARY

Nº	TIME	FROM	TO	EVENT	ACTION
V18	1900	OTIS TOBU TITI		Silmon	D/O info
I324	2000	26 Bde		Silmon @ Southern Sector.	CO. D/O.
V19	2005	OTIS TOBU TITI		Silmon	
I4/5	2030		Coys BECK H/O	Promulgated Silmon I324.	Sigs.
T2	2100	TOBU		GERMAN airman PW picked up in area EL IMAYID light house at 1910 his by Br. flash spotting unit @ PW has been delivered to 30 CORPS @ Name - Lieut ARBING(?) age 23 Navigator. enemy attacked @ 2300 hrs night 3 returning home airman baled out WEST of ALAMEIN crew of 3 @ others baled out but not strong survivors. PW airman 30 kilo's @ plane damaged by A/A and burst into flames WEST of ALAMEIN @ PW clothes when picked up almost dry. Speaks GERMAN & French. Lu 88.	Bde D/O adv. TITI adv.
V20	2120	OTIS TITI		Silmon	D/O info
V21	2203	TOBU		"	" "
V22	2300	"		"	" "
V23	2400	"		"	" "
				5 Sep 42.	Warguam
V1	0045			Silmon	D/O info
V2	0115	OTIS TITI TOBU		Silmon	"
V3	0215	OTIS TITI TOBU		Silmon	"
V4	0400	"		"	"
V5	0515	"		"	"
V6	0605	"		"	"
I5/1	0945	All Coys. Call BEK		PW night 5/6 NANGARATTA	Sigs
Z2	1130	26 Bde		Tec B 0640 hr	Aajk

LOCALITY 'A'

5 SEP 42

43599020

ACTION DIARY

No	TIME	FROM TO	E V E N T	Action
I 326	1230	26 Bde	24 Bde Sitrep to 0830 hrs	CO's adv
I 327	1230	"	20 " " " "	" "
I 5/2	1245	ABCD HQ Bde Car OPs	Promulgating I 326 I 327	to sigs
V 7	1300	OPs	Sitmor	IO info
V 8	1400	"	"	"
V 9	1445	"	Sitmor 0 1112 hrs	"

To SOLO 6B

from TOBU

1330. FSS making enquiries re wireless sets. One isolated and roving set sending infm to enemy. Trying to locate same.

1510 hrs.

CO info

V 15	2127		Coast W Sta requesting infm ref V 14. CW Sta reported that light could be seen.	D/O
V 16	2130	BAR	CO ordered D Coy comd to send an immediate patrol of 2 secs to investigate suspicious light (V 14)	
V 18	2155	D OP 1	advising departure of patrol	D/O
V 17	2150		Sitmor	
V 19	2205	OP 2	light flashing on and off, thought to be searchlight - as far distant as AMIRIYA. could be confused with light ref V 14, V 15	D/O
I 329	2205	26 Bde	Sitrep to 1500 hrs	CO
I 330	2225	26 Bde	20 Bde sitrep 2000 hrs	D/O
I 5/4	2235	ABCD HQ Car OPs Bde	Promulgating I 329 I 330	to sigs
V 20	2255	OPs CW Sta	Sitmor except for light observed since 2130.	D/O
V 21	2355	OPs CW Sta	Sitmor	D/O

6 Sep

V 1 0050 OPs
CW Sta

Sitmor

D/O
LPLW 0110/6

LOCALITY 'A'

5 SEP 42

43599020

ACTION DIARY

No	TIME	FROM TO	E V E N T	Action
I 326	1230	26 Bde	24 Bde Sitrep to 0830 hrs	CO's order
I 327	1230	"	20 " " " " " "	"
I 5/2	1245	ABCD HQ Beck Car OPs	Promulgating I 326 I 327	to sign
V 7	1300	OPs	Situar	IO infd
V 8	1400	"	"	"
V 9	1445	"	Sitrep 0 1142 his monitoring area between GEBEL BEIN GABIR and ALAM EL OSMALLI Square H31889 0 dogfight area H40890 1205 hrs	"
V 10	1450	OP 1	Situar	D/O
V 11	1555	OP 1	Situar	"
V 12	1946	OPs Coast Sta	Situar	D/O
V 13	2055	OPs Coast Sta	Situar	D/O
V 14	2125	Bde	^{resolving} reporting suspicious light observed to EAST from INAYID lighthouse. 33 to investigate	D/O, CO infd
V 15	2127	Coast W Sta	requesting info ref V14. CW Sta reported that light could be seen.	D/O
V 16	2130	Bde	CO ordered D Coy comd to send an immediate patrol of 2 secs to investigate suspicious light (V14)	
V 18	2155	D	advising departure of patrol	D/O
V 17	2150	OP 1	Situar	"
V 19	2205	OP 2	light flashing on and off, thought to be searchlight - as far distant as AMIRIYA. could be confused with light ref V14, V15	D/O
I 329	2205	26 Bde	Sitrep to 1500 hrs	CO
I 330	2225	26 Bde	20 Bde sitrep 2000 hrs	D/O
I 5/4	2235	ABCD HQ Ca OPs Beck	Promulgating I 329 I 330	to sign
V 20	2245	OPs CW Sta	Situar except for light observed since 2130.	D/O
V 21	2245	OPs CW Sta	Situar	D/O
6 Sep				
V 1	0050	OPs CW Sta	Situar	D/O

D/O
LPL 01/10/6

LOCALITY 'A'

6 SEP 42

43599020

ACTION DIARY

No	Time	From	To	EVENT	Action
V2	0200	OTIS TBBU TITI		Sit room	D/O info
V3	0230	FIF		Patrol returned & Reported at RAF BEACON	Bde advd
V4	0250	OTIS TBBU TITI		Sit room	D/O info
V5	0350	"		"	"
V6	0400	"		"	"
V7	0500	"		"	"
V8	0600	"		"	"
Z2	0751	Bde		"	"
P3/486	0750	9 Div. Captains		Tac R's 0635 hrs. " Eighth army DT keys compromised & do not use - Pass messages through this office & Reserve keys to you EHS are to use & Sept all unformed	File
V9	0910	OTIS		Sit room	D/O
I6/1	0930		Coy. BECH.	P.W. 6/7 Sep - KEMBLA.	Sigs.
R9	0935	D		map inventory.	I.O.
V10	0950	OTIS		Sit room	D/O
V11	1045	OTIS		"	D/O
I331	1115	26 Bde		20 Bde Libers to 0900 hrs.	Coy. adv Adj. -
I6/3	1140		Coy. BECH. Ops.	Promulgating Libers I331	Sigs
V12	1200	OTIS		Sit room.	D/O
O93	1325	26 Bde		Following message from Army Comd for promulgation to all ranks @ The battle of ALAMEIN has now lasted six days & the enemy has slowly but surely been driven from 8 army area @ tonight 5 Sep his rear gd is being driven WEST through mine- fields area NORTH of HIMEIMATO all formations & units both arms and armd have contributed toward this striking victory & have been mag- nificently supported by RAFC I con- gratulate all ranks of eighth on devotion to & good fighting qualities which	Adj. - Sigs
I6/4	1330				

Locality "A"
43599020

Sep 6

ACTION DIARY

No	Time	From	To	Event	Action
093	1325	26 Bde		have resulted in such a big defeat of the enemy & which will have far reaching results. I have sent a message to the AOC western desert expressing our thanks to the RAF for their splendid sp	Adjt
I6/4	1330		HQ, A, B, C, D, Beach, com, OP1+2, cat station	Promulgation 093	Sigs
V13	1350	OP1		Sitnov	IO infmd
91	1405		HQ ABCD, Beach, Com, Sig, OP1+2	A/C recog sigs 7 sep	Sigs
I322	1550	26 Bde		Minefield notification	File
V14	1600	OP1		Sitnov	I Sgt infmd
V15	1700	OP1		Sitnov	I Sgt infmd
V16	1900	OP1		Sitnov	" "
V17	1955	OP1+2	Beach Patrol	Sitnov	" "
V18	2045	Beach Patrol		Reporting a light flashing in the same area as last night in SE direction	D/O infmd
V19	2055	OP1+2	Beach P	Sitnov	D/O infmd
V20	2108	OP2		Reporting light on bearing of 95° may be tail light or cigarette.	
I333	2145	26 Bde		9 Div sitrep to 1500hrs. ☉	D/O.
I6/5	2155		HQ ABCD, Beach, OP1+2	Repeating I 333.	Sigs
V21	2200	OP1+2	Beach	Sitnov	D/O infmd
V22	2300	OP1+2	BP	Sitnov	D/O infmd
V23	2358	OP1+2	BP	Sitnov	D/O infmd
<u>7 SEP 42</u>					
V1	0100	OP1+2	BP	Sitnov	D/O infmd
V2	0200	OP1+2	BP	"	"
V3	0300	"		"	"
V4	0400	"		"	"
V5	0500	"		"	"
V6	0600	"		"	"
V7	0700	"		"	"

locality "A"

Sep 7

13599020

ACTION DIARY

No	Time	From	To	Event	Action
Z1	0840	Sigs		Tac R 0645	Adj't
V8	0855	OP1		Sitnor	IO infmd
I7/1	0900		HQ, ABCD CAR, B, C, D OP1*2	PW for night 7/8 Sep @ NARROMINE	Sigs
B1	0910	Car.		Car patrol notification	IO infmd
V9	1008	OP1		Sitnor	" "
V10	1055	OP1		Sitnor	" "
I334	1120	26 Bde		24 Bde Sitrep to 0830 hrs	Adj't
I7/3	1130		HQ, ABCD B, C, D, CAR OP1*2	Promulgation I334	Sigs
V11	1200	OP1		Sitnor	IO infmd
V12	1300	OP1		Sitnor	IO infmd
FEX	1317	26 Bde		bipher messages	
V13	1355	OP		Sitnor	
096	1440	26 Bde		codese codeword List 4c repeat 4c. presumed compromised @ list will be replaced in all ops. IO infmd codese machines by list 2c repeat 2c at 0300 hrs 8 sep. @ settings and daily changes remain as ordered. This HQ 200/8A/11 30 Aug @ codeword steps 2c being distributed by L sec sigs all infmd @ ack.	
V14	1505	OP1		Sitnor	
I7/4	1445		26 Bde	acks 096.	Sigs
V15	1620	OP1		Sitnor.	
098	1650	26 Bde		ref QASABA 1/50000 @ subject approval propose conduct demo Adj't. Two-in-mortar illuminating flares 12 in number at 4327 8968 at 1930 hrs 7 sep @ all safety precautions observed	
I7/5	1700		all copy OP, BP	repeating 098	Sigs
V16	1710	OP1		Sitnor	IO infmd
Z3	1808			Tac R report	

LOCALITY A

7 SEP 42

4359 9020

ACTION DIARY

No	TIME	FROM	TO	EVENT	ACTION
P43	1850	A		ref R/T code.	
V17	1855	OP2		Plane seen to crash on bearing of 100 degrees ten miles away.	Bde D/O infd.
				OP 4420 9029 F plane	
I7/6	1915		L on Sigs 26 Bde.	Ack O L 398 L 399.	Sigs
				Edwards	
V18	1933	Sigs		TIT1 now off air. U909 on L/T.	Lt Sec.
V19	2015	C.W. Sta. OPS		Silmar	" "
V20	2035	OP2		R.A.F. beacon working.	" "
I336	2037	26 Bde		9 Div. sitrep to 1500 hrs	Promulgated to Coy. Adj. Lt.
I7/6	2057	O.P.1	Coy. B/ECH OPS.	Promulgating 9 Div. sitrep I 336	Sigs
V21	2059	OP.2		Silmar	Int. Sec.
V22		C.W.1		Silmar	D/O. inf
V23	2140	O.P.1		Report seeing figure of man crouching near hut in vicinity - when approached figure stood up moved round to WEST end of hut, disappeared & thorough search revealed nothing.	C.O. adv. Bde infd.
				Note - Hut situated 25' WEST of observer	
V24	2230	OP.1		Advising OP.1 that patrol from D Coy (2 Secs inc offrs.) being sent out to search area. - vide V 23.	
I337	2212	26 Bde		20 Bde sitrep to 1945 hrs.	10/10.
I7/7	2220	Coy. B/ECH OPS C.W. Post. 1		Promulgating I 337. Sitrep. Reporting a searchlight 10 miles EAST.	Sigs
V25	2240	OP.1		Parachute plane - 140° on escarpment	10/10
V26	2250	C.W.1		Silmar	10/10
V27	2305	C.W.2 OP.112		"	10/10
V28	2400	OP142		" C.W. Posts 112 out of comm.	
8 Sep. 42					
V1.	0100	C.W. Post. 112 O.P. 112		Silmar	10/10.
V2	0124	D		Patrol returned 0100 hrs @ NMS/H	10/10. Bde adv.
V3	0200	C.W. Post 2 OP8		Silmar	10/10.

locality A
3599020

ACTION DIARY

8 Sep
9 Sep

No	Time	From	To	Event	Action
V4	0250	OP142 CW192		Sitnor	DB infmd
V5	0400	OP142 CW E+W		Sitnor	DB infmd
V6	0500	OP142 CW E+W		Sitnor	DB infmd
V7	0600	OP142 CW E+W		Sitnor	DB infmd
V8	0655	OP1		Sitnor	DB infmd
Z1	0930			Tac R to 0800 hrs <u>EDW</u>	44/15
I8/1	0930	ARCD HDC HQ OP1-2 Cannon BEch		PA night 8/9 MEN IN DEF	Sea
I8/2	0930		↓ Dec Sea	Co hex steep C4 repeat C4 destroyed by fire	Sea
I338	1115	26 Bde		20 Bde sitrep to 0800 hrs	to infmd
I8/3	1130		all corp	Repeating I338	logs
V9	1200	OP No. 1		Sitnor	
V10	1305	OP1 OP2		Sitnor	IO infmd
V11	1400	OP1 OP2		Sitnor	
V12	1500	CW5 OP'S		Sitnor	
V13	1555	OP		Sitnor	
V14	1655	OP1		Sitnor	
V15	1865	OP1		Sitnor	
V16	1900	CW5 OP'S		Sitnor	IO infmd
V17	2010	CW OP'S		Sitnor	
V18	2100	CW8 OP'S		Sitnor	
V19	2145	26 Bde		9 Bde sitrep to 1500 hrs	Corp infmd IO infmd DO "
V20	2200	OP142 CW E+W		Sitnor	
I8/4	2220		HQ ABCD CAR B E+W OP142	Promulgation of 1342	logs
V21	2300	OP142 CW E+W		Sitnor	DB infmd
V22	2400	OP142 CW E+W		Sitnor	DB infmd
9 Sep					
<u>9 Sep</u>					
V1	0100	OP142 CW E+W		Sitnor	DB infmd
V2	0155	OP 5 & CW sta		Sitnor	<u>EDW</u> D/O "
V3	0255	OP 5 & CW sta		Sitnor	D/O "
V4	0400	OP 5 & CW sta		Sitnor	D/O "
V5	0500	OP 5 & CW sta		Sitnor	D/O "

Locality "A"
43599020

9 Sep 42

ACTION DIARY

No	Time	From	To	Event	Action
V6	0600	OPs CW Stas		Sitnor	D/o infmd
V7	0700	OPs & CW Stas		Sitnor	
V8	0740	OP2		Sitnor	
V9	0800	OP1 CW Stas		Sitnor	
V10	1000	OP1		Sitnor	
I340	1000	26 Bde		Maps: 1/100 000 EGYPT normal Series sheets 88-92/36 EL DABA -EL ALAMEIN and 84/36. MAGHRA will be replaced by the following w.e.f. 2359 hrs 8 sep @ 1/100 000 EGYPT Western Desert series sheets 5 NORTH EL ALAMEIN and one SOUTH MAGHRA @ all old series EL DABA - EL ALAMEIN and MAGHRA 1/100 000 maps will be returned to this HQ by 1200 hrs 12 Sep.	IO infmd
094	1020	26 Bde		AFV recognition sigs @ period 8 to 11 sep incl @ one centre @ reply to challenge horizontal all informed.	This was held by Ord Room from 7/9 orderly Room
I9/4	1025	all all corps Beck		repeating AFV sigs.	Sigs
V11	1100	OPs CW Stas		Sitnor	
V12	1300	26 Bde		Re cameras requiring certificate that all cameras have been collected and stored at Beck or 2nd echelon Records until after the war.	IO infmd handed to L.O. 26 Bde
V13	1310	CW Stas OPs		Sitnor	
I9/5	1315	all corps Beck		PW. night 9/10. MILDURA	Sigs Eric Smart.
V14	1355	OP1 CW 1+2		Sitnor	IO infmd
V15	1450	OP 1+2		Sitnor	IO infmd
91		Dustin List		A/C recog sigs 10 sep	Sigs

Locality "A"
43599020

9 Sep

ACTION DIARY

No	Time	From	To	Event	Action
I343	1545	26Bde		Minefuld gap notification	Adjst
0760	1545	9Div		Amendment 9Div 95963	Adjst
V16	1600	OP1		Sitnor	IO infmd
0104	1620	26Bde		CODEX codeword lists 4A repeat 4A, 4B repeat 4B, 4D repeat 4D compromised. will be replaced by lists 2A rpt 2A 2B rpt 2B, 2D rpt 2D respectively 0300h 10 Sep. 0 setting & daily changes un- altered 0 codeword strips series 2 will be distributed by sigs all infmd 0 ack	Adjst
I9/6	1635		26Bde	In reply to 0104 0 Ack	LC
V17	1645	OP1		Sitnor	IO infmd
A362	1650	48P3m		four sigs illuminating will be fired & 6 69 grenade thrown vicinity pt 21 43888995 w/ QASABA 1:50000 between 2200 & 2359 hrs 9 Sep.	Adjst
I9/7	1655		HQA 4B, A BCD B Ech OPSCWS CAF	Promulgation A362	Sigs
V18	1900	OPsq CWS		Sitnor	IO infmd
V19	2000	OPs CWS		Sitnor	NO.
V20	2030	Beer		report 1 flare illuminating in vicinity Pt 21	NO.
I334	2047	26Bde		9 Div Sitnor to 1500 hrs.	NO promulgated
I9/8	2055	all corp OPs		replying I334	5 corp. Sigs.
V21	2100	all corp OPs		Sitnor	NO.
V22	2110	D		report very bright light on bearing 100° from Coy HQ, approx 10-12 m distant	NO Bde advised
V23	2200	all corp OPs		Sitnor	NO.
V24	2300	"		"	"
V25	2400	"		"	"
V26	0100			10 SEP	
V1	0700	all corp OPs		Sitnor	D/O infmd
V2	0155	all corp OPs		Sitnor	D/O infmd

Abund
0110h

Locality A
43599020

ACTION DIARY

10 SEP

No	Time	From	To	EVENT	ACTION
I334	0220	26Bde		4 DL's held by 2/43 bn and one coy 2/3 Pms bn taken over by 2/28 bn and 2/32 bn. night 8/9. Sep. All infmd	I O infmd
V3	0255	CW Stru OP's		Sitnor	D/O infmd.
V4	0356	CW Stru OP's		Sitnor	D/O infmd.
V5	0455	CW Stru OP's		Sitnor	D/O infmd.
V6	0600	CW Stru OP's		Sitnor	D/O infmd
V7	0656	OP1		Sitnor	
V8	0800	OP1 & 2 CW2		Sitnor	E. Stuart per all IO infmd
I10/1	0830		HABJA BCD Bch CAR, OPS	PW for night 10/11 Sep RINGAROOMA	Sigs
V9	0905	OP1		Sitnor	IO infmd
Z1	0940	Sigs		Tac R to 0750 hrs	Adj
Y10	1000	OP's CW's		Sitnor	IO infmd
I345	1030	26Bde		20Bde sitrep to 0730 hrs	Adj
V11	1055	OP's CW's		Sitnor	I Sgt
I10/2	1110	HQ, ABCD Bch, OP's		Promulgation I345	Sigs
V12	1255	OP's CW's		Sitnor	I Sgt
V13	1545	OP's CW's		Sitnor	
V14	1720	CW Stru OP's		Sitnor	
B3	1730	CAR, H.		patrol working party 8 NEO's 60R -	I Sgt
I10/3			ABCCorp	out 1930 hrs SYDNEY RD to 43549002 in same route 0200 hrs.	ABC corp arr.
V15	1745	CW2		Sitnor	
V17	1945		26Bde	Sitrep. at 1600 hrs one MAE WEST airmans life jacket picked up in sea at 43559027 drifting EAST @ name on jacket WINTER TAYLOR @ jacket in good condition @ more wreckage in sea	26Bde "I" Sec. informed (jacket to be fwd'd to LO) DO infd
V18	2000	OP's CW's		Sitnor	DO infd
V19	2057	"		Sitnor	" "
V20	2150	OP's CW		Sitnor	" "
I346	2230	26Bde		20 Bde Sitrep to 2000 hrs	DO - copy

Locality A
43599020

10 Sep

ACTION DIARY

No	Time	FROM	TO	EVENT	ACTION
V21	2250	OP's CW2		Sitnor	DO advised
V22	2355	OP's CW's		Sitnor	" "
11 SEP 42					
V1	0055	OP's CW's		Sitnor	DO advised
V2	0200	OP's CW's		Sitnor	DO infmd
V3	0305	OP's CW's		Sitnor	DO infmd
V4	0400	OP's CW's		Sitnor	DO infmd
V5	0500	OP's CW's		Sitnor	DO infmd
V6	0610	OP's CW's		Sitnor	DO infmd
V7	0700	OP's CW's		Sitnor	DO infmd
V8	0800	OP's CW's		Sitnor	D/O infmd
V9	0805	OP1		Aug 28 is 266° LE from OP	
I347	1030	26 Bde		to 20 Bde Sitnor to 0800 hrs	
V10	1100	BEER		unidentified plane crash landed 2000 x South of O.P.	I Sgt infmd.
V11	1110	I BEG		plane burning at 43798989	Bde infmd
Z1	1232	Sigs		Lac Report. At 1045 hrs. ^{Blennix}	
V12	1306	ADJT		Purs exploding EP mine MV at rifle range 1400 hrs permission granted by bde. and CO.	Repeated all coys.
I11/2	1310	all coys CW's OP's Bde		Repeating V12	Sigs
I11/3	1345	all coys Bde OP's		PW for night 11/12 DAN DENONG	Sigs
TEDAX				Cypher to L sec sigs	Runner
V13	1600	CW's OP		Sitnor. OP's out of comm	
AEBRN				Cypher to L sec sigs	Runner.
V14	1720			Sitnor	
I348	1815	26 Bde		24 Bde Sitnor to 1400 hrs	IO. Rpt to coys
I349	2050	26 Bde		9 div Sitnor to 1500 hrs	<90
I11/4	2050	all coys OP's CW's		Repeating I349	Sigs
V15	2100	all coys		Sitnor	DO
V16	2200	"		"	D/O
V17	2300	"		"	"
V18	2400	"		"	"

J.P. W...

Blennix

Edhart

Blennix

Locality A

12 Sep

43599020

ACTION DIARY

NO	TIME	FROM	TO	EVENT	ACTION
V1	0100	OP's CW's		Sitnor	DO infd
V2	0155	OP's CW's		Sitnor	" "
V3	0250	OP's CW's		Sitnor	" "
V4	0350	OP's CW's		Sitnor	" "
V5	0500	OP's CW's		Sitnor	" "
V6	0600	OP CW's		Sitnor	" "
V7	0700	OP CW's		Sitnor	"
L14	1015	Sigs		notifying Helicopters practice this morning	I.O. infd Bde advd
V8	1100	all stas		Sitnor	I.O. infd
I12/1	1103		all corp Beck	PW mgt 12/13 MUNGINDI	Sigs
I12/2	"		RSM	"	"
V9	1110	all stas		Sitnor	I.O. infd.
O106	1120	26 Bde		Aff recog sep 12-16 Sep end	I.O.
I12/3	1125		all corp Beck	notifying aff sep as O106.	Sigs
V10	1300		all stas	Sitnor	I.O.
<i>Planned 1300hrs</i>					
I350	1535	26 Bde		24 Bde sitrep to 1300 hrs	Adj't
I12/4	1545		ABCD 29 OP2 Corp	repeat I350	Seal
I12/5	1600	26 Bde		following maps received @ MARIHAI 1:09000 84/36 5 copies @ EL DABA EIALEMEN 1:109000 88/36 and 92/36 5 copies	Seal
V11	1750	KENA 1 BEE 5 BEE		Sitnor	I.O. infd
V12	1945	OP.1.		Sitnor	D/O "
V13	2100	all stas		"	"
I35	2105	26 Bde		9 Div. sitrep to 1500 hrs.	Adj't D/O.
I12/6	2155		BECK all corp OP's	Presulgating I35	Sigs
V14	2200	all stas		Sitnor	D/O.
V15	2300	"		"	"
V16	2400	"		"	"
<u>13 Sep.</u>					
V1	0055	OP.2		Report 3 gun flashes observed approx 2 mls out to sea NORTH of OP.	D/O. infd. Bde D/O. adv.
V2	0105	CW.1.		Report 2 gun flashes approx 10 mls to sea NORTH of posn	D/O.

LOCALITY 'A'

13
13 Sep:

43599020.

ACTION DIARY

No.	Time	From	To	Event	Action
V3	0115	OP.2		2 more flashes observed	Do.
V4	0125	CW.1		nothing further to report	Do.
V5	0155	OP's CWA		Sitnov	Do infd
V6	0250	"		"	"
V7	0405	"		"	"
V8	0500	"		"	"
V9	0555	"		"	"
V10	0657	"		"	"
Munro 0700h					
I 13/1	0845	ABCDH BECHOP Case		PW night 13/14 BREWARRINA	Seal
I 452	1100	26 Bde		20 Bde sitrep	Adj
I 13/3	1100	All Coy OP's Case		promulgating I 452	Seal
V11	1200	OP.1-2 CW.1-2		Sitnov	I.O. info
V12	1300	OP.1		Sitnov	"
V13	1315	OP.2 CW.1-2		"	"
V14	1400	"		"	"
V15	1500	"		"	"
I 354	1525	26 Bde all		24 Bde Sitrep to 1345 hrs.	Adj.
I 13/4	1540	all add's		Promulgating I 354	Sigs
V16	1600	all star		Sitnov	I.O.
V17	1850	CW OP.12		"	I.O.
V18	1900	CW OP's		Sitnov	Do infd
V19	1955	CW's OP's		Sitnov	"
I 355		26 Bde		9 Div Sitrep to 1500 hrs.	DO.
V20	2050	CW OP's		Sitnov	DO infd
V21	2159	CW OP's		Sitnov	DO infd
I 356	2020	26 Bde		24 Bde Sitrep to 1930 hrs	DO. advised
V22	2300	CW's OP's		Sitnov	DO advised
V23	2350	CW OP's		Sitnov	DO advised
<u>14 Sep</u>					
V1	0100	CW's OP's		Sitnov	DO infd

[Signature]

Locality 'A'
43599020

14 SEP 47

ACTION DIARY

No	Time	From	To	E V E N T	Action
V2	0200	2 OPS 2 CWS		Sitnet	D/O info
V3	0300	"		"	"
V4	0400	"		"	"
V5	0500	"		"	"
V6	0600	"		"	"
I441	0630		ABCD Day 20 PRER	promulgating 24 Bde sitrep I 356	Sea
V7	0700	"		Sitnet	D/O info
V8	0800	"		"	"
V9	0915	OP.1.		0908. 3 Hvy explosions in area sq 431 898 bearing 230° 238° 242° M0 no a/c seen	I.O.
V10	1000	all clas.		Sitnet	I.O. info
V11	1100	"		"	" "
I358	1115	26 Bde		20 Bde. Sitrep to 0700 hrs	Adjst.
V12	1200	all clas.		Sitnet	I.O. info.
V13	1300	"		"	" "
V14	1400	"		Sitnet	" "
9107	1405	26 Bde		advising flares	- -
I442	1415		ABCD HQ Bech OPS CW'S	promulgating 20 Bde Sitrep to 0700 hrs PW night 14/15 - MILPARINKA	Pigs
V15	1500	"		Sitnet	I.O. info
V16	1550	OP.12. CW'S		"	" "
V17	1643	OP.12 CW'S		"	" "
V18	1753	OP.12. CW'S		"	" "
I443	1845	all clas.		Promulgating 9107 re flares.	" "
V19	1900	OP.1		Sitnet	" "
I359	2010	26 Bde		9 Div Sitrep	D/O info
I444	2015		ABCD HQ 2 OPS CWS	promulgating I 359	Sea
V20	2000	OP.2 CWS		Sitnet	D/O info
V21	2100	BEER		by avirain 20 miles to EAST	" "
V22	2100	CW.2 OP.2		Sitnet	" "
V23	2101	BEER		access use no of matches & shells seen area 43689026	D/O info Maj Blank HQ 'A' info

LOCALITY 'A'

14 SEP 42

43599020

Action Diary

No	Time	From	To	EVENT	Action
V24	2110	OP1 OP2		Stack of Bombs dropped sq 444899	Rde info
V25	2200	OP 1/2 CW 1/2		Sitrep	D/O info
V26	2300	OP 1/2 CW 1/2		Sitrep	"
V27	2310	CW 1		3 white flares east approx 5 miles away	D/O + Rde D/O
V28	2400	OP 1/2 CW 1/2		Sitrep	D/O info
15 SEP.					
V1	0100	"		"	"
V2	0200	"		"	"
V3	0300	"		"	"
V4	0400	"		"	"
V5	0500	"		"	"
V6	0600	"		"	"
V7	0700	"		Sitrep <i>Waguan</i>	"
I15/1	0730		All copy OP carriers	PW night 15/16 "KOORINGA"	Sigs.
V8	0800	OP1		Sitrep	
V9	0825	ADJT		6 boy have started on Route A (Box D) returning at 1330 hrs.	IO infmd
V10	0900	CW str. DPH2		Sitrep.	
V11	0940	78 LAD		2 pr Field glasses repaired for 2/23 Bn.	IO infmd
I370	0945	26 Bde		20 Bde sitrep to 2000 hrs.	IO infmd.
V12	0955	OP1		Sitrep	
I15/2	1010		all copy carriers OPs.	Repeating sitrep I370.	Sigs
V13	1015	OP1		7 mushroom smokes on bearings 220° to 235°	Noted.
I361	1105	26 Bde		20 Bde sitrep to 0720 hrs	
V14	1110	OP1		Bombs dropped by one ME109 in area 438902 2 bombs 437899 one bomb.	26 Bde I see infmd.
V15	1200	CW str OP1		Sitrep. OP2 out of comm	IO infmd
V16	1310	OP 1/2 OP1		Sitrep	"

LOCALITY. A.
43599020

ACTION DIARY

15 SEP 42

No	TIME	From	To	EVENT	ACTION
I362	1345	26 Bde		24 Bde setup to 0900 hrs	Aait
I15/4	1345		ABCDAB Case OP1	Propagating I 362	Sea
V17	1400	CW 1/2 OP1		Sitnor @ OP 2 line out of order	Aait info
I363	1530	26 Bde		24 Bde setup to 1300 hrs	Aait
I15/5	1530		ABCDAB Case OP1	Propagating I 363	Sea
V18	1500	OP 1/2 CW 1/2		Sitnor	TO
V19	1600	OP 1/2 CW 1/2		Sitnor	"
V20	1700	"		"	"
V21	1800	"		"	"
V22	2000	CW 1/2 OP 1/2		Sitnor	"
I364	2056	26 Bde		9 Div setup to 1500 hrs. O	
V23	2100	CW 1/2 OPS		Sitnor	
V24	2145	OP1		Reporting one red flare on bearing of 186° on escarpment area. 435.892.	D/O infmd.
V25	2205	CW 1/2 OPs		Sitnor	"
	2400	ops		Sitnor	"

16 SEP 42

V1	0100	CW 1/2 OPs		Sitnor	D/O infmd
V2	0200	OPS CWS		Sitnor	DB infmd
V3	0300	OPS CWS		Sitnor	DB infmd
V4	0400	OPS CWS		Sitnor	DB infmd
V5	0500	OPS CWS		Sitnor	DB infmd
V6	0600	OPS CW		Sitnor	DB infmd
V7	0700	OPS CWS		Sitnor	DB infmd
V8	0800			"	
V9	0900			"	
V10	1000			"	
V11	1010	OP. 1.		Two burning in sq. 445899 thought to be plane but not definitely identified. (Bearing 87° from OP. 2.)	Notes.
I16/2	1000	office	ALL COYS D.P. CW R.M.	P.W. NAREMBEEN night. 16/17	Sigs.

LOCALITY A

16 Sep. 42.

ACTION

DIARY

Ref. 43599020

No	Time	From	To		
V12	1150	OP. 1		1135 hrs 2 bombs from unidentified plane approx sq. 428893	Noted.
V13	1205	OP. 1.		Ref. V12. Fine similar explosions observed - now thought do be caused by our Mps.	Noted.
I 366	1315	26 Bde all Coy Posts.		at 24. hrs. sweep to 0900 hrs from I 366.	adpt. sigs.
I 368	1630	26 Bde		24 Bde sweep to 1200 hrs	4ajt
I 16/4	1630	4th Coy Cann. OPs		message I 368	Sigs
I 16/5	1700	482 AB CD Cann		ground to ground APV	
				recog sigs. 17-20 Sep. inc	Sigs
V14	1810	OP1		1 EA dropped 1 Bomb area	IO info
V15	1815	OP2 Coy		Situation	"
I 170	1825	26 Bde		9 Div sweep to 1500 hrs	4ajt
I 16/6	1825	4th Coy Cann. OPs		promulgating I 170	Sigs
V16	1855	26 Bde		20 copies Personal Camouflage 1 copy Airborne	
				5 fence against air ground attack	
V17	1900	OPS CWS		Sitnas	IO infmd
V18	2000	OPS CWS		Sitnas	DO infmd
V19	2020	OP2		Steady white light, on approx 5/10 min on bearing 45° from OP2.	Bde infmd
V20	2035	HQ(B)		Reports 4 red flares - interval 10 secs NE from HQ(B)	Bde infmd
V21	2050	OP2		Reports same white light (ref V19) on for 3 mins	Bde infmd
V22	2100	CW2		Verification of white light (ref V21)	DO infmd
V23	2105	OPS CW		Sitnas	DO infmd
V24	2200	OPS CWS		Sitnas	DO infmd
V25	2300	OPS CWS		Sitnas	DO infmd
V26	2400	OPS CWS		Sitnas	DB infmd
<u>17 Sep.</u>					
V1	0100	OPS CWS		Sitnas	DB infmd
V2	0200	OPS CWS		"	" "
V3	0300			"	" "

row

LOCALITY A

17 Sep. 42.

ACTION DIARY

Ref: 43599020

No.	Time	From	To	Event	Action
V4	0400	OP 142 CN 142		Sitmor	D/O infd.
V5	0500	"		"	" "
V6	0600	"		"	" "
V7	0800	"		"	Noted
V8	1045	26 Bde		A section of mines will be blown in minefield at 1130 hrs in 2/48 Bn area.	IO infd
I17/1	1110		ABCD HQ camin	Repeating V8 to all corps	Sigs
I17/2	1115		#360 HQ camin	P.W. night 17/8 @ TOOTH S.	Sigs
I372	1155	26 Bde		24 Bde sitrep to 1000 hrs @	IO infd
V9	1400	cur str No 2		Sitmor	
I373	1615	26 Bde		24 Bde sitrep to 1400 hrs @ 1215 hrs. 9 Ju 87 escorted by 7 ME 109 dive bombed area 882298 @ EA used per @ no damage or casualties	File
I17/4	1625		all corps carriers	Repeating 24 Bde sitrep	Sigs
I374	1830	26 Bde		9 Div. sitrep to 1500 hrs.	
18 Sep. 42					
I375	1115	26 Bde		20 Bde. Sitrep to 0800 hrs.	Adyt
I18/1	1120		Chys Can Pl.	Premulgating I375.	Sigs.
I18/2	1200		Coys. Can Pl.	P.W. 18/19 Sep. WAYERLY.	"
DOPID	1410	26 Bde		bipher message.	File
V1	1415	26 Bde		Re draughtsman for 9 DIV Int Sec	IO infd
V2	1500	C		Re relief of OPs have to bay to man them again. (- No)	IO infd
bipher	1515			Translation. 23 24 48 Bns from 26 Bde M9. bipher @ 9 Div letter C 3/41 refers @ as from 19 Sep 42 units will originate varying numbers of DT message up to three per day added to 26 Bde.	IO infd

LOCALITY A.

18 SEP 42

ACTION DIARY

REF 43599020.

No	TIME	FROM	To	EVENT	ACTION
I376	1940	26 Bde		9 Div sitrep to 1500 hrs	Adj
I18/3	1945		all corp	Promulgation I376	Sigs
<u>19 SEP</u>					
V1	0005	CW2		Sitrep	^{all corp} DB info
V2	0155	CW1,2		Sitrep	DO info
V3	0250	CW1,2		Sitrep	DO info
V4	0355	CW1,2		Sitrep	DO info
V5	0500	CW1,2		Sitrep	DO info
V6	0600	CW1,2		Sitrep	DO info
V7	0715	CW1		Sitrep	DO info
I19/1	1130		all corp	Passwd night 19/20 TOWNERS	Sigs
I19/2	1130		RSM	"	"
I377	1130	26 Bde		20 Bde sitrep to 0155 hrs	to corp
I19/3	1135		all corp	METD Personal Camouflage	Signs
I379	1215	26 Bde		24 Bde sitrep to 0830	to corp
I380	1740	"		9 DIV sitrep to 1500 hrs	Adj
I19/4	1740		all corp	" " " "	Sign
V8	2045	CW 1/2 Stn 2		Sitrep	NOTED
V9	2145	CW 1/2 Stn 2		Sitrep	NOTED
V10	2255	CW 1/2 Stn 2		Sitrep	NOTED
V11	2350	CW 1/2 Stn 2		Sitrep	NOTED
<u>20 SEP</u>					
V1	0105	CW1,2		Sitrep	NOTED
V2	0200	CW1,2		"	"
V3	0300	CW1,2		"	"
V4	0400	CW1,2		"	"
V5	0500	CW1,2		"	"
V6	0615	CW1,2		"	"
V7	0700	CW1,2		"	"
I20/1	0900		All Corps	PW night 20/21 NATHANS	Sign
I20	0900		RSM	" " " "	Sign
M/1	1045		A, B, C Corps Sig Centre HQ(2)	etc. recognition flares	Sigs

LOCALITY 'A' 20 Sep 42
 Ref 43599020. Action Diary

No	Time	From	To	Event	Action
	1200	26 Bde		Tac R. delayed till 1030 hrs.	Noted.
I381	1200	26 Bde		24 Bde sitrep to 0900 hrs. <i>J. Wright put down</i>	CO
91	1325		A+ person	Track marks Allied & Enemy vehicles	Sigs
A190	1430	Adj'd		Coy comds conference re trig ex BHQ 0900 hrs 21	IO infmd
I382	1730	26 Bde		24 Bde sitrep to 1400 hrs	CO
I383	1835	26 Bde		9 Div sitrep to 1500 hrs.	CO
I20/3	1845	District		Promulgation I383	Sigs
O123	1855	26 Bde		Amendment of 26 Bde GS instrs No 5 to read 26 Bde G.S Instrs No 6	Instrs No 5 amended
V8	1900	CW112		Sitmor	IO infmd <i>AW</i>
V9	2000	CW112		"	b/10. "
V10	2100	CW112		"	" "
I384 H1	2150	26 Bde		24 Bde sitrep to 1930 hrs.	" "
V11	2200	CW112		Sitmor	" "
V12	2300	"		"	" "
V13	2400	"		"	" "
<u>21 Sep.</u>					
V1	0100	CW112		Sitmor	IO/b. infd.
V2	0200	"		"	" "
V3	0300	"		"	" "
V4	0400	"		"	" "
V5	0500	"		"	" "
V6	0600	"		"	" "
V7	0700	"		"	" "
I20/1	0845		RSM	P.W. 21/23. ABBOTTS	Sigs
I20/2	0845		All Coy CW112 Com	P.W. 21/23	Sigs
I20/3	1130			D. Cypher message	Sigs
X2/17	0930	26 Bde		block for cipher	File
M/4	1230	Msg. M/Sec		re wrong map reference in O. O.	IO
O125	1655	26 Bde		WARNING ORDER @ 26 Bde relieves 20 Bde in fwd areas nights 22/23 & 23/24 Sep @ Gnt. line plan for relief 2/23 Bn & 2/24 Bn relieves	CO

Locality "A"

43599020

21 Sep.

ACTION DIARY

N ^o	Time	From	To	Event	Action
0125	1650	26Bde		2/13Bn & 2/17Bn respectively night 22/23 Sep 2/48Bn relieves 2/15Bn night 23/24 Sep 20Bde brs to take over sector of area A vacated by relieving brs A coy 2/2 MG Bn relieves B coy 2/2 MG Bn (less one pl) plan relieving on night that brs in same area are relieved OA coy is then in sp 26Bde other sp arms remain area A a recon & adv parties move on nights prior to relief areas all materiel remain in situ	CO
1385	1730	26Bde		24Bde sit up to 1400 hrs 40 shells in areas 876295, 878295 RDLI relieved 2/28Bn during night without incident 2/28Bn HQ now 877529450 2/43Bn HQ 888229390 2/32Bn HQ unchanged	Adjlt
V8	1730			CO cancels Bn use night 21/22 Sep on account Bde reliefs (ref 0125)	Noted
1386	1845	26Bde		9 Div sit up to 1500 hrs	Adjlt
I21/5	1855	CW	allcoys	Promulgation I386	Sigs
V9	2000	1421		Sitnov	D/O info
V10	2100	"		"	"
V11	2200	"		"	"
V12	2300	"		"	"
V13	2400	"		"	"
<u>22 Sep 42</u>					
V1	0100	"		"	"
V2	0200	CW 1,2,		Sitnov	DO info
V3	0300	CW 1,2,		Sitnov	DO info
V4	0400	CW 1,2,		Sitnov	DO info
V5	0500	CW 1,3,		Sitnov	DO info
V6	0600	CW 1,2		Sitnov	DO info
0126	0856	26Bde		from midnight 25/26 Sep following revised system of describing days in plans & orders	Adjlt

AW

THOUGHT

Loc. A.
43599020.

ACTION

DIARY 22 Sep.

No	Time	From	To	Event	Action
NO	Time	From	To		
0126				Null come into force to conform with AMERICAN methods @ day on which operations start will be referred to as D Day @ subsequent days D plus 1 D plus 2 etc. @ day before as D minus 1 @ letter Z will not be used to refer to days.	Adj't.
M/4	1000	CN 1/2		set nov. [unclear]	noted.
I22/1	1000		RS. M. All Corps Comd. G. W. 2	Password. night. 22/23.	Sigs.
I22/2	1000			Password. night. 22/23.	Sigs.
M/4	1040			Cipher	noted.
M/5	1040		Sigs	Cipher	Sigs.
I387	1050	26 Bde		minefields lifted at 2 areas. New minefields at 3 areas.	Adj't.
I388	1830	26 Bde		24 Bde. set rep. to 1300 hrs. 115 hrs. one AFV at 87582901. 2/32 Bn square 87712959. 2/28 Bn sq 87832948. 9 Div. set rep. to 1500 hrs.	noted.
I389	1800	26 Bde			
V					

87673017

EL ALAMEIN

23 Sep.

ACTION DIARY

Ref: EL ALAMEIN: 1:50,000

No.	Time	From	To	Event	Action
V1	0130	All Coy's.		Sitnor	D/O info.
V2	0237	Can PI		"	" "
V3	0242	D Coy		"	" "
V4	0300	ABC		"	Bde D/O adv.
V5	0350	Acc Coy		"	" "
V6	0500	"		"	" "
V7	0600	"		"	" "
V8	0700		26 Bde 20 Bde	Set up to 0700 hrs @ relief of 2/13 Completed without incident @ covering patrol all reported NMS/H	Sigs
I23/1	1000		Acc Coy	PW night 23/24 CASTLEMAINE	Sigs
I23/2	1000		RSM	" " " "	Sigs
V9	0600	UDER		OP est at 87637013	I.U.
V10	1100	Acc Coy OP.		Sitnor	"
V11	1610	A Coy.		" TWUcks	"
V12	1645	D "		"	"
V13	1650	CB		"	"
I23/6	1700		26 Bde	Setup to 1700 hrs @ 23 shells fell area western pt. 24 feature ref squares 873299, 872299 @ other main sitnor.	Sigs
V14	1740	B		From B Coy HQ (87543018) 3 Eglers forming from 3180 18 1/2 Secs 6780x	4/0 info Bde D/O
V15	1940	Acc Coy		Sitnor	"
V16	2040	"		"	"
V17	2140	"		"	"
V18	2240	"		"	"
V19	2340	20 Bde		advancing 48 Bn relief complete	D/O info
V20	2355	Acc Coy		Sitnor Thoughts	Bde D/O
V1	0045	All Coy		Sitnor	Bde D/O
V2	0155	All Coy		Sitnor	Bde D/O
V3	0300	ACD		Sitnor	Bde D/O info
V4	0303	B		Approx 12 men seen moving EAST across B Coy pens towards C Coy at 0220 hrs @ C Coy notified.	Bde info

24 Sep

ACTION DIARY

No	Time	From	TO	EVENT	ACTION
V5	0350	All caps		Silnot	Bde advised
V6	0445	All caps		Silnot	Bde infd
V7	0550	"		"	" "
V8	0650	"		"	" "
V9	1100	"		"	" "
0135	1220	2 Bde		report by 1200 hrs 25 Sep - my crashed aircraft still unaltered in area @ reports as per DRO 496 @ NIL returns re qd Dabul Notification, etc 1/8 I Summary No 173	16 Sept I.O.
W2	1545		VIDE LIST		See
"	1600				"
I392	1625	2 Bde		Sitrep to 1400 hrs @ Sitnot	21 C of A
V10	1647	UDER OP.		Silnot - visibility bad. T.D. by	2.10 infd.
V11	1650	CBAD Can PI		Silnot	
I393	2040	2 Bde		9 Div Sitrep to 1530 hrs	D/O info
V12	2215	D Day outpost		MMG & mortar fire from enemy positions in direction 270°-278° from D Day outpost posn - egg feature 87513043. <i>M. Ferguson</i>	" "
V13	2355	RBC D VICE		Silnot	Bde D/O.
V14	0155	ABCD		Silnot	Bde D/O infd
V15	0255	ABCD		Silnot	Bde D/O infd
V16	0350	ABCD		Silnot	Bde D/O.
V17	0455	ABCD		Silnot	Bde D/O
V18	0600	"		"	"
V19	0700	"		"	"
V20	1000		ABCD. HQA HQ B Can. MTR mmsg	PW BALLARAT.	Ligs.
V21	1045	UDER OP. all caps.		Silnot	D/O.
V22	1050			"	"
I396	1430	2 Bde		Silnot to 1400 hrs.	I.O.
I397	1700	2 Bde		9 Div Sitrep	I O
V23	1700	2 Bde		Sitrep to Bde	
V24	1915	RAMA		20 men observed area 87463038	I.O.
				1. <i>Sumner</i> 125. <i>Sumner</i> Stationary then moved to 87463042 where they resped 8 moving to EAST 12 to WEST and disappeared behind Saahid	

EL ALAMEIN

25 Sep 42

89673017

Action Diary

No	Time	From	To	E V E N T	Action
V25	2045	D		Reports mortar shoot on 87433043 at DEAD CENTRE	CO info
V26	2050	ALL COYS		Situar ^{points} thought 10 mortars on D Coy area in vicinity of peer peer & our mortars - (our mortars finished at 2045 hrs)	D/O info CO info Bde D.O.
	2055			Hostile mortar ⁽²⁾ approx 87463038	
V27	2330	B		Patrol report	D.O. info
V28	2332	D		Advising withdrawal of D Coy outpost when patrol of approx 40 enemy advanced and attempted encirclement of outpost. No casualties	CO info D.O.
V29	2350			Sitrov	D.O. Bell
V30	0050			Sitrov (20 Sep 42)	- -
V1	0200			"	" "
V2	0300			"	" "
V3	0400			"	" "
V4	0500			"	" "
V5	0950			OP reports no shells in bn area	" "
I26/1	1000		ABCD HQ Bde, MMCF A/Tr, RSM	PW for night 26/27 sep @ SWAN	Sigs
82	1030		26 Bde	Shelling trace to 1000 hrs 26 Sep	Sigs
V6	1020			OP reports convoy approx 60 EMT moving SOUTH to NORTH along SIDI RAHMAN track. Considers aerial activity designed to protect this movement. One unidentified & crashed sqn 873298	C.O. Bde info
V7	1040	C		2 bombs in area light unidentified plane flying high. No damage or casualties	CO info
I26/2	1130		26 Bde 48 24 Bns.	Sitrep to 1100 hrs	Sigs
O138	1135	26 Bde		2/24 bn patrol body for night 26/27 Sep incl from incl 298 nothing to excl inter bde body.	Adj

NO	TIME	FROM	TO	EVENT.	ACTION
0139	1445	26 Bde		Sitreps incl. Sitnov reports will be submitted every even hr by day and night.	2/1c infmd
V8	1345		26 Bde	Sitnov	D/o infmd
V9	1545	all coys		Sitnov	
V10	1553		BHQ	2 Beece planes enemy over bn area flying NORTH to sea then returning southerly over cutting area area. 25000 ft.	D/o infmd Bde informed.
I401	1740	26 Bde		Sitrep to 1530 hrs. @ NTR @ all infmd.	
I402	1740	26 Bde		9 DIV sitrep to 1500 hrs @ our out post at 87513043 forced to withdraw 2250 hrs 25 Sep. by strong enemy patrol @ night 25/26. Sep outpost est. EAST PT 23 873296 @ patrol reports enemy working party 8730 3020 @ all infmd	
F107	1740	2/48		Proposed patrols 26/27 Sep 42. signal for recall of patrols:- WHITE. RED.	
V11	1800	all coys		Sitnov.	D/o infmd
O140	1825	26 Bde		Advise immediately if any GERMAN TKS. MK 3-4 or special in area @ nil return required	Adj. H.
V12	1825	26 Bde		HF Aasks. 2230 to 0230 hrs Targets. 3489. 1240 4142 43 48 54 59 60 64 65 66.	NOTED.
V13	1830	26 Bde		Serial HF 15-16-17. should read HF. 58-59-60. Appx A. To. Screen G 200 / 3c / 129. 24 Sep.	File
V14	1835	C coy		Report Movement of by MT along supply route both ways in area 870 301.	60.
I402	1845	26 Bde		Sitrep to 1800 hrs. repeating 23 Bn sitreps. all infmd	

EL ALAMEIN

87673017

ACTION DIARY.

Sep 26/27

No	TIME	From	To	EVENT	ACTION
M X AR1	1900	B		Sitrep @ Four mortar bombs fell in area 8754 3018 at 1842 hrs. No damage @ No flash or sound bearings obtained.	D/o infmd Bde infmd at 2000hrs
0142	1900	26 Bde		Inter tde bdy now all incl to 26 Bde. enemy locality at pt 23 in sq 872 296. 8752 2970. 8765 2970. 8780 2970. 8721 2986.	MAP.
V15	1920	C		Reporting enemy MT movement still on supply route in area 870 301.	CO.
M. 9.	1940	all Coys		sitnov	D/o infmd.
V. 16	2000	26 Bde		Repeating sitrep B Coy. Sitnov	Bde infmd
MID	2040	all Coys.		sitnov	D/o infmd.
A200	2100	BHQ	26 Bde	In reply to 0140. THREE MK. 3 Pks. Griedman	Sigs.
M. 11.	2145	all Coys.		sitnov	D/o infmd.
M 12.	2200	26 Bde		repeating sitrep	Bde infmd.
M 13	2245	all Coys		sitnov	D/o infmd.
	2304	D		report on post at	↓
M 14.	2328	D.		out post in position 400 yds. from proposed position Ref. 8750 3039.	D/o infmd
M 15.	2355	all Coys.		sitnov	D/o infmd.
				<u>27 Sep</u>	
M 16	2400	26 Bde		repeating sitrep report out post (1) information reports out post. (1) good observation for army shoot in progress.	Bde infmd.
M 17.	2400	D.		reports out post. (1) good observation for army shoot in progress.	D/o infmd.
M 18	0020	D.		reports patrol back after sighting enemy patrol which withdrew on seeing our patrol at egg feature. full report coming through later no fire exchanged.	D/o infmd
V1	1400	26 Bde		Sitnov	Bde infmd
V2	1500	all up			D/O etc

ACTION DIARY

No	Time	From	To	Event	Action
V3	0400	allcoys		Sitrep	Bde infmd
V4	0500	allcoys		" "	DB " "
V5	0600	.		" "	" "
V6	0700	.		" "	" "
I404	0925	26 Bde		Sitrep to 0800 hrs @ night 26/27 Sep 16 shells in area @ enemy patrols seen no contact made @ all infmd By 10/12 men 6 RT + one AK at 868300 Convoy of 10 trucks moving north along SIDI RAHMAN track	10 infmd Bde infmd
V7	0950	op.			
V8	1100	26 Bde		Sitrep to 26 Bde repeating V7	D/o infmd
V9	1100	ADJT.		H F Ashes 1130 to 1700 hrs Targets 1 5 11 15 17 22 25 29 32 34 36 37 39 40 41 46 61 63	File + Map
V10	1105	Engs		Report that no booby traps or wires attached to carriers previously reported by carrier patrol.	
I27/1	1140	ABCD HQ RSM.		PW night 27/28 @ CASCADE Patrol recognition Sigs @ R.T.	Sigs
V11	1325	26 Bde		Sitrep	D/o infmd
I404	1330	26 Bde		Sitrep to 1230 hrs @ night 26/27 Sep patrol to 87452981 discovered unoccupied MG post @ working parties heard 87323017 @ Booby trap 87523037 @ at 87553036 enemy patrol 12 strong was seen but enemy avoided contact @ No identifi- cations of enemy possible @ all infmd Brie Stuart	
M.2	1500	all Coys.		Sitrep	D/o infmd
M.3	1500	26 Bde		repeating sitrep.	D/o infmd
I27/2	1545	26 Bde 2/43 14 Bty mm65 (att)		Projected Patrols. emissions. Serial P01 route in 87523010. Serial P03 route out 87403014.	Sigs

Bde
sitrep
1100

Bluescreens

EL ALAMEIN

86773017

27 SEP 42

Action Diary

No	Time	From	To	Event	Action
M4	1625	BHQ		c. retaliation fire area 87613020- while our harassing fire in progress	2/6 Injured
M5	1650	BHQ		one bomb in area 87653023- probably mortar	
M6	1655	OP		1 MC Travelling WEST ^{at} 87413070	
M7	1655	A.C. comm. B.D		Sitrov shell 87673024 (1) 87683023 (1) 87623028	
M8	1705	26 Bde	26 Bde	9 Div subp. At 1500 hrs. a Patrol covering establishment. O.P. 87503039 saw enemy patrol 12 strong. Second patrol. At area 87433014 saw enemy patrol 2 men moving North and South. in front of enemy wire. a/c contact. a/c all informed.	2 1/2 Injured
M9	1705	Bl Coy		7 mortar bombs. includ. two duds. fell area 87543018 1630 hrs. no damage a/c bearing obtained	2 1/2 injured
M10	1715	C Coy		at 1605 3 shells in area 87593006. 88mm type.	
M11	1730	26 Bde		Subp. at 1605 hrs 3 shells in area 87593006. (1) 1630 hrs 7 mortar bombs area 87543018. (1) 1655 hrs 3 shells in areas 87673024; 87683023, 87623028 (1) No damage in any area.	D of injured
M11	1950	26 Bde		Test. Aac R. broadcast will be made from 1800 to 1815 hrs 28 Sep Report on reception of strength. by 1845 hrs 28 Sept.	

EL ALAMEIN

86773017

27 SEP 42

ACTION DIARY

No.	Time	From	To	Event	Action
M12	1745	26 Bde		H.F. 2200-2400 hrs @ 0200-0800 hrs. Aasks 20 23 25 26 28 31 34.	2/c Infmed.
I27/3	1915	26 Bde 2/24 Bn 248 "		Sibrep to 1900 hrs @ Bn OP report on heavy MT traffic at supply route @ throughout day traffic at any period would average 4 moving NORTH and 4 moving SOUTH with exception at 0945 hrs 14 in convoy moved NORTH @ the number sta on skyline average 25 vch @ 1745 hrs one enemy staff car sta at 87453066 @ only fired one round causing it to move to 87423070 @ two more accurate rds followed but result could NOT be observed @ DR moving from area 87453066 earlier in day. Suggest HQ in this area.	Sigs.
V12	2100	All Cops		Sitnor	Bde DO infd
SIGS 381	2145	26 Bde		Test TAC R broadcast will be made from 1800 hrs to 1815 hrs 28 Sep @ Report on reception of strength by 1845 hrs @ 28 Sep	DO infd
I406		26 Bde		Sitrep to 2000 hrs @ Light stelling from 1630 hrs on @ No damage otherwise NTR @ All infd	DO infd
V13	2000 hrs	B Coy		Reported heavy transport reported heard behind CLOVERLEAF	CO infd
V14	2005 hrs	C Coy		Nothing heard ^{from fwd pla.} although sound could ^{not} be heard for sound of sea	CO infd
V15	2045	26 Bde		Report that SA. DIV would be supporting INDIANS in op @ area DEIR EL SHEIN	CO infd
V16	2045	Bde		CO advises that total of veh (mentioned V 14) about 25 to 30 MT @ NO AFV'S. suggest probable move-out owing to heavy mortar fire on previous night.	
V17	2300	All Cops		Sitnor	Bde DO
V18	2350	D Coy		Patrol report no suitable ground + will return in morning	DO advised
V19	2355	All Cops		Sitnor	DO infd

EL ALAMEIN.

28 SEP 42

86443017

ACTION DIARY

NO	TIME	FROM	TO	EVENT	ACTION
V1	0030	B		Patrol report. Patrol in 0010hrs. No 4 Valentine Ak is at 8746 3017. only one body found at Ak leaning out of turret, could not shift body owing to decomposed state, the only identification of body one epaulet and one locket. Ak appears undamaged and nothing could be seen inside the Ak and patrol could not find any other method of getting inside Ak. no other movement seen nor any salvage brought in.	D/o infmd
V2	0055	all corps		Sitnov	Bde infmd
V3	0105	D		Report covering party to OP have seen enemy patrol and are stalking enemy. further reports later.	D/o infmd
V4	0200	all corps		Sitnov	D/o infmd
V5	0215	D		Report patrol have returned and report will be sent by runner.	D/o infmd
V6	0216	26 Bde		Notifying that a patrol of 2/48 Bn got into strafe and that one offr and 3 ORS are still missing, may return on our front	D/o infmd C. bay advised
V7	0255	all corps		Sitnov	Bde D/o infmd
V8	0355	all corps		Sitnov	D/o infmd
V9	0420	26 Bde		Report that 1 offr 1 or still missing from 48 Bn patrol. 2 ORS have returned through southern units front. 2/48 Bn captured one prisoner L/cpl. from 382 IR in area 873 298 PW for the past 3 days is FIGARO the counter ADRIA. sometimes pass word lasts one week.	Boys infmd Summary
V10	0450	all corps		Sitnov	Bde infmd Enc. sheet

EL ALAMEIN

28 SEP 42

ACTION DIARY.

86473017

No	Time	From	To	Event	Action
M6	1335	D.		Patrol has returned. in report following	I. O.
M7	1420	C		Patrol has not returned gone to ground 400 yds forward of our FDL's	I. O
M8	1530		26 Bde	Sitrep.	D/O infmd.
M9	1531	26 Bde		Between 2315 hrs and 0030 hrs night 28/29 SEP. a number of Br bombers will be passing over this area from WEST TO EAST at approx 6000 ft @ warn all Aps. NOT to fire on these aircraft.	I O infmd
I28/5	1540	BHQ	ARCP HQ Carman 2/2 MG RSM, Beach	Repeating M9	Sigs
M10	1450	26 Bde		Sitrep	BM infmd
				BM report that the 9 th Div has 2 offrs one Major one Lieut Brown. Lieut Brown to go with our patrol to see Valentine Atr.	2 1/2 infmd
M11	1455	D		Boy patrol report in	
I410	1740	26 Bde.		9 Div sitrep to 1500 hrs. @ Patrol night 27/28 SEP. captured one GERMAN PW. identification 4 coy 1 Bn 382 IR. area 872 297 @ other patrols to 873294. 873292 875 291 no contact @ during night arty 4 INDIAN DIV supported by arty 1 SA DIV shelled DEIR EL SHEIN enemy replied with CB fire @ 1340 hrs enemy vehs incl 4 Atrs and some arm'd cars engaged by our arty area 874293.	
V IV	1830	26 Bde.		All personnel of 152 Bde to return to units before midday tomorrow	Adj't
V13	1850	26 Bde		Sitrep reporting 6 shells in area 8754 3017 no damage	Bde infmd

EL ALAMEIN

28 SEP 42

ACTION DIARY

86773017

No	TIME	From	To	EVENT	ACTION
I28/6	1918		ABCP HQ camera	Patrol recognition sig 28/29 ES	Pigs
I575	1930	2/48		Patrol notice	
V14	1945	26Bde		HF Asks 2200-0400 hrs 28/29 15-17-22-27-29-31-32	
O144	1930	26Bde		RIT codes @ Ref this HQ G200/SA/136 27 Sep. nodeward list series 5 came into force 0300 hrs 2 up to 2 Oct not 1 oct @ local. Key words unchanged for period 1/17 Oct Sitrep to 2000 hrs.	Noted
I44	2015	26Bde			I.O.
V15	2100	all stas.		Sitrep	Bde D/O adv.
V16	2200	"		"	D/O.
V17	2300	"		"	" "
V18	2400	"		"	" "
V19	0100	"		"	Bde D/O adv.
V20	0200	"		"	D/O.
V21	0300	"		Sitrep (D say unable to raise outpost but action being taken to find fault)	Bde D/O adv.
V22	0400	"		Sitrep	Blugman Bde D/O advised
V23	0500	"		Sitrep	Bde D/O info
V24	0600	"		"	" "
V25	0655			"	" "
N11	0910	26Bde		Patrol reports 28/29 (DR)	Sig
I412	0930	26Bde		Sitrep to 0800 hrs	I.O.
V1	1000	RSU		PW ABBOTTS	Sig
V2	1000	Via List		" "	Sig
W6	1030	26Bde		Shelling report (10) and trace	I.O.
I414	1030	26Bde		24 Bde sitrep to 0845 hrs	I.O.
V3	1100	26Bde		Sitrep	D/O info
N4	1300	"		"	"
V5	1315	ABCP HQ camera		Patrol PW 29/30 INK-ORANGE	Sig
Z1	1405	26Bde		Tac R 1215. Thought	C.O D/O.
V6	1450	VDER OP all stas.		Sitrep	I.O.
V7	1700	"		Sitrep	Bde D/O info.

FL ALAMKIN

29/30. Sep. 42

86773017

Action Diary

No	Time	From	To	E V E N T	Action
I415	1730	26 Bde		9 hrs. pickup to 1500 hrs.	C.O.
V8	1940			UDER. signing off.	
V9	2300	26 Bde		Sitrep.	Bde D.O. Informed
V10	2400	"		Sitrep.	DO Informed
V11	0020	B6g.		B 6g. O.P. still functioning N.T.R.	" "
V12	0055	26 Bde		Sitrep.	Bde D.O. Informed
V13	0200			"	DO Informed
V14	0245	All Coy		Sitrep.	Bde D/O inf
V15	0450	"		"	"
V16	0700	"		"	"
V17	0825	UDER OP.		Approx 4/5 shells in area 86783024 Op. 2/3 enemy " " 86873016	IO.
I416	0845	26 Bde		Sitrep to 2000 hrs.	S.O.
I417	0910	26 Bde		Sitrep to 0800 hrs. 30 Sep.	I.O.
V18	0900	all camps.		Sitrep.	Bde D/O adv.
	0930	26 Bde		6 ALAMKIN shells from Bde per L.O.	
	0930	per L.O.		H.F. tasks 1500. 1700.	
				2.4.9.12.15.17.18.19.21.23.24.25.27 29.30.31.34	
V19	1045	UDER OP.		Enemy gun firing from area 87113073 Sound bearing but strike of shells not observed.	Bde D/O. advised
V110	1100	all camps.		Sitrep.	"
V111	1130			One of the shells from our arty. burst in an area BHQ (calibre unknown)	Bde D/O adv.
V112	1230	OP.		One unidentified plane crashed at sq 864302 - Dog fight of approx 6 planes. -	Bde D/O adv.
Z2	1516	-		Loc R. to 1340.	DO adv.
I420	1625	24 Bde		Sitrep to 1300 hrs. 5 shells in area 1230 hrs ME 109. force landed near E lines	DO adv.
V113	1650	26 Bde		Sitrep.	Bde D.O. adv.
I421	1815	26 Bde.		9 hrs sitrep. to 1500 hrs. patrol night 29/30 seft received 250 cases 25 pdi amm. 87422945	

EL ALAMEIN.

86773017

ACTION DIARY.

No TIME FROM TO

E V E N T

ACTION.

patrol coastal sector reported. E
patrol 87513035 prevented completion
of our mine.

See minutes of 12/11/42 - 12/11/42
file of papers & photos.

EL ALAMEIN.

30 Sep 42

86773017

Action Diary

No	TIME	FROM	To	EVENT	ACTION.
V14	1850		26 Bde	detmes.	Bde DO, Adv.
V15	2040	26 Bde		Our 20 MT are now at 87992988	No cafs
I42	2240	26 Bde		26 Bde moved to 2000 hrs	"
V16	2305	B		VALENTINE TK salvaged & proceeding thro the line	Bde + 48 Bn info
V17	2300	26 Bde		Suitor	Bde Spoufa
V18	2350	All Coy		Suitor . Thought	Bde Spoufa

by

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

R/Os Part I - No 139/4042

Appx 24

641. HONOURS AND AWARDS

Advice has been received that the King has been graciously pleased to approve that the following be Mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the MIDDLE EAST during the period JULY 1941 to OCTOBER 1941.

The Commanding Officer wishes to convey his personal congratulations to the other Officers and WO mentioned.

Lt-Col	B. EVANS DSO
Major	H. R. BIRCH
Major	R. E. WALL
Capt	J. S. CUMPSTON
Capt	J. M. METHVEN (Since K.I.A.)
Lieut	T. H. ORR (Since Missing in Action)
Chap	R. N. MORRISON
WO II	REYNOLDS A. P.

642. MOVEMENT OF VEHS

Unit vechs will NOT proceed on trips EAST of Bn area unless drivers are in possession of necessary work ticket signed by TO or his representative. Authority for such trips must first be obtained from BHQ.

Disciplinary action will be taken against personnel disobeying this instn.

643. SECURITY OF DOCUMENTS

Higher Formation have directed attention to ME GO No 1065, rptd hereunder :-

There have been too many cases of important documents falling into enemy hands. It is pointed out that such documents are of the greatest value to the enemy. In future, any officer who is found to have jeopardised the security of any document which discloses infm of value to the enemy will be tried by Court Martial.

644. A.A.C.S. SUPPLIES

Following message received from Main HQ 9 Aust Div is promulgated for infm :-

Sale by AACS of beer and supplementary ration items ceases 2 Sep 42 until further notice. Otherwise arrangements as at present.

645. NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

H.M. the King has directed Thu 3 Sep 42 shall be National day of Prayer. Special Church Parades will be held within the Unit as follows:

(a) C of E - BHQ, HQ & D Coy personnel vicinity HQ Coy HQ, 0900 hrs.

(b) C of E - A, B, C Coys, 150 yds NORTH B Coy HQ, 0945 hrs.

OsC HQ and B Coys will indicate site to other sub-units and arrange dispersal areas.

(c) Mass for RC personnel all Coys BHQ area same location as last Sunday, 0830 hrs.

W. J. Vines Capt
Adit. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
(W. J. VINES)

NOTICES

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

The German/Italian Forces are trying to force their way into the Delta to capture Cairo and Alexandria and drive us from Egypt.

It is the duty of every officer and soldier to stand firm and fight the enemy wherever he may find him, regardless of the cost.

The results of the whole war may well depend on how we conduct ourselves in this great battle. As brothers in arms we must have confidence in ourselves, in each other, and in our weapons and determination to win or die. This is the fighting spirit which will give us victory.

SOLDIERS ! DO YOUR DUTY.

H. R. ALEXANDER, General,
Commander-in-Chief,
Middle East Forces.

F.O.

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

R/Os Part I - No 140/4042

646. PERSONNEL WITH FOREIGN LANGUAGE QUALIFICATIONS

Return required to reach BHQ by 0900 hrs 11 Sep 42, showing particulars of personnel with foreign language qualifications in accordance with following pro-forma :-

Number	Rank	Name	Language	Extent of Knowledge
--------	------	------	----------	---------------------

Where applicable, NIL returns will be submitted.

647. BN CHRISTMAS CARD

The CO is particularly desirous that special Christmas Card be prepared for issue to all ranks, in sufficient time to enable them to reach Australia by Christmas.

A prize of £E1 will be awarded for the best design or idea submitted for the card.

Designs and suggestions to reach BHQ by 1800 hrs 20 Sep 42.

648. COY WIRELESS SETS

Osc Coys will submit report by 1200 hrs 9 Sep 42 on present location and condition of Coy Wireless Sets.

649. COURT OF INQUIRY

A C of I consisting of the under mentioned offrs -

PRESIDENT

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

MEMBER.

Lieut F. K. LOVELL - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

will assemble by 10 Sep 42 at such place as the President may appoint, for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting upon :-

(a) Accident involving veh No M1330979 on 6 Sep 42, and injuries sustained by VX28841 Pte JONES L.L., 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

(b) Negligence, if any, on the part of VX60885 Dr ROBINSON A., 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

650. CANTEEN SUPPLIES

As from 0800 hrs 10 Sep 42, Advanced Canteen Depot will operate at 43709021.

Present Mobile Canteens close 1600 hrs 8 Sep. Supplementary ration items and beer on ration basis of three bottles per man per week will be available at Advanced Depot.

Same timetable and issue arrangements will apply as previously.

651. GROUND TO GROUND RECOGNITION SIGNALS - MT

9 Aust Div R/O No 516 is rptd :-

Our MT carry blue flags for use as recognition signals when challenged. If challenged, MT show a blue flag held either horizontally or vertically as notified from time to time.

The flags will not be flown except when answering or anticipating a challenge.

652. ORDNANCE PROCEDURE

9 Aust Div R/O No 518 is rptd :-

(a) Cases have been reported of units going direct to Ordnance Depots at ALEXANDRIA for ordnance stores without authority from ADOS and without approved indents. This practice will cease.

(b) Normally ADOS will arrange collection of stores from depots, but in special cases he may authorise units to draw direct. On such occasions indents approved by ADOS will be required.

653. SALVAGE

9 Aust Div R/O No 520 is rptd :-

(a) AIF Units will NOT remove any items of salvage or eqpt from either the Corps Salvage Dump EL HAMMAM or the Army Salvage Dump BURG EL ARAB. Units will not send tpt to these dumps unless directed to do so by Div HQ.

(b) Empty food tins will not be returned to salvage dumps. These will be disposed of by burning and burying if practicable, or burying only.

654. WITHDRAWAL OF JERRICANS

(a) All Jerricans are to be withdrawn from Units and sent to BAHIG pet depot for re-issue on priority laid down by GOC Eighth Army.

(b) All Jerricans held by this Bn will be collected by QM and returned to 12 Coy AASC PP by 1800 hrs 11 Sep 42.

(c) QM will render certificate to BHQ by 0900 hrs 12 Sep 42, that NO Jerricans are held by Unit.

655. ARAB POPULATION

By arrangement between GHQ MEF and EGYPTIAN Government, civilians are not permitted to move WEST of 49 Easting Grid, other than certain exceptions, to whom passes have been issued, these passes specifically stating that permission has been granted for the civilian concerned to move WEST of that line.

Coys will apprehend any civilian found in Unit area and send him under proper escort to BHQ, where his bona-fides will be investigated by I Sec.

Attention of I Sec is directed to 26 Aust Inf Bde GS Instr No 5.

656. LECTURE - SALVAGE

Lieut HILL, 9 Aust Div Salvage Offr, will lecture to sub-units of this Bn on salvage operations on Thursday 10 Sep 42. Roster of lectures as follows :-

OVER.

BHQ	0900 to 0945 hrs
HQ(A) & HQ(B) Coy	1000 to 1045 hrs
D Coy	1100 to 1145 hrs
A Coy	1400 to 1445 hrs
B Coy	1500 to 1545 hrs
C Coy	1615 to 1700 hrs

Osc Coys will ensure -

- (a) Maximum number of personnel are present at lecture.
- (b) HQ Coy personnel detailed for duty to BHQ or rifle coys will be warned to attend with the Coy to whom they are detached or in whose area they are located.
- (c) D Coy will maintain only essential LFs on CW duties during lecture.


 Adj. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. Capt

NOTICES

1. JEWISH DIVINE SERVICES

Jewish Divine Services will be conducted at Rear HQ 9 Aust Div by Chaplain L.H. GOLDMAN on Jewish New Year, Saturday 12 Sep 42 at 1000 hrs, and on the day of atonement, Monday 21 Sep 42 at 1730 hrs.

Names of personnel desiring to attend will be submitted to BHQ by 0900 hrs 11 Sep 42.

Tot arrangements to be notified later.

2. PARCELS FOR BRITISH PSW

The policy of HM Government is that there should be no differentiation between British PSW, in matter of food supplies. Under present arrangements, individuals and Units in the ME have been subscribing sums of money or sending parcels for despatch to prisoners in whom they are interested.

This will be discontinued, except where next of kin are actually resident in the ME. They will be permitted to send a quarterly parcel which will consist only of clothing and small amount of chocolate. It is understood that PSW whose personal effects are in the ME, and who desire articles of clothing from them will be able to obtain them through Red Cross Channels.

3. PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs of the graves of the following personnel of this Unit, KIA in present operations, are available.

Orders for prints will be lodged by Coys with Chaplain PORTER by 1200 hrs 13 Sep 42, together with requisite cash. Cost of prints, PT(E) 1 each.

Major G. F. URQUHART	Pte WINDLEY R. E.	Cpl O'CONNELL M. J.
Capt R. C. CROMIE	" DOUGLAS V.	" HUTCHINSON W.
" W. C. HARDING	Cpl MORELAND W.	" CATLIN R. J.
" J. M. METHVEN	" FLUNKETT R. L.	Pte FARLEIGH R. C.
" G. G. ANDERSON	Pte BROWN E. G.	L/Cpl BEST R. W.
Lieut E. J. BUICK	" McARTHUR J.	Pte WILSON F.
Sgt HAMILTON J. A.	Sgt MULLANY J. K.	" SELLARS W.
Pte REDFERN S. M.	Pte HILL J. D.	" TIPPETT G. W.
" HICKEY N. F.	Cpl ROWLAND R.	" GALE I.
" ROUSSAC L. A.	Pte BOYD S. I.	" THOMAS A. E.
" DOYLE J. E.	Cpl YOUNG G.	" MARTIN S. H.
" KERSLAKE R. C.	Pte BROOMHEAD R. W.	L/Cpl McDONALD R. H.

BY

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

R/Os Part I - No 141/4042

657. CAMOUFLAGE

Under instns from Higher Formation, appt of Unit Camflg Offr has been made. Major R. E. WALL will undertake these duties in addition to his normal duties, and will be responsible for control of camflg material, and for advice on camflg work within the Unit.

Major Wall will be assisted in this work by Bn Par Offr.

It has been directed that each sub-unit will appoint one NCO to supervise all practical camflg work and to control sub-unit camflg stores. The CSM of each Coy will function in this capacity, and will keep Unit Camflg Offr or his representative informed of his requirements.

658. PUNISHMENTS BY COURTS MARTIAL

AIF(ME) Order No 1246 and 9 Aust Div R/O No 524, are rptd :-

The following punishments imposed by Courts Martial recently held in this area, are published for infm.

- (a) A private soldier, convicted of two offences of disobeying a lawful command given by his superior offr (AA Sec 9(2)), was sentenced to 60 days' field punishment and to forfeit all ordinary pay for a period of 60 days.
- (b) A private soldier, convicted of two offences of obtaining rations by false pretences contrary to Sec 32(1) of the Larceny Act 1916 (AA Sec 41), and of an offence of fraudulently mis-applying rations, public property (AA18(4)), was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for 23 months.
- (c) A private soldier convicted of stealing property belonging to a person subject to military law (ES35) was sentenced to 120 days' detention.
- (d) A private soldier convicted of disobeying a lawful command was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment with hard labour and to be discharged with ignominy.
- (e) A private soldier convicted of disobeying a lawful command was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment with hard labour and to be discharged.
- (f) A Lieutenant convicted of striking a soldier, and conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline (Using obscene language to the soldier) was sentenced to be severely reprimanded and to the loss of 12 months' seniority.
- (g) A private soldier convicted of one charge of desertion, and two of AWL was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for 18 months and to be discharged.
- (h) A private soldier convicted of three charges of AWL was sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.
- (i) A Staff Sergeant convicted of neglect to the prejudice of good order and military discipline (Negligently leaving a military veh unattended in ALEXANDRIA) was sentenced to be severely reprimanded and to forfeit 28 days' pay.
- (j) A private soldier convicted of failing to appear at a place of parade and disobeying a lawful command was sentenced to 90 days' field punishment with forfeiture of pay for that period.

659. RESTRICTIONS UPON MOVEMENT OUT OF EIGHTH ARMY AREA

- (a) All ranks are forbidden to proceed on or EAST of, the CAIRO ALEXANDRIA rd unless in possession of a duty pass issued by this Unit.

(b) No vehs may leave the Army area unless on duty, and in possession of written authority signed by a Staff Offr of 26 Aust Inf Bde. Advice of any veh movement desired beyond Eighth Army Check Post, will be notified to BHQ 24 hrs in adv, in order to obtain, if the trip is approved, necessary authority from 26 Aust Inf Bde. Notification will include Army Nos, Rank and Names of ALL personnel whom it is intended will travel, together with WD number of the veh and the precise period of intended absence.

660. BLOOD GROUPING

- (a) Coys will arrange for all paybooks and identity discs to be examined to ascertain that blood group number of each man appears inside back cover of the paybook and on the reverse side of the identity disc.
- (b) Should only one of these records be shown, the other must be entered from it.
- (c) Nominal rolls of personnel whose blood groups are not known, will be fwded to reach BHQ by 1800 hrs 13 Sep 42.
- (d) Nil returns required.

661. FIELD AMBULANCE VEHS

9 Aust Div R/O No 530 is rptd :-

All MT drs will be instructed to "make-way" for motor ambbs at all times. It should be explained to drs that the ambbs may be carrying wounded men who should be carried without delay, and with the least possible discomfort to the next medical installation.

Vehs meeting an amb on a narrow rd should be driven well over to the side of the rd, and if necessary, should be driven off the rd and stopped until the amb has passed.

662. SIGNAL STRENGTHS

- (a) Present method of reporting signal strengths on wireless will discontinue, as from 0300 hrs 12 Sep 42.
- (b) This change is being made in order to standardise with other services.
- (c) The R1-R5 procedure consisting of following strength and readability scale will effect from above time and date :-
 - R1 - Hardly perceptible; unreadable.
 - R2 - Weak; readable at times.
 - R3 - Fairly good; readable but with difficulty.
 - R4 - Good; readable.
 - R5 - Very good; perfectly readable.

663. FLY PRECAUTIONS

Particular attention will be directed to anti-fly measures, especially in vicinity Coy cookhouses.

Fly traps, where issued, must be used and kept properly baited.

664. CONTINUATION PAYBOOKS

It is advised that under present conditions, no conversion of Duplicate Paybooks to Continuation Paybooks can be effected for some considerable time. Later advice will be given in this connection.

665. REGTL CANTEEN

The QM has been instructed to take over management of the Canteen from 10 Sep 42. As a supply system from QM to CQMSs is already in operation, this channel will be used in future to distribute all canteen goods.

Coys will arrange, therefore, that CQMSs will place all demands, hand over money, and receive all goods on behalf of the Coy concerned. Thereafter, the disposal of goods within the Coy will be as the Coy Comd orders.

Supplies will be available mainly on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, and either will be delivered to CQMSs or drawn by them at B Echelon as circumstances warrant.

Orders for beer on the scale allowed, accompanied by cash, will be lodged with the QM on Tuesdays and Fridays by 1700 hrs.

Other canteen supplies will be allotted on the Ration State for the day of issue, and handed over with a Loading List, a copy of which will be fwded to Coy 2 i/c's for infm. Settlement for goods supplied in this manner will be made with the QM by 1700 hrs on Thursdays and Sundays.

W. J. Vines
Adit. 2/23. Aust Inf Bn. Capt
(W. J. VINES)

NOTICES

CHURCH SERVICES

R.C. Service 0830 hrs, BHQ area.

C of E. Holy Communion 0700 hrs BHQ area (Opposite Sig Office)
Services 0900 hrs - A Coy
0930 hrs - B Coy
1000 hrs - C Coy
1600 hrs - D Coy
1630 hrs - HQ Coy.

BY
Lt-Col B. EVANS DSO, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
R/Os Part I - No 142/4042

866. PUNISHMENTS BY COURTS MARTIAL

The following awards by FGCsM to soldiers of this Unit, are promulgated :-

- (a) VX40980 Pte DOWER J. VX42089 Pte SUTHERLAND W.
VX42256 Pte TRAVERS J. F. VX46524 Pte LANIER W. G.
VX40798 Pte STIRK F. A.

each charged with, while being a soldier of the Australian Imperial Force on active service, having committed the following offence :

Army Act "When on active service, disobeying a lawful command
Sec 9(2) given by his superior officer

in that he

in the Field on night 17/18 Jul 42, did not take part in an attack launched by his Coy on an enemy position known as "The Cutting" in vicinity TELL EL EISA after having been ordered to do so by his superior officer".

Court found each and all of the accused GUILTY, with the exception that they in the Field on night 17/18 Jul 42, when ordered by VX48791 Capt Eric Henry McRAE, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn, to return to their platoon and carry on, did not do so, and not as set out in the particulars.

Each and all of the accused were sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for eighteen (18) months, and to be discharged from the Defence Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Date of trial was 4 Sep 42.

In each case, date of confirmation was 9 Sep 42, the confirming officer being Lt-Gen Sir Leslie MORSHEAD, KBE, CMG, DSO, ED, GOC 9 Aust Div.

- (b) VX51367 Pte NEWTON A. J., was charged with, while being a soldier of the Australian Imperial Force on active service, having committed the following offence :

Army Act "When on active service, disobeying a lawful command
Sec 9(2) given by his superior officer

in that he

in the field on night 17/18 Jul 42 did not take part in an attack launched by his Coy on an enemy position known as "The Cutting" in vicinity TELL EL EISA after having been ordered to do so by VX42981 L/Cpl KEMP F.B. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn".

Court found the accused GUILTY.

Accused was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for eighteen (18) months and to be discharged from the Defence Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Date of trial was 4 Sep 42.

Date of confirmation was 9 Sep 42, the confirming officer being Lt-Gen Sir Leslie MORSHEAD, KBE, CMG, DSO, ED, GOC 9 Aust Div.

867. COURTS OF INQUIRY

(a) C of I consisting of the under mentioned offrs -

PRESIDENT

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

MEMBER.

Lieut F. K. LOVELL - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

will assemble at such time and place as the President may appoint for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting on the circumstances of injury sustained by VX47138, Pte LINDNER L., on 30 Jun 42.

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

(b) C of I consisting of the under mentioned offrs -

PRESIDENT

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

MEMBER.

Lieut F. K. LOVELL - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

will assemble at such time and place as the President may appoint for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting on :-

(i) Illegal absence of VX5006 Pte EDMONSTONE A. S.

(ii) Loss of Regtl necessaries by VX5006 Pte EDMONSTONE A. S.

The attention of the Court is directed to AIF (ME) Orders Nos 753 and 847.

868. INCREASE OF AIF PAY

(a) Increase in active rate of pay of all ranks of 6d per day (Aust Currency) has been approved on and from 14 Aug 42.

(b) (For infm only). In conjunction with the above mentioned increase of pay, the rates of Dependant's Allowance have been revised, and from 14 Aug 42, the amounts payable will be automatically increased to following scale :-

One Dependant	(full)	4/6d. per day Aust.
Two Dependants	(full)	7/6d. per day Aust.
Three Dependants	(full)	9/6d. per day Aust.
Each additional Dependant		1/6d. per day Aust.

(c) Credit earnings will be adjusted by Unit Pay Sgt on following days :-

A Coy	-	16	Sep
B "	-	17	"
C "	-	18	"
D "	-	19	"
HQ(A) Coy	-	20	"
HQ(B) "	-	21	"
BHQ	-	22	"


(d) Coys will ensure that all paybooks of personnel in the Coy are available at the Coy office by 0900 hrs on the above dates. Special permission is granted to vary Bn R/O para 830 of 29 Aug to enable these entries to be made as quickly as possible. Paybooks will be returned to their owners by Coys on the same day.

869. MOB OFFERS' SHOP

Will be located at 43289020 (EL QASABA 1/50,000), to the WEST of the track leading to HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde from Main Rd, from 0800 hrs 20 Sep until 1600 hrs 21 Sep 42.

870. POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS

- (a) Cables - will be fwded to Postal Col by Coy Clerks, who will ensure that correct money (12 PT(£) per cable) is also sent.
- (b) Parcels - must be correctly addressed, and contents and value disclosed in declaration on outside of parcel. "NCV" and "SOLDIER'S GIFT" are NOT declarations of contents and value.


Adit. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. Capt
(W. J. VINES)

NOTICES

1. Bn R/Os Nos 639 - 665.

The above R/Os should be amended to read 839 - 865.

2. LOST

The Corps Commander is offering a reward for the return of a regulation haversack containing :-

One pair VOICHTLANDER binoculars marked W.H.C. RAMSDEN
One prismatic oil compass by STEWARD
One silver flask
and other articles.

The haversack was lost in locality "CW, Main HQ 30 Corps, or possibly en route between the two on 2 Sep 42.

Finder should communicate at once with Main HQ, 9 Aust Div.

BY

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

ROs Part I - No 143/4042

870. PUNISHMENTS BY COURTS MARTIAL

The following awards by FGCsM to soldiers of this Unit, are promulgated :-

(a) VX48050 Pte CLARKE L L, was charged with having, while being a member of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia on Active Service, committed the following offence :

Army Act "Deserting His Majesty's Service

Sec 12

(1)(a)

in that he

while his Unit was in the field WEST of AMIRIYA absented himself without leave from 0900 hrs on 4 Aug 42 until apprehended by VX16033 Cpl QUELCH J of 2 Aust L of C Pro Coy at 0600 hrs on 22 Aug 42 at ALEXANDRIA".

Court found accused NOT GUILTY of Deserting His Majesty's Service but GUILTY of absenting himself without leave from 0900 hrs on 4 Aug 42 until apprehended by VX16033 Cpl QUELCH J of 2 Aust L of C Pro Coy at 0600 hrs on 22 Aug 42 at ALEXANDRIA.

The accused was sentenced to undergo detention for 120 days.

Date of trial was 9 Sep 42.

(b) VX57408 Pte EASTIAN E E, was charged with having, while being a member of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia on Active Service, committed the following offence :

Army Act "Deserting His Majesty's Service

Sec 12

(1)(a)

in that he

while his Unit was in the field WEST of AMIRIYA absented himself without leave from 1930 hrs on 19 Aug 42 until apprehended by SX5948 Cpl CREIGHTON R W of Aust Military Police at 0530 hrs on 22 Aug 42 at ALEXANDRIA".

Court found accused NOT GUILTY of Deserting His Majesty's Service but GUILTY of absenting himself without leave from 1930 hrs on 19 Aug 42 until apprehended by SX5948 Cpl CREIGHTON R W of Aust MP at 0530 hrs on 22 Aug 42 at ALEXANDRIA.

The accused was sentenced to undergo detention for six months.

Date of trial was 9 Sep 42.

(c) VX27777 Pte ALLSOPP D, was charged with having, while being a member of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia on Active Service, committed the following offence :-

Army Act "Deserting His Majesty's Service

Sec 12

(1)(a)

in that he

while his Unit was in the field WEST of AMIRIYA absented himself without leave from 1930 hrs on 19 Aug 42 until apprehended by SX5948 Cpl R W CREIGHTON of Aust Military Police at 0615 hrs on 22 Aug 42 at ALEXANDRIA".

Court found accused NOT GUILTY of Deserting His Majesty's Service but GUILTY of absenting himself without leave from 1930 hrs on 19 Aug 42 until apprehended by SX5948 Cpl CREIGHTON R W of Aust M P at 0615 hrs on 22 Aug 42 at ALEXANDRIA.

The accused was sentenced to undergo detention for six months.

Date of trial was 9 Sep 42.

(d) VX42169 Pte WILLHELME T H, was charged with having, while being a member of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia on Active Service, committed the following offence :

Army Act "Deserting His Majesty's Service
Sec 12
(1)(a) in that he

while his Unit was in the field WEST of AMIRIYA absented himself without leave from 1300 hrs on 24 Aug 42 until apprehended by VX28479 Cpl STRATON R F of Aust Military Police at 2359 hrs on 25 Aug 42 at KANTARA".

Court found accused NOT GUILTY of Desertion but GUILTY of absence without leave.

The accused was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for six months.

Date of trial was 11 Sep 42.

(e) VX6272 Pte REIFFEL H I, was charged with having, while being a member of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia on Active Service, committed the following offence :

Army Act "Deserting His Majesty's Service
Sec 12
(1)(a) in that he

while his Unit was in the field WEST of AMIRIYA absented himself without leave from 1300 hrs on 16 Aug 42 until he surrendered himself at KANTARA at 1800 hrs to VX28477 Cpl STRATON R F, No 2 L of C Pro Coy".

Court found accused NOT GUILTY of Deserting His Majesty's Service but GUILTY of absenting himself without leave from 1300 hrs on 16 Aug 42 until he surrendered himself at KANTARA at 1800 hrs on 21 Aug 42 to VX28477 Cpl STRATON R F No 2 Aust L of C Pro Coy.

The accused was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for one year.

Date of trial was 9 Sep 42.

(f) VX15378 Pte BYRNE J C, was charged with having, while being a member of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia on Active Service, committed the following offence :

Army Act "Deserting His Majesty's Service
Sec 12
(1)(a) in that he

while his Unit was in the field WEST of AMIRIYA absented himself without leave from 1300 hrs on 16 Aug 42 until he surrendered himself at KANTARA at 1800 hrs on 21 Aug 42 to VX28477 Cpl STRATON R F, 2 Aust L of C Pro Coy".

Court found accused NOT GUILTY of Deserting His Majesty's Service but GUILTY of absenting himself without leave from 1300 hrs on 16 Aug 42 until he surrendered himself at KANTARA at 1800 hrs on 21 Aug 42 to VX28477 Cpl STRATON R F 2 Aust L of C Pro Coy.

The accused was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for one year.

Date of trial was 9 Sep 42.

(g) In each case, date of confirmation was 17 Sep 42, the confirming officer being Lt-Gen Sir Leslie MORSEHEAD, KBE, CMG, DSO, ED, GOC 9 Aust Div.

871. COURT OF INQUIRY

Bn R/O No 142/4042 para 367(b) is cancelled.

872. TELEGRAPH LINES

9 Aust Div R/O No 544 is rptd :-

Telegraph poles, insulators and telephone lines whether in use or not, will on no account be removed or converted to uses other than those for which they were designed. This order will be repeated in unit orders and all ranks impressed with the necessity for maintaining signal equipment intact at all times.

873. E.F.M. STANDARD TEXTS

9 Aust Div R/O No 546 is rptd :-

In accordance with AIF Order No 625, EFM Standard Text No 141 reading "Sorry to tell you.....died" cannot be used by members of the AIF.

874. PAYBOOKS - LOSS OF

9 Aust Div R/O No 550 is rptd :-

- (a) Attention is directed to AIF (ME) Orders Nos 503 and 876, and in particular to para (b) of No 503 which states :-
"Cases of loss occasioned by the negligence or carelessness of the soldier are to be severely dealt with as breaches of military discipline."
- (b) Information received indicates that thieving of paybooks by pickpockets in CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA is still prevalent.
- (c) All ranks will be reminded that every soldier is responsible for the safe custody of his paybook, and that AIF (ME) Order No 503(b) will be enforced in every case of loss of paybook.

875. EXTENSION OF E.S.R. MILITARY RATES TO ALLIED FORCES

9 Aust Div R/O No 537 directs attention to ME GO No 1147, which is rptd hereunder for infm of all ranks when on leave.

- (a) The Egyptian Government has agreed that the Military rates for travel and transport of goods on the Egyptian State Railways, granted to the British Army, shall be extended to all Allied Forces.
- (b) This includes Allied troops in uniform travelling on leave and paying their own fares, who may now obtain tickets at half fare, on demand, in the same way as British troops.

876. DISCIPLINE

- (a) The C in C has noted that when driving in a car, his flag is not being saluted.
- (b) Coy Comds and all sub-unit Comds will warn their men that cars flying the authorised flags on the bonnet must be saluted.

877. DRESS

To obviate losses, all puggarees will be forthwith sewn securely to hats. Coy Comds will check during their next dress inspection that this order has been complied with.

878. IDENTIFICATION SIGNS ON FD WORKS

These are being removed apparently to make use of pickets. This practice will cease, as it is important in question of handing over, that these signs remain.

879. COY INSPECTION

In future, Bn 2 i/c and RMO will conduct once a week, an inspection of Coys and their sub-unit localities.

[Signature]
Adit. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
(W. J. VINES) Capt

NOTICES

MAILS - DELIVERY IN AUSTRALIA

Advice has been received that mails posted in the Middle East between 8 Jul 42 and 17 Jul 42, were received in MELBOURNE on 1 Sep 42.

FOUND

In area 42969022 - small silver watch. "Imperial" branded on face. The above watch is held at REAR HQ 9 Aust Div.



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

For Official Use Only

ROUTINE

ORDERS

HQ 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

In the Field

25 Sep 42

BY

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

ROs Part I - No 144/4042

880. IMMEDIATE AWARDS

The Commander-in-Chief Middle East Forces has approved of the following Immediate Awards for members of this Unit, for gallantry in action during the present Egyptian Campaign.

The CO proudly congratulates the Unit on these Awards.

MILITARY CROSS

VX37109 Lieut K C CLARKE
VX38918 Lieut W C HARDING (since deceased)

MILITARY MEDAL

VX26749 L/Sgt BOON A (since deceased)
VX40142 Pte CLAFFEY R P

881. COURT OF INQUIRY

A C of I is convened consisting of the undermentioned offrs -

President - Capt J S CUMPSTON

Member - Lieut J D MULCAHY.

Court will assemble at such time and place as the President may appoint for the purpose of enquiring into and reporting upon the injury sustained by VX56879, Pte TRAYNOR W J, C Coy, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn, on 23 Sep 42.

Attention of Court is directed to 9 Aust Div Adm Instn No 37.

882. NOMENCLATURE

9 Aust Div RO No 552 is rptd as

The following names have now been adopted :-

BEACHY HEAD - high ground 442895
INTERNATIONAL CORNER - track junction 466899

883. SALVAGE

All ranks are reminded of the importance of collection of salvage, for which many opportunities exist in this area. Items of salvaged eqpt, amm, wpns, etc, whether our own or the enemy's, will be fwded to QM in coy A and B Ech tpt. QM will,

(a) Record all salvage so received and submit each Saturday a return showing the weekly collection by coys.

(b) Fwd salvage to 9 Aust Div Salvage Dump.

884. EXPENDITURE OF EQPT, ETC

Attention is directed to A42/1/1072 of HQ 9 Aust Div, attached.

885. FRONT SEAT ACCOMMODATION - AIF VEHS

Attention is drawn to the following extracts from AIF (ME) 'Q'
Instn No 6 -

"para 3. Front Seat Accommodation.

Only one person and the driver will occupy the front of any Australian Military Motor Vehicle with the exception of cars and light vans fitted with gear changes on the steering column.

para 9. Permitting Offences.

In the case where the driver of an Australian Military Motor Vehicle commits a breach of these orders, and an offr or soldier senior to the driver is travelling in the veh, the offr or senior soldier may be charged with "permitting" the offence. Should the offr or soldier senior to the driver be charged with "permitting" the offence the driver will not be charged with committing the offence."

886. TRG - SIG PERSONNEL

- (a) A special course of instn for operators of W/T No 18 Sets commences 0900 hrs 28 Sep 42 at B Ech 26 Aust Inf Bde.
- (b) Students as under will report to QM 2/23 Aust Inf Bn after last light night 27 Sep 42:

No 1 (Sig) Pl personnel	6 ORs
Each Rifle Coy	1 OR
Total nominations	10 ORs

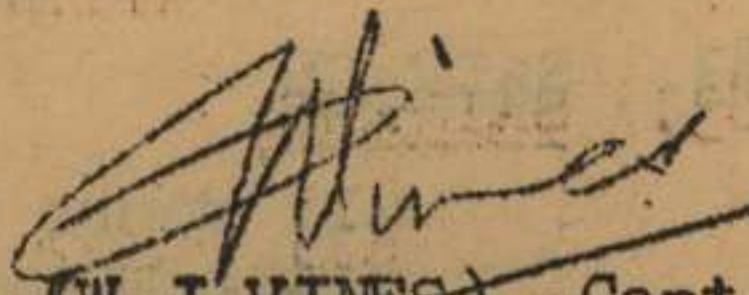
- (b) Students will move with blankets, utensils etc and will be quartered at 26 Aust Inf Bde B Ech for duration of course, which, it is expected, will cover 3 days.
- (c) Rifle Coy nominees do NOT require to have had previous sig trg, but men of average intelligence and ability should be sent.
- (d) Coys will fwd nominal rolls direct to QM who will,
 - i. Prepare Bn nominal roll (copy to BHQ).
 - ii. Parade students to course at 0845 hrs 28 Sep 42.

887. LEAVE

Ref 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Adm Instn No 3. Allotment for CAIRO leave commencing 29 Sep 42 :

HQ Coy	3 ORs
A "	2 "
B "	2 "
C "	2 "
D "	2 "

Usual movement arrangements. Nominal rolls to BHQ (by phone) by 0900 hrs 26 Sep 42.


 (W J VINES) Capt
Adjnt 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

NOTICES

CHURCH PARADE

RC Church Parade vicinity pnr stores dump 200x NE of RAP at 0900 hrs 27 Sep 42. Personnel of A Coy, BHQ and HQ Coy (not in fwd) area may attend.

Rear HQ 9 Aust Div

18 Sep 42

Ref. A42/1/1072.

EXPENDITURE OF EQUIPMENT, ETC.

The following is a copy of a letter received by the GOC AIF(ME) from C-in-C Middle East Forces.

Comd 9 Aust Div directs that this letter is to be read to every man in the Division, and that all ranks are to comply with it in full to the letter and in spirit.

G. W. Woodward Col.
AA & QMG 9 Aust Div.

"I am seriously alarmed at the huge daily expenditure of equipment which is largely due to waste, and not to fair wear and tear. In writing this personal letter I most earnestly appeal to you to help to save a situation which is gravely impeding our operations and unless checked may lead to disaster.

Here are some hard facts :-

1. RUBBER. 2,000 new tyres are being issued daily to the Army to replace those completely worn out.
2. PETROL. 140 tons of tinsplate is used daily for petrol tins and Army vehicles consume 2,000 tons of petrol daily in the Middle East and 85 tons of lubricating oil.
3. VEHICLES. 104 motor vehicles are written off daily as beyond repair.
4. EQUIPMENT. During August the following serviceable equipment was collected by Salvage in Katatba Area alone :-
300 rifles, 3 LMG's, 338 tyres, 22 sacks full of equipment, 52 cwts of canvas, 1523 rounds of artillery ammunition.

In addition 15 lorry loads of surplus stores were taken from one infantry battalion and 5 lorry loads from a tank battalion.

5. The following unauthorised stores have recently been found by the Inspectorate of Army equipment :-
An RA Regiment - 111 new outer covers, none of which fitted any vehicle in the units possession.
An Infantry Bn - 600 pairs new KD shorts (in unit baggage store).
An Armoured Regt - 109 Pistols.

If every officer and man is made aware of these facts and his common-sense and patriotism appealed to I am quite sure that we shall have found the answer to our problem.

By thought and inventiveness you may think of other ways and means to make savings, but here are some which are obvious :-

- (1) Only use a car or truck when really necessary.
- (2) Care in driving over rough ground.
- (3) Speeding.
- (4) Care and maintenance.
- (5) Ensuring full loads and return loads whenever possible.
- (6) Prevention by unit disciplinary measures of the habit of scrounging and the carriage in unit vehicles of unauthorised stores.

Finally I would ask you to receive this letter not as a stodgy official directive, but as an urgent warning and a piece of sound advice. If every individual sincerely plays his part, and we are all equally concerned, our military situation here will be immensely strengthened. I would ask you to read the contents of this letter to every man under your command.

I have directed this letter personally to all higher Commanders. "

Distribution : List "C" increased fourfold in case of units

by

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

R/Os Part I - No 145/4042

888. COURT OF INQUIRY

A C of I consisting of the undermentioned offrs -

PRESIDENT

Capt J. S. CUMPTON - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

MEMBER.

Lieut J. D. MULCAHY - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

will assemble at such time and place as the President may appoint for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting on circumstances of injury sustained by VX51759 Pte McLAUCHLAN R. J. on 28 Sep 42.

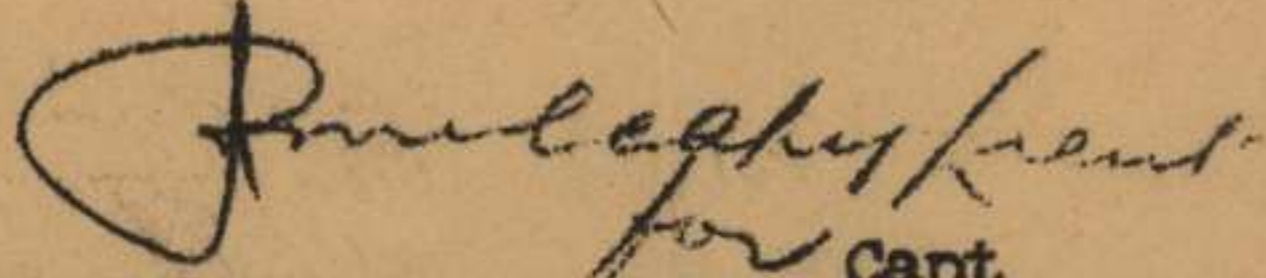
889. INCREASE IN PAY, AIF

Coys will fwd to BHQ by 1800 hrs 1 Oct 42, nominal roll of personnel who have not yet had the recent increase in pay entered in their paybooks.

890. INJURIES - ACCIDENTAL

9 Aust Div R/O No 565 is rptd :-

- (a) The number of accidental injuries, causing absence from duty, has reached serious proportions. In the case of British Tps it gives rise to 20% of the admissions to hospital, and it is the greatest single cause of admission in the Army as a whole.
- (b) The main causes of these accidental injuries are :-
 - (i) Improper use of petrol.
 - (ii) Unauthorised interference with enemy arm and explosives etc.
- (c) Immediate steps will be taken by all Comds to stop this useless waste of manpower. The attention of all ranks will be drawn to the matter.
- (d) Numerous accidents are being caused by the use of petrol in Stoves, Oil, Wickless (Primus Stoves). Paraffin is the authorised fuel for these stoves and they are not constructed for use with petrol. The use of petrol in these stoves is forbidden.


Adjt. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
(W. J. VINES)

OBSERVATION LOG

OBSERVER'S NAME ToBu
 MAP REF OF O.P. 4420 9029

FROM Apprx. 23 HRS
 TO 2400 3 SEP

SERIAL NO	TIME	INFORMATION	ACTION TAKEN
1525		5 F flying WEST 15/20000 ft unidentified	
1533		message from O.P. 1	could NOT see object mentioned
1542		fighter sweep WEST 5 ac 15/20000 ft	
1623		2 Hurricanes flying low 1000 ft easterly	
1630		11 British fighters flying EAST sounds of dog fight 1 probable E.A. ME109	
1640		16B with 6 F escort flying WSW.	
1647		Explosion on escarpment 4414 8949	
1706		12 FB returning to Base eastwards at 1000 ft between ry and escarpment	
1710		2 F flying between ry + escarpment 4000 ft eastwards	
1720		21 B with 5 F escort flying WSW height 15000 ft	
1750		Blasting on escarpment 4415 8949	
1800		message to Soko. A/c 1800 hrs @ B 153 FB 23 F 82 Recce 6 Hostile One ME109. @ a number unidentified	Sigs T.1
1835		A/c heard in the SOUTH	
1910		A/c heard in the SE.	
2200		Flares dropped by unidentified a/c on bearing of 246° distance 12 miles series of red flares from ground 200' apart while flare was burning	
to 2400		period quiet	

KEPT BY Eric Smart

OBSERVATION LOG

OBSERVER'S NAME TOBU

FROM 2000hrs

HRS

MAP REF OF O.P. 44209030

TO

2 SEP

SERIAL NO	TIME	INFORMATION	ACTION TAKEN
	2000	All quiet	
	2400		
	0130	Bombing along escarpment 890 Northing	
	0200	MBunning by one EA along main rd from Bombay rd approx 800' long	
	0400	Shuttle service by bombers passing over	
	to	line out to sea flying WEST	
	0500		
	0540	1 a/c flying low over area three knolls thence to ry Sta (El Imayad) thence SOUTH fired at by SA (one gun)	
	0800	18 Bombers with F escort British	
	0910	A/c about in SOUTH	
	0940	A/c in SOUTH	
	0945	Blasting on escarpment 178° area 44218950	
	1035	18 B with 9 F escort flying SW over bluff. (12 2 A/c's)	(6 Bombers)
	1050	a/c flying EAST 12000' away (heard)	
	1104	Blasting on escarpment 177° 4419 8949	
	1118	16 B with 12 F escort flying W then SOUTH over escarpment	
	1127	Movement of A/c heard in SOUTH	
	1146	3 F flying EAST 12000' away height 15000ft	
	1156	18 B with 15 F escort flying WEST 15/20000ft along escarpment.	
	1306	11 F Bombers moving Westerly 10000ft	
	1327	9 F A/c probably previous a/c returning moving EAST 4/5000ft.	
	1328	18 FB moving westerly	
	1346	2 Hurricanes patrolling coast WEST returning easterly along main rd	
	1400	Blasting on escarpment 4439893	
	1427	18 B with F escort westerly	
	1445	one British recon plane EAST explosion on escarpment 44108949	
	1448	one British a/c easterly along ry line 2/3000ft over corp. HQ.	
	1500	Blasting on escarpment 44398945	
	1515	Sounds of a/c in SOUTH.	

KEPT BY

Eric Stuart

Lpn
3/9

OBSERVATION LOG

OBSERVER'S NAME

T. B. V.

FROM

0001hrs

HRS

MAP REF OF O.P.

4420 9029

TO

1200hrs

4 SEP 42
5 Sep 42

SERIAL NO	TIME	INFORMATION	ACTION TAKEN
0001		quiet	
0200			
0230		Flares to sea on bearing 45° to 55°	
0410		1 F returning EAST 1 Biplane flying NE height 2000ft	
0455		1 plane to sea flying WEST	
0545		In Gunning by one plane over rd area approx 10 miles westward	
0800		1 Recce plane westward over fwd area and returned	
0815		B and F moving SW dog fight also over escarpment area	
1010		B and F escort moving to SOUTH.	
1015		Rising wind becoming hazy visibility to 8000ft	weather report
1048		3 F patrolling in SE 15000ft 12000ft dist	
1123		18 B with 9 F escort flying over OP in NNW height 12000ft (12 single tailed) (6 double tail)	
1140		18 B with 5 F escort 15000ft flying SW. (15 and 3 twin engine)	
1210		Dogfight between 3 Hurricanes and 2 ME 109s no planes seen to come down. area between OP1 to OP2	
1215		Line out of comm	Between Beach and switch
1440		Fighter sweep vt then NW over fwd area 12 a/c 18000ft	
1447		Dogfight in far SOUTH x 15 a/c	
1455		one unidentified plane crashed on escarpment in flares area.	←?
1510		Line repaired and in touch with	BHQ

KEPT BY

Eric Smart

OBSERVATION LOG

OBSERVER'S NAME ToBU FROM 0001hrs HRS
 MAP REF OF O.P. 4420 9029 TO 1200hrs 4 SEP 42
5 SEP 42

SERIAL NO	TIME	INFORMATION	ACTION TAKEN
2000		Investigating German Airman PW. PW captured by British Flash Spotting unit in area Lighthouse 4420,9037 PW taken to 30 Corps HQ Name Lieut. Arding age 23. Navigator Ju 88 hit by A/A over Alex plane burst into flames WEST of ALEMEN. Crew of 3 baled out but NOT strong swimmers. Swam approx 30 Kilos In raid over Alex at 2300 hrs on night 3 SEP.	message sent at 2110 hrs to INT Sec.
2140		Enemy using searchlights in fwd area to SW	
2200		quiet	
2400		quiet	
0200		1 plane flying WEST	
0400		2 planes moving Easterly one plane moved westerly	
0600		1 plane eastward 3/4000 ft	
0800		quiet	
0952		a/c heard to NW at sea	
1020		a/c heard in SOUTH	
1043		a/c " " "	
1105		one F flying EAST 2000 ft along ry	
1106		Fighters flying WEST probably escorting Bombers	
1140		Smoke like bombs or plane crashed in area 435 891	
1142		streak of bombs in area 431 890 to 432 888.	
1153		a/c flying in South probably bombers	Setup T.I. at 1215 hrs
1215		dogfight 7 British planes and one ME109 seen area 440 890	
1220		line out of comm.	

truth of this doubtful

WEATHER: owing to the cloudy nature of sky (cumulus clouds) hard to identify a/c
 WIND from the NORTH

KEPT BY Eric Smart

OBSERVATION LOG

OBSERVER'S NAME ToBU

FROM 1215 hrs

HRS 5 SEP 42

MAP REF OF O.P. 44209029

TO 2000 hrs

SERIAL NO	TIME	INFORMATION	ACTION TAKEN
	1215	Line out of comm.	
	1330	Enquiries by FSS. re wireless sets one isolated set sending info to enemy, trying to locate same. Shifts about to new posn frequently.	
	1335	In comm with switch very faint. sig out on line again several breaks made by tanks to A/SK range.	
	1440	In comms again line OK	
	1510	Message T2 about F.S.S enquiries.	IO infud
	1520	a/c heard in the SOUTH.	
	1600	20 planes 12 B and 8 F flying WEST	
	1710	Battle arty duel & bombing in SOUTH.	
	1800	quiet in local area.	
	1905	8 A/c flying ^{in circles} between rd and ry over BOMBAY rd. at height of 20,000 ft	EA
		probably ME109's.	
	2000	Relief of O.P.	

Handwritten signature and date: 22/09/42

KEPT BY

Handwritten signature: E. Smart

OBSERVATION LOG

OBSERVER'S NAME BEERFROM 0800 hrs

HRS

MAP REF OF O.P. 4367 9018TO 1925 hrs13 SEP 42
14 Sep

SERIAL NO	TIME	INFORMATION	ACTION TAKEN
	0825	Sounds of a/c in SOUTH. patrolling	
	to	unable to indentify	
	0845	Explosion in area 4334 9016.	
	0912		
	1145	FSS cpl called re Sep 5 th incident T2 message. further details	
	1340	one unidentified plane at 20000 ft flying SE	
	1405	2 Explosions in area 438 902	Probably A/TK ^{range} practice
	1408	1 Explosion in area 438/902	
	1445	A/A practice till 1500 hrs 8 shots guns in area 437 895	Probably 3.7 guns.
	1615	Rising wind becoming dusty	
	1833	one Kitty Hawk 1000 ft EAST	
	1836	one Kitty Hawk 2000 ft EAST over flat	
	1838	11 Planes flying EAST over C route $\frac{6}{10000}$ ft Probable FB's.	
	1914	1 B Recce (Blenheim) flying along coast in easterly direction 2000 ft	
	2130	Explosion to NW probably mine. quiet	
	2400	one plane at intervals flying EAST over Sea	
	to		
	0200	numerous planes Bombers overhead flying NW on milk run.	
	0300		
	to		
	0400	several planes going WEST and probably some returning.	
	to		
	0500	quiet.	
	0500	Three by explosions in area sq 431 898 bearings 230 238 242. North of sq.	
	0908		
	1115	Sounds of a/c in SOUTH.	
	1734	10F flying westwards at 15000 ft Kitty Hawks. Tomahawks.	
	1925	Relief of O.P.	

14 SEP

KEPT BY

Ernest Mark

VX42910

OBSERVATION LOG

OBSERVER'S NAME BEER
MAP REF OF O.P. 43679018FROM 2000 hrs HRS
TO 1925 hrs 11 SEP 42
14 4/4

SERIAL NO	TIME	INFORMATION	ACTION TAKEN
S 1.	2000 hrs.	quiet period	sitnor every hr.
	2200	quiet	
	2400	"	
	0001	<u>12 SEP</u>	
	0030	one plane flying eastward well to sea	noted.
	0108	one plane overhead flying eastward.	
	0130	one plane " flying eastward. probably EA	
	0140	one plane eastward	
	0156	one plane eastward probably EA.	"
	0120	2 planes eastward	
		Revolving beacon switched off from	
		apprise 0110 hrs to 0150 hrs.	
	0200	arty duel in fwd area WEST guns 8.	"
	0400	period quiet.	"
	0600	period quiet	"
	0800	quiet	
	0950	one unidentified plane flying WEST at height 20 000 ft after dog fight in area SE. sq 451 896.	
	1050	sounds of a/c in SOUTH.	
		one plane flying eastward F Type.	
	1055	18 F planes in SOUTH patrolling (Kitty hawks)	
	1118	a/c still patrolling 20 000 ft	
	1138	13 F flying SE over ALAMELOSMALLI area	
	1150	2 F patrolling from sea thence SOUTH	
	1400	Rising dust. visibility reduced.	noted.
	1830	visibility 8/10 +B	
	1905	atch atch barrage over area 424 887	
	2035	arty barrage in fwd area	
	2400	period quite	
		<u>13 SEP 42</u>	
	0145	4 a/c flying EAST	
	to		
	0215	9 a/c at intervals on MILK run. westwards.	
	0220	arty barrage in fwd area.	
	0225	one B on milk run westward.	
	to		
	0350	making total 12 Bombers WEST 5B returned EAST	
	0400	period quiet	
	0600	period quiet.	
	to		
	0800 hrs		

KEPT BY

Brishart
VX42910

23 Sep

OBSERVATION LOG

SIT MAP SECRET

OBSERVER'S NAME *Windelant*

FROM 0630 HRS

MAP REF OF OP UDER 87623014

TO 2000

Serial No	Time	INFORMATION	Action Taken
1	0630	OP set at 87623014	
2	0730	Our arty laying smoke on ring feature	
3	0740	Fly smoke screen being laid on bearing 220°	
4	0830	Visibility poor owing to smoke	
5	0855	Arty ceases laying smoke screen	
6	1050	Shelling report. <i>Setnas</i>	
7	1055	Numerous dust clouds on track south SIDIRAHMAN	<i>9 Room</i>
8	1125	4 unidentified planes flying EAST along coast	
9	1128	Our arty put harassing fire on area 87353016 (6 shells)	
10		1. a/c spotted for shelling overhead.	
11		2. Heavy transport moving N.W along road 264°	
12		Our arty continues harassing fire on area 87353016	
13		Four EMT moving EAST along main supply route	
14		1 EMT + 1 MC moving WEST along main supply route	
15		Our arty continues harassing fire area 87353016	
16	1615	Our arty continues harassing fire area 87353016	
17	1615	Haze on main supply route visibility poor	
18		Our arty harassing fire 258° m. area 87183005.	
19		Our arty harassing fire area 87453045.	
20		Our arty harassing fire area 87283010.	
21		Two Heavy EMT 260° moving N.W along main supply route	
22		Probability of dusts very poor.	

276° BH
339° OP

OBSERVATION LOG

24/9/42

SECRET

OBSERVER'S NAME Sgt Wundelborn

FROM 0600

HRS

MAP REF OF OP 8762 3014 UDER

TO 1915

Serial No	Time	INFORMATION	Action Taken
1	0630	O.P. established 8762 3014	I.O.
2	0700	Fog mist. Visibility beyond my line zero.	
3	0755	14y mist. Visibility 1000 yds.	
4	0840	Mist clearing. Visibility 1500 yds.	I Sgt
5	0920	Mist lifted. Visibility good.	
6	0925	four enemy observed. area 8687 3010	*
7	0945	1 E observed walking SOUTH in area 8673 3012.	
8	0950	4 EMT moving SOUTH along supply route 260°	
9	1025	Our arty shelling area 8663 01 -	
10	1040	Concertina wire running approx SW of 8709 3018	(?)
11	1050	Concertina wire running approx EAST of 8725 3015	
12	1055	4 EMT moving NE & 2 EMT moving SW along rd of 8603 2943	
13	1100	Sitron. 9 in fm to date	Wingman
14	1120	Foggy. Visibility fair to 5000 x	
15	1135	White object possibly tent approx 8687 3006	
16	1140	2 EMT moving SOUTH along rd 265°	
17	1210	2 M.E. 109. recon planes flying S.W over Bn area fired on by A.P.	AC
18	1300	Foggy. Visibility fair to 2000 x	
19	1650	Sitron. Visibility bad - dust & haze.	Wingman
20	1715	Our arty. Two shells area 8693 3011.	
21	1720	Fog enemy shelling sq 8742 98	
22	1725	Dust clouds observed at 8685 3015	
23	1740	1 by EMT moving NORTH on rd approx 8625 3005	
24	1743	Visibility - 2000 x	
25	1805	dust cloud probably blasting 267 1/2° m.	
26	1820	approx 24 E.M.T. stationary and dispersed in approx general area sq 862 302.	
27	1915	Visibility beyond my zero - OP closing down.	

OBSERVATION LOG

SECRET

OBSERVER'S NAME *Pte Webb - Pte Wright*

FROM 0630 *26 Sept* HRS
 TO 1930 *hrs* " " *21 T.M.P.*

MAP REF OF OP 87233015

Serial No	Time	INFORMATION	Action Taken
1	0630	OP commenced slight mist.	noted
2	0720	4 E at Sq 872307	"
3	0800	1 E Sq 871301 moving South.	"
4	0815	3 E at 899091 at approx 87143010	"
5	0945	2 EA flying S.E. height 5000ft (ME 109 Recce).	"
6	1018	1 plane crashed unidentified sq 873298	Inform D.O.
7	1019	MACC 02) flying very low WEST of FDL's.	" "
8	1021	Large convoy to <i>of</i> approx 60 vehicles travelling NORTH on SUPPLY ROUTE	" "
9	1022	During last 20 mins fair amount air activity possibly to protect convoy mentioned above.	noted
10	1045	30 MT stat on SUPPLY ROUTE	"
11	1046	3 unidentified aircraft flying WEST.	"
12	1220	45 vch on SUPPLY ROUTE mainly stat very few moving	"
13	1640	Single AIRCRAFT bombed SUPPLY ROUTE	"
14	1830	Enemy appear to be changing DF in sq 872301	"
15	1900		

Alfred Webb Rte

MT on Supply ROUTE

<u>NORTH</u>		<u>SOUTH</u>	
0700	20 Stat	0930	2
0933		0933	8
1015	60		
1045	30 STAT		

I Summary

OBSERVATION LOG

lit map

File

SECRET

OBSERVER'S NAME

Rt. W. W. W. Rt. Wright

FROM

0600

HRS

MAP REF OF OP

87633013

27 Sep 42

TO

Serial No	Time	INFORMATION	Action Taken
1	0600	OP commenced	noted
2	0630	Heavy mist visibility nil	
3	0820	Mist lifted visibility good	
4	0900	Mist getting heavy visibility 1000yds.	
5	0930	No mist visibility good.	
6	0945	6 MT. 1 tank. approx 12 E. in sq 868300.	Infmd. I.O.
7	1100	Large column of black smoke in sq 868300	noted.
8	1415	1 E M/C. riding WEST at ref. 87413070. (1400 hrs D/R?)	
9	1612	2 ME109. flying SE at height approx 6000ft.	
10	1745	ONE E STAFF CAR at 87453066 (Staff) Own acty food one M/C. causing CAR to move to 874230700 one more accurate acty round and car moved WEST, and out of sight. Note: - Ref serial 8 and 10 indicate this area as an HQ	Bde adv in Ltrips 1900 hrs.
11	1810	MT traffic SUPPLY ROUTE movement Throughout day E MT traffic at any period would average chrs - 4 MT moving North 4 MT moving South Exception 0945 hrs 14 MT in convoy moving North	Bde advised in Ltrips 1900 hrs.

OBSERVATION LOG

28 Sep 42

SECRET

OBSERVER'S NAME Lt 2 Ribby Pte Wright

FROM 0630

HRS

MAP REF OF OP 87633013

TO 2000

Serial No	Time	INFORMATION	SIT MAP #	Action Taken
1	0630	OP commenced. Visibility fair		Noted
2	0700	Dust storm rising observation nil.		
3	1400	one E seen at ref 87523048.		"
A	1408	One E seen at same ref as serial 3 moved to ref 87523049 then went out of view. (by air 3 & 4 BOTH E on LEG OF MUTTON feature.)		
5	1655	2 ME at 8000 ft travelling SE		
6	1745	1 E touring with plane 5000 ft NW over Ru area - engaged by A/A No result		
7	1750	Approx 10 MEs WEST to EAST 12,000 ft other planes heard but not identified		
8	1905	MT movement on Supply Route: Bad visibility during day prevented enemy MT movement being noted		

10000 = 10000

1

10000

USER
OB

SIT MAP

29 Sep 42

OBSERVATION LOG

SECRET

OBSERVER'S NAME C. Stuart, Bellman

FROM 0700 hrs

HRS

MAP REF OF OP 87633014

TO 2000

9

Serial No	Time	INFORMATION	Action Taken
1	0700	O.P. established at 87633014. visibility poor over 300 yds.	
2	0705	Shell landed in area 87653013. A dud, no report of gun fire observed.	I.O. noted
3	0750	Fog starting to lift visibility fair along coast	noted
4	0845	Visibility good. flashing on bearing 263° probable signaling of 86683002	noted
5	0853	E shells 226°-227°M. South of rly cutting 5 shells EAST 24.	noted
6	0855	1 E.M.T. moving South. 1 E.M.T. moving West along supply house	noted
7	0910	Visibility very good.	
8	0927	Two E observed walking from 266°M to 265°M where appeared to stop at post 86823002.	noted
9	0940	our arty harassing fire 262°M. sy 868301.	noted
10	0953	Gun firing on 48 positions from area 866298. Flare bearing 256°M. 10 sec flash to bang.	D/Off.
11	1000	5 E.M.T. small convoy moving S.EAST along lower track	noted
12	1005	E harassing fire on cutting area	noted
13	1020	one E observed walking from 269°M to dead ground 86823012	noted
14	1025	six heavy E.M.T. moving North along main supply route	noted
15	1015	fire observed amongst vts 10/15 259° in area 865299. after aircraft patrol	D/O infmt
16	1015	Two groups of MET in sy 865299. 10/15 vts each group	D/O infmt
17	1030	Convoy 10 heavy E.M.T. moving North along main supply occasional one moving South.	noted
18	1128	visibility fair to 5000 yds, one E observed walking 265 1/2°M. Approx 86823002 appeared to walk from post to post this	noted
19	1231	Our arty harassing fire Clover Leaf feature approx 30/40 shells	noted
20	1320	digging and tracks obs 87263072.	noted
21	1330	haze hampering visibility over 4000 yds	noted
22	1415	Three E.M.T. moving NORTH along lower supply track	noted
23	1420	Our arty harassing fire 86802991 to 86822994	noted.
24	1655	Two M.E 109's flying EAST to West 10000 ft engaged by A.A.	noted
25	1815	Shelling in area 87563015. To A 33 9 shells in 22 minutes. Harassing fire on area. Shoot to A 33 one gun 75 mm. area 200' x 100'	G Room
26	1914	3 guns firing on 235-236 M into area 87383013. Three shells. 20 sec flash to bang	G Room



UDER OP

SIT MAP 30 Sep. 42

OBSERVATION LOG

SECRET

OBSERVER'S NAME E. Stuart
L. Miller
MAP REF OF OP 8763 3013

FROM 0635 HRS
TO 2000 HRS

Serial No	Time	INFORMATION	Action Taken
1	0635	O.P. established at 8763 3013, visibility poor over 1500 yds	I/O
2	0715	5 camouflaged pits in area 8678 3024, probable gun pits in occupation. Hoops observed.	I/O
3	0720	group of 3 E in occupation of diggings area 8687 3016	I/O
4	0740	visibility reduced to 2000 yds owing to mist mist heavier on coastal strip	I/O
5	0810	visibility bad over 200 yds.	I/O
6	0835	visibility good to 6000 yds	Noted
7	0855	E observed walking to diggings bearing 267° m 8713 3010	Noted
8	0900	E observed at diggings 264° m approx area 8690 3002	Noted
9	0915	E shelling EAST 24 approx 12 shells	Noted
10	0915	10 m observed running N.W. for 100 yds then WEST 267½° m area 8711 3012	Noted
11	0930	Two E observed at diggings 271° m area 8713 3015	Noted
12	0940	our arty harassing fire area 8690 3002	Noted
13	0955	Unidentified fighter plane flying NORTH along main supply route at 1000 ft.	Noted
14	1010 to 1020	Hostile gun firing in area 8711 3073 into back area cannot locate shelling area long range shoot.	Room
15	1043	2 M E 104 fly NE to SW over area engaged by A.A. recce height 5/7000 feet	Noted
16	1115	M.G. fire heard from TB Coy F.D.W's.	Noted
17	1240	1 unidentified plane crashed 274° m approx area 864 302	Room
18	1640	one E 2 unidentified planes flying SE to NW along my line height 1000 ft. 3000 ft respectively	Noted
19	1700	2 M E 109 flying S.E. to N.W. along my line 5000 ft	Noted
20	1730	2 E observed at diggings pt 8 ref 8744 3054	Noted
21	1740	Hostile gun firing on 276° m posn 8675 3025 blast to bang 20 secs ✓	Noted
22	1810	one E at 8746 3055	Noted
23	1815	one E at 8745 3055	Noted
24	1910	one E at 8731 3072	Noted

Enemy movement

EA

Summary Hostile Shelling

Air Ops

Hostile Shelling

Enemy movement

Signatures

E. Stuart

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

2/23 (Unit) 5 Sept 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 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.	7		
W.Os. Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants			
Staff Serjeants	5		
Serjeants	34		3
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals	65		6
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusilliers, etc.	547		167
TOTALS	659		176

*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	AA PC	2 ORS	AA MC
1 Sgt	AA MC	3 ORS	AA OC
1 bpl	" (TRAWING)		
1 bpl	AA POSTAL CORPS		
2 bpls	AA OC		
2 bpls			
1 OR	26 Bde		

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)

2/23rd 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.Q.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 Makers																					
Saddle Tree Makers																					
Sanitary and Water Duties																					
Signallers																					
Storemen technical																					
Tailors																					
Wheelers																					
General duty personnel														3		6	167				176
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A)														3		6	167				176

2/23rd Aust Inf Bn Unit.

Thurles Capt Adj
Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 5 Sep 42.

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

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/23 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.) For Week Ending 5 Sep 42

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*			
	Lieut.-Colonels ...	1		
	Majors... ..	2		1
	Captains	10		
	Lieutenants	22	2	
	2nd Lieutenants			
	Quartermasters <i>Lieut</i> ...	1		
	District Officers			
	TOTALS	36	2	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.
Capt	McCrae E.H.	2/23 Bn	29 Aug 42	From AIF (ME) Staging camp
Lieut	Dunham J.W.	2/23 Bn	2 Sep 42	From AIF (ME) Staging camp

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	Lowe A.	2/23 Bn	3 Sep 42	Evac to Hospital
Major	Wall R.E.	2/23 Bn	31 Aug 42	Detached to 9 Aust Div

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).

Apex 28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.		Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1	Pl-Sub		✓	Evans B.	2/23 Bn	YES		CO 2/23 Bn
2	Major		✓	Wall R.E.	"	NO		Detached 4th Div
3	"		✓	Bland G.H.	"	YES		OC HQ Coy
4	Capt		✓	Bumsted J.S.	"	"		Super HQ Coy
5	"		✓	McRae E.H.	"	"		OC B Coy
6	"		✓	Brown W.G.	"	"		OC C Coy
7	"		✓	Fallon G.F.	"	"		OC D Coy
8	"		✓	McMaster P.E.	"	"		OC A Coy
9	"		✓	Reid R.K.	"	"		ZIC B Coy
10	"		✓	Tietjens F.W.	"	No		Det SCHOOL
11	Lieut		✓	Boulter R.B.	"	YES		ZIC D Coy
12	"	Capt	✓	Rigg G.G.	"	"		OC Barr PL
13	"	Capt	✓	Brady H.J.	"	"		OC A/TK PL
14	Lieut		✓	Matthews J.H.	"	"		ZIC E Coy
15	"		✓	Jones E.P.	"	"		OC No 2 PL
16	"		✓	Dunham G.W.	"	"		IO
17	Lieut	Capt	✓	Vines W.G.	"	"		ADJT 2/23 Bin
18	"		✓	Russell G.D.	"	No		LO 26 Bde
19	"		✓	Mulcahy G.D.	"	YES		TO
20	"		✓	Lovell J.K.	"	"		Sig Offr.
21	"		✓	Triplett J.G.	"	"		PL COMD 9 PL
22	"		✓	Pathe R.G.	"	"		PL COMD 12 PL
23	"		✓	Moore W.	"	"		QM
24	"		✓	Hilmour W.B.	"	"		PL COMD 17 PL
25	"		✓	Simmons M.E.	"	"		PL COMD 16 PL
26	"		✓	Benson K.J.	"	"		CARRIER PL
27	"		✓	Luxon J.D.	"	"		A/ZIC C Coy
28	"		✓	Hibberd J.W.	"	"		PNR OFFR
29	"		✓	Dillner P.D.	"	"		PL COMD 13 PL
30	"		✓	Gibbs E.H.	"	"		
31	"		✓	Bateson M.	"	"		MOR OFFR
32	"		✓	King A.K.	"	"		PL COMD 8 PL
33	"		✓	Kennedy B.B.	"	"		" " 15 "
34	"		✓	Attley J.G.	"	"		" " 7 "

(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		Delahery J.H.	AAMC	16 MAR 42	R.M.O.
Capt		Porter H.J.	AACHAP	DEPT 2 APR 42	PADRE

2/23 Aust Inf Bn
(Unit.)
5 Sep 42
(Date of Despatch.)

W. C. M. M. M.
(Signature of Commander.)
26 Aust Inf Bde g. Aust Div.
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

2/23 Stuart Drif [unclear] (Unit) 12 Sept 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 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.	7		
W.Os. Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants			
Staff Serjeants	5		
Serjeants	33		2
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals	67		4
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	569		145
TOTALS	684		151

*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	AA PC	3 ORS	AA PC
1 Sgt	AA MC		
1 OR	AA MC (Jug Wing)		
1 OR	AA Postal Corps		
2 ORs	AA DC		
1 OR	26 Bde		
2 ORs	AA MC		

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)

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.Q.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 ...																				2 4 145 151
TOTALS (to agree with Col- umns 3 and 4 of Part A).																				2 4 145 151

2/23 Unit Inf Bde Unit.

Signature of Commander. [Signature]

Date of Despatch 12 Sep 42.

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

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/23rd Aust Inf Bn (Unit.) For Week Ending 12 Sep 41

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*			
	Lieut.-Colonels ...	1		
	Majors... ..	2		1
	Captains	10		
	Lieutenants	22	1	
	2nd Lieutenants			
	Quartermasters	1		
	District Officers			
	TOTALS	36	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.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
1/Capt	H. Gray	2/23rd Bn	11 Sep 41	Det ME School
Supt	G. H. ...	"

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	7	8	9
M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	
1	Substantive		B. Evans	2/23 Bn	YES		CO 2/23 Bn	
2	Substantive		R. E. Wall	"	NO		Detached School	
3	Substantive		G. H. Bland	"	YES		OC HQ Coy	
4	Substantive		G. S. Humphreys	"	"		Sub Coy HQ Coy	
5	Substantive		E. H. McKee	"	"		OC B Coy	
6	Substantive		W. J. Grogan	"	"		OC C Coy	
7	Substantive		J. F. Taylor	"	"		OC D Coy	
8	Substantive		G. H. McPherson	"	"		OC A Coy	
9	Substantive		R. J. Reid	"	"		2IC B Coy	
10	Substantive		J. W. Johnston	"	NO		Detached School	
11	Substantive		R. B. Brindley	"	YES		2IC D Coy	
12	Substantive	Capt	E. G. Kegg	"	"		OC Coy PL	
13	Substantive	"	H. G. King	"	NO		Detached School	
14	Substantive		J. H. Matthews	"	YES		2IC A Coy	
15	Substantive		W. J. Grogan	"	"		T.O.	
16	Substantive		G. H. McPherson	"	"		ADJT 2/23 Bn	
17	Substantive	Capt	W. J. Grogan	"	"		ADJT 2/23 Bn	
18	Substantive		G. H. McPherson	"	"		2IC Bde	
19	Substantive		G. H. McPherson	"	NO		T.O.	
20	Substantive		G. H. McPherson	"	YES		2IC 11th	
21	Substantive		G. H. McPherson	"	"		PL Coy 2/23 Bn	
22	Substantive		R. J. Reid	"	"		" " 12 PL	
23	Substantive	Capt	W. J. Grogan	"	"		QM	
24	Substantive		G. H. McPherson	"	"		PL Coy 17 PL	
25	Substantive		G. H. McPherson	"	"		" " 16 "	
26	Substantive		K. J. Grogan	"	"		CAR PL	
27	Substantive		J. D. Grogan	"	"		ADJT 2/23 Bn	
28	Substantive		G. H. McPherson	"	"		PHS OFFR	
29	Substantive		G. H. McPherson	"	"		PL Coy 13 PL	
30	Substantive		G. H. McPherson	"	"		Det MMS School	
31	Substantive		G. H. McPherson	"	NO		Det Coy	
32	Substantive		G. H. McPherson	"	YES		PL Coy 1 PL	
33	Substantive		G. H. McPherson	"	"		" " 7 PL	
34	Substantive		G. H. McPherson	"	"		" " 14 PL	

(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		J. H. Grogan	RAMC	16 May 42	RMO
Capt		Pauline E. Grogan	RAMC		PHS DRE

2/23 Aust Inf Bn. (Unit.)
 12 Sep 42 (Date of Despatch.)
 [Signature] (Signature of Commander.)
 2/23 Aust Inf Bn (Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS

2/23rd Aust Inf Bn (Unit) 19 Sep 1942 (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 authorized establishment (excluding attached)	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments),
W.Os Class I.	6		1
W.Os Class II.			
W.Os Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Sergeants OR Colour-Sergeants.			
Staff Sergeants.	5		
Sergeants.	36		1
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals.	68		3
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	576		138
TOTALS.	692	*	143

* 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	AA MC	16 pl	AA Postal Corps
1 Sgt	AA PC	1 OR	26 Bde
2 P/Lts	AA OC		
3 ORS	AA OC		
2 ORS	AA MC		
1 P/Lt	AA MC		

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).

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/23 Aust Inf Bn. (Unit.)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits one establishment)
Lieut.-Colonels ...	1		
Majors ...	3		
Captains ...	9		1
Lieutenants ...	22	1	
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters <i>bapt</i> ...	1		
District Officers ...			
Totals ...	36	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>Major</i>	<i>Wall R. E.</i>	<i>2/23 Bn</i>	<i>15 Sep 42</i>	<i>Rejoined Unit from Det to 7 Aust Div.</i>

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
<i>bapt</i>	<i>Reid R. H.</i>	<i>2/23 Bn</i>	<i>17 Sep 42</i>	<i>Det. to M.E. Tactical School Sub-unit bonds course.</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.
Pl. Col		Evans B.	2/23 Bn	yes	CO 2/23 Bn
Major		Wall R.E.	"	"	2IC 2/23 Bn
Major		Bland G.H.	"	"	OC HQ Coy
Major		McCrae E.H.	"	"	OC B Coy
Capt		Burnham G.S.	"	"	Super HQ Coy
"		Barlow J.F.	"	"	OC C Coy
"		Fallon J.F.	"	"	OC D Coy
"		McCrae J.P.E.	"	"	OC A Coy
"		Reid R.K.	"	NO	Det School
"		Tietjens J.W.	"	NO	Det School
Lieut		Boulter R.B.	"	yes	2IC D Coy
"	bapt	Kigg G.G.	"	yes	OC CAR PL
"	bapt	Lynd B.G.	"	NO	Det School
"		Matthews J.H.	"	yes	2IC A Coy
"		Dunham G.W.	"	"	TO
"		Jones E.G.P.	"	"	A/TK PL
"	bapt	James W.J.	"	"	Adj 2/23 Bn
"		Russell G.B.	"	NO	OC 26 Bde
"		Mulcahy G.D.	"	yes	TO
"		Lovell G.K.	"	"	Sig Offr
"		Tahlett L.G.	"	"	PL COMD 19 PL
"		Paine R.G.	"	"	" " 12 PL
"	bapt	Moore W.J.	"	"	QM
"		Gilmauer P.B.	"	"	PL COMD 17 PL
"		Simmons M.A.	"	"	" " 18 "
"		Benson K.S.	"	"	CAR PL
"		Dwyer I.D.	"	"	A/2IC C Coy
"		Hibbler J.W.	"	"	PNR OFFR
"		Lyalls G.H.	"	NO	PL COMD 13 PL
"		Waterson G.W.	"	yes	Det School
"		Ring G.K.	"	yes	MOR OFFR
"		Kennedy B.B.	"	"	PL COMD 8 PL
"		Attley G.	"	"	" " 15 "
"		Gerland W.Burton G.G.	"	"	" " 7 "
"		Moore S.W.	"	"	" " 10 "
"			"	"	" " 14 "

(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.
bapt		Delahay G.H.	RAFMC	16 MAR 42.	RMO
bapt		Porter J.	RAF Chap	2 APR 42	PADRE.

2/23 Aust Inf Bn
19 Sep 42
(Unit.)
(Date of Despatch.)

[Signature]
(Signature of Commander.)
26 Bde 9 Aust Div.
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

2/27 Aust Inf Bn (Unit). 26 Sep 42 194 (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 authorized establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1		
W.Os. Class II.	7		
W.Os. Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants.			
Staff Serjeants.	5		
Serjeants.	36		1
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals.	69		2
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	565		149
TOTALS.	683	*	* 152

* 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.
2 Sgt	AARD	1 Cpl	AA Postal Corps
1 Sgt	AARD	1 Or	26 Bde
2 Cpls	AARD		
3 Ors	AARD		
2 Ors	AARD		
1 Cpl	AARD (26 Bde)		

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)

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.Q.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)...																				
Driver-Mechanics...																				
Driver-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 & Water Duties.																				
Signallers ...																				
Storemen technical ...																				
Tailors ...																				
Wheelers ...																				
General duty personnel...														1	2	147	152			
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)														1	2	147	152			

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Unit.

Date of Despatch

26 Sep 42

[Handwritten Signature]
Signature of Commander.

26 Aust Inf Bde 9 Aust Div

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

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/23 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits one establishment)
Lieut.-Colonels ...	1		
Majors ...	1		
Captains ...	9		1
Lieutenants ...	22	1	
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...	1		
District Officers ...			
Totals ...	36	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.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	Matthews J H	2/23 Bn	25 Sep 42	Det to 26 Bde
"	Barnes E I	"	26 Sep 42	Det to school in 23 Course AU Depot.

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.)

April 28

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 Major		Evans B	2/23 Inf	Yes	CO 2/23 Inf
		Fall B B	"	"	2nd Lt 2/23 Inf
		Blair C H	"	"	CO 3rd Coy
		Woods E H	"	"	CO 3rd Coy
Capt		Sturgeson J G	"	"	Super 4th Coy
"		Woods J F	"	"	CO 5th Coy
"		Hollen J F	"	"	CO 5th Coy
"		Hollister H B	"	"	CO 5th Coy
"		Scott B H	"	"	CO 5th Coy
"		Trotter F V	"	"	Det School
Lieut		Boulton B B	"	"	Det School
"	Capt	Flax C C	"	"	2nd Lt 5th Coy
"	Capt	Grey H G	"	"	CO 5th Coy
"		Woods H V	"	"	Det School
"		Woods J H	"	"	Det 26 Bde
"		Jones J J	"	"	"
"	Capt	Woods H V	"	"	Det 26 Bde
"		Dunnell C C	"	"	Det 26 Bde
"		Mulcahy J B	"	"	"
"		Lovell B F	"	"	"
"		Triplott J G	"	"	"
"		Wine B G	"	"	Pl 1st 2nd 2nd Pl
"	Capt	Woods H V	"	"	" 12 Pl
"		Gilman B B	"	"	"
"		Woods H V	"	"	Pl 1st 17 Pl
"		Woods H V	"	"	" 18 Pl
"		Woods H V	"	"	Det School
"		Woods H V	"	"	Det School
"		Hipley J H	"	"	Det School
"		Wheatville C W	"	"	Pl 1st 13 Pl
"		Woods H V	"	"	Det School
"		Woods H V	"	"	Det School
"		Woods H V	"	"	Pl 1st 8 Pl
"		Woods H V	"	"	Pl 1st 15 Pl
"		Woods H V	"	"	" 7 Pl
"		Woods H V	"	"	" 10 Pl
"		Woods H V	"	"	" 14 Pl

(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		Holroyd J H	2/23 Inf	10 Mar 42	Det
Capt		Woods H V	2/23 Inf	10 Mar 42	Det

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

26 Sep 42

(Unit.)

(Date of Despatch.)

(Signature of Commander.)

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

Sept 42

TRAINING

GOOD MONTH

from tng. point of view - one large scale exercise on a Div basis - as usual comms broke down again - alternate means imperative.

2/23 AUST INF BN SEP. 42

PATROLS

New men taken out. As many as 12&14 a night. Bad patrols ordered out again. App.1

HONOURS & AWARDS

More decoration announced during month. Total now 38.

2/23 AUST. INF BN. Sep. 42

MORALE

Generally is high, but standard of reinforcements very low. Still down 160 men.

2/23 AUST. INF BN. SEP. 42

SERVICES

SALVAGE PATROLS

Valuable ones during month (incl. Valentine Tank - got it home under its own power)

2/23 AUST. INF BN. 42 SEP. 42

AMENITIES

XMAS SHOPS AT FRONT

in fwd positions. Bn. buying goods in bulk to resell to men.

2/23 AUST. INF BN. Sep. 42

WOMEN'S C'MITTEE

PHILANTHROPIC
in Aust. still doing good work
Send cheque for £100.

2/23 AUST. INF BN. SEP. 42

SPECIAL MESSAGES

CONGRATULATORY

message from Comd. 8th Army App.3

2/23 AUST. INF BN. SEP. 42

MUD & BLOOD

UNIT JOURNALS

App. 29

2/23 AUST. INF BN. SEP. 42

MAPS.

El Hammam 1:100,000. El Daba-
El Alamein 1:100,000. Alexandria
1:100,000. El Daba-Alex. 1:50,000
El Qasaba 1:50,000.

2/23 Bn. Sep. 42