

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

Item number: 8/3/23

2/23 Infantry Battalion

November 1942

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Month and Year NOVEMBER 1942

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer Donnan

Lt. Col.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
WESTERN DESERT.	1		Weather - Fine and warm. Warning received for Bn to be ready to counter-attack on either 2/32 or 2/43 Aust Inf Bn front. Under direction of 2 i/c, Capt W F BROWN, start lines put down, but enemy attacks beaten off, making further move of this Bn unnecessary. Recce by Capt W. F. BROWN for Bn res posn. Further order counter-manded the move, instns being both 2/23 and 2/13 Aust Inf Bns would remain in the area with Lt-Col B. EVANS DSO in comd. During the night considerable enemy shelling in the Bn area as a result of an attack by our forces from PT 29. No damage or casualties. 2000 hrs CO received advice to report to 24 Aust Inf Bde as T/Brig in lieu of Brig A.H.L. GODFREY DSO MC ED, who had been wounded during the afternoon. Capt W. F. BROWN took over temporary comd of the Bn.	
	2		Weather - Fine and warm. Major R. E. WALL assumes comd of the Bn, with Capt W. F. BROWN as 2 i/c, Capt W. J. VINES Adjt, Coy Comds - B Coy Capt H. GRAY, C Coy Lieut T. D. DWYER, D Coy Lieut M. A. SIMMONS. CO with Adjt visited Coys. Area divided between the two Bns. WEST of track to 2/13 Aust Inf Bn. EAST to 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. B and C Coys move to new areas in consequence. Bn again in role of Div res. Conference with CO, Coy Comds, and Specialist Offrs - 1330 hrs. At approx 1800 hrs 15 STUKAS intercepted by RAF fighters, jettisoned their bombs in and around bn area causing casualties - 1 killed, 4 wounded.	Appx 1
	3		Weather fine and hot. Quiet day for Bn. Coys engaged on salvage ops. Congratulatory message received from Comd Eighth Army, and General BLAMEY.	Appx 19
	4		Weather fine and hot. Warning received 1100 hrs per LO that Bn now reverts to comd 26 Aust Inf Bde, and is to be prepared to move during afternoon. Movement Order issued 1515 hrs containing full orders and instns to Coys. Personnel from Coys marched to new location - Res Bn area NORTH of PT 26 in sq 878300.	Appx 2 Appx 3

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Commanding Officer

Donnan
Lt. Col.
Comd. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Month and Year NOVEMBER 1942 (Erase heading not required).

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
WESTERN DESERT <i>W. H. Longman</i>	5		Weather - Fine and hot. Bn settling in and enjoying clean living conditions and peace and quietness away from the battle fd. Coy Comds instructed that the policy was to be one of reorganization, rest and swimming. During the afternoon a draft of reinforcements arrived from the trg bn in Palestine numbering 103. A Coy reformed giving the Bn normal establishment of 4 rifle coys. Following on this, new posting of offrs ordered, Lieut N GILMOUR to be acting IO. CO and Adjt attended Brig GODFREY's funeral (late Comd 24 Aust Inf Bde). Another message was received from Comd Eighth Army and promulgated to all ranks.	Appx 19 ROs Appx 4
		6	Weather - Fine and mild, rain during night. Reorganizing continues with new reinforcements getting the 'feel' of the Bn and accustomed to new surroundings. Chap PORTER with a burial party exhumed bodies of Bn personnel killed in recent ops and interred them in Bde Cemetery - BIR USASA, ref 87862994.	
		7	Weather - Fine and cool. Tps resting, washing clothes and eqpt and swimming. Major R E WALL appointed to comd of the Bn with rank of Lt-Col. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn GS Instn No 5 issued with trg syllabus for period 7-16 Nov 42. Conference of Bn offrs to discuss lessons brought out in recent ops. More mail from Australia, majority being Christmas parcels and papers. Tps given cigarettes sent to Bn by the Women's Welfare Asscn. All clocks and watches put back one hr.	Appx 5
		8	Weather - Fine and cool. Bn church parade 0900 hrs - 1 mins silence observed in honour of Bn personnel killed in action. All Offrs, WOs and Sgts attended a demonstration of the German 88 mm DP gun. Recce by IO for trg areas in vicinity, two plotted for coys. Advice received from 26 Aust Inf Bde that Bn would be responsible for salvage in certain area of old enemy lines. Screed issued arising out of Offrs' conference 7 Nov 42 entitled "Matters arising out of recent ops". Visit by T/Brig B EVANS DSO of 24 Aust Inf Bde.	Appx 6

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Unit 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Month and Year..... NOVEMBER 1942 (Erase heading not required). PAGE 3

Commanding Officer... *R. S. ...* Lt. Col., Comd., 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
WESTERN DESERT	9		Weather - Fine and cool. Coys trg as set out in Syllabus. Order of the day issued by Lt-Gen Sir Oliver H. LEESE Bt, CBE, DSO, and promulgated in R/Os No 154/4042.	Appx 19
	10		Weather - Fine and mild. Trg by Coys. Coy Comds in conference with CO 0830 hrs. Lt-Gen Sir Oliver H. LEESE Bt, CBE, DSO, Comd 30 Corps paid a brief visit to Bn. Recce by IO and Int Sgt for Coy trg areas. Four suitable sites found and traces sent to each Coy. Major E. H. McRAE rejoined Bn, and posted acting 2 i/c vice Capt W. F. BROWN, now appointed as OC C Coy.	
	11		Weather - Fine and mild. Trg by Coys. Further draft of reinfts incl Lieuts THIRLWELL (MC), and LUKEY, now recovered from wounds received in July ops. In both recent drafts of reinfts there have been practically no men with specialist trg - consequently unit is faced with problem of being unable to bring specialist gps up to establishment immediately without an intensive course of trg. 9 Aust Div Sigs attached to the Bn took part in an exercise on mobile W/T trg - one Int Sec pte being attached as Code and Cipher clerk.	
	12		Weather - Fine. Trg by Coys. The CO paid an official visit to Brig B. EVANS DSO at 24 Aust Inf Bde HQ and later Brig B. EVANS came to dinner in the 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Offrs' Mess.	
	13		Weather - Fine and cloudy. Trg by Coys. Major P. E. SPIER returned to Unit, after an absence of 6 months. On 15 May 42 when the Unit was at TRIPOLI, LEBANON, he was seconded as GSO II of Middle East Training Centre in PALESTINE. Now becomes Bn 2 i/c vice Major E. H. McRAE, appointed OC "B" Coy. Brig D. A. WHITEHEAD DSO MC Comd 26 Aust Inf Bde visited Bn to inspect trg done by Coys.	
	14		Weather - Fine and warm. Trg by Coys. Major P. E. SPIER taken over battle area and various phases outlined in relation to the ground. Arrival of winter kits taken out of tps universal kit bags in stores. Summer dress still being worn	

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Commanding Officer *Donovan* Lt. Col. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
WESTERN DESERT			during day, but the cold nights necessitate a change. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn GS Instn No 6 issued.	Appx 7
	15		Weather - Fine and hot. Bn Church Parade 0900 hrs with remainder of day free for tps. Proposed recce by offr of Bn to Pt 29 and over battle area cancelled owing to probable visit by GOC Lt-Gen Sir Leslie J. MORSHEAD KCB, KBE , CMG, DSO, ED, but this did not eventuate. 1500 hrs Chap PORTER conducted a special service at BIR USASA Cemetery ref 87862994. Crosses prepared by Pmr Pl were erected over graves of members of this Bn killed in recent ops and one minutes silence observed.	
	16		Weather - Cloudy and cool. Trg by Coys as per syllabus. Message received from General B. L. MONTGOMERY and promulgated to all ranks.	Appx 8
	17		Weather again overcast and cool. Trg by Coys. Chap PORTER lifted and established identity of graves vicinity TEL EL EISA Sta and Pt 24 area. Beginning of a series of lectures by Sig Offr preparatory to Coy practicing comn by R/T. Get together of Sgts at 1830 hrs, the first function of its kind since the Bn has been in this area. Attended by CO, 2 i/c and Adjt and after formal speeches, light supper served. During evening silent pictures shown for amusement of tps with Padre officiating. Sgt L. P. WENBORN and WOII D. RENTON left for OCTU. Kit inspections held by Coys and deficiencies listed.	
	18		Weather - Cloudy and mild. Trg by Coys. RA Lectures to HQ and A Coys. Notes on ops 23 Oct to 6 Nov prepared by Adjt and printed. A special airgraph form issued for tps to send Christmas messages home to AUSTRALIA. One only allowed each man. Forms to be completed by 27 Nov 42. Draft of reinfts with Lieut RING and LYNE.	Appx 9
	19		Weather - Fine, dustorm developing in morning continued into evening. Trg by Coys, but hampered by dustorm. Further lectures on R/T. Some deficiencies in kit issued. Lecture on map reading given to NCOs A Coy by Int Sec. Payday postponed as no money available at Div Pay Office. Bn troubled with plague of flies	

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Unit 2/23 Aust. Inf. Bn

Month and Year NOVEMBER 1942. (Erase heading not required).

PAGE 5

Commanding Officer

R. S. J. ...
Lt. Col.
Comd. 2/23 Aust. Inf. Bn

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
WESTERN DESERT			brought about by litter strewn over battle field. All precautions taken to prevent breeding grounds in area. Rations at this period excellent. Capt J. S. CUMPSTON marched out en route to AUSTRALIA.	
	20		Weather - Dustorm of previous day continued with increased severity. Conditions very unpleasant. Storm subsided 1800 hrs followed by cold night and a few light showers of rain. Trg as far as practicable. Concert Party cancelled programme owing to inclement weather. Lieut N. GILMOUR acting IO left for Air Interpretation School. Pay day. Tps interest in Melbourne Cup to be run tomorrow displayed in sundry sweeps and 'improvised "books"'. Pnr Offr, Lieut J. W. HIPSLEY reced old enemy minefd looking for new types of mines to add to the museum set up and utilised by Pnr personnel in practical demonstrations to tps.	
	21		Weather - Fine and cool with several light showers of rain. Trg by Coys. Security lectures to Coys by Lieut TIMSON of 9 Aust Div FSS illustrated by practical examples arising out of recent ops. Recce by Offrs of Bn to Pt 29 area with reconstruction of preliminary ops to the Eighth Army's offensive.	
	22		Weather - Fine and mild. Bn Church parade 0900 hrs. Remainder of day free for Coys. Advice received from 26 Aust Inf Bde that area vicinity GHAZAL ry sta to be reced by Bn and reports to be submitted on types and quantities of salvage in the area. Five recce parties - one from each coy - carried out preliminary recce after lunch, subdividing and marking out areas which would be responsibility of each Coy.	
	23		Weather - Fine and mild. Trg by coys with further practice on miniature rifle range. Coy recce parties completed salvage recces and submitted reports which in turn were collated and fwded to 26 Aust Inf Bde. Pamphlets received dealing with 'Prevention of Malaria' and one issued to each offr. Under direction of 26 Aust Inf Bde a telephone exercise involving use of R/T and L/T conducted	Appx 10

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Commanding Officer

[Signature]
Lt. Col.
Comd. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

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Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
WESTERN DESERT			between Bn and Bde. Special emphasis was placed on correct procedure and cutting down unnecessary conversation. Trg instn received from Bde setting out the form of exercises to be given to Bn RPs and Bde Pro personnel dealing with movement control, point duty and the marking out of route and axis of adv both along clearly defined rds and tracks and across open country.	
<i>W. H. Langour Secy A.O.</i>	24		Weather - Fine and mild. Trg by Coys. Appendices for reports on ops 23 Oct to 4 Nov 42 compiled setting out losses in action of WD eqpt and enemy eqpt captured.	Appx 9
	25		Weather - Fine and warm. Trg by Coys. Recce of new Bde trg area reced by Int Sec and Carrier offr. Warning Order received from Bde stating that adv parties would be moving following day as prelude to Div move to PALESTINE. Infm promulgated to coys in pro-forma message A 105. Followed by A 106 setting out the times and RVs. RPs given instn in traffic control by Div Pro personnel and compass trg by Int Sec.	Appx 11 Appx 12 Appx 13
	26		Weather - Fine and warm. Bn adv party under comd 2 i/c Major P. E. SPIER left 0515 hrs on first stage of journey to PALESTINE. Trg by Coys. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Adm Instn No 10 issued dealing with Disposal of Captured and Surplus Eqpt. Int Sec on receipt of instns from 26 Aust Inf Bde plotted all graves in certain specified area and trace submitted with this infm. CO and Adjut paid official visit to Bde 1800 hrs.	Appx 14
<i>Advt</i>	27		Weather - Fine and warm. Trg by Coys. 9 Aust Div Movement Order No 10 received setting out routes, timings and adm arrangements for move to PALESTINE. 26 Aust Inf Bde issued a trg instn dealing with exercises to be carried out and learnt in conjunction with this move. Capt F. W. TIETYENS and Lieut J. W. DUNHAM rejoined Unit.	
	28		Weather - Fine and warm. Trg by Coys in morning. During afternoon football match	

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Commanding Officer

Donnan
Lt. Col.,
Comd., 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Month and Year.....

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
WESTERN DESERT			played against 9 Aust Div Cav Regt on their ground. The Bn team was well supported by truck loads of personnel from each coy who were conveyed to the ground. After a very close game, they had the satisfaction of seeing their team the victors with the final scores, 2/23 Bn 6 goals 4 behinds, 9 Aust Div Cav Regt 5 goals 4 behinds. Many sporting wagers were made with odds at even money. This outing was the first of its kind since the Bn had taken up its fwd posn in the ALAMEIN line last Jul.	
	29		Weather - Fine and warm. 1000 hrs saw commencement of mob exercise as outlined in 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order (Ex) W.D. NO 6. Halts were practiced on the move with particular stress on vehs maintaining their correct intervals. RPs had opportunities for practical use of lessons learnt earlier in the week on traffic control at cross rds, and mounted on MCs, controlled coln on the move. Arriving at destination, BHQ and Coys set up in posns as reced by 2 i/c and recce gp. Tps then had lunch and prior to departure had a look over the area, scene of a fierce tk battle vividly borne out by the battered wrecks which still littered the ground. Return journey commenced 1350 hrs during which several more halts were practiced. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Adm Instn No 11 issued re Security of Arms Amn Eqpt - Censorship, Photography.	Appx 15
	30		Weather fine and warm. Trg by coys during morning. Bn football team had their second match for the week against the 2/24 Aust Inf Bn on the Bn ground. This time the visitors again won the laurels, defeating our team by one goal. Majority of Bn gave vocal support to the playing. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Adm Instn No 12 issued with instns for collection of 7 A Tk gun Portees and 7 2-pr A Tk guns from Ord services in EGYPT. Party consisting of 15 ORs from A Tk Pl under comd Lieut J. MCMINN and will rejoin Unit at ISMAILIA on 4 Dec 42. 26 Aust Inf Bde Movement Order No 1 received confirming instns re move already set out in 9 Aust Div Movement Order.	Appx 16

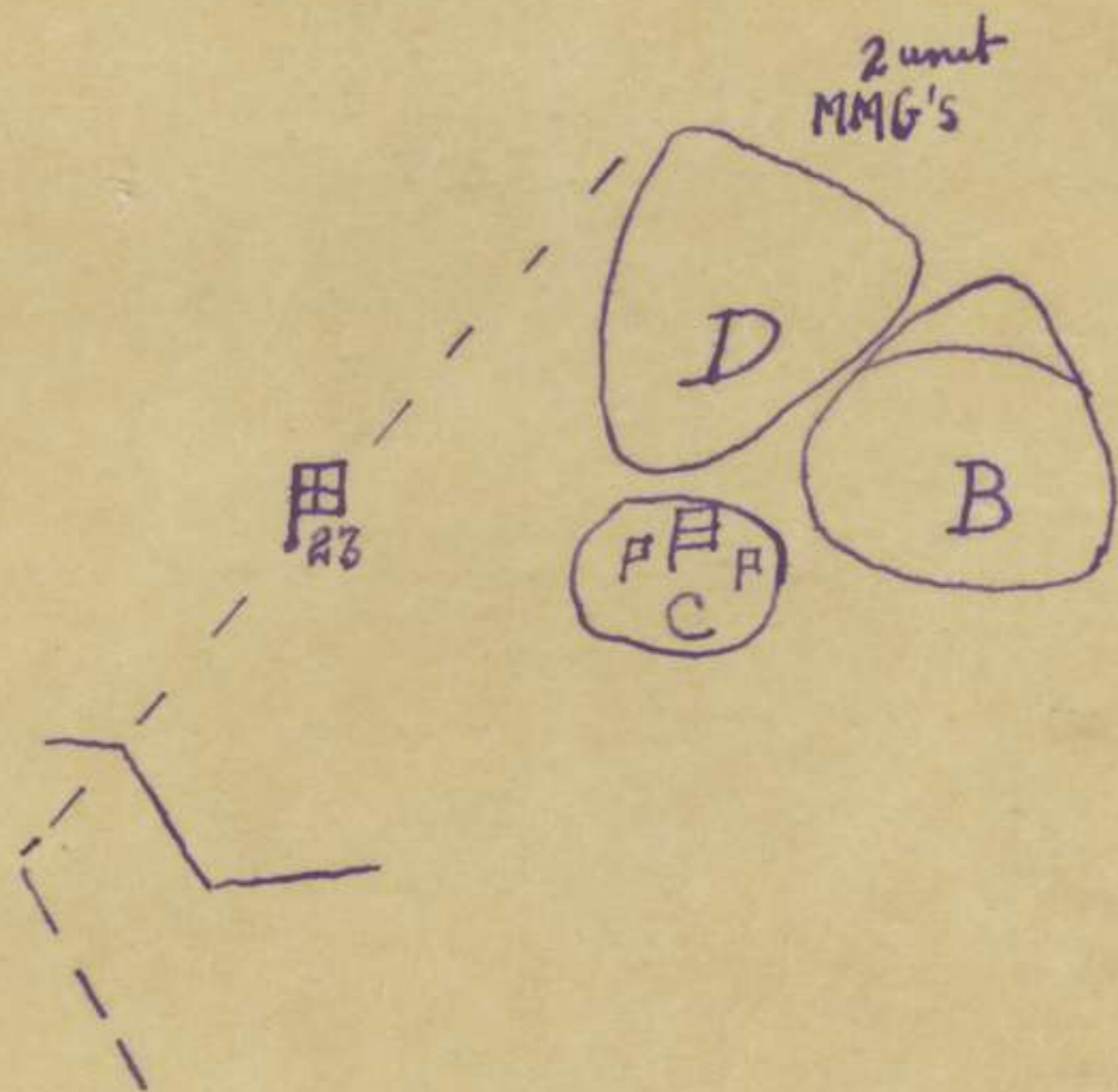
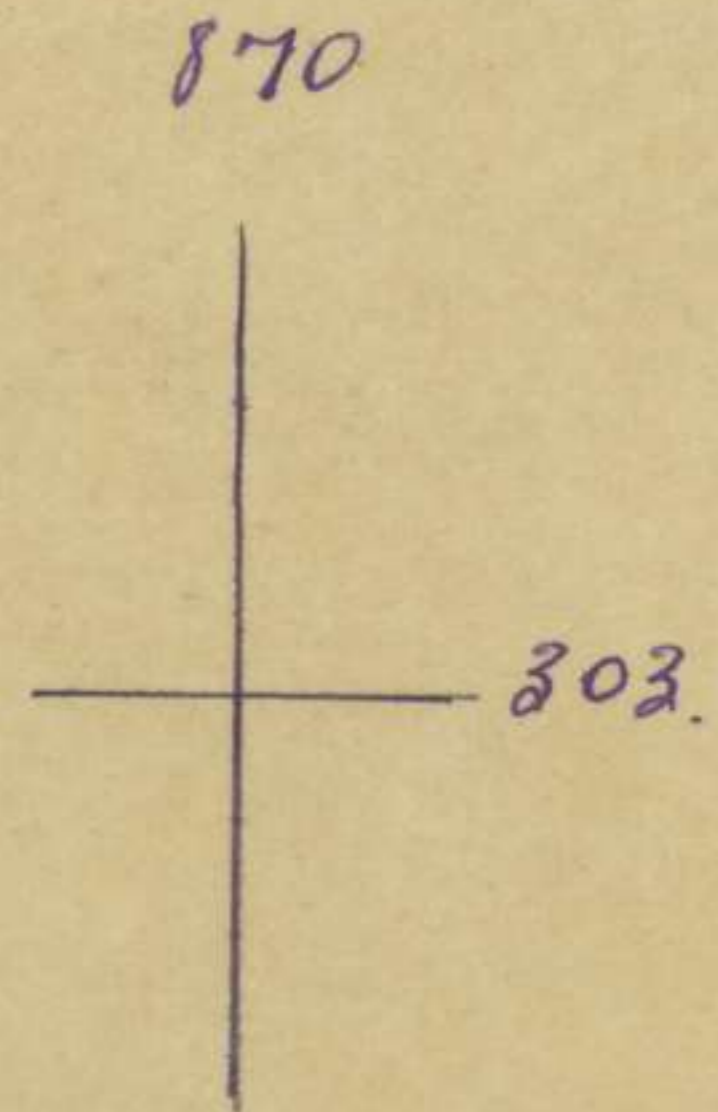
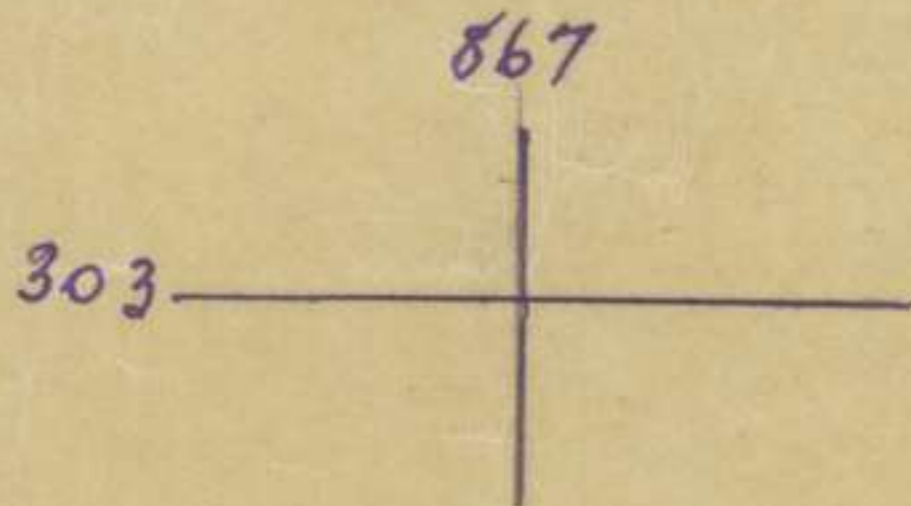
HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
AIF (ME).CO's Report for Month of November 1942.

1. From 1 to 4 Nov, the Bn continued in its defensive posn NORTH of Pt 29. There was some adjustment of frontage made necessary by 2/13 Aust Inf Bn coming in on the Bn's left. Occasional shelling and bombing was experienced, but this gradually became lighter as the enemy withdrew the remnants of his force from the Coastal Sector.
2. On 1 Nov the CO, Lt-Col B. EVANS DSO was apptd to temporary comd of 24 Aust Inf Bde, and the Bn 2 i/c Major R. E. WALL, assumed comd of the Bn, being later promoted Lt-Col, and confirmed in this appointment.
3. On 4 Nov the Bn moved into Rest area about Pt 26, and this ended the Bn's active role in present ops. The Bn remained in this posn for the remainder of the month, and carried out re-organization, trg, salvage operations etc. Trg was of an elementary nature, mainly because 150 reinforcements with very little previous trg joined the Bn during the month. Trg was made interesting by being carried out on sites of previous Bn ops and these were re-constructed and explained to the tps.
4. On 26 Nov, Unit Adv Party left for PALESTINE, in anticipation of the Bn's move to that country on 3 Dec.
5. Health of tps during the month was good. This was helped by purchase of fresh fruit and vegetables from Regtl Funds.

R. E. Wall
Lt-Col
Comd, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
(R. E. WALL)

2/23 Bn. Disposns.

2 Nov. 42



Ref:

SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN

1:25,000.

W.D
Nov

Pro-Forma
C.2128.

Appx 2

MESSAGE FORM

TO : List "B" less A Coy, No 2 (A.A) Pl.

FROM : 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

A

4 Nov.

2/23 Bn will rejoin 26 Bde (.)
 Move to res bn area NORTH
 of PT 26 in sq 878300 (.)
 Recce parties as already ordered (.)
 Movement by marching in order B
 C D Coys MMG Pl Mor Pl BHQ
 (incl No 1 Pl) (.) Pnr A Tk Carrier
 Pls independently in MT (.) Start
 pt minefd gap at 87063008 (.)
 Start time B Coy 1600 hrs (.) Thereafter
 sub-units at 5 min intervals in open
 order (.) Route Start Pt EAST
 along telegraph line to WEST PT 24
 and thence NE across FT 26 to
 new area (.) Coy guides will
 direct on arrival (.) Vehs will
 rejoin TO at present VAP by
 1630 hrs and proceed under separate orders
 (.) Evening meal new location 1900 hrs
 (.) B Ech moves simultaneously to sq
 882296 (.) BHQ closes present location
 1630 hrs moves to new area (.)
 Adv BHQ opens same time new
 location (.) All informed

BY RUNNER

TOO 1515

2/23 BN. DISPOSNS. 6 NOV. 42.

WD.

MAP. REF. EL. ALAMIEN. 1-5000.

Appx 3

8789

8794.

3005.

3005.

A. P

D. P

C. P

Sigs. P

R.A.P. P

B.H.Q. P

ORD. Room. P

H.Q. P

B. P

2/23 BN.

Int. Sec. 24 Nov 42.

PROFORMA MESSAGE FORM

Appx 4

TO : LIST "C"

FROM : TAC 9 AUST DIV

AQ 104

4 Nov

Following message from Comd EIGHTH ARMY to be communicated to all tps earliest (.) begins (.) the present battle has now lasted for twelve days during which all tps have fought so magnificently that the enemy is being worn down (.) the enemy has just reached the breaking pt and he is trying to get his army away (.) the RAF is taking hy toll of his colns moving west on the main coast rd (.) the enemy is in our power and he is just about to crack (.) I call on all tps to keep up the pressure and not to relax for one moment (.) we have the chance of putting the whole panzer army in the bag and we will do so (.) I congratulate all tps on what has been achieved (.) complete victory is almost in sight (.) on your behalf I have sent a separate message to the RAF thanking them for their quite magnificent support (.) ends

Woodward Col

E L S

TOO : 2130

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
2/23 AUST INF BN G. S. INSTN NO 5 SECRET
COPY NO 23

7 Nov 42.

1. GENERAL

It is anticipated that 26 Aust Inf Bde will have approx 7 to 8 days to rest and refit, before again taking up the task of destroying the enemy in NORTH AFRICA.

2. TASKS

During the period available, most intensive effort is to be devoted to :-

- (a) Trg and the remoulding of battle teams from old and new personnel of the Bn, with particular attention to inculcation of Unit and Sub-unit battle drills, which have been a feature of this Bn's operational methods in the past.
- (b) Overhauling, repair and replacement of eqpt, wpons, MT, and all reserves.

3. SYLLABUS

Trg in accordance with att syllabus will be commenced immediately by all Rifle Coys and by Specialist Pls of HQ Coy, in so far as their co-operation is required in the Coy exercises set down. OC HQ Coy will ensure that Specialist Pl Comds carry out specialist trg in accordance with the requirements of their various sub-units, on those days when specialist arms are not occupied on joint exercises. Daily programme of trg for Rifle Coys will be in accordance with following table. The codes referred to (D1, D2, D3, etc) relate to the att syllabus.

<u>Date</u>	<u>A Coy</u>	<u>B Coy</u>	<u>C Coy</u>	<u>D Coy</u>
7 Nov		All Coys D 1		
8 Nov		All Coys D 2		
9 Nov		All Coys D 3		
10 Nov		All Coys D 4		
11 Nov	D 5	D 5	D 6	D 6
12 Nov	D 6	D 6	D 5	D 5
13 Nov	D 8	D 8	D 7	D 7
14 Nov	D 7	D 7	D 8	D 8
15 Nov	D 9	D 9	D 10	D 10
16 Nov	D 10	D 10	D 9	D 9

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

DISTRIBN :
List "B".

2/23 AUST INF BN - TRG SYLLABUS

7 - 16 NOV 1942.

Time	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
0830 to 1200	T's OET LMG, 2" Mor Rifle, Grens	Demo & practice (a) Man leads in attack. (b) A Ech Carrier Pl packs	Pl in attack formations rapid reorgzn.	Coy in attack - lecture & demo of formations System of inter-comm reorgzn.	37mm & 2 Pr A Tk guns - elementary handling.	Coy in attack - incl rapid reorgzn with Bn sp arms (Directed by BHQ)		Coy in immediate counter- attack (Directed by BHQ)		
1330 to 1630	Demo - lecture Sec & Pl formations in attack	Enemy wps Spandau, Breda, Machine pistol - elementary handling.	Rest	Coy in attack - practice as above.	Rest					
1900 to 2400			Pl in Night att- ack. Main- tenance of direction & format- ions. Inter- comm, rapid reorgzn.		Night pat- rols. Main- tenance of direction, records of distance. Reporting of infn.		Coy in night att- ack. Incl long app- roach march.		Coy in night att- ack. Rapid reorgzn with Bn sp arms. Dis- posal of Psw, casual- ties (Dir- ected by BHQ)	Coy in immed- iate counter attack. (Directed by BHQ)

2/23 AUST INF BN - CONFERENCE OF OFFRS

8 Nov 42.

MATTERS ARISING FROM RECENT OPS

1. USE OF TKS IN NIGHT ATTACK
 - (a) Unanimously agreed that use of tks in sp of inf night attack is undesirable, owing to limitations imposed on tk movement by numerous minefds, and to difficulties of navigation by the tks, and inter-comn between inf and tks under battle conditions at night.
 - (b) It was also agreed that the practice of inf riding on tks should be resorted to ONLY in long approach marches to lessen fatigue, and that this system of tpt would be adopted only up to the point where coln would come under fire. From this point the inf should proceed on foot.
 - (c) Considered that tks could usefully be employed to assist exploitation at first light.
2. TKS IN DAYLIGHT

Use of tks in daylight attack was approved, based on earlier experiences of the Unit in July battles. It was considered that the system of sending in an assaulting sqn at tk speed followed with inf with tks in close sp could not be improved.
3. ARTY SP
 - (a) Where strong arty sp is available for night ops as in recent battles, it was considered that the value of the opening barrage greatly exceeded any loss of surprise caused by the automatic announcement of an impending attack. It was felt that the moral and material value of arty sp was considerable.
 - (b) It was pointed out that close liaison with arty was impossible during the days spent in defence of the ground captured, owing to the withdrawal of the arty LO. Several opportunity targets beyond the range of unit sp arms had presented themselves, but could not be engaged because of this lack of liaison.
4. CHAIN OF COMD

A clear appreciation of the application of chain of comd within sub-units of the Bn must be achieved by all ranks. It was pointed out that on occasion, men had been uncertain as to whom the task of leadership should fall within secs and pls when immediate leaders became casualties.
5. PASSAGE OF INFWM

Instances were reported of the men of some secs not being completely in the picture as to the plan and intention of ops in which the Bn was engaged. Junior NCOs must receive careful instn in this phase of their work.
6. INTER-COMN

Within the Bn was in most cases quite good. The No 11 set mounted in a carrier functioned continuously to Bde HQ. It was pointed out that infm regarding the identity and location of flanking Units was difficult to obtain, disposns were frequently radically altered and not communicated to our own tps, with the result that the fwd coys were frequently in doubt as to the identity of tps within their range of vision.
7. A ECH VEHS
 - (a) Coy A Ech Carriers will in future, travel immediately in rear of the fighting formation under control of RSM.
 - (b) The method of movement of remainder of fighting tpt coln was a matter for considerable discussion, and it was finally agreed that present system, whereby the coln followed at a set interval behind the fighting tps was dangerous, owing to the difficulty of estimating distance at night. At the same time it was appreciated that comn from BHQ back to tpt gp was liable to break down, and it was finally agreed that in future, orders for the attack would lay down bounds in which the tpt would move, and timings when these bounds would be reached.

OC tpt go to be responsible for receiving fwd from one point to the next before moving his vehs fwd.

- (c) A Ech tpt must be returned from sub-units to the VAP in sufficient time before an action to enable the drs to report on foot to the TO for detailed instns regarding the move.
- (d) A Ech vehs sent to Coys on reorgzn must be dismissed and returned to VAP immediately they are unloaded.
- (e) Sub-units must in future, take special precautions against overloading vehs allotted to them.
- (f) Considered that establishment should provide A Ech tpt for Pnr, Sig and MMG Pls.

8. BN SP ARMS

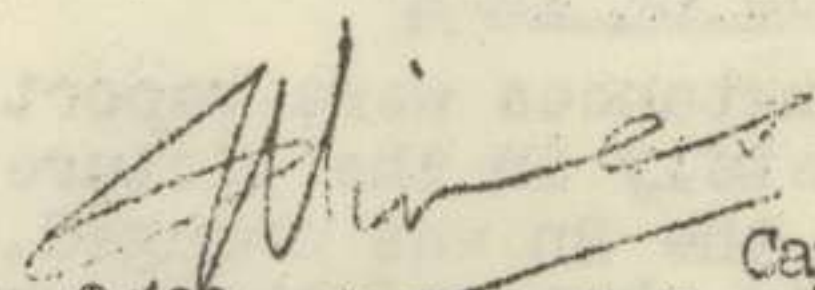
- (a) Fuller use must be made by Rifle Coy Comds of fire sp of MMGs and Mortars by indicating targets fwd of the FDL's once reorgzn has been completed.
- (b) It was agreed that Mortars, MMGs and A Tk guns must be sent fwd immediately reorgzn commences to enable wpns to be sited and posns dug and camflgd in readiness for counter-attack.
- (c) It was decided that series of lectures and demonstrations should be given by Mortar Pl to Rifle Coys to endeavour to demonstrate to all ranks the capabilities of the 3" Mortar in close sp.

9. MINE LAYING

- (a) It was noted that mines had been laid in certain areas by various other Units, and that these areas in some cases had not been marked, nor had infm as to their existence been communicated to the Bn. It was considered that these fds had probably been laid without permission of Bde HQ concerned, in contravention of standing orders on this matter.
- (b) It was also noted that minefd gaps made by Engrs were not correctly marked with standard markings, and in one instance, no lamps were used.

10. ALLOTMENT OF CARRIERS

In addition to present permanent allotment to CO, Rear Link, and Rifle Coys, it was decided that in future ops, unless specific carrier task existed, carriers would also be allotted to MMG Pl and if possible to Sig Pl.


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

DISTRIBN :

List "B".

124 NOV 42

Appx 7

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

SECRET

2/23 AUST INF BN G.S. INSTN NO 6

1. (a) Trg in former FDL's will be carried out by all Coys in accordance with the roster hereunder. Each Coy will move on the days shown to the Coy defensive posn fwd of TRIG 33 and Coy Comd or other offr familiar with the ground will explain the Bn defensive system as it existed in the area prior to the recent battles. An inspection will be made of the Coy area, and if desired, other Coy areas on the front.
- (b) Details and objects of patrols carried out from the different Coy areas will be explained to all ranks, and these patrols will be carried out by members of the Coy as daylight exercise.
- (c) Care will be taken to avoid interference with other Units now bivouaced in this area.
- (d) Coys will march to TRIG 33, leaving present Unit lines at 0800 hrs, and returning for evening meal. Cut lunch will be carried.
- (e) Roster :-

16 Nov 42	A Coy
17 Nov 42	B Coy
18 Nov 42	C Coy
19 Nov 42	D Coy

2. Review of Operation. Night 28/29 Oct 42 -

- (a) All offr's will report to BHQ at 1300 hrs 15 Nov 42 to embus for movement to TRIG 29 in sq 868300. TO will provide necessary tpt.
- (b) Fd glasses, compasses, and where possible maps of the area, will be carried, and on arrival at TRIG 29, copies of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order No 17 covering the operation will be distributed and discussed.

ACK


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

DISTRIBN :
List "C".

EIGHTH ARMY

Personal Message from the Army Commander.

1. When I assumed command of the Eighth Army I said that the mandate was to destroy ROMMEL and his Army, and that it would be done as soon as we were ready.
2. We are ready NOW.
The battle which is now about to begin will be one of the decisive battles of history. It will be the turning pt. of the war. The eyes of the whole world will be on us, watching anxiously which way the battle will swing. We can give them their answer at once, "It will swing our way."
3. We have first-class equipment; good tanks; good anti-tank guns; plenty of artillery and ammunition; and we are backed up by the finest air striking force in the world.
All that is necessary is that each one of us, every officer and man, should enter this battle with the determination to see it through - to fight and to kill - and finally, to win.
If we all do this there can be only one result - together we will hit the enemy for "six", right out of North Africa.
4. The sooner we win this battle, which will be the turning point of this war, the sooner we shall all get back home to our families.
5. Therefore, let every officer and man enter the battle with a stout heart, and with the determination to do his duty so long as he has breath in his body. And let no man surrender so long as he is unwounded and can fight.
Let us all pray that "The Lord mighty in battle" will give us the victory.

Middle East Forces.

23-10-42.

B. L. MONTGOMERY.
Lt. Gen. G.O.C. in C. 8th Army.

MAPS : Defences Overprints 1/25,000
 SIDI ADB EL RAHMAN
 EL WISKA
 EL MAKHAD

18 Nov 42

Appx 9

- SECTION ONE : 23 Oct 42 to commencement of Bn attack on 28 Oct 42.
- SECTION TWO : Attack 28/29 Oct - Approach March and Marrying up with tks.
- SECTION THREE : Attack.
- SECTION FOUR : Reorgzn.
- SECTION FIVE : Reports on operation of Specialist Arms :
1. 46 R.T.R.
 2. Sigs.
 3. Tpt.
 4. Mortars, MMG, A Tk.
 5. Q.
- SECTION SIX : Summary of casualties.
- APPX "A" : Trace showing flanking disposns, plan of attack, posn on reorgzn night 28/29 Oct 42.
- APPX "B" : Trace showing final disposns after daylight adv 30 Oct 42.

SECTION ONE

1. At 2130 hrs night 23/24 Oct, Bn commenced fwd move from 88392955 to previously prepared slit trenches in Div res area at 87682975. At 2140 hrs opening barrage for general offensive commenced, resulting in some return shelling by the enemy, which caused six casualties in the Bn. Bn remained in res area until 2045 hrs on 26 Oct when a move fwd was made to def posns in the area 871298. The period spent in slit trench area was marked by occasional bombing raids, and some counter bty shelling on the part of the enemy, directed against the numerous gun posns in or adjacent to Bn area. Casualties from bombing and shelling in this period were light, but it is considered that the period of inactivity spent under fire, had some moral effect upon the lesser experienced and more imaginative of the tps.
2. Bn remained in def in area 871298 until the night 28 Oct, when it moved fwd to the attack described in Section 2 hereunder. Primary role at this stage was that of counter-attack anywhere in the Div Sector, with the main probability of action to the NW, where 2/48 and 2/24 Aust Inf Bns

had reorganized after their successful offensives. In the evening 27 Oct 42, a hy enemy attack developed on 2/48 Aust Inf Bn posns on TRIG 29, and Bn was warned for probable counter-attack in that area, and did in fact, commence move to Start Line at 1800 hrs. At 1854 hrs, HQ 26 Bde advised that enemy attack had been beaten off and Bn stood down. During the night 27/28 Oct, relief of 2/48 and 2/24 Bns took place in the Northern Sector in preparation for 26 Bde offensive on following night. At 0400 hrs 28 Oct 42, a recce was made of TRIG 29 area and forming up place and start line for Bn attack that night were taped.

3. CO's Orders Conference held 1600 hrs 28 Oct, final co-ordinating conference and issue of Op Order No 17 (att Appx "C").

SECTION TWO

1. Bn adv on foot to 86932996 commenced 2100 hrs. Tps were in posn by 2200 hrs, but tks from 46 R.T.R. had not arrived. Tks finally reached FUP and formed up at 2230 hrs, and marrying up process commenced under fairly hy shell fire. A number of casualties were sustained in this area prior to the move across the Start Line at 2318 hrs on success by 2/15 Aust Inf Bn. Start Line was located at 86853005 and was crossed on time.
2. At this stage, principal enemy fire appeared to come from areas 86903010, 86863018 and 86703019.

SECTION THREE

1. Attack encountered by opposition immediately after crossing Start Line, and both navigating teams, comprising the I Offrs and Int personnel of this Bn and 46 R.T.R. either became casualties or were broken up. This Bn lost the I.O. and one Int pte wounded, and two Int ptes killed in this area.
2. It was found that the mixed gap which had been reported cleared by Engrs, had not, in fact, been properly cleared, and the gap itself was incorrectly marked and unlighted. Gap signs in some instances, were pointing in the wrong directions. Tk casualties on this mixed were hy, and some carriers and jeeps were also damaged. The momentum of the attack was to a great extent lost, due to the fact that tks following behind others which were immobilized halted, instead of moving around the knocked out tks and proceeding on their course. It became evident that the attack was not proceeding along the correct bearing, and a number of attempts were made by our tps, particularly offrs and NCOs, to redirect them on to the correct course. Conn with tk Comds was extremely difficult, and almost impracticable, due to the fact that most tk crews withdrew inside their vehs and closed the turret lids. The CO finally succeeded, with the assistance of Lt-Col CLARKE, (CO 46 R.T.R. who dismounted) in moving the coln fwd again, until further hy casualties were sustained due to enemy A Tk gun fire, which subsequently brought the attack to a halt at approx 86883010.
3. At this pt, inf were ordered to "de-tank", and were lined up on an impromptu start line, from which they moved fwd and captured the ridge from 86853017 to 86943010. In this area, 6 50mm and 3 37mm A Tk gun posns were taken, together with a number of MG posts and prisoners totalling

3 offrs 158 ORs from 155 Pz Gren Regt, and 125 I.R.

SECTION FOUR

1. Bn mopped up and dug in on the ridge mentioned in para 3 above. Remaining tk runners moved back some 800 yds to the SW to give sp if required against counter-attack at dawn. Evacuation of casualties, both personnel and tks proceeded throughout the night. Bn sp arms were brought fwd and a Bn front organized, with HQ at 86893011.
2. Enemy fire from posns 800 to 1000 yds to the front and right flank decreased towards dawn, and at first light, Bn was in occupation of areas as shown on att trace Appx "A", and at this stage, was working with 3 Rifle Coys.
3. 9 Bty 3 Aust A Tk Regt was sited to give protection to right and left flanks, with main attention to left flank covering gap between 2/17 and 2/15 Bns.
4. Arty FOO remained with BHQ, and def fire tasks were arranged as shown on trace Appx "A".
5. At first light, it was seen that some 11 tks had apparently penetrated to 86963017, and had all been knocked out by fire from 88mm gun in that area, the gun having later been withdrawn to posn in sq 869300.
6. Bn held this ground throughout next day and night. No counter-attacks were launched, though shelling and sniping were continuous during the period. Casualties at this stage were light, some 8 to 10 men being wounded, mainly by 88mm airburst which appeared to be brought down by vercy light signal from enemy posns 1000 yds to the NE.
7. Our patrols were active night 29/30 Oct in mopping up operations to the front, and a further 7 prisoners were brought in.
8. At dawn 30 Oct, patrols 1000 yds fwd of FDL's reported no trace of enemy, and at 1100 hrs, CO ordered Bn to adv to the ridge 87003013 to 86883024 (Vide Trace Appx "B"). This ridge commanded all ground NE to ry line and the adv was accomplished without opposition other than arty fire. A further 3 prisoners were taken.
9. From 30 Oct until 4 Nov 42, Bn remained in occupation of this area with primary role counter-attack to the NORTH to oppose any breakthrough on 24 Bde front.
10. On 4 Nov 42, Bn moved back to its present location in PT 26 area.

SECTION FIVE

1. Operation of tks

- (a) The attack night 28/29 Oct 42 was supported by 46 R.T.R. with whom this Bn had carried out previous trg exercises. It was planned that tps should ride on tks from start line through to the ry at 87003045 on a frontage of 100 yds, and in 3 cols travelling abreast.
- (b) Plan was largely upset by the casualties sustained by tks on minefd fwd of start line, and further casualties due to enemy A Tk gun fire.
- (c) The opinion is firmly held that tks cannot be successfully employed at night where freedom to manoeuvre is limited by minefds.

- (d) The efficiency of the tk compass is also questioned, having regard to the fact that every tk comd was instructed as to the bearing of the attack (25°) and in no instance was this bearing followed.
- (e) Blindness of tk crews at night is greatly accentuated by tendency of some crews to close turret lids immediately fire commences.
- (f) At 0600 hrs morning 29 Oct 42, it was reported by 2 i/c 46 R.T.R. (who assumed comd when CO became casualty), that he had only 7 runners remaining out of his total Bn strength which had entered the attack.
- (g) It is considered that it is practicable for tps to ride on tks only during approach march, and that inf must dismount and continue adv on foot, immediately opposition is encountered.

2. Signals

- (a) This operation was outstanding for the excellent manner in which signals operated throughout. Comn within the Bn was by No 18 Sets, Lucas lamps equipped with Coy colours and L/T on reorgzn.
- (b) R/T was used only when lines were broken, and the standing instn to sigs was that immediately a line went out, the Coy set concerned would come on the air. Constant listening watch was maintained at control.
- (c) Comn to Bde HQ was by line and No 11 Set, the latter being easily the more effective. During the attack the No 11 Set was maintained in a carrier, and comn with Bde was continuous throughout the action.
- (d) As mentioned in preceding sections, comn with tks was extremely difficult, based as it was on personal contact or visual signals, neither of which were effective under night fighting conditions.
- (e) Lucas lamps with use of distinctive coloured screen for each Rifle Coy again proved their effectiveness as a means of indicating Coy HQ, of passing simple messages and also to indicate Coy boundaries for co-ordination of sp arms fire on reorgzn at night.
- (f) No 18 Sets were used only at short ranges, and generally speaking were successful. Shortness in supply of battle batteries was disadvantage in operation of these sets.

3. Tpk -

- (a) It has been established that it is not practicable for the A Ech convoy to travel at a fixed distance in rear of the battle formation at night, because of the difficulty of judging distances in darkness and under fire. In future ops it is intended that A Ech vehs shall move in bounds, according to a timed programme, the convoy leader being responsible for recce from bound to bound before moving his vehs up.
- (b) It is considered that a jeep or other light veh capable of quick movement should be provided for TO or other offr i/c of convoy to enable recces to be carried out quickly.
- (c) It has been found that one 3 ton veh as provided in establishment is inadequate for tpt of pnr stores incl mines for quick reorgzn. Two vehs appear to be minimum requirements for this task.

4. Mortars, MMG, A Tk

The value of previous trg in quick re-orgzn was evident in the manner in which Bn Sp Arms were able to come fwd and establish fire posns quickly and efficiently on reorgzn. Both Mortars and MMGs were active at first light morning 29 Oct 42, engaging opportunity targets and enemy posns 800 to 1000 yds NE of the Bn line. One sec of MMGs was used effectively to sp a patrol sent to capture a sniper post on the evening 29 Oct 42. 37mm A Tk guns towed well behind Coy A Ech carriers, and were in posn almost as soon as the Coys reached their objective. No opportunities occurred for use of Bn A Tk gun wpns.

5. Q Operations

- (a) Rations, supplies and water were provided on adequate scale, and hot meals were brought fwd to the tps every night, though at varying times, because of rd traffic conditions.
- (b) As in previous ops, difficulty was experienced owing to lack of containers cooking. This Unit has repeatedly endeavoured to bring its supply of this eqpt up to WE, but apparently stores are not available. At the present time containers held represent 50% of WE.
- (c) During the period of intensive fighting, difficulty is experienced in accurate preparation of returns of warlike stores, and on this occasion, census was submitted showing a number of deficiencies of which considerable quantity were recovered in the ensuing 2 or 3 days. Suggested that where possible, Q returns of this nature should be allowed to be with-held until the Unit is able to search the battle area after an offensive action.
- (d) The Unit has had occasion to construct lighted centre lines for night ops, and batteries torch dry lamp, and bulbs 2.5 volts were used in fairly large quantities. As these stores are required for normal use for which they are supplied, it is suggested that some special provision be made in E2 Series to cover stores for this purpose.
- (e) During ops, comms to Bn regarding Q matters, location of sup pts, WPs, etc, should be addressed direct to Unit B Ech, and rtd to fwd HQ. Delay in transmission of messages has frequently meant the late arrival of this infm at B Ech.

SECTION SIX

Summary of casualties sustained by the Bn in this operation is as follows :-

	<u>Oftrs</u>	<u>CRs</u>	<u>Total</u>
(a) Killed in Action	1	22	23
Died of wounds	3	3	6
Missing		6	6
Wounded in Action	12	159	171
WIA and Remained on Duty		1	1
Detached Casualty	<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>
TOTAL BATTLE CASUALTIES	17	191	208
Accidental injuries		8	8
Evacuated sick		<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>
GRAND TOTAL	17	259	276

(b) Total casualties sustained by the Unit from 10 Jul 42 to date, now amount to :-

	<u>Ofrs</u>	<u>ORs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Killed in Action	8	96	104
Died of Wounds	5	12	17
Missing	1	14	15
Wounded in Action	22	342	364
Wounded & ROB	2	15	17
Prisoners of War	<u>1</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
GRAND TOTAL	39	490	529
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R. E. Wall
Lt-Col
Comd. 2/23 Aust. Inf. Bn.
(R. E. WALL)

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

The Prevention of Malaria

A copy of this pamphlet should be in the possession of every Officer, who should convey the information contained in it to the Non-Commissioned Officers and men serving under him.

The instructions given refer especially to the dangerous season in malarious areas, and units will be informed when the measures described are to be applied.

The Prevention of Malaria

1. *Importance of Malaria in War.*

So extensive may the effects of malaria, and the resultant loss of man power, be in campaigns in a malarious area, that this disease should always be considered especially in any appreciation of the conduct of a campaign in such countries.

The success of a military campaign conducted in a malarious country may be gravely jeopardised by the incidence of malaria among the troops engaged. In the Great War our armies and those of the enemy operating in malarious countries suffered severely from this disease. The casualties from malaria often much exceeded those from enemy action. An allied force of 120,000 men was so incapacitated by malaria that at one time it was impossible to keep more than 20,000 men in the line, and it was ultimately reported that the force was immobilised in hospital. The enemy was in a like condition, and one saw three of the finest and best equipped armies in the world so disabled by malaria that neither side could make any progress. On some other fronts, conditions were perhaps even worse.

It is well known that malaria will attack newcomers from non-malarious countries much more severely than the local inhabitants of malarious countries, and that the very nature of military operations are often conducive to the creation of conditions favourable for the spread of the disease. Experience of military camps or cantonments in the tropics in peace-time cannot be compared with active service conditions in highly malarious countries. The difference in degree is that between slight inconvenience and what may amount to total incapacitation.

Malaria is a preventable disease and, in view of the havoc which it may cause in a fighting force, it is obviously the duty of every officer and N.C.O. to do all in his power to safeguard the health and efficiency of the personnel under his command. The ways and means of preventing malaria are not difficult of comprehension, but if they are to be successful they must be carried out with extreme thoroughness. Fortunately, malaria is a seasonal disease in many countries, and sustained effort is therefore necessary for only that part of the year when active transmission is going on—the "malaria season."

An intelligent understanding of the factors governing the transmission and spread of malaria, and of the principles underlying the preventive measures advocated, will facilitate the conduct of a successful anti-malaria campaign.

Malaria is an infectious disease which is transmitted from man to man through the bites of infected mosquitoes. Not all mosquitoes are capable of transmitting malaria, but only some species of the genus *Anopheles*. Before a mosquito can infect man it must have fed previously on an infected person and must have survived subsequently for a period of at least 10 days, this being the time necessary for the germ to develop in the mosquito. The parasite is injected into man in the saliva ("spit") of the infected insect. Persons harbouring malaria parasites in their blood are, therefore, a source of danger to healthy persons. For this reason the local inhabitants of a malarious locality are a dangerous source of infection to healthy troops and so, of course, are troops who have acquired malaria and who have not undergone an adequate course of treatment.

Bearing these simple facts in mind, it will be clear that our efforts to prevent the incidence of malaria among troops may be directed along several different lines:—

- (a) *The protection of troops against the bites of mosquitoes.*
- (b) *The destruction of adult mosquitoes.*
- (c) *The elimination or reduction of the mosquito population by treating breeding places in and around camps.*
- (d) *The segregation of persons infected with malaria so that they cannot infect mosquitoes, or the sterilisation of the blood of infected persons by adequate treatment.*

It is chiefly in regard to (a) and (b) above that the willing and whole-hearted co-operation of all officers and men is essential. Special organisations exist for the more technical methods of attack directed along the lines indicated in (c) and (d). It will be realised, however, that, under active service conditions, there may be insuperable difficulties in the way of employing elaborate control measures over extensive areas. It follows, therefore, that the nearer troops are to the front line the less work of this kind can be done for them, and the more they must rely on measures of personal protection, carried out by themselves.

3. — *Methods of malaria prevention to be carried out by unit commanders.*

- (a) *Selection of healthy sites for camps.* (Vide G.O. 1152 of 1942, and Appendix IV). Camp sites must be selected with great care when operating in malarious localities. A unit camped on

an unsuitable site may become severely infected with malaria, whereas another unit, camped on a suitable site, may remain healthy even though it may be within a mile of the first camp. Even one night spent in a highly malarious site may give rise to a large amount of sickness. Where possible, the advice of a medical officer should be sought in choosing camp sites. No hard and fast rules can be laid down for guidance, except that camps should be located as far as possible from villages or habitations, and from marshes and streams which are known or are suspected to be breeding places of mosquitoes. The fact that it may be necessary to transport water over increased distances should not over-ride the desirability of avoiding proximity to dangerous mosquito-breeding places. Where military considerations make it imperative to occupy unsuitable camp sites, preventive measures against malaria should be undertaken with special thoroughness. Attempts should be made to keep the main body of the troops in a healthy site at night, and to reduce the number present in an unhealthy one to an absolute minimum.

(b) Equipment of Troops entering malarious areas.

Units, parties, or individuals proceeding into malarious areas during the malaria season, should be fully supplied with all the necessary anti-malarial equipment and stores **before** going there (vide G.O. 1152 of 1942, and Appendix VI).

(c) Personal protection of troops against mosquito-bites. **Personal protection against mosquito-bites is the most important of all methods of malaria prevention under active service condition, and it should therefore be undertaken with special zeal by all ranks.** Malaria-carrying mosquitoes attack man between sundown and sunrise, and it is usually only between these times that precautions need be taken. Some mosquitoes feed most actively at dusk, some during the night, and some at or just before dawn. No relaxation of effort can therefore be permitted between dusk and dawn. The vicinity of all villages and all habitations used by local people, should be placed out of bounds between sunset and sunrise because infected mosquitoes abound in such places.

The methods of personal protection against mosquito-bites most suited to active service conditions are (i) the use of mosquito or sandfly curtains, or bush nets (or in their absence mosquito-proofed shelter or bivouac tents); (ii) the wearing of protective clothing; (iii) the use of mosquito repellants (anti-mosquito cream) applied to the exposed parts of the body; and (iv) the wearing of special

veils and gloves during night duty. [Vide Appendices I and III (2)].

- (i) *Nets or Curtains for use against Mosquitoes or Sandflies.* If properly used, these are perhaps the most valuable single method of personal protection. There are no occasions on which their use can be dispensed with during the malaria season. Types suitable for service conditions are made available for issue to all troops. They must be carefully handled, and be inspected daily for the presence of tears or holes which, if found, must be repaired immediately. Owing to the difficulties in replacement of anti-malarial equipment, it should be a matter of strict unit discipline that every effort is made to avoid damage to and loss of nets.
- (ii) *Personal Protective Clothing.* Mosquitoes will not bite through ordinary clothing unless it is thin and tightly stretched. They will, however, bite readily through ordinary socks or stockings, but not through puttees. It is important that the body should be adequately protected against mosquito bites, not only while sleeping, but also between sundown and bedtime, and between reveille and sunrise. (It is often wise to postpone reveille, if possible, until after sunrise in highly malarious localities). Suitable protective clothing consists of shirts or tunics with long sleeves, buttoned down at the wrist to protect the arms, and long "shorts" with flaps turned down, and puttees or gaiters or slacks with boots, to protect the legs and ankles. (Vide Appendix V).
- (iii) *Anti-mosquito cream.* This is a personal issue to all ranks. It should be smeared on the hands, face, and neck, whenever protective clothing is worn or, in the unavoidable absence of the latter, on *all exposed parts* of the body. The application of mosquito cream should be made at intervals not exceeding two hours. When troops are turned out of bed by night alarms and during night operations, cream should always be used freely.
- (iv) *Gloves and Veils.* In certain circumstances where mosquitoes are very numerous, and cream is insufficient to repel the attacks of these insects, special gloves and veils will be issued. These are designed for the protection of personnel who are engaged on duties such as guards and patrols at night, and who are therefore particularly liable to be bitten by infected mosquitoes.

When the use of gloves and veils is not practicable, anti-mosquito cream should be liberally and frequently applied.

Details regarding the issue, use, maintenance, and replacement of nets, veils, and gloves, anti-mosquito cream, etc., are given in Appendix I.

(d) *Destruction of adult mosquitoes by insecticidal sprays.*

In recent years it has been shown that the regular use of insecticidal sprays, as Flysol, Flit, etc., to destroy adult mosquitoes, is an anti-malarial measure of the first importance. The method is one which is capable of being carried out in barracks, huts, tents, bivouacs, etc., as a routine during the malaria season. The success which has attended the use of this measure is attributable to the repeated opportunity afforded of killing mosquitoes which have fed on infected individuals before the mosquitoes actually become infective to man. As has been pointed out above, an interval of at least ten days must elapse to allow of the complete development of the parasite in the mosquito. Regular daily spraying greatly reduces the number of infected mosquitoes in barracks or camps, and this reduction will be associated with a corresponding reduction in the number of malaria cases and in the severity of individual malarial attacks. When properly carried out, insecticidal spraying is a most valuable anti-malarial measure, and must be a carefully organised routine procedure during the malaria season. Details of the supplies and equipment necessary, and advice about the organisation and times of spraying are given in Appendix II.

(e) *Destruction of mosquitoes in their aquatic stages within camp limits.* The egg, larval, and pupal stages of mosquitoes develop in water. (These correspond to the egg, caterpillar, and chrysalis stages of the butterfly). The time required for the completion of these three stages is over one week, even under most favourable conditions. It follows that adult mosquitoes cannot emerge if water is not allowed to remain standing within camps for more than a week. Units are held responsible for ensuring that no water is left standing within camp limits for more than one week. The routine practice advocated is that a special inspection should be held between stated hours on a given day in each week, during which all

water containers are emptied, and the absence of other standing water verified. In special instances it may be impossible to deal with *all* standing water in this way, and the advice of the Malaria Medical Officer or of a Field Hygiene Section should be sought as to the best method of dealing with any such water.

4. — *Organisation and Discipline.*

The prevention of disease in the field involves more than administrative and executive control, or the provision of suitable equipment and stores. It calls for individual effort and care on the part of each officer and other rank, and determination on the part of both the higher and the subordinate commands to enforce sanitary discipline. It is in fact the influence and example of the individual more than the system which can be responsible for the maintenance of a high standard of health, and the resulting high standard of efficiency.

Officers should impress on their men the dangers to health and efficiency which arise from attacks of malaria, and should explain to them the reasons for the anti-malaria measures enforced. **Strong disciplinary action should be taken against those who fail to carry out routine preventive measures during the malaria season. Failure to observe such precautionary measures is tantamount to self-inflicted injury, and on a large scale may endanger the success of the campaign.***

Defects in the working of routine anti-malarial measures in units will be detected only if frequent and thorough inspections are carried out. Officers on orderly duty should give special attention to this. The amount of malarial sickness which develops later may also be an indication of imperfect measures of personal prevention.

The measures advocated for use by units are not difficult, irksome, nor time-consuming if they are properly organised and carried out as part of the regular routine of camp life. In many places the enforcement of anti-malaria measures will be necessary for only a few months at a time, and on their careful execution will depend the health and efficiency of the unit for the entire year.

5. — *Suppressive Treatment.* (Vide Appendix VII).

In military campaigns suppressive (so-called prophylactic) treatment is only an emergency measure. It does *not prevent*

(*) The attention of all Officers is drawn to their grave responsibilities in regard to the preservation and maintenance of the health of the men under their command [vide Appendix III (1)].

men from getting malarial infection, but is a method for *suppressing* malarial sickness (mainly fever) and keeping men on their feet. It is therefore used to conserve efficiency and man-power *temporarily* under conditions where it is impracticable to prevent by other means large numbers of men falling sick with malaria. The fact that such treatment is ordered is *not* an indication that other measures may be relaxed, but that they should be carried out with increased strictness, more especially measures of personal protection.

The success of this treatment depends mainly upon the regularity with which it is taken in the doses and at the times ordered. This requires not only very strict unit discipline and supervision to enforce orders, but also the active co-operation of all ranks.

This form of treatment will only be given on the recommendation of the D.D.M.S. or the Senior Administrative Medical Officer of the force. When its use is ordered, wherever possible, it *will be given at special parades on which all Officers and men will be present*. The presence of Officers will show the men that the same rule applies to all ranks, and also that Officers do not get special medicine, as has sometimes been asserted.

Appendix I.

PERSONAL ANTI-MALARIAL REQUIREMENTS.

In view of the great wastage of man-power that malaria may cause during the malaria season, every Officer, N.C.O., and man should be in possession of (i) personal protective clothing, (ii) an appropriate mosquito or sandfly net, and (iii) anti-mosquito cream, in a proper container.

These articles should be a personal issue to all troops in malarious areas, and should be in their possession immediately *before* the malaria season starts, or *before* troops enter a malarious country during that season. (See General Order No. 1152 of 1942, and Appendix VI) Their possession should be verified at every kit or equipment inspection made during that period.

1. — *Protective clothing* (see appendices III and V).

Between dusk and dawn, slacks and boots, or long "shorts" and puttees or gaiters, with long-sleeved shirts tunics or jackets, *must* be worn. The sleeves must be rolled down, and these and the shirt must be buttoned at the wrists and neck respectively. *In certain areas* veils and gloves will be issued on a 10% basis for the special protection of guards and sentries, and up to 100% in special circumstances.

2. — *Mosquito or sand fly nets, and mosquito-proofed bivouac and shelter tents.*

(a) *Nets.* Three types are supplied by the R.A.O.C. :—

(i) *Curtains, mosquito (or sandfly).* These nets are intended primarily for use with beds by troops not expected to serve in the front line, but can be used in forward areas if the means for hanging them are available.

(ii) *Bush Nets.* These are low rectangular nets provided with four supporting poles erected by means of guy ropes and pegs. They are intended for use when troops are operating in the open.

(iii) *Nets, Bivouac (mosquito or sandfly).* These are intended to form an inner detachable lining to "tents shelter, Mark III", and certain types of bivouac tents, but can be used separately. Each accommodates two persons.

(b) *Tents, Bivouac or Shelter, Mosquito-proofed.* These are of two types, and their possession does not do away with the need for the possession a personal net.

(i) *Tents, Bivouac (mosquito-proofed).* These are made in one piece, and have a continuous netting protection at both ends, which slides up and down the guy ropes.

(ii) *Tents, Shelter (mosquito-proofed)* are formed of two canvas sheets, carried separately. To each part is attached a flap of netting at either end. When the two pieces are joined together to form a shelter, mosquitoes are excluded by overlapping the netting flaps at each end.

Hints on the Use of Mosquito Nets, etc.

(a) Mosquito nets must be inspected daily to ensure that they are in good repair. All tears and holes should be repaired immediately.

(b) Mosquito nets must be put up and arranged so as to prevent the entry of mosquitoes. Those used with beds should be put down one hour before sundown, and be carefully tucked under the mattress. Bush nets, and tents, bivouac mosquito, and sandfly, are provided with pockets which should be filled with sand or stones to keep the lower edge of the net in close contact with the ground. Care should also be taken that the lower edges of the tents or shelters are pegged tightly against the ground. All troops should receive special instruction as to the proper method of using nets, etc.

3. — *Anti-mosquito cream.*

(a) Anti-mosquito cream is issued by the R.A.S.C. It is estimated that the consumption is 1/10 oz. per man per day during the malaria season.

(b) Containers for anti-mosquito cream are issued from the R.A.O.C., for 100% strength.

Appendix II. ANTI-MOSQUITO SPRAYING.

1. — *Requirements.*

(a) *Spray apparatus.* Pumps, spray, for use with Flysol are a R.A.O.C. supply and are authorised for 10% of the strength for use against mosquitoes plus 2% for anti-fly purposes.

These pumps are similar to the ordinary "Flit gun." In addition, larger continuous sprayers known as the "Manney Hand Spray" are authorised on the scale of 1 per 150 men in certain areas.

(b) *Spray Mixture.* Flysol is used and is a R.A.S.C. (S.T.) supply. The authorised maximum scale for anti-mosquito measures is 30 gallons per 1,000 men per month.

2. — *Application of mosquito spraying.*

(a) The object to be attained is to produce a fine cloud of spray in the quarter to be treated. The cloud should penetrate to all corners. The effect of the spray is independent of direct hits on mosquitoes and is analogous to fumigation. It is estimated that the amount of Flysol required to create an adequate cloud is 1oz. per 3,000 cubic feet of space in the barrack, hut, tent, or bivouac treated. The following information will serve as a guide to the amounts required.

(i) Barrack Room 60 ft. × 18 ft. × 12 ft. requires 4½ ozs. or about 400 full strokes of the pump or the Flit gun.

(ii) Tents I.P. Privates require ¼ oz. or about 75 full strokes.

(iii) „ I.P. S/Sgt. „ ¼ oz. „ „ 25 „ „

(iv) „ 180 lbs. „ ¼ oz. „ „ 25 „ „

(v) „ R.D. „ ⅓ oz. „ „ 35 „ „

(vi) „ C.D. or C.S. „ ⅕ oz. „ „ 20 „ „

(b) Spraying is most efficacious when carried out as soon as possible after dawn, and should be done at this time where practicable, e.g., in standing camps, in order to catch the mosquitoes before they are disturbed and leave the quarter. In exceptional instances it may be impracticable to spray quarters in the mornings, and in such, spraying should be carried out at, or soon after, dusk, or at both times.

(c) Before spraying, rooms or huts should be closed up as tightly as possible. In the case of tents the flaps should be lowered. After spraying quarters should be left closed for at least 15 minutes.

(d) Units must arrange the details of spraying operations to suit their circumstances. Special unit squads may be employed for this work in the case of barracks or huts, but in the case of tents it

may be more convenient to detail one man to take charge of spraying each tent. Constant change of personnel engaged in spraying is not desirable.

Appendix III.

UNIT ANTI-MALARIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. — *General.*

Malaria has been the greatest cause of sickness and loss of man-power among armies operating in the Middle East in the past. The success of future operations in this area may be seriously jeopardised by the failure to *enforce and carry out strictly all orders* about the prevention of this disease.

The attention of all Officers is directed to the following Orders and Regulations:—

(a) G.O. No. 1152 of 1942.

“All ranks will be held responsible for making themselves fully acquainted with these orders and for ensuring that the required precautions are observed by themselves and by those under their command.”

“Any officer or other rank not complying with the orders issued will be considered guilty of grave dereliction of duty and will be liable to severe disciplinary actions”.

“Until further notice, all formations and units will publish fortnightly in their orders a reminder of the importance of anti-malaria measures, drawing attention to the Annexure to this General Order”.

“Commanding Officers are reminded that they are responsible for the maintenance of the health of their men, and that they incur grave responsibility if they neglect to enforce orders relating to this subject. Their wholehearted cooperation, and that of every officer, N.C.O. and man is especially necessary in malaria control and severe disciplinary action will be taken in all cases of disobedience of orders.”

(b) (i) F.S.R. (1930) Vol. I, Sect. 68. “The maintenance of a high standard of health is one of the most important responsibilities of command. The Medical Services will be responsible for advising commanders in carrying out these duties.”

(ii) F.S.R. (1930) Vol. I, Sect. 145. “The commander of every formation and unit in the field will be responsible for the sanitary condition of the area occupied by his command, irrespective of the period for which it may be occupied, and for the enforcement of all orders regarding health and sanitation.”

- (iii) King's Regulations (1940), Para. 80. "Officers will pay particular attention to the preservation of the health of troops. The responsibility for efficient supervision, and for remedying sanitary defects rests with C.Os. and, through them, on subordinate commanders. Medical Officers are charge with advising General and other Os.C., who will incur grave responsibility if such advice is neglected without adequate reason."

2. — *Special measures.*

Under conditions of active service, and more especially when the modern type of mobile warfare is in progress, the prevention of malaria is very largely a matter of personal protection. The efficiency of this will depend upon the strictness with which the appropriate orders are obeyed. These are given in Section I.D. (c), of M.E.F. General Order No. 1152 of 1942, which reads as follows:—

"The Officer Commanding a unit will be responsible for all anti-malarial measures within his own unit lines.

In highly malarious areas during the malaria season, he will ensure:—

- (i) that each officer, N.C.O. and man is provided with either a mosquito, sandfly, or bush net, and that these nets are always kept in good repair;
- (ii) that such nets are used throughout the night by all ranks not on duty, and that frequent inspections are made at night to ensure that they are properly used;
- (iii) that each officer, N.C.O. and man has a proper container with anti-mosquito cream, and that the cream is smeared on all exposed parts of the body from sundown onwards at two-hourly intervals until they go under the protection of their nets. Special attention should be paid to its use by all ranks engaged on night duties and during night operations or alarms;
- (iv) that between sunset and sunrise all ranks wear slacks, or "long" shorts with flaps turned down, mosquito boots, or boots with puttees or gaiters, and long-sleeved shirts, jackets or tunics with sleeves fastened at the wrists and collars closed (see Appendix V below).
- (v) that guards and sentries are provided with gloves and veils to be used after dusk when circumstances permit, and where mosquitoes are troublesome and anti-mosquito cream is not sufficient to repel them. The normal rate of issue will be 10% of unit strength, but up to 100% may be issued in special circumstances on the recommendation of the D.D.M.S. of the formation;

- (vi) that all occupied quarters, tents or bivouacs are closed and sprayed with Flysol each morning as soon as possible after Reveille, and that the detailed instructions for spraying given in Appendix "F" are followed (where mosquitoes and sandflies are numerous, spraying should be done before bedtime also); (see Appendix II above).
- (vii) that measures are taken to prevent mosquitoes breeding within camp areas;
- (viii) that the vicinity of all villages and all habitations used by local people are placed out of bounds between sunset and sunrise;
- (ix) that medical advice is sought in the selection of camp sites; (see Appendix IV below).
- (x) that the troops under his command are properly equipped before proceeding to a highly malarious or malarious area during the malaria season (see Appendix VI. below);
- (xi) that when suppressive treatment is ordered, every effort is made to ensure that the prescribed dose is taken daily by every officer, N.C.O. and man (see Appendix VII below);
- (xii) that each officer has a copy of the pamphlet, "The Prevention of Malaria", and that the information contained therein is conveyed to all N.C.Os. and men; and that each N.C.O. and man has a copy of the leaflet, "Danger. Instructions for the Prevention of Malaria in Malarious Areas";
- (xiii) that special unit orders are issued to bring the above procedure into force before the commencement of the malaria season, if the unit is stationed in a highly malarious or malarious area; otherwise immediately before entering such an area. These orders will be republished once a month during the malaria season."

"In *malarious* as opposed to highly malarious areas, the Commanding Officer of a unit will ensure that the measures listed under (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (vii), (viii), (ix), (x), (xii) and (xiii), are taken. In special circumstances other measures may also be taken."

"Unit orders will be issued that officers and men will report sick at once if they have fever. On no account will they treat themselves."

"Every unit will have, in addition to its other sanitary personnel an Anti-Malaria Squad formed from unit personnel. This will consist of one N.C.O. and three O.Rs. per infantry battalion or similar unit, and a proportionate number for other units. A trained reserve of 100% will be maintained. Unit anti-malaria squads will be trained by unit Medical

Officers who will supervise their work".

“The scale of R.A.O.C. equipment for unit anti-malaria work is given in Appendix “D” and the scale of R.A.S.C. supplies as Appendix “E” to G.O. No. 1152 of 1942”.

Appendix IV.

SELECTION OF AREAS FOR BASE INSTALLATIONS, CAMP SITES, Etc.

G.O., M.E.F. No. 1152 of 1942 (Section 1.D (a)).

“The selection of a healthy site is one of the most important anti-malarial measures. When any reconnaissance is projected to site camps, base installations, etc., in malarious areas, an officer of the Medical Services, will invariably be a member of the party, to advise on projected sites from the malaria point of view. This advice will be followed unless very urgent reasons make other action necessary, These reasons will be placed on record.”

“Early notice of such reconnaissances will be given to the Medical Branch of H.Q. formation concerned, so that the most suitable officer available may be detailed.”

Appendix V.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING.

G.O., M.E.F. No. 1152 of 1942 (Section 2).

“(a) When summer clothing has been issued, shirts, bush shirts and tunics of all kinds will have long sleeves. Thence forward *on no account, at any time of the day or night in any part of the Middle East*, will officers or other ranks wear shirts, bush shirts or tunics with short sleeves.”

“(b) With effect from 1st April 1942, in all parts of the Middle East, any shirts or tunics with short sleeves in the possession of men will be withdrawn. Men who thereafter cut short the long sleeves will pay for their replacement.”

“(c) Units in possession of short-sleeved shirts or tunics, issued as such, will render a return through normal channels to Ordnance showing the numbers held. Ordnance will arrange replacement by the long-sleeved type.”

“(d) When the summer scale of clothing has been issued, each soldier will be issued with either trousers K.D. and/or “long” shorts. Until sufficient trousers are available, “long” shorts will be retained. When “long” shorts have been issued in lieu of trousers the flaps must *not* be removed until trousers have issued to replace them.”

“(e) When trousers have been issued, “long” shorts may be converted. Each Officer and O.R. must, however, be in possession *at all times* of either trousers or “long” shorts when on summer scale of clothing. (The procedure as regards cost of conversion and disposal of spare material is given in M.E.F. General Order No. 706 of 1942, paras 3 and 4).”

“(f) From 1st April until the end of the malaria season in all areas declared to be malarious, sleeves will *not* be worn rolled up during the hours between sunset and sunrise nor in such other places nor at such other times as may be ordered locally.”

“(g) During the same period in the same areas, either trousers of “long” shorts with the flaps down, mosquito boots or boots with gaiters or puttees will be worn between sunset and sunrise.”

“(h) “Short” shorts may be worn at all times in areas declared to be non-malarious.”

“*Note.* — It has been observed that many units have been particularly careless as regards compliance with these orders on the subject of the use of protective clothing. It is a matter requiring the closest attention.”

Appendix VI. EQUIPMENT OF TROOPS PROCEEDING TO MALARIOUS AREAS.

G.O., M.E.F., No. 1152 of 1942 (Section 3).

“(a) The following countries in which troops are stationed at present — Palestine, Syria, the Lebanon, Iraq, Iran and Cyprus — are classified as malarious areas. Units, parties or individuals proceeding to any of these areas between 1st March and 1st November will take with them either curtains or bush nets (mosquito or sandfly), also filled anti-mosquito cream containers and personal protective clothing, as well as the other anti-malarial stores and equipment laid down for them in the Appendices to this Supplement.”

“In the case of the Sudan and Eritrea this Order applies to all times of the year.”

“(b) In cases where the necessary items are not already in possession, indents will be submitted to the appropriate R.A.O.C. and R.A.S.C. Depots on receipt of the warning order to move.”

Appendix VII. SUPPRESSIVE (SO-CALLED PROPHYLACTIC) TREATMENT OF MALARIA.

G.O., M.E.F., No. 1152 of 1942 (Section 4b).

“(i) The chief methods of malaria prevention are laid down above. The success of these, especially under active service conditions, depends very largely on the thoroughness with which measures of personal protection are carried out by the individual.

(ii) Under special circumstances, and in highly malarious areas only, it may be necessary to reinforce the above measures

with suppressive treatment by quinine or mepacrine (atebrin), which is helpful in preventing the development of malarial attacks and conserving temporarily the health and efficiency of troops.

- (iii) The D.D.M.S. or Senior Administrative Medical Officer of a formation will make recommendations to the Commander as to areas which are considered highly malarious and as to when suppressive treatment is considered necessary and its details. He will keep the G.H.Q., M.E.F., informed of any recommendations for suppressive treatment he makes.
- (iv) Supply and distribution of quinine or mepacrine will be the responsibility of the Medical Services. These services will also be responsible for advising in regard to, and supervising the administration of suppressive treatment, and will issue detailed instructions as to source and method of supply of the drugs and arrangements to be made for administration.
- (v) Care will be taken to ensure that the treatment is available for all troops concerned. Special attention will be given to isolated detachments and bodies of troops, such as ration parties, leave parties, transport drivers, etc., as it is in these that malaria incidence is often high.
- (vi) Officers Commanding units and officers, N.C.Os. or O.Rs. in charge of detachments or parties will be responsible for carrying out all orders in connection with suppressive treatment other than those which are a medical responsibility. They will also impress on their men the great importance of taking suppressive treatment when ordered, and also of carrying out all orders in relations to general protection from mosquitoes. It should be emphasised that failure to do so may not only seriously affect the health of the individual, but may materially affect the success of the campaign.
- (vii) When suppressive treatment is ordered in any area, strict measures will be taken to ensure that every officer, N.C.O. and man swallows the prescribed dose on the days ordered. This will normally be done by special parades for the purpose. If this is not possible, Os. C. will be responsible that other suitable arrangements are made. Suppressive treatment will also be taken by patients in hospitals in such an area, unless contra-indicated by their condition or disease.
- viii) Special registers will be kept by units, detachments, etc., and entries will be made against each man's name to show whether or not he has taken his treatment."

WD. Appx. 11

Pro-Forma
C.2128.

MESSAGE FORM

TO : HQ, A, B, C, D Coys, QM, TO, IO, Pnr Offr, Sig Offr, RMO,
rptd 2 i/c.

FROM : BHQ

25

A105

SECRET	(.)	Move	to	PALESTINE	(.)
Following	adv	party	will	prepare	to
move	on	10 mins	notice	26 Nov	under
comd	2 i/c	(.)	1	offr	per
Rifle	Coy	with	batmen	Lieut	MULCAHY
batman	1	Int	pte	med	ord
1	Pnr	NCO	10	Pnrs	1
Sig	NCO	1	Hyg	pte	RQMS
1	storeman	1	cook	with	utensils
(.)	TO	provide	2	3-ton	vehs
(.)	Start	time	Start	pt	advised
later	(.)	Vehs	will	load	at
BHQ	(.)	Sub-units	provide	unexpired	portion
days	ration	plus	4	days	rations
1	water	tin	per	man	(.)
Vehs	carry	50	miles	POL	res
(.)	TO	ensure	max	number	trestles
forms	taken	(.)	Movement	staging	instns
as	advised	to	2 i/c	(.)	All
informed	(.)	ACK			

IMMEDIATE DR

[Signature]
Capt.

TOO 1153

MESSAGE FORM

Appx 12
Serial No.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS	IN	No. of Groups. GR.	Office Date Stamp WID.
	OUT		

Copy

TO *I.O.* (ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

FROM <i>Adjt</i>	Originator's Number <i>A.106</i>	Date <i>25</i>	In Reply to Number		
<i>Ref.</i>	<i>A.105</i>	<i>Secret</i>	<i>Adv.</i>	<i>party</i>	
<i>personnel</i>	<i>with</i>	<i>ALL</i>	<i>Stores</i>	<i>RV</i>	
<i>BHQ</i>	<i>0515</i>	<i>his</i>	<i>Nox</i>	<i>42</i>	
<i>0</i>	<i>Moane</i>	<i>off</i>	<i>RV</i>	<i>88842944</i>	
<i>0630</i>	<i>his</i>	<i>report</i>	<i>GREEN</i>	<i>RAA</i>	
<i>0</i>	<i>conway</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>ALAMEIN</i>	<i>0700</i>	

This message may be sent **As Written** by any means
*(except)
(.....) Wireless

This message must be sent **In Cipher** if liable to interception or to fall into enemy hands

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

Time of Origin

Signature.....

Signature.....

* Originator may delete "except" and insert "including" (Below this line is for Signals use Only.)

System in	Time in	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

MESSAGE FORM

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS	IN	No. of Groups. GR.	Serial No.
	OUT		Office Date Stamp

②

TO (ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

FROM	Originator's Number	Date	In Reply to Number
his	A. 106	25	
his	1030	1100	his
armie	NATRUN	1415	0
Report	Conway	at	NATRUN
for	orders	0	impaired
0	Ack		

This message may be sent As Written by any means *(except) (.....) Wireless Signature..... <i>Paul. [unclear]</i>	This message must be sent In Cipher if liable to interception or to fall into enemy hands Signature.....	Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority	Time of Origin 1323
---	--	---	------------------------

* Originator may delete "except" and insert "including" (Below this Line is for Signals use Only.)

System in	Time in	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender	System out	Time out	Reader	Sender

T.H.I.
T.O.R.

2/23 Aust Inf Bn Trg Instn No 8.

TRG OF REGTL POLICE

1. OBJECT

- (a) To train Bn RP's in route marking, sign posting, and traffic control.
- (b) To ensure that sufficient and efficient route marking and sign posting eqpt is maintained.
- (c) To train res personnel.

2. EQPT CHECK

RP Sgt will make a complete check, and submit report by 1800 hrs 24 Nov 42 on the number and condition of -

- (a) Serial signs (illuminated)
- (b) Serial signs (daylight only)
- (c) G Room, Bn and Coy HQ signs
- (d) Route marking flags
- (e) Centre line lamps and standards

3. TRG PROGRAMME

- (a) Will comprise -
 - (i) Lectures and, if possible, practical trg by staff of DAPM 9 Aust Div in traffic control duties. These lectures will be held from 0900 to 1200 hrs on 25 and 27 Nov 42.
 - (ii) A series of day and night exercises, involving route marking, and marking of axes of adv by night.
- (b) IO will arrange and supervise the following exercises to be carried out as normal RP duties will permit -
 - (i) Three daylight route marking exercises along tracks and rds.
 - (ii) Three daylight exercises involving marking of axis of adv across country.
 - (iii) Three night exercises involving illuminating of centre line, marking and lamping of assembly area and FUP.
- (c) Traces and timings for these exercises will be submitted to BHQ 24 hrs before commencement of each exercise.
- (d) In each case arrangements will be made by IO for efficiency of route marking, and marking of axis of adv to be tested by MT drs.
- (e) Attention of IO is directed to 26 Aust Inf Bde Trg Instn No 6.

4. RES PERSONNEL

Each Coy, incl HQ Coy, will detail one pte to report to RP Sgt at 0830 hrs 25 Nov 42, and thereafter as required for exercises. These personnel will not be transferred to RP Sec, but will be available as a trained res for future exercises or ops.

5. REPORTS ON TRG

Will be submitted by IO at conclusion of Bn trg period. Reports to reach BHQ by 1200 hrs 6 Dec 42. Report will incl suggestions for improvement of methods of route marking etc, also any modifications or improvements suggested to Unit eqpt for this purpose.

6. HDR TRG AND TESTS

Commencing 7 Dec 42, will be carried out in accordance with programme outlined in 26 Aust Inf Bde Trg Instn No 6.

[Signature]
Adj. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. ^{Capt}
(W. J. VINES)

DISTRIBN : List "C"
Copy No 5 RP Sgt; Copy No 12 HQ 26 Bde (For info)

2/23 AUST INF BN ADM INSTN NO 10

SECRET

DISPOSAL OF CAPTURED AND SURPLUS EQPT

1. Careful attention of all sub-unit Comds is directed to this instn. It is emphasised that the retention of captured and salvaged material or eqpt in excess of WE scale, may result in serious embarrassment to the Unit on the forthcoming move.
2. War Eqpt surplus to entitlements will be returned to QM by 1700 hrs 27 Nov 42. Actual physical check will be made within Coys and by QM in B Ech area, to ensure that this is done.
3. Captured wons
 - (a) ALL captured wons of every description will be returned to QM by 1700 hrs 27 Nov 42, and signatures obtained.
 - (b) QM will handover serviceable captured wons to 101 Aust Gen Tpt Coy, AASC, by 28 Nov 42 for return to CSD 6 AOD. US wons will be returned to Div Salvage Dump.
4. Amn
 - (a) All captured types will be returned to QM by 1700 hrs 27 Nov 42 for fwding to Div Salvage Dump.
 - (b) First line scale amn only will be taken. Any surplus will be returned by 1200 hrs 27 Nov 42 to RSM, who will return to Sup Pt.
5. Accommodation Stores
 - (a) All captured tentage, camp stores, and other accommodation stores will be fwded to QM by same time as other eqpt. QM will return to 13 Corps FOS SOUTH of ALAMEIN Sta.
 - (b) One-man bivouac tents within G1098 scale will be retained.
6. Vehs
 - (a) ALL captured enemy vehs will be returned to tpt Sgt for immediate evacuation by 1700 hrs 27 Nov 42. This includes all such vehs within Unit lines, whether on Unit charge or otherwise.
 - (b) As these vehs are NOT in condition to travel to 6 AOD, ALEXANDRIA, permission of 26 Aust Inf Bde has been obtained for them to be towed by tpt Sgt to Div Salvage Dump.
7. Jerricans, pet containers
 - (a) Tpt Sgt will ensure sufficient pet containers, incl pet jerricans, are held for carriage of 100 miles POL res per veh for all unit tpt. It is desired to avoid necessity for carrying tins pet. However, it is possible that jerricans may later be withdrawn at short notice.
 - (b) Surplus jerricans will be fwded to QM by 1700 hrs 27 Nov 42, for return to 101 Aust Gen Tpt Coy AASC by 28 Nov 42.
 - (c) Tpt Sgt will advise by 1000 hrs 27 Nov 42, total gallonage deficient, if any, in pet containers for purpose mentioned in para (a) above.
8. Containers, water, 2 gal

Sufficient for one gal per man only will be retained. Surplus to be fwded to QM by same time as other stores and eqpt for return to 101 Aust Gen Tpt Coy AASC.
9. Commando Boots

Will be fwded immediately to QM, and held in Unit bulk.
10. Camflg Nets
 - (a) Will be retained on scale -
 - 1 per lt veh
 - 2 per 30 cwt or above
 - (b) Surplus to QM for return to Div Salvage Dump.

11. Certificate

Certificate as under will be rendered by following sub-unit Comds to BHQ by 1800 hrs 28 Nov 42.

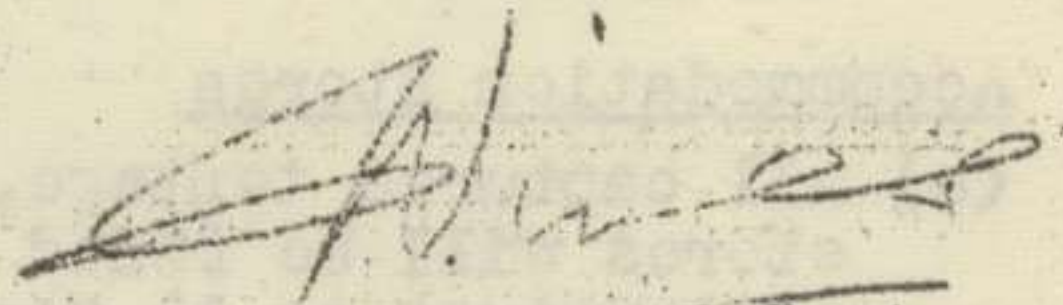
(a) To be rendered by all Coy Comds, QM, RMO, RSM (in respect of BHQ).

(b) Form of Certificate -

"I Certify that I have personally satisfied myself that no captured or salvaged stores, war eqpt or vehs are in possession of the sub-unit under my Comd, except such as are authorised in 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Adm Instn No 10.

I certify that captured and salvaged materials not authorised to be held by my sub-unit, have been surrendered to QM 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. (In the case of certificate by QM, he will certify that surrender has been made to Salvage or correct authority). Furthermore, I have satisfied myself to the best of my ability that no captured enemy eqpt or unauthorised British eqpt is held by individuals under my comd, except for souvenirs of a nature permitted by orders, and for which certificates are held."

(c) In connection with final para of certificate, attention is drawn to AIF (ME) Orders Nos 236, 298, and 1046, last rptd in Bn R/Os para 942 of 15 Nov 42.



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

DISTRIBN : List "B"

2/23 AUST INF BN OP ORDER (EX) W.D. NO 6

COPY NO 23

Ref Map : EL ALAMEIN 1/100,000.

28 Nov 42.

WAR DIARY

ITEM

1. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn is carrying out trg moves on 29 Nov 42, with objects -
 - (a) To maintain high standard of march and rd discipline
 - (b) To practice Bn drills for establishment and breaking of bivouac
 - (c) To plan and prepare for projected move.

INTENTION

2. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will move from present area to BARREL 40 in Sq 862299.

METHOD

3. Movement - By Unit tpt and tp carriers in convoy.
4. Assembly -
 - (a) Head of coln at SP by 0930 hrs.
 - (b) Other sers assemble at density ordered at 2 min intervals.
5. Route -)
6. SP -)
7. Speed, Density -) Vide Movement Table, Appx A.
8. Order of March -)
9. Allotment of Tp Carriers -)
10. Guides -

One per Coy report Tpt Sgt at RAP at 0900 hrs for distribn of tp carriers to Coy areas.
11. TCP's - Will be established by RP's at
 - (a) SP
 - (b) Junc Double Bar Track - Main Rd at 87832991
 - (b) Junc Sidi Rahman Track - Main Rd at 86613089
12. Recce Party -
 - (a) For siting of bivouac area, will comprise -
 - Bn 2 i/c
 - 1 offr or snr NCO per Coy
 - 1 RP
 - 1 Int pte
 - (b) Tpt - One car DS, 1 15-cwt provided by D Coy.
 - (c) Recce party will follow immediately in rear of Sig veh in BHQ gp, and will proceed fwd in adv of Main Body when so ordered by CO.
 - (d) Bn bivouac area will be sited in conformity with principals outlined in Appx B to 26 Aust Inf Bde Trg Instn No 7, (issued separately 27 Nov 42).
 - (e) Line of march along SIDI RAHMAN track will be considered as Bde Centre Axis.
 - (f)
 - (i) Sub-unit areas will be indicated by Coy ser signs.
 - (ii) Coy etc HQ will be marked by Coy flag.
 - (iii) Signs will be taken fwd with recce party.
13. Halt - (Practice)
 - (a) Practice halt will be made 1045 to 1100 hrs.
 - (b) One man per veh will move across the rd to left hand side immediately coln halts, and will signal other traffic past, and watch for convoy signals to prepare to move.

- (c) All personnel other than one man per veh will debus to the right of the rd only.
- (d) Intervals must be maintained at halts, and vehs, wherever possible, must halt clear of the rd.

14. Breakdowns -

- If a veh should stop due to a breakdown -
- (i) One man must immediately signal each following veh past.
 - (ii) Veh will move clear of the rd.
 - (iii) A short report will be given to one of the offrs of the Bn gp as he passes.
 - (iv) Watch maintained for LAD or breakdown veh at tail of the convoy.

15. AA Def -

- (a) One sentry per veh to maintain constant watch.
- (b) One LMG per veh to be mounted for AA fire.
- (c) If attacked, coln will halt and tps disperse.
- (d) AA LMGs will open fire on following plan -
 - (i) Down coln from head to tail - A and B Coys
 - (ii) Up coln from tail to head - HQ Coy
 - (iii) To the right flank - C Coy
 - (iv) To the left flank - D Coy

16. Dispersal, Camflg -

- (a) In bivouac areas - 100 yds between vehs.
- (b) Camflg nets will be erected immediately on arrival at bivouac area.

17. Convoy control -

Will be exercised by RP Sgt and staff, mounted on MC's. Drs must obey immediately, instns given by RP personnel.

ADM

18. Amn - Normal first line scale will be carried. Wpns will NOT be loaded.

19. Dress - Battle order. Hats KFF instead of helmets steel.

20. Rations - Haversack lunch will be carried. Other meals - present Bn area.

21. Security -

- (a) Small security party will remain in each Coy area during exercise.
- (b) RSM will arrange necessary security measures BHQ.

INTER-COMM

22. BHQ -

Closes present location 0925 hrs, thence mob. Reopens Barrel area at location to be notified.

23. R/T -

- (a) Bn Gp (incl HQ Coy) opens 0945 hrs. Control at BHQ.
- (b) Constant listening watch at control. From 1000 hrs junior stas will come on air only at every $\frac{1}{2}$ hr for check calls and continuously during halt.
- (c) All stas on the air on arrival at bivouac area until L/T established.

24. L/T - Lines to Coys in bivouac area.

25. V/T - Lamps daylight sig with individual Coy coloured screens, plus Coy flags to indicate HQ's.

MOVEMENT TABLE

Issued as Appx A to 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order (Ex) W. D. No 6

1. ROUTE - Track NORTH of RAP - DOUBLE BAR Track - MAIN Rd - SIDI RAHMAN Track.
2. SP - Junc of Track NORTH of RAP with DOUBLE BAR Track at 87983000.
3. SPEED & DENSITY - 17 mih. 20 vtm.

Ser	Composition	No of vehs		Cross SP at		Arrive biv area at	Remarks
		Unit	Tp-carriers	Head	Tail		
				hrs	hrs	hrs	
1.	BHQ and No 1 (Sig) Pl in order - Int Sec veh CO's car No 1 (Sig) Pl Recce Gp Bn SAA Res Int Personnel, RP's (less det) BHQ Kitchen veh	1 1 3 2 2 1	1	1000	1010	1115	
2.	A Coy	2	5	1011	1017	1126	
3.	B Coy	3	5	1018	1025	1133	
4.	C Coy	3	5	1026	1033	1141	
5.	D Coy	1	4	1034	1038	1149	
6.	HQ Coy Coy HQ No 3 (Mor) Pl No 5 (Pnr) Pl A Tk Pl MMG Pl Tpt Sgt and Fitters	1 3 1 10 2 1 1	2 1	1038	1055	1153	Mor Carriers & 3 CR's per Carrier will remain present area.
<u>TOTAL VEHS</u>		38	24				

NOTE : No 4 (Car) Pl and No 6 (Adm) Pl (less det to Coys) are NOT incl in this move.

26. Sub-unit recognition -

- (a) On the move, red and blue flag will be flown from Cmd veh, and individual Coy flags from the leading veh in each ser gp.
- (b) These flags will be erected at Unit and Sub-unit HQ's immediately on arrival at bivouac area.

27. Runners, DR's -

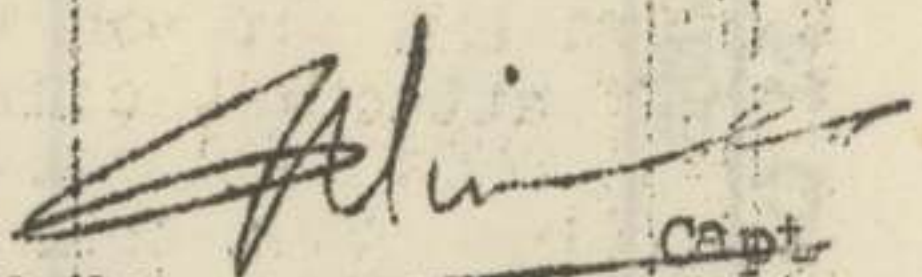
- (a) One DR with CO's veh
- (b) On arrival bivouac area, two runners per Coy report Bn Sig Centre.

28. Zero - 1000 hrs.

29. Synchronisation - Through sigs at 0800 hrs 29 Nov 42.

ACK By codeword MOSQUE and Copy No.

Signed at 1105 hrs and issued through Sigs.


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

DISTRIBN :

List "B".

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

SECRET

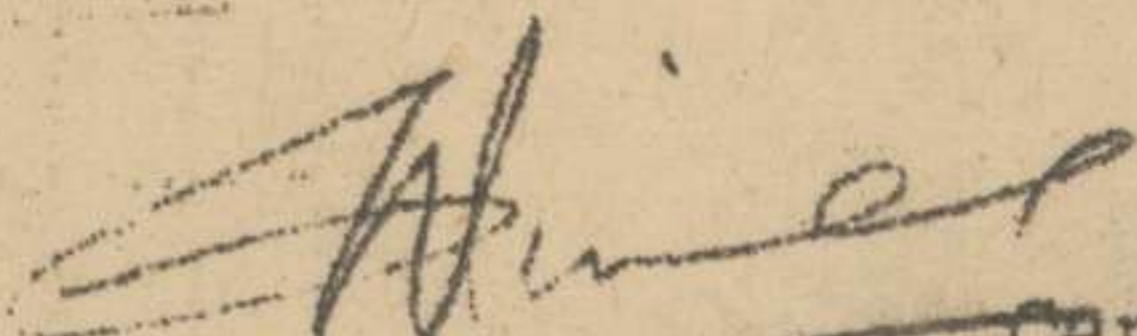
COPY NO

Ref 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order (Ex) W. D. No 6

28 Nov 42.

Cancel and destroy Page 3 and Movement Table att, previously issued.

Insert att AMENDED Page 3 and Movement Table.


Adj. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. ^{Capt}
(W. J. VINES)

MOVEMENT TABLE

Issued as Appx A to 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Op Order (Ex) W. D. No 6

1. ROUTE - Track NORTH of RAP - DOUBLE BAR Track - MAIN Rd - SIDI RAHMAN Track.
2. SP - Junc of Track NORTH of RAP with DOUBLE BAR Track at 87983000.
3. SPEED & DENSITY - 17 mih. 20 ytm.

Ser	Composition	No of vehs		Cross SP at		Arrive biv area at	Remarks
		Unit	Tp Carriers	Head	Tail		
1.	BHQ and No 1 (Sig) Pl in order - Int Sec veh CO's car No 1 (Sig) Pl Recce Gp Bn SAA Res Int Personnel, RP's (less det) BHQ Kitchen veh	1 1 3 2 2 1	1 1	hrs 1000	hrs 1002	hrs 1115	
2.	A Coy	2	5	1002	1003	1117	
3.	B Coy	3	5	1003	1004	1118	
4.	C Coy	3	5	1005	1006	1120	
5.	D Coy	1	4	1007	1008	1122	
6.	HQ Coy Coy HQ No 3 (Mor) Pl No 5 (Pmr) Pl A Tk Pl MMG Pl RAP Tpt Sgt and Fitters	1 3 1 10 2 2 1 1	2 1	1008	1012	1123	Mor Carriers & 3 OR's per Carrier will remain present area.
TOTAL VEHS		40	24				

NOTE : No 4 (Car) Pl and No 6 (Adm) Pl (less det to Coys) are NOT incl in this move.

26. Sub-Unit recognition *

- (a) On the move, red and blue flag will be flown from Comd veh, and individual Coy flags from the leading veh in each ser gp.
- (b) These flags will be erected at Unit and Sub-unit HQ's immediately on arrival at bivouac area.

27. Runners, DR's *

- (a) One DR with CO's veh.
- (b) On arrival bivouac area, two runners per Coy report Bn Sig Centre.

28. Zero - 1000 hrs.

29. Synchronisation - Through sigs at 0800 hrs 29 Nov 42.

ACK By codeword MOSQUE and Copy No.

Signed at 1105 hrs and issued through sigs.

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

DISTRIBN :

List WDA.

SECURITY OF ARMS, AMN, EQPT.-CENSORSHIP, PHOTOGRAPHY

1. GENERAL

- (a) The impending move to another location, will make necessary the implementing once again of stringent security measures to prevent loss of arms, amn, and eqpt to the civilian population.
- (b) Security of arms is imperative, and the most frequent loss occurs immediately a Unit arrives in a new location. Arrangements within sub-units must, therefore, be made beforehand, to prevent these losses, and such arrangements must be automatically put into effect immediately on arrival at destination.
- (c) A.I.F. Standing Orders PALESTINE, make it the personal responsibility of each individual offr and soldier to safeguard such arms or amn, both government or private, as may be issued to him, placed in his charge, or belonging to him.
- (d) The loss of wps is regarded most seriously, and will normally be treated as a Court Martial offence.

2. SECURITY DURING MOVE

- (a) Coy Comds will ensure that all ranks are impressed with necessity for careful safeguarding of arms and eqpt on the move, and in particular at staging areas.
- (b) Coy security picquets will be mounted at every halt, and personnel instructed that wps etc on charge to them must be carried with them constantly.

3. SECURITY IN STANDING CAMP

- (a) All LMG's, MMG's, and rifles will be kept in Coy etc Q store when not actually in use for trg purposes.
- (b) Continuous picquet will be maintained at each store, and no wps will be withdrawn other than with the authority of an offr or NCO of the Coy.
- (c) When held in Coy Q store, bolts will be removed from rifles and LMG's, locks extracted from MMG's, and kept in separate locked boxes.
- (d) Rifle register will be compiled in each Coy prior to movement from present location, and will be kept up to date by COMS.

4. ARMS, AMN REPORTS

- (a) Will be rendered daily at 0900 hrs as from date of commencement of move from present location. These reports will be submitted to Int Sec, and will NOT be made until actual physical check of each sub-unit has been undertaken.
- (b) During move and until arrival at new location, eqpt will also be incl on this report.

5. REPORTING LOSS OR THEFT OF ARMS, EQPT

Loss or theft of arms or eqpt will be reported IMMEDIATELY to BHQ giving following particulars:-

- (a) Details (incl No) of arms etc lost or stolen.
- (b) Identity of loser.
- (c) Circumstances surrounding the loss.
- (d) Security measures in force within sub-unit area.
- (e) Particulars of action taken following the loss.

6. NATIVE POPULATION

- (a) Natives, with exception of those bearing official passes, must not be allowed to enter or loiter in vicinity of camps or to fraternize with tps.
- (b) In staging areas during move, NO natives will be permitted in Unit area.

7. PAYBOOKS

In PALESTINE as in EGYPT, traffic in Australian paybooks is still hy. So far, measures to protect paybooks from theft have not been proved entirely effective, and all tps must ensure that they do not leave themselves open to this loss.

8. CENSORSHIP

No mention of the move, or the presence of the Unit in PALESTINE will be made in letters, until further orders.

9. PHOTOGRAPHY

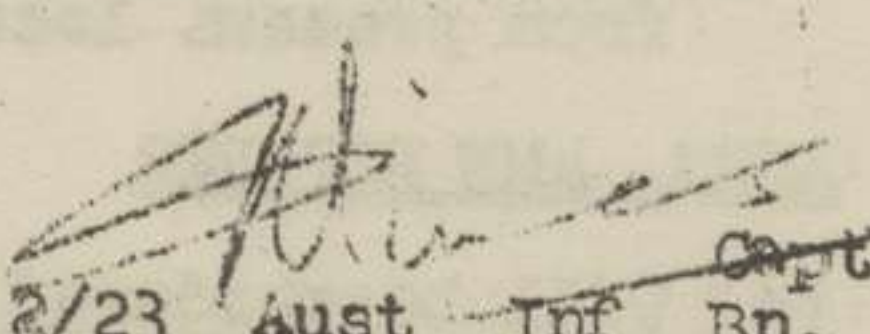
- (a) Arrangements are being made for the return to owners of cameras withdrawn several months ago under instns from Higher Formation.
- (b) Photography is to be limited to non-military subjects, and films must be developed and printed only by authorised photographers. A list of photographers approved for patronage by tps will be issued later.

10. SECURITY OF INFM

- (a) Attention must be drawn to the need for good security, especially on leave, when there is great temptation to talk to all and sundry about the Unit and where it has been, what it has done, and casualties it has suffered.
- (b) In captured enemy documents, frequent reference is made to infm received from agents, and the nature of the infm indicates that it could have been obtained only in EGYPT or PALESTINE from simple insecurity on the part of the tps.

11. PROMULGATION

- (a) Lectures will be given to all ranks on the matters contained herein, and close attention will be given by all offrs and NCO's to the implementing of internal security arrangements.
- (b) Distribn down to Pl Comds is given to this instn for that purpose.


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

DISTRIBN :

List "B"
Plus 3 extra copies per Rifle Coy.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

2/23 AUST INF BN TRG LOCATIONS FOR 18 NOV 42

Appx 17.

Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1:50,000

Coy	Morning	Afternoon
A	Inspection; PT; TOET; Trg for individual failure in syllabus 17 Nov - coy area	Review Foreign wpns - demo sight and sound by night. - coy area
B	P & RT; Compass, sec and pl formations, subjects failed in TOETs Map reading - coy area	
C	Patrolling from defended area Trig 33 to CLOVERLEAF feature	
D	Area 3 Trg.	RM to CLOVERLEAF
HQ	Location in pl areas.	
1 Pl	Inspection; Morse; E & M; knots, cable joints.	No 18 W/T Morse
3 Pl	P & RT; Immediate action and cease fire	Immediate action - carrier. Immediate laying on two posts.
4 pl	Inspection; maintenance carriers.	Gas recognition; Check respirators.
5 pl	Pioneer and salvage duties.	Explosives and principles of mines.
A/TK	Inspection; Care of guns;	Gun drill; Foreign wpns - Spandau; Portee drill.
MMG	Adm parade; P & RT	F C D; PT an traversing.

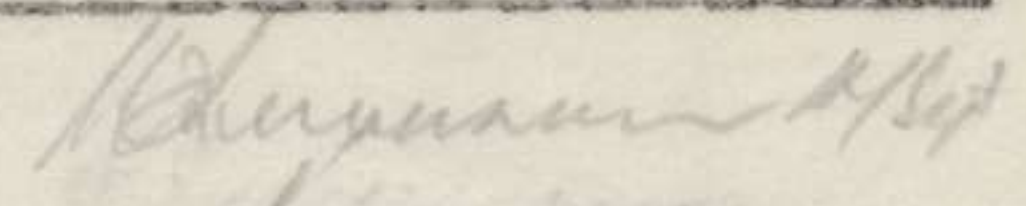
W. J. ...
 IO 2/23 *Jan* Lieut
 Aust Inf Bn

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

2/23 AUST INF BN TRG LOCATIONS FOR 19 NOV 42

Ref map EL ALAMEIN 1:50,000

<u>Coy</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>
A	Inspection; PT; sec and pl formations in coy area	Range practice - t minature range.
B	Inspection; compass; sec and pl formation - coy area	March;- map reading en route till EL INSA, point 24 and cutting
C	As per trg syllabus. Day 3. Flat opposite coy HQ	Route march TEL EL BISA and return
D	Trg - area Trig 33	- coy exercise
HQ	<u>Location in pl areas</u>	
1 pl	Inspection; march	Morse - transformer
2 pl	P & RT, packing on carrier. laying on compass bearing. Inspection.	Fire control; Point target
4 pl	Inspection; Vickers, care and cleaning	Mines
5 pl	Pioneer duties	Italian and french mines - mine fds.
A/TK	Inspection	Div range shoot
MMG	Inspection; P & RT; F C D Point and Traversing	revision

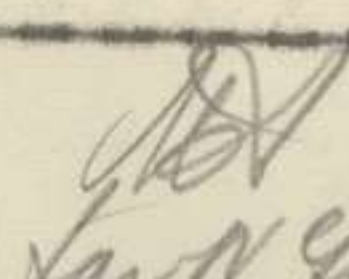

 Lieut.
to 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

2/23 AUST INF BN TRG LOCATIONS 20 NOV 42

Ref Map EL\ ALAMBIN 1:50,000

<u>Coy</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>
A	Concert party	Compass march pt 33; Football coy area Night compass march
B	Inspection; P & RT; Compass march and night compass march vicinity coy area	30 yds range shoot NE coy area
C	Flat opp Coy HQ - as per syllabus; Concert	Compass march; Mines and Booby traps Arming and discerning; night exercise
D	Trg coy area; Concert party	Area No 4 Syllabus as day 5
HQ		
1 pl	Morse, super posing, theory and practical	No 18 set faults
3 - 1	Inspection; Route march	Care and use of sig eqpt
4 pl	Inspection; Route march	Cleaning wpns
5 pl	Inspection	Anti personnel mines. Igniters
A/TK	Inspection, Care and maintaining guns; Gun drill	Braun gunnery
MMG	Inspection; P & RT, F C D Oblique and area	Steppages 1 and 2


 Ian W. Gilman Lieut
IO 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

File

2/ AUST INF BN TRG AND LOCATIONS

21 NOV 42

Ref EL ALAMAIN 1:50,000

A.M.			P.M.			
Coy	Time	Trg	Location	Time	Trg	Location
A	0900-1015	Security lecture	BHQ area	1330 - 1600	Lecture and demo of mines and booby traps.	Coy area
	1015 - 1100	B T	Coy area			
	1100 - 1200	Swimming parade	87933012			
B	0830 - 0930	Inspection	Coy lines	1300 - 1500	30 yd range - rifle and bren	87993008
	0915 - 1030	Security lecture	Bhq area	1500 - 1600	Free	
	1030 - 1200	Compass march	Sq 879300	1800 - 2000	Night compass march	sq 879300
C	0900 - 1015	Security lecture	BHQ area	1330 - 1600	30 yd range rifle and bren	87993008
	1030 - 1130	Arming and disarming mines and booby traps	Coy area			
D	0900 - 1015	Security lecture	BHQ area	1330 - 1600	Sports	Coy area
	1030 - 1130	30 yd range rifle and Bren	87993008			
Hq						
1 pl	0900 - 1130	Inspection - morse - Condensers, choke coils	Pl area	1330 - 1600	Helio and Lucas lamp	Pl area
3 pl	0900/1130	Inspection, P&RT, Fire control Area target	Pl area	1330 - 1600	Camflg - Siting posns	" "
4 pl	0900 - 1130	Inspection - Vickers - Stoppages	" "	1330 - 1600	Lecture, First Aid Kit & uses	" "
5 pl	0900 - 1130	Par duties	" "	1330 - 1600	AG inspection - war gases	" "
A Tk	0900 - 1130	Maintenance of guns, Gun drill	" "	1330 - 1600	Foreign wps - Braun	" "
MMG	0900 - 1130	Inspection, P&RT, Mech lessons 4 & 5	" "	1330 - 1600	Elevations	" "

W. J. ...
1 Sgt

Ref EL A. MEIN 1:50,000

A.M.

Coy	Time	Trg	Location
A	0830 - 0900 0900 - 1200	Inspection Route march to CLOVER- LEAF via Trig 33 along escarpment home	coy area
B	0830 - 0900 0900 - 1200	Inspection 30 yds range rifle & Bren	coy area 87993008
C	0900 - 1000 1000 - 1100 1100 - 1200	P & RT Fire Orders Fire descriptions of arty and mortars	87913005
D	0830 - 0900 0930 - 1200	PT Spandau instn and handling Bren and TSMG	coy area
HQ			
1 pl	0830 - 0900 0900 - 1130	Inspection Morse E and M	Pl areas
3 Pl	0900 - 0930 0930 - 1130	P & RT Fire control - camflg	Pl area
4 pl	0830 - 0900 0900 - 1130	Inspection Vickers and stoppages	Pl area
5 Pl	0900 - 1130	Pioneer duties	Bn area
A/Tk	0830 - 0900 0900 - 1130	Inspection Maintenance of guns	Pl area
MMG	0830 - 0900 0900 - 0930 0930 - 1130	Inspection P & RT Mechanism 4 and 5	Pl area

P.M.

	1330 - 1445 1445 - 1600	Bren & foreign wpns Sport	coy area North of coy area
B	1330 - 1445 1445 - 1600 1800 - 2000	March compass Wpn trg March compass	coy area to coast coy area coy area to coast
C	1300 - 1600	Sport	879130085
D	1300 - 1630	30 yds range rifle & Bren	87993008
HQ 1 pl	1300 - 1600	Choke cords; Helegraph Lucas lamp	Pl area
3 2 pl	1330 - 1600	Concealment, siting det posns	Pl area
4 3 pl	1330 - 1600	Lecture first aid kit and uses	Pl area
5 pl	1330 - 1600	A gas inspection, lecture war gases	pl area
A Tk	1330 - 1600	Gun drill spandau, Portee Drill	pl area
MMG	1330 - 1600	Elevation	

D. Ferguson Sgt
Lieut
IO 2 /23 Aust Inf Bn

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

2/23 AUST INF BN TRAINING AND LOCATIONS

24 NOV 42

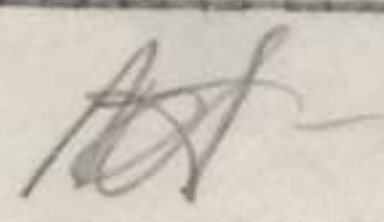
Maps Ref ALAMEIN 1:50,000

A.M.

Coy	Time	Training	Location
A	0800 - 0900 0900 - 1200	Inspection Range practice LMGs	Coy area 30 yds range
B	0830 - 0900 0900 - 1030 1030 - 1200	Inspection Mines & Booby traps, arming and disarming Wpn trg	Coy area " "
C	0900 - 1000 1000 - 1200	P & RT Dummy grenade throwing	Coy area "
D	0830 - 0900 1000 - 1100 1100 - 1200	Inspection Lecture fire direction mortars Fire orders and fire control	Area 2 Sq 878300
HQ			
1 Pl	0830 - 1030 1030 - 1200	Inspection & Morse Condensers E & M	Coy area "
3 Pl		Maintenance of all wpns and checking of amn	Coy area
4 Pl		Route march along coast WEST 6 miles & return	
5 Pl		Pioneer duties	
A Tk		Inspection; Care & Maintenance; Gun drill; Pl area	
MMG		Adm parade; P & RT; Maintenance	Pl area

P.M.

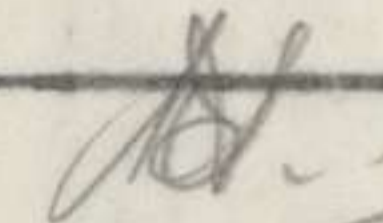
A	1330 - 1445 1445 - 1600	Fire orders & Fire control Fire directions of arty & Mortars	Coy area "
B	1330 - 1600	Sport	Coy area
C	1330 - 1600	Grenade trg	Rifle range
D	1330 - 1445	25 yard grenade range	87903012
HQ			
1 Pl	1330 - 1630	Sig office duties; Fullerphone	
3 Pl		Maintenance of all wpns and checking of amn	Pl area
4 Pl		Route march along road WEST 6 miles & return	
5 Pl		Compass	Pl area
A Tk		Foreign wpn, Spandau; Portee drill	Pl area
MMG		Stoppages 3 and 4	Pl area


 TO 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Lieut

Ref EL ALAMEIN
150,000

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
2/23 AUST INF BN TRAINING AND LOCATIONS FOR 25 NOV 42

Coy	Time	A.M.		P.M.		
		Training	Location	Time	Training	Location
A	0830 - 0900	Inspection; P & RT	Coy area	1330 - 1630	25 yd range grenade throwing	87903012
	0900 - 1000	Grenade throwing priming	" "			
	1000 - 1200	Dummy grenade throwing	" "			
B	0830 - 0900	Inspection	Coy area	1300 - 1600	25 yd range - grenade	87853015
	0900 - 1000	P & RT	" "			
	1000 - 1130	Grenade throwing priming	" "			
	1130 - 1200	Dummy grenade throwing	" "			
C	0900 - 1200	30 yd range	87993008	1330 - 1445	Night patrol formations	87913006
				1445 - 1600	Rest	Coy area
				1800 - 2000	Night recce patrols	Area to be advised later
D	0830 - 0900	Inspection	Coy area	1330 - 1600	Route march EAST along coast rd.	
	0900 - 1000	P & RT	" "			
	1000 - 1100	Fire orders and fire control	" "			
	1100 - 1200	Wpn trg	" "			
HQ 1 Pl	0830 - 1230	Route march to 88402975 along coast and return		1330 - 1630	Procedure merge	Coy area
3 Pl	0830 - 1030	Inspection, P & RT; Fire control Coy area		1330 - 1630	Range taking, Grenade trg 36 and 69	Coy area
4 Pl	0830 - 1030	Inspection Vickers, stoppages & IA		1330 - 1630	Cleaning wpns.	
5 Pl	0830 - 1030	Pioneer duties		1330 - 1630	Map reading.	
A Tk	0830 - 1030	Care guns and instn - Gun drill Coy area		1330 - 1630	Foreign wpns, spandau; Portee drill	
MMG	0830 - 1030	Adm parade, P & RT; FCD point and traversing		1330 - 1630	Free	


 For Lieut
IO 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

2/23 AUST INF BN TRG AND LOCATIONS

26 NOV 42

Ref Maps EL ALAMEIN 1:50,000

<u>Coy</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>Trg</u>	<u>Location</u>
A	0800 - 0900		Inspection	Coy area
	0900 - 1000		P & RT	Bren and rifle "
	1000 - 1200		30 yd range practice practice by sea	30 yds range
B	0830 - 0900		Inspection	Coy area
	0900 - 1000		P & RT	"
	1000 - 1200		30 yd range practice	30 yds range
C	0900 - 1000		P & RT	Coy area
	1000 - 1200		Mines and booby traps	87913006
D	0830 - 0900		Inspection	Coy area
	0900 - 1000		P & RT	"
	1000 - 1100		Compass trg	Area 2
	1100 - 1200		Compass march	"
HQ	1 pl		Inspection, morse test, written exam	pl area
	3 pl		Route march	4 miles EAST - coast
	4 pl		Route march	" " " "
	5 pl		Pioneer duties	Bn area
	A Tk		Inspection; Care & Maintenance; Lecture compass	Pl area
	MMG		Inspection; P & RT; Indication & recognition dial lights	Pl area
<u>P.M.</u>				
A	1330 - 1445		Night patrol formations	Coy area
	1445 - 1600		Free	
	1800 - 2000		Night recee patrols	
B	1330 - 1435		Night patrol formations	87933004
	1445 - 1600		Free	Coy area
	1800 - 2000		Night recee patrols	87933004
C	1330 - 1600		Route March	4 miles EAST and return
D	1330 - 1445		Night patrol formations	Area 2
	1445 - 1600		Free	Coy area
	1800 - 2000		Night recee patrols	Area 2
HQ	1 Pl		No 18 Set w/T exercise	Pl area
	3 Pl		Map reading; Description of fuses	" "
	4 Pl		Instn captured wpns	" "
	5 Pl		A Gas decontamination	" "
	A Tk		Assembling and stripping BRAUN GUN	" "
	MMG		Stoppages special	" "

EO 2/23 Aust In Lieu
Bn

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

2/23 AUST INF BN TRAINING AND LOCATIONS

27 NOV 42

Ref Map EL ALAMEIN 1:50,000 A.M.

<u>Coy</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Trg</u>	<u>Location</u>
A	0830 - 0900 0900 - 1200	Inspection Live grenade throwing	Coy area 87853015
B	0830 - 0900 1000 - 1200	Inspection; :P & RT 30 yd range	Coy area 87993008
C	0900 - 1600 1000 - 1200	P & RT Wpn trg	Coy area 87913006
D	0830 - 0900 0900 - 1000 1000 - 1200	Inspection P & RT A/Tk Guns	Area 2
HQ 1 pl	0830 - 1200	Inspection, Morse, abbreviations	P1 area
3 pl	0830 - 1200	P & RT, Grenade trg 68 ST	P1 area
4 pl	0830 - 1200	Inspection, Gas demonstration & cape rolling	P1 area
5 pl	0830 - 1200	Pioneer duties	P1 area
A Tk	0830 - 1200	Inspection, Care & Maintenance Laying and aiming	P1 area
MMG	0830 - 1200	Adm parade; P & RT, Gun drill	P1 area

P.M.

A	1330 - 1445	Route march 5 miles WEST on coast and return	
B	1330 - 1445 1800 - 2000	Mine laying and lifting Night fighting patrols in area NORTH of coy area	Coy area
C	1330 - 1445	Route march to TEL EL RISA sta and return	
D	1330 - 1445 1800 - 2000	Compass Night recon patrols	
HQ 1 P1	1330 - 1600	Compass - Sig Clerk duties	P1 area
3 P1	1330 - 1600	Range cards; Immediate action or misfire	P1 area
4 P1	1330 - 1600	Free	
5 P1	1330 - 1600	IMG	
A Tk	1330 - 1600	Lecture BRAUN gunnery	
MMG	1330 - 1600	knapsack Packing carrier	

McIntosh
Sgt

IO 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
Lieut

2/23 Aust Inf Bn Trg and Locations

28 Nov 42

File

Ref: EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

Coy	Time	Trg	A.M.	Location
A	0830-0900 0900-1200	Inspection. Inter-coy rifle school by sections at 30 yd range		Coy area 87993008
B	0830-0930 0930-1000 1000-1200	Inspection P and RT RM WEST to CLOVERLEAF along Coast and return.		Coy area " "
C	0900-1200	Rifle Range practice		87993008
D	0830-0900 0900-1000 1000-1200	Inspection P and RT MMG Mounting, Loading, Aiming and Firing		Coy area " " Area 2
HQ	No 1 Pl No 3 Pl No 4 Pl MMG Pl A Tk Pl	Inspection. Morse, aircraft co- operation, map reading Inspection. P & RT, FD Clinos Inspection. PT, map reading Inspection. Recap. Sec drill Inspection. Care & maintenance Recuperator system		Coy area " " " " " " " "
P.M.				
A		Football match against 9 Aust Div Cav		
B		Sport		Coy area
C	1330-1600	Football match		
D		Sport		
HQ	No 1 Pl No 3 Pl No 4 Pl MMG Pl A Tk Pl	Bren EMD Competitive. Preparing for night firing Instn Foreign wpns Consistency of TAP Gun drill		Coy area Coy area " " " " " "

Argue A/S

Ref: ALAMEIN 1/50,000.

A M

COY	TIME	TRG	LOCATION
A	0830-0900	Inspection	Coy area
	0900-1000	P & RT	" "
	1000-1200	A Tk guns	" "
B	0900-1000		
B	WEXX	P & RT	Coy area
C	1000-1100	Wpn trg	N of Coy HQ at
	1100-1200	Route march 2 miles WEST and return	87913005
B	0830-0900	Inspection	Coy Area
B	0900-1000	P & RT	" "
	1000-1200	Sec & Pl in attack	N of Coy area at
			87933005
D	0830-0900	Inspection	Coy area
	0900-1000	P & RT	" "
	1000-1100	Lecture RMO	" "
	1100-1200	Wpn trg	" "
HQ	No 1 Pl	Inspection, Morse, Microphone Receiver	Coy area
	No 3 Pl	Route march EAST along coast	
	No 4 Pl	Route march EAST along coast	
	No 5 Pl	TSMG	Coy area
	A Tk Pl	Zeroing and sight testing	" "
	MMG Pl	Adm pde, P & RT, Adj sights	" "

P M

A	¹⁴¹⁵ 1330- 1445 ₁₄₁₅₋₁₆₃₀	Laying and lifting of mines <i>SPORT</i>	Coy area
B		<i>SPORT</i>	
C		<i>SPORT</i>	
D		<i>SPORT</i>	
HQ Coy		<i>SPORT</i> for all Pls	

Chrysan A/Sgt

Addressees are referred to 2/23 Aust Inf Bn GS Instn No 2 issued previously.

1. OBJECT

All offr's, BHQ staff incl Int Sec & Rifle Coy HQ staffs will be practiced in operation of No 18 Set, R/T procedure and phrases, and in use of Bn R/T Code.

2. TRG

Will commence 17 Nov 42, and will continue until 26 Aust Inf Bde moves, or until further advice.

3. 26 Aust Inf Bde Gp

Detailed arrangements for operation of fwd Bde Gp from 0830 to 2100 hrs daily have been promulgated separately to BHQ staff concerned. To enable all offr's to receive practice in R/T conversations with Higher Formation and in use of CODEX system, a roster of Duty Offr's, drawn from each Coy, will effect from 0830 hrs 20 Nov 42.

4. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Gp

(a) Comprises the following stations :-

- BHQ (Control)
- A Coy
- B "
- C "
- D "
- HQ "
- B Ech

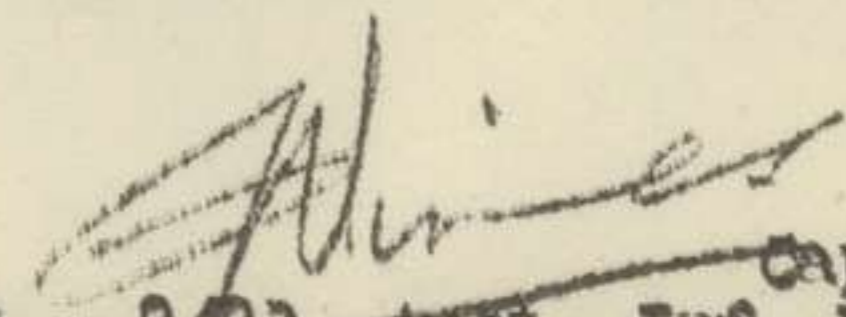
(b) Call Signs - Three letter call signs will be allotted by Sigs, and will change at 0300 hrs daily.

(c) Operation - Bn Gp will be on the air daily from 1400 to 1730 hrs. These times may be increased later, when battery replacements become available. During above hrs, listening watch will be maintained by control set. Jnr stations will ensure that operators stand by sets ready to come on the air when so instructed by L/T.

(d) Messages - Written messages between BHQ and Coys, also inter-coy messages, will be handled by R/T. Full use will be made of Bn R/T Code dated 7 Oct 42, held by all Coys. A short tactical setting may be given to facilitate origination of messages, and such will be prefixed by "EXERCISE ONLY".

5. CSM's and Coy Clerks will be trained to operate sets, and use Bn Code. This trg will be carried out by Sigs att to Coys.

6. It is emphasised that a high standard of operation must be attained, and every effort will be made to make full use of this trg period.


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

DISTRIBN : LIST "C" , plus -
 Copy No 12 Sig Offr
 " " 13 26 Aust Inf Bde
 " " 14/15 War Diary
 " " 16/19 Spare

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
For Official Use Only

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
In the Fd,
3 Nov 42.

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

Major R. E. WALL, Adm Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No ¹⁵¹ 200/4042

1000. COURTS OF INQUIRY

A C of I consisting of the under mentioned offrs -

PRESIDENT

Capt W. MOORE - 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, to inquire into and report on -

(a) Injury sustained by VX31083 Pte BENTLEY W., 2/23 Aust Inf Bn on 23 Oct 42.

(b) Injury sustained by VX47577 Pte DILLON A. R., 2/23 Aust Inf Bn on 23 Oct 42.

Capt
Adit. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

NOTICE

Comd 9 Aust Div has received the following message from Comd EIGHTH ARMY.

"I want to congratulate you on the magnificent work your Division has done on the right of the line. Your men are absolutely splendid, and the part they have played in this battle is beyond all praise. Please tell the Division that I am delighted with the way it has fought."

Comd 9 Aust Div has also received the following message from General BLAMEY.

"Warm congratulations for magnificent work, and best wishes from all AUSTRALIAN forces from NEW GUINEA mountain tops to WESTERN AUSTRALIA."

BY

Major R. E. WALL, Adm Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 152/4042913. LOOT

Attention is again directed to AIF (ME) Orders Nos 236, 298, 516 and 1046.

These orders make it a punishable offence for members of the AIF to retain articles of captured war eqpt, wpns, explosives etc, and all ranks are warned that strong disciplinary action will be taken against any soldier found to be in possession of loot.

914. SPECTACLES

All personnel who have lost spectacles, or whose eyes need medical attention, will report to RAP at 0930 hrs 7 Nov 42.

915. DENTAL TREATMENT

Personnel requiring dental treatment, or who have had partial treatment for dentures, will report to RAP at 1000 hrs 7 Nov 42.

916. WATER

Owing to filling of pipe line fwd, it is necessary to reduce water ration to one gallon per man per day, and this ration will be strictly observed commencing 6 Nov 42.

917. REGIMENTAL FUNDS

Suggestions are invited from all ranks as to method of expenditure of Regimental Funds. These suggestions should be fwded to BHQ through Coy Comds.

918. HONOURS AND AWARDS

Recommendations for consideration of the CO, and if approved, for submission to Higher Formation, for Immediate Awards for acts of gallantry in recent operations, will be submitted forthwith through Coy Comds.

Acts of conspicuous courage and devotion to duty, observed by any member of the Bn, may be submitted for consideration, and a full report should be made and the names of witnesses indicated.

Sub-unit Comds are also requested to submit nominations for consideration for Periodic Awards when these are next called for by Higher Formation. It is desirable that full details should be placed on record whilst these are fresh in the memory of all concerned.

919. INTELLIGENCE SECTION

Vacancies exist at present in the Bn Int Sec, and it is desired that these be filled as quickly as possible.

Applications for transfer to this Sec are invited, and will be widely promulgated in all sub-units.

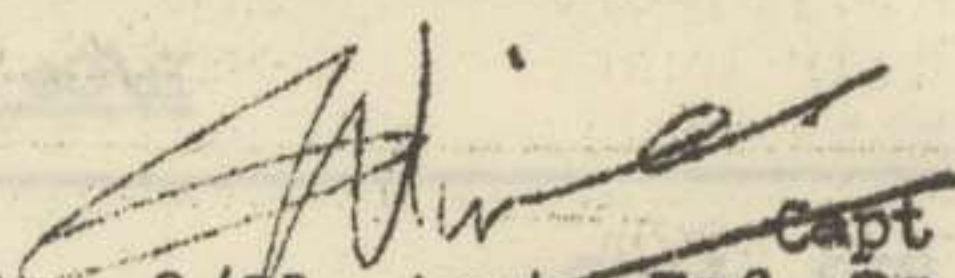
Applicants should possess some or all of following qualifications :-

- Good education
- Knowledge of map reading
- Draughtsmanship
- Language or Cipher trg.

Personnel holding professional or commercial diplomas in civil life, may be considered as having an educational background, which may render them suitable for employment in this Sec.

Reinfts formerly holding acting NCO rank will be specially approached. It is pointed out that Int personnel are entitled to Specialist Pay, Trade Gp II (2/3d per day).

As from 6 Nov 42, Beer will again be available through A.C.S. on the basis of half a bottle per man per day. Beer will be retailed through CQMSs as hitherto. Price per bottle PT 6.


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

NOTICES

Bn R/O No 200/4042, para 1000.

The above R/O should be amended to read No 151/4042, para 912.

The following message has been received from Comd EIGHTH ARMY :-

"The present battle has now lasted for twelve days, during which all tps have fought so magnificently that the enemy is being worn down. The enemy has just reached the breaking point, and he is trying to get his Army away. The R.A.F. is taking heavy toll of his colns moving West on the main coast rd. The enemy is in our power, and he is just about to crack. I call on all tps to keep up the pressure, and not to relax for one moment. We have the chance of putting the whole Panzer Army in the bag, and we will do so. I congratulate all tps on what has been achieved. Complete victory is almost in sight. On your behalf I have sent a separate message to the R.A.F. thanking them for their quite magnificent support."

COMFORTS - WOUNDED PERSONNEL

Arrangements have been made to fwd £25 of Regimental Funds to 7 A.G.H. for the purchase of comforts for wounded personnel of this Bn who are patients at 7 A.G.H. and 4 Aust Conv Depot. Bn Christmas cards have been similarly distributed.

ASSOCIATION WITH PUBLIC OF ALBURY

The following letter, dated 25 Jun 42, has been received by T/Brig B. EVANS, DSO, and is reproduced for information of all ranks:-

"How are you all? We have not heard any news of our Battalion for some time, and one wonders how you may be faring, and what I express here is, I know, in the thoughts of the people here generally, for though many different Units have had some of their training period here, we have had them in our town, had personal contact with them, and there has been, and is here, a great friendliness between the troops and the civil population, a feeling of mutual esteem, and so many friendships are made that when they leave us we follow as far as we are able their movements, and pray for their welfare. But there is undoubtedly a special interest, a special affection shown by our people for the men of our own Battalion, and the passing of one of its members is regarded as the loss of one of our own particular people, and when some distinction is won, or when news comes through of outstanding service by the Battalion, one hears remarks such as 'Well, what about the 2/23rd now' or 'The boys have put Albury on the map again' and so on, in the streets as one moves about.

We wonder too whether comforts are reaching you. It is the most practical way, and better value is obtained for the money spent, to arrange for comforts to be sent through the Central Organisation of the A.C.F., and we have sent large sums of money frequently to Sydney for comforts to be sent. Actually we have raised over £20,000 for the Comforts Fund, in addition to which the women folk are knitting and sewing, enabling large consignments of finished garments to be sent on to the Central Depot for forwarding overseas. We, of course, appreciate the fact that overseas transport is at times difficult to arrange, and other difficulties are met with in

getting the comforts through, but we would be happy to know that they are reaching you.

I have had a number of the wives of 2/23rd men in to see me lately, and they are worried because of their receiving cables from their husbands, complaining of the non receipt of news from home. These wives point out to me that they have written regularly, and in some cases sent cables, which apparently are not getting through.

In the event of members of the Battalion, particularly those whose relatives are in Albury, not hearing from those at home for some time, they should not worry, but attribute it to the difficulty of getting mail through, and they may rest assured that our organisation is ready to help their people in any way that it can, and in the event of their families being in any difficulty whatever, we will quickly take the matter up and help them in every way that we can.

With kindest regards and best wishes from us all to you all.

Very Sincerely Yours,

D. G. Padman.

P.S. If any member of our Battalion would like us to do anything for them in regard to their families or in any way, we will gladly render any service that we are able to.

BY

Lt-Col R. E. WALL, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 153/4042

921. SALVAGE

The salvage of all types of eqpt, both BRITISH and CAPTURED, is of special importance. Particular attention will be given to live amm of all calibres, particularly arty. Bn Salvage Offr (Lieut J. W. HIPSLEY), will establish Bn salvage dump on the flat EAST of the RAP, and sub-units will deliver all salvage to this dump. The present area occupied by the Bn will be systematically combed by particular sub-units in occupation, and in addition, certain areas of the battle fd will be cleared by Unit Salvage Offr in accordance with instns issued separately. Working parties may be drawn from HQ and Rifle Coys for this purpose.

Salvage will be evacuated to 9 Aust Div dump at 87723002 or to Corps Salvage Dump at 102 FMC in area 435900. Empty Unit sup and POL vehs will be loaded with salvage either from Unit dump or from Div dump before going to SOs and PPs daily. These vehs will deliver direct to Corps dump before collecting sups, POL etc.

No veh will be permitted to move empty EASTWARDS as far, or beyond, the Corps Salvage Dump. All possible opportunities will be taken to backload salvage.

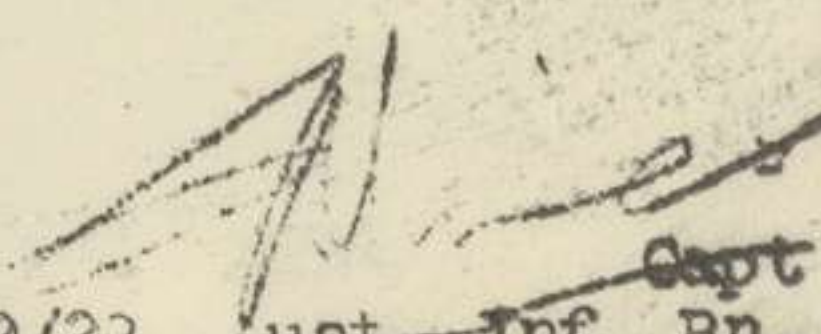
922. MAIN RD

No AIF veh other than staff cars and ambs, will use the MAIN RD, OLD MATRUH RD, or RY RD.

923. PNR STORES

Quantities of RE stores have been removed from Bn Pnr Pl dump without requisite authority.

All ranks will be informed that no stores are to be removed from this dump without permission of Pnr Offr or an NCO of the Pnr Pl.


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

NOTICES

The following messages received by the GOC 9 Aust Div, are to be communicated to all ranks :-

From the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Army :

"I send my heartiest congratulations to yourself and offrs and tps under your comd for their glorious part in present battle in western desert. The news of the heroic exploits of AUSTRALIANS was received with great enthusiasm by people and men and women of fighting forces in AUSTRALIA, and in other parts of SW PACIFIC AREA. The thoughts of all AUSTRALIANS are with you and your men today. The success of your Div under your capable leadership has been a great tonic to whole nation, and will act as a further stimulus to all - in war effort on home front. Kindly pass this message on to the offrs and the men of AIF in ME."

OVER.

BY

Lt-Col R. E. WALL, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 154/4042

924. STRETCHER BEARERS

Vacancies exist for 8 stretcher bearers. Rifle Coys will each detail two ORs to parade to RMO at 1000 hrs 10 Nov 42, for interview and probable transfer to this section.

925. EMERGENCY RATIONS

Pl Comds will warn all ranks that emergency rations are not to be consumed without permission of an offr.

Inspections will be held twice weekly, and disciplinary action taken against all personnel found to have lost or consumed this ration.

926. LOST PACK

The loss has been reported of a pack containing articles of clothing and personal possessions, the property of VX50364, Capt H. GRAY.

This pack was sent with others of A Tk Pl, to B Ech dump, immediately prior to commencement of recent ops. An inspection of all packs will be made by COMs under direction of QM, and in addition, Coy Comds will arrange for Coy areas to be searched.

Pack is marked on the flap with the number and name of the owner, and contains valuable personal property.

927. INSPECTION

Daily trg will be preceded in all Coy areas by a 15 min inspection period, during which inspection of personnel, eqpt and lines will be made by Coy Comds.

928. BEACONS

9 Aust Div R/O No 591 is rptd :-

It has been reported that eight figure map reference beacons have been pulled down and in some cases removed. These beacons are operationally necessary and will NOT be tampered with or removed.

929. UNEXPLODED BOMBS

9 Aust Div R/O No 592 is rptd :-

Reports of unexploded bombs, together with accurate location and if possible, type of bombs, will be reported by quickest means to DHC for transmission to CRE 30 Corps Tps.

930. CLEARING THE BATTLEFIELD

Ref Bn R/O No 153/4042 para 921 of 8 Nov 42. Unit sup and POL vehs will NO longer backload salvage to 102 FMC. These vehs will clear from unit dumps to Div Salvage Dump. All empty vehs travelling EAST as far as SPRINGBOK rd will backload salvage to 103 FMC 885292.

931. DISCIPLINE

AIF (ME) Order No 1319 is rptd :-

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

- (a) A private soldier, convicted of absenting himself without leave for 3 days, in the field (A.A.15(1)), was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for one year.
- (b) A private soldier, convicted of deserting His Majesty's service in the field (A.A.12(1)(a)), was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for two years.
- (c) A private soldier, convicted of stealing public property in the field (A.A.18(4)), was sentenced to undergo detention for 120 days.
- (d) A private soldier who pleaded guilty to a charge of being improperly in possession of certain public property (A.A.40) was sentenced to undergo detention for six months.

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

NOTICES

ORDER OF THE DAY

by

Lieutenant-General Sir Oliver W. H. Leese, Bt., C.B.E., D.S.O.
Commanding 30 Corps

To all ranks of 30 Corps.

After twelve days of bitter fighting, we have achieved our object of breaching the enemy's defences and so have made possible the passage of our Armoured Formations towards the enemy's rear.

I have received a special message from Comd, 10 Corps, expressing his great appreciation of our achievements in this respect.

During this period we have inflicted severe losses on the enemy both in men and material; losses which, when they become known, may well prove crippling.

I desire to express to all ranks my gratitude for their untiring energy and devotion to duty during this critical period, and my deep admiration for the fighting spirit which has enabled us to overcome the elaborate system of defences with which the enemy had surrounded himself.

It was a hard fight.

It was won through the bravery and absolute determination of every man to do his duty.

Well done - all.

LOSS OF RIFLE

Rifle No 71279, was taken in error from leave truck on 15 Oct 42. Rifle No 51540 branded on sling "NX921 L.C. LACKE" was left in its place. Will unit having missing rifle in its possession please communicate with No 10 Coy ASC.

A search for this rifle will be made in all sub-units, and BHQ notified if located.

10

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

For Official Use Only

ROUTINE ORDERS

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
In the Fd,
11 Nov 42.

BY

Lt-Col R. E. WALL, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 155/4042

932. DISPERSION

Standing orders for dispersion will be enforced. By day, minimum interval between vehs, 100 yds. Maximum density on move, 20 v.t.m. when possible.

933. CAMOUFLAGE NETS

All drs must ensure that their vehs are equipped with camflg nets. Deficiencies may be replaced from Unit Salvage Dump. In the event of movement fwd from present area, the scale of camflg nets to be taken will not exceed :-

- (a) In the case of lt vehs - one net.
- (b) " " " " 30-cwt or 3-ton lorries - 2 nets.
- (c) " " " " Office Van - 3 nets.

934. USE OF MAIN RD

Ref Bn R/O para 922 of 8 Nov 42. Further instns have now been received, and will be noted by all offr and ORs having control of movement of MT.

"Vehs of 9 Aust Div other than staff cars, ambs and transporters will not use MAIN RD between ALAMEIN and DABA. All traffic other than above will use tracks to the NORTH of the ry for WEST bound traffic and tracks SOUTH of the ry for EASTERLY traffic."

935. SALVAGE - MT

The location of any BRITISH or ENEMY MT which are non runners and which cannot be towed in by Unit resources, will be reported to Bn TO, who in turn will take action in accordance with Main HQ 9 Aust Div Q764 of 9 Nov 42.


936. CAPTURED FLARES

Indiscriminate firing of light sigs coloured smoke will cease forthwith. Sub-units will collect all coloured smokes, captured pistols sig, and flares, and return these to RSM by 0900 hrs 12 Nov 42. Coy Comds will render certificate to BHQ by the same time that NO eqpt of this description is now held within their Coys.

937. BN A TK PL

Applications are invited from personnel of Rifle Coys desiring transfer to Bn A Tk Pl, in which vacancies exist at present. Personnel with some previous trg either in A Tk guns or fd arty will receive preference, but such previous qualifications are not essential. Good opportunities for promotion to NCO rank exist in this Pl.

Coys will submit nominations to BHQ by 1200 hrs 12 Nov 42. Nil returns required.


 Capt
Adit, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

NOTICES / OVER

NOTICES

COMFORTS - WOUNDED PERSONNEL

In addition to £E25 sent to 7 AGH for purchase of comforts for personnel of the Unit at present patients at 4 Aust Conv Depot and 7 AGH, a further similar amount has been fwded to 6 AGH for purchase of comforts for members of the Bn in that hospital and at 1 Aust Conv Depot.

VISIT OF CORPS COMD

Comd 30 Corps, Lieut-Gen Sir Oliver W. H. LEESE, Bt, CBE, DSO, paid a short visit to this Unit on 10 Nov 42.

He has especially asked that his congratulations be conveyed to all Offrs, WOs, NCOs and men of the Unit on their fine efforts during recent operations. He further stated that the attack carried out by this Bn on night 28/29 Oct 42 was a major feature of the Corps plan in that Sector, and the ground captured and held by the Bn was of vital consequence to subsequent operations in the area.

Hereunder, is a copy of a letter received from Comd 30 Corps by Comd 9 Aust Div :

"Now that we have a pause in the fighting, I would like to write a line to congratulate you on the magnificent fighting which your Division has carried out.

I would be very grateful if you would explain to the men, the immense part they have played in the battle. It is perhaps difficult for them quite to realise the magnitude of their achievement, as the main breakout of our armour was accomplished on another part of our front; thus could not be seen by them. But I am quite certain that this break-out was only made possible by the homeric fighting over your Divisional Sector.

When it was no longer possible for the crumbling process to go on in the SOUTH, you will remember that the Army Commander decided to continue with his crumbling policy in the NORTH. This led to five days bitter fighting on your front. During this time, your Division attacked four times and were counter-attacked incessantly by enemy infantry and tanks.

The main mass of heavy and medium artillery was concentrated on your Divisional front. It was obvious that the enemy meant to resist any advance along the coastal route, and as we now know, they concentrated the whole of the Panzer Corps against you in the Northern area.

Your fighting gave the opportunity for the conception of the final breakthrough in the centre, but this could never have been carried out if your front had been broken. The final break could not have been made unless the Army Comd was certain of the valiant resistance that would be put up by your Division. If the Germans could have broken your Division, the whole gun support of the attack would have been disorganised, and its success vitally prejudiced.

It has been for me a very proud occasion to have an Australian Division serving in the Corps, and I am very happy that this is to continue in the subsequent advance."

The following message received by GOC 9 Aust Div from the Governor-General of AUSTRALIA, is to be communicated to all ranks :

"Heartiest congratulations to you and all ranks under your comd on splendid achievements which have filled us all with pride and admiration here."

BY

Lt-Col R. E. WALL, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf BnR/Os Part I - No 156/4042938. LIMITS - 9 AUST DIV AREA

AIF vehs will NOT proceed beyond WESTERN limits of 9 Aust Div area unless in possession of an authority signed by staff officers of HQ 9 Aust Div. Veh check posts have been established on MAIN RD and ry tracks on WESTERN LIMITS of 9 Aust Div area. All vehs will stop at check posts and produce authority prior to proceeding WESTWARDS.

939. ILLEGAL ABSENTEES

Bn R/O para 812 of 20 Aug 42 is rptd for promulgation to all ranks.

"As from 18 Aug 42, all ranks are advised that absentees from Units WEST of AMIRIYA, will normally be charged with desertion. Such personnel will be dealt with by FCGM."

940. CHURCH PARADE

Bn Church Parade will be held same area as 8 Nov 42.
Dress - Shorts, shirt, long stockings, puttees short. helmets steel, belt and side arms.

Timings - Markers report to RSM 0845 hrs.

March on 0850 hrs.

Church Service commences 0900 hrs.

941. MESSAGE FROM CORPS COMD

The message from Comd 30 Corps, as promulgated in Notices to Bn R/Os of 11 Nov 42, has been reproduced, and sub-units will notify BHQ by 1800 hrs 15 Nov 42 of the number of copies required.

W. J. Vines
Capt
Adit, 2/23 (1st Inf Bn)
(W. J. VINES)

NOTICESCHURCH SERVICES

C of E Holy Communion vicinity BHQ at 0700 hrs.

R.C. Mass, vicinity BHQ at 1100 hrs.

For Official Use Only

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

ROUTINE ORDERS

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
In the Pd,
15 Nov 42.

Lt-Col R. E. WALL, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 157/4042

942. TROPHIES OF WAR AND OTHER CAPTURED MATERIAL

AIF (ME) Orders No 23 and 1046 are rptd, and will be read on parade to all ranks.

Recommendations for the issue of certificates in accordance with para 2 of Order No 1046, will be submitted to BHQ, by Coy Comds by 0900 hrs 17 Nov 42.

236. 1. (a) Captured material which may be claimed by Units as trophies of war will be notified through HQ AIF to ME, with particulars of the circumstances of capture, when a decision will be given on the claim.
- (b) If the material claimed cannot be retained by the Unit it will be clearly marked with the Unit's name and evacuated through Salvage channels to be taken charge of by the Deputy Controller of Salvage in accordance with Field Service Regulations Vol 1, 1930 Sec 137 para 5.
2. (a) Captured material required for issue for further use will not, as a general rule, be regarded as trophies of war. Amongst this material are the following items.
- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Revolvers & pistols | Signalling Instruments and parts. |
| Rifles | Gun parts, tools, spares |
| Amn | Magazines etc. |
| Rangefinders | MF spares & tools |
| Dial sights & parts | Military Literature, incl maps & manuals. |
| Telescopes | Private cars & other vehs |
| Binoculars | Medical eqpt |
| Optical stores | Money in Italian currency |
| Technical eqpt | Other items which are clearly of value. |
| Cine & other cameras | |
| Wireless sets | |
- (b) It is known, however, that large quantities of the items listed are in the possession of Units and individual offrs and ORs. Formations will accordingly take all possible steps to recover such items. These will incl the publication by Units and establishments (Incl Hospitals, services, depots, workshops, etc) of orders to the effect that -
- (i) All items will be handed over immediately to the Salvage Organisation or to Ordnance Depots.
- (ii) The retention of any such articles will involve disciplinary action.
- (c) Formations and heads of establishments, etc, will, thereafter, ensure that disciplinary action is taken in all such cases.
3. Lists of items handed over in accordance with para 2(b)(1) will be fwded to HQ AIF through Formation Headquarters.
4. It is notified that loot includes any property or money in the possession or under the control of any offr or soldier which has not been obtained by issue, by free gift on the part of the lawful owner, or by lawful purchase for fair value. So-called souvenirs of battle are incl in the term. The possession of loot by any member of the AIF is forbidden.

5. Any offr of the AIF detected in the possession of loot will be tried by Court Martial. ORs will be dealt with as may be considered fit by superior authority not below the rank of Colonel.
6. This Order will be republished in Unit Routine Orders and will be read three times on parades and posted on Unit Notice Boards.

1046. ARMS - RETENTION OF NON-SERVICE TYPES

1. All members of AIF are forbidden to have any arms, wpns or any other than WD service types unless they are in possession of a certificate signed by the CO of the Unit, authorising the retention of such wpns.
2. COs are authorised to sign such certificates only when -
 - (i) exigencies of the service require that the member should be armed with a wpn not of service type.
 - (ii) the wpn is personal property obtained from a legitimate source, or
 - (iii) is unserviceable and its only value is as a souvenir.
3. In the case of sub-para (ii), these arms are to be held only in addition to, and not in lieu of, WD issue.
4. All ranks will hand in all arms and wpns for which a certificate is not granted. Units will be responsible for returning these to nearest Ordnance Depot.
5. This Order will be repeated in all Unit orders and read on parade twice monthly.
6. The Certificate will be in the following form :-

No	Rank	Name	Unit
----	------	------	------

Is authorised to be in possession of
 (Full description of wpn) as (Private property
 (A souvenir
 (A wpn

QM will ensure that technical and optical eqpt and pistols are returned to ADOS and not to Salvage.

943. JERRICANS AND 2-GALLON CONTAINERS

- (a) Petrol Jerricans may be retained for use as petrol containers.
- (b) Jerricans marked either VASSER or with a white cross are required by Eighth Army and will be returned immediately to Unit Salvage Offr for evacuation.
- (c) Jerricans will NOT be used as water containers.
- (d) Attention of QM is directed to 9 Aust Div R/O No 601(d).

944. DUPLICATE PAYBOOKS

Coys will submit to Pay Sgt by 1800 hrs 18 Nov 42, a schedule of all duplicate paybooks issued prior to 31 Aug 42. Schedule to give details of soldiers name, army number, and most important, the date of commencement of the credit earnings in the Duplicate Paybook.

This infm is required for transmission to AUSTRALIA, so that conversion figures may be made available in MIDDLE EAST.

In effect, this infm will enable credits in lost Paybooks, to be made available to soldiers.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

For Official Use Only

ROUTINE ORDERS

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
In the Fd,
16 Nov 42.

BY

Lt-Col R. E. WALL, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 158/4042

945. CLEANING OF AREA

9 Aust Div R/O No 603 is rptd.

"There are still quantities of rubbish, tins and other untidy material in Unit areas. The present Div area will be taken over by other tps if 9 Aust Div leaves it. Units will take immediate steps to see that their areas are kept in a clean and tidy state."

Coys will ensure that this instn is carried out in their respective areas. Rubbish, tins etc may be dumped in the nearest bomb crater and covered with earth. Pnr Offr is responsible for cleanliness of areas beyond Coy bivouac limits.

946. USE OF ROADS

9 Aust Div R/O No 604 is rptd.

"Ref this HQ A1346 dated 9 Nov. Water tank lorries may use the MAIN rd when proceeding to and returning from WP."

947. VEH LIGHTS

TO will make an immediate check and ensure that all vehs, incl vehs on charge to A Tk & Carrier Pls, have at least the tail lamp and left side parking lamp, in working order. Report on condition of these lamps will be submitted by 1800 hrs 18 Nov 42.

948. WATER RATION

9 Aust Div R/O No 607 is rptd.

"As a result of hy consumption in rear areas, 10 Corps is now reduced to a ration of half a gall per man per day. The ration of ONE gall per man will be strictly observed by all Units of 9 Aust Div.

Commencing 16 Nov, a water control party will be posted at WP and will supervise drawing of water. Units will provide drs of water vehs with an authority to draw water at ONE gall per man for the ration strength of the Unit. Authority will be signed by an offr. Water will NOT be issued unless an authority is produced. WP SOUTH of ALAMEIN sta will NOT be used."

949. SPECIAL CHRISTMAS AIRGRAPH TO AUSTRALIA

9 Aust Div R/O No 608 is rptd. Airgraph forms will be distributed through Coy Ord Rooms as soon as available. Postal Cpl will submit Certificate vide sub-para 7 of Div R/O for lodging with 9 Aust Div Postal Unit.

- "1. Arrangements have been made for a special Christmas Airgraph service between the Middle East and Australia. This is a special service only and must not be regarded as indicating that a regular Airgraph Service is operating.
2. Each member of the AIF (ME) is permitted to send one Airgraph to Australia free of charge.
3. Airgraphs should, when possible, be written in dark ink. Typed or pencilled Airgraphs do not always photograph satisfactorily.

4. Airgraph forms, when completed, must be handed in to the Unit Ord Room. They will not be accepted from individual members at Field Post Offices.
5. After censorship, units will fwd Airgraphs, per Postal Orderly, to their respective Field Post Offices.
6. Airgraph forms should be kept flat. Folded or other wise creased forms do not photograph well.
7. When all airgraphs from each Unit have been lodged at FPOs, a Certificate will be rendered to 9 Aust Div Postal Unit that the distribution of forms within the unit was on the basis of not more than one to each man on the strength at the time of distribution.
8. Special Christmas Airgraphs will be accepted daily at FPOs up to 1800 hrs 27 Nov.
9. A supply of blank Airgraph forms, estimated to be sufficient for the issue of one to each soldier is being sent to FPCs for distribution to Units. If the number received is insufficient for a full distribution, application should be made to OC 9 Aust Div Postal Unit for an additional supply of forms.
10. It must be clearly understood that each soldier is entitled to despatch one Airgraph ONLY under this Special Christmas Scheme. There is no provision for the despatch of additional Airgraphs to Australia, postage prepaid or otherwise."

950. SPECIAL CHRISTMAS E.F.M. CABLEGRAM TEXTS

9 Aust Div R/O No 609 is rptd.

"Standard E.F.M. Texts will be withdrawn for the period 7 Dec 42 to 27 Dec 42 and the following Special Texts, A, B, C, D, E and F substituted.

- A. A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. All well.
- B. Love and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. All Well.
- C. Love and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all at home. All Well.
- D. Love and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from all at home. All Well.
- E. Love and best wishes for a Happy New Year. All Well.
- F. Every good wish for the New Year.

The sender of the Cablegram will choose one only of the above texts. Regulations applying to Standard Texts E.F.M.'s will apply to Christmas E.F.M.'s."

951. PUNISHMENTS BY COURTS MARTIAL

9 Aust Div R/O No 611 is rptd.

"The following sentences, imposed recently by Courts Martial held in the Division are published for information :

- (a) A private soldier convicted of two charges of desertion and one of escaping from close arrest, was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for three years.
- (b) A private soldier convicted of desertion was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for two years.
- (c) Two private soldiers convicted of desertion were each sentenced to one years imprisonment.
- (d) A private soldier convicted of striking his superior officer was sentenced to 18 months detention.
- (e) A WO(II) convicted of AWL from a Con Depot was fined £5 and reduced to Corporal.
- (f) Two private soldiers AWL for two days were sentenced to one years detention and one years hard labour respectively.

(d) A private soldier convicted of desertion was sentenced to one years imprisonment with hard labour."

952. ABSENTEES

(a) Coys will report by immediate signal to BHQ, full particulars of absentees as soon as these are discovered. Particulars will incl Army No, Rank, Name and initials, location from which absent, and full description.

(b) RSM is responsible that immediate action in connection with absentees is taken in accordance with 9 Aust Div R/O No 613 of 15 Nov 42.

953. CAPS - OFFRS PATTERN & MT

It has been observed that personnel below Warrant Rank are wearing caps SD Offrs pattern, and others are wearing capt MT to which they are not entitled. This practice will cease forthwith and such caps will be returned immediately to QM.

954. COURT OF INQUIRY

A C of I is convened, consisting of the under mentioned offrs -

PRESIDENT

Major E. H. McRAE - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

MEMBER.

Lieut N. B. GILMOUR - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Court will assemble at such time and place as the President may appoint, for the purpose of enquiring into and reporting upon the injuries sustained by VX57419 Pte PERKINS E. G., B Coy, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn on 30 Oct 42.

Attention of Court is directed to 9 Aust Div Adm Insn No 37.

955. HONOURS AND AWARDS

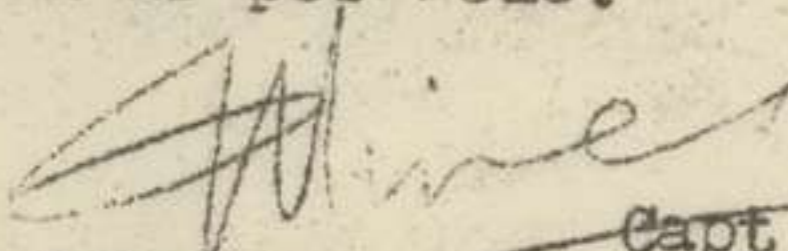
Bn R/O para 918 of 6 Nov 42, is rptd :

"Recommendations for consideration of the CO, and if approved, for submission to Higher Formation, for Immediate Awards for acts of gallantry in recent operations, will be submitted forthwith through Coy Comds.

Acts of conspicuous courage and devotion to duty, observed by any member of the Bn, may be submitted for consideration, and a full report should be made and the names of witnesses indicated.

Sub-unit Comds are also requested to submit nominations for consideration for Periodic Awards when these are next called for by Higher Formation. It is desirable that full details should be placed on record whilst these are fresh in the memory of all concerned."

Coy Comds will investigate all reports, and submit these, together with names of witnesses, to BHQ as soon as possible.


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

NOTICES

LOST

On 7 Nov 42, from truck on track SOUTH of ry, between EL DABA and GALAL Stations, green bedding roll containing bed, sleeping bag, etc. Roll marked H. W. GIBLIN.

Finder notify BHQ immediately.

OVER/

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs of the graves of the following personnel of this Unit, KIA during present Campaign, are available.

Orders for prints will be lodged by Coys with Chaplain PORTER by 1200 hrs 20 Nov 42. Price - PT 2 each.

LIST "A"

1. Major	G.F. URQUHART	19. Sgt	MULLANY J. K.
2. Capt	R.C. CROMIE	20. Pte	HILL J. D.
3. "	W.C. HARDING MC	21. Cpl	ROWLAND R.
4. "	J.M. METHVEN	22. Pte	BOYD S. I.
5. "	G.G. ANDERSON	23. Cpl	YOUNG G.
6. Lieut	E.J. BUICK	24. Pte	BROOMHEAD R. W.
7. Sgt	HAMILTON J. A.	25. Cpl	O'CONNELL M. J.
8. Pte	REDFERN S. M.	26. "	HUTCHINSON W.
9. "	HICKEY N. F.	27. "	CATLIN R. J.
10. "	ROUSSAC L. A.	28. Pte	FARLEIGH R. C.
11. "	DOYLE J. E.	29. L/Cpl	BEST R. W.
12. "	KERSLAKE R. C.	30. Pte	WILSON E. F.
13. "	WINDLEY R. E.	31. "	SELLARS W.
14. "	DOUGLAS V.	32. "	TIPPETT G. W.
15. Cpl	MORELAND W.	33. "	GALE I.
16. "	PLUNKETT R. L.	34. "	THOMAS A. E.
17. Pte	BROWN E. G.	35. "	MARTIN S. H.
18. "	McARTHUR J.	36. L/Cpl	McDONALD R. H.

LIST "B1"

1. Capt	K. O. NEUENDORF	12. Pte	McDONALD Roy
2. Pte	AITKEN R.	13. "	MATTHEWS F. G.
3. "	BECKLEY L. M.	14. "	MURCUTT J. W.
4. "	BENTON V. S.	15. "	ODLUM S. G.
5. L/Sgt	BOON A. (MM)	16. "	RAYMER N.
6. Pte	EDLESTON G. W.	17. "	RIXON T. E.
7. "	GARLICK R. F.	18. "	TRIVERS F. Mc
8. "	GURNEY G. H.	19. "	WALKER D. J.
9. Sgt	HOLDSWORTH A.	20. "	WATSON S. J.
10. Pte	JENNINGS J. R.	21. "	WILSHIER K. L.
11. "	KINDRED A.	22. "	WOODS G. E.

LIST "B2"

1. Pte	ELLIOTT A. C.	5. Pte	STONHAM F. C.
2. "	FERGUSON M.	6. "	THOMAS A. E.
3. "	PEARCE G. W.	7. "	WATERS C. H.
4. "	PENNO L.	8. "	BOYLE V. P.

LIST "C"

1. Lieut	A. N. McKOY	8. Pte	KELLY A. L.
2. Pte	BURROUGHS A. N.	9. "	LESTER J. E.
3. "	BORLEY G. H.	10. "	McALLISTER H. R.
4. "	CARROLL J. F.	11. "	NEWELL L. H.
5. "	CLARK C. A.	12. "	SIMPSON W.
6. "	GOODWIN J. A.	13. "	TYSON W.
7. "	HENDERSON J. R.		

LIST "D"

1. Lieut	J. W. BARNARD DCM	12. Pte	EMMETT D.
2. "	G. A. D'HERVILLE	13. "	FINCH G. W.
3. "	A. OTTLEY	14. "	FROUD M. C.
4. "	R. G. PAINE	15. "	GUTHRIE J. J.
5. Pte	AVERY C. R.	16. "	JACKSON G. P.
6. "	BANES C. W.	17. "	LEWIS E.
7. "	CAMM J.	18. "	LEE C. E.
8. A/Sgt	CARMICHAEL J. W.	19. "	NOON J. E.
9. Pte	CORLETT L. S.	20. "	O'SHEA T. R.
10. "	CURFIS J.	21. L/Sgt	SMITH F. J.
11. "	DOBSON J. R.	22. Pte	SMITH M. R. OVER/

LIST "D" Continued -

23. Pte SMITH N. R.
 24. " SHIELDS B. T.
 25. " TALLINTYRE N.

26. Sgt TREWIN R. C.
 27. Pte WEBB H. G.
 28. " WINDEBANK G. E.

[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. Some names and numbers are visible but difficult to decipher.]

BY

Lt-Col R. E. WALL, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 159/4042

956. 9 AUST DIV CONCERT PARTY

(a) Will give three performances in Bn area on 20 Nov 42. Timings and allotment of vacancies to sub-units are as under :-

<u>Performance</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Sub-Unit</u>	<u>Approx Strength</u>	<u>Max Size of audience.</u>
1st	0930	A Coy	85	300
		B "	80	
		C "	90	
		A Tk Pl	45	
2nd	1130	D Coy	85	300
		HQ Coy HQ	5	
		No 1 (Sig) Pl	30	
		No 3 (Mor) Pl	30	
		No 4 (Car) Pl	30	
		26 Bde HQ and att tps	120	
3rd	1430	BHQ	50	300
		No 2 (A.A) Pl	10	
		No 5 (Pnr) Pl	15	
		No 6 (Adm) Pl	90	
		MMG Pl	15	
		26 Bde HQ and att tps	120	

(b) Stage will be located approx 100x NORTH of BHQ.

(c) Sub-units will :

- (i) Despatch guides to report to RSM 20 minutes before time of commencement of each performance.
- (ii) Be seated not later than 5 minutes before commencing time.

Senior offr present at each performance will be responsible for discipline and will indicate dispersal areas to each sub-unit.

(d) HQ Coy will ensure that AA gd, comprising :

- 1 20mm Flak gun
- 3 LMG Posts

is maintained by either No 2 (A.A) Pl or No 4 (Car) Pl at each performance. Dispersal signal - long burst on 20 mm Flak.

957. USE OF MAIN ROAD

Ref Bn R/O para 934 of 11 Nov 42. MAIN rd between ALAMEIN and DABA is now open to all vehs.

958. FIELD CENSORSHIP

AIF (ME) Order No 1329 is rptd :-

"Field Censorship Regulations, Middle East Forces, 1942 para 15, is hereby cancelled and replaced by the following :-

'It is forbidden to write on Service matters to the Press, civic authorities or any public body. Correspondence to Members of Parliament is permitted provided no breach of security is occasioned.'

'Articles of a non-Service nature it is desired to despatch for publication in the Press will be fwded, properly enveloped,

addressed and stamped, in an outer cover, through units to HQ AIF (ME).

959. DISCIPLINE

AIF (ME) Order No 1331 is rptd :-

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

- (a) A warrant officer, convicted of absenting himself without leave in the Field (A.A.15(1)), was sentenced to be reduced to the rank of corporal, and to be fined the sum of five pounds.
- (b) A corporal, convicted of conspiring with other soldiers to steal private property (A.A.41), two charges of stealing public property (A.A.18(4)), and two charges of improperly using an Army vehicle to improperly carry away public property (A.A.40), was sentenced to be reduced to the ranks, to undergo detention for 13 months, and to be put under stoppages of pay to make good the sum of £32-6-10.
- (c) A private soldier, convicted of absenting himself without leave in the Field for 5 days (A.A.15(1)), was sentenced to suffer field punishment for 90 days and to forfeit all ordinary pay for 90 days.

960. CAPEs - ANTI-GAS

AIF (ME) Order No 1333 is rptd :-

1. Capes, anti-gas, may in future be worn, not only for protection against gas, but also as rainproofs. In order to conserve rubber, they will be worn as far as possible in lieu of ground sheets.
2. Capes will not be rolled when wet. They should be dried in natural temperatures and not in front of fires or near stoves.
3. When not in use, capes will, whenever possible, be left hanging up.
4. The anti-gas cape may in future be carried in any one of the following four posns as ordered by the Coy Comd, having regard to the existing circumstances, and in accordance with the items of eqpt which are being worn at the time, i.e. battle order, marching order, etc :-
 - (i) The "worn" posn as at present taught.
 - (ii) The "rolled quick release" posn as at present taught. This is a convenient method of carrying the cape when eqpt is not worn.
 - (iii) Rolled and carried inside the eqpt haversack either in place of the water bottle, which should then be worn on the right side, or of the groundsheet if room can be found for this item in unit MT. If the latter course is adopted, the gas cape may be worn to give protection against rain. The cape should be folded to a width of 11 inches, with tapes and whipcord inside, and then rolled; it should be placed in the haversack on top of all the other items.
 - (iv) Rolled and att to the back of the eqpt belt by means of the tapes. This is a convenient method of carrying the cape when the haversack is not worn. In this posn the cape should be rolled as at present taught.

961. BOOTS

Coys will ensure that regular and frequent checks are made of all boots, and those requiring repair fwded through usual channels to QM. At present, repairs usually take one week to complete.

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

BY

Lt-Col R. E. WALL, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 160/4042

file 17

62. PUNISHMENTS BY COURTS MARTIAL

The following awards by FGCSM to soldiers of this Unit, are promulgated :-

(a) VX19587 Pte SMYTH A. was charged with having, while being a member of the Australian Imperial Force, committed the following offences :-

First Charge

"When on active service deserting His Majesty's service

in that he

Army Act
12(1)(a)

at TEL EL EISA on 2 Oct 42 while his Unit was on service in an area of operations against the enemy having been ordered by Lieut J. W. HIPSLEY 2/23 Aust Inf Bn to return to his (accused's) Pl in the FDLs did not so return with intent to avoid service against the enemy.

Second Charge

"When on active service, deserting His Majesty's service

in that he

Army Act
12(1)(a)

in the fd on 26 Oct 42 while his Unit was on service in area of operations against the enemy having been ordered by Maj R.E. WALL 2/23 Aust Inf Bn to report to 'B' ech office at 1600 hrs for fwd movement to his said unit did not so report with intent to avoid service against the enemy.

Court found accused GUILTY on both charges.

The accused was sentenced to undergo detention for one year.

(b) VK11717 Pte HUNTER N. H. was charged with having, while being a member of the Australian Imperial Force, committed the following offences :-

First Charge

"When on active service deserting His Majesty's service

in that he

Army Act
12(1)(a)

at EL HAMMAM while on service in an area of operations against the enemy absented himself without leave from 0825 hrs on 31 Aug 42 until 2000 hrs 31 Aug 42 with intent to avoid such service.

Second Charge

"When on active service deserting his Majesty's service

in that he

Army Act
12(1)(a)

in the fd on 26 Oct 42 while his unit was on service in an area of operations against the enemy having been ordered by Maj R.E. WALL, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn to report to 'B' ech office at 1600 hrs for fwd movement to his said unit did not so report with intent to avoid service against the enemy.

Court found accused NOT GUILTY of desertion but GUILTY of absence without leave on the FIRST CHARGE, and GUILTY on the SECOND CHARGE.

The accused was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for one year.

(c) VX32229 Pte CHAMBERLAIN N. was charged with having, while being a member of the Australian Imperial Force, committed the following offences :-

First Charge

When on active service deserting his Majesty's service in that he

Army Act 12(1)(a)

at EL SHAMMI on 14 Sep 42 while his unit was in an area of operations against the enemy absented himself without leave from the said unit from 0900 hrs on 14 Sep 42 until 1100 hrs on 16 Sep 42 with intent to avoid such service.

Second Charge

When on active service deserting his Majesty's service in that he

Army Act 12(1)(a)

in the fd on 26 Oct 42 while his unit was on active service in an area of operations against the enemy having been ordered by Maj R.E. WALL 2/23 Aust Inf Bn to report to 'B' ech office at 1600 hrs for forward movement to his said unit did not so report with intent to avoid such service against the enemy.

Court found accused NOT GUILTY of desertion but GUILTY of absence without leave on the FIRST CHARGE, and GUILTY on the SECOND CHARGE.

The accused was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for 9 months.

(d) In each case, date of trial was 11 Nov 42, and date of confirmation 14 Nov 42, the confirming offr being Lt-Gen Sir Leslie J. MORSLEAD, KBE, CIG, DSO, ED, GOC 9 Aust Div.

963. A TK AND AP MINES

Coys are advised that a comprehensive museum of A Tk and AP mines of BRITISH and ENEMY pattern, is maintained by No 5 (Pnr) Pl. This is available, together with the services of a competent instr, to all sub-units, and request for this service should be lodged 24 hrs in adv of the time required, with OC No 5 (Pnr) Pl.

964. RECREATION TENT

This is located 100 yds NW of BHQ.


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

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

For Official Use Only

ROUTINE ORDERS

HQ, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,
In the rd,
21 Nov 42.

BY

Lt-Col R. E. WALL Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 161/4042

965. DAMAGE - LG's

Damage has been caused to LG's by vehs crossing them. All vehs must keep clear of LG's whether occupied or not.

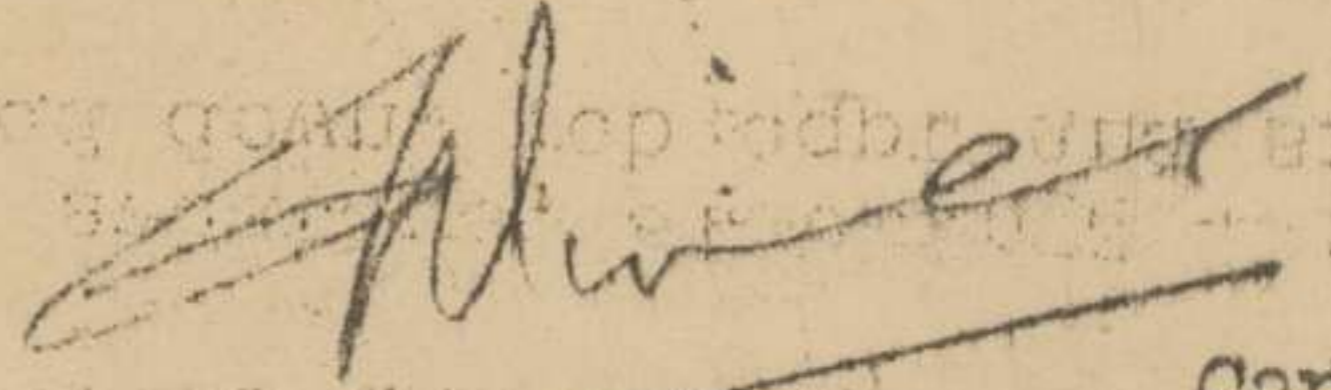
966. CHURCH PARADES

C of E : Bn Church Parade same place and timings as Sunday 15 Nov 42.

Dress - Shirt, shorts, sweaters, stockings long, puttees, hats KFF turned down, web eqpt and side arms.

Holy Communion 0700 hrs in Bn Recreation Hut.

R. C. : Mass 0930 hrs 50 yards WEST of HQ Coy HQ.



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

DISTRIBN :

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STOPPED BY THE POST OFFICE

NO POSTAGE TO BE PAID

POST OFFICE

BY

Lt-Col R E WALL, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 162/4042

967. PUNISHMENTS BY COURT MARTIAL.

The following award by FCGM to a soldier of this Unit, is promulgated :-

VK 5006 Pte EDMONDSTONE A S was charged with having, while being a soldier of the Australian Imperial Force, committed the following offences :-

First Charge "When on active service, deserting His Majesty's Service

Army Act
12(1)(a)

in that he

at EL SHAMAMI on 22 Aug 42 while his Unit was in an area of operations against the enemy, absented himself without leave from the said unit from 1830 hrs on 22 Aug 42 until apprehended at ALEXANDRIA at 1700 hrs on 8 Sep 42 with intent to avoid such service.

Second Charge "When on active service, deserting His Majesty's Service

Army Act
12(1)(a)

in that he

in the fd on 26 Oct 42 while his Unit was in an area of operations against the enemy having been ordered by Maj R E WALL 2/23 Aust Inf Bn to report to 'B' ech office at 1600 hrs for fwd movement to his said unit did not so report with intent to avoid such service against the enemy.

Court found accused NOT GUILTY of desertion but GUILTY of AWL on the FIRST CHARGE, and GUILTY on the SECOND CHARGE.

The accused was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for two years and to be discharged with ignominy from His Majesty's Service.

Date of trial was 12 & 17 Nov 42. Date of confirmation was 19 Nov 42. Lieut-Gen Sir Leslie J MORSHEAD KBE CMG DSO ED, GOC 9 Aust Div confirmed the finding of the Court, and the sentence so far as it related to imprisonment with hard labour, but reserved for confirmation of superior authority, that part of the sentence which related to Discharge with Ignominy from His Majesty's Service.

968. STORES & EQPT

Attention is again directed to Bn R/O No 149/4042 para 904 of 14 Oct 42. Difficulty is still being experienced by QM in the preparation of necessary returns because of the non compliance with this order.

969. 9 DIV TRG COURSE - SITING A TK GUNS

(a) Short 3 hr courses (from 1400 to 1700 hrs daily) for offrns in the siting of A Tk guns, will be held at HQ 3 Aust A T Regt.

(b) Offrns as under, will attend on dates shown :-
23 Nov 42 - Course No 1

Lieut	G M THIRLWELL MC	A COY
"	A K RING	"
"	E H WARBURTON	B COY
"	T D DWYER	C COY
"	M A SIMMONS	D COY
"	E H GIBBS	HQ COY

24 Nov 42 - Course No 2

Lieut	L RAND	A COY
"	J McMINN	"
"	A LYNE	B COY
"	B L LAZER	"
"	H F McLEOD	C COY
"	J H SAINT	D COY

(c) Offrns concerned will RV at BHO at 1245 hrs and will report to HQ 3 Aust A Tk Regt at 87553035 by 1345 hrs.

(d) TO will arrange tpt.

(e) Binoculars, compasses, notebooks, pencils will be taken.

970. SPECTACLES - CONSULTATIONS

(a) Personnel as under will report to BHO at 0715 hrs 24 Nov 42 for movement to 7 AGH for consultation in regard to provision of spectacles.

BHO	WO(1)	TAYLOR-WARD C
HQ COY	Cpl	DIXON G E
"	"	BOWDEN C E
"	Pte	GREGORY J F
"	"	WILLIAMS R S
"	"	LOVEJOY A R
"	"	WALSH J P

(b) WO(1) TAYLOR-WARD will be i/c party and will ensure that duty passes are carried by each member together with veh pass for presentation at Eighth Army Check Post.

(c) Exact time of return of party is not known. Rations for two meals will be carried, together with bedding and personal effects in case overnight stay is necessary.

(d) TO will provide necessary tpt.

971. COURT OF INQUIRY

A C of I is convened by Brig D A WHITEHEAD DSO MC, Comd 26 Aust Inf Bde, consisting of the under mentioned offrns -

PRESIDENT

Major E H McRAE 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

MEMBER

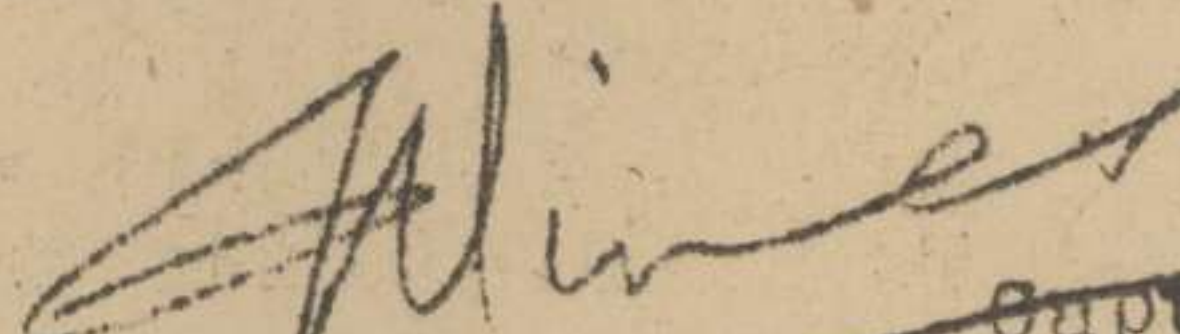
Lieut J D MULCAHY 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Court will assemble not later than 1200 hrs 23 Nov 42 and at such time and place as the President may appoint for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting upon the loss of 2 tents IPP by 2/48 Aust Inf Bn on night 1/2 Jul 42. The attention of the Court is drawn to HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde ID/592 of 21 Nov 42 and att C of I proceedings.

972. BN DUTY OFFR

- (a) Will mount daily at BHQ from 1700 to 0800 hrs and will sleep adjacent to Ord Room phone.
- (b) Duty offr will not move away from telephone except when relieved by another offr. He will take all phone calls and messages and carry out any necessary action arising from them, referring important matters immediately to Adjts, Bn 2 i/c or in their absence, direct to the CO.
- (c) Duty offr roster will be as follows. It is the responsibility of the Coy concerned to ensure that if an offr detailed for duty is not available, a substitute is provided from within the same Coy.

21	Nov	42	Lieut	F K LOVELL
22	"	"	"	J McMINN
23	"	"	"	A LYNE
24	"	"	"	A BATESON
25	"	"	"	T D DWYER
26	"	"	"	M A SIMMONS
27	"	"	"	J W HIPSLEY
28	"	"	"	L RAND
29	"	"	"	E H WARBURTON
30	"	"	"	J D MULCAHY
1	Dec	42	"	H F McLEOD
2	"	"	"	J H SAINT
3	"	"	"	E H GIBBS
4	"	"	"	A K RING
5	"	"	"	B L LAZER


 Adjts, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn. ^{Capt}
 (W J VINES)

DISTRIBN :

List "B".

BY

Lt-Col R. E. WALL, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 163/4042

973. DISCIPLINE

The following summary award against a private soldier of this Bn is published for promulgation to all ranks.

On a charge of conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, in that he was in possession of loot, the soldier was fined £5.

974. SALVAGE

All serviceable Jerricans and 44 gallon drums are first priority salvage.

975. VEH LIGHTS

Veh lights may be used at night up to LIBYAN Frontier.

976. FIRING OF LIGHT SIGS


Despite previous warnings in this regard, the firing of light Sigs and indiscriminate use of coloured smokes continues.

Comd 9 Aust Div directs that this practice will cease immediately.

All ofrs and NCOs will be particularly vigilant in this matter, and will ensure that disciplinary action is taken immediately against offenders within Bn area, irrespective of whether personnel concerned are members of this Unit or not.

977. RECOGNITION - FRIENDLY AIRCRAFT

It is again emphasised that unidentified aircraft will NOT be engaged unless seen to commit a hostile act.


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

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

Lt-Col R. E. WALL, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/Os Part I - No 164/4042

78. DISCIPLINE

AIF (ME) Order No 1343 is rptd :-

The undermentioned sentences by Courts Martial are published for information -

- (a) A private soldier convicted of four charges of obtaining money by false pretences; (AA41), four charges of uttering his paybook; (AA41), and being improperly in possession of two paybooks; (AA40), was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for two years.
- (b) A private soldier convicted of striking his superior offr in the execution of his office, (AA8(1)), and using threatening language to his superior offr, (AA8(2)), was sentenced to undergo detention for six months.
- (c) A private soldier convicted of improperly making away with by selling a pair of military boots, public property (AA40), was sentenced to undergo detention for ninety days.
- (d) A private soldier convicted of two charges of passing valueless cheques, (AA40), and of absenting himself without leave while under open arrest, (AA15(1)), was sentenced to undergo detention for six months.

979. CO's ORDERLY ROOM

Will, in future, be held at 0845 hrs daily, as required. Charge sheets for offences remanded to the CO, will be lodged with RSM not later than 1500 hrs on the day prior to the Orderly Room at which it is desired the charges be heard.

980. FGCM - PTE ALEXANDER G W

- (a) Ref 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Adm Instn No 6 of 20 Nov 42. The case of Pte Alexander will now be heard at 1400 hrs 26 Nov 42, at HQ Rear 9 Aust Div.
- (b) Witnesses for case No 10 as detailed in above Adm Instn, will report to BHQ at 1300 hrs 26 Nov 42 for movement to HQ Rear 9 Aust Div. TO will provide tpt, together with separate veh for tpt of accused and escort.
- (c) RP Sgt is responsible for medical examination and preparation of accused for trial. He will hand certificates of medical fitness and certificate showing number of days in close arrest to Prosecuting Offr, before commencement of Court Proceedings. RP Sgt will also provide escort of 2 RP's.

981. COURT OF INQUIRY

A C of I is convened consisting of the under mentioned offr -

PRESIDENT

Major E H McRAE 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

MEMBER

Lieut G M THIRLWELL MC " " " "

Court will assemble not later than 26 Nov 42, and at such place as the President may appoint, for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting upon injuries sustained by under mentioned personnel on 28 Oct 42 :-

VX19036 Cpl WHITE S, BHQ 2/23 Bn

VX59755 Pte CURRAN W P, HQ 2/23 Bn

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

982. COY ORDERLY DUTIES

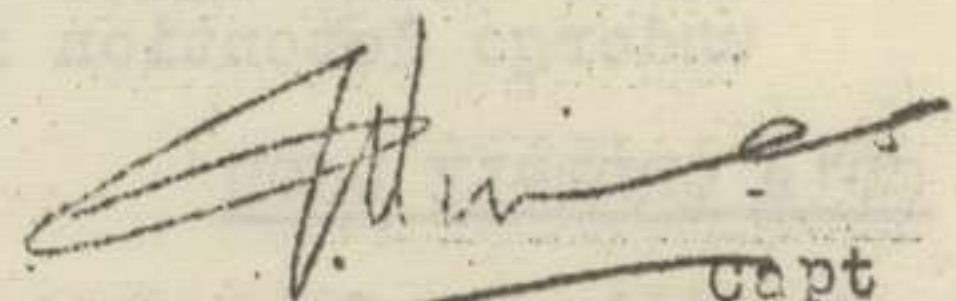
With effect from 25 Nov 42, an Ord Offr and NCO will mount daily in each Coy. Their duties will be to ensure that Coy lines are maintained in orderly condition, and in particular that all matters of hygiene and sanitation within the Coy receive careful attention.

Ord Offr and NCO will attend each meal parade, and will particularly observe that instr re washing of dixies in boiling water BEFORE meals is carried out.

Performance of ord duties must not be permitted to interfere with normal trg.

983. HYGIENE

- (a) Diarrhoea is at present prevalent within the Unit.
- (b) Flytraps have been issued to all kitchens, but in no cases are these working efficiently. Flytraps must be inspected daily by Coy Ord Offr, who will ensure that they are maintained in efficient order by cookhouse personnel.
- (c) Close supervision of cookhouse personnel will be maintained. All ranks associated with kitchens must maintain high standard of personal hygiene and cleanliness.
- (d) Small quantities of petrol will be sprinkled round cutting-up benches, and ignited as often as ground shows signs of becoming fouled.



Adj't, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
(W J VINES)

DISTRIBN :

List "B".



File 17.

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

Lt-Col R. E. WALL, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/O's Part I - No 165/4042

984. DRIVERS - MT

- (a) All drs allotted to Rifle Coys will carry out normal trg with the personnel of the Coy, when not engaged on actual driving duties.
- (b) Drs located at B Ech will be trained by HQ Coy on Rifle Coy syllabus, when not engaged in driving duties.

985. CANOPIES - MT

Any canopies MT previously removed from vehs will be replaced forthwith, and will, in future, not be removed without authority of TO.

986. STRETCHER BEARERS

- (a) All SB's will be allotted by RMO to Coys.
- (b) When not engaged on organized medical trg under supervision of RMO, SB's will carry out normal inf trg with the Coys to which they are att.

987. FOOTBALL MATCH

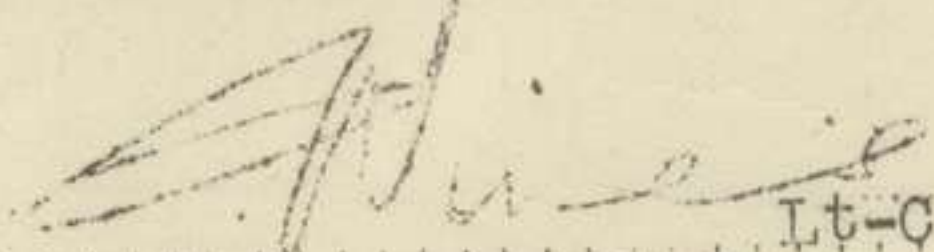
- (a) Football match between this Bn and 9 Aust Div Cav Regt, will be played at HQ of Cav Regt commencing 1430 hrs, Sat 28 Nov 42. Arrangements for football team will be coordinated by Lieut LOVELL and Sports Committee.
- (b) Coys may utilize two vehs per Rifle Coy, and four for HQ Coy, to convey spectators to this match. Vehs will form up in convoy under direction Tpt Sgt, facing WEST along track immediately NORTH of RAP by 1300 hrs. Head of convoy at RAP. Major E H McRAE will be OC party. One offr per Coy must accompany tps proceeding as spectators to the match.

988. INSPECTION - TANK BATTLE AREA

- (a) An independent inspection by Coys of tk battle area, SW of SIDI ADB EL RAHMAN may be made on Sun afternoon 29 Nov 42.
- (b) Parties will be limited to two vehs per Coy, and in each case will be under comd of an offr.
- (c) Tk battle area is situated four miles SW of Mosque at SIDI ADB EL RAHMAN, along what was known as the SIDI RAHMAN track. Parties will NOT proceed WEST of 9 Aust Div area.

989. CLEANLINESS - BN AREA

Following the implementing of instns contained in 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Adm Instn No 10, sub-units will make close inspection of Coy areas and their immediate vicinities, and ensure that rubbish etc is buried or otherwise disposed. Areas, when vacated by Bn, must be left in clean condition.


 Lt-Col
 Comd, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
 (R. E. WALL)

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

For Official Use Only

ROUTINE ORDERS

HQ 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
In the Fd
27 Nov 42

by

Lt-Col R E WALL, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

POs Part I - No 166/4042

990. SPORTING GEAR

(a) Unit sporting gear, as under is on charge to Coys:

EHQ	1	Socket ball,	1	Cricket ball
HQ Coy	3	"	4	"
		2	Cricket bats,	1 set stumps,
A "		1	Football,	1 set Boxing gloves,
				2 Cricket balls,
				1 Socket ball
B "		1	Football,	1 Soccer ball,
				2 Cricket bats,
				1 Deck tennis set
C "		1	Football,	1 Soccer ball,
				2 Cricket balls,
				1 Deck tennis set
D "		1	Football,	2 Soccer balls,
				2 Cricket balls.

(b) Coys may make mutual arrangements to borrow additional eqpt from each other as required.

991. VENEREAL DISEASE

(a) VD is very prevalent in ME and special attention is directed to 9 Aust Div instn on this subject distributed separately to all Coys today.

(b) Contents of this instn will be read to all ranks and repeated at intervals, particularly on arrival in new location.

(c) RMO will deliver lectures in all Coys on roster to be advised.

992. COURT OF INQUIRY

A C of I is convened, consisting of the under-mentioned offrs,

PRESIDENT

Capt W F BROWN - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

MEMBER

Lieut J McMINN - 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

Court will assemble before 1200 hrs 28 Nov 42 at such place as the President may appoint for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting upon,

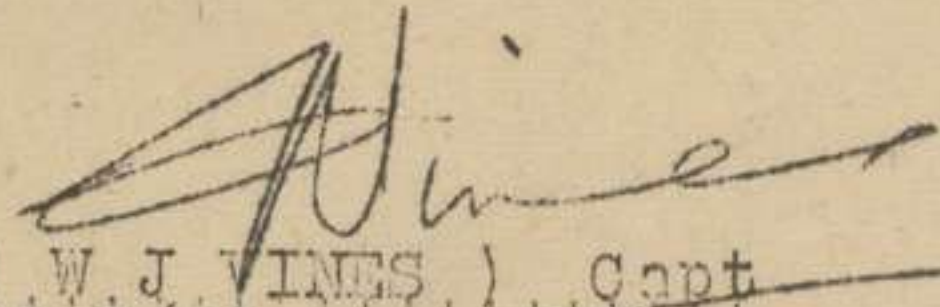
(a) The loss of one valise and contents the property of Capt N E McMASTER, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn,

(b) Illegal absence and loss of regtl necessaries by VM 2597 Pte BOLTON S L, D Coy, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

The attention of the Court is directed to AIF (ME) Orders Nos 753 and 847.

993. BOOTS AB

Following further issue today of boots, all ranks should now possess two pairs. Regular inspections will be made to ensure that these are retained and that worn boots are sent through usual channels for repair and NOT discarded.



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

Distribn - List "A"

BY

Lt-Col R. E. WALL, Comd 2/23 Aust Inf Bn

R/O's Part I - No 167/4042

994. PUNISHMENTS BY COURTS MARTIAL

The following awards by FGC'sM to soldiers of this Unit, are promulgated :-

- (a) VX55650 Pte GIBBS G. G. was charged with having, while being a member of the Australian Imperial Force, committed the following offence :-

"When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service

Army Act
12(1)(a)

in that he

In the Field near TEL EL EISA while his unit was on service in an area of operations against the enemy absented himself without leave from 2150 hrs on 28 Oct 42 until 1200 hrs on 3 Nov 42, with intent to avoid such service."

Court found accused GUILTY.

The accused was sentenced to undergo detention for one year.

- (b) VX57154 Pte MURPHY J. M. was charged with having, while being a member of the Australian Imperial Force, committed the following offence :-

"When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service

Army Act
12(1)(a)

in that he

In the Field near EL SHAMAMI while on active service in an area of operations against the enemy absented himself without leave from 0800 hrs on 17 Oct 42 until apprehended at ALEXANDRIA at 0005 hrs on 23 Oct 42, with intent to avoid such service."

Court found accused NOT GUILTY of desertion, but GUILTY of AWL.

The accused was sentenced to undergo Detention for 60 days.

- (c) VX 605 Pte WHITE N. E. was charged with having, while being a member of the Australian Imperial Force, committed the following offences :-

First Charge -

"When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service

Army Act
12(1)(a)

in that he

In the Field near EL SHAMAMI while his Unit was on service in an area of operations against the enemy, absented himself without leave from 0830 hrs on 17 Oct 42 until 1230 hrs on 19 Oct 42 with intent to avoid such service."

Second Charge -

"When on active service, deserting His Majesty's Service

Army Act
12(1)(a)

in that he

In the Field near TEL EL EISA while his unit was on service in an area of operations against the enemy absented himself without leave from 2150 hrs on 28 Oct 42 until 1200 hrs on 3 Nov 42 with intent to avoid such service."

Army Act
9 (2)

in that he

In the Field near EL ALAMEIN on 31 Oct 42, when ordered by Capt W. MOORE, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn, to embus for forward movement to his unit did not do so, saying "No Sir I refuse" or words to that effect."

Third Charge -

"When on active service disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer

Army Act
9 (2)

in that he

In the Field near TEL EL EISA on 6 Nov 42 did not dig a dugout when ordered to do so by Sgt BOWDEN W. H., 2/23 Aust Inf Bn."

The Court found accused NOT GUILTY of desertion but GUILTY of AWL from 24 Oct 42 and NOT as set out in the particulars on the FIRST CHARGE, and GUILTY on the SECOND and THIRD charges.

The accused was sentenced to undergo detention for 18 months.

Date of trial was 22 and 23 Nov 42, and date of confirmation 29 Nov 42, the confirming officer being Brig A. H. RAMSAY C.B.E., Adm Comd 9 Aust Div.

- (f) VX29871 Pte GILL P. J. was charged with having, while being a member of the Australian Imperial Force, committed the following offences :-

First Charge -

"When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service

Army Act
12(1)(a)

in that he

In the field near TEL EL EISA, while on service in an Area of operations against the enemy, absented himself without leave from 2000 hrs on 29 Oct 42 until he surrendered himself to Capt W. MOORE, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn at 0900 hrs on 30 Oct 42 at B Ech area, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn, with intent to avoid such service."

Second Charge -

"When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service

Army Act
12(1)(a)

in that he

In the field near EL ALAMEIN on 30 Oct 42 while his unit was on service in area of operations against the enemy, having been ordered by Capt W. MOORE 2/23 Aust Inf Bn to report to B Ech office at 1740 hrs for forward movement to his unit, did not so report with intent to avoid such service against the enemy."

Third Charge -

"When on active service disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer

Army Act
9 (2)

in that he

In the field near TEL EL EISA on 6 Nov 42 did not dig a dugout when ordered to do so by Sgt BOWDEN W. H. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn."

- () Court found accused GUILTY on ALL CHARGES.

The accused was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for 18 months.

(g) VX58665 Pte MELVILLE W. G. was charged with having, while being a member of the Australian Imperial Force, committed the following offence :-

"When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service in that he

Army Act
12(1)(a)

In the field near EL ALAMEIN while his unit was on active service in an area of operations against the enemy absented himself without leave from 1000 hrs on 22 Oct 42 until apprehended by SX 2851 Cpl OSBORN A. C. of No 2 Aust L of C Pro Coy at ALEXANDRIA at 2325 hrs on 25 Oct 42 with intent to avoid such service."

Court found the accused GUILTY.

Accused was sentenced to undergo detention for one year.

In each of the above cases, date of trial was 23 Nov 42, and date of confirmation 29 Nov 42, the confirming offr being Brig A. H. RAMSAY C.B.E., Adm Comd 9 Aust Div.

(h) VX45759 Pte NAUGHTON T. was charged with having, while being a member of the Australian Imperial Force, committed the following offences :-

First Charge -

"When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service in that he

Army Act
12(1)(a)

In the field near TEL EL EISA while on active service in an area of operations against the enemy absented himself without leave from 2000 hrs on 29 Oct 42 until he surrendered himself to Capt W. MOORE 2/23 Aust Inf Bn at B Echelon area at 0900 hrs on 30 Oct 42 with intent to avoid such service."

Second Charge -

"When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service in that he

Army Act
12(1)(a)

In the field near EL ALAMEIN on 30 Oct 42 while his unit was on active service in an area of operations against the enemy, having been ordered to report to B Echelon office at 1740 hrs for forward movement to his said unit, did not so report with intent to avoid service against the enemy."

Court found accused GUILTY on both charges.

Accused was sentenced to undergo detention for six months. The Court recommends that this man be medically examined.

(i) VX51677 Pte JACOBI N. A. was charged with having, while being a member of the Australian Imperial Force, committed the following offences :-

First Charge -

"When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service in that he

Army Act
12(1)(a)

In the field near TEL EL EISA while his Unit was on service in an area of operations against the enemy absented himself without leave from 0400 hrs on 29 Oct 42 until he surrendered himself to Maj J. A. ANDERSON, 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn at 0830 hrs

on 29 Oct 42 at 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn LOB area with intent to avoid such service."

Second Charge -

"When on active service disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer

Army Act in that he
9 (2)

In the field near EL ALAMEIN on 29 Oct 42, did not embus for forward movement to his unit when ordered to do so by Capt V. MOORE, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn."

Third Charge -

"When on active service disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer

Army Act in that he
9 (2)

In the field near TEL EL EISA on 6 Nov 42 did not dig a dugout when ordered to do so by Sgt BOWDEN W. H."

Court found accused GUILTY on ALL charges.

Accused was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for one year.

- (j) WX14462 Pte BROWN A. C. was charged with having, while being a member of the Australian Imperial Force, committed the following offences :-

First Charge -

"When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service

Army Act in that he
12(1)(a)

In the field near EL ALAMEIN while on service in an area of operations against the enemy absented himself without leave from 0700 hrs on 22 Oct 42 until he was apprehended by Cpl SCUTTER E. B. of 3 L of C Pro Coy at 0950 hrs on 27 Oct 42 at TEL AVIV, with intent to avoid such service."

Second Charge -

"When on active service disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer

Army Act in that he
9 (2)

In the field near TEL EL EISA on 6 Nov 42 did not dig a dugout when ordered to do so by Sgt BOWDEN W. H., 2/23 Aust Inf Bn."

Court found accused GUILTY, with the exception that he was AWL at 0730 hrs and NOT as set out in the particulars on the FIRST CHARGE, and GUILTY on the SECOND CHARGE.

The accused was sentenced to undergo detention for two years.

- (k) VX43561 Pte SCHIELE L. was charged with having, while being a member of the Australian Imperial Force, committed the following offence :-

"When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service

Army Act in that he
12(1)(a)

In the field near EL ALAMEIN on 30 Oct 42 while his Unit was on active service in an area of

operations against the enemy having been ordered by Capt W. MOORE, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn, to report to B Echelon office at 1740 hrs for forward movement to his said unit did not so report with intent to avoid such service against the enemy."

Court found accused GUILTY.

The accused was sentenced to undergo detention for one year.

(1) VX34363 Pte McDONALD K. J. was charged with having, while being a member of the Australian Imperial Force, committed the following offences :-

First Charge -

"When on active service disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer

Army Act 9 (2)

in that he

In the field near EL ALAMEIN on 29 Oct 42 when ordered to embus by Capt W. MOORE, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn, for forward movement to his unit did not so embus, saying "I couldn't do it" or words to that effect."

Second Charge -

"When on active service disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer

Army Act 9 (2)

in that he

In the field near TEL EL EISA on 6 Nov 42 did not dig a dugout when ordered to do so by Sgt ROWDEN W. H., 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.

Court found accused GUILTY on both charges.

The accused was sentenced to undergo detention for 9 months.

In each of the above cases, date of trial was 22 Nov 42, and date of confirmation 28 Nov 42, the confirming officer being Brig A. H. RAMSAY C.D.E., Adm Comd 9 Aust Div.

(m) VX26312 Pte VETVILLE D. M. was charged with having, while being a member of the Australian Imperial Force, committed the following offences :-

First Charge -

"When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service

in that he

Army Act 12(1)(a)

In the field near TEL EL EISA on 28 Oct 42, while his unit was on active service in an area of operations against the enemy, having been ordered by Lieut F. K. LOVELL to move forward with his platoon did not do so with intent to avoid service against the enemy."

Second Charge -

"When on active service disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer

Army Act 9 (2)

in that he

In the field near EL ALAMEIN on 29 Oct 42 when ordered by Capt W. MOORE, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn, to embus for forward movement to his unit did not so embus."

Court found the accused GUILTY on both charges.

Accused was sentenced to undergo detention for 9 months.

Date of trial was 23 Nov 42, and date of confirmation 29 Nov 42. The Confirming Officer, Brig A. H. RAMSAY, C.B.E., Adm Comd 9 Aust Div, refused confirmation of the finding on the first charge. He confirmed the finding on the second charge. He confirmed the sentence, but remitted three (3) months of the sentence.

- (n) VX40545 Pte CINORIS R. C. was charged with having, while being a member of the Australian Imperial Force, committed the following offences :-

First Charge -

"When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service

in that he

Army Act

12(1)(a)

In the field near TEL EL EISA while his unit was on service in an area of operations against the enemy, absented himself without leave from 1915 hrs on 26 Oct 42 until he surrendered himself to Maj R. E. WALL, CC 2/23 Aust Inf Bn LOB personnel, at 1030 hrs on 27 Oct 42 with intent to avoid such service."

Second Charge -

"When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service

in that he

Army Act

12(1)(a)

In the field near EL ALAMEIN on 27 Oct 42 while his Unit was on active service in an area of operations against the enemy having been ordered by Capt W. MOORE, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn to embus for forward movement to his said Unit refused so to embus with intent to avoid service against the enemy."

The Court found the accused GUILTY on both charges.

The accused was sentenced to undergo detention for 9 months.

Date of trial was 23 Nov 42, and date of confirmation 29 Nov 42. The Confirming Officer, Brig A. H. RAMSAY C.B.E., Adm Comd 9 Aust Div, confirmed the finding in the first charge, but refused confirmation of the finding in the second charge. He confirmed the sentence, but remitted three (3) months thereof.

995. SHOOTING OF CARRIER PIGEONS

AIF (ME) Order No 1347 is rptd :-

- (a) Many cases are occurring of carrier pigeons being shot at, and not only have valuable birds been killed or injured, but the training of others seriously upset. This has resulted in the non-delivery or delay of important messages, and it must be realised that messages carried by pigeons are often of an SOS nature, the prompt delivery of which may lead to the saving of men's lives.
- (b) All personnel are, therefore, forbidden to shoot at pigeons of any sort, and in addition will report immediately any cases they encounter of pigeon shooting, whether by service personnel or civilians.

996. DISCIPLINE

AIF (ME) Order No 1353 is rptd :-

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

(a) A private soldier, convicted of using violence to his superior officer (AA 8(2)) in the field; striking his superior officer (AA 8(2)) in the field; using threatening language to his superior officer (AA 8(2)) in the field; and losing by neglect his paybook (AA 24(2)), was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for one year.

(b) A private soldier, convicted of Deserting His Majesty's Service (AA 12(1)(a)) in the field, was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for one year.

(c) A private soldier, convicted of when a soldier acting as a sentinel, sleeping on his post (AA 6(2)(e)), was sentenced to undergo detention for sixty days.

(d) A private soldier, convicted of forging entries in a Master Pay Roll with intent to defraud (AA 41), and conspiracy to obtain money by false pretences (AA 41), was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for one year.

997. BN SPORTS OFFR

(a) Lieut F. K. LOVELL is appointed Bn Sports Offr.

(b) Each Coy, incl HQ Coy and BHQ, will nominate direct to Lieut Lovell, one rep to form Bn Sports Committee.

(c) Sports Committee have authority to increase their number where necessary.

998. EMERGENCY RATIONS

(a) Emergency chocolate ration, at present held by all ranks, will be withdrawn and held under Coy arrangements until further advice.

(b) Coys will prepare nominal roll of personnel who are deficient in this commodity, and will submit nominal roll to BHQ for consideration of disciplinary action. One copy of roll will be retained in Coy records.

999. PUBLICATION - SOLDIERING ON

It is advised by Higher Formation that every soldier of 9 Aust Div will receive free, one copy of this publication, or alternatively, its value to be credited to paybooks where orders have already been placed by individuals.

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

NOTICE

FOOTBALL MATCH

Result of football match against 9 Aust Div Cav Regt, was as follows :-

2/23 Aust Inf Bn 6 Goals 4 Behinds

9 Aust Div Cav Regt 5 Goals 4 Behinds

ACTION DIARY

Appx 20
1 Nov. 42

Serial NO	Time From	TO	EVEN T	AC
516	26 Bde		WARNING @ Digging squares 869299, 869300, 870299, 870300, 870301 EXTENSIVELY booby trapped @ Minefds incl AP mines NE from 87073013. Personnel should keep to tracks. Cup	
1515	1545	26 Bde	Sitrep to 1530 hrs @ 1415hrs attacked on 2/32 and 2/43 hrs by 15 tks repulsed 5 tks being KO'd @ 1515hrs counter attack by Lorrain inf from WEST and NORTH is being engaged by our arty @ Further 25 PW's from 1231R brought in @ all infd	
1514	1545	26 Bde	Track 12 ft wide approx 87043009 to 87183029 @ crosses minefl 300 yds wide from approx 87093016 to 87113018 @ comprise scattered EP FRENCH and booby traps @ widening and additional clearing proceeding @ only opposition Spandau fire NORTH of ry @ det engs protected by det 40 RTR now extending this track SOUTH to 870300 and from 8718 easting along SOUTH edge of ry to TELL EL EISA @ all informed	
JW1	-	L Sec Sig	Enclosed code strips come into operation on 1 NOV at 0300 hrs @ peris @ 2 GA (Q) 26C (ops) 16D (SIGS) 16B (Medical) @ Ack. Brig Godfrey wounded. Col. Evans taking over Brig 24 Bde. Major L.E. Wall now C.O.	Ack
2 Nov. 42				
V1	0908	D	27 tks now seen moving SE - thought to be enemy - bearing 270. 325° Our arty shelling the tks	Arty
V2	1000	D	1st bat. tks. 295° - 3000' - MK III	
		D	party of 25 men moving SOUTH - North of them 40. Stopped at vehicles	
V3	1015		Carrier Sgt. returned from 15 Bn. HQ & reported approx 12 tks were opposite the Bn. front. Arty started shelling them and they moved off. Later some of our tks were observed moving up to engage them.	
1517	1015	26 Bde	Following minefds laid night 31 Oct./1 Nov. @ 86953035, 87043044, 87053046, 87083047. all HAWKINS.	

Sg. 867301.

2 Nov.

A C T I O N D I A R Y

No	Time	From	To	E v e n t	Act
0314	1015	26 Bde.		P.W's period 1-7 Nov.	Note
0315	1015	26 Bde		Summer dune will NOT be changed on night 31 Oct./1 Nov. @ units will be notified when the change is to take place	Note
0313	1015	26 Bde		Ground to ground recog. sigs period 1-7 Nov. and @ pennants one top one center @ answer to challenge VERTICAL.	
	1030	26 Bde.		9 Aust. Div. Summary No. 343.	
	1030	26 Bde.		Sun & Moon Times - November 1942	✓
				Canis Moonlight - November 1942	✓
				Retrip to 2030 hrs @ first light patrol found enemy FDL at pt. 25 873302 and northwards to coast still occupied @	
				During pm. 2/13 + 23 Bns separated. former taking area left of tracks, 23 right - B+C. moved to new localities.	
	1700			Bombing raid by approx 15 STUKAS in Bn area. Casualties - 1 killed & wounded.	
				2 UXB still in area. Engineers inspected them found one to be 500 lb. & one 110 lb. Owing to fainting light 'blowing' to be left for morning.	
0394	2000	9 Aust. Div.		Retrip to 0900 hrs @ can. sqw. now covering units from enemy eastern minefd from sy. south to 8703005 @ composite force are occupying posn. about sy. covering right flank 24 Bde @ last of series of enemy attacks on 24 Bde at 0230 hrs from NE was repulsed @ 24 Bde stable in approx original posn @ 24 NOV - 2 on sand dune rd north of 24 Bde 0945 hrs @ 40 at 867307 moving SE before 0815 hrs, 20 at 867304 at 0835 hrs facing SE but latter were moving south or facing south 0935 hrs 866302 and 866303 @ 20 Bde FDL unchanged and contact made with MAORI bn @ deserter I/361 stated receiving some reinforcements @ SUPERCHARGE PW through 9 Aust Div. cage approx	

Sg 869301

2 Nov

ACTION DIARY

No.	Time	From	To	Event	Act
				GERMAN 60 ITALIAN 70 and still coming in @ SUPERCHARGE inf. captured all final objectives up to 863 grid and Ak. battle now in progress 861 grid all unformed.	
V.1	2200	BCD		Sitmor.	20 Bd aa
V.2	2300	BCD		Sitmor	20 Bd ad
V.3	2400	BCD		Sitmor	20 Bd ad
V.4	0100			Sitmor	20 Bd ad
V.5	0200			Sitmor	20 Bd ad
V.6	0300			Sitmor	20 Bd ad
V.7	0400			Sitmor	20 Bd ad

3 Nov 42

I/3			all comp RSM	Comd 9 Aust div has received following message from Comd EIGHTH Army @ Begins @ I want to congratulate you on the magnificent work your Division has done on the right of the line @ your men are absolutely splendid and the part they have played in this battle is beyond all praise @ Please tell the division that I am delighted with the way it has fought @ Ends @ Promulgate immediately	
A1270			23Bw	following received by GOC 9 Aust div from General Blamey @ begins @ warm congratulations for magnificent work and best wishes from all Australian forces from NEW GUINEA mountain tops to Western Australia @ ends.	

A61	1515	23Bw	231	Patrol notice @ strength 10 offr. 1 NCO, 2 ORs, 2 sappers @ Object to establish OP in Thompsons Post @ Route from 87053010, 87133022 thence EAST @ Time out 1630 hrs @ Time in depends on situation.	20 Bd Coy
V1				20 Bde advises we are now no longer under their	

Sq 869301

Nov 42

Action Diary

No	Time	From	To	E V E N T	Action
				Comd also Thompsons Post is direct responsibility of 26 Bde	
13/1	1530		PCO 8500 2nd ATK Sq 8650 8650 RAP	FN message 3/4 John Collins A/craft se cog/ Sq 91 + 910V	Sig
V2	1630	CO	D Coy M Coy 624 Bde	Cancel patrol	
V3				Aerial bomb to be exploded in 10 min time	Sig
13/8	1815	BHQ	BCD Coy	Sitrep @ The following information has been received but NOT confirmed from unofficial sources that our armoured forces have successfully taken following objectives 8655 3085 8638 3049 8625 2999 8609 2972	
				4 NOV 42	
V1	0425	20 Bde		Sitrep @ Attack by Highland Div to get around and astride Rahman Arack in vicinity of Ring bontour 45 859 291, A0 860 290 Prior to this they were in vicinity of 8623 2955 north 8 RTR dug in hull down. 7 Mot bde holding most of TELL EL Aqqaqir they had attacked and had been pushed off but counter attacked 1 Armcd Div claims 18 Ahs destroyed - 11 Ahs burning and 4 possibles - 7 - 88mm 2 - 105 7 - 50mm 4 75 ^s and 3 Iti guns knocked out Rece patrol from Pioneers tonight report Enemy mine laying party in vicinity 8685 3049 - will mortar & machine gun area send out strong patrol Thompsons Posts and Ring bontour clear - bar & 26 Bde moving along coast rd - main rd have reached Egg feature - no opp objective on main rd is where telephone line crosses rd 8725 3031 Air force destroyed 6 Stukas 6 prob 6 damaged also 1 ME 109 destroyed At present general Enemy line from 8700 3055 WEST TO RAHMAN Arack Arack 15 Bn strong post at 8664 3023 with pl of MG mortar - A/TK engaged at 865 303 southern half of sq	

969301

4 Nov 42

Action Diary

No	Time	From	To	EVENT	Act.
				15 Bn A Coy to 8664 3023. B Coy to 8673 3025.	
I4/1	0940		BCD	Premulgation sitrep VI.	Sigs
I4/2	1030		24 Bde TAC	2/23 B Coy report veh movement on bearing of 45° degrees from their HQ @ number of vehs approx 40 @ movement from EAST to WEST @ area sq 872 303. Time 1025 hrs. @ sound by only @ Visibility poor	LO
			26 Bde	Int Summary No 235.	
No 41				Instns to Armourers. 41 No 35 No 41	
	1150		20 Bde	Warning order to 2/23 Bn to revert back to 26 Bde	
			all coys	Warning order rptd to all coys to prepare for move at moments notice	
I21	1152		TAC 20 Bde	Sitrep No 17 to 1230 hrs. date 3 Nov. quite night on bde front @ patrol to 8664 3038 nothing to report 1855 2 nov 51 HD captured skinflint 864295 and Snipe 865294. 190 PW. own casualties nil @ 26 Bde patrol to 8720 3017 report talking and veh heard approx 8730 3025 @ 24 bde strong fighting patrols to north and west met strong opposition and took 14 PW @ 8 220 recee 2 HQ 90 Lt Div 4 1/361 and one deserter 1/361 @ PW state losses by during counter attacks in 26 Bde. @ HQ 90 Lt div 1 clerk and dr water truck apparently in line as inf @ SA and CS and carrier patrol from 2/15 and 2/17 report enemy on line 8670 3055 WEST to RAHMAN track @ 488 guns reported 8644 3055 @ carriers being engaged by ATK guns and are engaging enemy inf @ captured Australian arty offr states enemy withdraw to new line at 0300 hrs @ carrier patrols report many enemy dead on battlefd and 12 50 mm ATK guns apparently intact @ general impression enemy withdrawal. Sitrep to 2030 hrs. @ Contact maintained on bde front by carriers @ 2/15 Bn to move two Southern Coys to areas 8665 3020 8672 3027 and link with NZ @	

869301

4 Nov 42

Action Diary

No	Time	From	To	E V E N T	Acti
				arty report Thompsons posts evacuated. ○ no report yet of wind battle. ○ NZ div operating with carriers armels cs and OPs west and north of bridgehead ○ all infmd.	
I 41	1745	BCD etc etc		P W night 4/5 EGGS + BACON	
V	1430			Aircraft se cog Sept 5 NOV Warning order rec'd Div. will again come under Comd 26 Bde + move to sq. Lays + subunits advised - recce parties held up under Comd Capt Brown.	S 21
I 24	1200.	20 Bde		following enemy minefields reported ○ 8670 2947. to 8680 2940. ○ all infmd.	
I 23	1300	20 Bde		Subrep to 0800hrs. NOV 4. ○ quiet night on bde front. ○ dawn patrols est enemy still occupying line through 3055 nothing ○ wire reported from 870 307.5 W past end of excavations. 868 305 to ry ○ very little movement EAST of this wire ○ 5 INDBDE attacked overnight to gain RAHMAN. Tracks tracks vicinity pung contour 45 859 291 to 86 0 290 ○ result unknown ○ 7 MOT Bde on TEL EL ABRARIR with the battle continuing that area ○ 1 ARMO DIV claims for 3 Nov. 18 also destroyed + possible ○ also knocked out following guns 7-88mm, 2 105, 7-50, 4-75 3 ITALIAN ○ RAF claim 1 V87. 6 destroyed, 6 probable, 6 damaged also 1 ME 109 destroyed ○ Pm patrol reports enemy mine-laying party area 8685-3049 ○ disperses ○ 2/15 A Coy No 86663021, B Coy No 86743027 carrier standing patrol at 86643016 No join NZ ○ 2/17 B Coy No 86743016 ○ 211 Bde regrouped with 2/43 right find between rd and ry ○ 2/32 left find unchanged ○ 2/48 res behind 2/32 ○ COMP FORCE holding right flank north of rd ○ 9 div. can have cleared main rd to B11 feature 870304 ○ no opposition ○ FF occupied MUNASSIB without opposition and HIMEIMAT also free of enemy.	

Action Diary

No	Time	From	To	EVENT	Action
	1900			BHQ located in reserve pass. Coy marched from old pass without incident.	
V. I.	0930	26 Bde		SITREP @ Enemy appears to be in full flight @ 9 Km CO. 25/1 Cav. have been ordered to pursue enemy with 1st bound Adj. as SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN 868310 to 861305, 2nd bound 860312 to A 21 858308, 3rd bound NE & SW GHAZAL Rd @ Coy 20 Bde moving towards RAHMAN took 100 PW this morning @ 151 Bde head of pursuit gp with under comd of AITK Bly has 1 dp plus Aust. Id. Bly with orders to proceed to DABA @ GEN comd AFRICA KORPS PW @ An arm C regt up to 0500 hrs had captured 1200 PW including HQ of TRENTO DIV.	
IS/1	1000	ABCD HQ BDE		Premulgating above SITREP.	Sigs
IS/1	1230	26 Bde		9 Div Sitrep to 2030 hrs 4 Nov @ mopping up of coastal pocket completed CLOVER LEAF feature occupied 1230 hrs area only occupied by stragglers enemy still holding line from 8693055 with along 30.55 northwards with isolated MG posts food @ enemy seen in TELL EL SALHARI 1600 hrs @ occasions 868305 held in strength @ during morning from RAHMAN much inf movement SW @ enemy shelling area Western @ 24 873299 1800 hrs @ following rd as clear of mines but rd narrow and bad condition and open to emergency traffic only except SEA track. untrafficable @ sides of track are still mined @ SEA track to 8743308 main rd to Tunc with GUILLOTINE track 871304 old MATRUH rd to 87083039 RLY track to BLOCKHOUSE @ identification ITALIANS captured coastal strip 148 MT Coy 20 Tr reached 90 LT DIV @ one PW identified 1/361 PGR @ 151 Bde area to be under comd @	

Action Diary

No	Time	From	To	E V E N T	
		Conf		5 IND Bde reaches objective area 859290 early morning @ 51 DIV occupies TEL EL AQQAQIR and ARND formations operating today with and along 290 easting @ our own cost reported this morning SOUTH of FUKKA	To Air
I 520	1230	268A		9 Div subn to 0830 hrs @ reorganisation Div sector completed by 0450 hrs @ night 20 Bde left 20 Bde boundary by line @ 26 Bde in Div reserve FDL remains unaltered @ 3 PW captured early this morning 87083077 and patrols in area 865307 and 866307 captured 100 GERMANS 268 Coy @ 2/15 Bn now located on RAHMAN and Div Cav ordered to pursue enemy towards GHAZAL @ indications 90 LT DIV and 15 Armd Div withdrawing WEST	To Air
I 518	1230	268A		HAWKINS Mainfold 86853006 to 86883003 to 86903004 to 86913004 now cleared	To Air
		9 Div		Div Summary No 347	To Air
	1400	268A		26 Bde 2/15 disposes to 26 Bde	Sea
I 521	1445	268A		20 Bde subn to 1100 hrs @ foot patrol 4/5 Nov could not make contact @ 2/15 Bn carried patrol out at first light to 866307 and collected 1 + 142 PW to Coy 125 P.E.R @ PWs packed with blankets rolled waiting to move back @ 1 Coy 2/15 Bn moved to 86523079 @ 2/13 Bn moved to line 87003045 86813038	To Air
I 522	1630	268A		following points extract map ref code 54 compromise @ area A points UPV @ area S points A B @ remainder extract believed compromise @ soldiers will go WITH CAUTION AND AVOID USE extract point in QUESTION @ all infel	Sea

No	Time	FROM	TO	EVENT	ACTION
Y2	1800	26 Bde		<p>9 Div Cav at DABA. INTERCEPT MESSAGE 9012 div call for help WEST of DABA. NZ DIV is at FUKA encountered TOSCANO DIV. (ITALIAN). INDIANS have moved SOUTH. Royal Arm'd Cars shot up a number of NT the personnel of which escaped but will be later rounded up. An airforce operating from DABA and carried out strafing raids without aerial interference. No arm'd engagements probably owing to shortage of enemy armour.</p>	Adj't of Coy's in
104	2130	TAC 9 DIV		<p>Following message from Comd. Eighth Army to be communicated to all Aps earliest @ begins @ The present battle has now lasted for twelve days during which all Aps have fought so magnificently that the enemy is so being worn down @ the enemy has just reached the breaking pt and he is trying to get his army away @ The RAF is taking by toll of his colns moving WEST on the main rd coast rd @ the enemy is in our power and he is just about to crack. @ I call on all Aps to keep up the pressure and not to relax for one moment. @ we have the chance of putting the whole panzer army in the bag and we will do so @ I congratulate all Aps on what has been achieved @ complete victory is almost in sight. @ on your behalf I have sent a separate message to the RAF thanking them for their quite magnificent support @ ends</p>	Adj't
2001 A/190	1800	26 Bde		<p>R/T codes - code 8 Nov 42. To 14 Nov 42</p>	
	0845	Adj't		<p>6 Nov 42. Sitrep to 2030 hrs @ 1005 hrs mob coy 20 bde reached RAHMAN over 100 PW^{3/1} 25 PGR 9 Div bar secured Daba 1745 hrs handed over to 151 Bde. who are est from coast at 837320 Army 834315 with HQ at 8353175 LG 105 and 106. cleared of mines occupied by RAF 1845 hrs</p>	

No	Time	From	To	EVENT	Action
		cont.		Main rd to DABA clear on Asarmac surface only NZ div in sq 7830 4 SAAC between 76 and 78 Eastings 7 Armd Div South of rd between 74 and 76 Eastings 4 Armd Bde 713 340 Royals report 826 272 3000 inf dug in 100 MT. 15 guns 20 Armd Cars 1 TK maybe FOLGORE. 5 Inf Bde to engage New Identifications 3/78 LOSCANA PW states div is 77 IR 73 IR. 30 AR	
I524	1005	26 Bde		Main rd. 8 miles WEST of DABA clear ○ MATRUH rd clear to DABA one way traffic only ○ by road clear to DABA both sides of Asarmac rd. ○ off Asarmac very dangerous ○ all infmd	Adj't
I525	1110	26 Bde		9 Div sitrep to 2030 hrs PW states div is 77 IR 73 IR. 30 AR. arrived in AFRICA less arty 10/15 days ago gorget patch red horizontal white stripe ○ all infmd	
3	1110	26 Bde		26 Aust Inf Bde C/S Instrs No 8	Adj't
859	1110	26 Bde		Map ref code No 55. comes into operation at 0200 hrs 7 Nov 42	File
I611	1115		HQ AB CD	Repeating sitrep I525 to all corps	Sigs
859	1115	9 Aust Div		Intelligence Summary No 348.	Adj't
I526	1225	26 Bde		Squares 869306 869307 North of rd and 872306 clear of mines ○ Squares 870305 870306, 870307 871304 871305 thickly mined and marked with bucket icon on long picket ○ 872304 872305 mines and booby traps mark with not Complete ○ OLD MATRUH rd closed to DABA	
I611	1300		BC, NR ASIN EASIN MEATK KAP	○ It's night 6/7 Whiskey + Soda. Aircraft recog Sigs	Sigs
	1635	9 Div		1st Summary No 345	Sigs
0224	1635	26 Bde		cases of looting crashed planes have been reported ○ units will ensure all crashed aircraft in their area is properly guarded	Adj't Coy

211 El Fisa
H26

6 Nov 42

Action Diary

No.	Time	From	To	EVENT	Action
0226	1635	26 Bde		Main Rd to 8 miles WEST of DABA is cleared MATRUH Rd clear to DABA one way traffic only @ ry rd clear to DABA Adjts both sides barred rd @ off thearmac very dangerous @ ground to ground recognition sigs 3 to 12 Nov.	
0225	1635	26 Bde			
0227	1645	TAC 26 Bde		All clocks and watches will be changed to EGYPTIAN Standard Time at 0200 hrs 7th NOV by putting back 1 hr.	Adjts
A68	1940	all corps		Notifications of change of time	Sigs
I 7/1	1615	B Ech, RSM, RAF, Comm, A/TX, MG	ABCO 140	DN night 7/8 NOV. KOALA @ ground to ground recog sigs 8/12 NOV inc @ Aircraft to cor seas	Seal
V		Adjts		Lt Col WALL now CO 2/23 Aust Inf Bn	Seal
I 7/2	1130	All Corps		Lt Col WALL now CO " " "	Seal
Q19	1200	Main 9 Div		Units will make physical check forthwith of weapons and veh holdings and submit state to @ Main Aust Div in duplicate @ report separately surplus or deficiencies in other important fighting stores @ Bales RAA RAE adjust internally before reporting @ make-up or reduce amm holdings to correct first line by adjustment with Res AP @ adjust water containers to 2 gallons per man for full WE incl veh plate of and 61098 61098 @ reduce veh ration to one day at 12 ozs pres meat and 12 ozs biscuits by returning surplus to SP's @ prepare generally for future mobile ops fully equipped and without junk or unnecessary res.	Adjts
Q744	1200	9 Div		with effect from receipt of this sig no AIF veh other than staff cars and ambs will use MAIN RD @ they may use sea track, coast rd, old MATRUH rd or ry rd.	Adjts
I 528	1625	26 Bde		New location 24 Bde HQ 8746 3068 @ 2/28 Bn 8729 3071 @ 2/32 Bn 8741 3071 2/43 8747 3064	Adjts
I 7/3	1840	all corps		Summary of days news.	Sigs
	2030	26 Bde		Setup to 2030 hrs.	reptd a corp.

No	Time	From	To	EVENT	ACTION
I 7/4	2020		all coys RAP RSM	Schep to 2030 hrs. @ F report movement. Matruh/Barrani rd slight @ F report movement Sig Barrani/Bardia by = 3 lanes traffic. Foot Halfaya Pass 900 MET concentrated all fighting now WEST of Matruh	
<u>8 NOV</u>					
I 529	0800	26 Bde		9 div sitrep to 1600 hrs @ F report 1200 hrs movement between MATRUH and BARRAM @ movement WEST of BARRAM to BARDIA extremely heavy 3 lines in places @ 900 MT concentrated foot of HALFAYA PASS @ action now well WEST of MATRUH @ NO accurate location known @ some 25 pdrs recaptured with much amm @ Many PW's @ all informed	Adjt Coys in
I 8/2	0815		All Coys Bach RAP RSM	PW night 8/9 NOV TUCKERBOY	Pigs
VI	0840	26 Bde		1 Arm'd Div at MATRUH @ NZ div and 9 arm'd Bde at BARRANI @ 4 arm'd and Royal Arm'd Cars WEST of BARRANI @ 7 Arm'd Coy @ Div adv on SOLLUM	Sigs
V2	0840	26 Bde		Concentration 1500 men at foot of HALFAYA PASS @ 15 miles WEST of BARRANI to HALFAYA traffic is nose to tail @ RAF strafing @ 30,000 PW definite @ Night 6/7 enemy had 30 tks runners.	to coys, sigs.
V3	1225	26 Bde		Demonstration of firing 88mm captured gun at 1600 hrs today Site of gun 4295 9025.	Adjt
V4	1315		ABCD HQ	All offrs all sqts plus members of AITK PL will attend demonstration of 88mm gun at 4295 9025 boys provide own tpt in convoy at 1500 hrs RV at RAP To will lead convoy	Rptd coys.
V5	1340	26 Bde		Schep. 1330 hrs @ 151 HD captured 250 PW's at Tuka @ 7 Arm'd Div directed onto SOLLUM. Arm'd cars directed on to BARDIA.	D/ony
I 8/5	1355		all coys.	Repeating V5 to all coys RAP RSM.	Sigs
E43	1500		List B	Matters arising from recent OP's conference of Offrs as per List B	Sigs

ACTION DIARY 8 Nov 42

No	Time	From	To	EVENTS	ACTIO
0270	1620	26 Bde		Staying Orders for dispersion will be enforced by day minimum interval between units 100 x of maximum density on move 20 RTM when possible	Coys Adjt
18/6	1620	all Coys Rtch		promulgating above 0270	Sign
1530	1900	26 Bde		Steps to 1500 hrs @ Fs report 0840. restored movement between BARRANI and Sollum by concert 1500 MT foot HALFAYA PASS incl trs and guns. 7 Armd Div directed on SOLLUM and Cox directed on BARDIA NZ Div and 9 Armd Bde directed on BARRANI 1 Armd Div MATRUH SI HD collected over 200 SW FUKA area 8 Nov	Adjt

9 NOV 42.

11.	0825	26 Bde		Steps: 7 Armd has NOT yet reached SOLLUM. 1 Armd Div between MATRUH and BARRANI SAAC given object of gaining and clearing LG as far WEST as SIDI AZEIZ pg 4938. 10 Armd Div in MATRUH and on night 5 NOV destroyed 39 M13 2 M2 12 M3 1 M3 special 1 M4. also large number enemy wprs including 5 88mm guns @. 8 Army is now held up in area WEST of BARRANI at foot of escarpment. RAF maintaining increasing pressure on retreating enemy	Adjt info
76	0830	26 Bde		Sketch MAP showing North African Coast NOT to scale	
I 9/1	0830	all Coys		Steps from 26 Bde	Sigs
E 44	1125	ABCD		Trg Arace 1/50000 EL ALAMEIN.	Sigs
I 9/2	1130	ABCD HQ. RSM RAP	Bde	PW night 9/10 Nov @ CARRAWAY.	Sigs

ELL EL ISA

Action Diary

No	Time	From	To	Event	Action
	1000		A	Crown Affairs Vol 23, Notes GERMAN Army Vol II, Notes ITALIAN Army,	
	"		B	" " " " " " " "	
	"		C	" " " " " " " "	Parade
	"		D	" " " " " " " "	Coyl
16/11	1030		26	PM night 10/11 Nov WIRRAWAY	Sigs
	1300	26 Bde		9 Div Summary No 349	Adm.
	1220	RSM		List of weapons captured by 2/13 Bn 23 to 26 Oct 42	War diary
V1	1940	26 Bde		88mm gun crew. report to Capt Summerton Bde Bch at 0900 hrs. on 11 Nov 42.	Adjt
V2	2025		HQ	HQ to provide gun crew.	Verbal H
V3	0800	26 Bde		Double transposition cipher keys. 16 Nov - 30 Nov. 42.	Filed
V4	1415	26 Bde		Receipt for 11 Nov. 42.	
V4	1415	26 Bde		Armed cars at SIDI AZEIZ and part of 8 Army (Armd Div) have crossed the EGYPTIAN border. 12 Nov. 42.	Cops info
				Setup to 2130 @ NZ Div. area CAPUZZO which now reported clear of enemy 1120 hrs 11 Nov. 7 Armd Div in Capuzzo area and 22 Armd Bde at 513386. 11 Nov. Armd. cars reached Deir El Gubi clear of enemy Patrols reached SIDI REZEQH with opposition. Considerable MET Bardia - Tobruk - El Adem - Gazala - following rds.	
12/11	0910	All Coys		promulgating above situation to all Coyl	Sigs
12/11	1000	All Coys		PM night 12/13 Nov Sydney	Sigs
	1015	26 Bde		9 Div Summary No. 350	1 Copy A 1 Copy C
V5	1300	26 Bde		NZ cleared CAPUZZO area and moving WEST not known what pt. 7 Armd Div SOUTH of NZ div moving WEST with all possible speed. Armd cars of 7 Armd Div at EL ADAM. ENEMY appears to be making no attempt to hold TOBRUCH much movement WEST of there.	

Action Diary

No	Time	From	To	EVENT	Action
V5				Continued:- ROYAL LANCERS and SAAC directed on AGHEIBA and now supplied by air. RAF operations Corp info against ENEMY as far WEST as AGEDABIA & estimated strength today is G 15,000 I 9000 © Maximum strength today is 30. It is appreciated the enemy will make a stand in AGHEIBA area.	
I531	1630	26 Bde.		Add Area T. as follows to map ref code 55 with effect from 0200hrs 13 NOV 42. © 450 400 U 440 420 X 430 380 K 420 420 B 410 400 Y 410 370 W 400 420 S 400 380 G 370 440 F 360 340 C 360 420 M 350 390 R. © extract pts. UKBYSG	File
0233		26 Bde		Ground to ground recognition sigs period 13-18 NOV incl © pennants two centre © answer to challenge vertical	File
476		26 Bde		8 Army DT cipher keys No 476 from 16 NOV to 30 NOV copy No 3511/1/10/X 3511/1/11/X.	File.
I12/5	1650	A B C D HQ corps		Comd 26 Bde expected to inspect bn by 13 NOV © each coy will submit in writing by 0800hrs 13. (a) Bn locations for day (b) nature of bn and timings © full details must be given © Ack.	Sigs
I12/5	1730	A B C D HQ Bde		Repeating ground to ground recognition sigs 13-18 NOV. Repeat 0233	Sigs
13 NOV 42					
V1	1000	26 Bde		Dummy cipher messages. 3 daily to be sent.	I.O.
	1100	26 Bde		Three dummy cipher messages.	WT
I13/1	1100	All Corps		Trng & Locations for ^{next} 24 hrs to be at B HQ by 1700 hrs daily.	Sigs
I13/2	1330	all corps		PW night 13/14 KOKADA	Sigs
V2	1405	26 Bde		From 26 Bde verbal message. That Tobruk fell at 0915 hrs this morning a few PWs taken.	

No	Time	From	To	EVENT	ACTION
I12/3	1410		all coys	Sitrep to 1400 hrs.	Sigs
I12/4	1415		ABCD HQ	Please submit a return of all maps held by coys @ Return required by 1700 hrs Treat as urgent	Sigs
V4	1530	26 Bde		R/T codes - codes G 200/8A/193 15 NOV - 21 NOV.	File
<u>14 NOV 42</u>					
V1	0745	26 Bde		copy of 26 Bde G.S. Instr No 7 27 Sept 42	Adpt
I14/1	1100		all coys	PW night 14/15 GEELONG	Sigs
874	1145	26 Bde		Abstract of Map Ref code No 56. comes into operation at 0200 hrs. 15 NOV 42	File
W10	1430		A	2/33 Bu G.S. Instr No 6 Copy 1	
			B	" 2	
			C	" 3	
			D	" 4	
			20A	" 5	
			20B	" 6	
			CO	" 7	
			2IC	" 8	
			dist	" 9	
			TO	" 10	
			File	" "	
			File	" 12	Self
	1134	26 Bde		9 Sw. Summary No 351 (2 copies)	Ady. Coys.
<u>16 NOV. 42.</u>					
I16/1	1430		ABCD HQ RPT Bck	Password for 15/16 Nov. SPRING. Secret documents now being entered in field Registers.	Sigs.
<u>17 Nov. 42.</u>					
I17/2	1250		ABCD HQ RPT Bck RSM	Password for 16/17 Nov. MAITLAND	Sigs.
B7	1615		LKTC plus SO. 26 Bde	2/33 Bu G.S. Instr No 7	Self
<u>18 NOV. 42</u>					
I18/1	0850		ABCD HQ RPT Bck RSM	Password for 18/19 Nov. 4V NEWCASTLE.	Sigs.

ACTION DIARY

No	TIME	FROM	TO	EVENT	Acc
I 18/2	1210		ABCD HQ	18 NOV 42 9 Aust. Div. Summary 132. Each bay. 16 Keep copy for 2 hrs. & pass on.	Sigs
1				19. Nov 42.	
I 19/1	0925		ABCD HQ Coy BSc. RAP	Password for 19/20 Nov. 42. AUTUMN.	Sigs.
L-7	1500	Beoy		IC Man wanted to give Code Machine Lecture at 1515 to Officers to attend.	
160	1720	O.R.		3 Copies Routine Orders. 962-964	Copies Files
160.					
				20 Nov 42.	
I 20/1	0900		ABCD HQ Coy BSc. RAP	Password for 20/21 Nov. 42 MOREE	Sigs
135/		26 Bde		Notes on military Government of Occupied Enemy Territory.	Adyt.
				21 NOV. 42.	
I 21/4	1130		A/BCD HQ. BUL. SIB. RSM ABCD HQ Coy BSc. RAP RSM. QM TA. Sig. Off.	Password for 21/22 NOV 42. WINTER.	Sigs
I 21/8	1840	Agst.		Demolitions being carried out daily at 87602968 Danger area within 1000 yds	Sigs
				22 NOV. 42.	
I 22/1	1300		ABCD HQ Coy BSc. RAP	Password for 22/23 Nov 42 LISMORE.	Sigs.
	1310	26 Bde		9 Div Int Summary. No 353 (Two Copies)	Crypt
	"	"		" " " " " "	Crypt
	"	"		Translation of captured document. (2 Copies)	Crypt
	1530	26 Bde		Trg Instructions No 6	Adyt
	"	"		Telephone Exercises.	Adyt
I 539	"	"		Ground to Ground recognition signals	File
I 22/2	1620		ABCD HQ BSc	Promulgated Ground to Ground rec sigs	Sigs
		26 Bde		12 Maps of GAZAL Area 1-51110. received	
				23 NOV 42.	
I 23/1	0936		ABCD HQ Coy BSc. RAP	PW DUBCO	Sigs
O 238	1925	26 Bde		Arty practices will be carried out seawards up to incl 27 Nov in following areas 2/7 fd regt 880300 2/8 Fd regt 875303 a/TK range. 891294 O seaward limit 10000 yds O all infud repeating 0238	D/O
I 24/6	1930		ABCD HQ RSM TO RAP.		

ACTION DIARY

TIME	FROM	TO	EVENT	Ac
08		all boy B Sch	PW 24/25 Nov. LITHGOW	Sic
<u>25 Nov. 42.</u>				
10.00		ABCD HQ Coy. B. Ed. RAP. RSM	P.W for 25/26 Nov. 42. YOUNG.	S.
1200	BHQ	I.O.	Secret. Move to "Palatium" Advance party with jeep and	S
1323	ADJT.	I.O.	to move under I/C.	
1323	ADJT.	I.O.	Ref A105. Advance party personnel with all gear, stores RV. BHQ. 0515 RV. 88842944 0630 Report Major GREEN. R.A.A. OC Convoy. Report Lt. Alamin 0700. Halt 1030 1100 arrive WADI NATRUN. 26 NOV 42. 1415. Report OC convoy WADI NATRUN for further orders.	
<u>6 NOV 42</u>				
1125	26 Bde		9AUST DIV sig school will disperse 27 NOV @ students will be picked up at 1730 hrs 27 Nov by units tpt @ they will re-assemble for completion of school on date and time to be notified	
1400			All acks received for se messages A105 and A106 of 25 Nov	
1045	26 Bde		All maps of WESTERN DESERT and LIBYA NOT required for trg will be returned this Bde 1200 hrs 28 NOV @ all info	
			Units may now return cameras to tps @ collection under unit arrangements @ all info	
<u>27 Nov. 42.</u>				
0855		all boy RAP. Bde RSM the camp Bach. RAP	PW 27/28 Nov. 42. ALBURY.	S
0910			All maps LIBYA and WESTERN DESERT NOT required for trg. to be returned this office by 1700 hrs. 27 Nov. 42	S
0920	BHQ	HQ boy I Sec.	VX42170 Plt. ALLEN A transferred to I Sec. wef 0600 hrs. 28 Nov. 42.	ho
0920	BHQ	HQ boy I Sec.	VX 76132 Plt. GREAVES B.V.W. VX 72290 Plt. JENKINSON H. transferred I Sec. wef 0600 hrs. 28 Nov. 42.	N
2020	Adjt.	ABCD HQ Coy.	Secret. Att. 26 Bde. Trg. Insh. No. 7 to be studied by all 6 ftrs. NCO's and necessary drills developed within boy. This BN. required to carry out practice moves at short notice within next few days	S

ACTION DIARY.

No.	TIME	FROM	TO.	EVENT.	
I 2.	0940	Int Sect	^{A. B. D. M. Q.} Bul. Rep. RSM.	P.W. for night 28/29 NOV JUNRE. <u>30 Nov 42</u>	
I/30/1	0825	2/23 Area	26 Bde	German Document: found in Bn. Area	
A 115	0900	adjt	Int Sect	V D lectures by RMO for all coys in Coy Area. ^{1 DEC 42}	
A 114	0900	adjt	Int Sect	Football match 2/23 Bn. v 2/24 Bn. Area, 200 yds. North of 2/23 rd R.A.P.	
A 113		adjt	Int Sect	Lecture to all officers by RMO. 0830 near C Coy.	
I 30/2	1610		26 Bde	DEANERY Movement Order No. 1. (2 copies) O ACK	
				1 DEC 42	
I 1/1	1000		^{Beck} CoprSM	PW night 2/3 Nov SYDNEY	

APPX 21

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/23 Aust Inf Bn (Unit.) For Week Ending 8 Nov 42

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
*			
*			
*			
*			
Lieut.-Colonels ...	1		
Majors... ..	1		2
Captains	5		5
Lieutenants	15		6
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters	1		
District Officers			
TOTALS	23		13

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

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	L RAY	2/23 Bn	5 Nov 42	Rejoined unit from staff 26 Aust Inf Bn

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lt-Col	B EVANS	2/23 Bn	2 Nov 42	Detached to 24 Aust Inf Bde pending trans. as Brigadier

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		Lt-Col		H EVANS DSO	2/23 Bn	No		Det 24 Bn
2		Maj		R E WALL	"	Yes	1/33 2/23 Bn	
3		Capt		J S CUMSTON	"	No		School
4				W F BROWN	"	Yes		Det 24 Bn
5				F W TITMENS	"	No		School
6		Lieut		L RAND	"	Yes	1/33 2 Coy	
7			Capt	H CRAY	"	No		1/33 2 Coy
8				F H MATTHEWS	"	No		Det 26 Bn
9				R J P JONES	"	Yes	1/33 1 Coy	
10			Capt	W J VINES	"	No		Det 2/23 Bn
11				J D MURPHY	"	No		
12				F K LOVELL	"	No		Det 1 P1
13			Capt	H MOORE	"	No		
14				J MARTIN	"	No		Det 7 P1
15				H D STUBBS	"	No	1/30	
16				H A SIMONS	"	No	1/33 2 Coy	
17				T D DRYE	"	No		Det 15 P1
18				J W HIPPLEY	"	No		Det 9 P1
19				E H GIBBS	"	No		Det 17 P1
20				A BATESON	"	No		Det 7 P1
21			X	J H SAIT	"	No		Det 16 P1
22				E G BENTON-WARREN	"	No		Det 10 P1
23				S W MOREY	"	No		Det 14 P1
24			X Next in seniority to	above S W MOREY				
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								
31								
32								
33								
34								

(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		H J DELANEY	AMB	10 Mar 42	DSO
Chaplain		F PORTER	AM Chap Dept	22 Mar 42	Det 24 Bn

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

(Unit.)

8 Nov 42

(Date of Despatch.)

(Signature of Commanding Officer)

26 Aust Inf Bde 9 Aust Div

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

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		Lt-Col		R E Wall	2/23 Bn	Yes		CO 2/23 Bn
		Major		P E Spicer	"	"		SIG 2/23 Bn
		Major		R H Stone	"	"		CO B Coy
3		Capt		J S Carpenter	"	"		A/CO HQ Coy
4		Capt		V P Brown	"	"		CO C Coy
5		Capt		H E Hollister	"	"		CO A Coy
6		Capt		F W Helyars	"	No		So pool
7		Lieut		G HCA Thirlwall	"	Yes		SIG A Coy
8		Lieut		G W Lacey	"	"		A/CO D Coy
9		Lieut		L Hall	"	"		PL Cond 7 PL
10		Lieut	Capt	H Gray	"	"		CO A/IR PL
11		Lieut		T H Matthews	"	No		I O 26 Bde
12		Lieut		R J P Jones	"	"		School
13		Lieut	Capt	W J Vines	"	Yes		Adj 2/23 Bn
14		Lieut		J D Maloney	"	"		T O
15		Lieut		F R Lovell	"	"		Sig Offr
16		Lieut	Capt	W Moore	"	"		CH
		Lieut		J Hallam	"	"		PL Cond 19 PL
18		Lieut		H B Gilmore	"	"		A/CO
19		Lieut		H A Simons	"	"		PL Cond 17 PL
20		Lieut		F D Dyer	"	"		PL Cond 18 PL
21		Lieut		J W Ripley	"	"		Par Offr
22		Lieut		H F R McLeod	"	"		PL Cond 15 PL
23		Lieut		B H Warburton	"	"		PL Cond 10 PL
24		Lieut		J H Saint	"	"		PL Cond 16 PL
25		Lieut		B H Gibbs	"	"		NO PL
26		Lieut		A Bateson	"	"		Msg Offr
27								
28								
29								
31								
32								
33								
34								

(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		Delohery H J	AMG	16 Nov 43	EMO
Chap		Porter P	AA Chap Dept	23 Nov 43	Radio

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

14 Nov 43

(Unit.)

(Date of Despatch.)

(Signature of Commander.)

26 Aust Inf Bde 9 Aust Div

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

Lt-Col	R E WALL	2/23 Bn	Yes	CO 2/23 Bn
Major	P E SPIER	"	"	2 i/c 2/23 Bn
"	E H McRAE	"	"	OC B Coy
Capt	W F BROWN	"	"	OC C Coy
"	N E McMASTER	"	"	OC A Coy
"	F W TIETJENS	"	No	School
Lieut	G McA THIRLWELL	"	Yes	2 i/c A Coy
"	G W LUKEY	"	"	A/OC D Coy
"	L RAND	"	"	Comd 7 Pl
" Capt	H GRAY	"	"	OC A-Tk Pl
"	T H MATTHESS	"	No	IO 26 Bde
"	E J P JONES	"	No	School
" Capt	W J VINES	"	Yes	Adjut 2/23 Bn
"	J D MULCAHY	"	"	TO
"	F K LOVELL	"	"	Sig Offr
" Capt	W MOORE	"	"	QM
"	J McMINN	"	"	Pl Comd 8 Pl
"	N B GILMOUR	"	No	School
"	M A SIMMONS	"	Yes	Pl comd 17 Pl
"	T D DWYER	"	"	Pl comd 14 Pl
"	J W HIPSLEY	"	"	Pnr Offr
"	H F K McLEOD	"	"	Pl comd 13 Pl
"	A K RING	"	"	Pl Comd 8 Pl
"	E H EGERTON-WARBURTON	"	"	Pl comd 10 Pl
"	A LYNE	"	"	Pl comd 12 Pl
"	E H GIBBS	"	"	MG Pl Comd
"	A BATESON	"	No	School
"	J H SAINT	"	Yes	Pl comd 16 Pl
"	B L B LAZER	"	"	Pl comd 11 pl

Capt
Chaplain

H J DELOHERY
F PORTER

AAMC 16 Mar 42 RMO
AA Chap Dept 22 Mar 42 Padre

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

21 Nov 42

James Capt Adj

26 Aust Inf Bde 9 Aust Div

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

21 Nov 42

	1	
	2	1
	5	5
	20	1
Capt	1	
	29	7

Lieut	A LYNE	2/23 Bn	18 Nov 42	From AIF (ME) staging
Lieut	A K RING	"	18 Nov 42	Camp
Lieut	B L B LAZER	"	17 Nov 42	Appt Lieut (ME OCTU)

Lieut	A BATESON	2/23 Bn	18 Nov 42	To ME Trg Centre, Mortar Course
Lieut	H B GILMOUR	"	20 Nov 42	To IOU Depot HELIOPOLIS Air photographs No 25 Course
Capt	J S CUMPTON	"	19 Nov 42	To 1 Aust Depot Bn

I program

2/23. 2nd Lt. B. W. 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.O.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.		TOTAL.
Bricklayers																				
Butchers																				
Carpenters and Joiners																				
Clerks																				
Cooks																				
Despatch Riders																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked)																				
„ „ (Wheeled)																				
Drivers-Mechanics																				
Drivers-Operators																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers... ..																				
Farriers																				
Fitters																				
Machine Gunners																				
Masons																				
Motor Mechanics																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters																				
Range Takers																				
Saddlers and Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers																				
Sanitary and Water Duties... ..																				
Signallers																				
Storemen technical																				
Tailors																				
Wheelers																				
General duty personnel						1													5 58 63	
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A).						1													5 58 63	

2/23. 2nd Lt. B. W. Unit.

Date of Despatch 28 Nov 42

[Signature]
Signature of Commander.

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

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/23 AVST INF BN

(Unit.)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4
Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment)
Lieut.-Colonels	1		1
Majors	2		1
Captains	5		4
Lieutenants	21	2	
2nd Lieutenants			
Quartermasters	1		
District Officers			
Totals	30	2	5

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

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Capt	P W TINDALL	2/23 Inf	27 Nov 42	From HQ STAFF SCHOOL via AIF (HQ) Staging Camp.
Lieut	J W DUNHAM	2/23 Inf	27 Nov 42	From Hosp via AIF (HQ) Staging Camp.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known.)
Capt	CLARK R C	2/23 Inf	(25 AITB) . Required for appt o f Coy Comd to fill vacan cy as per Part A Colun n. 4.

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		R B WAIL	2/23 Inf	Yes	CO 2/23 Inf
Major		P H SMITH	"	"	2 IC 2/23 Inf
"		B H HODGSON	"	"	CO B Coy
Capt		H F BROWN	"	"	CO C Coy
"		H B McMASTER	"	"	CO A Coy
"		P H FLETCHER	"	"	CO D Coy
Lieut		G HOA THURLEWELL	"	"	2 IC A Coy
"		G H LUNNEY	"	"	2 IC B Coy
"		L BIRD	"	"	CO 7 PI
"	CAPT	H GRAY	"	"	2/23 Inf Coy
"		T H MATTHEWS	"	No	26 Inf
"		J H DUNHAM	"	Yes	10
"		R J P Jones	"	No	School
"	Capt	J J VINEY	"	Yes	Adj 2/23 Inf
"		J D McLOUGHY	"	"	10
"		T H LOVELL	"	"	Sig Offr
"	Capt	H MOORE	"	"	10
"		J MONTGOMERY	"	"	10 PI
"		H B GILMOUR	"	No	School
"		H A STEWART	"	Yes	CO PI
"		T D DAVEN	"	"	PI Comd 14
"		J H HIBBLEY	"	"	PI Comd 11
"		H F K HALDON	"	"	PI Comd 13
"		A E DINE	"	"	PI Comd 8 PI
"		R H G HARRISON	"	"	PI Comd 7 PI
"		A LITTLE	"	"	PI Comd 10 PI
"		R H GIBBS	"	"	12 PI
"		A BATHSON	"	No	SCHOOL
"		J H GAYNE	"	"	PI Comd 16 PI
"		R L B LAYNE	"	"	PI Comd 11 PI

(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 D McLOUGHY	26	21 Nov 42	26
Chaplain		F BORTON	11 Chap Dept	22 Mar 42	26

2/23 ADUT INF BN

23 Nov 42

(Unit.)

(Date of Despatch.)

(Signature of Commander.)

26 ADUT INF BN 2 ADUT INF BN

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

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Unit.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, Etc.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT							REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.						REMARKS						
	W.Os. Class I.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	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-Sergeants.	Sergeants	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 Cunnors ...																				
Masons																				
Motor Mechanics ...																				
Pioneer, 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 .										22			2			1	108	113		
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)										22			2			1	108	113		

2/23 Aust Inf Bn

Unit.

Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 23 Nov 42

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

The American landing forces in French North Africa have made progress, and the French garrison at Algiers has surrendered. American troops will occupy the main parts of the city and control the defences, as from dawn today. This news from Allied HQ in North Africa has been confirmed by Vichy Radio, which says that the Americans are taking over, and the French will be restricted to police duties in the centre of the city. Vichy carefully stresses that the terms of the armistice apply only to Algiers itself. All sea traffic between Marseilles and North Africa has now been stopped. The Allied Commander-in-Chief, Gen Eisenhower, has issued another communique. It states that the landings on the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts of French North Africa are proceeding according to plan. Important airfields have been occupied by the US Army Air Corps and the RAF, and Rangers (the U.S. equivalent of our Commandos), with the Marine Corps, are playing an important part in the operations. The communique went on that some opposition

AMERICANS MAKE PROGRESS
IN NORTH AFRICA : CITY OF
ALGIERS SURRENDERS : SEA
CLASHES BEING REPORTED

had been encountered, but the American forces were making progress and other landings had taken place. A naval engagement off Casablanca is reported by one correspondent, but the only official information is that a French

naval squadron encountered an Allied squadron. Casablanca, according to Vichy sources, has been dive-bombed by planes bearing U.S. markings. Vichy reported yesterday that a De Gaullist revolt at Casablanca had been suppressed before the landings took place. Landings took place at Abat, on the coast NE of Casablanca, and at Safi, 140 miles to the SW. Heaviest fighting is reported from Oran, the big naval base on the Mediterranean 250 miles East of Gibraltar. Landings were made east and west of the base, at two points to the west, and at Arzen, 25 miles east. Later Vichy reported a second American contingent had landed. French naval units put up a stiff resistance, but there has been no indication of the bulk of the French Navy taking part. At Oran and Algiers the coastal defences fought hard. French colonial naval units leaving harbour were fired on and suffered loss before they returned to harbour. The British Navy has lost two small craft. It is revealed that Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham is in supreme command of the British and American naval forces engaged. Until six months ago he was Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet. The Vichy Cabinet met twice yesterday under the leadership of Marshal Petain, who in a broadcast declaration said he had given orders for the French colonies to defend themselves. Gen Weygand arrived in Vichy yesterday afternoon. The Germans put out the following statement concerning Admiral Darlan last night: "No reliable information is available about his fate. All that is known is that in a telegram to Vichy, Admiral Darlan said this was probably his last report. He might possibly have been taken prisoner."

At the other end of the North African coastline, the Eighth Army is still sweeping westward towards Libya. The main scene of the battle is now in the Sollum-Halfaya area, where enemy infantry and armour trying to make its way up through the pass has been intercepted by our armour. Soft sand is giving some trouble to our tanks, but the Desert Air Force is effectively supplementing their efforts. One report from Cairo last night said that the Halfaya Pass had been blocked by the air force. Our heavy and medium bombers have been concentrating on this area, dropping some of our heaviest

"BATTLE OF EGYPT" MOVING
INTO LIBYA : OUR ARMOUR
NOW IN SOLLUM-HALFAYA AREA

bombs. The blitzing of Halfaya Pass has been a special concentrated task. The pass is narrow, and a direct hit on the track would halt traffic. This track is an engineering

achievement, rising in a series of hairpin bends on a gradient of 1 in 7. The bulk of Rommel's force appears to have moved into Libya, continually harassed from the air while our interception at Sollum has made things difficult, to say the least, for the rearguard. The Germans left a force near Matruh, in an effort to delay the pursuit sufficiently for the main body to escape into Libya, but our armour cut them off and swamped them in its swift progress westward. Most of the Italians have been left behind by the Germans, and Cairo reports state that six whole Italian divisions complete with equipment, have now fallen into our hands. Correspondents put the number of tanks captured or destroyed at 500, and guns at nearly 1,000, but there is no official confirmation for these figures. All over the desert small groups of Italians are either waiting to be captured, or are making their own way towards the PW cages!

In Russia our allies are still holding all enemy attacks. At Stalingrad they have repulsed further German attempts to gain ground in the factory area, while SE of Nalchik the Russians have gone over to active operations and yesterday they inflicted further heavy losses on the German troops. Further west, on the Black Sea coast, several German counter-attacks have been launched by the Germans, but have been repulsed. In two days fighting on the Nalchik sector, 95 German tanks are claimed to have been destroyed or damaged by the Russians. The German newsagency last night reported frost along the whole Russian front from the Arctic to the Caucasus, with ice floes on the upper and central Volga.

GERMANS FIRMLY HELD IN RUSSIA

A strong force of our heavy bombers went to Italy again on Saturday night, and attacked the port of Genoa, which has served as a supply base for the Axis armies in Africa. Our bombers started large fires, and reported the attack even heavier than that on the previous night. RAF recon planes have brought back to London photographs, published in British newspapers today,

HAVOC CAUSED BY RAF AT GENOA

showing the havoc caused at Genoa by our two successive blitzes. Whole blocks of buildings are open to the sky, and in an area of 77 acres more than half the buildings are destroyed or seriously damaged. The East Railway Station is almost entirely destroyed, and on the Vecchio mole warehouses and sheds covering 2½ acres were razed to the ground. In the dock area large sheds and warehouses, including the Ansaldo fitting out yards, and the Genoa Dock Coy's yards have been devastated. In the centre of Genoa our bombs have blasted an area of 20 acres, including the telegraph and government buildings. Four of our bombers failed to return from Saturday night's raid. Last night Marselles had an air raid alert, and the AA opened fire. Paris Radio went off the air. American Flying Fortresses, with an escort of 300

FORTRESSES OVER FRANCE

RAF Spitfires, were on the offensive over Northern France yesterday. The Fortresses attacked the locomotive and steel works at Lille, while our fighters shot up the Luftwaffe fighter base at Abbeville. A number of enemy fighters were destroyed. One Fortress and 6 Spitfires failed to come back. One of our fighters was lost in intruder operations on Saturday night over France.

In the Solomons United States forces on Guadalcanal Is have continued to make progress East of Henderson airfield, and are now four miles beyond their former FDL. They have met scarcely any opposition, though the Japanese landed reinforcements in this area last Tuesday. American planes have attacked a Japanese surface force 150 miles North of Guadalcanal, and claim to have damaged an enemy cruiser and a destroyer, while they

AMERICANS ADVANCE IN SOLOMONS

shot down 12 enemy floatplanes, for the loss of 2 American machines. In New Guinea the general situation at Cevl has not changed. Gen MacArthur reports this morning that Allied planes have bombed and strafed the enemy positions, while others made a 40 mile sweep from Wairopi bridge to Buna. American troops, flown by plane from Australia, are now in action not far from Buna, supporting the Australians advancing from Kokoda. The Americans were completely established in Papua in 6 days. Allied medium bombers attacked Salamaua, and at Gasmata they destroyed a wireless station and placed bombs among enemy planes on the aerodrome.

Adolf Hitler spoke for 78 minutes yesterday evening at the anniversary of the abortive Nazi putsch in the Munich beerhall. Much of his speech was a tirade against President Roosevelt, and Hitler referred to the landings of United States troops in North Africa. "We will prepare all counter-attacks", he declared, "and they will come in due time", adding that the U.S. landings could not change the course of this war. Referring to the Eighth Army's advance in Egypt, Hitler remarked

FRUSTRATIONS FROM A BEER CELLAR

that desert warfare had always been fluid. "So far as I am concerned, the British can advance as much as they like; the main point is who is going to strike the decisive blow, and that blow is going to be dealt by us." Adolf did not have very much to say about Stalingrad, which in his last speech he promised would be captured before winter. While Stalingrad was not captured yet, he said, he did not intend to create a second Verdun: "I am fighting there now with small storm troop detachments", he said, and added that as traffic on the Volga had been halted, the element of time was no longer important. He concluded with a warning to the German nation that "this struggle means to be or not to be for the Germans."

The Radio: "The horizon is black for Italy, and we must expect attacks from any quarter. Italy's war effort at the moment is in a bad way!"

"We have won the first round. But the fight isn't won till it is over, and we are only in the middle. Now the enemy is very groggy, but we have to keep at him till he is stretched senseless on the ground", Gen Alexander, Commander-in-Chief Middle East, told war correspondents yesterday. "He is a good fighter, and will keep up rearguard actions and try to hold us up as long as it is possible to get reinforcements by air or sea." He spoke of difficulties of supply now appearing. We had advanced 400 miles in a week, and there was only one road. The harbours we had captured were being cleared of wrecks, and mines, and this meant delay. But our difficulties were as nothing compared to those of the enemy. He was short of transport, and in all probability very short of petrol. Many enemy vehicles, too, were probably not very desert-worthy. Gen Alexander said that one estimate was that Rommel only managed to get 15 tanks out of 500 away from the Alamein battle. But he had probably picked up reinforcements on the way back. The German equipment was very good, and indications were that at the start of the battle the enemy had more Mk IV tanks and 88mm guns in proportion than ever before. But it was in quantity that he was deficient, and it was there that we could see the effects of our constant attacks on his supply lines. The quality of the Italian equipment was never anything like that of the German. He praised our own American equipment, in particular their tanks and aircraft. The Sherman tank was as good as any on the field, he said.

**GEN ALEXANDER REVIEWS
PROGRESS: EXPECTS
AXIS STAND AT AGHEILA**

He also praised the Australians and South Africans, for the way in which they used captured enemy weapons. "They are extremely enterprising fellows", he remarked. Gen Alexander said that he knew the battle at Alamein would be a slogging match for about a week, to get our armour through. He paid tribute to the superb fighting qualities of our infantry, and the terrific impact of our artillery barrages and air bombardment. "It was our super-strength did the trick, wedded to well-planned strategy", the general added. It was the Germans we fought, all the time--the cream of the Afrika Korps. Our engagements with the Italians were diversionary, not the main battles. Gen Alexander thought the Axis would put up a stiff rearguard fight, probably at El Agheila, and they would do all they could to bring up reinforcements. But with more than 40,000 prisoners in the bag, nearly as many killed and wounded, and more coming in, he did not think the remnants of Rommel's army could make a stand for any time. There was a possibility that Rommel would try to carry out an African Dunkirk at Tripoli or in Tunisia. If Rommel could succeed in establishing a bridgehead in Tunisia between the British First and Eighth Armies, however, the position of our troops would be difficult. He did not anticipate an enemy attack through Syria, though such an eventuality was provided for. He considered it more likely the Germans would try to consolidate their positions in Tripoli and Tunisia.

In Tunisia Allied forces advancing across the frontier have made contact with enemy scouting parties, while British paratroops are reported to have captured a vital aerodrome deep inside the country, and to be advancing eastward. British and American paratroops are being used as ground forces and are advancing by road to seize strategic points. Algiers Radio reported the capture of an important airfield deep in Tunisia. An American opinion is that the airfields of Tunisia are not fit for modern war planes, and even that Tunis is only suitable for fighters. The Germans and Ital-

**BRITISH AND U.S. PARA-
TROOPS HAVE WAY FOR THE
ALLIED ADVANCE IN TUNISIA**

ians have a large number of aircraft in Tunisia at present, and German Radio spoke yesterday of Axis reinforcements by air and sea, again claiming the occupation of Bizerta. RAF bombers have attacked Tunis airfield, and American Flying Fortress have made a daylight attack on Bizerta airfield. Enemy planes have replied by attacking the Allied base at Bone, but British Hurricanes and Spitfires have had a field day diving into swarms of German bombers. Gen. Giraud's visit to the front brought more French forces over to the Allies, and thousands of French soldiers are now joining in the advance eastward. It is now revealed that in the later stages of the Allied landing in North Africa, no less than 50 U-boats were on the scene, 30 between Gibraltar and Bizerta. Despite this unparalleled submarine striking force, the enemy was unable to make any impression on our landing force, and only one merchant ship was damaged before our troops disembarked. We sank 13 U-boats and severely damaged as many more, in the North African area in a few days.

The Eighth Army on Tuesday night was within 100 miles of Benghazi on the coast road, and less than 70 miles away on the overland desert track. On the coast Cyrene has been left behind, and the next important point to be reached will be Barce, with its big airfield. One correspondent quotes a RAF pilot as describing Derna airfield as a veritable graveyard of German aircraft. There were anything up to 100, if you include troop and supply-carrying gliders, and the big JU52s used to tow them, scattered about. This pilot estimates he has seen 500 wrecked Axis aircraft between El Alamein and Derna, quite apart from the great number shot down in the desert in combat.

EIGHTH ARMY CLOSING IN ON BENGHAZI NOW

On Monday and Tuesday our air striking force concentrated on Benghazi too. During Monday night our big bombers swept down to within 100 ft of the surface of the harbour to attack barges, and on Tuesday our fighters strafed Lenina aerodrome, east of Benghazi, shooting down 6 transport planes and destroying as many more on the ground. A 13th plane there was damaged. A British submarine in the Mediterranean has defied a powerful escort of enemy destroyers to sink a large enemy supply ship after 12 hours. The submarine's attack lasted from 1630 hrs to 0600 next morning, breaking off only once to charge batteries. She scored three hits with torpedoes, and the supply ship sank before dawn.

A force of 8 Japanese destroyers is reported manoeuvring NE of Buna, as the Allied land forces close in on the Japanese base. Gen MacArthur's communique today says that the enemy destroyers are in two squadrons, apparently trying to work in support of the Japanese ground forces. Our heavy bombers are endeavouring to locate and engage them. The Allied drive on land is progressing, and our forward elements are closing in on the port. The main Australian force has passed Arawa and is now within 20 miles of Buna. Our air forces are constantly attacking the enemy as he retreats, while our heavier bombers fly further afield to attack his bases.

JAF DESTROYERS TRYING TO HELP BUNA GARRISON

Gen MacArthur reports attacks on Rabaul, Buin, Salamaua and Lae, Gasmata and also targets in Timor. Mr Curtin revealed yesterday that Gen Blamey has been in New Guinea since the end of September. Mr Curtin said that with Australian and American commanders under him, Gen Blamey receded in person the country over which the recent successful operations have taken place.

In Russia fierce battles are still raging in Stalingrad's much-battered factory district. Many places have changed hands several times in the close range fighting. On Tuesday the Germans pushed ahead and occupied fresh positions; yesterday it was the Russians who advanced and threw the Germans out. NW of Stalingrad the Soviet guns are pounding the enemy, and in one sector broke up and dispersed 500 troops. The weather is playing a part at Stalingrad as it changes from late autumn to winter. On the one hand it helps the Germans as ice floes in the Volga interfere with Russian communications; on the other, supply difficulties are becoming more and more acute for the Germans. That is one reason why they continue to batter at the ruins of the factory area, to gain more winter quarters before everything freezes. In the Caucasus, too, they are having their troubles. Rain, and Russian attacks. In the Mozok area German troops supported by tanks broke through. The tanks were cut off, and 17 put out of action. NE of Tuapse the Russians advanced a little, throwing the Germans out of several strong points. In the far North the Germans report attacks on their Alpine troops in the Arctic by strong Russian forces.

WEATHER PLAYING PART IN STALINGRAD BATTLE

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American Flying Fortresses and Liberators flew from British airfields yesterday to attack the German U-boat bases at Lorient and La Pallice on the French coast. RAF Spitfires continued their sweeps of Northern France. One bomber and 3 fighters failed to get back. On Tuesday night our fighters were over France attacking enemy locomotives. Geneva reported this morning a steady stream of aircraft flying over the town last night, towards the SE -- Italy..... In Burma Allied air operations against the Japanese continue. RAF Blenheims and American fighters and bombers have made a number of attacks on Japanese supply bases and troops. Our land patrols are keeping up their harrassing and near Akyab a British patrol successfully ambushed an enemy detachment.At the A.L.P. conference in Melbourne, Mr Curtin asked the Labor Party to support the use of the Citizen Military Forces in the whole South Pacific area. He told the conference the Allied Commander was hampered by the fact that only AIF men would be used outside of Australian territory..... Lowest weight in the Melbourne Cup is MANAWATU, not Marcius as was erroneously given yesterday. D. Roberts will ride Manawatu. There will be no trophy for the Cup this year, the owner receiving £200 in Austerity Loan bonds.

OTHER NEWS IN BRIEF

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DIGGER'S DESERT DAILY

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2 pp

On the southern shores of the Mediterranean the British First Army and the Eighth Army are both moving into position for the next round of the battle. The Eighth Army, with Benghazi occupied, is now in contact with Rommel's rearguard in the Agedabia area, while the Axis transport still streams westward from Agedabia through Aghaila along the roads between the salt marshes and the sand dunes. At El Aghaila Rommel has a natural defence line in the 20-mile wide gap between impassable salt marshes and the soft sand of the coast near the Tripolitanian border, and he is expected to make a stand there. At the other side of the Axis forces, Gen Anderson's First Army and the American and French columns with it, is massing for the main attack on the German defence line covering Bizerta and Tunis. The enemy line runs for roughly 100 miles from a point on the north coast 30 miles west of Bizerta to the Gulf of Hammamet, SE of Tunis. No major engagement has yet been reported, and for the moment the real battle remains one of supply. Details have, however, been received of the early clashes which have taken place during the week with the Germans. Main contact with the enemy is in a battle being fought for a bridge, where strategic roads junction. British, American and French troops occupied the road junction, and the Germans dug in, leaving the Allies holding the bridge. French units then attacked the German positions, and the outcome has not yet been learned. On Wednesday, in their first clash with a German mechanized column,

British troops destroyed 11 of the 30 enemy tanks. The first clash was on Monday, when British units met a column of German tanks and infantry. There were 15 enemy tanks, with field arty including howitzers, and two to three Coys of hor-

BRITISH MEDITERRANEAN ARMIES PREPARE FOR NEXT ROUND OF BATTLE TO DRIVE AXIS FROM AFRICA : SUCCESSES FOR NAVY

ried infantry. The Germans deployed for attack. Gen Anderson's men opened up with A Tk guns and 25-pdrs. The Germans replied, their infantry wing machine guns and mortars. Fighting went on for four hours, and in the final stages Mts came over and machine-gunned our troops. The Germans finally fell back, leaving 6 of their tanks knocked out. South of Tunis, and only a little more than 200 miles from Tripoli, German forces are still held up by Gen Giraud's French troops at Gabes. The French have been in action against the Germans, but no further news has been received, except a statement on Algiers Radio that the Germans are intensifying their air attacks on Gabes. Correspondents compare conditions behind the German lines in Tunisia and those behind the Allied armies. Along the roads from Tunis and Bizerta to the front the Germans have to keep up constant patrols for fear of attack. Behind Gen Anderson's lines the French are being taught how to use modern American weapons now pouring into North Africa, while British and American units are moving to the Tunisian battlefield from as far west as Casablanca. Algiers had another air raid last night. In the previous night's raid enemy losses were considerable. During the first week of the North African operations, Naval AA guns shot down 23 Axis planes for certain, probably destroyed 10 more, and damaged 18. In the Mediterranean our submarines and aircraft have been busy. A British submarine has sunk an Italian destroyer off the coast of Sicily, and a second Italian destroyer has probably been sunk by another submarine. In the Aegean Sea another submarine has sunk an escorted enemy tanker and probably sunk a large supply ship out of an escorted convoy of three. Our planes sank a 2,000 tons ship off the Tunisian coast and attacked an 8,000 tons freighter off Cap Bon, near Tunis.

In Russia the Soviet troops have scored further successes in the Caucasus, where the German armies are retreating from Ordzhonikidze and the scene of their defeat, this week. The Russians are following up the Germans pushing them still further away from the Grozny oilfields. SE of Melchik and at Mozok the Russians are also on the offensive, and have achieved successes. On the Black Sea coast north of Tuapse, where the Red Army

has held the initiative in some sectors for weeks, another important height has been captured, while news comes that detachments of Red Army men still hold out in the cement factory and other points at Novorossisk, though the Germans claimed its capture many weeks ago. At Stalingrad enemy attacks have again been repulsed, and though ice floes on the Volga have hampered Russian supplies, the Red Army has as firm a grip as ever. The Germans speak of Russian thrusts south of Stalingrad, and in the Don bend as gaining in power.

GERMAN RETREAT IN CAUCASUS

Italy had the heaviest blitz she has suffered during the war on Friday night, when our heavy bombers - Lancasters, Stirlings, Halifaxes and Wellingtons - made a strong and concentrated attack on Turin. Our pilots had good flying weather for the 1,500 mile flight over the Alps, and they dropped a great weight of explosives. One bomber group alone dropped 54 of our 4,000 lb bombs, as well as 110,000 lbs of incendiaries. Towards the end of the concentrated attack the city had disappeared under a pall of smoke and flame. Turin has many targets for our bombs, including the Fiat motor works, which employ 50,000 workers making aero engines, tanks, and other munitions of war, the Italian Royal Arsenal, Caproni bomber works, blast furnaces, and clothing factories. Northern Italy has now been bombed ten times since the Allied offensive in the Mediterranean began. On four of these raids all of our machines came back, but on Friday night 3 of the strong force were lost. The Italian communique admitted that extensive damage had been done.

ITALY HAS HEAVIEST AIR
RAID OF WAR AS THE RAF
BLAST AND BURN TURIN

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In New Guinea, this morning's communique from Gen MacArthur reports heavy fighting still going on in the Buna-Gona coast area of Papua. Latest reports say the Australians and Americans who attacked Safata, 8 miles inland from the coast, have broken through the Japanese positions and captured the village, and are now advancing on Buna and Gona. The United States troops are attacking Buna, closing in with three separate forces, while the Australians, with Gona as their objective, have inflicted further heavy casualties on the defenders. Correspondents emphasise the stubborn way in which the enemy is holding to his last foothold in Papua. Although the weather is still not good, it has now lifted sufficiently to enable Allied aircraft to operate in support of our troops. Our latest attacks on Japanese positions cost us no planes, but 2 Japanese Zeros were shot down. Off the New Guinea coast an enemy naval force is still manoeuvring. It consists of 4 destroyers, originally sighted off the coast some days ago. An enemy aerodrome at Kavieng, New Ireland, was raided on Friday night. Latest reports from the Solomons are that American troops advance is being made in spite of enemy patrol activity. In the northern Solomons U.S. Army fighters have shot down 3 Japanese planes at the airfield at Buin.

AUSTRALIANS AND AMERICANS
IN NEW GUINEA NEAR COAST

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Going out early in the race, Polonus ran away from the 1942 Melbourne Cup field yesterday to win by seven lengths from Phocion, with Heart's Desire in third place. Dark Felt was fourth, then Maikai. Tranquil Star faded out over the last furlong and Velocity broke down. Tranquil Star was the first away, followed by Great Britain and Dark Felt, but at the mile and a half Polonus was out in front, followed by Great Britain and Phocion, with Son of Aurous tailed off. Five furlongs from home Polonus was making the running from Tranquil Star and Phocion, followed by Heart's Desire, Pandect and Gusher, moving up. Three furlongs from the post Polonus was strongly challenged but he increased his lead to four lengths, and with 1 1/2 furlongs to go H. McLeod was taking no chances and was using the whip on him. Phocion and Heart's Desire made a last bid, but Polonus went past the post 7 lengths clear. Twelve months ago Polonus was one of the greatest "squibs" racing in Melbourne, and a half mile was considered the extent of his capabilities. He started from the extreme outside and was never seriously challenged.

OUTSIDER RUNS AWAY WITH
1942 MELBOURNE CUP!

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A Canberra announcement states that the Japanese Official Bureau of Prisoners of War is putting out a questionnaire to enable it to provide news of prisoners abroad. The International Red Cross is being employed as a medium, and the Japanese are also considering giving permission for Red Cross officials to attend a conference to discuss the welfare of prisoners of war in Japanese hands. A warning that Japan would seek to re-establish herself in New Guinea was given yesterday by Army Minister Forde. He said

JAPANESE AND PW

Australia would not be safe from invasion until the Japanese had been driven back to the frontiers of their own islands.

Frederick James Mason, 34, of Brighton, Victoria, was fined £30 in Melbourne City Court for having posed as a Surgeon-Lieutenant in the RAN. He was fined £20 for having worn an imitation of a naval uniform, and £10 for having falsely pretended to hold commissioned rank. The case arose out of an accident in Melbourne on September 23, when a man was injured, and Mason, saying he was a Naval Surgeon-Lieutenant, took him to a nearby doctor's surgery and put two stiletos in the man's ear.

Frederick James Mason

The Russians have won a notable success in a double drive NW and south of Stalingrad. A special announcement from Moscow last night gave the striking news of the successful offensive. After three days heavy fighting, it said, Soviet troops had broken down the enemy resistance and had advanced nearly 50 miles. They have recaptured the town of Kalach, 50 miles due west of Stalingrad, and have also captured the towns of Krivomuzginskaya and Abganerovo, 50 miles west and SW of the city. The capture of these three important places has had the effect of cutting lines which supply the enemy troops on the east bank of the Don. Moscow says that to the NW of Stalingrad the offensive came from the Sanfermovich sector, 110 miles from the city. It was launched on a front of 20 miles, while the offensive to the south of the city was on a front three times as wide. Six Axis infantry and tank divisions were completely routed, and 11 other enemy divisions severely punished, Moscow states. In addition 14,000 casualties were inflicted in killed alone, and 13,000 were captured. An immense amount of

RUSSIANS SCORE NOTABLE SUCCESSSES IN RELIEVING DRIVES NORTH AND SOUTH OF BESIEGED STALINGRAD

booty fell into Russian hands. The Soviet commander was Lieut-Gen Romanenko. The advance is still continuing. Shortly after the special Moscow announcement, Berlin and other Axis sources admitted that German and Roumanian forces were on the defensive near Stalingrad in the

region of the Don. It will be recalled that for the past four days the Germans have laid special emphasis on Russian attacks in the area of the Don bend. Inside the city of Stalingrad fighting has been on a small scale, Soviet troops wiping out two German detachments trying to force the defences of a workers' settlement. In the Caucasus, after an extremely successful week during which they routed a German army at Ordzhonikidze and forced it to retreat, the Russian forces are keeping up their pressure. They have gained an important position in the Nalchik area, and thrown back all enemy counter-thrusts. In the western Caucasus, NE of Tuapse, weather conditions have slowed up the tempo of the fighting, but the Red Army holds the initiative, and has thrown the enemy from a recently captured hill.

Important changes in the British War Cabinet are announced. Sir Stafford Cripps, who has been Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons for nine months, is leaving the War Cabinet to become Minister of Aircraft Production. His place in the War Cabinet is being filled by Mr Herbert Morrison, Home Secretary and Minister for Home Security, while Mr Anthony Eden becomes the new Leader of the House. Viscount Cranbourne succeeds Sir Stafford as Lord Privy Seal. Col Llewellyn, present Minister for Aircraft Production, is going to Washington as Resident Minister for Supply, while Col Oliver Stanley returns to the Government as Minister for Colonies in place of Lord Cranbourne. Sir Stafford Cripps joined the Churchill Government in February, shortly after his return from Moscow, where he served during the most critical days of the war as Ambassador. For many years a prominent figure in the Labor Party, he has been a non-party man of late.

SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS LEAVES WAR CABINET

Mr Herbert Morrison, his successor in the War Cabinet, is a Londoner through and through, a typical Cockney. He played the chief part in strengthening London's air raid defences during the early part of the war. The War Cabinet now comprises, in addition to Mr Churchill, Mr Attlee, as Deputy Prime Minister, Sir John Anderson (Lord President of the Council), Mr Anthony Eden (Foreign Secretary), Mr Oliver Lyttelton (Minister for Production), Mr Ernest Bevin (Minister for Labour), Mr R. G. Casey (Minister of State in the M.E.), and Mr Morrison, Home Secretary.

Gen MacArthur's communique this morning reports that Japanese naval forces have apparently succeeded in landing reinforcements in New Guinea. Allied medium bombers sank one enemy destroyer, and two smaller ships. The Allied land forces are steadily closing in on Buna. The enemy are putting up a stiff resistance, but his positions are rapidly dwindling. The American troops who are attacking Buna are advancing from three sides. At Gona, a short distance north, the Australians are also advancing. The U.S. troops have actually captured Buna's second airfield. Raiders, Havocs, Beaufighters and Flying Fortresses are soaring over the Japanese defences. Allied air operations over New Guinea resulted in the destruction of 19 enemy planes in air combat and on the ground.

JAPANESE REINFORCEMENTS LANDED IN NEW GUINEA

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Main news from North Africa today is of the part played by the Allied air forces in the battle of supply. On land there have been more clashes in Tunisia; rather heavier than previously. At one point British forward troops met a German armoured column, and inflicted heavy damage on it. At another point the Germans have launched two vigorous attacks against French forces who disobeyed the Vichy instructions not to oppose the Axis troops in Tunisia. In spite of relatively severe casualties, the French held firm. French patrols are operating far in the rear of the Axis forces. The Germans are now well entrenched in Tunisia. They are believed to have laid minefields, and have a large air force at their disposal. The Allies are building up their strength before attempting any major breakthrough to Tunis and Bizerta. Further south, Gen Girard's French forces hold a wedge across Tunisia from Gabes, and unofficial reports say they have checked the German drive south. Italian troops moving north from Tripoli have been unable to make progress. Some 650 miles to the east along the coast from Gabes,

**HEAVIER CLASHES IN
TUNISIA: NCW ONLY
650 MILES BETWEEN
OUR TWO BIG ARMIES**

the British Eighth Army in Libya is in contact with the enemy rearguard at Agedabia. The weather is still wet and cold, and it is reported that the Germans have laid big minefields between Agedabia and Agheila, to delay our advance as much as possible, and so give Rommel time to reform his troops behind the El Agheila defensive positions. It is known that the enemy has heavily fortified this 20-mile defence line, and Berlin yesterday announced that the German and Italian armoured forces have been reinforced, and are now occupying this line. At Benghazi, which the Eighth Army occupied on Thursday, a number of our troops taken prisoner earlier in the campaign, mostly Indians, were released. At Barce, the big Axis airfield north of Benghazi, some Axis prisoners were captured. While the land forces are getting ready for the next blow, our Allied air forces are striking effective blows in the battle of supply against the three big ports in North Africa still in Axis hands: Tripoli, Tunis and Bizerta. Tripoli, main supply port for Rommel's army now that Benghazi has fallen, has been attacked by both American Liberators and RAF medium bombers. They scored direct hits on barracks, docks and warehouses, and saw many explosions and fires. At Tunis the airfield which the Germans are using to land airborne troops and supplies, was attacked on Saturday afternoon by B 17s (Flying Fortresses) of the U.S. 12th Air Force, escorted by Lightning pursuit planes (Lockheed P38s) making their first appearance in the African theatre of operations. The Fortresses smashed at least 5 enemy planes on the ground, damaged others, and started fires in hangars. On the way back they were challenged by ME109s, and the Fortresses, without loss, shot down three, while the Lightnings destroyed a fourth and drove the rest off. On the previous night RAF medium bombers of M.E. Command attacked the airfield at Bizerta, damaging workshops, hangars and other buildings. All got back.

Our home-based bombers were out over Germany last night, but no details are available yet. Switzerland's air raid sirens also sounded again last night, usual indicator of a raid on Italy. Photographs in British papers

GERMANY RAIDED LAST NIGHT

ITALY MAY HAVE HAD ANOTHER

this morning show the tremendous havoc wrought by our bomber raids on Genoa, which once was one of Italy's chief ports. Expert interpretation of these photographs is that Genoa, for the time being at any rate, has been knocked out as an effective Axis supply base. In the docks area warehouses and fitting out yards have been burnt out, and two big liners, the Augustus and Roma, both of more than 30,000 tons, were badly damaged. In the town two areas of 27 acres and of 20 acres have been devastated.

Last Friday the largest force of American heavy bombers which has ever operated from any base in India attacked the rail centre of Mandalay. Many tons of bombs were dropped, and all our planes got home safely. On Saturday night RAF Blenheims carried out a series

BIG AIR RAIDS IN BURMA

of attacks on Japanese aerodromes in Burma, at Toungoo, Mingaladon, and Mandalay. Fires were started in hangars, enemy aircraft shot up, and dispersal areas damaged. On the Assam-Burma frontier patrol activity continues.

Washington announced last night that another American destroyer was lost in the Battle of the Solomons off Guadalcanal 3 days ago. U.S. naval losses for the battle were thus 2 light cruisers and 7 destroyers.

I. Jackson

The **DIGGERS** **DESERT DAILY**

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2 pp

The Russian counter-offensives to the NW and south of Stalingrad have both made considerable progress. The Red Army forces pressing down from the NW have advanced another 25 miles, and in the south from 10 to 12 miles has been gained. The defenders of the city itself are now attacking, and have won back more ground in the factory area and the outer suburbs. But most interesting news this morning is that Soviet troops from the north have now joined up with the defenders of the city. The 25 miles of advance by Marshal Timoshenko's North-Western army includes many enemy strong points, and the Soviet forces are now spread out and have penetrated from 4 to 6 miles inside the Don bend itself. It is not clear whether the Red Army units which have relieved the Stalingrad garrison are part of the NW Army, or a separate force. In the Don bend a number of big tank battles have been fought, and Moscow last night reported the enemy as retreating rapidly southward. The southern arm of the great pincer of the Russian offensive has pushed 12 miles nearer Kotelnikovo, the railway town 80 miles SW of Stalingrad. Our allies are now more than two-thirds of the way to Kotelnikovo.

RUSSIAN COUNTER-OFFENSIVE MAKING CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS AT STALINGRAD: ARMY FROM NORTH LINKS WITH GARRISON

The gap between the Russian armies above and below Stalingrad yesterday was 50 miles, but latest news indicates that it has narrowed to about 40 miles. The wedges driven into the German flanks north and south of Stalingrad have been widened,

making the position of the enemy forces before the city itself extremely perilous. With most of its supply lines cut, the force is in danger of being completely cut off. "Izvestia" estimates the number of German troops threatened to be from 300,000 to 400,000. As the Soviet counter-offensive advances, the casualties to the enemy are also rising, and last night Moscow said that 41,000 had been killed and 36,000 taken prisoner, while the quantities of enemy equipment includes 400 tanks, 1,100 guns and 88 aircraft, some in full working order. The Germans themselves admit that their defence lines have been broken, but the communique said they were "taking certain measures." Berlin speaks of heavy defensive fighting continuing against what it calls "the great Russian offensive." Paris Radio last night said that the Russian thrust NW of Kletsckaya was more serious than that in the Don bend. In the Kletsckaya area, Moscow announced last night, the Red Army has captured three German divisions, together with Generals and staffs. In the Caucasus fighting seems to have died down, largely because of the weather. In what fighting is taking place, the advantage is with the Russians. It is announced from Moscow that medals are to be given to the defenders of Leningrad, Odessa, Sevastopol and Stalingrad.

Fighting in New Guinea has increased to a new pitch of intensity, and Gen MacArthur's communique this morning reports that it has been particularly heavy on land and in the air in the Buna area. There has been no further news of progress on land since it was learned that the Australians entered Gona two days ago, and were mopping up, while another Australian column advanced down the coast towards Buna. American troops were closing in on Buna. Clashes were then said to have been narrowed down to certain focal

VIOLENT FIGHTING IN NEW GUINEA AS ALLIES CLOSE IN ON JAP BASE OF BUNA

points between Buna village and the Buna mission, both of which are being stormed by the Allied troops. Allied air activity includes raids on Lae and close support of the land forces, while the villages on Portuguese Timor

recently occupied by the Japanese were attacked again. Darwin had a night raid by 18 enemy bombers, but no damage has been reported. Two of the enemy planes were destroyed. It was announced from Canberra yesterday that Capt Keith Black, of the Military History & Information Sec of the AIF, has been wounded during operations in north New Guinea, and Lieut Tom Fisher, an official photographer, has been posted missing. Capt Black was formerly on the staff of the "Melbourne Herald" and Lieut Fisher was a photographer on the "Sydney Morning Herald". In the Solomons United States forces advancing west of the Henderson airfield are now on the west bank of the Matanikaa River, and are approaching the main Japanese concentration, 15 miles away on the NW tip of the island. U.S. Secretary of the Navy, Col Knox, said yesterday the Americans aim to drive the Japs right out of Guadalcanal. "But it's going to be difficult", he added. The Americans were keeping a close sea and air patrol for any further enemy attempt to reinforce their troops on the island.

Tom Fisher

Latest news from Tunisia is of more clashes between Allied advanced units and the Axis forces. One of these was at a point only 24 miles SW of Tunis itself. In southern Tunisia Allied parachute troops have repulsed an enemy mechanised column, while French patrols are also active in the same sector. Our paratroops are defending captured aerodromes. In the air our fighters have attacked an enemy troop train near the port of Gabes, while Allied medium bombers have attacked Bizerta and Tunis. Our aircraft destroyed 4 enemy planes without loss. Morocco Radio says that Algiers had an air raid lasting 7½ hours on Monday night. The same station described Admiral Darlan

MINOR CLASHES BETWEEN ALLIED ADVANCED UNITS AND AXIS IN TUNISIA.

as the constitutional representative in the French Empire of the Chief of State (Marshal Petain), who "is prevented from carrying out his own wishes." The Governor-General of West

Africa, M. Boisson, yesterday broadcast a statement about his position from Radio Dakar. He said that he had always upheld the sovereignty of France, and that was why he now placed himself under the control of Admiral Darlan. He added that he would not have taken this step unless he were certain he was not being disloyal to his oath to Marshal Petain. The Axis Radio says that the official statement by Vichy concerning French North Africa, which was to have been given yesterday, will probably be made today. In London Gen de Gaulle, leader of the Fighting French, and Gen Catroux, yesterday attended a meeting of the French National Committee, which is concerned at the position in North Africa brought about by Admiral Darlan's assumption of power.

The Eighth Army on Monday was following up the enemy rearguard beyond Agedabia, but unfavourable weather in Libya has brought air activity almost to a standstill, and has also caused a certain slowing down in the rate of our advance. This gives time for supplies and reinforcements to be brought up, so that our forces will be equipped to strike if Rommel gives battle at Agheila. The enemy has evacuated Jalo oasis, 150 miles SE of Agedabia

EIGHTH ARMY BEYOND AGEDABIA

and it has been occupied by our troops.

This shows that the width of the Allied advance is still being maintained. Our torpedo-carrying aircraft operating from Malta scored hits amidships on an Axis supply ship SE of Sardinia, and sank it. M.E. medium bombers swooped through the German flak at Bizerta to attack the docks. One particularly heavy bomb burst near the goods station. Other RAF bombers raided Palermo, in Sicily, while our long range fighters kept guard on the Axis air traffic between Sicily and Tunisia, shooting down a He115 and an Italian floatplane, attacking a 2-masted schooner with cannon fire, and later shooting down a JU52 troop carrier off the Tunisian coast.

RAF fighters from Britain on patrol across the English Channel yesterday damaged an enemy supply ship and railway objectives in Northern France. All came back Over 1,000 officers and men of the Navy, Army, Air Force and Merchant Navy have arrived in Britain after being released from confinement in a prison camp on the edge of the Sahara Desert, formerly a Foreign Legion post. The Allied landings brought them their freedom. Nearly 500 were from the cruiser Manchester, sunk in the big Malta convoy battle, and survivors of the destroyer Havoc, torpedoed at the same time, also

NOTES FROM THE NEWS

came back. The men complained of over-crowding and other hardships The Secretary for War, Sir James Grigg, yesterday gave the House of

Commons some particulars of German interference with the mail to and from British prisoners, and of the withdrawal of all books, washing and shaving kits and all clothes except those being worn. Strong representations were being made through the protecting power. On Monday the Australian War Cabinet voted 16 to 3 in favour of the Prime Minister's request to change the Defence Act to enable the Militia to be used throughout the SW Pacific area. One of Mr Curtin's difficulties, however, is that he can talk freely to his Cabinet conferees, but cannot speak so openly to the public. The Federal Constitutional Convention called to discuss plans for the Government's proposed amendments to the Constitution to enable it to deal with post-War problems, held its first meeting in Canberra on Monday afternoon. Twelve Federal and twelve State representatives, of both political parties, were present, and Mr Curtin and Dr Evatt were the first speakers. Australian bank deposits have increased by nearly £50,000,000 since June, 1939 The familiar Japanese trick of confusing sentries by talking in English no longer works with the Americans on Guadalcanal. A Marine machine-gunner heard footsteps, and fired a burst. "Hold your fire! We are American troops. I am bringing in my platoon", a voice said. The machine gunner opened fire and wiped out the Jap patrol. "It was too damned dramatic for a Marine!" he commented afterwards.

The Russian offensive north and south of Stalingrad is gaining force. Both arms of the pincer movement have extended their grip on important railways leading from Stalingrad, while at Stalingrad itself our allies are reported to have regained more ground. The midnight communique from Moscow, and a special announcement, give the latest news of the twin drives. On the NW arm the Red Army has retaken three more railway stations and eight other places. Soviet troops have spread out across a wide area of the Don - Volga steppes, and are pressing forward along the railway leading from Stalingrad to Kharkov and Rostov. They have also driven further south from Kalach, which is 50 miles due west of Stalingrad. The Russian army to the south of Stalingrad has extended its grip on another railway, that leading through Kotelnikovo, 80 miles from Stalingrad, to the Caucasus. They are rapidly nearing Kotelnikovo. Reports suggest that the Germans

RUSSIAN TWIN OFFENSIVES
AT STALINGRAD CONTINUE
TO GAIN GROUND AND FORCE

are making strong attempts to hold their positions in the face of the powerful Russian attacks. To the south, six Axis counter-attacks were thrown back on Tuesday. The latest Russian progress has considerably widened

the wedges already driven into the German flanks, but no details have been received of how narrow the gap has become. It is likely to be less than 40 miles, and the position of the Germans forces at Stalingrad is becoming increasingly perilous. They have, now, to contend with strong attacks from the defenders of the city as well, as the heroic garrison sallies forth from its cellars and ruins. Timoshenko's brilliantly timed and executed movement has led to a situation which may well lead to the complete destruction or capture of the German forces in the Stalingrad area. As the offensive enters its second week, Russians are recalling Hitler's boast on September 30: "Stalingrad will be taken; you may be sure of that!" On November 8 Hitler said: "The fact is, we have got Stalingrad", adding that there were only a few small pockets of resistance. But 70 days after the first reports of fighting in the streets of Stalingrad, the garrison had regained ground in the factory belt, in the centre, and on the southern outskirts. The Russians estimate that they have already captured 51,000 Axis troops, and 47,000 of the enemy have been killed. Up on the Central Russian front the Germans say that Russian forces have broken through the German defences on the Rzhev front, and are now at a point 120 miles north of Smolensk, and only about the same distance from the Latvian border. This was the furthest point reached by last winter's Russian offensive. So far Moscow has not confirmed this.

The Australian and American forces now at grips with the Japanese at Buna are meeting with stiff resistance from very strongly fortified positions. The communique this morning said that heavy fighting continues in the low tropical jungle, interspersed with swamps, which restricts movement and manoeuvre. Gen MacArthur says that the Japanese are putting up a strong resistance from prepared positions which are strongly fortified with barbed wire and other defences. All available air strength of both sides is in constant action above. Correspondents speak of ^{now} the steady stream of Airacobras, Flying Fortresses, Beaufighters, Havocs and Kittyhawks bomb-

AUSTRALIANS AND AMERICANS
CLOSE WITH JAPANESE IN GRIM
FIGHTING FOR BUNA POSITIONS

ed and strafed enemy positions. Enemy naval forces, under cover of darkness, again attempted to land reinforcements, but the enemy force was shattered and driven

off with heavy loss. It consisted of a light cruiser and 4 destroyers. Our heavy and medium bombers intercepted, dropping flares and 500 lb bombs. Two destroyers were sunk and a third badly damaged. It is thought that this damaged cruiser probably also sank. It could not be located later. The light cruiser and remaining destroyer fled to the north. All the vessels were apparently heavily laden with troops, and enemy losses must be considered very high. There were two enemy air raids on Port Moresby, but no damage was done. Gen MacArthur's medium bombers have also raided Tor again. In the Solomons American planes from Guadalcanal have attacked enemy positions on the nearby island of New Georgia. On Guadalcanal itself, an American Marine patrol killed 70 Japanese near Henderson airfield, and captured five machine guns.

Our long range fighters operating over the Mediterranean have shot down a German BF222, a 6-engined troop transport which carries 80 fully equipped troops. It is one of Germany's largest planes, and is believed to be the first shot down by the RAF.

In Tunisia the British First Army and supporting American forces are making satisfactory progress in the eastern forward area. That is what the communique issued last night from Allied HQ states. Correspondents report that the British troops are about 25 miles south of Tunis, and are heading towards Bizerta, probing for the enemy's weak points. Meanwhile the Germans are consolidating their defences on the arc covering Bizerta and Tunis, and getting all possible troops and equipment across from Europe by air and by sea. The Allied air forces from North Africa and from Malta are doing all they can to prevent or interrupt this traffic, and they are being helped in this by the new American Lightning fighters. Yesterday these unusual fighters destroyed 14 Axis planes without loss to themselves. Seven of these were Italian transport planes caught on and around the airfield at Gabes, in southern Tunisia. Two JU88s were also shot down off southern Tunisia. On Tuesday night RAF bombers attacked the docks and airfields at Bizerta for the second night in succession. One big sheet of flame followed a hit which caused a gasoline explosion in the harbour. The battle for command of the air over Tunisia is developing into a terrific struggle, with

FIRST ARMY MAKING
PROGRESS IN TUNISIA :
STATEMENT IN COMMONS

the Germans throwing every available plane in. Vichy Radio last night estimated French naval losses. At Casablanca, they said, 12 were put out of action including the battleship Jean Bart, a cruiser and 4 destroyers. Three submarines were lost, and Vichy puts the total at 16 ships. In the House of Commons yesterday the Foreign Secretary, Mr Eden, said the battle for Tunisia was now entering an extremely critical phase. He was answering a question regarding the postponement of a broadcast by Gen de Gaulle which, Mr Eden said, both he and Mr Churchill were of the opinion would not help the present extremely tense operations in Tunisia. "This is not the time to discuss arrangements made in North Africa between Gen Eisenhower and the local French authorities. The First British Army, strongly supported by United States forces, are making their way eastward with the utmost possible speed. They are being greatly helped in their advance", Mr Eden went on, "by the friendly attitude of the population, and also by the vigorous resistance of the French troops already in Tunisia are offering to the invaders." The Foreign Secretary emphasised that these operations are under American direction, the British First Army, and the naval forces under Admiral Cunningham, all being subordinate to the Commander-in-Chief, Gen Eisenhower. Mr Eden added that all British prisoners of war in North Africa were believed to have been released, and arrangements were being made for their early repatriation.

Our forces in Libya are still pursuing the German rearguard between Agedabia and El Agheila. Correspondents say there is still some doubt whether Rommel will try to make a stand at Agheila, though the Germans are digging themselves in, and apparently getting reinforcements. A correspondent has sent a description of our capture of Agedabia on Monday. The battle lasted all day, and was probably the last engagement to be fought before our forces reach the German defences

PROGRESS IN LIBYA at Agheila. The Germans had protected the village by extensive minefields, and a strong anti-tank gun screen. But the battle ended with dramatic suddenness during the night when the enemy, deciding they could not delay our advance any longer, tore out of Agedabia with 400 lorries carrying troops, 40 guns, 12 tanks and several armoured cars. The British 25-pdrs and our tanks immediately opened a withering fire under an almost full moon. Most of the enemy got away, but they left a trail of wrecked vehicles and bodies scattered along the road.

Reports have reached Stockholm of a British commando raid on a German power station on the Norwegian coast last month. Fourteen men are stated to have reached the power station undetected. They silenced the guard, and

COMMANDO RAID IN NORWAY then set about wrecking the instruments and equipment of the station. The Germans discovered their presence, and there was fierce fighting. The Swedish reports say eight commandos are believed to have escaped, but 6 were taken prisoner. It is well known that many such small commando raids occur, about which no official statements are issued.

RAF fighters were over northern France yesterday attacking enemy communications. Trains and other targets were damaged. One fighter is missing. The Commander of the U.S. Navy in the SW Pacific, Vice-Admiral William Halsey, who led the American forces in the recent Solomons victory, has been promoted a full Admiral.

The DIGGERS DESERT DAILY

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2 pp

The Russians are still making notable progress in their offensive round Stalingrad, and have recaptured 14 more places and 12,000 more prisoners. They have now captured 63,000 prisoners since the offensive began eight days ago, and have also taken 1,300 tanks, 1,800 guns, 4,000 machine-guns, 50,000 rifles and great stores of ammunition and food. Latest news was given in a special announcement from Moscow. In the city of Stalingrad itself Soviet troops are recapturing more and more streets, and the Germans are faced with a double threat. The defenders, together with the rel-
vin army which has joined them from the North, have broken into a work-
ers' settlement and captured several streets. The Russians are now att-
acking everywhere in the city, while the Germans are also being attacked
from their rear. Two Soviet forces, one from the NW and one from the SW,
are now only 20 miles apart. When they meet the enemy troops in the city
will be encircled. To the immediate NW of the city two more places have
been retaken by the Russians on the east bank of the Don, and the Russian
army coming from the south has captured seven places and severely mauled
four enemy infantry divisions which tried to break through. Further west
two Soviet columns driving down inside the Don elbow have joined forces,
encircling large numbers of the enemy. The German 5th Army Corps is rep-
orted smashed up NW of Stalingrad, and correspondents say only one of its
five divisions got away intact. The German 1st Army Corps was routed to
the south of Stalingrad earlier, and the 5th Corps was to have gone to sup-
port it. Soviet troops advancing from the south have captured five more

**ENCIRCLING ARMIES NOW
ONLY 20 MILES APART :
RUSSIANS CLAIM TO HAVE
CAPTURED 63,000 PRISONERS**

inhabited places, while another big force
is advancing from Surovinskaya, 25 miles
west of the Don and only 100 miles from the
main Moscow to Rostov railway. Paul Winter-
ten describes this as the main Russian off-
ensive. Further south again the army mov-

ing south-west along the Caucasus railway is also extending westward to
join up with the thrusts from the north. They plan to meet at Chirskeya,
when they will have encircled from 20 to 25 enemy divisions. In this sou-
thern portion of the battlefield the Germans are digging in groups of 20
to 50 tanks, often as they run out of petrol, and are using them as strong
points. In one sector Soviet troops captured 157 German tanks dug in in
this way. There has been heavy fighting as Marshal Timoshenko's columns
from the north have smashed their way through the long lines of German
fortifications stretching from east to west to protect their supply lines.
The German Command is rushing up all available aircraft, but the Red Air
Force still holds a local superiority. Some of the German planes are big
JU52 troop carriers, and the Soviets shot down 5 of these and another 8
were destroyed during a raid on an enemy aerodrome. The Germans are still
talking of a big new offensive opened NW of Moscow three days ago by the
Russians, 100 miles north of Smolensk on a wide front between Rzhev and
Velichi Luki. Berlin says the Russians have reached Belof, or Belyi, 60 mls
SW of Rzhev and about 80 miles from Smolensk. Yesterday's Soviet communi-
que said Russian troops had captured an enemy fortified position in this
area. In the eastern Caucasus Russian troops SE of Valchik have made some
slight advances, while in the western Caucasus Soviet Marines in a night
attack on enemy positions wiped out a Coy.

On the north coast of New Guinea the fierce fighting for the beachhead at
Euna has died down somewhat in its intensity. Gen MacArthur's communique
reports that, despite the Japanese losses at sea this week, they have suc-
ceeded in getting some reinforcements ashore. Correspondents speak of
jungle trees thick with Japanese snipers as one of the things which are

FIGHTING FOR BEACHHEAD likely to make the final dislodgement of the
enemy from Papua a tough proposition. Our air
forces have been constantly in action. A strong force of bombers has raid-
ed the aerodrome at Lae, scoring direct hits with 1,000 lb bombs, while
other Allied planes made attacks in Timor. Darwin was raided again by the
Japanese, without causing damage. On Guadalcanal Is in the Solomons, U.S.
A.acobras have strafed Japanese positions. Pilot-Officer Richard E. Cress-
well, 24, of Fotts Point, Sydney, has gained the distinction of being the
first to shoot down an enemy bomber over Australia during the hours of
darkness. A night fighter pilot, he went up to intercept the enemy raiders
over Darwin on Monday night, and bagged one of the bombers.

Bad weather is holding up operations throughout North Africa. There have been no official reports of any kind about the situation in Tunisia, but a spate of unofficial news has given some idea of how things are going. One report, by Morocco Radio, says that Allied troops have driven the Germans from Medjaz-el-Bab, 30 miles SW of Tunis. The Axis forces put up stiff resistance until the British and American troops broke through their defences. Reports from the German newsagency indicate that the First Army is even nearer to Tunis and Bizerta. It reports clashes at Teburba, halfway between Medjaz-el-Bab and Tunis, and 20 miles from the capital, and at Mateur, on the railway leading to Bizerta, and 20 miles from the port.

WEATHER HOLDING UP OPERATIONS IN NORTH AFRICA BUT FIRST ARMY NEARS OBJECTIVES

Allied Force HQ communique issued this morning at 0800 hrs stated: "The British First Army advancing has driven the enemy from Medjaz-el-Bab, Tunisia, after meeting stubborn resistance. Allied aircraft have provided strong fighter protection for the offensive operations on the ground. U.S. Army planes raided the enemy aerodrome at Tunis early this morning. Ten enemy aircraft were believed destroyed on the ground. Our pilots found the field littered with enemy aircraft destroyed in previous raids. Our planes encountered heavy machine-gun fire from the ground but no fighter opposition. During yesterday the RAF carried out several sweeps during which they destroyed a minimum of 12 enemy aircraft, for the loss of 7 of our own. Three of our pilots are safe." Earlier messages spoke of the inadequate road and rail communications of eastern Algeria with which our troops had to contend in getting up supplies and reinforcements. The tracks were not improved by the first downpours of the rainy season. In the House of Commons yesterday Mr Eden was pressed by several members to give time for discussion on Admiral Darlan's position in North Africa. In his reply he reiterated his statement of the previous day that the military authorities were in possession of the facts, and that the Government did not consider such a discussion timely. He pointed out again that the military power in North Africa was that of the United States, and the civilian power was French.

In Libya our advanced elements are still in touch with the Germans along the desert stretch leading from Agedabia to El Agheila. These advanced forces have travelled 600 miles from the Libyan border in 13 days, and Agedabia fell into our hands only a month after the start of Gen Montgomery's offensive at Alamein. The Germans are now making for Mersa el Brega, 24 miles from Agheila, and the beginning of the Agheila defence line. The road curves near the coast, with sand dunes and hummocks on the coastal side and

EIGHTH ARMY STILL IN TOUCH NEAR EL AGHEILA

great expanses of salt marsh inland. This latter is impassable at present, with the weather cold, windy and rainy - worse than an English autumn.

While our land forces move steadily nearer through the minefields to El Agheila, our air forces are continuing their attacks on the enemy lines of communication by sea and air from Sicily and Italy to Tripoli and Tunisia. Torpedo-bombers from Malta attacked and left sinking a big freighter south of Sicily, and another freighter has been damaged by our bombers off Misurata. Air Vice Marshal Conyngham yesterday described how the German and Italian air forces have been driven from the Libyan skies. "The defeat of the Luftwaffe and the Regia Aeronautica in Libya is the most complete ever inflicted on any air force in the field", he said. He also referred to the way in which the Luftwaffe "disgracefully neglected their own land forces."

Four enemy planes were shot down by the RAF in daylight yesterday over the French and Netherlands coasts. Two were destroyed by our Coastal Command Beaufighters and the other two by Mustangs, which also damaged a small enemy supply ship. Spitfires shot up enemy tugs, barges and trains, and Whirlwinds went for targets in the Cherbourg peninsula. One of our torpedo-carrying Hampdens torpedoed an enemy supply ship off the Norwegian coast the previous night, when RAF bombers were on offensive recce over Germany, two being lost.

Japanese-occupied Siam has been attacked by U.S. bombers for the first time. Flying Fortresses made a large scale attack on the oil refineries at Bangkok. The refineries were hit with large calibre bombs, the crews of the nine American bombers report. Japanese aerodromes and positions in the Canton area of China have also been raided by American bombers. The RAF from India have been heavily attacking Japanese aerodromes in Burma, particularly that of Mingaladen, the airport of Rangoon.

[Handwritten signature]