

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

Item number: 8/3/23

2/23 Infantry Battalion

December 1943

*L.P. Wentworth Lt
I.O. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn*

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit.....2/23 AUST INF BN..... Date and Time.—From 1 DEC 43..... To 31 DEC 43.....

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
SONG RIVER	1		At first light A coy moved fwd, having dumped packs and unessential gear to facilitate quicker movement up the steep slope toward KUANKO. This early start enabled the remainder of the bn, carrying all gear, to make good progress by midday. A coy cleared several pockets of enemy resistance and by soon after 1200L, the village of KUANKO was reported clear of enemy. C coy were immediately in rear of A and went into posn on the NW slopes of the village. A coy had dislodged him from dominating ground close to the village but he still held in some strength, the ridge beyond. By 1400L the bn perimeter had been established with B and C coys covering the northern flank. D coy on the west, with elements of HQ coy and Bn HQ pers completing the perimeter on the east and south. (Sketch of disposns appx)	
KUANKO			Assistance in resupply was given by 2/24 Bn who established a dump 400 yds south of the village. A coy were now able to recover their gear and get a meal and for this reason the coy bivouacked for night 1/2 approx half way between KUANKO and the SONG RIVER. Two offrs from HQ 26 Bde visited the unit in KUANKO. Their comments on the strenuous climb helped to show the Bde comd the real difficulties of this and the previous day's actions. Although the days adv appeared as only 1200 yds on the map the actual hardship was abnormal on account of the steep gradient throughout the whole distance.	
	2		Patrols found the jap still in the posns on the ridge toward PEAK HILL, which he had held on the previous day. The country proved most difficult for patrolling activity, the only method being to crawl close to the ground. Bamboo growth on C coy's front made movement impossible there. At 0030L the jap sprayed our area with HMG fire but our posns were such that he caused no damage. These bursts of fire became quite frequent during the period spent in KUANKO. An attempt by C coy to locate exact enemy posns encountered at least 6 enemy automatic wpns, sited so as to make manoeuvring impracticable in area fwd of C coy.	

18 AUG 1944

*Matthews Lt
2/23 Aust Inf Bn*

7872.L.

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W. E. L. Kelly
C.O. 2/23 Aust Inf. Bn.

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(adapted.)

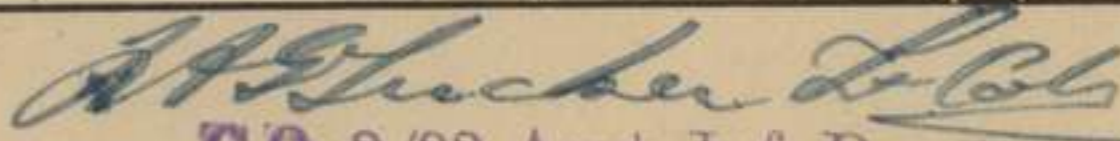
Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 DEC 43 To 31 DEC 43

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	2		<p>The C O decided to use all available mortar, MMG and arty sp, so with that in view, C coy withdrew slightly, out of the danger area of our own arty concentrations. From this time on, every opportunity was taken to harass the jap with arty MMG and mortars, and with such close observation from fwd coys by and accurate fire was brought down upon the enemy.</p> <p>D coy sent a patrol wide out to the west to explore a possible route by which to outflank the jap posns. Going was extremely difficult and the patrol remained some distance out during the night 2/3.</p> <p>Later in the afternoon, further by enemy fire from the north indicated that our progress from KUANKO would be contested more strongly.</p> <p>At last light the jap attacked the fwd posns held by B coy, when he used anti pers bombs of gelignite. These bombs had a strong blast but did not cause serious casualty. Some tps in our fwd posns were forced to withdraw and some eqpt was lost. The worst feature was that the jap now held ground overlooking the village, making readjustment of our posns essential.</p> <p>A coy had rejoined the bn during the day and at 2200L counterattacked in an endeavour to regain the ground lost earlier in the evening. This counterattack - our only night adventure in the whole op - was unsuccessful. Reorganization was immediately carried out. The defences were rearranged to suit the altered conditions. Sup dumps removed to safer areas and all pers were prepared to hold a somewhat congested perimeter. We were fortunately able to complete our task before dawn, without further interference other than occasional bursts of SAF.</p>	
	3		<p>Again by enemy MG fire on our area at first light, to which our tps retaliated with MGs mortars and arty. It was noticed that jap fire now came also from the NE along the track by which we had entered the village. Patrol was sent to locate enemy posns in that area, and found that the track was under fire from new posns which the jap had occupied overnight. He was dug in within 20 yds of the sharp bend (see sketch appx) but we cut another route for resupply.</p>	

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	3		At 0830L the D coy patrol which had left the previous day, returned. They had observed 8/10 enemy moving along the track between KUANKO and WAREO. Infm from this patrol proved of value to 2/24 Bn which later attacked the jap on our left flank.	
	contd		Enemy snipers were causing an occasional casualty but our own tps more than held their own in this respect. Soon after midday the jap again brought down by fire over the bn perimeter from his posns on two sides, but such attention from the enemy became merely an uncomfortable portion of the daily routine, without causing any undue inconvenience. Our own harassing shoots and sniping caused the jap many a casualty, and this was proved when we subsequently marched through his posns. Enemy movement to the north was reported later in the day, and further harassing fire was directed upon him. No alteration in the situation resulted. 2/24 Bn again carried resupply into the bn area, in addition to the many native carriers.	
	4		An early patrol to the east was fired on from the newly occupied jap posns meanwhile D coy 2/24 Bn were moving up from the SONG river to take up posns covering our east flank. Another inward track was cleared to safeguard our supply lines, and sig coms were transferred to this track since the original line passed much too close to the jap posns. Bursts of enemy fire during the day caused neither damage nor casualty. D coy 2/24 Bn took up posns 150 yds south of our Bn area, astride the main track. Again at 1830L, the jap sent down further fire incl some mortar bombs, causing a few casualties. The bn was established in a very tight perimeter, where casualties could have been high had the jap been able to employ arty and mortar fire to any great extent. Our own advantage in this respect helped to make the holding of KUANKO possible.	

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	4		Capt N.E.McMASTER rejoined the bn, and took over from Lieut A. LYNE the comd of B coy.	
	contd 5		Night 4/5 passed quietly. A patrol from C coy attempted to push to the NE but was forced back by impassible country. Japs were heard, but the patrol was unable to make contact.	
			To make further adv possible, A coy 2/24 Bn were instructed to move through the dense jungle well to the west of our posns and cut the track which had been reconnoitred previously by one of our patrols. Plans were discussed by Comds of both bns. 2/24 Bn had established HQ 500 yds south of our area. Exchanges of fire took place during the day, the heaviest as usual at last light. Our arty continually harassed the enemy posns and his L of C both by day and night, under the capable direction of Lieut J.McKEDDIE. Further issues of aerial photographs were received, and were of considerable assistance. The need for such photographs in sufficient quantities both before and during ops is strongly emphasized. A congratulatory message received from higher formation read "For Maj Gen WOOTTEN from Corps comd Maj Gen BERRIMAN. The plan is developing well and you are all doing splendidly. Congratulations to 9 Aust Div and all att units and best wishes for further successes."	
	6		At first light a patrol from A coy discovered that the jap had moved out of his posns on our NE flank. Further patrols in the same area found the track clear to the NE where extensive enemy diggings for approx 30/50 tps had been evacuated. At 1100L movement of enemy along the ridge NE of WAREO was observed and immediately arty was directed upon the area. Occasional observation of smoke from enemy hide-outs dug in the intervening valley provided further tasks for arty. The enemy was daily harassed by all weapons at our disposal. At last light a co-ordinated shoot by unit 3" mortars and MMGs was directed upon the high ground held by the jap on our NW flank. Retaliatory from the enemy	

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	7		<p>Night 6/7 passed without incident. At first light our SAF on enemy posns produced no response, consequently the bn prepared to move fwd. Patrols found that the jap had evacuated his posns astride the track leading north from KUANKO and soon afterwards the arrival by that route of a patrol from 2/24 Bn proved that the tracks on PEAK HILL were also clear. B coy recovered a good part of the gear lost when the jap counter attacked on 2 Dec. Tac R message was dropped by an Austrecce plane giving locations of enemy diggings on the rd to WAREO. At 1030L C coy moved fwd and made contact (appx) with enemy approx 600 yds from WAREO. D and A coys followed but moved to the western flank, while B coy remained to hold KUANKO. The CO with Tac HQ joined C coy and then proceeded with D coy to the west where D coy 2/24 Bn by this time had occupied posns close to KWATINKO village. D and A coys (2/23) took up posns here in anticipation of an attack on WAREO, next day. Meanwhile, the enemy was still holding KWATINKO, and from there was using MGs and 2" Grenade discharger against our posns. D coy suffered 1 fatal casualty - the last for the op. D coy patrolled toward WAREO looking for suitable approach and the infm obtained enabled the CO to form this plan of attack: Hy harassing fire by arty mortars and MMGs to be employed at last light 7 Dec, followed by sp fire during the attack. D coy to attack WAREO village from the south and then to exploit westward. A coy to follow D coy then exploit eastward. C coy to proceed by main PEAK HILL-WAREO track then to assume responsibility for def of east WAREO, taking over from A coy. B coy to leave KUANKO and occupy northern area. Co-ordinated sp fire from posns in C coy area on main track. On completion of orders to Coy comds, Tac HQ returned to KUANKO.</p>	
WAREO	8		<p>D coy moved into the attack, assisted by our sp fire. No opposition was encountered and the village was in our hands by 0915L. A coy passed through to the east and then C coy took up posns according to plan. A coy u/c Lieut GILMOUR had the honour of hoisting the flag on the highest point in WAREO.</p>	

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WAREO	8 contd		<p>C coy 2/24 Bn passed through our C coy to carry out further exploitation to the east along the WAREO - BONGA track. While these ops were being carried out, D coy 2/24 were sent to occupy BAZULUO village, approx 2000 yds to the west, but ran into an enemy ambush and suffered by casualties. B coy 2/23 Bn was then ordered to their assistance and left WAREO immediately. Accordingly the Bn perimeter was re-organized to cover the absence of that coy.</p> <p>A patrol from C coy investigating well to the north of WAREO saw 10/15 japs in the area, and arty fire was brought down as soon as the infm was received at Bn HQ. Toward last light considerable firing was heard to the west in the direction of BAZULUO indicating that B coy had reached the area where D coy 2/24 Bn were engaging the enemy. On contact with them, OC B coy assumed comd, and immediately sent out a patrol to attempt encirclement of the enemy there, and to cut the track heading north from BAZULUO. In the time available they were unable to complete this task. At the same time a second patrol recovered the bodies of those killed in the ambush, and no sign of enemy was observed at this stage. A def perimeter of 5 pls was formed for the night, and at midnight came under by enemy fire from at least 3 LMG, rifles, and grenades. The exchange of fire continued intermittently until dawn.</p> <p>In WAREO, tps were once aga in able to get a good wash and clean up generally - first opportunity since leaving FIOR on 29 Nov.</p>	
	9		<p>An early attack on BAZULUO by pl encirclement plus frontal attack found the village evacuated. By 1200L all local tracks had been cleared for 1000 yds beyond the village.</p> <p>Further patrols in the WAREO area made no contact with the jap.</p> <p>B coy returned from BAZULUO and re-occupied former posns, while 16 pl D coy moved out to come temporarily u/c D coy 2/24 Bn.</p> <p>Capt E. TIETIENS suffered an accidental injury in WAREO, a nd the comd of D coy passed to Lieut J HIPSLEY.</p>	


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	9 contd		<p>On this and subsequent days, Capt "Tex" MORTON, of the Salvation Army, distributed coffee and biscuits to the tps in WAREO and his services were much appreciated by all ranks.</p> <p>During the day, a war correspondent visited the unit, accompanied by an official who took photographs of various members and gps in the bn employed upon normal duties.</p>	
	10		<p>At 0800 L D Coy (less 16 pl) moved to BAZULUO There forming a def perimeter taking over from D coy 2/24 Bn who rejoined their Bn.</p> <p>A patrol from C coy contacted 1 jap while on recce to the NE. During the morning movement was reported fwd of A coy posns but investigation proved the area clear of enemy.</p> <p>Orders for "stand to" and "stand down" were rigidly enforced throughout the Bn def locality.</p> <p>One sec MG pl moved East to come u/c 2/24 Bn on the WAREO - BONGA track.</p> <p>A warning order was issued for A coy to be prepared to join D coy in BAZULUO.</p>	
	11		<p>D coy standing patrol reported presence of japs in small numbers to the north of BAZULUO, but patrols 3/4000 yds westward reported no enemy.</p> <p>Another patrol from A coy contacted the jap in dug posns north of WAREO, killing two and wounding one. The enemy retaliated but out patrol withdrew without casualty.</p> <p>During the morning Brig WHITEHEAD Comd 26 Bde visited the unit.</p>	
	12		<p>D coy patrols northward from BAZULUO killed at least 3 japs, while a patrol (A coy) from WAREO killed two enemy. None of our patrols suffered casualties.</p> <p>The Bn was now more or less in static posn, and tps were able to obtain some well earned comfort. "Doovers" were erected out of material found in the village which had suffered by damage from our arty and bombers,</p>	

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	12 contd		and the relief from continual strain of close warfare re introduced the usual cheerfulness amongst the men.	
	13		C coy patrol moved NE of WAREO and set an ambush where enemy movement had been heard, but further recce found only indication of evacuation by the jap. Other patrols saw no sign of enemy, other than evacuated posns with discarded eqpt here and there. Capt W.J.VINES marched out to become BM(L) at HQ 26 Bde. Lieut R.ROW was appointed adjt in his place. Brig WHITEHEAD accompanied by Comd 2/48 Bn visited the unit en route to 2/24 Bn.	
	14		At first light an enemy A/C circled above WAREO then flew east toward the coast, where it dropped 2 bombs in the sea off SCARLET BEACH. A patrol from D coy was fired on at close range, but managed to escape casualty. Another D coy patrol observed an unidentified person who disappeared into the jungle. HQ 26 Bde moved into our bn perimeter, occupying an area in rear of C coy.	
	15		Standing patrols by D coy operated daily. Patrol from B coy moved to BAZULUO, staging there prior to 2 days deep patrolling to the north on 16-17 Dec. The period in WAREO enabled bn adm to be brought up to date. Orderly room in particular and Bn HQ generally, checked up on records, the keeping of which had been impossible on the march.	
	16		Lieut LAWRIE C coy commenced a 2 day patrol from WAREO, while from BAZULUO, Lieut HANSEN also moved his patrol to the north. Normal standing patrols and listening posts were maintained as usual.	

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	16 contd		Working parties from all coys in rotation, day by day, were now sent to assist in the improvement of the track from WAREO to BONGA on the coast. By this route the bn sups were being carried by native porters from B ech, now established approx 3 mls east of the bn.	
	17		Working parties moved off toward B ech. CO held conference attended by coy comds and specialist offr. Matters discussed incl coy trg, malarial precautions, trg of specialist pers, instn of reinfts, and general adm concerning rations, stores and eqpt. Routine timings were drawn up.	
			Patrols out overnight 16/17 returned late in the afternoon. The C coy gp passed through very difficult country for approx 4000 yds to the north where signs of jap occupation were seen. Two ambushes were set but no contact was made with the enemy north of BAZULUO, the B coy patrol also traversed steep hills and dense jungle but saw no sign of enemy. Further partols by D coy proved the northern tracks clear of japs.	
	18		With Christmas approaching, preparation for events was put in hand. Each coy constructed an oven from local material and amn boxes, but a later move prevented the bn from using them. Natives were employed in building huts for the various H Qs and the bn looked fwd to a period under conditions far more favourable than any previously experienced in the HUON peninsula. Unfortunately another bn was to reap the benefit of our preparations in WAREO. B coy were warned for a 3/4 day patrol by the entire coy from BAZULUO to LAKONA.	
	19		At 0755L B coy moved out with att tps and native porters. By the end of the day they had reached the LAKE area (fef sketch appx) where bivouac was made for the night. Comms with the coy were infrequent owing to atmospheric interference affecting the working of the No 11 Wireless Set that carried with them.	

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	19 Contd		<p>Certain times during the day were allotted for sending and receiving . From the bivouac area, all local tracks were investigated, but no movement was seen.</p> <p>In the bn area, Church Parade was conducted by the Chaplain from 2/24 Bn. Brig WHITEHEAD and party from HQ 26 Bde attended. This was the first church parade held in the FINSCH area.</p> <p>Lieut K. LOVELL took over duties as QM, replacing Capt G. LUKEY who was evacuated sick. Lieut C. HOLT became Sig offr and Lieut DENNING took over cmd MMG pl.</p> <p>A document received from 26 Bde revealed the value of PWs and captured papers. The document set out a number of extracts from interrogations of PWs and translations of captured papers. A number of these had been freed from the unit, and it gave great encouragement to the members of the unit to see the useful results of their own actions. If such a system is continued, tps will be pleased to co-operate and increase the supply of important infm which may be gleaned form captured belongings.</p>	
	20		<p>At 0700 B coy signalled by r/t their location, and reported on the previous day's movements. Patrols northward from the LAKONA track made no contact but saw signs indicating that the track had been used recently by the jap.</p> <p>Conference called at Bn HQ by CO. Routine adm matters were dealt with, and shortly afterward a warning order for movement of the bn on 22 Dec was received from 26 Bde. Preparation commenced immediately, but the warning order was later cancelled.</p> <p>The CO was Allotted allotted the task of writing an appreciation on the def of WAREO - SATELBERG area. A copy of this work is att as appx.</p>	
	21		<p>B coy reported situation normal and proceeded with the task of patrolling on the LAKONA track. A deep patrol found no sign of the main track continuing on to LAKONA, but contact was made with a patrol from 2/24 Bn,</p>	

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	21 contd		close to the SOWI river. On the return journey this patrol killed 1 jap but encountered no others. Orders were received in the evening for the bn to move on 22 Dec to the coast at GUSIKA.	
GUSIKA	22		Recce party moved on ahead of the main body and reached GUSIKA in sufficient time to allot bivouac areas for coys. The leading coy arrived in GUSIKA approx 1330L after a halt at B ech where the Q staff provided a very welcome cup of tea. After a period of 7 weeks inland, the tps were once again able to indulge in sea bathing, and from now until the unit left NEW GUINEA, camp sites were invariably close to the sea. Instns for move on 23 Dec to SANGA river, were received. In the evening, an impromptu concert was arranged amongst our own and neighbouring tps, and this provided enjoyable relaxation after the continual silence at night during the time spent inland. B coy returned to WAREO, and there received instns to rejoin the unit as soon as possible. Maj W BROWN rejoined the bn and assumed cmd of D coy.	
LAKONA	23		Tac HQ moved by jeep northward along the coast rd, while the bn embarked from GUSIKA landing beach for the move by barge to SANGA river. The area allotted for bn bivouac was most unsatisfactory, and a more suitable locality was selected close to the sea in light jungle. By 1200 the bn, less B coy, had assembled in the LAKONA area and commenced preparations for Christmas festivities. Many bags of parcels and mail arrived and the Q staff procured an oven in readiness for the expected poultry. B coy marched from WAREO to GUSIKA where they bivouacked night 23/24	

J. H. ...
O.O. 2/23 Aust. Inf. Bn.

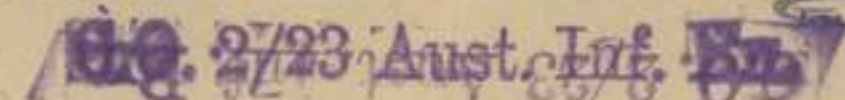
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	24		<p>By 1100L B coy had rejoined the bn and settled into posns prepared for them.</p> <p>A C F hampers were distributed to every man and all possible arrangements made for an entertaining and enjoyable Christmas. Brig WHITEHEAD and a party from HQ 26 Bde were guests of the CO for the evening meal. After dinner, members of the bn, assisted by a few from other units, held a concert under the direction of Lieut GRAY Capt WOODLAND, of the Salvation Army, also rendered assistance and as usual Capt "Tex" MORTON provided all with coffee and biscuits, after the concert.</p>	
	25		<p>Christmas Day - the fourth spent by the unit away form AUSTRALIA, yet, a change from the previous three already spent in PALESTINE. A voluntary church parade was held in the morning, foallowed by a communion service.</p> <p>Preparations were complete, additional mail was received and the bn settled down at 1300 hrs to a huge dinner. The cooking staff deserve every commendation for their labours under the trying conditions common to the tropics. There was ample for all and tps spent the remainder of the day in pleasant relaxation.</p> <p>Senior offrs in the unit dined with the CO, and after the evening meal, another impromptu concert was held, this time MC'd by Pte NOONAN, tenor singer and entertainer from 2/11 Fd Amb.</p>	
	26		<p>Tps again rested in recovery from celebrations on 25 Dec. At midday, warning order was received for move on 27 Dec to WANDOKAI and the tps had therefore two courses ppen to them. Either to eat the remaining foodstuffs from the numerous parcels, or to carry with them the extra weight. Few teek the latter course.</p>	

W. L. ...


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	27		Tac HQ proceeded by rd to WANDOKAI where a bn area was reced. At 1300L the Bn left the bivouac area and moved to the SANGA beach ready for embarkation. Movement was postponed owing to hy seas.	
MASAWENG			The Bn (less A coy) moved from the SANGA to bivouac on the northern bank of the MASAWENG river. A coy moved by foot and vehicle to WANDOKAI, where they took up their allotted posn in the bn def area.	
	28		Bn again moved to the beach and by 0900L had embarked. An hour later they arrived in WANDOKAI where guides conducted each coy to its posns. Here the bn was responsible for beach def, but only for a brief day as orders for move on 29 Dec were received at 1900L. A patrol from D coy marched inland along a creek bed, but found no evidence of remaining enemy. The patrol bivouacked night 28/29 approx 1500 yds from the coast, and rejoined the bn 2 days later. Brig WHITEHEAD paid a visit to Bn HQ.	
KANZARUA	29		Tac HQ moved ahead, and the bn followed on foot to KANZARUA where another def locality was occupied close to the 2/15 Bn. Considerable distances were being covered daily, and the unit strength dropped steadily as the task of marching day by day became more and more tiring. See report by RMO att as appx. Brig WHITEHEAD again visited the unit to confer with the CO. C coy were warned for move to KARAKO on 30 Dec.	
	30		C coy prepared to move as ordered. 1 offr and 15 ORs moved as adv patrol, and the remainder were to follow as soon as rations were available. The journey proved most arduous for the route taken led up the steep rocky terraces which fringe the coast in this area. A number of men were unable to complete the journey and had to return to the unit. By 1830L the coy reported arrival in KARAKO where no water was to	

For C coy this day was the most strenuous of any during the entire op.

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C.O. 2/23 Aust. Inf. Bn.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit.....2/23 AUST. INF. BN...... Date and Time.—From.....1 DEC. 43..... To.....31 DEC 43.....

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	30 contd	d	At 1330L, 17 pl arrived from WANDOKAI, having been relieved by 2/48 Bn. Three British Army Offrs marched in to the unit as observers on our methods in local warfare. Cpts COWAN, BOWMAN and WEBB were att to B, C and D coys respectively.	
	31		At 0730L 1 offr and 7 ORs from A coy, with 50 native porters, set out for KARAKO carrying resupply to C coy. Taking an easier route they were able to travel there and return by 1830 hrs. C coy in the KARAKO area explored all local tracks and could find no signs of enemy stragglers. Their patrols formed part of the plan to clear all inland tracks as the Aust force moved along the coast.	
			<i>J. H. Lucken Lt Col.</i>	
			C.O. 2/23 Aust. Inf. Bn.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit.....2/23 AUST INF BN..... Date and Time.—From 1 DEC 43..... To 31 DEC 43.....

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
		 	<u>CO'S REPORT - DECEMBER 1 - 31</u>	
			<u>COMPLETION OF OPERATIONS</u>	
			<p>For the first week of this month, the bn continued the operation northward from the SONG river to KUANKO where a close perimeter was occupied for 6 days. The conditions in this village were most unpleasant both on account of the proximity of the enemy and the necessity for living in muddy holes. All water used was taken from rainfilled bomb craters, and sterilized. RMO's report shows that our observance of hygiene in these circumstances prevented an undue increase in sickness.</p> <p>When WAREO was entered on 8 Dec, the bn once again deployed over open country and was able to recover from the weeks of hardship. Water for bathing was available and the remains of the huts provided men with material for making themselves more comfortable. It was no longer necessary to live in holes. Native labour was employed to assist in the erection of buildings for HQs.</p> <p>Patrolling was carried on during the fortnight at WAREO, and the whole area to the north and west for some 4000 yds was cleared of enemy stragglers. Movement to the coast on 22 Dec interrupted our plans for Christmas at WAREO, but the unit was able to spend a most enjoyable Christmas at LAKONA. Plenty of mail, an ACF hamper, and good food incl turkey, for all made the occasion a memorable one. The Q staff did excellent work and much assistance was again rendered by the Salvation Army reps Capts MORTON and WOODLAND. Concerts were arranged and items supplied by our own and neighbouring tps were appreciated by all.</p>	
			<u>CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS</u>	
			<u>CONTINUATION OF OPERATIONS</u>	
			<p>On 27 Dec the bn again moved on, following along the coast behind the advancing 20 Bde tps. Marching along the coast rd was a strenuous task in the sultry heat and the sickness rate increased considerably, causing the active strength of the unit to fall to approx 400 all ranks.</p> <p><u>CASUALTIES</u> During the operation between 17 Nov and 8 Dec, battle casualties amounted to 2 offr 80 ORs. The evacuations from sickness brought the total to 13 offr 186 ORs. Details are shown in RMO's report.</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(adapted.)

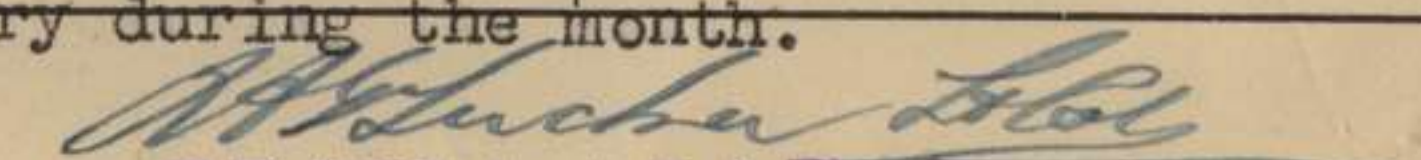
Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 DEC 43 To 31 DEC 43

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			<u>RMO'S REPORT - DECEMBER 1 - 31</u>	
			<p>During this month the Bn saw action during the first week, then recuperated somewhat at WAREO for two weeks. Following this it moved down to the coast, where, after a few days, the sickrate greatly increased owing to an outbreak of Dengue Fever. As a result of the forced^{hard} work and fighting the unit had done previously, the men were in poor physical condition at the beginning of the month. They were in action and living under very poor circumstances up to the eighth day, not being able to leave their muddy holes for most of the day and night. During this period the number that reported sick was comparatively low.</p> <p>On moving up into WAREO it was evident that a large percentage of the tps were so physically exhausted that they had difficulty in climbing the small hill up to the village.</p> <p>During this week 15 men were wounded. There was no difficulty in getting wounded men to the RAP, but to get them back to the first fully set-up medical unit entailed a long carry by natives over very rugged country. This journey took about seven hours for a stretcher case. Several men died on the way back.</p> <p>The next two weeks at WAREO, the majority of the unit had little work to do. The climate was excellent and the area dry. The men's health improved greatly and the sickness rate was not high, although many reported with infections of the skin and external Ear.</p> <p>On the 22 Dec the unit moved to the coast. While marching along the coastal plains, many men contracted Dengue fever and had to be evacuated. By the end of the month the number was increasing and the unit Strength was rapidly decreasing owing to this disease.</p> <p>Throughout the month rations were in sufficient quantity. While in close contact with the enemy, Mosquito Nets could not be used, and, in many cases it was not practicable to erect waterproofing above weapon-pits because of enemy observation.</p> <p>At KUANKO the water for the unit had to be taken from two bomb-craters in the area; it was sterilized in water-bottles. There were very few cases of Diarrhoea. The hygiene generally was satisfactory during the month.</p>	

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Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN Date and Time.—From 1 DEC 43 To 31 DEC 43

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.								Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.		
			<u>RMO's REPORT - DECEMBER 1 - 31</u>										
			<u>EVACUATIONS - BATTLE CASUALTIES</u>										
			<u>FINSCHAFEN AREA</u>					<u>20 OCT - 8 DEC 43</u>					
			KIA		WIA		MISSING		WIA & ROD		SICK	REMARKS	
			offrs	ORs	offrs	ORs	offrs	ORs	offrs	ORs	offrs	ORs	ROD & TOTAL EVACs
			1	33	1	45	-	1	-	9	11	98	193
			<u>Total Battle Casualties</u> 2 offrs 88 ORs " Evac Sick 11 " 98 "										
			<u>Total</u> 13 offrs 186 ORs										

[Handwritten Signature]

RMO

9-5

2/53

MOST SECRET
HQ 9 Aust Div

MALARIA - WEEKLY GRAPH 9 AUST DIV WEEK ENDING 10 DEC 43

RATE PER 1000 MEN

<u>UNIT</u>	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
HQ 9 Aust Div	*****	*****	*****								
2/1 Aust Gds Regt	*****	*									
HQ RAA 9 Aust Div	*****	*****	*****	*****							
2/12 Aust Fd Regt	*****	*****									
11 Aust Tk A Bty	***										
2/3 Aust Lt AA Bty (Airb)	*****	*****	*****								
2/4 Aust Lt AA Regt	*****	*****	*								
2/3 Aust Fd Coy	*****	*									
2/7 Aust Fd Coy	*****	*									
2/13 Aust Fd Coy	*****	*****	*****	*****							
2/24 Aust Fd Pk Coy	*****	*****	*								
Sigs 9 Aust Div	*****										
HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde	112.0	rate per 1000									
2/13 Aust Inf Bn	*****	*****	**								
2/15 Aust Inf Bn	*****	*****	*****								
2/17 Aust Inf Bn	*****	*****	*****								
2/28 Aust Inf Bn	*****	*****	*****	*****	*						
2/32 Aust Inf Bn	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	**			
2/43 Aust Inf Bn	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	**			
HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde	*****	*****									
2/23 Aust Inf Bn	*****	*****									
2/24 Aust Inf Bn	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	**					
2/48 Aust Inf Bn	*****	*****	*****	**							
9 Aust Div Carrier Coy	*****	*									
2/3 Aust Pnr Bn	*****	*									
2/4 Aust Cav (Commando) Sqn	*****	*****	*								
2/2 Aust MG Bn	*****	*									
2/6 Aust Sup Depot Coy	*****	***									
2/156 Aust Gen Tpt Coy	*****										
2/3 Aust Fd Amb	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*			
2/8 Aust Fd Amb	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	***					
2/11 Aust Fd Amb	*****	*****	*****	*****							
2/3 Aust CCS	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	***				
2/3 Aust LMCU	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*			
2/118 Aust Bde W/Shops	*****	*****	*								
2/1 Aust MEC	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****						
9 Aust Div Pro Coy	*****	***									
9 Aust Div Postal Unit	*****	*****	*****	*							
9 Aust Div Reception Camp	112.8	rate per 1000									
9 Aust Div Salv Unit	*****	*****	*****								
TOTAL : 9 AUST DIV	*****	*****	*****								
2/6 Aust Fd Regt	*****	*****									
HQ 4 Aust Inf Bde	*****	**									
22 Aust Inf Bn	*****	*****	*								
29/46 Aust Inf Bn	*****	*****	***								
37/52 Aust Inf Bn	*****	**									
2/2 Aust CCS	*****	*****	*****								
M Hy Bty	*****	*****									
1 PIB	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	***				
4 Aust Fd Amb	*****	*									

[Signature]
Lt col
AA & QMG 9 AUST DIV

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(adapted.)

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 DEC 43

To 31 DEC 43

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			<u>QM's REPORT - DECEMBER 1 - 31</u>	
			<u>RATIONS</u> Previous months scale was maintained, Bread Rolls, on several occasions issued in lieu of bread, were considered a great success. While Bn occupied forward positions, field op rations were frequently issued instead of normal hard scale, and canned heat was made available for cooking purposes. Several times, the chocolate issue was doubled, but supplies would not allow the continuance. A small quantity of rations was lost in battle and some owing to the desertion of native porters. The Christmas fare distributed by the ADCS was excellent and much appreciated by all ranks.	
			<u>WEAPONS.</u> Maintenance satisfactory. Ordnance issued a new rustproof oil, supplies of which were distributed in the unit. Reports on the suitability of this oil are now awaited.	
			<u>CLOTHING AND NECESSARIES</u> A larger proportion of these stores were issued. 600 blankets were also received but were returned to Ordnance without having been used.	
			<u>SALVAGE</u> Special attention was given to the recovery of all salvageable goods, and a large amount was delivered to dumps in the area.	
			<u>MALARIAL STORES.</u> Mosquito nets were replaced in a 40 pc basis. Supplies of atebirin tablets and repellent lotion were issued on full scale.	
			<u>Canteen</u> Normal weekly issues were distributed.	
			<u>GENERAL c</u> Native porters were again employed in the carriage of supplies, but over much longer routes. Supply points were established at PALANKO, FIOR, and KUANKO, and at times, the number of available "boongs" was insufficient	

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to carry the required stores.

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(adapted.)

Unit 2/23 AUST INF BN

Date and Time.—From 1 DEC 43 To 31 DEC 43

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			<u>QM'S REPORT continued</u>	
			Unit packs and haversacks were brought to COCONUT beach, where under close supervision, ordnance issues were extracted from them. The articles removed were, in 80% of cases entirely unserviceable owing to the effects of the weather during the <u>period of storage.</u>	
			<u>LIST OF APPENDICES</u>	
			Appx A CO report	
			" B RMO "	
			" C QM "	
			" D Notes on CO's Conference - 17 Dec	
			" E 2/23 Aust Inf Bn appreciation and plan of defence of WAREO - SATELBERG	Bde Sector
			" F Patrol reports WAREO area	
			" G Action Diary	
			" H (Field returns of offrs (Ors	
			" I Traces of Bn disposms	
			" J Map SATELBERG Area	
			<i>J. H. ...</i>	
			<u>C.O. 2/23 Aust. Inf. Bn.</u>	

APPX D

RAP 9.5.
1. Reorganization

OC's to reorganize coys so that pls are of equal strength.

2. Trg and Patrols

(a) Patrols -

- War Diary
Return to
Int Sec
18 Dec
- i. Deep patrolling by 2 or 3 day officer patrols with object of estimating enemy strength, dispositions and intention in area NORTH to SANGA river.
 - ii. Recently arrived offrs will be i/c patrols and OC's will report on their ability.

(b) Trg -

- i. Development of present defence system - Pits re-sited. N.B. False security often given by logs and high parapets.
- ii. Cadre in Rifle, LMG, OSMG, Grenades, 2" Mortar :
 - (a) Trg by pls to commence 18 Dec 43.
 - (b) Trg syllabus to BnHQ by 1800 hrs 17 Dec 43. (D Coy by 0900 hrs 18 Dec 43).
 - (c) Inform BnHQ day before firing live amm.
 - (d) Requests for grenades to RSM.
 - (e) Lecture on unit history, esprit de corps etc by OC.
 - (f) Contact drill with sec and pl; scouting patrols; defence; concealment and camfig.
- iii. Anti-malarial drill - Periodical inspection between 1830 hrs and 0630 hrs by Coy O.O. and Orderly NCO's.

(c) Routine -

- 0530 Stand to
0630 Stand down. Fires may be lit.
0745 Coy parade for working parties.
0900 i. Pl parade. Inspection by OC - dress, wpns, eqpt.
ii. Bn sick parade.
0930)
1130) Coy trg.
1215 Lunch.
1400)
1600) Coy trg.
1700 Evening meal.
1830 Anti-malarial drill commences.
1900 Stand to
2015 Stand down - Sentries posted.

3. Adm

(a) Dress -

- i. Change of clothing at B Ech.
- ii. Bn pool and arrangements for weekly change.
- iii. Gaiters to be worn during day.
- iv. Shirts to be worn except on OC's orders to contrary.
- v. Offrs to wear hats.

(b) Rations -

- i. Blown tins will be replaced.
- ii. Deduction of equivalent hard ration when fd op rations used.

(c) Batmen - All offrs to have batmen.

(d) Working Parties -

- i. Commencing 18 Dec 43 the following duty coy roster in rotation will be observed : B, C, A, HQ & BnHQ.
- ii. Working parties will be drawn from duty coy until the duty coy has minimum of 28 pers. If further pers are needed, the coy next for duty will supply.

(e) Bn Canteen -

Goods are supplied for cash. Coys to make own arrangements to have necessary money available when canteen goods arrive.

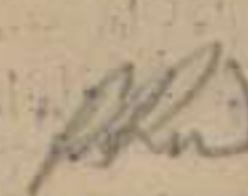
(f) Security -

Enemy has poor mapping facilities, and is using our maps. Need for all pers to be map-security-minded.

- (g) OC's to make own arrangements to replace reinft SB's by pers with long active service.
- (h) Following specialists are needed :
 - Sigs
 - MMG
 - SB
 - Carpenters

4. Miscellaneous -

- (a) Coys to indicate attitude towards American Hammocks.
- (b) Bring to notice work of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Welfare Association and Georges War Workers.
- (c) Application forms for "Green and Khaki" will be distributed shortly.
- (d) Dumping of gear only on OC's orders.
- (e) Infm on proficiency pay and discharge expected shortly.
- (f) Cooks to be used to best advantage - Pl cooking.


 Lieut
Adit, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
 (R. ROW)

2/23 AUST INF BN

21 Dec 43.

Appreciation and Plan for the defence of the Bde Sector

BY

Lt-Col F. A. G. TUCKER at 0900 hrs 20 Dec 43.

APPX.E

1. OBJECT

To appreciate the situation ~~and plan~~ for the defence of the 26 Aust Inf Bde Sector.

2. FACTORS, affecting the attainment of the object.A. Topography(1) NORTHERN SECTOR.

The vital ground in this sector is the BONGA - WAREO RIDGE, incl NORTH EAST RIDGE which extends from approx 565727 to 579744. This is a suitable feature on which to base the FDL's in this sector.

From these ridges to the NORTH the ground falls sharply away toward the SOWI and SANGA valleys.

Observation of the ground to the NORTH and NW from this ridge is good, and approaches from these directions toward the ridge can be readily controlled owing to the difficulties of movement. The greater part of the areas along these ridges and slopes are heavily timbered with rain forests and dense undergrowth. NORTH WEST RIDGE however, is more lightly timbered with several open spaces along the razor backs.

(2) NORTH-WESTERN SECTOR.

The WAREO - BAZULUO RIDGE and a ridge running NNE for approx 1500x from BAZULUO form the vital ground in this sector.

From these features the ground falls sharply away to the NORTH toward the SOWI RIVER, to the NW toward the headwaters of the SANGA RIVER, and SOUTH to the SONG RIVER. These and subsidiary ridges and spurs are very steep, heavily timbered with rainforests and dense undergrowth, interspersed with frequent patches of dense bamboo.

The main approaches from the NORTH and NW are along steep razor backs, except the area immediately NORTH of WAREO where the tracks approaching from the NORTH pass through undulating features covered with low dense secondary growth. This area, however, can be readily dominated by fire from the WAREO feature.

The ridge to the NNE of BAZULUO can be controlled by active patrolling from a base situated at BAZULUO.

(3) WESTERN SECTOR.

The SATELBERG feature, incl right the 2200 feature in sq 5566 and left the 3400 feature in sq 5266, is the vital ground in this sector, and from this ground the whole of the areas to the WEST and SW can be dominated.

From this general feature the ground falls away rapidly to the NORTH to the SONG RIVER, to the WEST toward the upper reaches of the SONG and MAPE RIVERS and to the SOUTH to the headwaters of the SIKI and QUOJA RIVERS respectively. SATELBERG to 3200 feature in sq 5366 is the only open portion of this general area, the remainder of this sector being covered with thick rainforests and dense undergrowth, with a prevalence of bamboo in the undergrowth along the ridges and spurs.

Numerous tracks and native pads lead into the SATELBERG area from the NORTH and WEST. These tracks generally converge to three or four main tracks into the area, all of which can be controlled from the main ridge.

Off-track movement would be most difficult and readily discovered by active and deep patrolling.

(4) GENERAL.

The above named main features completely dominate the Bde Sector.

DEDUCTION

This will be classed as the vital ground on which to base the defence.

B. RELATIVE STRENGTHS

(1) ENEMY.

Sea - There has been a notable increase in tonnage of and shipping activity in the WEWAK area. Submarines and barges continue to be used by the enemy to bring supplies from his Northern bases to the SOUTH. These sup routes and craft are being continually harrassed by our surface and aircraft.

Land - Total estimate of enemy combat strength in area SIO and to the SOUTH :-

78 Regt	Now believed ineffective
79 "	1218
80 "	1007
238 "	470
Arty	500
Other Units	<u>3300</u>
Total	<u>6500</u> (approx)

Of these figures, deductions for sickness and other minor casualties would reduce the strength to approx 4000 plus.

Troops ex LAE garrison estimated to number 3/5000 in the KIARI - SIO area. Natives, believed to be limited, provide guides, "boongs" and source of infm as to our strengths, dispositions, and activities. Reinfts have been known to arrive in the MADANG area recently.

Although he may be prepared (if not already effected) to reinforce the area SOUTH of SIO, in the light of the most recent developments in NEW BRITAIN it is doubtful if he can now reinforce this area.

Air - Estimated strength in EASTERN N.G. area - 194 aircraft (all types).

His air activities are chiefly for the defence of his important bases. Enemy air attacks in the LAE - FINSCHAFEN area during the last three months have been negligible.

(2) OWN TPS.

Sea - It is reasonable to assume from recent I Summaries and bulletins, that we have complete supremacy of the sea in the SWPA SOUTH of NEW BRITAIN.

Land - Estimated strength in the FINSCHAFEN area :-

Combatant Tps -	
Inf (incl Pnr Bn)	6500
Arty, Fd and AA	3000
Engrs	800
MMG Bn	600
Tk Bn	<u>600</u>
Total	11500 plus
Non-combatant Tps -	
AASC	2000
Medical	1500
Others	<u>3000</u>
Total	6500 plus

The above figures are exclusive of tps away from units owing to sickness. Casualties and sickness rate among our tps have been comparatively light. Reinfts into the area have been quite sufficient to enable all units to maintain their fighting organization and efficiency.

Air - From the activity of our airforce over the FINSCHAFEN area and the almost entire absence of enemy air activity, it is quite reasonable to assume that we have complete air superiority.

DEDUCTION

Enemy morale is weakening. Our morale is good and on the increase. Active defence in this area will maintain our morale and reduce that of the enemy.

C. TIME AND SPACE

(1) ENEMY.

SIO to FORTIFICATION POINT is approx 40 miles. Reinfts brought to this area by barge or submarine would probably take one night, movement by day being unsafe. Movements down the coast by land would be slow, taking two to three weeks to move from SIO to his present FDL's. Movements of tps inland would be much slower again and the going would be difficult. The withdrawing enemy forces would necessarily require re-organization before a counter-offensive could be attempted by these tps.

(2) OWN TPS.

LANGEMAK BAY to LAKONA approx 20 miles. A good road exists for about two thirds of this distance. Supremacy by sea and air permits our use of shipping and barge traffic by day and night as far NORTH as GUSIKA. Recent engagements have not placed a strain on the Div as a whole, two Bdes only being committed at any one time. One Bde only has been in contact with enemy during past week.

DEDUCTION

Therefore time and space is in our favour, in addition minor adjustments only will be necessary in the Bde sector owing to the present dispositions of Bns.

D. SUPPLY AND TPT

(1) ENEMY.

Sea - Submarine and barge traffic can only be used by night SOUTH of SIO owing to our control of sea and air. Night traffic is constantly harrassed by our PT boats.

Land - Coastal route is not good and enemy is not known to have any tpt, also the roads and tracks are considered unsuitable for vehicular traffic. He is not known to have any large supply bases SOUTH of SIO.

ASSUMPTION

His supplies are brought fwd from small beach dumps by "boongs" who are limited in their numbers, and his own tps who are made available for this work. In addition, enemy tps are known to frequently rob native gardens in the area for food.

(2) OWN TPS.

We have supply route by sea available to us day and night - vide para C(2). Large sup base exists at LANGEMAK BAY with numerous fwd sup depots to the NORTH as far as GUSIKA. Our tpt is sufficient in keeping with its usefulness. Mechanical eqpt is sufficient for development of routes as fwd progress is made.

DEDUCTION

Although not acute, enemy's supplies are very short, and his routes are difficult. Our supplies are sufficient, our dumps suitably disposed, and our tpt facilities are appropriate and sufficient. Native "boongs" and MT being our means of tpt by land. Our organization permits our rapid pursuit and exploitation of our successes. Bde sup dumps will have to be established in various localities of the sector to enable units to have a reserve in the event of the L of C becoming difficult through bad weather conditions.

3. COURSES OPEN, and considerations.

A. OWN TPS

- (1) Pursue the enemy beyond our present FDL's to the low ground of the SOWI and SANGA valleys. This would increase supply difficulties without achieving any advantage in ground.
THEREFORE I will NOT adopt this course.
- (2) Hold present ground to the WEST and pursue enemy to the NORTH and EAST, thereby linking up with FDL's along the coast.
This would unnecessarily expose the right flank of the Bde sector rendering it difficult to hold.
THEREFORE I will NOT adopt this course.
- (3) Hold the following vital ground :
 - a. BONGA - WAREO RIDGE (incl NORTH EAST RIDGE)
 - b. WAREO - BAZULUO RIDGE
 - c. SATELBERG - 2200 - 3400 features.The advantages of this course are as follows :-

Provides me with three main features on which to base my defence.
Secures the vital ground for the defence.
Provides suitable bases from which to launch deep patrols.
In the event of a threat from the NW, provides me with sufficient force in that area to offer substantial resistance and gives me a potential reserve in the SATELBERG area.

A threat from the NORTH, though possible is unlikely, owing to our present FDL's along the coast.
THEREFORE I WILL adopt this course.

B. ENEMY

- (1) Counter attack on WAREO from the NORTH.
This would demand an inland move, it would also expose the enemy's left flank and L of C to our coastal force.
THEREFORE I do NOT consider that he will adopt this course.
- (2) Drive from the NW with the object of recapturing SATELBERG. This would necessitate him making a deep inland drive WEST of our present FDL's, the difficulties being :-
 - a. Most difficult supply route requiring enormous manpower strength.
 - b. Very real danger of such force being cut off by our coastal drive.THEREFORE I do NOT consider that he will adopt this course.
- (3) Hold present ground as long as possible. This would give him more time for reinforcement, re-organization, and resupply without exposing himself to greater unnecessary risks.
THEREFORE I consider the enemy WILL adopt this course.

4. PLAN

A. INFORMATION

- (1) As per appreciation and recent I Summaries.
- (2) Tps available for the def :
 - a. Under Comd - 26 Aust Inf Bde complete
2/4 Aust Cav (Commando) Sqn
Two Tps Army Tks
One Sec RAE - with one bulldozer,
two tractors plus normal eqpt.
 - b. In Support - 62 Bty 2/12 Aust Fd Regt
Two Btys 2/12 Aust Fd Regt on call
No X Sup Pl AASC
2/11 Aust Fd Amb
One Pl PIB
ANGAU, One Det plus 600 natives.

B. INTENTION

26 Aust Inf Bde, and att tps, will hold defended locality to include BONGA—WAREO RIDGE - WAREO - BAZULUO RIDGE - SATELBERG RIDGE until further orders.

C. METHOD

- (1) Right : 2/24 Aust Inf Bn astride BONGA - WAREO RIDGE incl NORTH EAST RIDGE.
- (2) Centre : 2/23 Aust Inf Bn astride WAREO - BAZULUO RIDGE.
- (3) Centre Left @ 2/4 Aust Cav (Commando) Sqn.
- (4) Left : 2/48 Aust Inf Bn astride 2200 - SATELBERG - 3200 RIDGE.
- (5) Boundaries : As indicated in Appx 'A' attached.
- (6) Patrolling Policy :
 - a. Active, deep and continuous patrolling will be carried out on all sectors. Two day (or longer) patrols will be arranged as necessary to produce all info of enemy activities on respective fronts, within unit boundaries.
 - b. Patrol bases will be established by units in respective sectors of NOT less than one coy strength as indicated in Appx 'A' attached.
 - c. PIB attached to units may be used in conjunction with deep patrols.
- (7) Arty :
 - a. OPO's will be attached to each of 2/24 and 2/23 Aust Inf Bns.
 - b. OPO's may be used as FOO's with deep patrols, only after approval of this Hq.
 - c. OPO will be available to 2/48 Aust Inf Bn within two hrs of calling.
- (8) Army Tks :
 - a. One Tp in support 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
Task - To keep BONGA - WAREO track open.
 - b. One Tp in Bde reserve to be located at Bde Rear.
- (9) PIB : Available to units on application to this Hq.
PI will be located at KWATINGKO.

D. ADMINISTRATION

- (1) RAE - Established on BONGA - WAREO track approx 57 EASTING.

Tasks :

- a. Make and maintain BONGA - WAREO track jeepable.
- b. Establish or improve water points in unit FDL's.
- c. Assist in development of defences.

(2) RESERVE RATIONS AND AMN.

No X Sup Pl AASC will establish reserve ration and amn dumps as follows, as soon as practicable :

- a. BONGA - WAREO track at 567738 - 2000 rations and 4 days WUR X one Bn.
 - b. WAREO - 4000 rations and 6 days WUR X one Bn.
 - c. SATELBERG - 3000 rations and 5 days WUR X one Bn.
- Hq this Pl will be established at Bde Rear.

(3) SUP ROUTES.

- a. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn BONGA - WAREO track.
- b. 2/23 " " " " " "
- c. 2/4 Aust Cav Sqn " " " - BAZULUO - ULUO.
- d. 2/48 Aust Inf Bn JIVENANENG - WAREO

Units will provide all escorts for "boong" trains fwd of jeephead. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn will resupply to 2/4 Aust Cav Sqn as far as 52 EASTING. In conjunction with RAE, units will supply labour for development of jeep tracks within their sectors.

(4) MEDICAL.

One Det Fd Amb will be attached to each unit incl 2/4 Aust Cav Sqn. Evacuations will be via sup routes. Staging posts will be established at WAREO, at 565727 and at JIVENANENG.

(5) ANGAU natives will be allotted to units by this Hq.

Native camps will be established at 575723, KWATINGKO and SPHY ST jeephead.

E. INTER-COMM

(1) Bde Hq will be established NORTH of WAREO at 554718. Bde Rear will be at 590715.

(2) L/T layout as normal to all sub-units down to Coys and equivalent sub-units. Alternative lines on different routes will be laid as wire becomes available.

(3) R/T : No 11 Set will be supplied to each unit incl 2/4 Aust Cav Sqn. Netting will be completed prior to sets leaving Bde Hq. Listening watch will be arranged by Bde Sig Offr.

F. A. G. Tucker Lt-Col
Comd, 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
(F A G TUCKER)

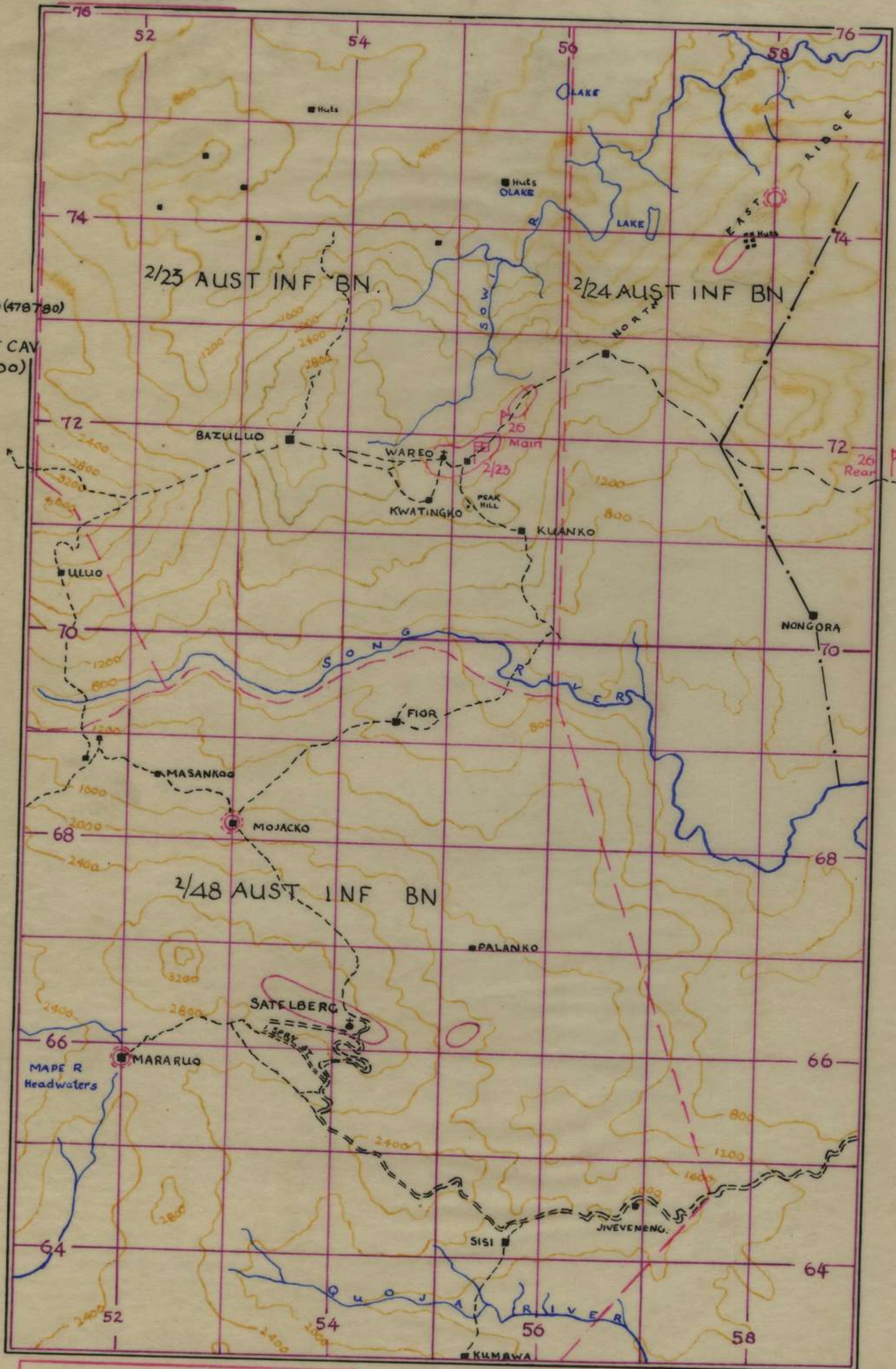
DISTRIBUTION

- 2/23 Aust Inf Bn)
- 2/24 " " ")
- 2/48 " " ")
- 2/4 Aust Cav Sqn) Imaginary
- B.M.)
- S.C.)
- File)

26 BDE DEFENCE AREA

BONGA — WAREO — SATELBERG

RF - 1:50000



MERIKEO (478780)
 2/4 AUST CAV
 (COMMANDO)
 SQN.

LEGEND
 - . - Inter Bde Bndy
 - - - Inter Bn Bndy
 (Red Circle) Patrol Bases
 (Red Oval) Unit Defended Localities

Reduced from maps 1:25000
 Series SATELBERG MASAWENG
 RIVER WEST FORTIFICATION POINT
 by Int Sec 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
 20 Dec 43

PATREP

10 DEC 43

A W2 B. 723 Bw C. . C coy

D 1 offr 14 ORs

E Recce tracks to north of WAREO

F 0830 L G. 1600 L

H Patrol proceeded along track from 548718
to 551721 546728 thence NE to 548731
where shots were exchanged with 1 jap.
No Cas. Patrol returned to 546718 and
548725 thence W along track not shown
on 1/25000 map to 540722, on south side
of creek. From 545724 to 542723 numerous
unoccupied jap huts. Track continued
west to meet marked track at 536722.
Returned via BAZULLIO.
Possible enemy LP at 548731

D. LAURIE
Lieut

I

PATREP

2 Dec 41

A

B $\frac{2}{23}$

C

A coy

D

1 offr 11 ORs

E

Reece track

NE

from KLIANKO

F

1400 L

G

1535 L

H

Proceeded along track to
hut ref 112138 (photomap). Track
becomes faint and runs from hut
generally NE toward very steep
gorge. Hut showed no sign of
recent occupation.

Smoke observed from hut on
bearing 297° M - in reentrant
east of WAREO

LIEUT

ENDERBY

2/23 BN PATROLS WAREO

All references from SATELBERG sheet 3590
MASAWENG RIVER

A	Serial Number
B	Unit
C	Sub-unit
D	Strength
E	Task
F	Time Out
G	Time In
H	Report

— TRAKREP —

11 Dec 43

A C 2.
B 2/23 Bn.
C C Coy.
D 1 NCO. 4 ops.
E Track recce.
F 1345 hrs
G 1530 hrs

H Proceeded NORTH EAST along main track 475' to track junction. Track branches off main track & runs at 335° for 160' where patrol found small garden. Track skirts garden & continues on across small stream. Track believed to have been used extensively until before recent rain two days ago but not used since. It appears the gap has used the crossing extensively as a water point until recent rain. No movement seen & no fresh tracks. Patrol returned same route.

CPL. DUGAN.

PATREP

11 DEC 43

A W3 B. 723 C. A cow D. INCO 7 ORS

E Recce huts area 542733

E 1330 L

G. 1830 L

H Proceeded along track past garden 546725, here no fresh indication of jap. Followed track to junction 546727. Then NE to 548729. Returned to garden on corner of track 546727. Followed track leading NW from this pt. Passed through 20 deserted huts, where no sign recent occupation. Huts at 544726. Thence across creek 542728 to strike main track at 539730. Moved north to fork in track 540733 where approx 15 fox holes seen, some unoccupied. Two japs killed 1 wounded, ^{total 8 seen} Came under fire from ^{at least} 3 jap LMGs firing along track. Moved west off track thence South + SE to approx 544726. Return to camp by outward route.

Patrol comds estimate jap strength at least 20 judging by sound of fire + observation.

Creek crossing 542728 ^{very} 1 sheep and under probable observation from nearby jap cover.

Sgt SPENCE

passed to Bd.

29.8.43
008
7.92

2090 32-0

PATREP

11 DEC 43

A W 5 B. 723 Bn C. D Coy
D I No 5 ORs E Recce SW track from
BAZULUO

F 1300 L G. 1545 L

H Proceeded along SW track to point 520714
thence 514715. Took SW track and followed
same to approx 490690 (off map), where track
turns to West.

Old jap diggings astride track at 528717
523715. Village approx size of BAZULUO found
at 493692 (off map)

Only sign of 74 cav sq was some empty
FOR tin possibly discarded by them.

at 508717

N M S

Track considered jeepable throughout.

Sgt HOLMES

PATREP

11 DEC 43

A W4 B. 2/23 BN C. D coy
D 1 offr 5 ORs E. Reece track north
from BAZULUO
F 0830 L G. 1400 L.

H Proceeded north to 536724 where 1 jap was
seen, apparently sentry. Patrol moved off
track to west and then toward track at
536726 where 2 japs were seen. Retraced
steps to D coy standing patrol at 537722
and then moved north on east side track
to 538725. Here patrol heard 4/5 voices
and found diggings. Estimate of enemy
strength in area approx 10.

K. FOSTER

Lieut.

File 1.

NOT to be removed
from I office

FILE 1.

1000

PAT REP

12 Dec 43

- A SERIAL W 6
- B 2/23 Aust Inf Bn
- C B Coy
- D 1 offr 1 Sgt 12 evs
- E To recce hut area 548 738.
Tracks and enemy strength.
- F 1030 L
- G 1715 L
- H out from 551 721 to track
junc 547 725 reced track to
NE to 552 728 where waterfall
appears approx 500' deep. thence 300'
to 554 729. This still continues
but NOT reced. Returned to 547 725
proceeded north to 548 732 where
contacted JAP posns. 10 in strength.
The only two JAPs seen were shot
1 killed one badly wounded. one LMG
opened fire on patrol and patrol
withdrew 300' and reced to right flank
but found terrain too difficult to
continue, patrol then returned
to camp. No casualties by patrol.

J. B. Hansen
Lieut

PATREP

12 Dec 43

A. W7 B. 2/23 C. D coy

D. 1 oppv + 10 OR^s Lt Col Harper

E. Locate & destroy enemy on NE & NW tracks
Lum June 535726.

F. 0915 L G. 1645 L

H. Contacted SP on way out to 537728 where
1 Jap shot. Returned to SP at 535722

1200h then moved EAST 200' from SP thence
mean bearing 20°N to 541731 thence WEST.

One Jap seen in pit approx 540730 wearing
helmet & pack. Patrol watched & saw 2 Japs
killed 1 probably 2 others. Returned approx
same route on very difficult going.

Unable to examine bodies.

No indication of strength.

PATREP
TRAKREP.

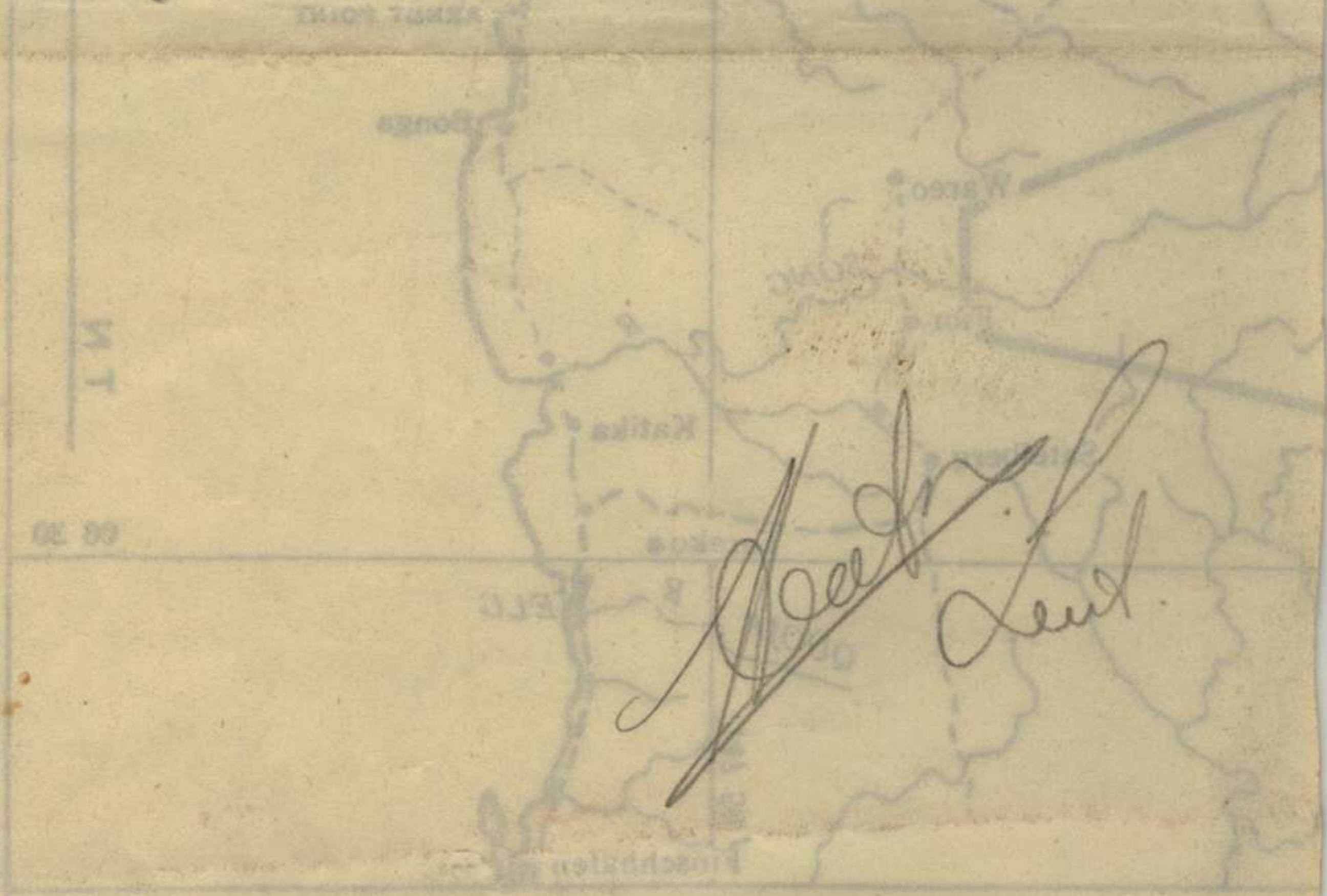
13 DEC 43.

A N.B. B. 2/23 Bn C. C Coy
D 1 offr 13 ORs E. recce and track ambush.
F 0930 hrs G. 1645 hrs.

H Along WAREO - BONGA track 500' then turned NORTH along track to approx 555724 where there is a native garden at the foot of a very steep slope. Moot was heard here but investigation proved area clear. Patrol moved NORTH along ck for approx 200' then NORTH WEST to approx 554728 and took up ambush posn. Recce patrol from this posn along track - no sign of recent moot but footprints possibly 2/3 days old all moving NORTH.

From this point there is very good observation WEST down to SOWI river and NORTH to bald 800' feature in sq 5682.

Throughout patrol no signs of diggings or any occupation were observed.



[Signature]
Lieut.

[Signature]
Pte
Int Sec

PATREP 13 Dec 43

- A. Wg
B. 2/23 BN
C. D Coy
D. 1 off 10 ORs
E. Recce NW track posn 535726. Locate
& destroy enemy.
F. 1015L
G. 1515L
H. Proceeded along track 534727 from
this point to 530728 down steep slope.
Track not used for considerable period
& little sign of enemy occupation.
Return up track to 535726 then
NE along track for 300'. Saw Jap
sun hat & rifle, possibly belonging to
Jap killed yesterday.

LIEUT FOSTER

P. O. W.

FILE

5

W9

PATREP

9 DEC 43

LIEUT ENDERBY

A COY

2/23 BN

1 offr 11 ors

0830 hrs

Recco tracks N. NW of Bn point

1450 hrs

Ref MASWANG RIVER 1:25000

Start point 550719 followed track NE to ck
 554726 footprints seen along track also
 sitting points 554725 footprints ended at ck
 and branched WEST. Back along track
 parallel to main track off shoot 552723 leads
 down to native lean to beside ck, no sign
 of recent occupation. Two smoke shells landed
 ahead of us 0930 hrs, LMG fire also heard 71°
 Cut over on to track leading NW to gardens
 at river crossing 549723 abandoned gap
 stretcher, and in near by tree attached sign
 hung. At 548725 two dead gaps beside
 a track approx six weeks dead. Up track
 to junc 556727 4 gardens off track all
 investigated but no signs of recent occupation
 Track leads up NW followed it for 550'
 think it continued to huts at 542734
 Track to NE from junc skirt's garden at
 547728 several native shelters laid on
 ground for approx 8 men about 36 hrs old
 Several 25 lb shell bursts right on track
 up to 548729. On way back junc at
 548729 leads on to track which map
 shows as ending at 547722

R Oakley

Int Sec

PATREP W10

14 DEC 43

A. W10
B 2/23 BN
C D Coy
D 1 off 10 OR'S LIEUT HARPER
E Recce pat from village BAZULUO
No 540733

F 0625L

G 1145L

H. Patrol moved from village mostly on right of track No 540733. Contact made SOUTH of the H in HUTS where 2 Japs seen in ady pits 5' from fwd scout. Japs gave alarm & fired on patrol with LMG from slightly right & rear. Est strength 20 in dug posn on fwd slope of knoll. Possible that Japs were particularly quiet & in spite of the fact that fwd scout approached so close were definitely on the alert.

Patrol returned along same route.
Own casualties nil.

PATREP 15 Dec 43.

A. B. A coy C. 10ftw, 13 ORS
D. out 140915 L in 151345 L
E. Recce sq. 5574

Drew camp to waterfall 553727 thence followed
tracks NE direction 200' Sap grave
400' of small huts 556730 (approx) - no signs
recent occupation

200' track WEST bearing 345° M leading to
SOWI R. (556731)

350' track 340° M. At June 2 mortar bombs
& propellant charges used as camp area but not
for 7 days

60' track - 3 tracks June - 193° M, 18° M -
this area also old camp site

550734 On 15 track 100' old OP with view to coast &
NORTH. Figures 1942 & 1943 & fish sign
Bearing to village 553744 - 329°

" " 800 feature (fortification) 3° M
Mortar fire on bearing 32° 1400 L / 14 Dec.

Proceeded NORTH thro difficult country following
old native pad - struck EAST-WEST pad
558735 - followed East Branch 100' 45°
200' 340°, 100' 280° to 559738 where
patrol camped for night

Footprints seen going North 3 1/2 days old.
15 Dec. Drew camp 300' 280° to SOWI R.
Ground dropped approx 500' to river & 1000'
miles on opposite side

50' back along track Small pad. EAST 35°
Continued for 50' track cut out patrol thro
scrub along ridge to 559741. Climbed tree
but no observation

Back to 559738 thence 558737 to water course
track 557736 followed water course to
tracks June - 558734

Two shots heard from
direction village 2000h/14
& 1000/15. Sounded sap rifle
Sounded bearing 330°

Country too precipitous
for any of C

PATREP 15 Dec 43

A. W's B. 2/23 Bn D. 10pp 13 OR^s
C. Avey. Lieut. Steensen

E. Reece Sq. 5574

F. out 140915 L + 2151345 L

G. Camp to waterfall 553727 thence followed
track in NE direction
600' approx. 556730 7 small huts but no signs
recent occupation

To track June 558734 where 5 81mm mortar
bombs seen. Old camp site but had not been used
for at least 7 days

Small pad led off main track to east of site
560734 with view to coast & North.

Proceeded North along old main pad thro difficult
country to 559738 where patrol camped the night.
Footprints seen going North 3/4 days old.

Following morning (15 Dec) continued on to Low R
at approx 556738. Ground fell away 500' to river &
on opposite bank rose steeply for approx 1000'.

From here proceeded thro scrub to 559741 with
view to observing village area but undergrowth
prevented it

Returned to 559738 thence 556738 to watercourse
559736 which led to track June 558734. From here
same as outward route to camp.

Two huts heard from direction village 553744
2000 hrs 14 Dec & 1000 hrs 15 Dec. Suspected sap rifle
Patrol Comd considers country too precipitous
for any life.

PATREP

17 DEC

A. W II B. 2/23 BN C. C Coy

D. 1 offr 15 ORs E. Reece and possible
ambush sqs 5473 5474 5574

F. 0900 L/16 G. 1500 L/17

H. Proceeded north from bn area
along track to 546727 thence NE to
cross ck 549728 then to posn where
jap previously 548729. Now unoccupied.
Possible ⁱⁿ strength in area was one coy.
Patrol then moved NE down spur to
ck 553736, then to 553738 where
Camped night 16/17 in Secondary growth.
Reece from here went to 549738, where
ambush was set. Jap ^{discovers} ^{near park} and fresh
tracks indicated enemy, ^{with} withdrew only
yesterday 16 Dec. Returned to bivouack
area. Morning 17 Dec sent 1 NCO + 10
to lay another ambush at same pt
549738. Remainder patrol to 555741
where cut track. Further signs of
fresh tracks either late 16 or early
17 Dec. moving NE. Moved west along
track to rejoin ambush party. No
signs def posn along track until
ambush posn reached.
Extremely difficult going - approx 2 hrs
for 900' from ck 548936 to 547728 along
track.

D. LAURIE

A. W6 B. 23 BN C. B Coy

D. 1 offr and 16 ORs

E. Recce sqs 5273 5274

F. 0800L/16 G. 1530 L/17

H. From BAZULLO, through listening post to 535726. Hence NW along very steep down grade. Enemy MDS at 530728 with 15 shelters each to accommodate approx 6/8 men. Latrines dug. Evacuation appeared organized - at least 1 week ago.

Moved close to ck 526730, there to jump 526732 through thick jungle + very steep. One hut in this area showed no sign recent use. From here to gardens 530737 going particularly steep, patrol having to crawl up the side. Shuck track at 528737. - No sign enemy in huts + garden area 531738. Little used track. Camped night 16/17 527732. Proceeded south across track 521729 then through very rough steep country to 535721; time taken 4 1/2 hrs for this return journey.

LEWTHANSEN

A. B 2/25 hr C C coy
 D 1 off 6 ORs E Recce (headings as under) F 0830 hr
 G 1545.

H Route: Along: BONGA-WAREO track to track jun. 558724. thence N to track jun. 558730. Thence SW along track to 552723. ~~th~~ track jun. Then WNW along track to 547725 track jun. Thence S.W. along track to report in.

Track conditions: From ~~th~~ track jun. 558724 to track jun. 558730 along razor back, good track + could be converted for jeep track. From track 558730 recce, along track ^{running} NNE (28°) leading down a very steep slope to SOWI r. Along track from 558730 running SW (255°) very steep. A further track jun from 557729, running 355° was found to be a single pad down a very steep slope leading to the SOWI r. Also for 400' at 255° from track jun 557729 was found to be a single unjeepable pad leading to SOWI r.

O.P. at 558731 an excellent O.P. could be estab. with a visibility of approx 3 to 4 m of coast + also back to 350° inland. (vis 41° to 300°).

O.P. (cont) an OP could be established at 552723.

but field of view would fair not as good as previous suggestion.

Approaches to SOWI: All appros. to SOWI. r. are in steep re-entrants + are the ~~only~~ means of reaching the river. The razor back is very steep + almost impossible to climb. Along all tracks ^{excellent} ~~excellent~~ ^{positions} present opportunity ^{or} for delay action or ambush.

Type of Country: The SOWI r. is a ^{very deep} ~~practically straight~~ ~~re-entrant~~ ~~slope~~. opposite slope not as high but very steep. The country on a whole is very dense + ^{descending} tapering? to bald features on the coast.

Heat
Lent

PATREP

18 Dec 43.

- A. B. 2/23 Bw C. D coy.
D. 1 offw. 11 ORS Lieut Hook
E. Exploit ridge from BAZULUO to latrine hut + garden
Area 542733.
F. 0915 L G 1320 L.
H. From BAZULUO along track to 544732 then due
EAST to 544731 thence NW to top of garden along
track to fork

Return route along track.

No enemy seen or heard

Tracks unused after recent rains.

By LT 1330 L/18.

Bde adv.

B coy.

PILOT'S REPORT.

To KEYBOARD

Map Ref. BONGA PHOTO

Visibility _____

TIME.	OBSERVATION.
0840	<p><u>WAREO</u>, VILLAGE 102 136. FOLHOLES mounding, 2 MEN SIZE, at S.E. tip of huts and along east side of VILLAGE. There are about 12 from 103 137 - 102 135. freshly dug, freshly dug and about 6 at SOUTH POINT OF VILLAGE. Unable to determine occupation</p>
0915	<p>at 105 139 Bonga Photomap 2 foxholes. Circular one on NORTH of track and TRENCH on SOUTH. DO NOT appear occupied</p>
0917	<p><u>WAREO</u> at 3019, 200' NW of Church. (Circular)</p>

From 1920 LARGE TRENCH 104 141 BONGA

Rank and Name, PHOTOGRAPHER N.M.S. Squadron, _____ Date, _____

ACTION DIARY

APPX G

B Coy Patrol.

19 - 22 DEC 43.

Ref. MASAWENG RIVER WEST ; FORTIFICATION P6. 1:25000.

Photo maps: BONGA. LAKONA.

TIME.

EVENT.

19 DEC 43

0755. Coy moved from area 548718 WEST to 535723. where D Coy standing patrol was contacted.
- 0905 Coy moved NORTH to hut area 542734. Numerous vacated Jap posns were seen in this area but no Jap equipment. (arrived 0950 hrs. 10 mins halt.)
- 1000 thence NNE to hut and garden area 547737. Numerous spells were necessary on this leg as the country was so precipitous. 15 min halt at huts. recce of tracks in area.
1140. moved NE to approx 553745. arriving 1250 hrs. It was intended that coy would bivouac here for night but scarcity of water necessitated fwd movt.
- 1415 Moved NORTH to LAKE 559756. where bivouac was made for night. Arrived 1545 hrs. Approx boy strength of Japs had been camped in this area previously. Coy perimeter formed.
- 1630 Patrols out on all tracks in area. NMS/H.
1830. Contact by w/t with BHQ could not be made owing to heavy thunderstorm.
- 1900 Stand to.
- 2015 Stand down. Double sentries posted.

20 DEC 43.

- 0600 situon overnight 19/20 DEC.
- 0730 w/t. contact made with B.H.Q.
- 0855 Coy with native carrying party moved ^{NORTH} EAST on fairly well used tracks. Walking very good for first 1000^x. Halts were

20 DEC 43 (Cont).

- | Time. | Event. |
|-------|--|
| | had every half hour for 5 mins. By 1010 hrs coy had moved 1250 ^x and it was apparent that track was following a spur from the LAKE area. |
| 1055. | Had travelled 1900 ^x but track not now as well defined and we appear to be bearing too far EAST. Coy bond decides to continue along track as no possible means of moving NORTH EAST could be seen. Going was very hard after 2100 ^x and the country became very precipitous. Two elements of coy now moving down particularly precipitous coy country to a river. Coy halted and first scouts climbed down to river where 2/24 bn patrol was located. |
| 1300. | Coy now at 576 758. Coy bond decided to return to LAKE area where a firm base could be formed and a patrol to be sent out next day to try and make contact in LAKONAANA. |
| 1345 | coy lunched and started on return journey |
| 1615 | arrived LAKE area. Coy perimeter formed. |
| 1900 | Stand to |
| 2075 | Stand down and double sentries posted. |

21 DEC 43.

- | | |
|------|---|
| 0600 | sitior overnight 20/21 DEC. |
| 0805 | coy bond, 2 Int rec pers and patrol of 15 moved NW on track which at first was very ill-defined. Jap had apparently used a rocky ch bed for some distance (approx 300 ^x) making previous location of this track very difficult. After 500 ^x track swung NE to approx ref ^{LAKONA} 129119 photo ref 129119 thence E.N.E. through tall timber with very light undergrowth. Rests were had every half hour. |

21 DEC 43 (cont)

Time	Event
	Thence EAST to approx 135122 through KUNAI and then down a deep gorge. Here track ended and it was decided to move NORTH to highest point of BALD KNOLL 136125. Recce was made along NORTHERN slope of BALD KNOLL to approx 146126. Jeeps could be seen crossing mouth of SANGA river. Hubs at 149129 could not be located.
1330	lunch: recce of area NMS/H.
1420	return trip by same route. At 129119 one Jap shot by patrol. Recce of area proved no other Japs here. patrol returned to LAKE. arriving 1720 hrs.
1800	B.HQ. advised task completed. returning camp tomorrow.
1900	Stand to.
2015	Stand down. double sentries posted.

22 DEC 43.

0600	situaor overnight.
0740	boy moved off on return to camp from LAKE to 555743 to approx 554739 to 552726 then to WAREO. where it was found Bn had moved to LAKONA. (arrived WAREO 1110 hrs).
1130	boy bond contacted Bde who instructed boy rest for remainder of day at WAREO and move to LAKONA on 23 DEC.

Composition of patrol

8 coy	4 sps	47	incl 2 Int Sec
26 Bde	2 sigs	No 11 set	
ANGAU	1 NCO	40 boongs	

K. B. Brown VX85102. Pte.
G. Morgan TX4599 Pte.

1 DEC 43.
~~30 NOV 43~~

ACTION DIARY

C. Coy

Serial	Time	To	From	Event.	Action
V1	0600			Sit now night 30 Nov / 1 DEC.	
V2	0800			Co moved from perimeter along track behind A Coy.	
V3	1300			Entered KUANKO village to relieve A Coy. Joined by B & D boys. A Coy returned to collect gear.	
V4	1305			15 pl patrolled along EASTERN track from KUANKO. to relieve 7 pl. contacted Jap at 1345 hrs fwd scout wounded.	
V5	1400			14 pl now moving around WESTERN ^{NE} side of track to encircle enemy. 13 pl and Coy HQ remained in perimeter.	
V6	1630			Jap apparently dug in in force. Coy withdrawing to Bn perimeter. Preparations for mortar and arty fire to be brought down.	
V7	1730			1 2" Mort charge failed and bomb fell in coy area killing one & wounding two.	

A Coy Action Diary

7th Dec

1230 hrs Following "Don" Coy left KUANKO for
NAREO, branched off main track 555712 and out
road to KUANKO - KWATINGO track. Passed ~~extension~~
Jap diggings at 550714. 1600 hrs formed Coy
perimeter 547713.

8th Dec 0715 hrs Following Don Coy out track to
into NAREO due north. 1000 hrs arrived NAREO

no enemy seen, 1200 hrs Coy HQ est.

551716 1700 hrs 7 pl moved forward to take

over majority of B Coy position on perimeter also
had gone to assist D Coy 2nd Bn.

9th Dec 0830 hrs patrol capt by Lt ENDERBY out

(see notes) 1/3 Coy as long parties 1600 hrs

7 pl moved back to position on perimeter, B Coy
having returned.

10th Dec 0800 hrs 7 pl moved to take over D Coy
position who had gone out to BRZ UKUO. Further
long parties, Canteen and mail arrived.

7-8 DEC 43. 1

ACTION DIARY

C. COY.

Serial	Time	Event.	
<u>7 DEC 43.</u>			
V1	0600	sitnor overnight.	
V2	0700	Lieut Henderson evacuated ill.	
V3	0840.	3 Section of 14 pl moved out with MMG personnel to recover MMG which was abandoned on 5 DEC. Recovered gun which was slightly damaged and found posms had been evacuated by Jap overnight. Saw 1 destroyed WOODPECKER and a dead Jap Sgt.	OC to CO
V4	0830	1 rifle shot every 30 secs fired for direction to 2/24 Bn patrol	
V5	0920	2/24 Bn patrol reported in.	Ac. c. c.
V6	0930	Tac R dropped by boomerang in 14 pl area.	Ac. 1. Sgt.
V7	0945	C Coy moved NORTH along WAREO track to rd of BONGA photo map 107138. Further move fwd impossible as 2/24 Bn coy in contact with enemy at FORD.	
V8	1010	Tac HQ arrived in C. Coy area.	
V9	1300	OC Coy advised coy remaining in posn overnight 7/8 and perimeter formed. MMGs and MORTARS in support. Tac HQ moved to A and D Coys.	
V10	1600	2 Bren Guns 5 Australian rifles and 1 Jap LMG were found in vacated weapon pit. Upon returned to B HQ. 3 Jap graves were found in this area which Jap had apparently used as an R.A.P.	Ac. B. S. M.
V11	1815	MMGs, MORTARS and ARTY fire on posms on fwd slope of WAREO ridge.	
V12	1925	ref V11 fire ceased.	
<u>8 DEC 43.</u>			
V1	0600	sitnor overnight 7/8 DEC.	
V2	0705	MMG and MORTAR fire as for V11 7 DEC.	
V3	0810	support fire stopped. Observed aust spts scouting on top (cont)	

8-9-10 DEC 43

8 DEC 43 (cont)

ACTION DIARY

C. COY.

Serial	Time	Event.
V3 cont	0810	of WAREO ridge.
V4	0850	Tac HQ arrived at C Coy HQ.
V5	0900	14 pl moved fwd over FORD and contacted A Coy who were exploiting EAST WAREO. no opposition.
V6	0920	13 pl Coy HQ arby, MMGS, 15 pl moved to EAST WAREO.
V7	1010.	Union Jack raised on flag pole in EAST WAREO.
V8	1030	C Coy moved to ref BONGA photomap 1075 1440 where Coy perimeter formed astride track WAREO - BONGA.
V9	1045	2 coys 2/24 Bn moved through Coy area to exploit EAST.
V10	1900	Stand to
V11	2030	Stand down.

9 DEC 43.

V1	0600	sitnor overnight 8/9 DEC.
V2	0930	half Coy strength allotted as carrying party KUANKO to WAREO.
V3	1400	as for V2.
V4	1900	Stand to
V5	2030	Stand down

10 DEC 43.

V1	0600	sitnor overnight 9/10 DEC.
V2	0830	patrol 13 pl moved out NORTH from WAREO.
V3	0900.	carrying parties allotted as for V2. 9 DEC.
V4	1330.	" " " " " " " "
V5	1645	patrol ref V2 returned.
V6	1900	Stand to
V7	2045	Stand down

Patrol band reported I.C.

P Hamilton Pte
Kull Brown Pte.

SONG R

ACTION DIARY

30 NOV 43

Serial	Time	To	From	Action
V18	1530			Contact ^{with} A and B boy who have been held up fire coming from high ridge. b.O 10 make a recess
V19	1640			A Coy fired on
V20	1710			b.O forms perimeter
V21	1750			Our car for the day 1 killed 4 wounded

SONG R - KUANKO

1ST DEC 43

V1	0630			A Coy push forward no contact with enemy
V2	0730			B. C. DON Coy move forward TAC HQ moves forward of b boy
V3	0950			Reached point 114130
V4	1015			Nt 113132 forward PL have seen movement. One PL to encircle point
V5	1030			A Coy push on no contact
V6	1105			3-4 rifle shots heard from higher up track
V7	1140			2/24 carrying party arrives
V8	1220			A. A Coy secured village our car 1 killed. Remainder of B. move into poor round village
V9	1240			A. Patrol from A Coy contacted enemy 300' NORTH of village our car 1 wounded

to KUANIKO ACTION DIARY

1ST DEC. 43

Serial	Time	To	From	EVENT	ACTION
V10	1240			C.O. I.O. makes recce of village Bde informed of situation	
V11	1330			A Coy return to river for gear etc	b.O
V12	1340			Bn. MAIN arrive	b.O
V13	1350	C.		C. Coy move forward 300' pinned down by LMG fire (1 PL.) cas. 1 killed	b.O
V14	1410			Bn. posn. C Coy forward of village Don left flank Bright flank Bn H.Q. rear with P.I.B	Bde informed
V15	1440			ARTY to fire on WARIO and SOUTH FOO	
V16	1450			Report from R.P. one gap captured on track 300' SOUTH of village. Taken advised back by 2/24	Bde
096	1500	3686		Setup 09 to 2 0630 L	
V17	1530			Heavy L.M.G. coming from 300'-500' NORTH of village	b.O
V18	1540			PASSWORD for 1-2 DEC LIPSTICK	all informed
V19	1620			Heavy firing from up the track	b.O
V20	1650	C.		Lt Gray reports sound of enemy digging on fwd slope. appears to be in strength	b.O
V21	1730			b boy withdraw our cas 1 killed 2 wounded	
V22	1800			Arty and mortars on enemy posn	b.O
V23	1900			Adjt informs Bde of situation regarding supplies	

ACTION DIARY 1 DEC. 43

Serial	Time	To	From	EVENT	ACTION
24	1915			Our cas for the day killed & wounded	Bde informed
I 191	2000	26 Bde		Sitrep 84 to 011900L	all informed
I 185	"	"		Sitrep 82 to 28 2000L	"
I 189	2010	"		Sitrep 83 to 29 2000L	"

2 DEC 43

I 196	0700	26 Bde		Sitrep 85 to 20700L	all informed
V1	0700	b		Enemy still in posn on fwd slope (killed)	b O
V2	0710			Two P1 ^s C Coy start an encirclement	"
V3	0730	D		Don boy prepare to move	"
V4	0840			Heavy L.M.G fire coming from enemy posn	
V5	1000	C		b. Coy unable to push fwd. enemy in strength with at least 6 automatics	Bde informed
V6	1100			b boy withdraws b.O decides the use of ARTY and M.M.C	FOO
V7	1130			Heavy fire still coming down track	
V8	1140			Ration party arrives	
V9	1300	D		Patrol from D. Coy move WEST object to find track or locate main track	b O
V10	1330			Password 2/3 LOCALITY	all informed
V11	1430			Our mortar fire on enemy posn	
V12	1700			Heavy M.G fire coming down track	
V13	1850			Enemy posn engaged by M.M.C mortar fire	b O

ACTION DIARY 2 DEC 43

Serial	Time To	From	EVENT	ACTION
V14	1900	B	General stand to. Enemy in strength attacked our fwd Pl. B Coy forced to withdraw.	60
V15	1930		A Coy move up to front of perimeter	
V16	1950		Pl. A Coy to counter attack posn	80
V17	2010		Attack unsuccessful, forced to withdraw, our cas 5 wounded Bde informed of situation	
V18	2040		Heavy fire coming across village our ARTY engaged targets along track to WARIO	
V19	2150		Don Coy patrol have not returned	60
V20	2340		All rations amm removed from centre of village to rear of B.H.Q	
V21	2340		M.M.G moved to fwd posn sentry's doubled	

ACTION DIARY 3 DEC 43

Serial	Time	To	From	EVENT	Action
V1	0300			Rations and amm all removed Coys dug in	60
V2	0500			Stand to	60
V3	0615			At first light heavy fire was brought to bear on our positions We engaged their fire with L.M.G. M.M.G MORTARS	
V4	0830			Patrol of Don coy return information passed on to Bob	60
V5	0900	D	D	Patrol of 1 off 1100s to move out EAST side track thence NORTH N.W and back on, object to discover if enemy are in that area	60
V6	0940			$\frac{2}{24}$ carrying party arrive	60
V7	1020		D	Don patrol return. killed at least 4 four enemy	
V8	1140			One M.M.G present killed by sniper	
V9	1200			Standing patrol from D Coy to guard track point	60
V10	1220			Gap sniper killed by H. Coy	
V11	1240			$\frac{2}{24}$ ration party arrive	
V12	1400			Heavy fire on village from enemy positions NORTH and also NE & NE	

ACTION DIARY

Serial	Time	To	From	EVENT
V13	1430			Our ARTY and MORTARS engage enemy posn
V14	1610			B.H.Q patrol returns. Were fired on by L.M.G and rifle. Our leading scout was hit reported missing believed killed 1 Yap killed
V15	1700	1700		2/24 carrying party arrive
V16	1815			Enemy engaged our posn with heavy M.G fire
V17	1830			Movement of enemy on track NORTH of village mortars and ARTY engaged this move
V18				Stand to

4 DEC 43

V1	0630			Patrol from D Coy to recu track punct 6.0
V2	0830			Same patrol fired on from punct
V3	0900			2/24 Advance party of C Coy arrive O.C confers with CO 2/23.
V4	1000			2/24 C Coy were fired on when moving up track 1 killed 2 wounded Formed perimeter South of Guard
V5	1100			2/24 and Boong party arrive
V6	1115			Track recu from village to KUNI cross. Sig will run from village to 2/24 via above & south

ACTION DIARY 4 DEC 1943

Serial	Time	To	From	EVENT	ACTION
V7	1230			Dorn Coy return	60
V8	1400			carrying party arrive	
V9	1430			1 gap killed by B Coy 15' outside perimeter	60
V10	1440			Light fire on village from gap post	60
V11	1500			Our mortars engage those posts	
V12	1620			Boong carrying party arrive	
V13	1740			MRTY engage targets 200' NORTH of village to WARRIO	
V14	1800			Very heavy fire from enemy post also 4-6 mortar bombs fell on B's perimeter. Our mortars engaged these targets. Our cas were 1 killed & wounded	60
V15	1850			Bde notified of situation	
I193	1900		2684	Sitrep 84 to 30 2000 L.	all informed
I51	1930		"	Sitrep 90 to 04 1900 L.	"
5 DEC 43					
V1	0501	0500		Stand to	60
V2	0830			Patrol from C. Coy move out N.E	
I210	0900			Sitrep D No 2 to 05 0800 L.	all informed
V4	1005			Light fire from enemy post	
V5	1030			1 gap fired on by A Coy	
V6	1130			C. Coy patrol returns. Heard enemy but owing to steep country unable to contact them	60

ACTION DIARY

5 DEC 43

Serial	Time	To	From	EVENT	ACTION
V7	1210			2000 ^{Coy} Coy confers with C.O.	
V8	1300			Summary of sitrep to boys	1.0
V9	1310		^{2/24}	A. Coy last reach Kuni grass 1 pl moving WEST. 1	6.0
V10	1400			Light fire from enemy posns. Our M.M.G. and L.M.G. engaged these posns.	
V11	1430		D	Patrol D Coy moved down track to meet Boong carrying party	6.0
V12	1500		^{2/24}	Boong party arrive	
V13	1525			Our carrying party arrive	6.0
V14	1650			Gap sniper wounded one of B. boy personal. personnel (pers)	
V15	1715			Wounded person evacuated with two escorts	Bde inform
V18	1800			Stand to	
V19	1820			PASSWORD 5/6 HALLMARK	all inform
V20	1900			New aerial photo maps, stereoscope arrived	1.0
I212	1940		21 Bde	Sitrep 92 to 051900 L.	All informed

ACTION DIARY 6 DEC 43

Serial	Time To	From	EVENT	ACTION
V1	0500		Stand to	
V2	0600		Patrol from A. Coy moved to track junction found gaps evacuated	b.O
V3	0700		16-17 Pte D. Coy relieved C Coy 2/24 Bn.	b.O
V4	0800		b. Coy patrol move out	
V5	0830		Gap killed yesterday found to have a large quantity of rice	1.0
V6	0900		Don Coy patrol move down track towards hut	b.O
V7	0930	A	Standing patrol of 2 men move 40-50' in front of Coy position	b.O
V8	¹⁰³⁰ 1040	D	D. Coy patrol reached hut. Found 30-40 weapon pits both sides of track also body of Pte. Mc Knight whose boots, webbing and Owen gun was missing	b.O
I214	1100	26B4	Sitrip DZ to 060800L	all informed
V9	1130		Enemy seen on far ridge engaged by our ARTY and MORTARS	b.O
V10	1200		Light fire from enemy position	
N11	1230	26B4	Decorations to members of this Bn. during the Lae campaign. M.C. to Lt Atkinson D.C.M. to Sgt Lorry M.M. Lpl M.M. Lpl	all informed

ACTION DIARY 6 DEC 43

Serial	Time	To	From	EVENT	Action
V 12	1400		² / ₂₄	A. Coy still proceeding well. no contact made	
V 13	1450			Boong carrying party arrive	
V 14	1500			Summary of situps to all boys	
V 15	1540			b. O makes a tour of Br. area	
V 16	1545			1. O with 1.1 sec moves down track to ² / ₂₄ B.H.O	
V 17	1630			MORTAR and M.M.G stand to	
V 18	1700			Heavy fire on enemy positions lasting till 1730 hrs by our MORTARS and M.M.G	
V 19	1740			Stand to ² / ₂₄ moving down track	
V 20	1800			Light firing from higher up the ridge	
V 21	1900			² / ₂₄ A. Coy form perimeter for night	

7 DEC 43.

V 1	0500			Stand to	
V 2	0630			Light fire brought to bear on enemy posts bamboo ridge no fire returned.	
V 3	0700			boys prepared to move	
V 4	0830			Patrol from A. Coy find enemy evacuated from his posts.	
V 5	0900			B. Coy recover most of gear previously lost including 1. VICKERS 3 LMG 1 OWEN	
V 6	0950			Pl from A. Coy ² / ₂₄ arrive (track clear)	
V 7	1020			The R dropped information passed from b. O to Bde	

ACTION DIARY

16 Dec 43

Serial	Time	To	From	EVENT	Action
V1	0530			Stand to Stand down 0730	
I253	1445	26 Sde		Ship D 11 No 1608004	Co 2/c Adj 1.0 Coys.
I254	1630			Received following maps from G.O.:- 1:63360 1:25000 SIO - 1 SIO - 1 KALASA - 1 BLUCHER PT - 1 KELANOA HARB - 1 SIALUM - 1 KUNUNG TUAU - 1 PHOTOMAPS - 1:20,000 KELANOA HARBOR - 1 WALINGAI - 1 SIO - 1 RUA - 1 AGO - 1 SUHARN HORST POINT - 1 SIALUM - 1	
V2				Working parties from this Bn on the WARIO - BONGGA rd were A Coy 1 off. 20 out B Coy 1 NCO 10 out	
V3				bag cooks brought food to Bn area to commence coy. cooking.	

Action Diary

17 DEC 93

Serial	Time	To	From	Event	Action
V1	0530	21B6		Stand to. Stand down 0030.	
I257	0800	26B6		Sitrep 113 to 162000L.	
V2	0830	26B6		As raid red sounded	
V3	0840			A Coy working party opp 700. C Coy.	
I259	1100	26B6		Sitrep no 114 to 170600L	all informed
I260	1100	26B6		Tac R.	"
I258	1110	26B6		Sitrep B 12 to 170600L.	"
V4	1000			C.O. conference with O.C. specialists office matters dealt with incl training in coy groups, malaria precautions training of specialist personnel, uniform instructions, admin, dress, rations duties by coys, rations, routine times	b.o
V5	1530			A boys two day patrol return	b.o
V6	1600			B boys two day patrol return information passed on to T.O.	"
V7	1900			Stand to Stand down 2130	
V8	1900			Fresh meat, bread rolls and eggs mil. in rations, also fresh butter.	Noted

ACTION DIARY

18 DEC 43.

Serial	Time	To	From	EVENT	Action
V1	0940		26 Bde.	Letter Additional injun required to complete plan for def. 26 Aust. Inf Bde sector.	CO s/c Adj. 1.0
V2	0900		D Coy	Lighting patrol to lower garden area 5463. Str. 16ft. 110R'S. NMS.	CO advised
V3	1000		all Coy	Orders promulgated Coy. to erect Coy. Kitchens for Xmas cooking.	Noted
V3	2015			Stand down.	
			B.	Coy. prepared for patrol to LAKONA	Noted.
<u>19 DEC.</u>					
V1	0530			Stand to.	Noted
V2	0630			Stand down.	"
V3	0730		B Coy	Bay plus 70 native boys left Bw area on patrol to LAKONA via BAZULUO. Cann. by R/T. Task-rece area & tracks area WAREO-LAKONA.	"
V4	0830		C	C Coy patrol to sq. 5573. Reported back 1530 hrs. NMS.	Sepatwe report
V5	1030			C of E Church Service A Coy. area conducted by 2/24 Bw padre, attended by Brig. WHITEHEAD and Bde. and 2/23 Bw - pers.	Noted.
V6	0900			LIEUT. LOVELL ^{ex. S.O.} to B Ech. to take over duties of Q. M. in absence of CAPT. LUKEY, evacuated sick.	

ACTION DIARY.

19 DEC. 43

SERIAL	TIME	TO	FROM	EVENT	Action
V7	0800			<p>WIEUT. C. HOLT now assumes duties of Sig. Gff.</p> <p>In absence of B Coy, A Coy re-organised perimeter def. posts. to fill in gap.</p>	Noted.
V8				<p>Huts now completed for CO, 2/c, Orderly Room, Sig. Office, I Office. Roof thatched by native boys.</p>	Noted.
V9				<p>Working party B4Q. pers. to continue work on jeep track. WAREO-BONGA track.</p>	Noted.
V10				<p>Mail and parcels for Bw.</p>	
V11	1900			<p>Stand to.</p>	
V12	1930			<p>Red Alert warning.</p>	
V13	1945			<p>All bells sounded.</p>	
V14	2015			<p>Stand down.</p>	
V16	2045	all coys.		<p>Orders issued for all spare and US clothing to be washed morning 20 DEC.</p>	Sigs.
V17				<p>Returns requested from coys. re discharge of pers. aged 35 and over, who have had 3 yrs. service, and could return to essential industries.</p>	

ACTION DIARY

12

19 DEC. 43

SER IAL	TIME	To	FROM	EVENT	
V18				Canteen issue - cigarettes tobacco sweets, value 2/5 per capita.	Noted.
V19			²⁶ Bole	Documents received with translation of captured enemy documents FINSCH HAFEN area, showing value of infm. obtained from scraps of paper and rd. signs in building up enemy Order of Battle. Promulgated to coys. Bn. sigs unable contact B Coy by R/T owing to some other station working on same frequency. Origin unknown.	Noted.

1900
-2000

ACTION DIARY

20 DEC. 43.

SERIAL	TIME	To	From	EVENT.	
V1	0530			Stand to.	
V2	0630			Stand down.	
LA1	0700	DOP	LEMA	Following message received from B Coy by R/T :- Camped 559755 2 1/2. I.O. Patrol NORTH to 760 NMS. Signs NIP Day. Country dense no side tracks. Expect 1200 tomorrow All O.K.	
LA2	0700	DOP	LEMA	Further message from B Coy :- Quiet night. Ref sendings SIMS via BONGA wire. to telephone you first opportunity.	CO. 2 1/2 I.O.
	0800	B Coy	BHQ.	Report posn. Remain present posn. till further orders.	Signs
	0845	B Coy	BHQ.	Resume task. Return as soon as possible.	Signs
V3	0930			CO's conference of all coy. comds. and specialist offs.	Noted.
V4	1200			Infm. received that Bw. to move on morning 22 DEC. to posns fwd. of present 2/24 Bw. at approx 570726.	
V4	1320			Quantity captured enemy eqpt. and documents received from A Coy. for infm. - Bde.	Noted

ACTION DIARY

7 DEC 43

Serial	Time	To	From	EVENT	ACTION
V8	1030			Order of move to boy Don boy, T.H.G. MORTARS M.M.C. A boy B boy pros to remain until further notice	b.O
V9	1040			Light firing from higher up track	
V10	1100			b boy contact A Coy ^{2/24} , Capt Berry confers with C.O.	b.O
V11	1240			Don boy moves WEST along track followed by T.H.G. A Coy	
V12	1300			Don boy contacts b. boy ^{2/24}	b.O
V13	1320			Perimeter formed, photo map 103136	
V14	1340			Heavy firing on Don Coy's position our cas 1 killed	b.O
V15	1400			Patrol of 1 off 12 on from D. boy to recon for track NORTH of our position	b.O
V16	1440			5-6 MORTARS landed in our forward position no cas. Latter 1 dud found to be NO 89 grenade fired from discharger. b.O informs Bde and Br again of situation	b.O
V17	1530			Don boy patrol return information passed on to b.O	b.O
V18	1540			T.H.G. returns to main track	
V19	1550			1 ^{2/24} personal with cut hand passed through b boy ^{2/23}	H.D.S

ACTION DIARY 7 DEC 43

serial	Time	To	From	EVENT	Action
V20	1600	A.C Don	b.O	Plan of attack At 1800 hrs MORTARS MMG will give harassing fire for 1/2 hrs on WAR ^{ES} ridge. PARTY will also engage this position At first light ^{8 DEC} DON Coy and A Coy will move NORTH take main ridge. Exploitation to the WEST and EAST. Scoops will move stuffed down	Role informed
V21	1620			T.H Q returned to KUANKO	
V22	1800			Stand to On moving through enemy posns 3-4 dead bodies were laying on track also several graves were seen	
I219	1810		26 Rde	D4 to 070800 L	all informed
8 DEC 43.					
V1	0500			Stand to	
V2	0630			DON boy prepare to move followed by A boy	b.O.
V3	0700			MORTARS MMG give covering fire	
I223	0800			Setup q6 to 072000 L	all informed
V4	0830			Both D and A boy continue to advance, no opposition as yet	b.O

ACTION DIARY

8 DEC 43

Serial	Time	To	From	EVENT	ACTION
V5	0835		D	Mortars to lift 150*	A.O
V6	0910			Don boy moving up WESTERN slope to WARRO. A moving N.E.	A.O
V7	0930			T.H.Q. followed by B. Coy move off from KUANKO contact b. boy	
V8	0940			O.C. A. Coy 2/24 confer with b.O	
V9	0945			b. boy move off followed by T.H.Q.	
				A. boy 2/24. B. Coy	
				(Main facts)	
V10	1000			Flag raised on WARRO	A.O informed
V11	1005			b. boy move EAST on to high feature	
V12	1030			A. Coy 2/24 push fwd through b. boy	b.O
V13	1035			B.N perimeter formed. B.N main to move fwd	b.O
V14	1050			Disposals of boys	b.O
V15	1100			b. boy 2/24 move fwd along EAST track	
V16	1110			A. boy 2/24 run into light fire 1 killed	
V17	1115			B.N main arrive	
V18	1530			B. boy moved off WEST to BAZULUD to assist D. boy 2/24. A. boy rearrange PL areas to cover absence of B.	b.O
V19	1650			b. Coy patrol return, saw 10-12 gaps 800* NORTH of WARRO. ARTY later engaged this area	b.O
V20	1800			Heavy firing WEST of WARRO	

ACTION DIARY 9 DEC 43.

Serial	Time	To	From	EVENT	Action
I226	0700		26 Bde	Setup 98 to 081900L	all informed
V1	0815		26 Bde	Ref map SATTELBERG 1/25000 this HQ does present location 1000 hrs today rapers 54456865 same time	all informed
V2	0830	A		Patrol from A boy to move NORTH recc area same on 1700 hrs visited Bw & MHC1 representatives	B.O
V3	1000			War correspondent takes photo of FLAG and officers & other unit details.	
V4	1120	B		Report from B boy. 1 PL has cut the track NORTH of village with 1 PL 2/24 Bw no opposition met.	B.O
V5	1450			B.O 2/24 arrives WAREO confers with B.O	
V6	1530	A		A boy patrol return recc track 1000' NORTH of WAREO NW and NE no contact made.	B.O
V7	1600	D		16 PL move out to BAZULUO remainder of boy to move first light 10 DEC (under command 2/24)	B.O
V8	1900			Stand. to	
I197	2030		26 Bde	Setup from 090700L to 091930L.	all informed
I218	2130		26 Bde	Setup 94 to 082000L	"
I224	2130		26 Bde	Setup 95 to 0800L.	"
V9	1630			B. boy returned, have taken over forward pass New Mountain YMCA representative served coffee No Apr 1500 hrs	B.O

ACTION DIARY

10 DEC. 48

Serial	Time	To	From	EVENT	Action
V1	0830	Is		b boy patrol to move NORTH (square 5473) object to contact	b.O
V2	0830		24Bde	Boundaries track junc 5887 45 to track junc 576719 to NONGORA to ck and river junc 587687	all informed
CV3	0800	D		Remainder of Don boy moved off to link up with D Coy 2/24	b.O
V4	0940			Boong carrying party arrived	
V5	0940			Stand to. Movement seen by 8PL A Coy. Fired at movement. Patrol sent fwd to investigate	b.O.
V6	0945			Don boy reaches BAZULUO. 16PL reports under comd of D 2/23 Bn.	b.O
V7	1000			Patrol in NMS on lead. Stand down	all informed
V8	1020			1 sec M.M.G. move fwd to assist A Coy 2/24 Bn.	b.O
I207	1130		26Bde	For security reasons code tests will not be taken fwd of Bn HQ. Coy code names will be memorized for use below Bn. In exceptional circumstances codes may have to be taken fwd to coys in which case they will be disguised in some way	all informed
V9	1600			b. boy patrol return saw one gap who fired on leading mount. Patrol returned fire but NMS on lead.	b.O

10 Dec 43

ACTION DIARY 10 DEC 43

serial	Time	To	From	EVENT	Action
V10	1900			Stand to	b.O.
V11	2100			Stand down	"
V3	2130			Canteen supplies available to troops/10 Dec	
V4	2145			A Coy on 1 hour notice to move patrol for tomorrow cancelled	b.O.

11 DEC 43

V1	0530			Stand to	
V2	0700			Stand down	
V3	0810			Don boy sending out two patrols 1 patrol to squaw 5473 2 nd patrol to move WEST to contact 2/4 Coy 59	b.O.
I228	0900	2630	Sitrep 101	to 102000 L	all informed
I231	0915	2630	Sitrep DG	to 110800 L	"
V4	1045			Brig WHITEHEAD arrived Br area	"
I153	1200	2630	Sitrep		
V5	1430	D		Don boy standing patrol reported 2-3 gaps area to June 535725	b.O.
V6	1636	A		A Coy patrol return. Moved to 540733 contacted enemy killed 2 wounded one	
V7	1640			Don boy patrol proceeded SW along good track for 1000' N.M.S.	b.O.
V8	1900			Stand to 2100 Stand down	

ACTION DIARY

12 DEC 43

Serial	Time To	From	EVENT	Actions
V1	0530		Stand to	
V2	0700		Stand down	
I235	0800		Setup 103 to 1120001	all informed
V3	0830	B	Patrol 1 offr. 100m to gardens sq 5472 NORTH to huts at 547737 Locate and destroy enemy	B.O
V4	0830	D	Patrol 1 offr 100m TASK 2000 NE and N.W tracks from 536726 locate and destroy enemy	B.O
V5	1020	D	C.O. Adjt report on at D. boy remaining for lunch	
I237	1030	2600	Setup D 7 to 1205001	all informed
V6	1330		C.O. Adjt return	
V7	1630		B. boy patrol return 2 enemy killed our cas net	B.O
V8	1700	X	D. boy return 2 enemy killed possible 2 more our cas net	B.O
V8	1900		Stand to	
V9	2100		Stand down	

13 Dec 43

ACTION DIARY

13 DEC 43

Serial	Time	To	From	EVENT	Notes
V1	0530			Stand to	
V2	0730			Stand down	
I 239	0800		26 Bde	Setup 105 to 122000 L	all informed
I 241	0915		26 Bde	Setup D to 130800 L	all informed
V3	0930			Capt Vines moved to Bde	
V4	1330			Brig accompanied by C.O 48 th Bn with units en route to 24 Bn	
V5	1600			C boy patrol return N.M.S	60
V6	1650			D boy patrol returns N.M.S	
V7	1800			Stand to	
V8	2030			Stand down	

14 DEC 43

V1	0530			Stand to	
V2	0615			Enemy bomber over, dropped two bombs into the sea	
V3	0700			Stand down	
I 243	0730		26 Bde	Setup 107 to 132000 L	all inform
V4	0800			Bde to move into this area at 1100 hrs today	60

ACTION DIARY

9.

14 Dec 43

Serial	Time	To	From	Event	Action
V5	1200		MHEI	MH 47/3/23/2 Sec. Receipt for official war photographs L9.16.6. Photographs have been despatched to various addresses as requested.	1.0 Filed
I242	1145		26 Bde	Extracts from 9 Aust Div. Intelligence Summary No. 25 dealing with enemy strengths & casualties. Supplies & munitions.	CO 2/c Adj. 1.0
V61	1145		D Coy	Partial report W10. Contact made with enemy 540733 kind am cas' mil.	CO 2/c Adj. 1.0 Bde adm.
G77/ 50/12	1430		26 Bde	PW 15-21 Dec. 15 SHALLOW @ 16 FILLY @ 17 BELLOWS @ 18 SILVER @ 19 SOLID @ 20 BOLSTER @ 21 GOLDEN	Int. Sec.
G78/ 50/12	1430		26 Bde	Ship to shore identification sigs 15-21 Dec. 43	To sig offs.
I131	1440	26 Bde		Act's G77/50/12	Sigs
I132	1443	"		Act's G78/50/12	Sigs
V7	1440		B Coy	Surprised mortar reported on B Coy front Being investigated.	1.0
V8	1550		D Coy	Report that at 1500 L an unidentified person was seen on the East WEST track SOUTH of D Coy. Person was wearing gashed type khaki shirt, thought to be khaki trousers soiled by red mud. Face could not	C. O 1.0

ACTION DIARY 14 DEC 43

Serial	Time	To	From	EVENT	(Action)
				be seen a person wearing no boots Listening post & unidentified person saw each other at the same time & unidentified made good his escape at the double in WESTERLY direction along	
V8	1530			Paris commenced work on the WARAO - BONGA track (15 attached 2/23)	
V9	1600			Rifles march in (3) also 14x list.	
I248	2200		26BDE	Set up log to 142000L	all informed
V10				Message sent to all cogs. advising that a limited number of American hammocks available, to submit no. required.	
<u>15 DEC 43</u>					
V1	0530			Stand to	
V2	0630			Stand down	
V3	0830	D		Party of three moved out to D Coy	D Coy informed
V4	0930			2 offrs marched in	
I250	1440		26BDE	Set up D10 to 150800L	E O 2 1/2 only 1.10
V5	1630			B. Coy patrol, 1 offr, 16 on moved out to D Coy. Proceeding tomorrow sq. 5273	
V6	1600			A Coy patrol return. N715	
V7	1900			Stand to Stand down 2130	
I251	2100			Set up 111 to 151900L	all informed

ACTION DIARY

13.

20 DEC. 43.

SERIAL	TIME	To	From	EVENT	REMARKS.
0118	1215	2/23 2/24	26 Bde	Warning order for Bn. move 22 DEC. - SECRET. Warning order subject confirmation receipt instrs. from DIV. 26 Bde will prepare move coastal area when ordered. 2/28 Bn. is to relieve 2/23 Bn by night 21/22 DEC. and come under command. 26 Bde. 2/23 Bn when relieved will bivouac in Bde reserve astride track about 562727. Probable route 2/23 2/24 Bns to KIKIGIA area via track 563727 2000 feet NE KIKIGIA. Estimated time 1 1/2 days. 2/4 Bn. Sqn. remain present area until further advised. Units will prepare hand over files of sectors incl. appreciations to be completed 2/23 Bn 21 DEC. 2/24 Bn 23 DEC. 2/48 Bn 24 DEC. Adm. Further instrs. will be issued. Ack. All informed. All excess clothing to be handed in by 1800 hrs, to be sent to B Ech. who will arrange re-issue when circumstances permit.	CO. 21/c Adj't. I.O.
✓5	1400				Noted

ACTION DIARY

20 DEC. 43.

SERIAL	TIME	TO	FROM	EVENT.	
V6	1445			2/28 Bn. moved into this area preliminary to taking over bus. posts.	Noted
LA3	1600	DOPO	LEMA	unable contact. main track NE 576758. contact BUSU. patrol	C.O.
				1300 hrs. Very heavy going contacted 2/c back to lake. Self and 12 OR's	Aclyt.
				0730 21 try contact by 1200. Ref A37 send home 22. MAC	I.O.
V7	1800			6 press clothing handed in to Q.M.	Noted
0119	1830	23B	26B	JAP LMG return springs are interchangeable with BESA LMG return springs, which are in short supply. Springs will be extracted from captured LMG's and forwarded via BOWLO nearest ord. dumps. All informed.	
A42	1900	DOPO		Following pers. will form adv party and RV BHP. 1000 hrs 21 DEC. prepared to move with all gear to recon Bn. area. I.O. 1/c party and 2 OR's from BHP. One Cpl and 3 OR's from each rifle Coy. One NCO from each of HQ. Coy pls.	

ACTION DIARY

14.

20 DEC

SERIAL	TIME	TO	FROM	EVEN T.	
V8	1930			Verbal message received cancelling proposed move of adv. party and Bn. on 22 DEC. (ref. warning order)	CO 2/c Adj. I.O.

21 DEC.

V1	0630			Start day	
V2	0700			Start day	
I280	0730	23B	26Bn	SECRET. SITREP 121 to 201900L.	all infd.
V3	0745	23B	Bn	Quiet night. All OK.	CO 2/c I.O.
LA5	0850	23B	Bn	OC moved as LA3 without wireless.	CO 2/c I.O.
I282	1200	23	26Bn	Sitrep D16 to 210800L.	CO 2/c I.O.
LA6	1635	23B	Bn	Patrol not returning yet.	CO 2/c I.O.
V1	1630			Captured WAREO Mission Beebe crated and addressed to Mayor of ALBURY, for ALBURY War Museum.	Noted.
LA7	1730	23B	Bn	Task completed return tomorrow. One enemy destroyed 3000 yds. from base.	CO 2/c Adj. I.
V2				R/T message received that 2/23Bn to move at 0830. 22 DEC.	all infd.
0123	1850	23B	Bn	SECRET. 26 Bde will concentrate north river MASAWENG by night 24/25 DEC. 24 Bde is to relieve	

ACTION DIARY

21 DEC.

SERIAL	TIME	TO	FROM	EVENT	REFERENCE
				and take over role of 26 Bde.	
				earliest possible. 2/4 Bn. Sqn	C.O.
				reverts from command on relief of	2/c
				this Bde. 2/23 Bn. HQ, 26 Bde, 2/24	Adj't.
				Bn. less 2 coys will move GUSIKA	I.O.
				22 DEC. for onward move by sea	
				23 and 24 DEC. 2/24 Bn. will	
				hold area 564728 and 2000	
				feature, each with one coy. until	
				first light 23 DEC. Hence will	
				move GUSIKA by last light 23	
				DEC. Hence by sea 24 DEC.	
				2/48 Bn. less one coy will move	
				to SCARLET BEACH 22 and 23	
				DEC. for onward move by sea	
				24 DEC. Transports 1p. Tanks	
				SATELBERG passes to command.	
				24 BDE. on relief. One coy 2/32	
				Bn. now moving relieve 2/48 Bn	
				SATELBERG area. Q. 9 DIV is	
				arranging MTT to move 2/48 Bn	
				when relieved to rejoin unit by	
				sea, via SCARLET BEACH. Sea	
				moves to be arranged by Q.	

21 DEC

SERIAL	TIME	TO	FROM	EVENT	
				9 DIV. Role of Bde on arrival MASAWENG RIVER - DIV reserve. Ack. All informed.	
I123	1935	Bde		In reply to message 0123. Ack.	

22 DEC.

026	0730	Bde		SECRET. Further to 0123. Admin as arranged by Staff Capt. Intercam. Bde report center opens GUSIKA area 1200 hrs 22 DEC. This HQ. will close present area 1200 hrs. Hence to GUSIKA 2/23 and 2/24 will report out from present areas check through REAR HQ. and report in at report center. 2/48 as arranged later. All informed. BHQ. left WAREO area on first stage of move to MASAWENG. Bn. order of march C, BHQ., A, HQ., D coys. Route WAREO - BONCA track.	C.O. 2/c Adj- T.O.
V2	1100			Bn. halted at Bech. for lunch.	Noted
V3	1200			continued march toward GUSIKA.	Noted
V4	1330			Arrived Bde. Report center: GUSIKA.	Noted
V5	1335			Bn. reached Kwanao area GUSIKA. ref. 624737. (FORTIFICATION PT 1:25000).	Noted

ACTION DIARY

DEC. 22.

SERIAL	TIME To From	EVENT	REMARKS
V6	1745	Verbal message received that Bn. will move from GUSIKA morning 23 DEC. by barge, commencing at 0700. all 2/23 Bn. to take over area incl. LAKONA infund 2/48 Bn. area sith. MASAWENG koppor 585805. 2/24 Bn. area NORTH of MASAWENG.	
V7	1800	Malarial precautions to be strictly enforced in this area.	Noted
V8	1800	Parcels and Xmas bumpers are in area, and turkey a probability.	Noted
V9	1900	Bn. received canteen issue to value of \$18, to be defrayed by Bn. Regtl. funds	Noted
I259	1970 1970 1970 1970	Secret. Sitrep 106 to 221900 L. Booy 2/23 returned WAREO 221200 L from 4 day patrol. 1 gap killed.	all infund all infund

23 DEC.

V1	0845	Bn. commenced unbarging in LCV's for LAKONA.	
V2	1010	Last of Bn. embarked for LAKONA.	
V3	1115	Bn. bivouacked in area SOUTH of LAKONA ref. 598788	
V4	1500	Xmas mail & parcels received by 1700.	

ACTION DIARY

16.

23 DEC.

SERIAL	TIME	TO	FROM	EVENT	
I291	1805	DOP	YOYO	SECRET. Sichep D17 to 220800 L.	all infd.
V5	1900	DOP	YOYO	Enemy O/B - units holding adv. 4 Bde. HQ 2 Bn. 238 Regt. 2 coy 21 nov. Bn 7/8 coys 238 " Gue MG coy 238 Regt. CO. 8 coy - 78 " Gue Pm. Pl. 2 1/2 2 " 332nd. Eng. Regt. Gue Pl. - 1 Bn Adj't. HQ 3 Bn. 26 Ad. arty. Regt. 238 Regt. I.O. PW captured HUBIKA 21 DEC. from. 2 coy 79 Regt. - present strength 40 (191) Present strength Bn - 300. Pw said 80 Regt. moved thru HUBIKA toward WANDOKAI after 16 DEC.; 79 Regt. moved inland to strike coast further NORTH. Bn. ordered to concentrate at WANDOKAI. Believed reinforcements at S10, thought total troops S10 - 2000. Now appears JAPS constructing def. WANDOKAI area. Tac. R observed 6 barges in daylight here.	
<u>24 DEC.</u>					
V1	0800			Maj. W. BROWN was app'd O.C. Don Coy as from 22 DEC.	Noted
V2	0800			LIEUT. P. HOOK was app'd. PNR OFFR. as from 22 DEC.	Noted
V3	1200	DOP	YOYO	Received 8 - BLUCHER PT. sheets 1: 25,000 and 1 - MASAWENG R. 1: 63,360. ACF Xmas hamper received by all troops	Distributed 10 coys. + 8000
V4	1500				

ACTION DIARY

24 DEC.

SER.	TIME	TO	FROM	EVENT	REMARKS
I292	1400	2/33	26Bde	SECRET. Sitrep 108 to 231900L.	all infd
I294	1400	2/33	26Bde	SECRET. Sitrep D18 to 240800L.	" "
V4	1700			Following maps received from Bole:-	
				WALINGAI PHOTOMAP 1:20,000 - 52	Distributed
				HUBIKA " " - 25	15 copy
				AGO " " - 54	
				MAPE RIVER 1:25,000 - 1	
				SAMANTIKI " " - 1	
V5	1900			Bn concert held in BHQ area - attended by Brig. WHITEHEAD D.50, 2/12 Regt and Capt. WOODLAND, of SALVATION ARMY. Coffee was served after performance.	

25 DEC

I295	0915	2/33	Bde	Tac. R. Infm. HUBIKA, WALINGAI, AGO. areas to 19 DEC.	all informed
0925	0915	Bn.	DIV	MOST SECRET. Sitrep 107 to 232000L.	all
0915	Bn.	DIV		9 Aust. Div. Int. Summary No 28 to 2200L 22 DEC.	informed
1000	Bn	Bde		Sitrep to 250800L. Infantry concert. Church service.	CO 2/copy

ACTION DIARY

17

26 DEC

		EVENT		
V1	1300	2/3	Warming Order. Bn. will relieve 2/13	All
			Bn. 27 DEC. Bn. to move 1300hrs.	infud.
I304	1000	Ble	Sitrep D20 to 260700L	"
V2	1500		Report of Beag 4 day patrol received.	Noted
V3			Following 4" Strat. Maps received: -	Noted
			2 - SAG SAG 2 - KAE 2 - MADANG	
I303	1900	Ble	Sitrep 133 to 261900L - situation.	CO 2/10/41

27 Dec

I305	1120	2/13	2600L	Sitrep D21 to 270700L.	CO-2/10 Adj. 10.
V1	1300			Bn. left bivouac area 598788 and proceeded to beach at mouth of Sanga River, to embark for WATDOKI area. Movement postponed owing sea being too rough.	24 10
G146/50/12/19/15		2/23	Ble	Passwords 29 DEC 43 to 4 JAN 44.	filed
				29 DEC. MOULDY. 30 DEC. MOLTEN	
				31 " PILLOW. 1 JAN. ECLIPSE	
				2 JAN. WHALEBONE. 3 " SELDOM	
				4 " JELLY.	
G147/50/12/19/15		2/23	Ble	Ship to shore identification	reg off
V2				Map ref of biv area night 27/28 DEC	
				Photomap 0302 LAKONA ref. 145168	
V3	1630			Bn less Acoy moved from SANGA R to	

War Diary

27 DEC

Serial	Time	To	From	EVENT
				To bivouac area. Photomap LAKONA 145168
V308	1900	2/23	Bde	Set up 135 to 27 1900 L. 2/23. Bn. A Coy. moving to NORTH WANDOKIA beach area. Bn less A Coy biv at 578813. 2/24, 2/48 no change.

28 DEC

V1 0700 Bn moved from bivouac area, A Coy. BHQ HQ, B and D Coy and proceeded to beach. Noted

V2 0910 Bn embarked on LCV's and proceeded to WANDOKIA beach area disembarking at 1000 hrs. BHQ est at ref B 537895. Noted

V3 1230 BHQ D Coy in posn ref BLUCHER PT. 539895. ID

V156 1300 Bde 2/23. LOCSTAT. 28 1300 L. ref BLUCHER PT. 1 25000
 A Coy 537897. B 547896. C, 535897
 D, 539895. BHQ, 537895. mgs

V9 1345 Patrol from D Coy strength 1 off at 12.00R. upstream. Time out 28 1330 L. In 29 1700 L. Noted

V5 Notes: MLO is Lieut Balmain.
 In support 26 BDE. beach defence expected arrival today 28; posn to be sited in conj with 2/23 comd party from 11 Aust TKA batt.
 Wfus 1 sec for
 1. Two "
 2. 37MM "

ACTION DIARY.

Serial	Time	To	From	EVENT	ACTION
<u>28 DEC 43.</u>					
V1	0700			Bn moved from bivouac area to beach area	
V2	0910			Bn embarked on LCVs.	
V3	1000			Bn disembarked at WANDOKAI. B.H.Q. established at 537895.	
V4	1230		D	boy in posn at 539895.	
I 156	1300	26 Bde		LOCSTAT. 281300L w/ BLUCHER Pt. I: 25000. A Coy 537897 B Coy 547896 C Coy 535897 D Coy 539895.	
V5	1345			patrol from D Coy. strength 1 offr 12 ORS. Time Out 281300L Time In 291700L.	
V6	1500			<u>NOTES:</u> MLO is Lieut Balmain. In support 26 Bde beach defence expected arrival today. Posn to be sited in conj with 2/23 bomb. Party from 11 Aust TK/A Bty. Wpns. 1 six pr 1 Awo 2 thirty seven MM. From 532. E.S.B. four .50 MG. Awo. 30 MG.	
V7	1630			Brig Whitehead visited unit.	
V8	1900			Warning Order. Bn to be prepared to move 29 0730L.	

29 DEC 43.

ACTION DIARY.

Serial	Time	To	From	EVENT	ACTION
V1	0600			sitner overnight. 28/29 DEC.	
V2	0730			Bn commenced march from WANDOKAI in following order. C, A, BHQ, HQ & D Coy.	
V3	0740			CO and I.O. proceeded by jeep to Bn area for recce.	
V4	1330			Fwd elements of Bn arrived area BHQ 473963.	
V5	1600	26 Bde		BHQ. 473963. A 473964 B 475959 C. 471959 D. 474958. ref BLUCHER Pt 1: 25000. Bn disperses by BM(L).	
V6	1600			visit by Brig Whitehead to B.H.Q.	C.O.
I311	1630	26 Bde		sitner.	C.O.
I314	1630			" Ship to shore recognition signals. C.W. role. 20 Bde C.W. station 474993.	
V7	1630			COs conference with Coy Comds.	
V8	1700			2 patrols tied up for 30 DEC.	
V9	1800			I.O. to 2/15 Bn for info on straits etc in area.	
V10	2130			2 patrols tied up now cancelled. C Coy warned to be prepared to move out on 2/3 day patrol at 30 0830 L.	

30 DEC 43.

V1	0600			sitner overnight 29/30 DEC.	
V2	0830		C	Coy now prepared to move on patrol to KARAKO. 10 off 15 ORs leaving immediately remainder of coy moving as soon as rations are made available.	

War diary

HQ 9 Aust Div
Ref : A51/3/734
3 Dec 43.

2/53

MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS

The following message has been received from HQ 2 Aust Corps,
dated 1 Dec 43 :

"for General WOOTTEN from Corps Comd (.) the plan is developing well and you are all doing splendidly (.) congratulations to 9 aust div and all attached units and best wishes for further successes"

DISTRIBUTION: List "C"

W. J. ...
LT-COL.
AA & Q MG 9 AUST DIV.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

34 / A (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 11 / 12 / 1943 2/23rd Aust Inf Bn (Unit)

W.E. 11 / 12 / 21 OFFRS. 32 O.R's. 739 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 34 ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10				
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.								
Rein'ts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'ts Required.				
				*									
			1	Lieut.-Colonels	AA CHAP DEPT	1							
			3	Majors									
			3	Captains	AAML	1							
NR	5		20	Lieutenants									
4		1	1	Quarter-masters	CAPT								
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.									
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.									
3	5	1	28			2	1						
		DETAIL		A.I.P.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL.
		A.		30									30
		E.(1)											
		E.(2)											

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in pars. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
* * Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces.

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
47589	MAJOR	BROWN WF	2/3 CCS	9-12-43	Rejoined unit
40314	CAPT	MCMSTAR NE	108 RABA	5-12-43	"

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
52832	LIEUT	GIBBS EH	2/11 MDS	4-12-43	Evacuated Sick
47474	LIEUT	HENDERSON FT	"	7-12-43	"
19432	CAPT	TIETVENS FW	"	10-12-43	"
14795	LIEUT	BOARD JC	"	5-12-43	"

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. / / 194.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

2/23 Aust Inf Bde Unit

34/A (Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 11/12/1943 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
LT-COL	3A10310	TUCKER	FAL	CO.	YES		
MAJOR	VA47348	SPIER	PE	2 PL	"		
"	VI47791	MORSE	EH	-	NO	LOB	26.1.43
"	VI48589	BROWN	WF	OLD COY	YES		
CAPT	VA40314	M. MASTER	NE	OLD COY	-		
"	VA 5087	DUDLEY	J	-	NO	SCHOOL	3 Nov 43
T/CAPT	VA42701	LURRY	GW	RM	YES		
LIEUT	VA50364	GRAY	H	OLD COY	"		
T/CAPT	VA50341	VINES	WJ	HQTT	"		
LIEUT	VA23475	LOVELL	FK	1 PL	"		
"	VA 5062	ROW	RF	15 PL	"		
"	VA 8944	GILMOUR	NB	OLD COY	"		
"	VA53898	M. MINN	J	-	NO	LOB	21.10.43
"	VA51872	HIPSLEY	JW	12 PL	YES		
"	VA52884	M. LEED	NFK	-	NO	LOB	3 Sep 43
"	VA41643	LYNE	A	148 COY	YES		
"	VA28715	BATESON	A	3 PL	"		
"	VA35125	BARRAND	RS	9 PL	"		
"	VA40152	WENBORN	LP	10	"		
"	VA46373	FOSTER	RG	17 PL	"		
"	VA 7410	LAWAIG	DC	13 PL	"		
"	VA136014	HEATON	ET	14 PL	"		
"	QA34264	STEVENSON	C.M.D	11 PL	"		
"	TX 890	BEECKOFT	WR	7 PL	"		
"	TX 6387	CLARK	FF	8 PL	"		
"	VA28928	HANSEN	SH	10 PL	"		
"	VA61094	HARPER	HPL	17 PL	"		
"	VA52699	ENDERBY	EA	SUPDQ 18 COY	YES		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
CAPT	VA64241	SPRING EQ	RAMC	13 Sep 43	RMO.
MAJ	QA57201	KELLY TK	118 CHAP DEPT	21 Oct 43	CHAPLAIN

11/12/43
Date of Despatch

Signature of Commander

2/23 Unit Inf Bn

Unit

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 12 / 12 / 1943 .

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, E.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangefinders	4	1	NR
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Riveters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths								Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevadores			
Computers								Biggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical	3	1	NR
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers	24	24		Tailors	1		NR
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Boilermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters	6	5	1	Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)				Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks				Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)											
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators				GROUP III.				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				Battery Surveyors				BATTERY DUTIES	580	348	243
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Butchers	1		NR	CLERKS			
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Clerks	4	2	NR	NCOs	107	86	NR
Grinder, Precision				Helio Operator				Clerks, Supply							
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Technical							
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties	7	6	NR	Coach Trimmers							
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Concretors							
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Cooks							
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Dental Clerk Orderlies							
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Despatch Riders				ATTACHED BY W.E.			
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals							
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Drivers, H.T.							
Pattern Maker				Masons				Driver Mechanics		11			34	20	NR
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Driver Tptn. Plant							
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.				Engine Hands, I.C.							
Photewriter				Miners				Equipment Repairers	1	1					
Plumber				Moulders				Farriers							
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Fitters' Mates							
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Gun Layers		9					
CARRIED FORWARD				CARRIED FORWARD	13	11	1	CARRIED FORWARD	43	58	1	Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A, respectively.	376	514	244

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.
(c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.
(d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."
(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

DEC 11 1943
Date of Despatch

[Signature]
Signature of Commander

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

35 / A
/ (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 18 / 12 / 1943 2/2 Aust Inf Bde (Unit)

W.E. 11 / 12 / 20 OFFRS. 32 O.R's. 738 + OFFRS. 1 O.R's. 34 ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.									
Rein'ts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'ts Required.					
N.R.	1		1	*	AA CHAP DEPT	1	1							
N.R.	4		2	*	A AMC	1								
		4	4	Captains										
			23	Lieutenants										
			1	Quarter-masters										
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.										
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.										
	5	4	31			2	1							
Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in pers. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).		DETAIL		A.I.P.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.P.	**	TOTAL.	
		A.		33										33
		E.(1)												
		E.(2)												

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces.

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
NX 5031	LIEUT	DENING K.S.	GENERAL HENRY DEPT		Joined unit and taken on strength vide
VX 103460	II	HOLT C.G.	A.I.F. (INF)	11/12/43	NG 28 SER I
VX 42081	.	HOOK P.R.	2/12 RGN	11/12/43	Rejoined unit.
VX 61536	CAPT	SEGGLEY J.G.	2/9 Aust Armd Regt		
				11/10/43	2 line Corps MB 1227.

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
VX 48589	MAJ	BROWN W.F.	7/11 M.D.S	11 Dec 43	Evac. to Hospital
VX 50341	T-CAPT	VINES W.I.	26 Aust Inf Bde	13 Dec 43	Ret. as BM(L).

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. / / 194

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).

358 / (Serial No.)

422 Aust Inf Bn. Unit

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 18/12/1943. (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
LT COL	VX 10310	TUCKER	FNG	CO	YES		
MAJ	VX 42097	SPER	P.E.	27L	YES		
	VX 42791	IRNAGE	EH	-	NO	LOB	26 OCT 43
CAPT	VX 42791	IRNAGE	EH	-	NO	LOB	26 OCT 43
CAPT	VX 61536	SEADLEY	JG	-	NO	DET. 1/4 AUST COMMND CEN	
CAPT	VX 40314	MCMASTER	N.E.	OC BUN	YES		
"	VX 3057	DUDLEY	J.	-	NO	SCHOOL	2 NOV 43
T CAPT	VX 42701	LUKEY	GW	Q17	YES		
LIEUT	VX 30364	GRAY	H	OC COY	YES		
T CAPT	VX 30361	VINES	WJ	-	NO	DET. 26 INF BATT (BTL) 13 OCT 43	
LIEUT.	VX 23475	LOVELL	FK	1 PL	YES		
"	VX 5062	ROW	RF	ADJT	"		
"	VX 8444	GILMOUR	N.B.	OC BUN	"		
"	VX 53598	MUMFORD	J.	-	NO	LOB	21 OCT 43
"	VX 31872	HIPSLEY	JW	100 DC	YES		
"	VX 52884	MCLEOD	H.E.K.	-	NO	LOB	3 SEP 43
"	VX 41643	LYNE	A	72 BC	YES		
"	VX 25713	BATESON	H	3 PL	"		
"	VX 35125	DARROND	RS	4 PL	"		
"	VX 40152	WENBORN	L.P.	10	"		
"	VX 46373	FOSTER	RG	17 PL	"		
"	VX 42081	HOOK	PK	12 PL	"		
"	VX 7410	LAWRIE	DC	13 PL	"		
"	VX 36034	HEATON	ET	14 PL	"		
"	VX 34264	STEVENSON	G.M.D.	11 PL	"		
"	VX 390	BEECROFT	WR	7 PL	"		
"	VX 4587	CLARK	FF	8 PL	"		
"	VX 28121	HANSSEN	S.H.	10 PL	"		
"	VX 61074	HARPER	H.P.G.	10 PL	"		
"	VX 83677	ENDERBY	E.A.	11 PL	"		
"	VX 3031	DENING	K.S.	2 PL	"		
"	VX 10340	HOLT	C.G.	11 PL (L)	"		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
CAPT	VX 64241	SPRING E.E.	HA MC	13 SEP 43	R.N.O.
CHAP	OX 57201	KELLY J.K.	HA CHAP DEPT	23 OCT 43	CHAPLAIN

18/12/43
Date of Despatch

[Signature]
Signature of Commander

2/23 Aust Inf Bn Unit

Army Form W.3009
(Adapted) (Page 2)
(Revised Jan., 1943)
35/A Serial No.

PART E. Detail of Present Strength and Reinforcements required as shown in Part A of Army Form W.3009 at 0600 Hours Saturday 18 / 12 / 1943.

Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I.	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP I. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP II. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.	Details of Tradesmen. GROUP III. (cont.)	W.E.	Posted Strength.	Reints. Required.
Ammunition Examiners				Surveyors, Engineering				Operating Room Assts.				G.P.O. Assistants			
Armament Artificer Fitter				Surveyors, R.A.A.				Operator, Keyboard				Hammermen			
Armament Artificer Fitter (Electrical)				Surveyors, Topographical				Operator, Line				Leather Stitchers			
Armament Artificer Fitter (M.V.)				Surveyors, Trigonometrical				Operator, Signal				Orderlies, Nursing			
Armament Artificer Fitter (A.F.V.)				Toolmakers				Operator, Switchboard				Orderlies, Nursing Mental			
Armament Artificer Instrument				Turners				Operator, Wireless				Plate Layers			
Armament Artificer Radio				Watchmakers				Opticians				Rangetakers	4	1	NR
Armament Artificer Signals				Welders				Painters				Riveters			
Armament Artificer Wireless								Panel Beaters				Roughriders			
Artificer, Artillery								Photographer, Dry Plate				Saddlers			
Artificer, Engine								Predictor Numbers				Saddletree makers			
Blacksmiths								Printers				Shoemaker and Boot Repairer			
Bricklayers								Radiographers				Stevedores			
Computers								Biggers				Stokers, Staty. Engine			
Cooks, Hospital				GROUP II.				Sawyers				Storemen, Technical	3	1	NR
Coppersmiths				Armourers				Signallers	24	24		Tailors	1		NR
Dispensers				Axemen				Signwriters				Textile Refitters			
Draughtsmen				Bakers				Telescope Identfn. Numbers				Tinsmiths			
Draughtsmen (Architectural)				Bty. Comd's. Asst.				Well Borers				Vulcanizers			
Draughtsmen (Engineering)				Bollermakers				Wheelers				Wagon Erectors			
Draughtsmen (Mechanical)				Carpenters	6	6	NR	Winchman				Whitesmiths			
Draughtsmen (Topographical)				Carpenters and Joiners				Wireman							
Electricians				Cooks				Woodturners							
Electricians (M.V.)				Dental Mechanics											
Electricians (Signals)				Driver-Mech. (Eng. and Med.)											
Fitters				Driver-Operator											
Fitters (Cycle)				Drainers											
Fitters (Electrical)				Electricians											
Fitters (Gun)				Electricians (Engineers)											
Fitters (Instrument)				Fire Control Operators				GROUP III.				DETAILS OF NON-TRADESMEN.			
Fitters (M.V.)				Gun Operator				Battery Surveyors							
Fitters, Railway Signal				Hatchman				Butchers	1		NR	GEN DUTIES	20	344	236
Fitters, Signals				Height Taker				Clerks	24	2	NR				
Grinder, Precision				Helio Operator				Clerks, Supply							
Mechanics, Instrument				Instrument Operator				Clerks, Technical				NGO'S	107	97	NR
Mechanics, Instrument (Signals)				Intelligence Duties	7	6	NR	Coach Trimmers							
Mechanics, Instrument (Surgical)				Joiners				Concretors							
Mechanics, Radio				Lineman				Cooks							
Mechanics, Typewriter				Lineman, Signals				Dental Clerk Orderlies							
Mechanics, Wireless				Lithographers				Despatch Riders				ATTACHED BY W.E.	34	19	NR
Millwrights				Machinists, Metal				Draughtsmen, Signals							
Operators, Excavator				Machinists, Wood				Drivers, H.T.							
Pattern Maker				Masons				Driver Mechanics		11					
Pharmacist				Masseurs				Driver Tptn. Plant							
Photographer, Wet Plate				Mechanics, M.T.				Engine Hands, I.C.							
Photowriter				Miners				Equipment Repairers	1	1					
Plumber				Moulders				Farriers							
Saw Doctors				Nurses, Trained				Fitters' Mates							
Surveyors				Observation Post Assts.				Gun Layers		9					
CARRIED FORWARD				CARRIED FORWARD	13	12		CARRIED FORWARD	43	59		Totals of columns marked * to agree with columns 4 and 7, and 1 and 10 of Part A. respectively.	772	521	236

NOTES.—(a) If rank other than private is involved give details on back.
(b) Authorised trades or specialists not included in list will be added as required in spaces provided.
(c) Where A.W.A.S. and/or A.A.M.W.S. personnel are desired show details on back.
(d) Where replacement not desired note accordingly on return by insertion of N.R. in col. "Reints. Required."
(e) Where any request or notation is made on back of form, the words "See Back" should be written in one of the blank spaces on this page.

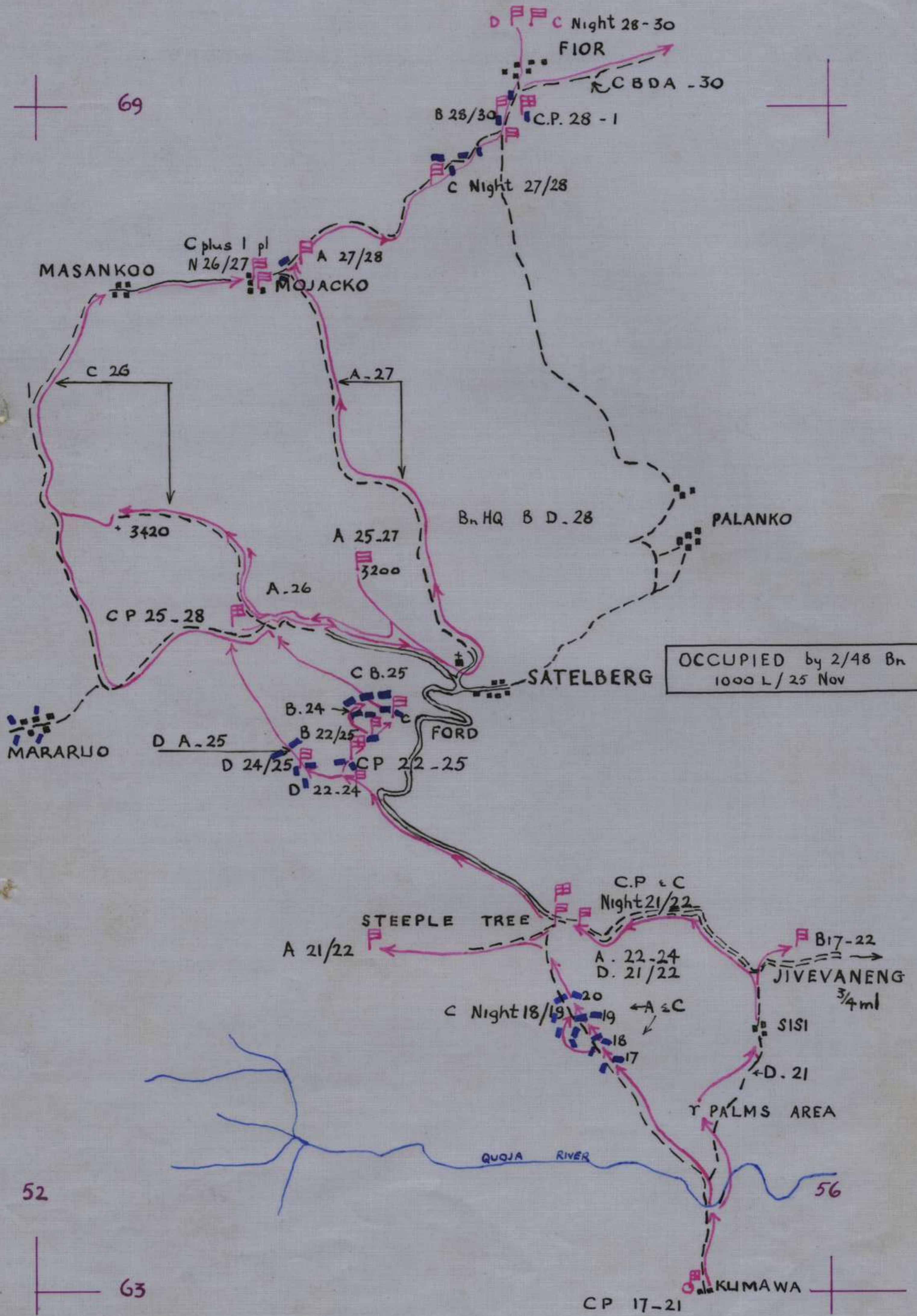
18 Dec 43
Date of Despatch

Phew Lead
Signature of Commander

2/23 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION DISPOSITIONS

17 NOV - 1 DEC

REF. SATELBERG
1:25000



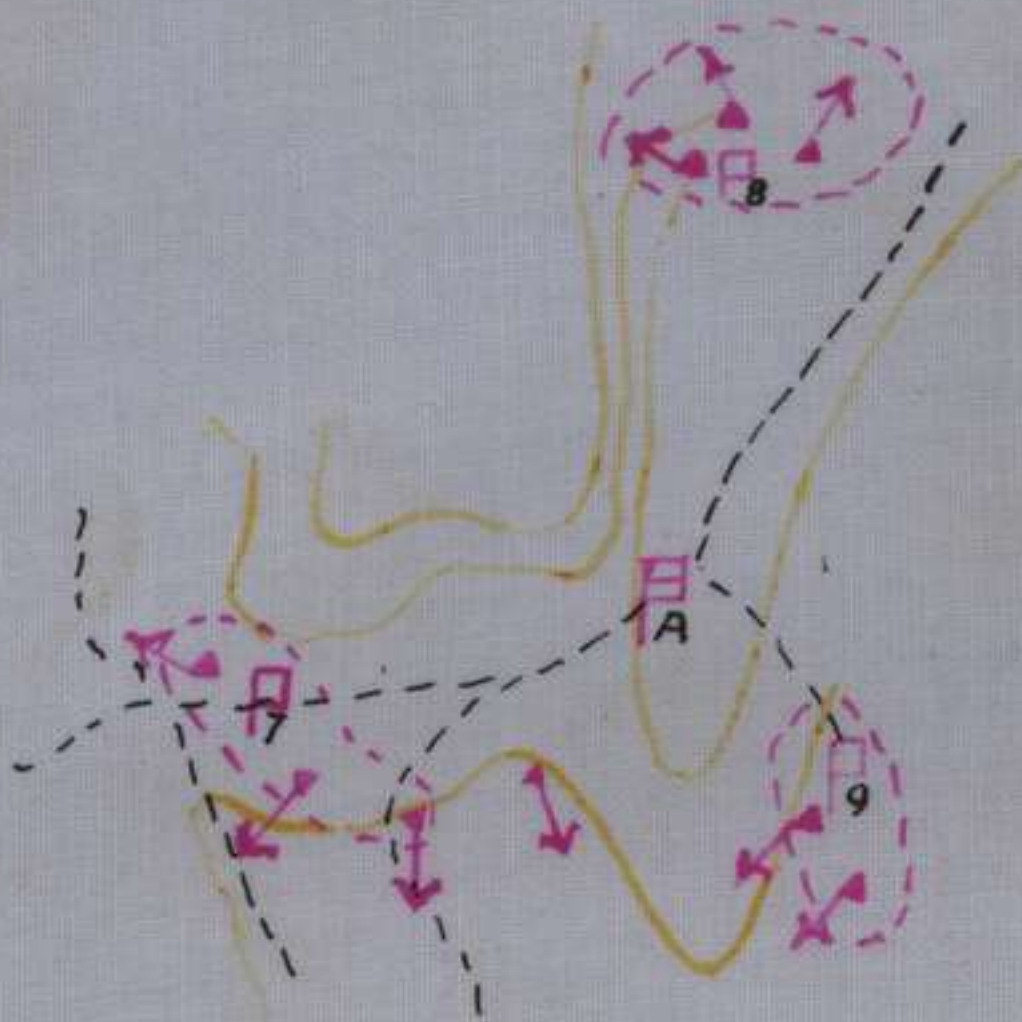
FIRE PLAN - A coy

2/23 AUST INF BN

Ref MASAWENG RIVER WEST

1:25000

A coy H.Q 549717

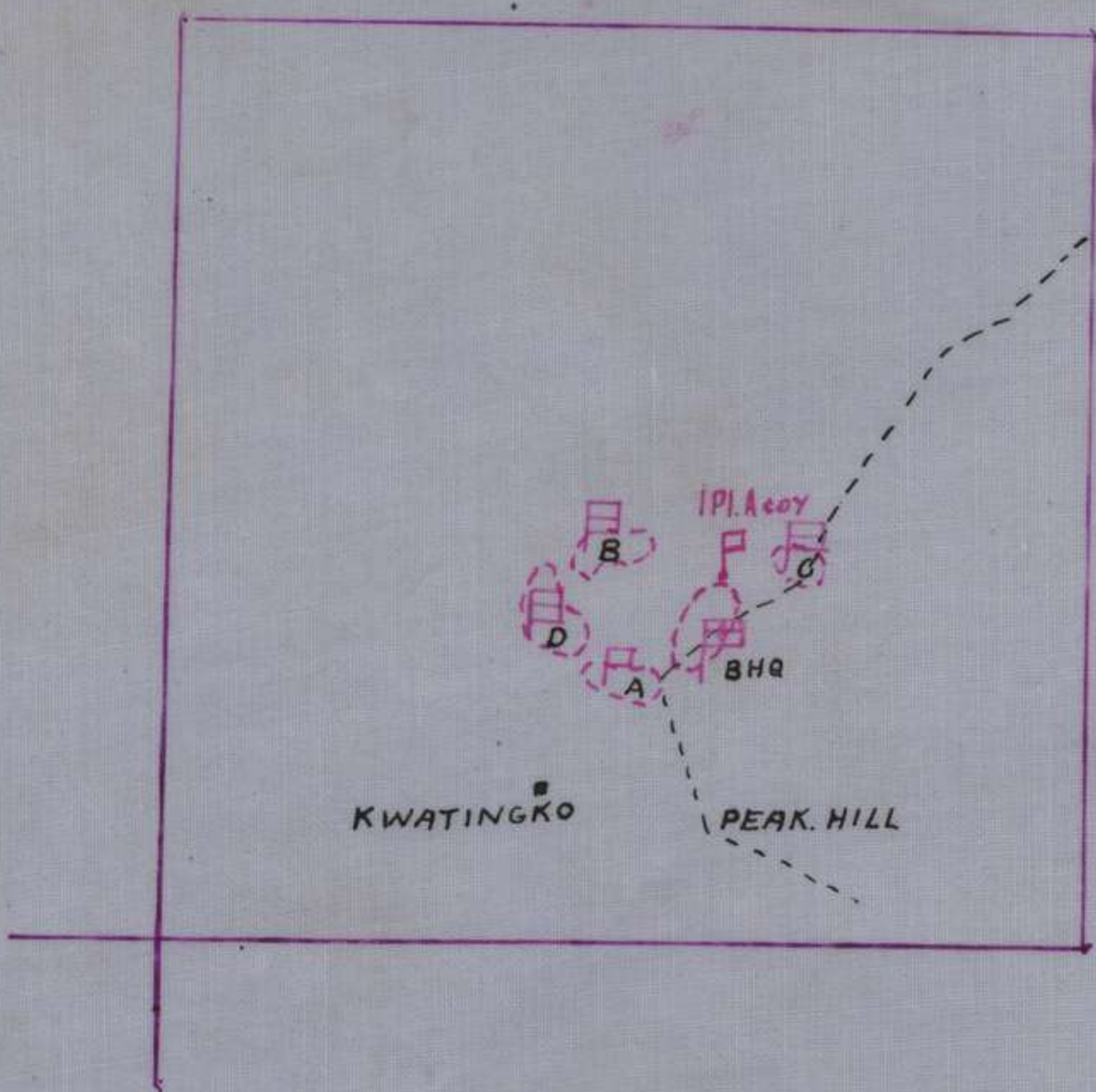


Scale 1" = 240'
V.I. 20' Approx

Drawn by
Int Sec 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
17 Dec. 43

2/23 AUST INF BN DISPOSNS 8 DEC 43

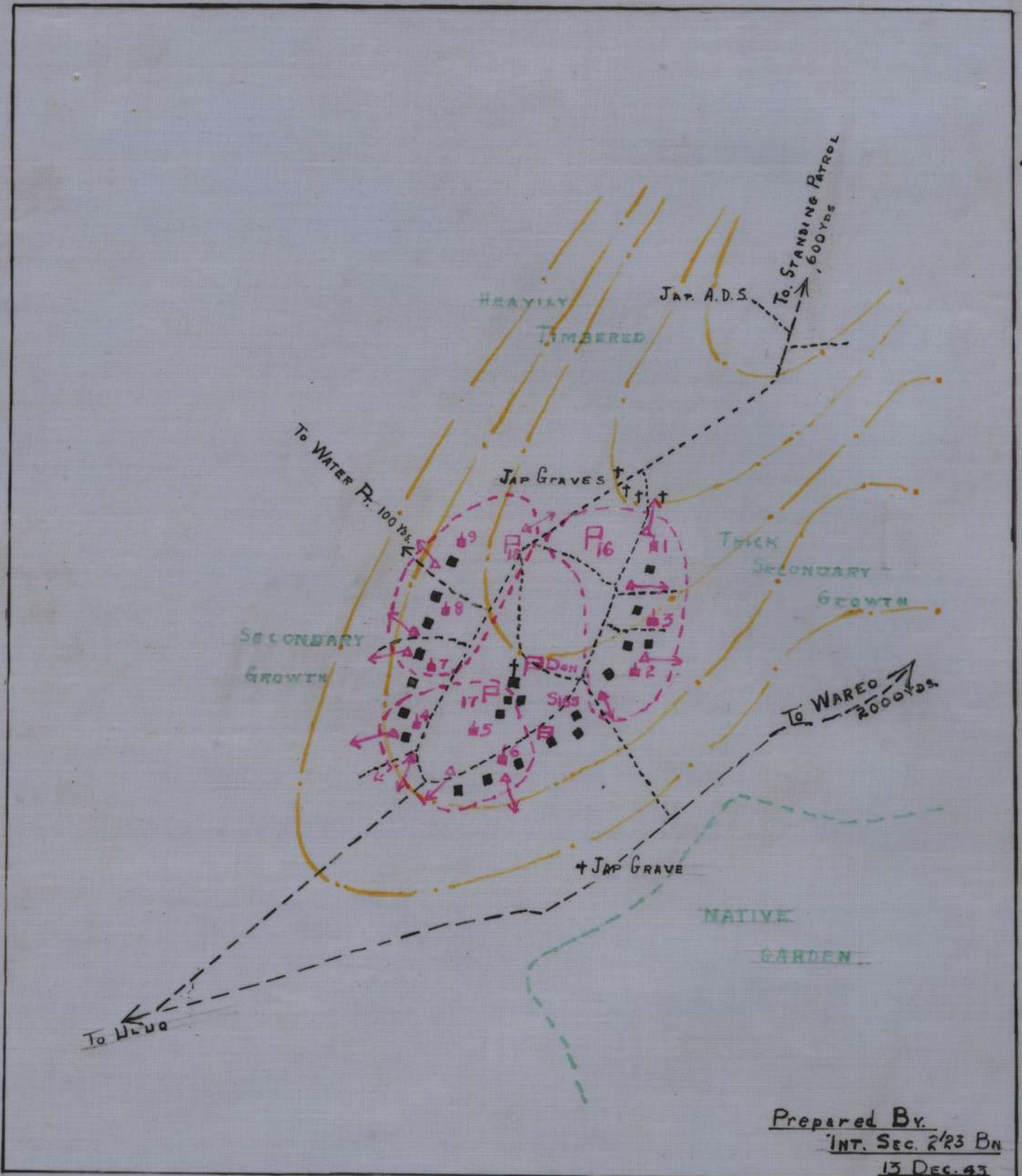
Ref MASAWANG RIVER 1:25000



Traced by
Int Sec 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
8 Dec 43

FORM LINE SKETCH "DON" Coy. - BAZULUO - 13 DEC. 43.

REF: MASAWANG RIV. WEST 1:25000

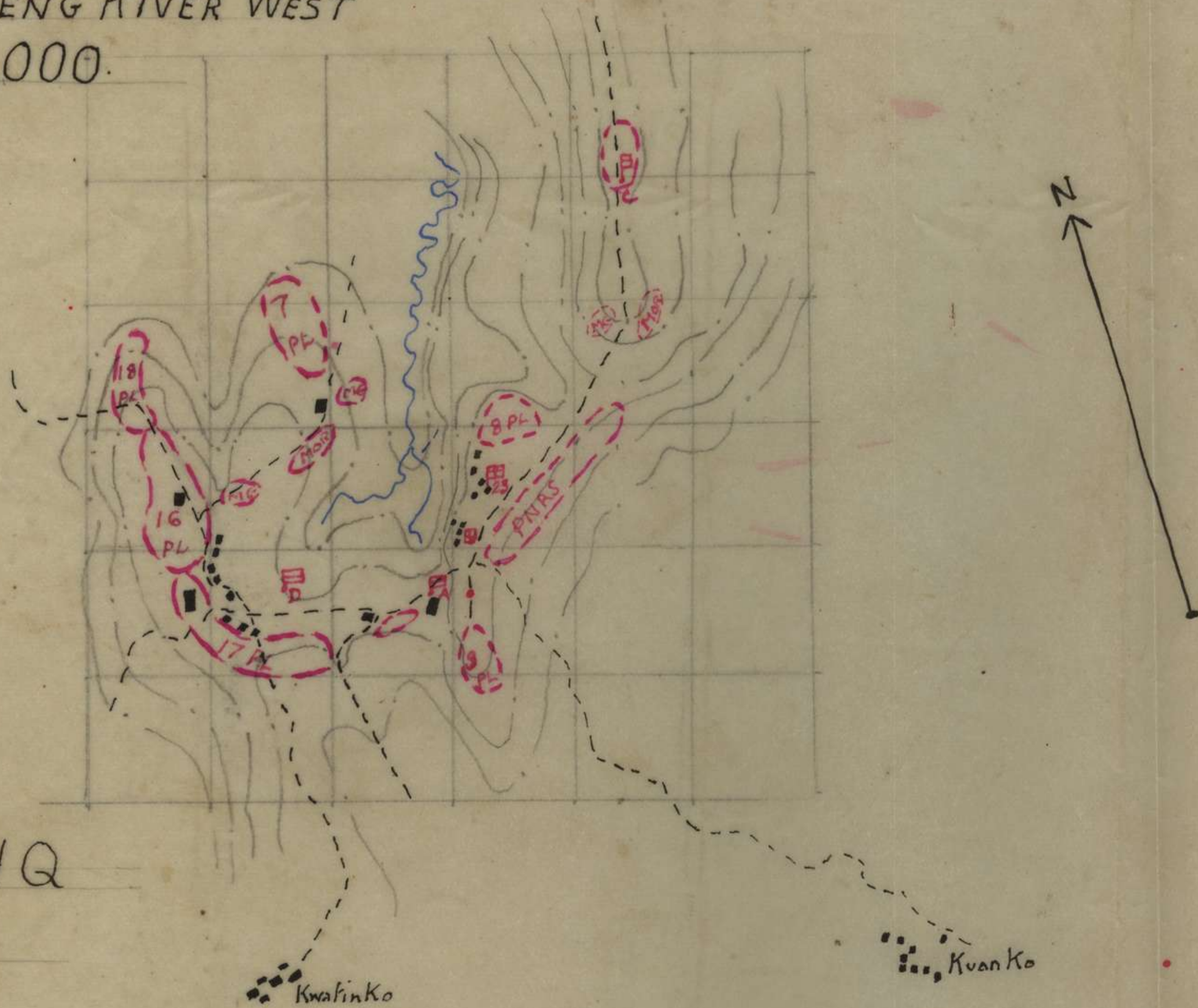


SCALE: 1 INCH = 50 YDS
V. I. = 20 FT

Prepared By
INT. SEC. 2/23 BN
13 DEC. 43

2/23 Aust. Inf. Bn. Disposns - WAREO
as at 1800 hrs. 8 Dec. 43.

Ref. Map MASAWENG RIVER WEST
1:25,000.



Map Ref Bn HQ
552718

VI-20' approx.

SCALE - 1 IN = 240 YDS.

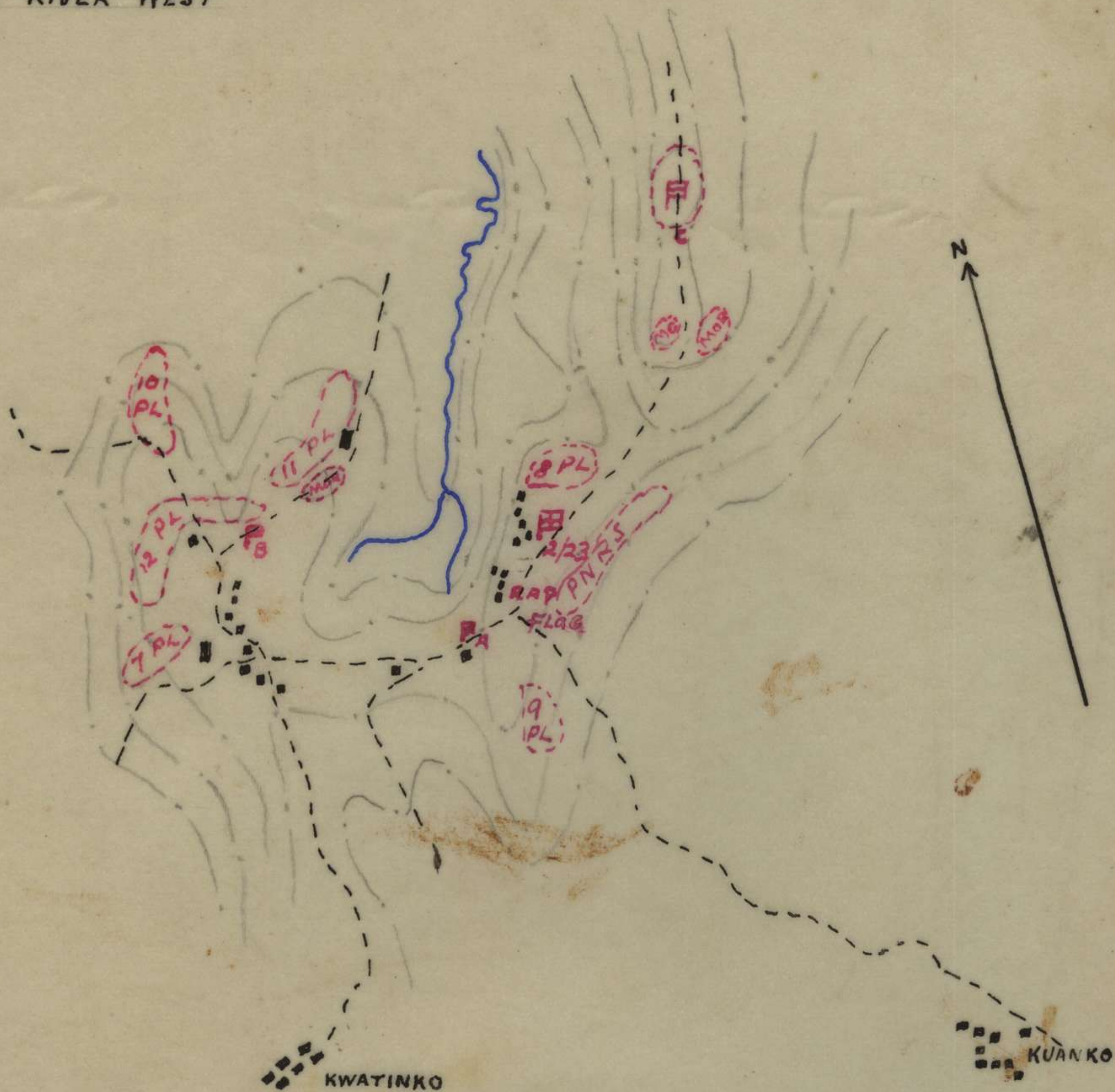
Prepared by
Int. Sec. 2/23 Bn.
9 Dec. 43.

2/23 AUST INF BN DISPOSNS - WAREO

as at 10 Dec 43

Ref Map MASAWENG RIVER WEST

1:25000



Map ref BN HQ
552718

VI 20' APPROX

Scale 1 inch = 240 YDS

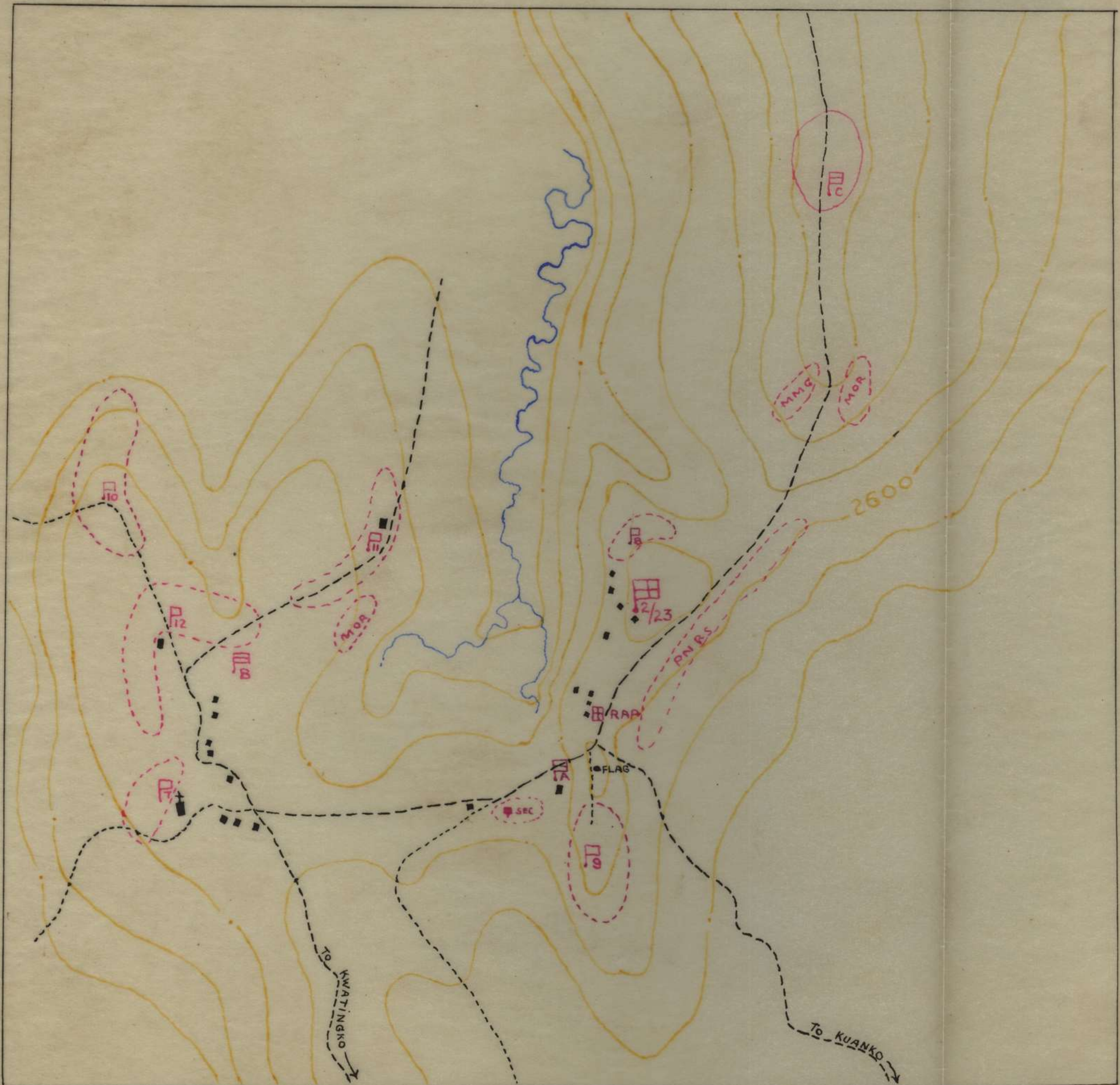
Trace by

Pfc S. Froese INT SEC 2/23 BN
10 Dec 43

2/23 AUST INF BN DISPOSNS : WAREO.

Ref Map. MASAWENG RIVER WEST. 1:25000

20 DEC 43



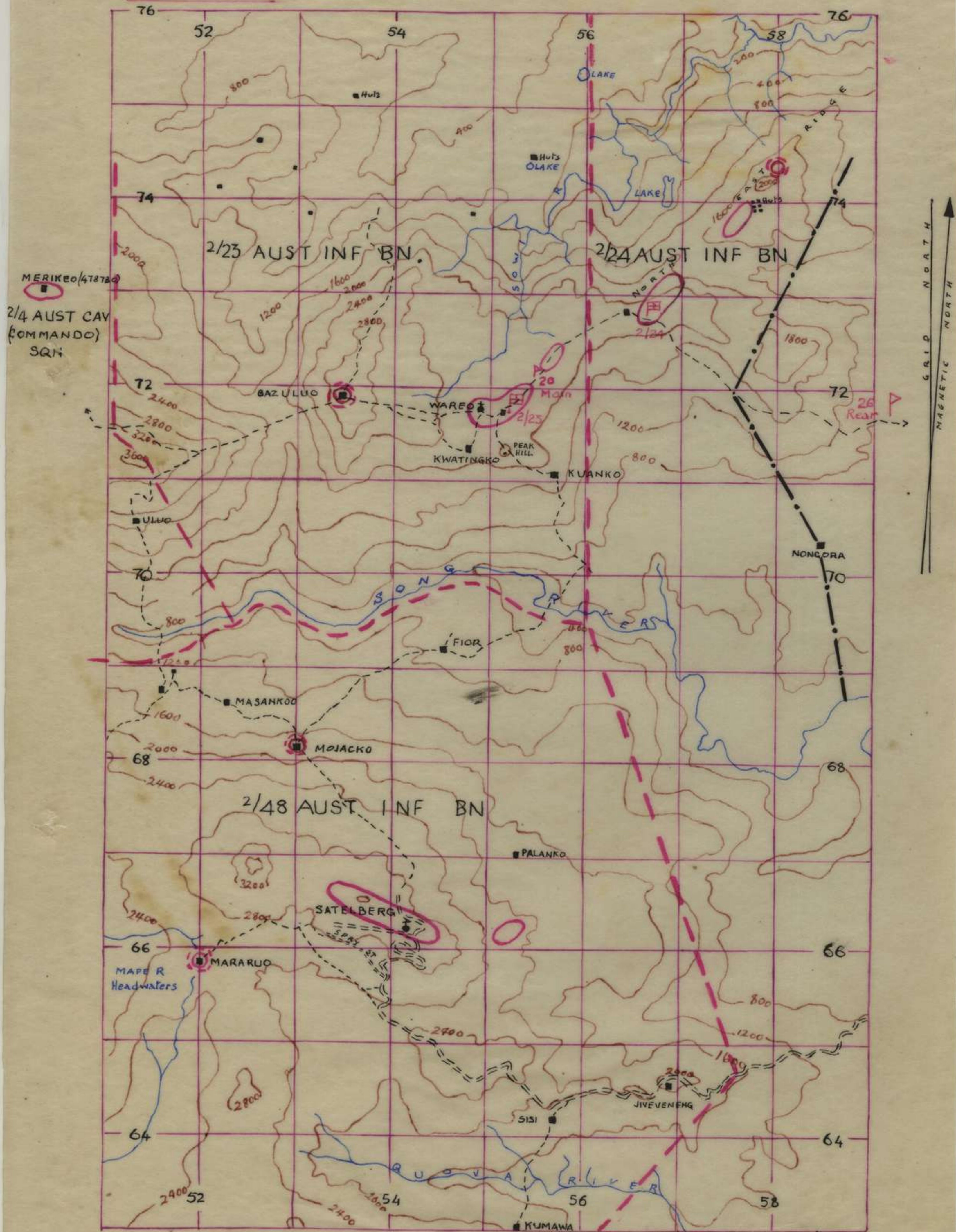
VI = 20' approx.

scale: 1" = 120' approx.

Prepared by
INT SEC. 2/23 AUST INF Btl
20 DEC 43.

26 BDE DEFENCE AREA BONGA — WAREO — SATELBERG

RF - 1:50,000



LEGEND

- Inter Bde Bndy
- Inter Bn Bndy
- Patrol Bases
- Unit Defended Localities

Reduced from maps 1:25000
Series SATELBERG MASAWENG
RIVER WEST. FORTIFICATION POINT
by Int Sec 2/23 Aust Inf Bn.
20 DEC. 43.

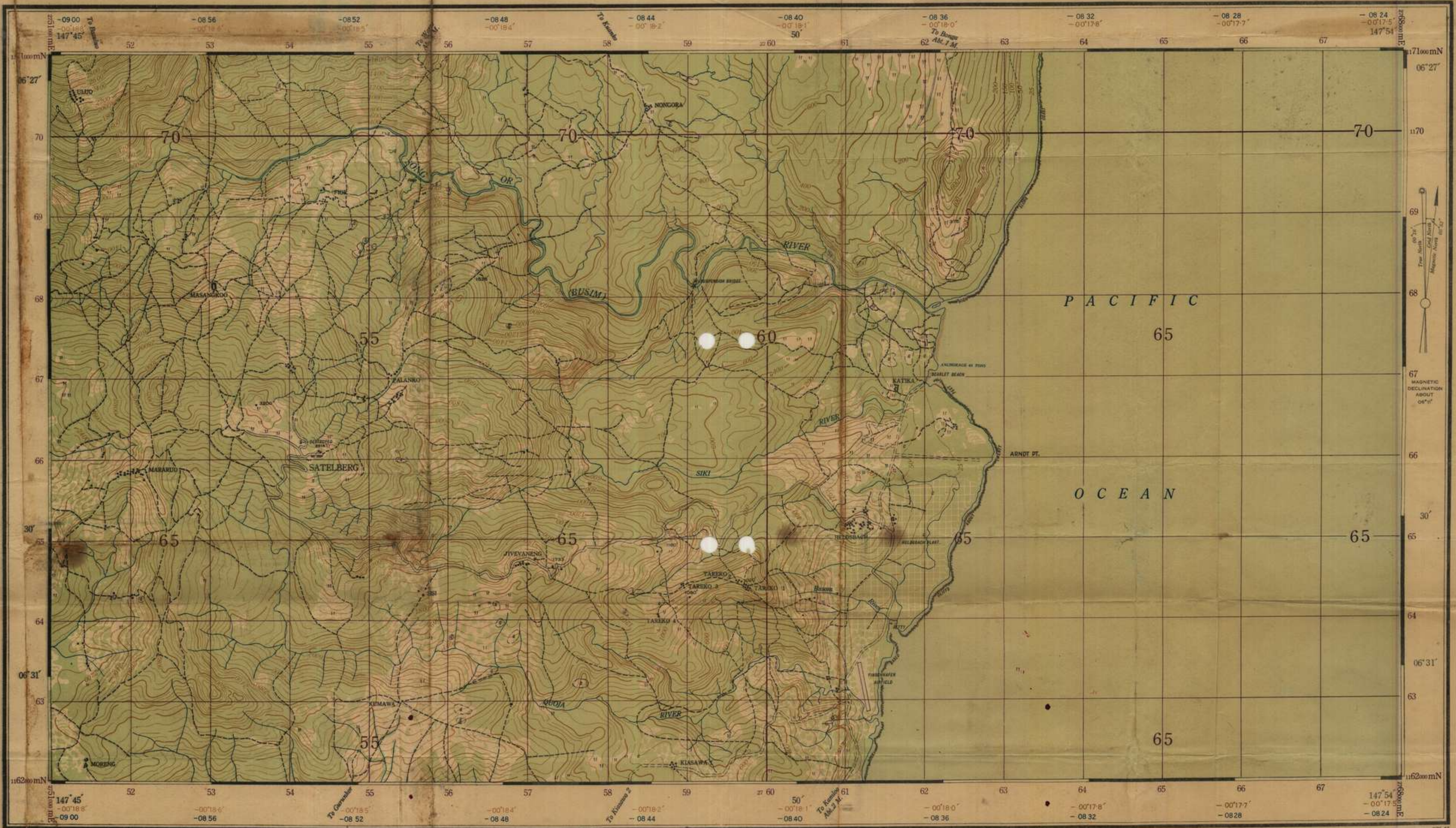
NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES GRID
SOUTHERN NEW GUINEA ZONE

WARNING
GRID ON THIS MAP DOES NOT AGREE WITH
GRID OF SATELBERG 3661 1:25,000 SERIES
WHICH IS SUPERSEDED

NEW GUINEA SATELBERG

SECOND EDITION

REFER TO THIS MAP AS
SATELBERG 3668 1:25,000 SERIES



Bridge	
Motor Road	
Jeep track	
Foot track	
Repacked track	
Telegraph Line	
Airfield	
Sea Plane Base	
Cemetery	
Mission Station	
Spot Height	
Grasslands	

CONTROL:
Astronomical Fixation at Salankau
by 2/1 Aust. Army Topo. Survey Coy.
Lat. 06°33'28.4"
Long. 147°51'07.2"

PROJECTION:
Lambert Conical Orthomorphic

MISSION:
8th. Photo Squadron Fifth Air Force
194 X 254 X 236 W 290 Y 93 XX

REPRODUCTION:
2/1 Aust. Army Topo. Survey Coy.
2/1 Aust. Army Topo. Survey Coy.

TO GIVE A GRID REFERENCE ON THIS SHEET
PAY ATTENTION TO THE SMALLER OR IRRADIATE FIGURES AT THE
CORNERS AND IN MARGINS. THEY ARE THE FORMER GRID OF THE
SHEET AND ARE NOT TO BE USED FOR GRID REFERENCE.
PAY ATTENTION TO LARGER NUMERICAL FIGURES AND TO
THOSE PRINTED ON FACE OF THE MAP.

POINT SATELBERG CHURCH

EAST	WEST
54	55
65	66

UNIT: METRE SQUARE 2500 METRES TO SQUARE
NEAREST SIMILAR REFERENCE DISTANT 100 KILOMETRES



The figures within the borders of this map are for artillery purposes. The brown figures denote convergence and the blue figures denote corrections in minutes and seconds of mean time.

Officers using this map are requested to make any necessary additions or amendments on the map in pencil for use by the A.D. Survey H.Q. NGF

NOTE Form Lines are intended to indicate shape of hill features and should not be taken as contours. Heights are only approximate.



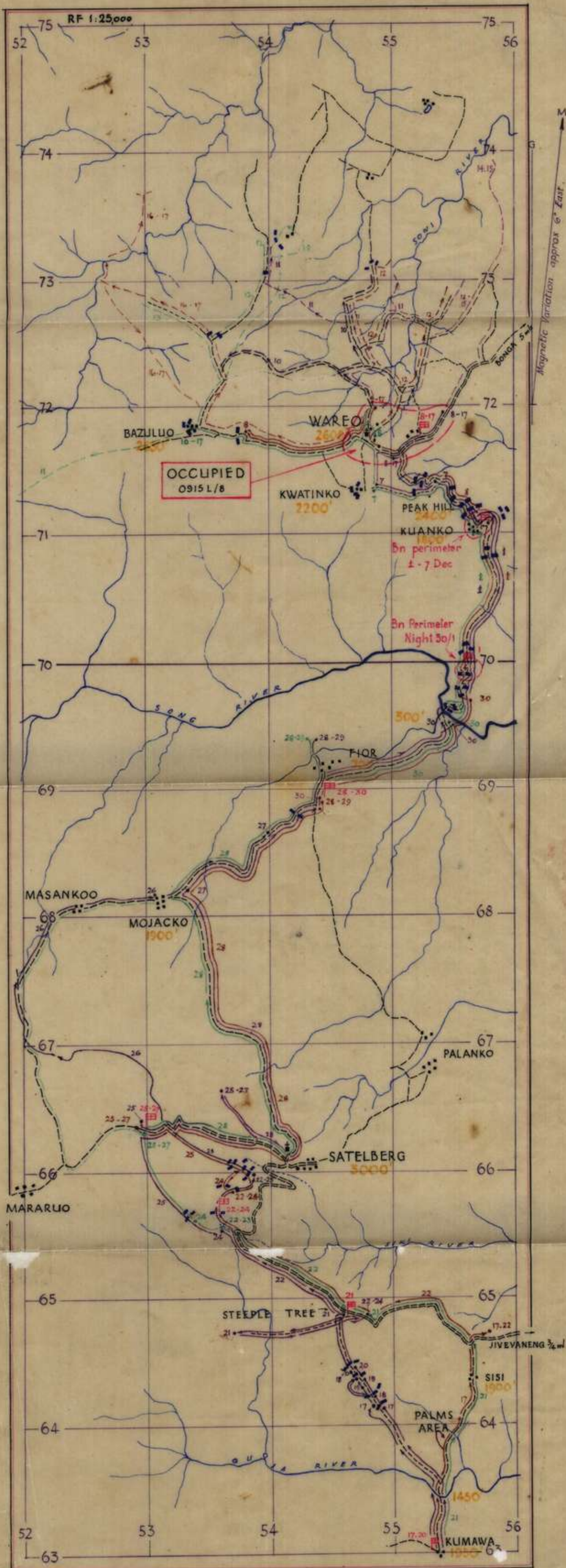
Reef									
Trig Stations and altitude	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>First Class</td> <td>A 305'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second</td> <td>A 251'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Third</td> <td>○ 222'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fourth</td> <td>↑ 202'</td> </tr> </table>	First Class	A 305'	Second	A 251'	Third	○ 222'	Fourth	↑ 202'
First Class	A 305'								
Second	A 251'								
Third	○ 222'								
Fourth	↑ 202'								
Astronomical Station									
Native Garden									
Native Village									
Unidentified Native Village									
Building									
River or perennial Stream									
Non perennial Stream									
Fathom Line									

Swamp	
Spring Well, Waterhole	
Mangroves	
Dense Jungle Forest	
Scattered Timber	
Plantation	
Secondary Growth	
Contours - Form Lines	
Ridges	
Cliffs	

FLEETFOOT OPERATION

MOVEMENT 2/23 BN 17 Nov - 17 Dec 43

Refs. MASAWENG RIVER WEST & SATELBERG 1:25,000



L E G E N D	
Movement	Tac HQ ———— 17-21
	A coy ———— 17
	B ———— 22-24
	C ———— 19
	D ———— 21
Figures	indicate dates

GRID SQUARES 1000 m or 1100 yds. (approx)
Altitude in feet

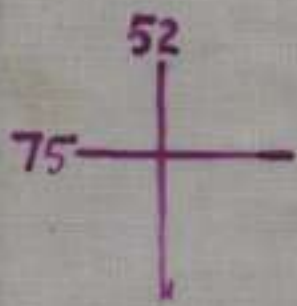
Contact with enemy shown thus ■

Compiled in the field by Int Sec 2/23 Aust Inf Bn Dec 43

2/23 AUST. INF. BN.

2/23 WD
Dec 23

DISPOSITIONS 1-22 DEC



Ref SATELBERG
MASAWENG RIVER WEST

1:25000

