

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

Item number: 8/2/15

15 Infantry Brigade

August 1943

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form 2118
(adapted)

Unit..... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From..... 1 Aug 43 To..... 2 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NUNNS POST	1 Aug		<p>casualties were 6 wounded and 5 missing. A patrol from A Coy moved south parallel with KOMIATUM track and then west along a well worn track (possibly Jap L of C to ERSKINE CK) to the bench cut track south of C Coy position. Two sections were left at the junction, remainder of the patrol moved south along BENCH CUT. The two sections left were attacked at approximately 0900 hrs and withdrew to A Coy HQ with casualties 1 killed, 1 wounded. Remainder of patrol hearing fire returned north along BENCH CUT and contacted C Coy. The whole of A Coy withdrew to within C Coy perimeter for the night.</p> <p>15 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No 24 Trace of dispositions 1 Aug This HQ received advice from 3 Aust Div (A444) of requests for more officers for 58/59 Aust Inf Bn. Capt BLACKSHAW P.W.E. and Lieut HAEBERLE were included in request.</p> <p>Rear Details of this Brigade advised that a number of Brigade personnel had emplaned for this area including Lieut WHITE Amenities Officer, and Lieut LESH Education Officer. Kerosene stocks nil - application made to 3 Aust Div for special dropping by Wirraway, but as 3 Aust Div had no stocks this was impracticable. Fresh meat was successfully dropped yesterday and was forwarded to ADS KELLYS and personnel in the immediate vicinity of the dropping ground at NUNNS POST. It is noted when arrangements are made, that fresh meat can be delivered to forward areas. Unfortunately no further droppings were received.</p>	Appx 1 2
	2 Aug		<p>Native carriers were re-allocated in KELLYS area leaving 60 Weather: fine. Another enemy attack on A Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn commenced at 0700 hrs and continued throughout the morning, eventually fading out.</p>	B.H. Trauers maj.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From 2 Aug 43 To 2 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NUNNS POST	2 Aug 43		<p>patrolling by 2/7 Aust Inf Bn north of the FRANCISCO RIVER continued. There was no activity in the 58/59 Aust Inf Bn area outside normal patrolling.</p> <p>3 Aust Div asked why A Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn had failed to engage large enemy parties moving on KOMIATUM TRACK. The Coy was not strong enough to hold a position on the track and could only harass from a firm base on the BENCH CUT TRACK.</p> <p>Detailed report is attached as..</p> <p>Recce and patrolling by D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn in the MALOLO area has been in progress for some time. In accordance with 15 Aust Inf Bde Op Instn No 5 issued 9 Jul, an appreciation of the situation together with patrol reports was received from Capt WHITELOW, OC D Coy. Appreciation attached as... A heavy airstrike was made on SALAMAUA and LAE. Considerable flashes and much smoke was observed by our OPs after the attack on LAE, and two barges at least seen to be sunk.</p> <p>During strike on SALAMAUA, 3 Liberators dropped approximately 12 bombs in vicinity of D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn at HOTE, wounding one native.</p> <p>Capt WOHLERS, US Air Corps arrived at this HQ to assist in close air support tactics. Capt WOHLERS was sent out to explain the problems of the air force in bombing close support targets in this area. Capt WOHLERS lectured to the Officers of Brigade HQ during his stay.</p> <p>The first report of the enemy using mines in this area was reported by 2/3 Aust Indep Coy. The BENCH CUT track has been mined in their area. The mine is circular in shape and is dug in the ground, usually with a foot print on top of the mine to give deception.</p> <p>Movement of 50 natives commenced from KELLYS to GOODVIEW and onward to SUMMIT. By stationing these at four posts, GOODVIEW, GUADAGASAL, SKINDEWAI SUMMIT, 10 loads daily can be moved forward from SUMMIT. 6 escorts from 24 Aust Inf Bn accompanied the line.</p>	<p>Appx 3</p> <p>Appx 4</p>

H. J. Davis 201-N.C.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From 2 Aug 43 To 3 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NUNNS POST	2 Aug		<p>58/59 Aust Inf Bn reinforcements bivouac tonight at DIERKES. On advice from ASC Lieut T.A. MOLOMBY SC, advised 3 Aust Div (A1001) that free dropping margarine caused 60% loss. Brig H.H. HAMMER DSO, Bde Comd advised 3 Aust Div (A1004) that strengths 58/59 Aust Inf Bn and 2/3 Aust Indep Coy were in a low state and that unless further 100 reinforcements be despatched to 58/59 Aust Inf Bn it would be difficult to maintain the Battalion as a fighting force.</p> <p>Strengths are: 58/59 Aust Inf Bn - 16 Officers 401 Ors. 2/3 Aust Indep Coy - 14 Officers 180 Ors.</p> <p>Lt-Col F. MC LEAN, CASC 3 Aust Div arrived at this HQ today. Report by Capt S.R. HEDLEY on visit to A and C Coys 58/59 Aust Inf Bn attached as...</p> <p>15 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No 25 Trace of dispositions at 2359 hrs 2 Aug</p>	<p>Appx 4a 5 6</p>
	3 Aug		<p>Weather: raining in morning, cloudy, fine later. The situation on ODD VICKERS POSITION remained quiet during the day. The enemy were harassed with MMG fire when observed endeavouring to dig in on knoll at 696969. A patrol between BETHUNE POST(698964) and TAYLORS RIDGE(698967) found enemy still in position with weapon pits reinforced with logs and west side of position cleared of timber. However, at 2100 hrs, enemy made a heavy attack using bayonets but were driven off when close to our positions by mortar fire and grenades.</p> <p>A request made for an airstrike on COCONUT RIDGE for 4 Aug was refused, the reason being that air attacks had to be coordinated with attacks by our ground troops.</p> <p>Arty harassing fire was then arranged and 130 shells fired into NORTH COCONUTS and 30 on the CENTRE COCONUTS during afternoon. To prevent a period of inactivity whilst awaiting reinforcements, Brig HAMMER ordered A and C Coys 58/59 Aust Inf Bn combined to</p>	<p>Appx 7</p>

B.H. Drans. Maj.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From 3 Aug 43 To 4 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			find recce and fighting patrols to harass the KOMIATUM track - message 0953 attached as...	Appx 8
			Important details translated from captured enemy documents are attached as...	Appx 9
			The first use of barbed wire by the enemy in this area was reported by a patrol south along the BENCH CUT track towards ERSKINE CK. 7 or 8 strands 7 to 8 feet deep and approximately 6 inches high were used. Apparently these are set as a trip wire. Major B.H. TRAVERS, BM returned to Brigade HQ after visit to 58/59 Aust Inf Bn	
			15 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary attached as...	Appx 10
			Trace showing dispositions as at 2359 hrs 3 Aug...	11
			Advice received that BENA BENA force 2/7 Aust Inf Bn approximately 40 in strength depart NAPIER today. ETA area 6 Aug.	
			Lt-Col F. MC LEAN CASC 3 Aust Div inspected dropping ground with Capt CHENEY, ASC? In afternoon Brig H.H. HAMMER DSO, Bde Comd, Lt-Col H.G. GUINN, Lt-Col F. MC LEAN CASC 3 Aust Div, Lieut T.A. MOLOMBY, SC, Capt CHENEY, ASC? Capt N.R. JOHNS, BASCO, and Capt HOBSON, ASC, inspected the dropping ground and area of ASC storehouses. Bde Comd stated he was satisfied with efforts ASC had made.	
			RMO 58/59 Aust Inf Bn reported A Coy had large number suffering tinea and body sores. This HQ called for full report covering all personnel in unit.	
			Lieut MURPHY. Lieut WILLIAMS and 58 ORs reinforcements 58/59 Aust Inf Bn arrived 1730 hrs. A further 30 reinforcements are scattered along L of C as a result of being unfit to complete the XXXX march. The physical fitness of reinforcements arriving is not good. It appears that they wait in transit camp so long during movement to forward areas, that they lose any fitness they may have had.	
NUNNS POST	4 Aug		Weather: cloudy.	

B.H. Travers
201-N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 4 Aug 43 To 4 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NUNNS POST	4 Aug		<p>Harassing fire tasks carried out during night 3/4 Aug. A small enemy force moved to position 698967, overnight and at 0615 hrs were engaged with 2 inch mortar. A call for defensive fire was answered by B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn. The Japs after working round almost south of OLD VICKERS POSITION, launched an attack cutting our L of C. A counter attack at 0930 hrs failed to dislodge him. Enemy commenced to dig in on knoll 696969 during the morning. The fighting now has been continuing for three days and nights. In spite of very heavy casualties the enemy still pushes in to attack.</p> <p>At 1630 hrs B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn with under comd the Tk/A pl who had arrived on 3 Aug made a strong counter attack on enemy between BETHUNES POST(698964) and TAYLORS RIDGE(698967). The fresh troops in the Tk/A pl had a marked effect on the operation and the enemy were driven from the position. Mopping up operations continued into the night, in this area. While the enemy were attacking OLD VICKERS POSITION the opportunity was taken to send a pl fighting patrol from B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn to occupy NORTH COCONUTS. It was appreciated that the enemy may have left the position open in order to concentrate a sufficient force for the attack on OLD VICKERS POSITION. The pl actually gained the CENTRE COCONUTS but when moving to NORTH COCONUTS were fired on by 7 LMGs, 1 HMG and 1 heavy mortar and forced to withdraw. The pl however was able to give valuable information of enemy weapon positions.</p> <p>Patrolling by D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn in the MALOLO area continued. All patrol reports bring information that the enemy is building defences in vicinity of MALAGOWAN.</p> <p>Report by Major B.H. TRAVERS, BM, on his visit to 58/59 Aust Inf Bn is attached as;</p> <p>Brig HAMMER called for a conference of COs at HQ 2/7 Aust Inf Bn at 1500 hrs.</p>	

Appx 12

B.H. Travers Maj
201—N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... **HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde**

Date and Time.—From..... **4 Aug 43** To..... **5 Aug 43**

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NUNNS POST	4 Aug		Brig H.H. HAMMER DSO, Bde Comd, and Lt-Col MC LEAN, CASC moved to forward areas on inspection.	
			Lieut W.H. MOYES (SC(L) arrived from MISSIM. Capt N.R. JOHNS, BASCO who had been sent forward to make inspection of 58/59 Aust Inf Bn ration position which appears most unsatisfactory, reports that forward coys are needlessly using Fd Ops and so the fatigue and war weariness exhibited by some is doubtless attributable to the lack of effort to make the rations more palatable to the troops.	
			Brigade Red Shield Representative, Mr ALVIN arrived today after a long awaited movement forward from Rear Details. For over two months now the Brigade has been without its representative from both the Salvation Army and YMCA. Both would have been extremely helpful on the long L of C we command from POWERHOUSE to NUNNS POST and also on the L of C up to the ADS KELLYS.	
			15 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No 27 Medical Report July 43	Appx 13 14
			Trace of dispositions 2359 hrs 4 Aug 43	<i>BWS</i> 15
	5 Aug		<u>Weather:</u> 0630 hrs, overcast, ceiling 4,000 feet - 1430 hrs ceiling nil. Vigorous mopping up on the south of OLD VICKERS POSITION by B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn and Tk/A pl continued during the early morning. The enemy attack had definitely crumbled. From OLD VICKERS POSITION area of A Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn, the enemy on knoll 696969 were observed at 1045 hrs to stop digging, pack their gear and withdraw to the COCONUTS. When the final tally was made, this action was found to be easily the most devastating from the enemy's point of view since the commencement of operations. 44 Jap bodies were actually buried	

B.H. Jones Maj.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From 5 Aug 43 To 5 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			by our troops and captured equipment included 8 LMGs and a grenade discharger. There was also ample evidence of further heavy enemy casualties by our mortar fire. Our casualties were 1 Officer (Capt TATTERSON 2/7 Aust Inf Bn) - killed, 12 ORs wounded. A feature of this action was the lack of documents captured. The enemy had apparently had a security check after having so many important documents captured by us in recent actions, especially the capture of OLD VICKERS POSITION where 25 lbs in weight of documents were captured.	
			A report by Brig H.H. HAMMER DSO, Bde Comd to GOC 3 Aust Div Maj-Gen SAVIGE on the present situation is attached as...	Appx 16
			At the conference of COs at 2/7 Aust Inf Bn HQ on 4 Aug, Brig HAMMER ordered that, in view of the condition of 58/59 Aust Inf Bn generally and the fact that they had been fighting for 36 days, 2/3 Aust Indep Coy would relieve 58/59 Aust Inf Bn in the area from GWAIBOLOMS to OLD VICKERS POSITION.	
			Op Instn No 11 issued to put this relief into effect and is attached as...	Appx 17
			Lt-Col H.G. GUINN, CO 2/7 Aust Inf Bn departed from this HQ today en route to ADS for a period of convalescence. A confidential letter from Brig HAMMER to Gen SAVIGE in appreciation of his services is attached as...	Appx 18
			A letter in appreciation of the services of DAMIEN PARKER and Capt IVOR HELE is attached as...	Appx 19
			Lieut SUTTON, LO, departed to visit units at 1100 hrs. Further information from enemy documents captured in our attack on OLD VICKERS POSITION 28 Jul.	
			These documents give details of dispositions of units in the SALAMAUA area.	Appx 20
			During the day C Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn relieved B pl 2/3 Aust Indep Coy at NAMLING RIDGE area. B pl moved to NEWMANS JUNC area in accordance with Op Instn No 11.	

B.N. Travers Maj.

201—N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 5 Aug 43 To 6 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			15 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No 28 Trace of dispositions 2359 hrs 5 Aug 43	Appx 21 22
NUNNS POST	6 Aug		<p><u>Weather</u>; overcast during morning; rain commenced 1230 hrs and continued till 1830 hrs.</p> <p>Mopping up proceeded in the OLD VICKERS POSITION area. 2/7 Aust Inf Bn sent out patrols which located enemy weapon pits, enemy dead and equipment. There was ample evidence of the effect of our 3 Inch Mortar fire on the Japs positions. It was definitely established that the enemy L of C was via the COCONUTS. Isolated enemy pockets remained on the EASTERN and SE slopes of OLD VICKERS POSITION. Patrols were organised to deal with these. Although this enemy position had observation over our L of C from NUNNS POST, at no time had the Jap attempted to harass it.</p> <p>Amongst enemy equipment were found 27 rifles, 40 discharger bombs, 25 36 m grenades. Booby traps using 36m grenades were found. 39 weapon pits, comd post, OP. Sketches, documents and 18 more Jap bodies were found. This brings the total to 62 Japs buried and 17 seen dead during the attacks - a total of 79 certain killed.</p> <p>CO 2/7 Aust Inf Bn estimated enemy casualties must have been over 100 killed, as there was evidence of confusion in the withdrawal. He also estimated that OLD VICKERS POSITION was attacked by approximately 300 (probably two coys).</p> <p>At 1630k/8, A Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn relieved A Pl 2/3 Aust Indep Coy in the TIMBERED KNOLL area. Remainder of B Pl 2/3 Aust Indep Coy arrived at GWAIBOLOMS from NAMLING RIDGE.</p> <p>17 Aust Inf Bde requested there be no further evacuation of stretcher cases to ADS DIERKES as there are ⁱⁿ sufficient carriers to evacuate the cases from DIERKES (Q101)</p> <p>Signal was received from SMO 17 Aust Inf Bde stating no effort had been made by this Bde to establish boyline. This HQ signalled</p>	

P. H. Davis Maj.
201—N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(ad. ed.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 6 Aug 43 To 7 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			reply(A1084) to 17 Aust Inf Bde stating efforts had been made and 50 natives already despatched along L of C.	
			3 Aust Div advised that names of Officers battle casualties likely to be absent for 28 days should be signalled to enable posting RSL. Units were advised.	
			15 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No 29	Appx 23
			15 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No 30	24
			15 Aust Inf Bde ROs No 158-165	25
			Report by Lieut SUTTON, LO, on visit to 2/7 Aust Inf Bn, 58/59	
			Aust Inf Bn and 2/3 Aust Indep Coy	Appx 26
			Telephone conversation Major WARFE and Lieut COULTER	27
			Trace of dispositions 2359 hrs 6 Aug	28
NUNNS POST	7 Aug		Weather: Overcast during morning, ceiling 8,000 feet. Moppingup still proceeding in OLD VICKERS POSITON.	<i>B.H.T.</i>
			B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn patrolled out from BETHUNES POST. At 1000k B Coy unsuccessfully attacked this enemy post. Patrolling in area NORTH of FRANCISCO RIVER in BUIRIS CK area reported nothing unusual. Another patrol in vicinity 712986 reported 7 Japs.	
			HQ 58/59 Aust Inf Bn which had previously had an advanced and rear HQ assembled in toto and moved to 696945.	
			Remainder of A pl 2/3 Aust Indep Coy moved to NEWMANS JUNC. SALAMAUA was bombed at 0950k, 8 Mitchells and 13 Liberators. Information was received today that the following portions of 2/7 Aust Inf Bn will move to SUMMIT on 8 Aug - Pioneer pl, one sec MMG pl, Tk/A pl, four dets mortar pl, 5 sigs.	
			As the position around BETHUNES POST was not clarified the Bde Comd ordered that B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn should remain there to clear up the situation. Accordingly the relief as per Op Instn No 11/delayed.	
			In order to maintain pressure on the enemy a policy of offensive patrolling was issued in Op Instn No 12 attached as...	Appx 29

B.H. Trauss maj
A.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From..... 7 Aug 43 To..... 8 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			<p>This instruction clearly setting out the tasks of the units, was arranged to be the basis on which future attacks could be launched.</p> <p>Lieut T.A. MOLOMBY, SC, discussed with Capt MC BRIDE, SC, 17 Aust Inf Bde ^{adn} matters including movement of reinforcements, evacuation of casualties and forward movement of stores from SUMMIT. The above are all on the L of C controlled by 17 Aust Inf Bde but have not been carrying ^{coming} forward regularly.</p> <p>ANGAU representative with police boys rounded up 140 natives from BOBDUBI and forward. After cross examination of these natives/Brigade ^{Lieut WHITTAKER, OC ANGAU 15 Aust Inf} advised execution of 18 who had carried for Japs (GKW 92).</p> <p>Some concern was expressed by Brig H.H. HAMMER about lack of dropping of mail and Lieut T.A. MOLOMBY, SC, advised 3 Aust Div no first class mail had been received since 27 Jul (A1096) A request (A1093) was sent to 3 Aust Div for attachment sec 3 Aust Div provost for duty at staging posts.</p> <p>ANGAU captured further 41 natives from BOBDUBI today (GKW 96) Adv 3 Aust Div HQ advised (Q1217) reinforcements for 15 Aust Inf Bde including 58/59 Aust Inf Bn 2 Officers 30 ORs, 15 Bde 2 Officers 9 ORs, 2/3 Aust Indep Coy 45, were leaving for OBSERVATION HILL 8 Aug 43.</p> <p>Information re enemy dispositions taken from documents captured</p> <p>OLD VICKERS POSITION 28/29 Jul</p> <p>15 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No 31</p> <p>Trace of dispositions 2359 hrs 7 Aug</p>	
NUNNS POST	8 Aug		<p><u>Weather</u> continuous rain throughout day.</p> <p>Movement both by our own troops and the enemy was small. B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn relieved remainder C pl 2/3 Aust Indep Coy in PARERS BOWL area. Enemy pockets EAST of ANDERSONS RIDGE and NE of BETHUNES POST were still not mopped up. Patrolling was continued in all areas.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Appx 30 31 32</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>B.H.</i></p>

B.H. Traums. Maj.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... **HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde** Date and Time.—From..... **8 Aug 43** To..... **9 Aug 43**

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			<p>Brig H.H. HAMMER DSO, Bde Comd, and Lieut COULTER LO, moved to visit forward units. At HQ 2/7 Aust Inf Bn the Brigadier discussed the tactical situation with Major PICKEN, Adm Comd 2/7 Aust Inf Bn and Major WARFE, CO 2/3 Aust Indep Coy and initiated a plan for the purpose capture of COCONUT RIDGE, and subsequent exploitation to KOMIATUM TRACK.</p> <p>Brig HAMMER announced that policy for future operations would be to hit the enemy hard in whatever operation we undertook, with concentration of fire power and concentration of forces.</p> <p>Therefore arrangements were put in hand immediately to concentrate arty, mortar and MMG fire power for the attack on COCONUT RIDGE. A request to 3 Aust Div for air support was also made.</p> <p>SMO agreed to plan for evacuation of casualties SUMMIT-KELLYS L of C. 17 Aust Inf Bde advised Capt ROOKE W. 2/7 Aust Inf Bn was leaving OBSERVATION HILL 8 Aug 43 (0932)</p> <p>3 Aust Div reply to mail query was that the delay was due to change of Douglas a/c base to DOBADURA, Mail held at WAU will be dropped as soon as possible. (Q1783)</p> <p>Following reinforcements leaving SUMMIT 2/7 Aust Inf Bn: 1 Officer 5ORs 10 Aug, 58/59 Aust Inf Bn 1 OR 11 Aug (Q1744)</p> <p>NGF states following officers despatched to DOBADURA 5 Aug, 58/59 Aust Inf Bn Lieuts BEALE, GRAHAM, MATTHEWS - 24 Aust Inf Bn Lieuts HEBBERLE, BEATTIE (A519)</p> <p>NGF Orders approved promotion of Lieut T.A. MOLOMBY, SC, to T/Capt to date from 12 Jul 43.</p> <p>15 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No 32</p> <p>Personal signal from GOC to Brig HAMMER</p> <p>Trace of dispositions as at 2359 hrs 8 Aug</p>	
				Appx 33 34 35
NUNNS POST	9 Aug		<p><u>Weather:</u> cloudy and sunny.</p>	<p><i>BNT</i></p> <p><i>B.H. Drums Maj.</i></p>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(a. rptd.)

Unit..... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From..... 9 Aug 43 To..... 9 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			<p>A signal was received from 3 Aust Div authorising the use in operations of 9 pl 24 Aust Inf Bn at present on L of C duties. 20 personnel of this pl were allotted to 58/59 Aust Inf Bn and an equivalent number of temporarily unfit personnel from 58/59 Aust Inf Bn will replace them on L of C.</p> <p>Nothing of importance happened today on the operational side. Patrols by units of special and routine nature reported nothing extraordinary. D Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn has been allotted to this Brigade and is moving from GUADAGASAL 9 Aug.</p> <p>Bde Comd moved to OLD VICKERS POSITION in company with Major PICKEN and Major WARFE, inspected defences there and then moved to HQ 2/3 Aust Indep Coy. An O group conference was held there with Lt-Col P.D. STARR, CO 58/59 Aust Inf Bn in attendance. In addition to giving the outline plan for the COCONUT RIDGE attack, an attack to be made by D Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn on enemy pockets in the HILBERTS area was scheduled for 11 Aug.</p> <p>Brig HAMMER and Lieut COULTER then moved to C Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn at NAMLING RIDGE. Throughout the day defences en route were inspected. Whilst at NAMLING RIDGE a message was received by Brig HAMMER from GOC 3 Aust Div, Maj-Gen SAVIGE, giving an RV at DIERKES at 1200 hrs 10 Aug.</p> <p>In accordance with the Bde Comd orders for the attack on COCONUT RIDGE, a series of patrols to obtain information of enemy locations was begun today.</p> <p>Routes, times from point to point and Jap positions are the main queries.</p> <p>A signal from 3 Aust Div (AQ1042) advised that, as from 2359 hrs 9 Aug, all "Q" signals will go to Adv 3 Aust Div, whilst all "AQ" signals go to 3 Aust Div until further notice (AQ1050)</p> <p>Changes of allotment for duty 24 Aust Inf Bn as per 24 Aust Inf Bn signal (Q685)</p> <p>24 Aust Inf Bn advises Lieut W.M. IRVING, is nominated as LO on Bde HQ, and</p>	

B.N. Evans
21-N.G.F.P.S. 43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From 9 Aug 43 To 10 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			<p>will move to 15 Aust Inf Bde at once (Q689) Following 58/59 Aust Inf Bn Officers will be absent for 28 days. Lieuts KLEIN R.M., EWART R.B., FRANKLIN L., PROBY L.S.(A1119) Capt BIRD R, AASC 3 Aust Div reported to this HQ for duty. Capt CHENEY R, AASC 3 Aust Div is visiting the Bde area to check on AASC services generally. 15 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No 33 Trace of dispositions as at 2359 hrs 9 Aug</p>	<p>Appx 36 37</p>
NUNNS POST	10 Aug		<p><u>Weather:</u> Patrols in preparation for the plan outlined by Brig H.H. HAMMER DSO, Bde Comd, with COs were carried out. A forward ammunition point was established in GARDENS AREA to act as a 'Brigade reserve'. Enemy patrols attacked a standing patrol in the BUIRIS CK at 702984. This is the first movement shown in that area for some time. Our patrols killed 3 Japs and then withdrew. Recently several natives from SALAMAUA area have been coming over to our area. Many of them were natives who preferred to go over to the Japs in Feb '43 instead of working for us. Information gained from these natives reveals that Japs are having a difficult time. Bombing has been very heavy recently and apparently is beginning to take effect. Some natives have given valuable information re targets in SALAMAUA area. Brig HAMMER and Lieut GOULTER moved from NAMLING RIDGE to DIERKES for RV with Maj-Gen SAVIGE, contacting coys of 2/6 Aust Inf Bn en route. At GOCs conference the divisional plan for immediate future operations were discussed as outlined in messages attached as... This planned for a general divisional offensive in which the part of the Brigade was to capture the enemy positions in ERSKINE CK and exploit to control KOMIATUM TRACK. Brig HAMMER explained to Maj-Gen SAVIGE</p>	<p>Appx 38.</p>

B.N. Lawrie 201 N.C.F.I.S. 10/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From..... 10 Aug 43 To..... 11 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			<p>the plan for attack on COCONUTS. After deliberation, the GOC decided to allow the COCONUTS attack to continue as that would be achieving the divisional intention just as well as an attack on ERSKINE CK.</p> <p>Reinforcements as follows departed MANGO 0800 hrs 9 Aug: 2/3 Aust Indep Coy 42ORs, 58/59 Aust Inf Bn 2 Officers 4 ORs, 15 Aust Inf Bde HQ 2 Officers, 9 ORs (Q748)</p> <p>57/60 Aust Inf Bn advise Lieut S.M. LE SERVE nominated for LO(0167)</p> <p>58/59 Aust Inf Bn advise Lieut WILLIAMS G.H. nominated for LO(0432)</p> <p>17 Aust Inf Bde advise that SUMMIT-KELLYS L of C will be in operation from 10 Aug (Q215)</p> <p>3 Douglas a/c dropped at NUNNS POST; 1 a/c at HOTE.</p> <p>15 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No 34</p> <p>Report re catering 58/59 Aust Inf Bn</p> <p>Trace of dispositions as at 2359 hrs 10 Aug</p>	<p>Appx 39</p> <p>40</p> <p>41</p>
NUNNS POST	11 Aug		<p>Weather: ceiling 5,000 feet - light rain.</p> <p>Brig HAMMER accompanied by Maj-Gen SAVIGE and party moved back from DIERKES to NAMLING RIDGE. At NAMLING RIDGE the GOC inspected troops of 58/59 Aust Inf Bn in the area. Immediate future operations of 15 Aust Inf Bde were discussed by GOC and Bde Comd. Copy of notes attached as...</p> <p>Maj-Gen SAVIGE then departed on return journey to Adv 3 Aust Div.</p> <p>The General had undertaken an arduous tour on foot, over the mountains under the most exhausting conditions to see the Comds of Battalions under his Comd and to study the ground and condition over which the troops were fighting. The personal visit of the General created a great impression amongst the troops.</p> <p>Brig HAMMER and Lieut COULTER moved from NAMLING RIDGE to HQ 2/7 Aust Inf Bn. The ADS at KELLYS(ULIAP CK) was inspected by Bde Comd who chatted to recent battle casualties. Patients numbered about 100.</p>	<p>Appx 42</p>

B.H. Traushaj

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)... Date and Time.—From... 11 Aug 43... To.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NUNNS POST	11 Aug		A Bde O Group conference was held at which Brig HAMMER gave the divisional plan and the details of the plan for the capture of COCONUT RIDGE.	
			D Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn attacked enemy positions east of OLD VICKERS POSITION but attack was unsuccessful. Arty and mortar fire support were inaccurate due to difficulty of observation. A Jap counter attack forced withdrawal to position approx 701959. Our casualties 2 killed, 1 offr 5 ORs wounded. It was apparent that the reason for lack of success was the lack of detailed planning on the part of the attacking coy. Enquiries among the troops after the attack revealed that a lot of them had little idea of the plan of the operation. The attack revealed that the enemy was holding in strength and strongly dug in.	
			15 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No 35	Appx 44
			Trace of dispositions as at 2359 hrs 11 Aug 43	Appx 45
			Signal AQL067 ref staff HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde is attached	Appx 43
			3 Aust Div advise:	
			(i) 4 Provost personnel will be despatched to this Bde from WAU at earliest. (Q1828)	
			(ii) 4 ORs 15 Aust Fd Amb are moving along PILIMUMUNG L of C. (Q1825)	
			Lieut D.M. WHITE, Bde Amenities Offr, and Lieut LESH, Bde Education Offr arrived this HQ 1800 hrs for duty.	
			7 Douglas aircraft dropped at NUNNS POST. 1 Douglas aircraft dropped at HOTE.	<i>BWS.</i>
	12 Aug		Weather: Misty, overcast, ceiling low.	
			Preparations for attack on COCONUT RIDGE continued. Air strike and arty support were arranged. Patrolling continued to locate routes for approach. Attack was planned for 14 Aug.	
			Message to 3 Aust Div attached.	Appx 46
			D Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn relieved B Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn thus releasing B Coy who moved to B Ech area in preparation for move to assembly area on 13 Aug.	<i>B.W. Hammer</i>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) Date and Time:—From 12 Aug To 13 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NUNNS POST	12 Aug		<p>Patrolling continued in other areas to locate, pinpoint enemy positions, and ascertain strengths.</p> <p>D Day for divisional plan of which our attack on COCONUTS was a part was notified as 16 Aug. 3 Aust Div message 0160 attached.</p> <p>Lt-Col P.D. STARR, CO 58/59 Aust Inf Bn was ordered to ADS for consultation. 15 Aust Inf Bde message attached.</p> <p>Instruction on security with the HQ was issued, attached.</p> <p>To facilitate the return of electioneering returns we will cater for requirements of DCoy 24 Aust Inf Bn. (All64 attached)</p> <p>3 Aust Div advises that after stores of 1 Aust Sup Dep Coy are cleared no more stores will be committed to GUADAGASAL L of C.</p> <p>This will result in our being able to withdraw natives used for carrying stretcher cases and cargo from SUMMIT to GOODVIEW and to re-allocate them as required. 3 Aust Div advised that 800 native carriers are to be withdrawn from the divisional area for operations NOT in 3 Aust Div area. (Q1855 attached)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(AQ1092 attached)</p> <p>Authority to transfer the following officers of 58/59 Aust Inf Bn to RSL has been given by 3 Aust Div: Lieuts KLEIN, PROBY, FRANKLIN. (A592 attached)</p> <p>It was suggested to 3 Aust Div that in future, reinforcements arriving NASSAU BAY be given one copy of nominal roll in charge of OC Party and another copy be forwarded to the unit HQ by courier. (All65)</p> <p>This is to prevent the present disappearance of personnel on the L of C. As all troops are NOT fit some are compelled to stay two days at the one stage. Often trace of these personnel is then lost till they arrive at units. Methods used previously to counteract this apparent lack of control have not been too successful, therefore a new method has been suggested.</p> <p>Since Padre PEDERICK, 58/59 Aust Inf Bn, was wounded there has only been Padre ENGLISH to attend to the whole bde area.</p>	<p>Appx 47</p> <p>Appx 48</p> <p>Appx 49</p> <p>Appx A1</p> <p>Appx A2</p> <p>Appx A3</p> <p>Appx A4</p> <p>Appx A5</p>

B. N. James
201—N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adopted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) Date and Time.—From 12 Aug To 13 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NUNNS POST	12 Aug		Padre SHERWIN reported into this bde and was instructed to move to 2/7 Aust Inf Bn on 13 Aug and be attached for duty.	
			Owing to the forthcoming operations it is essential to keep the ADS at KELLYS as free as possible. After discussing with SMO arrangements were made to evacuate 1 stretcher per day and 9 walking wounded to ADS DIERKE (A1171 15 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No 36 Trace of disposition as at 2359K/12	Appx A6 Appx 50 Appx 51
	13 Aug		Weather: Overcast, ceiling 10000-12000 ft. 15 Aust Inf Bde Op Instn No 13 issued to confirm verbal orders for attack on COCONUT RIDGE, attached. Preparation for attack proceeded according to plan and messages from comds stated they were well satisfied with progress, were enthusiastic and confident of success. Arty registration could NOT be carried out due to enemy action against troops allotted for support but arrangements were made for registration by other guns on morning of 14 Aug. 15 Aust Inf Bde message 01082 ref COs units from Brig HAMMER to Maj-Gen SAVIGE attached.	Appx 52
			Brig HAMMER recommended that, as Lt-Col STARR had been evacuated to ADS, the following changes in command take place: Maj G.R. WARFE, 2/3 Aust Indep Coy, to administer comd 58/59 Aust Inf Bn and be appointed to command; Capt R.N. HANCOCK to administer comd 2/3 Aust Indep Coy. The Bde Comd also recommended that Maj. K.S. PICKEN administer comd of 2/7 Aust Inf Bn and be appointed to comd if Lt-Col GUINN unlikely to return.	Appx 53
			Message 01083 advising units of changes in command, attached. As the number of rear details of 58/59 Aust Inf Bn remaining at BULWA have increased to 30 we requested 3 Aust Div that they be medically examined and onward movement of fit personnel be arranged. (A1182)	Appx 54
				Appx A7

B.N. Dransfield
201-N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) Date and Time.—From 13 Aug To 14 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NUNNS POST	13 Aug		Further reinforcements for 2/7 Aust Inf Bn consisting of one offr 25 ORs leave SUMMIT 15 Aug, ETA unit 20 Aug. (Q1901)	Appx A8
			Capt BIRD, ASC, left for visit to forward areas to inspect and report on the supply problem in forward units, also the care and dumping of rations and ammunition.	
			15 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No 37	Appx 55
			Trace dispositions as at 2359K/13	Appx 56
	14 Aug		Weather: Fine and sunny.	
			The main event today was the attack on COCONUT RIDGE. The plan for attack was as follows:-	
			B Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn attack and capture NORTH COCONUTS.	
			A Composite Pl 2/7 Bn attack and capture CENTRE COCONUTS.	
			9 Pl 2/7 Aust Inf Bn attack and capture SOUTH COCONUTS.	
			A Pl 2/3 Aust Indep Coy to cut SALAMAUA-BOBDUBI Track to prevent any reinforcement or escape.	
			The operation was preceded by a heavy airstrike, followed by a supporting fire plan worked out in detail and embodying	
			600 rounds Arty fire	
			600 rounds Mortar fire	
			12000 rounds MMG Fire.	
			Control of the attack, always a problem in jungle warfare, was solved very effectively in this operation by the use of flares to indicate positions of attacking troops.	
			On a pre-arranged plan, advancing troops signalled their positions by flares. Timings for onward movement by attacking troops and for fire support were also signalled by flares from the Bn Comd Post in the OLD VICKERS POSITION. Verrey lights and two inch mortar flares were used for this intercommunication.	
			The whole idea was very sound and the attack went off according to plan and timings. By using this co-ordination of timings, the attacking troops all arrived simultaneously at their objectives.	

B. H. Francis

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit..... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From..... 14 Aug 43 To..... 14 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			<p>The big airstrike of Liberators and Fortresses which began the attack caused a number of previously recced routes to disappear as the contours of the hill were changed. However, showing great dash and determination, all troops reached their objectives. B Coy in the NORTH COCONUTS were successful after a short but fierce encounter.</p> <p>Composite pl however came out of the jungle in the wrong area when approaching and quickly had two killed and 10 wounded. In the SOUTH COCONUTS the enemy had a strongly held position which was sited on a razor back ridge. Little progress could be made in the face of this opposition. By nightfall we had captured all the ridge except the SOUTH COCONUTS where the Jap was resisting strongly. Harassing fire was carried on throughout the night on the SOUTH COCONUTS. The ambush by A pl 2/3 Aust Indep Coy was successful in that it did not allow any Japs to escape. Of 16 seen to approach the position, 8 were killed, the remainder withdrew to the COCONUTS again.</p> <p>For some time this HQ has been endeavouring to check discrepancies and inaccuracies on the KOMIATUM 1:25000 series of maps. After much work in traversing, triangulations and comparison with existing and special air photographic runs it was found that GWAIBOLOMS (as shown on the map) the point around which much of our activity and planning centred was several hundred yards away from its correct position. Therefore our dispositions to date, which were pin pointed in relation to GWAIBOLOMS, when seen on the map do NOT appear as strong as they are when actually viewed on the ground. Compare trace of dispositions Appx 61 and Appx 64 after corrections made. Track overlay attached as xxxx</p> <p>Routine Orders Nos 166-169 issued.</p> <p>15 Aust Inf Bde xxxx Int Summary No 38</p>	<p>Appx 58 59 60</p>

B.W. Hamshaj
201—N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(Adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From 14 Aug 43 To 15 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			Trace of dispositions as at 2359 hrs 14 Aug	Appx 61
			Further reinforcements consisting of 6 ORs 15 Aust Inf Bde, 2 Offrs 24 Aust Inf Bn, 1 OR 58/59 Aust Inf Bn, 43 ORs 2/7 Aust Inf Bn arrived NASSAU BAY 13 Aug (QX291)	Appx A9
			17 Aust Inf Bde advise that 2 Officers 8 ORs 2/7 Aust Inf Bn left OBSERVATION HILL for 15 Aust Inf Bde area morning 14 Aug (QX299)	Appx A10.
			As difficulty has been experienced in keeping trace of personnel moving to this area owing to two routes from OBSERVATION HILL to KELLYS CAMP being available, we requested 17 Aust Inf Bde to arrange all future movement via WELLS JUNC (A1197)	Appx A11.
NUNNS POST	15 Aug		<p><u>Weather:</u> Overcast, ceiling 7,000-8,000 feet.</p> <p>After successful attack on COCONUT RIDGE 14 Aug extensive patrolling was carried out throughout the day in preparation for phase 11. Enemy positions were pin-pointed and one attacked by a fighting patrol. Planning commenced for attack on track junctions 706967, 708968 KOMIATUM TRACK and BENCH CUT TRACK JUNC with the FRANCISCO RIVER.</p> <p>Patrolling continued by 58/59 Aust Inf Bn and D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn in their areas. The whole aim was to keep the enemy on the defensive by our very offensive patrolling.</p> <p>This attack was calculated to strike at the heart of the enemy L of C the success of which would make the enemy's position in the SOUTH at TAMBU SADDLE very precarious.</p> <p>The fall of the OLD VICKERS POSITION and COCONUTS was a sad blow to the Jap and his main artery was now definitely threatened from the WEST.</p> <p>Brig HAMMER and Major TRAVERS left at 1700 hrs for conference with COs at 2/7 Aust Inf Bn HQ and returned at 2359 hrs.</p>	

B.M.

B.V. Travers Maj.
201-N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 15 Aug 43 To 15 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			<p>Details of plan for attack on the Junctions were finalised. A message was received from Gen HERRING NGF as follows: "please congratulate all concerned on splendid effort OLD VICKERS POSITION during recent action".</p> <p>Lieut MC CUBBERY OC "E" Sec FS arrived at this HQ on routine visit.</p> <p>Capt R. BIRD AASC returned from forward area and submitted written report on his findings.</p> <p>Capt T.A. MOLOMBY, SC, discussed with Capt MC BRIDE, SC 17 Aust Inf Bde the movement of reinforcements to this area. Capt MC BRIDE pointed out that FDLs of 2/6 Aust Inf Bn were in WELLS JUNCTION area and they would prefer personnel to move via BASE 4 and VIALLS.</p> <p>Owing to recent heavy expenditure of 3 Inch Mortar ammunition, unit comds have been requested to ensure that future expenditure is handled carefully. (A1201)</p> <p>Ordnance repair and maintenance of weapons in this Brigade has been difficult owing to lack of skilled armourers. A request was submitted to 3 Aust Div for a LAD to be attached to this Brigade at an early date. (A1204)</p> <p>266 L.A.D the Brigade L.A.D. was left in PORT MORESBY as no plane space was available, to move it. Frequent requests for this LAD have not been fulfilled. As a result the efficiency of the weapons in the Brigade has deteriorated. A likely dropping ground for use in the future has been located at GARDENS AREA 694966 (Ref KOMIATUM 1;25000) 3 Aust Div advised (A1206)</p> <p>Owing to ill health of Lt-Col P.D. STARR, 58/59 Aust Inf Bn, approval is given by 3 Aust Div for his movement to NASSAU BAY on sick leave. (A1122)</p> <p>Evacuation of stretcher cases has now been arranged by air ex MUBO, and Arrangements were made to withdraw 12 natives from</p>	<p>Appx 62.</p> <p>Appx A12</p> <p>Appx A13.</p> <p>Appx A14</p> <p>Appx A15</p> <p>Appx A16</p>

A. H. Trauers. Maj.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From..... 15 Aug 43 To..... 16 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			SKINDEWAJ 24 from MANGO, and to re-allocate 16 to BUIGAP ADS and 20 to DIERKES ADS. This will enable more stretcher cases per day to be evacuated from ADS KELLYS (A1216)	
			15 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No 39	Appx A17 Appx 63
			Trace of dispositions as at 2359 hrs 15 Aug 43	64
NUNNS POST	16 Aug		Weather: Fine, no cloud.	
			15 Aust Inf Bde Op Instn No 14 was issued to implement plans finalised at Bde Comd's conference at 2/7 Aust Inf Bn HQ 15 Aug. patrolling continued throughout the day, arty registration was carried out, and the units concerned 2/7 Aust Inf Bn and 2/3 Aust Indep Coy ^{prepared} for attack on track juncs 706967 and 708968.	Appx 65
			Approximately 80 personnel of 2/7 Aust Inf Bn HQ arrived in area today. A message was received from 3 Aust Div stating that all airstrikes arranged in support of operations 17 Aug had been cancelled.	
			Lieut MC CUBBERY departed 1700 hrs en route for 2/7 Aust Inf Bn and 2/3 Aust Indep Coy.	
			Brigade GS Circular No 1 on "Use of Telephones" issued and attached as...	
			Capt T.A. MOLOMBY, SC, and Capt N.R. JOHNS, BASCO visited forward units to inspect messing, Q and administrative arrangements generally.	Appx 66
			Reinforcements consisting of 2 officers 66 ORs for 2/7 Aust Inf Bn left MANGO for this area 17 Aug - ETA KELLYS CAMP	
			19 Aug (0273)	
			57/60 Aust Inf Bn advise that Lieut LE SERVE left TSILI TSILI for BULOLO 12 Aug (0154)	Appx A17
			24 Aust Inf Bn advise following officer reinforcements arrived WAU 16 Aug for onward movement to 58/59 Aust Inf Bn.	Appx A18
			ETA unit 21 Aug - 1 Or for D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn arrived same time.	

A. J. Trauss Maj
201—N.G.E.P.S.—5/4/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From..... 16 Aug 43 To..... 17 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			15 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No 40 Trace of dispositions as at 2359 hrs 16 Aug	Appx 67 68
NUNNS POST	17 Aug		<p><u>Weather:</u> Misty, overcast, ceiling 5,000 - 6,000 feet.</p> <p>Today in accordance with Div plan (see entry for 10 Aug), the Brigade launched a general offensive to gain control of the KOMIATUM TRACK. A diversion was made by 58/59 Aust Inf Bn at dawn to keep attention from our main thrust on the northern end of the BOBDUBI RIDGE. The object was to gain command of the track junctions of the BOBDUBI-SALAMAUA-KOMIATUM Tracks. This threat from the west to the Japanese L of C to TAMBU would have considerable effect on operations in the southern areas. Captured documents showed the Japs fear a thrust from his west.</p> <p>Our push at this important link in the enemy L of C was therefore bound to have some direct and immediate effect.</p> <p>The outline plan was to move from the COCONUTS down STEVES TRACK and take up an intermediate objective with portion of the force whilst the remainder leap-frogged through to the track junctions.</p> <p>Troops available for this attack were:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">2/3 Aust Indep Coy A and B Pls (Approx 100 all ranks) 2/7 Aust Inf Bn D Coy (Approx 66 all ranks)</p> <p>2/3 Aust Indep Coy were to take the intermediate objective and D Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn would pass through them to capture the track junctions.</p> <p>The first phase went to plan till strong enemy resistance was met west of the track junctions at 705968. Fierce fighting continued here all day. This is the northern arm of the pincer which will surround the enemy on the eastern slopes of the BOBDUBI RIDGE.</p> <p>Meanwhile the southern arm of the pincer in the form of patrols to the KOMIATUM TRACK, raids and ambushes on the known enemy positions</p>	<p><i>BWS</i></p>

B.H. Zauschay

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Art. Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From..... 18 Aug 43 To..... 18 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NUNNS POST	18 Aug		<p><u>Weather:</u> Dull, overcast, ceiling 6,000-7,000 feet, visibility fair, some light rain.</p> <p>This day was spent in reorganising and consolidating before attack continued. Units engaged became slightly unbalanced on 17 Aug when one sec 2/3 Aust Indep Coy and one pl D Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn pushed beyond their objective and became isolated. Many patrols were sent out during the day to locate the enemy positions and to extricate the missing personnel; no success was achieved however.</p> <p>On 58/59 Aust Inf Bn front the situation was quiet, normal patrolling only being carried out.</p> <p>2/3 Aust Indep Coy carried on the encircling movement from the south by moving troops to NEWMANS JUNC and to junction TOMMYS TRACK-BENCH CUT. The first enemy movement in the BUIRIS CREEK area for some time took place today when 12 Japs approached our standing patrol at 704988 from the north. 3 Japs were killed and the remainder dispersed.</p> <p>Brig H.H. HAMMER DSO, Bde Comd, and Major B.H. TRAVERS, BM, moved forward to COCONUTS, OLD VICKERS POSITION and GWAIBOLOMS to review the general situation with COs and made arrangements for final cutting of the enemy L of C to TAMBU and the FRANCISCO RIVER Junction.</p> <p>3 Ors from Rear Details PORT MORESBY reported in this morning. 3 Aust Div advise that the 4 Provost personnel we requested be allotted to us will arrive 15 Aust Inf Bde area 20 Aug(AQ1145)</p> <p>Lieut LE SERVE, LO, nominated by 57/60 Aust Inf Bn, reported into Brigade HQ this morning.</p> <p>Major DUNKLEY with 2/7 Aust Inf Bn party arrived at OBSERVATION HILL. He was instructed to move forward morning 19 Aug to VIALS (A1252)</p> <p>Lieut LESH, of Brigade HQ, at present stopping at KELLYS was instructed to move to VIALS and act as guide.</p> <p>To assist in the clearing of ADS KELLYS arrangements were made</p>	<p>Appx A20</p> <p>Appx A21</p>

B.H. Travers BM

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From 18 Aug 43 To 19 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			to clear 4 stretcher cases 19 Aug. 15 Aust Inf Bde Int Summary No 42 Trace of dispositions as at 2359 hrs 18 Aug	Appx 72 73 <i>B.H.</i>
NUNNS POST	19 Aug		<p><u>Weather:</u> Overcast, ceiling 5,000 feet, visibility fair. At 1000 hrs (approx) a message was received from 3 Aust Div stating that enemy were withdrawing north from MT TAMBU and GOODVIEW areas, and opportunity was to be taken to ambush their line of withdrawal - KOMIATUM TRACK. An ambush was established on the KOMIATUM TRACK, but no large bodies of enemy were encountered.</p> <p>In addition to ambush parties, other patrols were sent out to recce enemy positions on our own front. The general enemy withdrawal extended to those positions also with the result that by nightfall our troops had occupied NORTH PIMPLE, SOUTH PIMPLE, GRAVEYARD, EARTHY KNOLL, ORODUBI. Since 30 Jul continuous pressure by our troops had been maintained on these features.</p> <p>Our patrols had examined all these features from different directions and on numerous occasions had raided the enemy's L of C to them.</p> <p>Therefore it was NOT surprising that the enemy withdrew from these positions.</p> <p>At approximately 1500 hrs a phone call was received from Lt-Col WILTON, placing C Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn under comd and giving Brigade task of pushing along the BENCH CUT as far north as ERSKINE CK and linking with 2/6 Aust Inf Bn on KOMIATUM RIDGE. The plan to put this order into effect was as follows:-</p> <p>(a) 58/59 Aust Inf Bn (1) C Coy advance east from ORODUBI to 708947 and link with 2/6 Aust Inf Bn then north astride BUIRALI CREEK.</p>	

B.H. James. Maj.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

Unit..... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From..... 19 Aug 43 To..... 19 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			(ii) A Coy move east from BARONS POST to BUIRALI CK then north to ERSKINE CK.	
			(iii) B Coy one pl SOUTH PIMPLE, one pl NORTH PIMPLE, one pl move down ERSKINE CK and set ambush on KOMIATUM TRACK.	
			(iv) Set ambush on KOMIATUM TRACK east of NEWMANS JUNC.	
			(b) 2/7 Aust Inf Bn (i) C Coy to occupy GRAVEYARD - ORODUBI area.	
			(ii) D Coy to continue attack on enemy in area SALAMAUA-KOMIATUM-BOBDUBI TRACK JUNCTIONS.	Appx 74
			(c) 2/3 Aust Indep Coy (i) C pl to attack enemy MIDDLE SPUR.	
			(ii) A and B pls to continue attack on enemy track junction area.	
			The general picture was that A and C Coys 58/59 Aust Inf Bn would make a complete left form using D Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn in the ERSKINE CK area as a pivot.	
			Today is a red letter day in the history of the operation DOUBLET. THE ENEMY HAS CRACKED having found the area south along the KOMIATUM TRACK from the FRANCISCO RIVER untenable.	
			A watchful eye has to date been kept in the area of BUIRIS CK, always considered a likely approach for the enemy, and after reports of tree felling in the area of the high ground north of Brigade HQ across the BUIRIS RIVER, a patrol was sent out to investigate, and the precaution taken to check on the method of defence of Brigade HQ.	
			Brig H.H. HAMMER DSO, Bde Comd and Major B.H. TRAVERS, BM, arrived by moved to COCONUT RIDGE to confer with COs with reference to the future tasks.	
			Owing to the shortage of telephones in area, CO 15 Aust Fd Amb	Appx 75

B.H. Travers
201—N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From 19 Aug 43 To 20 Aug

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
NUNNS POST	19 Aug		consenting to our requesting the withdrawal of 3 telephones D V from rear 15 Aust Fd Amb PORT MORESBY, and for them to be sent to NASSAU BAY for onward movement. 3 Aust Div forwarded request to 11 Aust Div (Q1972) (Appendix A26). In order to establish adequate reserves of ammunition and supplies 3 extra plane droppings a day are required. Our request to 3 Aust Div A1261 (Appx A28). On all occasions that X List personnel have arrived in the Bde area they have practically all been exhausted. To try and obviate this, we requested 3 Aust Div that hardening training be given them before discharge from Convalescent Camps. (A1262 Appx A29)	Appx A26 Appx A28
			Capt JOHNS and Lieut IRVING left for D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn to inspect ASC installations and enquire into supply and ammunition problems.	
			15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 43 (Appx 76) Trace Dispositions 2359 hrs 19 Aug " " 77	Appx 76 " " 77
	20 Aug		<u>Weather:</u> Fine, ceiling 8000 ft As the plan given by Brig HAMMER 19 Aug involved very considerable troop movement, comds and staffs worked feverishly throughout the night to tie up adm and Q details to allow movement to commence at 0500 hrs. Coys moved as planned at 0500 hrs and in the advance cleared many booby traps left by the enemy when retreating. C Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn located a minefield between EXTONS KNOLL and PRICES KNOLL.	
			All Coys required to move gained their objectives without opposition except C Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn who contacted enemy at 708947 the junction of the KOMIATUM - ORODUBI TRACKS	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit.....HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde..... Date and Time.—From.....20 Aug 43.....To.....20 Aug 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	20 Aug		<p>and immediately commenced to recce the enemy position in preparation for attack.</p> <p>Indeed objectives were gained so readily including the clearing of the enemy from MIDDLE SPUR by C Pl 2/3 Aust Indep Coy, that before midday a further plan was issued by the Bde Comd with the object of maintaining the momentum of the attack.</p> <p>The objective for this plan was another of the defended localities shown on captured documents - namely the high ground east of the KOMIATUM TRACK in square 7196 (later known as KUNAI SPUR). Appx 77 (a).</p> <p>Two Coys 58/59 Aust Inf Bn were to gain the high ground to east of KOMIATUM TRACK at 713962 and 720968, one coy hold the line ERSKINE CK from the BENCH CUT to KOMIATUM TRACK, one pl 2/3 Aust Indep Coy to cut the KOMIATUM TRACK at 707963. The line of the BENCH CUT was to be our firm base held by one coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn and two pls C Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn.</p> <p>To release C Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn for this task, it was necessary to obtain quick relief from responsibility for the area south of ERSKINE CK. A phone request was made to 3 Aust Div accordingly and a message was received in answer stating that 17 Aust Inf Bde would assume responsibility at 0800 hrs 22 Aug. One pl was thus left in the ORODUBI area until relief could be carried out, while the two pls required immediately moved north along the BENCH CUT. Appx 79 (b).</p>	<p>Appx 77 (a)</p> <p>Appx 79 (b)</p>

B. V. Dams. Maj.
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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From... 20 Aug 43 To... 20 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	20 Aug		<p>In moving to occupy the high ground east of KOMIATUM TRACK, it was realised that the area was actually part of 17 Aust Inf Bde area of responsibility, but as they had NOT come forward of the KOMIATUM RIDGE some 2500 yds south, Brig HAMMER considered it essential that the vital ground be seized before the enemy could settle into it.</p> <p>The dispositions required by this latest plan were also completed by nightfall except C Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn who were one of the coys required to occupy the high ground. They were unable to shift the enemy contacted earlier in the day at 707949, but were still harassing and attacking. By the moves today, the KOMIATUM TRACK was effectively closed to the Jap and no enemy movement was seen along it. patrolling to locate enemy flanks dispositions and strengths continued preparatory to cleaning up the area at junctions of KOMIATUM - SALAMAUA - BOBDUBI TRACKS.</p> <p>In our attacks from the north in the track junctions area, heavy casualties had been inflicted on the enemy, 23 bodies incl 1 Capt, 1 Lieut being found by patrols today. Captured documents lead to the belief that this Capt is the Bn Comd - Capt JINNO.</p> <p>The enemy has now been cleared entirely from the EASTERN SLOPES of BOBDUBI RIDGE thus giving us a firm base from which to drive further in behind his perimeter defences.</p> <p>The third plan in 24 hrs was issued by Brig HAMMER this evening. Still sticking solidly to the policy of getting in before the enemy and maintaining the momentum of the attack, the plan was designed to accomplish the following:</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

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(adapted.)

Unit... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde.....

Date and Time.—From... 20 Aug 43..... To... 21 Aug 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	20 Aug		(a) make the firm base the KOMIATUM TRACK. (b) gain the KUNAI SPUR 710965. (c) cut the SALAMAUA TRACK at 717972. (d) capture junction of KOMIATUM - SALAMAUA - BOBDUBI TRACKS 708968. (e) move north over FRANCISCO RIVER and occupy high ground 718985, 710997, 695998 (ROUGH HILL - SAVIGE SPUR - ARNOLDS CREST).	Appx 77 (b)
			Capt JOHNS and Lieut IRVING returned from D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn where the ammunition and supply situation was found to be quite satisfactory. 21ORS of 58/59 Aust Inf Bn area are staging OBSERVATION HILL tonight. They will move to KELLYS CAMP 21 Aug. 4 Provost personnel reported in during afternoon.	
			15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 44. Trace of dispositions at 2359K/20	Appx 78 " 79 <i>AW:</i>
	21 AUG		<u>Weather:</u> Fine and clear At 0500 hrs the troops moved to complete the plan which was ordered late on 20 Aug. However at 0530 hrs, it was found the enemy had withdrawn from his positions at junction of KOMIATUM - ORODUBI TRACKS, HILBERTS and at junction of KOMIATUM - SALAMAUA - BOBDUBI TRACKS. It was NOT from lack of pressure by our troops that the enemy was able to break off the engagement when he wished, but only first class fighting by the Jap. Our troops were always close on his heels and harassed him day and night, forcing him to withdraw. Throughout the day, our troops pursued the Jap as quickly as possible and at dusk, the position was that we had made	<i>B.H. Francis Maj.</i>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit.....HQ..15..Aust..Inf..Bde..... Date and Time.—From...21 Aug 43.....To...21 Aug 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	21 Aug		<p>contact again on KUNAI SPUR - a narrow ridge EAST of KOMIATUM TRACK and on the SALAMAUA TRACK EAST of the BUIRALI CK. Stiff fighting was going on all day in this area. B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn, one pl 2/3 Aust Indep Coy attacked the enemy in this area whilst one pl 2/3 Aust Indep Coy went to cut SALAMAUA TRACK east of the enemy positions. Patrols were maintained throughout the day on the KOMIATUM TRACK by one pl 2/3 Aust Indep Coy and one coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn.</p> <p>In the area north of the FRANCISCO RIVER, B Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn had had success on the foothills of ROUGH HILL 718985 where the enemy fled without much resistance.</p> <p>C Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn which was moving to BUIRIS CK arrived at the junction of BUIRIS CK and FRANCISCO RIVER.</p> <p>C Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn moved and en route patrolled from the junction of KOMIATUM - ORODUBI TRACKS to FORD area 707982 with the object of holding the L's of C to the 2/7 Aust Inf Bn Coys in ARNOLDS CREST and ROUGH HILL area.</p> <p>Today the axis of advance of the Bde changed from EAST to NORTH. Previously all our efforts had been concentrated on pushing eastwards and to this end, all bases of supplies and ammunition had been built. Now with troops moving north - away from their bases - new bases had to be established and new L's of C made. This required careful planning and hard work by the staffs. To get supplies to the troops, every available man carried day and night. Batmen, clerks, pioneer personnel all carried</p>	

A.H. [Signature]
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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit.....HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde..... Date and Time.—From.....21 AUG 43.....To.....21 Aug 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	21 Aug		<p>to forward troops to keep the supplies up. The fact that the supplies were always where needed, itself shows how hard these troops worked.</p> <p>The most interesting point about today's action was that the enemy when met on the north side of the FRANCISCO RIVER fled abandoning equipment and arms. This is the first time this has happened. When our troops saw this, they rushed the Japs who ran away screaming.</p> <p>By the end of the day we had captured and consolidated the junction of KOMIATUM and SALAMAUA TRACKS and with operations proceeding to plan SOUTH of the FRANCISCO RIVER, Brig H.H. HAMMER turned his attention to the NORTH and with a view to further future operations in that area, ordered two pls D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn to concentrate in area 672032.</p> <p>D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn were still carrying out the policy of active patrolling in the MALOLO area. One patrol had observed a small party of enemy with Alsatian dogs moving EAST towards BUSAMA. NEW WOMASU was found to have been recently used but was now unoccupied.</p> <p>A prisoner, the first captured by the Bde in the operation to date, was taken by 2/7 Aust Inf Bn.</p> <p>Owing to the rapid movement forward of all units, tools, weapons and stores had to be left in unoccupied positions. Therefore units had be been instructed to establish dumps and bring the material forward as soon as possible.</p> <p>Bde HQ is to be established in the ARTIE FADDEN area 699960 at 0900 hrs 22 Aug. Movement forward of Bde</p>	<p>Appx 79 (a)</p>

B.H. Travers Maj.

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Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 21 Aug 43 To 22 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	21 Aug		<p>personnel and stores which will be spread over 3 days, 21 - 23 Aug started today.</p> <p>15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 45 15 Aust Inf Bde Adm Instn No 6/43</p>	<p>Appx 81 " 80</p>
	22 Aug		<p>Trace of Dispositions at 2359K/21</p> <p>Weather: Fine, cloudy ceiling 5000 ft.</p> <p>Bde HQ closed NUNNS POST 0600K/22 and reopened at the same time at ARTIE FADDEN 699960.</p> <p>It was the intention today to press the enemy on all fronts. To this end, troops moved by moonlight commencing approx 0100K/22. At dawn therefore, the whole Bde was moving forward to the attack. Patrols cleared the KOMIATUM TRACK of a few stragglers, whilst B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn, A Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn, B Pl 2/3 Aust Indep Coy attacked the enemy on KUNAI SPUR. In this area the enemy resisted strongly. At the same time, B Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn attacked the enemy on ROUGH HILL making a little progress by driving the enemy from his outer defences. However, whilst this was going on, the enemy in rear continued to dig and take ^{no} part in the attack. This was an indication of strength NOT previously met north of the river. As the KOMIATUM TRACK proved clear of the enemy, the Bde Comd decided to move some of the troops in this area on to KUNAI SPUR. By darkness therefore, there was almost a Bn strength fighting in this area; A and B Coys 58/59 Aust Inf Bn, A Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn, 2/3 Aust Indep Coy.</p>	<p>" 82</p> <p><i>AMS.</i></p>

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Army Form C.2118
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Unit..... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde..... Date and Time.—From..... 22 Aug 43..... To..... 22 Aug 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	22 Aug		In the area north of the FRANCISCO RIVER, our troops pressed on attacking the enemy on ROUGH HILL again and driving him from ARNOLDS CREST. Patrols had also pushed forward to KIDNEY and to the features on the west of BUIRIS CK. At KIDNEY HILL enemy were encountered but NOT in strength. For ease of control and reference and made necessary by the re-allocation of coys to comd, the forces were divided into PICKEN and WARFE FORCE.	Appx 83
			A feature of the operations today was the speed with which the movements were carried out. Troops engaged were responding magnificently after having been moving and fighting day and night for three days.	Appx 85
			At 0900 hrs responsibility for the area SOUTH of ERSKINE CK passed to 17 Aust Inf Bde, thereby releasing the remaining pl C Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn for operations. A message was received from 3 Aust Div stating that the situation in our sector was most satisfactory but <u>ON NO ACCOUNT WERE WE TO UNDERTAKE ANY OPERATION WHICH MAY INFLUENCE THE ENEMY TO COMMENCE EVACUATION OF SALAMAUA</u> Message attached.	Appx 79 (b)
			Capt LEFFERS, Hygiene Offr, Lieut MOYES, SC (L), Lieut LESH Educ Offr, Lieut IRVING, L.O, moved forward to new Bde HQ.	Appx 85 (a)
			To keep the supplies up with the rapid progress now being made by units, a new dropping ground further forward is required. 3 Aust Div were requested to have dropping ground SOUTH of KUNDA BRIDGE used.	(A1288 Appx A30)

B. N. [Signature]
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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From... 22 Aug 43 To... 23 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	22 Aug		<p>The wounded Jap prisoner, captured by 2/7 Aust Inf Bn on 21 Aug, was evacuated to 17 Aust Inf Bde area along KOMIATUM TRACK by 2/7 Aust Inf Bn stretcher party.</p> <p>To facilitate the collection of tools, weapons and stores left behind by units, 3 members of the Salvage Unit have been instructed to move NORTH from ERSKINE CK area along BOBDUBI RIDGE and make dumps of all salvageable stores.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 46 Trace of Dispositions as at 2359K/22</p> <p><u>Weather:</u></p>	
	23 Aug		<p>WARFR FORCE from 1310 hrs onward persistently attacked the enemy in the area 710965 NORTH of the SALAMAUA - BOBDUBI TRACKS. Attacks were made from three sides up precipitous slopes, along spurs and across firelanes raked by fire from enemy automatic weapons. Small gains were made but in the face of the superior fire power developed by the enemy they could NOT be consolidated. It became evident that this ground was considered by the enemy as vital and he was defending it accordingly, thereby confirming the captured document showing his inner defences of SALAMAUA.</p> <p><u>PICKEN FORCE</u> north of the FRANCISCO RIVER were having a successful day in carrying out the policy of "catching him before he digs in". As coys moved forward to their positions, numerous parties of Japs were contacted and most of them ran away screaming and yelling when attacked and leaving their equipment. Enemy weapons, equipment and documents were captured. An enemy identification was also obtained - 115 Regt.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Appx 86 " 87</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Handwritten signature]</i></p>

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N.G.F.P.S. 5/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde.....

Date and Time.—From... 23 Aug 43..... To... 23 Aug 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	23 Aug		<p>The operations of PICKEN FORCE today have proved beyond doubt that the Jap is a poor fighter when caught out of his holes.</p> <p>Casualties inflicted by PICKEN FORCE today were 22 enemy killed for the loss of 1 killed 2 wounded of our troops. The speedy night movements of troops in the operations of late is worthy of special note. Where previously it was considered NOT to be possible, particularly in periods where there is no moonlight, it has now been accomplished and proven that it demoralises the enemy.</p> <p>One instance <u>only</u> of fast continuous movement by day and night is <u>that</u> of C Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn whose movements were as follows:-</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">0500 20 Aug Advanced from ORODUBI and contacted enemy at 707947. Remained in contact throughout the day and twice attacked</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">during the night 20/21 Aug forcing enemy withdrawal</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">0500 21 Aug Advanced to 708965 clearing KOMIATUM TRACK en route.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">1600 " Ordered to move NORTH of FRANCISCO RIVER into BUIRIS CK area. Coy arrived 706983 then split one by continuing movement up BUIRIS CK to 705998, remainder moving via track along NORTH bank of FRANCISCO RIVER to 713985 one pl continuing up SANDY CK from this point.</p>	

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(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 23 Aug 43 To 23 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	23 Aug		<p>This movement completed night 21/22 Aug, Thus in 48 hrs, for 22 of which they were in contact with the enemy, the coy moved at least 6000 yds, the major portion of which was over difficult tracks, unknown to this Coy and in hours of darkness. Furthermore, a small portion of the track from ORODUBI was booby trapped by the enemy.</p> <p>Another achievement was that of C Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn who moved approx the same distance in a much shorter time but NOT in contact with the enemy.</p> <p>The sudden appearance of these two coys together with B Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn in the area NORTH of the FRANCISCO RIVER is considered to have taken the enemy completely by surprise as is illustrated by his conduct today in fleeing leaving his arms and equipment.</p> <p>A message as follows was received from 3 Aust Div:</p> <p>"In view of apparent demoralisation of enemy on your front pursue your advance to the fullest extent possible without jeopardising the security of your force (.) Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn may be used to exert pressure in conjunction with your move in KELA area (.) my O 401 of 22 Aug is cancelled." Copy of message attached</p> <p>Maj-Gen MILFORD DSO, GOC 5 Aust Div, accompanied by his ADC, Lieut VIRTUE and DAQMG Maj MOFFAT, visited Bde. The General stayed overnight. Gen MILFORD informed Brig HAMMER that 5 Aust Div were taking over comd from 3 Aust Div. The General went to Bde fwd O.P. at SOUTH COCONUTS and viewed the ground over which the Bde was fighting. He expressed his great satisfaction with the rapid progress made by the Bde and the important tactical features seized</p>	Appx 87 (a)

B. H. [Signature]
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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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(adapted.)

Unit.....HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde..... Date and Time.—From...23 Aug 43.....To...23 Aug 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	23 Aug		<p>from the enemy NORTH of the FRANCISCO RIVER and EAST of KOMIATUM TRACK. The General agreed with the Brig that it was unlikely with the 15 Aust Inf Bde present strength that further offensive action could be made against the enemy unless the Japs completely cracked. However information available of the Jap indicated he was regrouping and reinforcing and prepared to fight for the vital ground that overlooked SALAMAUA.</p> <p>29 Aust Inf Bde and the Americans were still far south from 15 Aust Inf Bde which was holding now a vital portion of 29 Aust Inf Bde sector i.e. KUNAI SPUR - the high ground on the eastern side of the junction of the KOMIATUM - SALAMAUA TRACK where it junctions with the FRANCISCO RIVER. Capt MOLOMBY, SC, Capt JOHNS, BASCO, Capt HEDLEY, I.O., Lieut COWAN, 15 Aust Fd Amb, arrived Bde HQ from NUNNS POST. Lieut MOYES, SC (L), accompanied by W.O. II THORNLEY, ANGAU, left on recce for route of L of C from BOBDUBI dropping ground to unit sites NORTH of FRANCISCO RIVER. The idea was to find a route that eliminated the climb over the COCONUTS.</p> <p>Air dropping commenced on new ground at BOBDUBI, good recovery was made. ASC established supply point at NEW BOBDUBI.</p> <p>Owing to rapid movement forward of operations, supply problems for forward units are increasing and a careful watch has to be kept on the ration and ammunition positions of unit. Although they are continually kept supplied to a date 3 days ahead, it is found that the sub-units are unable to carry forward their reserve ammunition and rations owing</p>	

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Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From 23 Aug To 24 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	23 Aug		<p>to the speed of their advance. This has been overcome to some extent by the transfer of supplies to coys following up the forward elements and the collection by rear units of supplies left behind. These are then taken forward by the units concerned with their own native labour when available. The forward elements have to be kept continuously supplied from BOBDUBI. In order to fulfil this policy of keeping supplies up to the fighting troops, 14 personnel of Bde HQ collected 3 inch mortar ammunition from CUMMINS POST and carried it forward to 2/7 Aust Inf Bn mortar detachment NORTH COCONUTS area during the night. Advice received from 3 Aust Div that all aircraft droppings will cease for this Bde on 28 Aug. Bde will then be maintained from TAMBUBAY by boyline via KOMIATUM L of C.</p>	<p>(AQ1182 Appx A31) Appx 88</p>
	24 Aug		<p style="text-align: center;">15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 47</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Trace of Dispositions as at 2359K/23</p> <p><u>Weather:</u> Fine after heavy rain night 23/24 Aug.</p> <p>During the day only patrol clashes took place. PICKEN FORCE coys continued advance meeting slight enemy resistance but cleaning out the pockets as they went. All coys reported themselves as being on objectives ROUGH HILL, SWANS O.P., ARNOLDS CREST and were consolidating and patrolling extensively.</p> <p>WARFE FORCE patrols operated throughout the day receiving the ground EAST of KOMIATUM TRACK in preparation for a further attack on the enemy on their front. The only enemy organised enemy action was when, after ambushing an enemy party</p>	<p>" 89</p>

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit.....HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde..... Date and Time.—From.....24 Aug 43.....To.....24 Aug 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	24 Aug		<p>on the SALAMAUA TRACK killing 8, C 9^{PI} 2/3 Aust Indep Coy were attacked and encircled. The attack was repulsed before a fighting patrol sent to extricate C Pl arrived. In preparation for main attack orders were given by 2/3 Aust Indep Coy for C pl to withdraw. However, this ^{action} enemy/delayed C pl sufficiently long to prevent the main attack by WARFE FORCE taking place daily as intended by the CO Maj WARFE.</p> <p>In the afternoon the Jap activity in PICKEN FORCE area increased till it became evident he would endeavour to regain lost ground. Bde Comd Brig HAMMER, considered more troops essential therefore NORTH of the FRANCISCO RIVER and requested relief from responsibility of KOMIATUM TRACK area. The following is the message to 3 Aust Div:</p> <p>"this PM Jap forces advanced to dig in on EAST own troops area 714967 (.) Jap driven back (.) in view of 3 Div op instn No 10 and tactical situation area 710967 request 29 Bde immediately take over responsibility."</p> <p>See message O 1206 attached. A reply was received saying that 29 Bde would assume responsibility of area SOUTH of FRANCISCO RIVER and EAST of KOMIATUM TRACK as soon as practicable. Div instructed Bdes to make mutual arrangements re reliefs. D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn with two pls concentrated at 672032 were ordered to move one pl to link with PICKEN FORCE. See Message O 1203.</p>	<p>Appx 90</p> <p>Appx 91</p>
				<p><i>B.A. Trauers Maj.</i></p>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From... 24 Aug 43 To... 25 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	24 Aug		<p>aircraft dropping of a further 68. To obviate effects of flooding and to facilitate river crossing to maintain supplies Bde Comd decided to have a kunda bridge erected over FRANCISCO RIVER at 710978.</p> <p>ANGAU advised and work will begin 25 Aug. Lieut CASEY, 24 Aust Inf Bn, and party of 47 including 17 2/7 Aust Inf Bn personnel arrived WELLS OP. They will arrive this Bde area 25 Aug.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 48 Trace of dispositions as at 2359 hrs 24 Aug</p>	(A1308 Appx A33)
	25 Aug		<p><u>Weather:</u> Fine</p> <p>As from 0100 hrs today 15 Aust Inf Bde is under command of HQ 5 Aust Div. WARFE FORCE today made a determined attack on enemy position area 710965. Strong enemy defences were encountered and could NOT be penetrated but troops were within grenade range all day and inflicted heavy casualties, killing 85 of the enemy. Details of action are as per 15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summaries 48 and 49.</p> <p>PICKEN FORCE maintained contact with the enemy, three coys 2/7 Aust Inf Bn attacking enemy on high ground on high feature vicinity 724994. Elsewhere patrolling continued with minor clashes.</p> <p>In accordance with Div orders Brig MONAGHAN, 29 Aust Inf Bde, and BM 15 Aust Inf Bde Major TRAVERS, at HQ 58/59 Aust Inf Bn morning 25 Aug arranged that 29 Aust Inf Bde assume command of area EAST of KOMIATUM TRACK incl,</p>	Appx 93 " 94

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde..... Date and Time.—From... 25 Aug 43..... To... 25 Aug 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	25 Aug		<p>as per 3 Aust Div Op Instn No 10 and 3 Aust Div message 0429 25 Aug at 1630 hrs.</p> <p>Warning order for move of WARFE FORCE was issued. Attached as Appx 95.</p> <p>15 Aust Inf Bde Op Instn No 15 and message 0 1236 were despatched giving new objectives, patrols and areas of responsibility consequent on the relief of WARFE FORCE by 29 Aust Inf Bde. By this Instn 2/7 Aust Inf Bn was to</p> <p>hold the outer line from SAVIGE SPUR - HAND - EDWARDS SPUR - KIDNEY HILL, whilst 58/59 Aust Inf Bn was to hold</p> <p>inner line from CAMEL RIDGE - ROUGH HILL - SANDY CK - ARNOLDS CREST. 2/3 Aust Indep Coy was Bde reserve in the</p> <p>BENCH CUT - COCONUTS area. A feature was that the Bde had a reserve for the first time in two months - all other times all units were committed.</p> <p>Movement of troops commenced night 25/26 Aug.</p> <p>A personal message from Maj-Gen SAVIGE to Brig HAMMER and Brig MON HAMMER's answer were received and sent as follows:</p> <p>"to HAMMER from SAVIGE (.) just received your letter of 19 Aug (.) your efforts have been splendid and gave greater support other ops than expected (.) am following your present ops with intense interest (.) signals from here indicate leaving you complete freedom to act as far as your adm problem allows (.) if you can scare them out of SALAMAUA do so but for the love of MIKE don't let enthusiasm result in unnecessary casualties (.) my temperament inclines to dash but my judgment is tempered with prudence (.)</p>	<p>Message 0429 Appx 94 (a)</p> <p>Appx 96</p>

B. H. Travers, Maj.

201—N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From 25 Aug 43 To 25 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	25 Aug		<p>we are probably alike in make-up (.) our good fellows should NOT be sacrificed for an ideal if time is necessary to reduce casualties "</p> <p>" GEN SAVIGE from HAMMER (.) appreciate your good advice (.)</p> <p>it is the story of the old bull and the young bull (.) my hell for leather policy is supply at the moment and am almost balanced to strike again (.) feel that our swift movements saved casualties as enemy never permitted to consolidate (.) satisfactory arrangements made with MONAGHAN regarding relief WARFE (.) must advise Jap resistance this area (.) your encouragement and advice have always been an inspiration to us all".</p> <p>Lieut IRVING, L.O., left for BUIRIS CK area. Lieut LESERVE S., IO, left for SWANS OP area.</p> <p>Tasks - to examine topography of area and to report on situation in respective areas. To enable supplying of units NORTH of FRANCISCO RIVER dumps of rations and ammunition are to be made in areas 705998, 718996, 725995. 2/7 Aust Inf Bn are to recce area and advise suitable points.</p> <p>An aircraft dropping for 26 Aug of 3 planes ammunition and rations at a kunai patch shown on the map in square 7199 was requested. The object was to keep supplies up to the troops who were now getting beyond one day's carry by native boyline.</p> <p>New medical post at BOBDUBI now established and is functioning.</p> <p>Capt MOLOMBY, SC, went to 29 Aust Inf Bde HQ to confer with SC 29 Aust Inf Bde on arrangements for new L of C. Details NOT yet finalised.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Appx 97</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(A1313 Appx A34)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(A1317 Appx A35)</p>

B. H. Travers, Maj.
201—N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 25 Aug 43 To 26 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	25 Aug		15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 49 Trace of dispositions as at 2359 hrs 25 Aug	Appx 98 " 99
	26 Aug		<p><u>Weather:</u> Showery and overcast early, visibility poor, ceiling 4000 ft.</p> <p>Operations today were devoted entirely to movement into positions as per Op Instn No 15, consolidation and patrolling during which minor clashes occurred.</p> <p>The movement into new areas by the coys concerned was most gratifying as it involved speedy day and night movement.</p> <p>In the past few days many enemy documents have been captured giving valuable information, copies of sketches captured being attached to 15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 50</p> <p>The terrain NORTH of the FRANCISCO RIVER through which the Bde is now working is heavily timbered and very rough. Therefore difficulty was being experienced in pin-pointing positions. SWANS OP 720000 when occupied was found to have extremely poor visibility. Sgt SWAN, 2/3 Aust Indep Coy therefore was ordered to move to this point and later reported that the OP, previously reced by him, was incorrectly shown on map. This had been causing ^{some} confusion in the minds of officers and troops concerned regarding topography and reporting of positions.</p> <p>Certain prominent features on SALAMAUA and KOMIATUM 1:25000 were unnamed. For easy reference names were given</p>	Appx 100.

A. H. [Signature]

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 26 Aug 43 To 26 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	26 Aug		<p>to these features.</p> <p>One pl of D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn moving from 672032 to link with C Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn contacted enemy at 685023 and were held up. Pl attacked enemy position 5 times without success, the enemy being dug in astride a razor back ridge. WARFE FORCE and PICKEN FORCE ceased to exist as such at 1200 hrs. Coys reverted to comd of own units. As there is a considerable amount of ammunition, weapons and stores left along BOBDUBI RIDGE, a party of 20 men from 2/3 Aust Indep Coy will work on this position from 27 Aug collecting checking and storing in respective dumps. Units, Salvage Det and Ordnance will then be able to collect their various stores and arrange for redistribution to units. Lieut MOYES, SC (L), ^{requested} went forward to recce site of new dropping ground in square 7199/25 Aug. This ground was found to be impracticable as recovery would be extremely difficult and the time saved in carrying forward would be out of proportion to the labour involved in cleaning the ground and picking up. 5 Aust Div was therefore requested to keep dropping at BOBDUBI.</p> <p>Three aircraft dropped 1330 hrs at new dropping ground, recovery was NOT successful enough to justify further droppings at this point.</p> <p>To clear KELLYS ADS it is now possible to evacuate 8 stretcher cases daily via ORODUBI to ADS 29 Aust Inf Bde ERSKINE CK.</p>	<p>Appx 99 (a)</p> <p>(A1337 Appx A36)</p>

B. H. Francis Maj.

201—N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde.....

Date and Time.—From...26 Aug 43.....To...27 Aug 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	26 Aug		Maintenance of this brigade from TAMBUBAY via KOMIATUM L of C is impracticable for time being owing to enemy pockets still at 735950, 725957, 711964 and insufficient native labour available. 5 Aust Div advised NGF that air droppings at BOBDUBI are still required otherwise Bde may be forced to withdraw SOUTH of FRANCISCO RIVER.	(Q14 Appx A37)
	27 Aug		1 Offr 220Rs 24 Aust Inf Bn arrived this area. These troops are working on the dropping grounds pending instructions for their further movement. (15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 50) <u>Weather:</u> Fine and clear. (Trace of dispositions as at 2359K/26)	Appx 100 " 101 <i>[Signature]</i>
			Where previously in the area NORTH of the FRANCISCO RIVER the enemy had shown little fight and resorted to dropping arms and equipment and running when attacked and enemy troops in the area appeared to be few, today he came back in considerable strength and penetrated our lines in ARNOLDS CREST area.	
			All his movements ambushes and attacks during the day were aimed at this feature which according to documents captured was another defended locality in his perimeter defence of SALAMAUA.	
			B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn holding ARNOLDS CREST during late afternoon reported being attacked heavily from three sides. The troops used to attack our positions on ARNOLDS CREST were fresh, clean clothed, and newly equipped troops, undoubtedly reinforcements. By the fact that dogs were heard during the day leads to the belief that these reinforcements were brought from the BUSAMA area as dogs had previously been seen and heard by recce patrols in that area.	

B. H. Francis Hay

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From... 27 Aug 43 To... 28 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	27 Aug		<p>In view of this enemy reinforcement Brig HAMMER decided to form a tighter perimeter than previously ordered by him.</p> <p>As the terrain over which the Bde was now moving was difficult to pin-point and there was a likelihood of errors in locations, a check was carried out with compass bearings and flares. The check revealed B Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn previously thought to be on SAVIGE SPUR 725995, were actually on ROUGH HILL 718983. The result was that a gap was revealed in our FDL's between ROUGH HILL and SWANS OP and that the enemy were exploiting this gap.</p>	<p>See Message O 1259 Attached as Appx 102</p>
			<p>Lieut W.M. IRVING, LO, returned to Bde HQ and report is attached.</p>	<p>Appx 103</p>
			<p>Lieut LE SERVE S., LO, also returned. His report is attached. Capt R. HANCOCK, Adm Comd 2/3 Aust Indep Coy, arrived this</p>	<p>" 104</p>
			<p>HQ 1700 hrs for conference with Brig HAMMER regarding employment of 2/3 Aust Indep Coy in future operations.</p>	
			<p>All units were notified to watch closely ration expenditure as supply situation may become uncertain.</p>	<p>(A1353 Appx A38)</p>
			<p>Officer strength 58/59 Aust Inf Bn has now dropped to 17. A request was sent to 5 Aust Div asking for reinforcement</p>	
			<p>Officers for present operations.</p>	
			<p>As the KOMIATUM L of C is now established through 29 Aust Inf Bde we requested both 17 Aust Inf Bde and 29 Aust Inf Bde to send all reinforcements via the new L of C.</p>	<p>(A1355 A ppx A39)</p>
			<p>Lieut WHITTAKER left to recon track between KELLYS and ERSKINE CK ADS with a view to clearing KELLYS ADS.</p>	
			<p>Kunda bridge over FRANCISCO RIVER at 711976 now completed. The bridge is built in such a way that it is hoped it will stand floods on the river.</p>	<p>(1357 A40)</p>

15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 51
Trace of dispositions as at 2359 hrs 27 Aug

Appx 104 (a) U.S.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

A. J. Wainwright

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit..... HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From... 28 Aug 43 To... 28 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	28 Aug		<p><u>Weather:</u> Light rain, poor visibility early, fine and clear at 0800 hrs.</p> <p>B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn after being attacked continually throughout the night were forced to withdraw from ARNOLDS CREST at 0800 hrs. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy before withdrawal, 40 being killed and estimated 20 more probably killed, for the loss to B Coy of 2 killed, 2 missing believed killed and 1 wounded.</p> <p>Elsewhere, patrolling continued to clear tracks and coys moved into positions in the closer perimeter ordered by Brig HAMMER yesterday.</p> <p>A general summing up of the present situation by Brig HAMMER was forwarded to 5 Aust Div in message 0 1269.</p> <p>" infm received recce and further check reveals (.) one (.) feature KELA hill runs to HAND then continues generally WEST through EDWARDS SPUR 714009 to KIDNEY (.) many tracks had general southerly direction to SANDY CK and ARNOLDS CREST (.) KIDNEY is easily accessible from</p> <p>ARNOLDS CREST (.) these tracks apparently jap L of C to area SAVIGE SPUR ROUGH HILL ARNOLDS CREST (.) two (.) SWANS OP as shown on map is NOT correct (.) confirmed by sgt SWAN who states OP in area HAND (.) three (.) C coy 2/7 bn report K/27 dogs heard jap ambush area 709993 (.) dogs were seen by our patrols at</p> <p>690044 19 Aug (.) consider therefore jap may have reinforced from that area (.) comment (.) one (.) from</p> <p>ease with which we occupied areas ARNOLDS CREST CAMEL RIDGE KIDNEY 23/24 aug consider few troops in area (.)</p>	Appx 106

B. H. Ingershaw
201—N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde.....

Date and Time.—From 28 Aug 43..... To 28 Aug 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	28 Aug 43		<p>also japs fled when attacked leaving eqpt leading to belief disorganised or badly trained inf troops (.)</p> <p>two (.) from efforts made by jap this area 26/27 aug obvious he considers control of rim of SANDY CK basin vital to his SALAMAUA defs (.) consider our threat from WEST to EAST that is along ridge from KIDNEY to HAND and occupation of area 720000 has caused japs to reinforce strongly from KELA direction (.) reinf confirmed by fact that japs met 26/27 aug wore new clothing new arms (.) well clothed japs were seen K/28 escorting wounded NOT so well clothed in general direction of KELA (.) three (.) during attack on ROUGH HILL 26 aug fwd tps fought whilst in rear large body of enemy dug defs and were NOT committed by enemy at all (.) this strength reveals how much he values ROUGH HILL (.) four (.) therefore after being chased from area consider jap has reorganised reinforced and launched a determined counter attack to regain control of rim of SANDY CK basin (.) this further confirmed by fact that in area ROUGH HILL enemy holding best ground is content to sit quiet (.) consider (.)</p> <p>jap will be content to hold line ROUGH HILL SAVIGE SPUR 720000 HAND KIDNEY ARNOLDS CREST"</p> <p>Lieut BOWERS, ATIS, arrived this HQ/and is attached for duty. ^{1100 hrs}</p> <p>Capt R. HANCOCK departed 1000 hrs en route for HQ 2/3 Aust Indep Coy.</p> <p>IO's report by Lieut LE SERVE attached.</p> <p>NGF have agreed to continue aircraft dropping this Bde area for a further period but they require three dropping grounds. (Q44 Appx A41)</p>	<p>Appx 107</p> <p>(Q44 Appx A41)</p>

B. H. Francis ^{201-N.G.F.P.S.-5/43/10m.}

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde

Date and Time.—From 28 Aug 43 To 29 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	28 Aug		<p>The following were suggested NUNNS POST, BOBDUBI, and an area NORTH of the COCONUTS feature (708984). Two other alternative dropping grounds suggested were GARDENS AREA 694966 and KUNDA ISLAND 683975.</p> <p>Lt-Col REFSHAUGE, SMO and Capt MOLOMBY, SC, went to 29 Aust Inf Bde to confer with Lt-Col A. McLEAN, AQ 5 Aust Div, and Lt-Col F. McLEAN, CASC, regarding establishment of new L of C and medical evacuations. AQ advised that 15 Aust Inf Bde would be maintained by plane droppings and 29 Aust Inf Bde by boyline from TAMBU BAY. The L of C to 15 Aust Inf Bde would be along KOMIATUM TRACK. ADS KELLYS would have to be cleared and this would be done through an ADS to be established at ERSKINE CK.</p> <p>Lieut WHITTAKER, ANGAU, reported track between KELLYS and ERSKINE CK was good walking. Time between the two ADS for stretcher parties 3 hrs. GS Circ No 2 Line Construction att.</p>	<p>(A1364 Appx A 42)</p>
	29 Aug		<p>15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 52 Trace of Dispositions as at 2359 Hrs 28 Aug <u>Weather:</u> Fine and clear, rain from 2000 hrs.</p> <p>Patrols were the only operations carried out, in particular in the ARNOLDS CREST area, to ascertain enemy dispositions in preparation for future operations.</p> <p>Reorganisation took place throughout the day the object being to re-dispose coys so that they assumed a position within their unit area of responsibility as laid down in 15 Aust Inf Bde Op Instn No 16 issued and attached.</p> <p>By this instn the line was reestablished from CAMEL RIDGE - ROUGH HILL - SANDY CK - ARNOLDS CREST - high ground WEST</p>	<p>Appx 108 " 109 " 110</p> <p>Appx 111</p>

B. H. Frazer. Maj.

201—N.G.F.P.S.—5/43/10m.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From 29 Aug 43 To 30 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	29 Aug		<p>of BUIRIS CK. 58/59 Aust Inf Bn held from CAMEL RIDGE to SANDY CK incl and 2/7 Aust Inf Bn from incl SANDY CK to high ground west of BUIRISCK. 2/3 Aust Indep Coy were in Bde reserve in the COCONUTS - BENCH CUT area. All units were to patrol in preparation for future operations.</p> <p>During the present period of these comparative inactivity a general clean up of BOBDUBI RIDGE is taking place, with the idea of collecting unit reserves of supplies and ammunition, of checking condition of these stores and of moving them forward again to build up the unit reserves in preparation for future operations.</p> <p>A considerable amount of these stores, ammunition and weapons have already been collected from the salvage work.</p> <p>Application made to 5 Aust Div to have the following Officers, battle casualties 58/59 Aust Inf Bn, transferred to RSL; VX102607 Capt JACKSON A.C., VX135790 Lieut GARDINER M., VX102643 Capt BLACKSHAW P.W., VX106847 Lieut MATTHEWS R. The estimate of native labour required to maintain this Bde on the L of C from TAMBU to BOBDUBI is 891. 5 Aust Div was advised of this.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 53 Trace of dispositions as at 2359 hrs 29 Aug</p>	
				(A1380 Appx A43) " 112 " 113
	30 Aug		<p><u>WEATHER:</u> Fine.</p> <p>Operations today were again confined to patrolling to obtain information of enemy dispositions.</p> <p>Interchange of coys between 2/7 Aust Inf Bn and 58/59 Aust Inf Bn continued in order to bring them within the bounds of their respective areas of responsibility laid down in</p>	<p><i>[Signature]</i></p> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p>

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde Date and Time.—From 30 Aug 43 To 30 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	30 Aug		<p>15 Aust Inf Bde Op Instn No 16.</p> <p>A patrol from 58/59 Aust Inf Bn crossed the FRANCISCO RIVER to the SOUTH and remained all day at track junction 716971 waiting to contact a coy of 47 Aust Inf Bn moving to that po int. However the Coy of 47 Aust Inf Bn scheduled to arrive at this point at 0800 hrs contacted enemy and after an engagement in which they endeavoured to break through and contact our patrol, were finally forced to withdraw. Our patrol returned at dusk without making contact.</p> <p>Maj ANDERSON, S. Sup. Offr, 3 Aust Div, arrived today. He will be stopping at Bde HQ until he has gone thoroughly into the supply problems with SC and ASC.</p> <p>Maj CARSON, ADOS and Lieut ANDERSON, Amn Examiner, arrived this HQ. They intend calling on all units and BOWO to discuss ordnance problems.</p> <p>Planes dropped on new dropping ground NORTH of COCONUTS area. Recovery will be fairly high.</p> <p>Evacuation of wounded and sick will commence 31 Aug to ERSKINE CK ADS. Any walking wounded remaining at KELLYS ADS will move direct to ADS GOODVIEW.</p> <p>Lieut CASEY and 21 ORs 24 Aust Inf Bn were attached to 58/59 Aust Inf Bn for duty.</p> <p>As the area in vicinity of BOBDUBI is flat and could be easily cleared, a recce is being made by ANGAU for the purpose of establishing an airstrip on which small type planes could land. This strip is to be constructed with a view to evacuation of stretcher cases by air.</p>	(A1383 Appx A44)

B. H. Travers, Maj.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit.....HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde..... Date and Time.—From...30 Aug 43.....To...31 Aug 43.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	30 Aug 43		15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 54 Trace of dispositions as at 2359 hrs 30 Aug 43	Appx 114 " 115
	31 Aug 43		<u>Weather:</u> Fine and clear There were no operations undertaken today except the normal patrolling to maintain contact with the enemy. Redisposing of Coys to bring them into area of responsibility (15 Aust Inf Bde Op Instn No 16) was completed. Recce in preparation for next push is proceeding. Information gained of the enemy in the past 4 days confirms the fact that the enemy is strongly reinforcing and digging strong defences on ARNOLDS CREST and the area NORTH and NE. Our reply to a IHQ questionnaire on modifications to 3 inch Mortar is attached. Owing to salvage operations along BOBDUBI RIDGE a number of Jap weapons including light and heavy MGs, a mountain gun, rifles and varied types of ammunition have been collected. We advised 5 Aust Div and requested their advice as to evacuation. Arrangements made by 5 Aust Div for the forward movement of personnel of HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde, 15 Aust Fd Amb, 24 Aust Inf Bn, 58/59 Aust Inf Bn from NASSAU BAY - ETA this area will be notified later. Evacuation of sick and wounded stretcher cases to ADS ERSKINE CK commenced. AAF W3008 and W3009s for month of Aug are attached.	
				Appx 116
				(A1388 Appx A45)
				Q103 Appx A46)

B.H. Trauschaj

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) Date and Time.—From 31 Aug 43 To 31 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.																																																		
ARTIE FADDEN	31 Aug		Order of Battle as at 31 Aug 43: HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) L Sec, Sigs 3 Aust Div 2/7 Aust Inf Bn 58/59 Aust Inf Bn 2/3 Aust Indep Coy D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn Det 1 Aust Sup Depot Coy. Det 15 Aust Fd Amb Det 3 Aust Div Pro Coy ANGAU																																																			
			Comparison of Strengths 31 Jul - 31 Aug	<i>W.A.B.</i>																																																		
			<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="3">UNIT</th> <th colspan="4">Strengths</th> <th colspan="2">Reinforce- and X List personnel Marching in</th> <th colspan="2">Casualties</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">31 Jul</th> <th colspan="2">31 Aug</th> <th rowspan="2">Offrs</th> <th rowspan="2">ORs</th> <th colspan="2">1 - 31 Aug</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Offrs</th> <th>ORs</th> <th>Offrs</th> <th>ORs</th> <th>Offrs</th> <th>ORs</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2/7 Aust Inf Bn</td> <td>15</td> <td>225</td> <td>23</td> <td>460</td> <td>19</td> <td>422</td> <td>9</td> <td>123</td> </tr> <tr> <td>58/59 Aust Inf Bn</td> <td>20</td> <td>438</td> <td>18</td> <td>430</td> <td>8</td> <td>92</td> <td>8</td> <td>76</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2/3 Aust Indep Coy</td> <td>13</td> <td>180</td> <td>11</td> <td>202</td> <td>1</td> <td>74</td> <td>2</td> <td>37</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	UNIT	Strengths				Reinforce- and X List personnel Marching in		Casualties		31 Jul		31 Aug		Offrs	ORs	1 - 31 Aug		Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs	2/7 Aust Inf Bn	15	225	23	460	19	422	9	123	58/59 Aust Inf Bn	20	438	18	430	8	92	8	76	2/3 Aust Indep Coy	13	180	11	202	1	74	2	37	
UNIT	Strengths				Reinforce- and X List personnel Marching in		Casualties																																															
	31 Jul		31 Aug		Offrs	ORs	1 - 31 Aug																																															
	Offrs	ORs	Offrs	ORs			Offrs	ORs																																														
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	15	225	23	460	19	422	9	123																																														
58/59 Aust Inf Bn	20	438	18	430	8	92	8	76																																														
2/3 Aust Indep Coy	13	180	11	202	1	74	2	37																																														
				<i>B.N. Trammes Maj.</i>																																																		

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118
(adapted.)

Unit HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) Date and Time.—From 31 Aug 43 To 31 Aug 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
ARTIE FADDEN	31 Aug		<p>Bde Staff 31 Aug 43.</p> <p>Comd Brig H.H. HAMMER, D.S.O.</p> <p>BM Major B.H. TRAVERS</p> <p>BM(L) -</p> <p>SC Capt T.A. MOLOMBY</p> <p>SC(L) Lieut W.H. MOYES</p> <p>IO Capt S.R. HEDLEY</p> <p>Los Lieut R. COULTER</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Lieut W.M. IRVING</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Lieut S. LE SERVE</p> <p>TO Capt J.R. BLACKSHAW</p> <p>BASCO Capt N.R. JOHNS</p> <p>Hyg O Capt A.E. LEFFERS</p> <p>Amen O Lieut D.M. WHITE</p> <p>Educ O Lieut E. LESH</p>	
			<p>Unit Staffs as at 31 Aug 43.</p> <p>2/3 Aust Indep Coy: CO Capt R.N. HANCOCK</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">2 i/c Capt W.A. MEARES</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Adm Offr Capt W.A. MEARES</p>	
			<p>2/7 Aust Inf Bn CO Major K.S. PICKEN</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">2, i/c Major WALKER, D.S.O.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Adjutant Capt DIXON</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">QM Capt GOULD</p>	
			<p>58/59 Aust Inf Bn CO Major G.R. WARFE</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">2 i/c Major F. ROWELL</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Adjutant Capt C.C. CUTHBERTSON</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">QM Capt A.R. BATEMAN</p>	
			<p>D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn: OC Capt S.H. WHITELAW</p> <p>SMO 15 Aust Inf Bde : Lt-Col W.D. REFSHAUGE</p>	

B.H. Travers Maj.

HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF)

War Diary - August 1943.

Appendices - 1 to 82.

Nav Diary

appx 11

SECRET

15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summary No 34

15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
Aug 43

Information from 2300Z/30 to 2300Z/31

Ref Maps:	SALAMABA	1:25000
	KOMIATUM	1:25000
	MUBO	1:25000

1. OPERATIONS

(a) COA
(1)

MUBO-BOODVIER-TANBU Area

COAST FORCE - Arty gun reported damaged yesterday is in action again. During 30 Jul 2 guns B to 11 Coy 2/5 Aust Inf Regt registered on SUGANGANE RIDGE and heavy AA gun at 755015. AA gun on SALAMABA Isthmus was shelled by arty at 1415Z/30, shells landing in water on both sides of Isthmus. On night 30/31 Jul Coy B moved from HARBAY BAY to TANBU BAY. 0930Z/31 600 5 Aust Div landed HARBAY BAY.

TAYLOR FORCE + 1300Z/30 Coy C unable to hold their position on crest of Mt TANBU and forced to withdraw. Dispositions now: Coy A less one pl plus one sec two HMG 3 mortars at 716915; Coy B less two pls 717907, one pl 717904; Coy C plus one pl Coy B 716910; D Coy 2/5 Aust Inf Bn under comd, one pl Coy A 716915; 24 Part Hospital 699997. Unoccupied enemy position at 699997 now occupied by a standing patrol of one sec 2/5 Bn. In attack on Mt TANBU Jul 30, our casualties 8 killed 35 wounded, no estimate of enemy.

2/5 Aust Inf Bn - Changes in dispositions at 1300Z/30: A Coy 699935, B Coy less three pls 694935, one pl 699930, one pl less one sec plus mortar at 694935, one sec 699937. D Coy arrived BASK 4 from NAT MAT.

(ii) MISSIN Area

2/5 Aust Inf Bn - 0200Z/31 enemy counter attacked B Coy. Attack repulsed and second attack launched by enemy 0430Z/31. After mortar and grenade fire forced our forward troops back to position 80 yds south of SOUTH COCONUTS. Estimated enemy strength in SOUTH COCONUTS area 60, but number in CENTRE and NORTH COCONUTS unknown. Our casualties now stand at 2 killed, 6 wounded, 1 shell shock, 1 GFR and 1 OR missing. Enemy no estimate. B Coy strength at present 31 all ranks. Third attack at 0710Z/31 forced B Coy back a further 70 yds, our casualties being 8 wounded. Composite pl HQ Coy in position at junction GRIP and RIDGE tracks at 1415Z/30. 1530Z/31 fighting patrol of pl strength A Coy took up ambush position at 709959. Party of 40 Japs fired on at 1645Z/31 - 8 killed, our casualties 1 wounded. B Coy dispositions: HQ 694936, 10 pl 699937, 11 pl 699936, 12 pl 696936. D Coy at 1200Z/31: 17 pl 699946.

2/5 Aust Indep Coy - 1735Z/31 50 enemy observed moving south along KOMIATUM TRACK. HMG on HANLING RIDGE opened up and forced the party off the track.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn - An amendment to dispositions given in int summary No 33 is as follows: B Sch 699975 and 10 pl 696977

(iii) BARKHAM AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn - patrol from 12 pl contacted party of 7 enemy at 1230Z/30 vicinity 552212 - no casualties known.

(b) Enemy

Missin Area. HMG fired on AMBUSH HOLE 0630Z/31, 2/5 Indep Coy replying from HANLING RIDGE with HMG. During morning 24 Japs with packs moved north to SALAMABA and 15

lightly equipped moved south. 0730-0800/31 205 Japs moved south along KOKIATUN TRACK. They appeared to be carrying heavy packs and morale appeared to be very high. 0800-0830/31 4 stretcher cases and 91 walking wounded moved north along KOKIATUN TRACK. Patrols report enemy well dug in 400 yds SOUTH of TIMBERED KNOLL.

2. Air
Unidentified

24 Aust Inf Bn reported 12 unidentified aircraft east over HAFOS at 1415/30.

3. OP REPORTS

(a) HELLS

0800/30 2 Japs carrying what appeared to be a mortar base plate moved from GRAVEYARD to GHOUBSI. 3 heavy AA enemy guns reported at 745012, our arty registering on same.

1640-1710/31 Approx 90 Japs and 4 stretcher cases moving into SALAHUA were shelled by our arty.

(b) GRAVEYARD

1640-1710/31 80 Japs and 4 stretcher cases moved into SALAHUA. More were following but visibility was obscured.

4. GENERAL

(a) Captured Enemy Documents

From enemy documents captured by 53/59 Aust Inf Bn on OLD VICKERS POSITION it is revealed that enemy defensive localities are situated at 729019-71997 - OLD GHOUBSI - OLD VICKERS POSITION - 722955 - 712960-730965 - area along ridge 739950 to 753973 - 754977 - 750985 - 745987. Regt gun area 717970 and 718968. AA arty position area 745005 and 750030. A further document locates a wireless station at 720967. Also among captured documents was a translated copy of 53/59 Aust Inf Bn Operation Order No 1, believed to have been taken from a missing officer.

J. Stachshagen
Major
53/59 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2/7 Aust Inf Bn
- 53/59 Aust Inf Bn
- 2/3 Aust Indep Coy
- D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn
- ANGAU
- 3 Aust Div
- SO
- File
- War Diary (3) ✓

67. 00

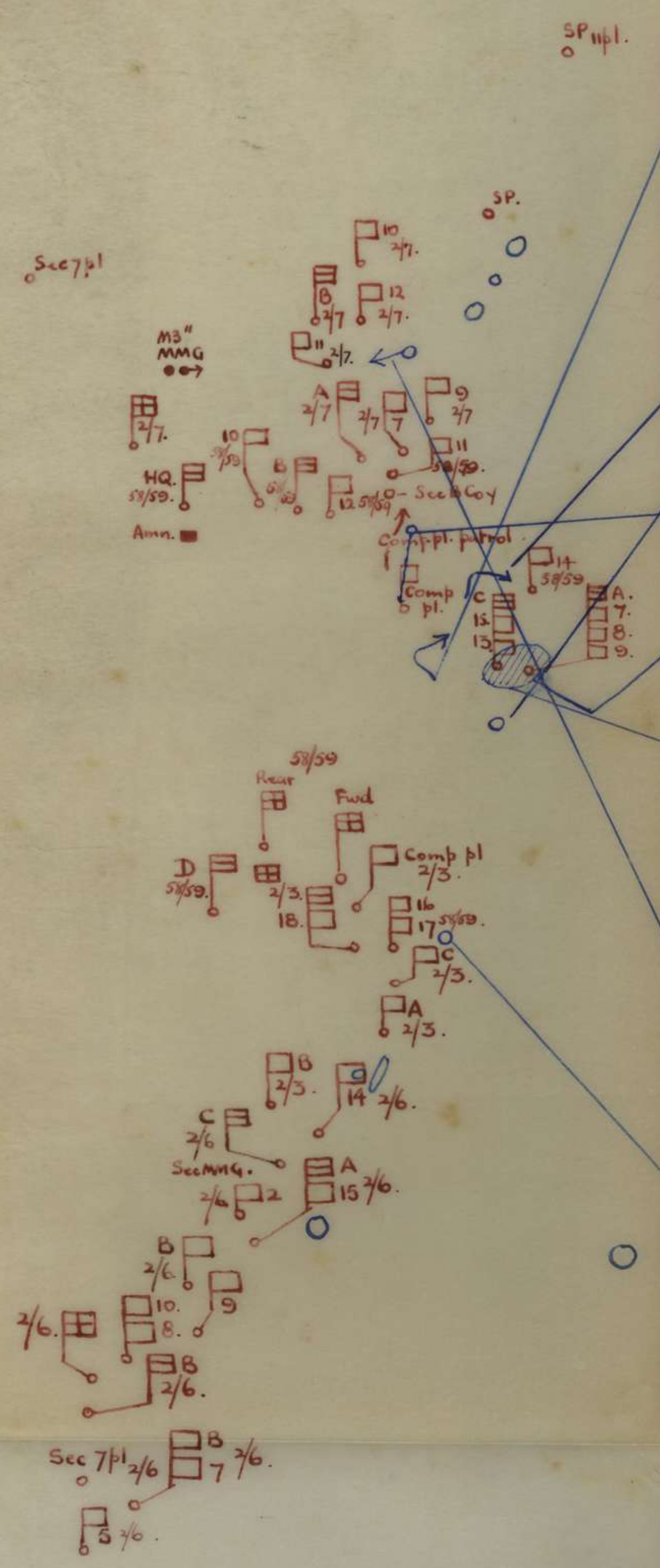
DOUBLET

SITUATION MAP AS AT 2359 HRS 1 Aug 43.

To be superimposed over KOMIATUM 1/25000.

x999A

Appx 2



CCoy 58/59

Night 31/1 - Listening post 15pl at 703957 heard Japs moving up west flank.

0630/1 15pl attacked from west by 40 Japs with light mortars.

Our casualties 6 wounded 5 missing
No enemy casualties reported.

ACoy 58/59.

K/1 Two secs at JUNG BENCH CUT TRACK with and GRIFFS TRACK. Enemy attacked from WEST.

Our casualties 1 killed 1 wounded.

Enemy estimated 30, 250^x south along BENCH CUT.

Composite pl at 699067 fired on from 150^x to 200^x along track to OLD VICKERS. POSN. Estimated 10 enemy in this posn.

1505/1 A+C Coys under mortar fire from direction KOMIATUM TRACK.

ACoy casualties 1 wounded.

1445/1. 5 shells fell in vicinity of of ACoy. Possibly from gun on KOMIATUM TK.

Our casualties 1 killed 3 wounded.

ACoy 58/59.

1530/1 20 enemy

Our casualties 1 wounded Enemy 7 killed.

ACoy 2/7.

0615/1 Enemy opened on our positions from 700698. Enemy with in 30^x of our forward posns.

PM/1 Spasmodic firing. Enemy cas est 10. Own casualties nil.

2/3 INDEP Coy.

K/1 Japs heard moving about & chopping wood 150^x North of Parers Bowl.

15 BDE
Aug 43
INT SEC

0 2/6
4 2/6

91 73

MESSAGE FORM

Serial No.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS

IN

(COPY)

No. of Groups.

GR.

OFFICE DATE STAMP

April 3

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

15 Aust Inf Bde

FROM

3 Aust Div

Originator's Number

04335

Date

2

In Reply to Number

30

jul

A coy

58/59

bn were

reported

on

KOMIATUM

track

at

OSBORNES CK

(.)

subsequent

movements

of

lagge

parties

of

Japs

along

this

track

have

been

reported

by

you (.)

please

elucidate

and give

further

details

of

enemy

movts

and

probable

routes

followed.

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS.

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

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN
1000

SIGNED

SIGNED

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I. 1008

SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER

T.O.R 1038

(5/681) Forms C2128/13. Wt. 17936/206. 750M Pads. 7/40. B. & S. Ltd. 51-7280.

War Diary

Appx 3

To : 3 aust div

From : 15 aust inf bde 0944 2 04335

A coy 58/59 bn moved to KOMIATUM TRACK area 704960

30 jul (.) recced for suitable ambush areas 30/31

31 jul (.) observers reported 0730-0930 31 jul 220 japs

moved south along KOMIATUM TRACK 205 with heavy packs

25X 15 lightly equipped (.) 91 walking wounded 4 stretcher

cases moved north (.) A coy NOT yet established

posn on track (.) A coy in posn 1145K/31 for

five hrs (.) at 1645K ambushed 40 japs killed 8

and withdrew to second prepared ambush 708959 (.) no

further movt 31 jul (.) 2/3 indep coy zone of

observation north end KOMIATUM RIDGE observed at 1735K/31

50 japs moving south (.) 1 aug (.) NMS KOMIATUM

TRACK until 1530K when A coy 58/59 bn ambushed 20

japs killing 7 (.) A coy had several casualties

from various causes as reported our sitreps (.) their

strength whittled down to extent that necessary to

withdraw them to BENCH CUT where they could operate

east to KOMIATUM TRACK to harass only (.) know that

enemy movt north and south along KOMIATUM TRACK

thence east along SALAWAUA TRACK is considerable (.)

as explained my 0918 strength NOT sufficient to cut

and hold track (.) now only capable of harassing

tactics (.) beautiful ideal to cut track if force

available to do it (.) will go on offensive to

KOMIATUM TRACK when reinforcements arrive 4 aug

TOO
THI

Date	Time	58/59 Aust Inf Bn	2/3 Aust Indep Coy	Enemy
0 Jul	1130	C Coy less two pls in posn junc GRIFFS TRACK and BENCH CUT; one pl 250 yds south, one pl moving north.		
	1320	A Coy arrived junc KOMIATUM TRACK and OSBORNE CK		
	1705	Sigs laying cable moved north along BENCH CUT then east to KOMIATUM TRACK - saw one jap.		
	1800	C Coy one pl moving to junc BOBDUBI-SALAMAUA BENCH CUT.		
31 Jul	0830	A Coy verbal report		24 Japs north 15 south lightly equipped, along KOMIATUM TRACK this morning.
	0730-0900	A Coy report		205 south along KOMIATUM TRACK with heavy packs.
	0800-0930	" "		91 walking wounded 4 stretchers north along KOMIATUM TRACK.
	1645	A Coy one pl in ambush posn for 5 hrs, fired on 40, killed 8, withdrew to new ambush posn.		
	1500	one pl took up ambush posn 708059? NO movt along track		
	1735		50 Japs moved south along KOMIATUM TRACK.	
Aug	0845	A Coy nothing to report		
	1045	Two pls moved south and west to BENCH CUT		
	1030-1515	No movement KOMIATUM TRACK		
	1450	Sig cable cut		
	1530	20 enemy ambushed 7 killed.		
	1800	Coy withdrawn to C Coy perimeter for night		

COURSES OPEN TO ME

1. To strengthen my present AMBUSH posn (670029 - 672032) into a firm base and launch attacks from there on the villages EAST and NE. Owing to the difficult nature of the country, these attacks would waste time and strength and success could NOT be followed up.
2. (i) To attack and drive the enemy from the area 688036.
(ii) Establish a firm base at incl track junc 685029 to incl track junc 688036 with a covering force at OP to protect my L of C.
(iii) From the firm base launch attacks on the villages MALAGOWAN, ASINI, MALOLO, NEW WOMASU.
This course will enable me to manoeuvre in more open country, to reinforce success and change my disposns more readily to my advantage.
I will adopt this course.

COURSES OPEN TO THE ENEMY

1. To attack along the MALOLO track. Unless he has been reinforced, this would weaken his strength in the MALOLO area. He cannot afford this due to the possibility of further setbacks in the SALAMUA area.
2. To strengthen his defences in the MALOLO area.
I think he will adopt this course.

PLAN A ; ESTABLISHING A FIRM BASE

- (i) Fighting patrols will attack along the MALOLO and OLD MALOLO tracks and clear the area to creek junc.
- (ii) Standing patrol at 685029 to prevent enemy encircling on right/flank.
- (iii) Defensive posns to be constructed immediately on the line WEST of creek from 683027 to 687036 thence NW to 685038.
- (iv) One pl in support OP area.
- (v) Coy HQ 682032

PLAN B ; ATTACK ON MALAGOWAN

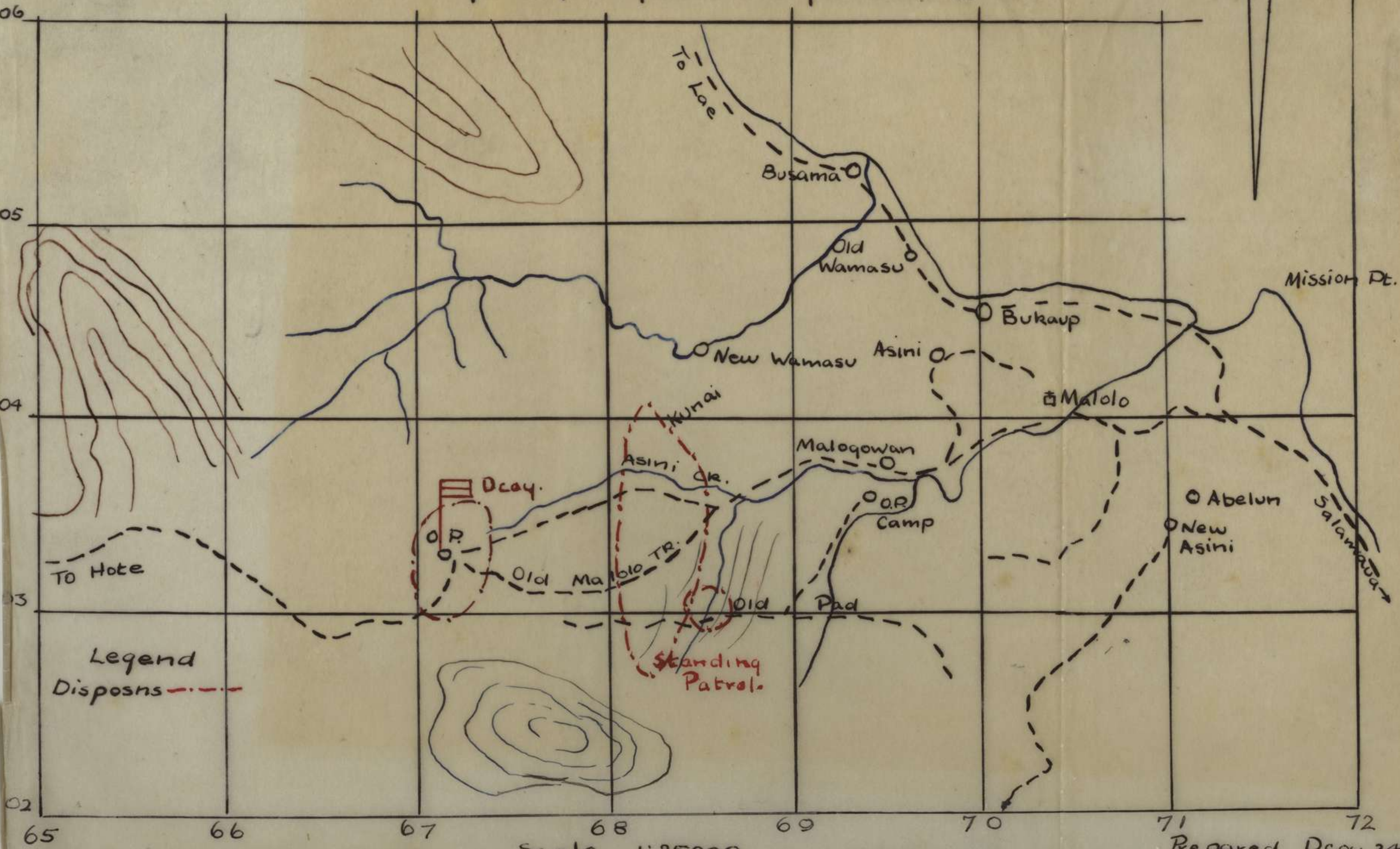
- (i) Night approach EAST along OLD PAD to track junc 691029 thence NORTH to OP CAMP.
- (ii) Approach from left flank along NORTH bank of ASINI CREEK to feature overlooking MALAGOWAN.
- (iii) Dawn attack from both posns.

Sketches of PLANS A and B vide Appx A and B.

(Signed) S.H. WHITELOW
Capt
OC D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn
1/8

Tracing from Salamaua 1:25000
showing Coy Disposns as per Plan "A"

G. M.
5°40'



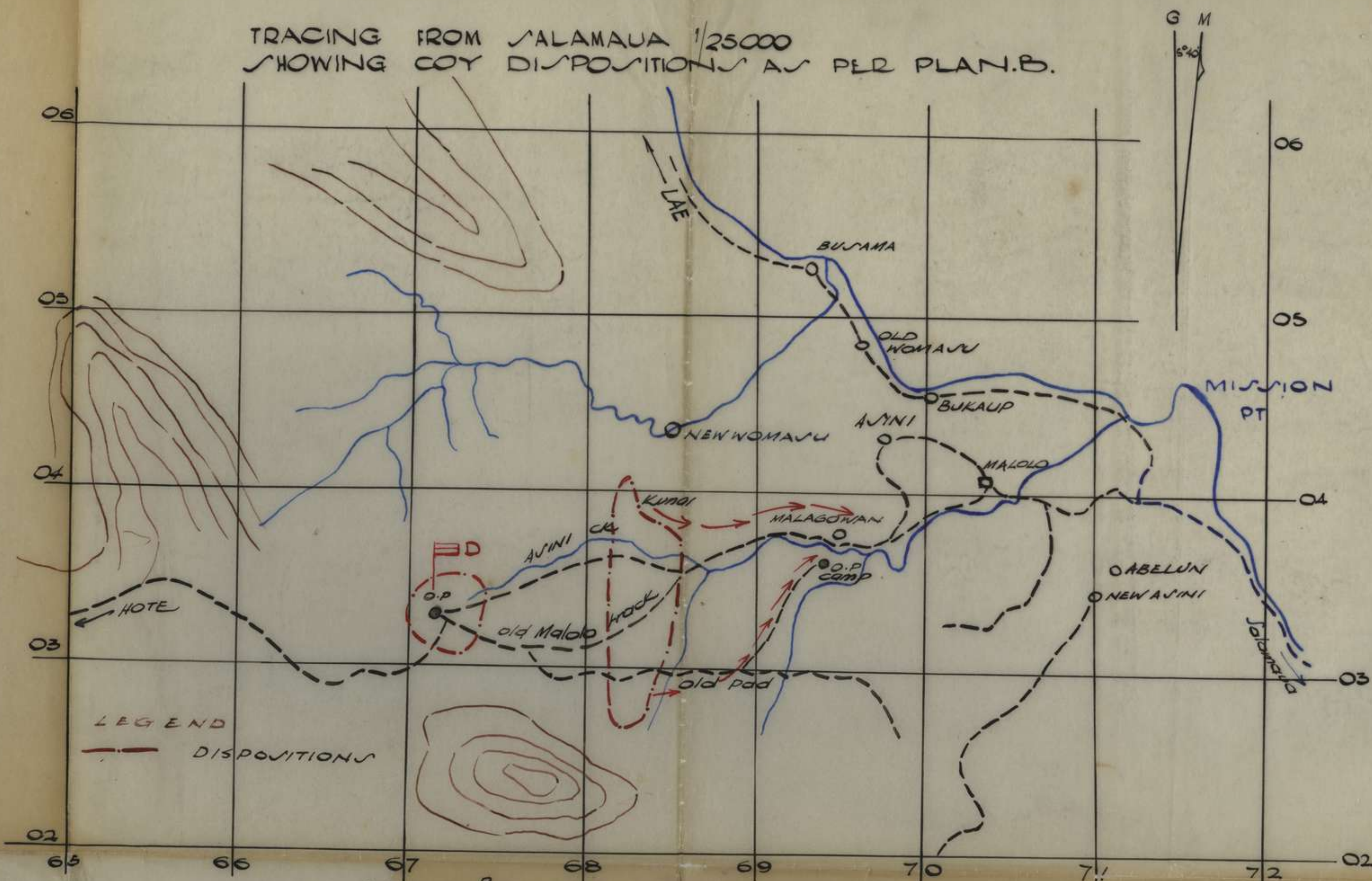
Legend
Disposns - - - -

Scale 1:25000

Prepared Dcoy 24 Bn 24 Aug 43.
Traced 15 Bde 'I' Section

TRACING FROM SALAMAUA 1/25000
 SHOWING COY DISPOSITIONS AS PER PLAN B.

Appx B



Scale - 1/25000 -

PREPARED BY DCO4 248N
 INT. SEC. 15 AVST. INF. BDE.
 2. AUG. 43

War Diary *Appx 24*
PATROL INFORMATION OBTAINED BY D COY 24 AUST INF

BN - UP TO 3/ JULY 1943

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
3 Aug 43

1. RESULTS OF RECCE FOR CAMP SITES

- (a) Results of recce patrol in the high ground WEST of MALAGOWAN area to find sites for Coy and Pl positions. A suitable Coy HQ or Pl position was located at creek and track crossing 643028. Water, fuel and concealment were all plentiful.
- (b) 30 minutes past the site mentioned in (a) at 655035 the feature along which the track runs, levels out on to an easy grade which would make a good Coy HQ or Pl position, being on the forward slopes of the feature however, makes observation by the enemy quite possible. Water is available.

2. RESULTS OF RECCE FOR OPS

- (a) Patrol to locate further OPs from which to observe the MALAGOWAN area. A patrol moved from the OP at 672032, to the high feature 675025 with a view to establishing an OP there. The feature proved to be heavily timbered with very limited observation. A further feature at 682022 was recce'd but with a similar result. No sound or sign of enemy was noticed en route.

3. RECCE TO AMBUSH POSITION AT SALAMAUVA - 670029

- (a) Recce EAST, SE and NE of the OP has been conducted by 16 Pl under Lieut THOMAS and recce reports forwarded as received. Further recce is now being undertaken by 8 Pl under Lieut BARLING.
- (b) Track HOTE-MALOLO - From HOTE(622016) the track crosses the BURRIS River by a Kunda Bridge NOT in very good state of repair. There is an alternative crossing by stepping stones 15 yards upstream from the Bridge. The DRY CK is also crossed by stepping stones. Thence the track winds up the high feature running NORTH and SOUTH and parallel to DRY CREEK. After travelling approx 1 hr from HOTE, the track descends to a creek crossing, a tributary of DRY CK(637033). At this position there was established a ~~xxx~~ kitchen for providing hot meals to members of the Ambush position. The track continues to rise by ~~xxx~~ easy gradient to the OP(672032) The track throughout is BENCH CUT and good native pad, and runs along a narrow ridge, both sides being very steep leading to densely timbered gullies. Pissers or small mountain creeks have been discovered on either side of the track thus providing a plentiful supply of ~~fish~~ fresh water for any troops stationed on the track. High mountain ranges very densely timbered are on both sides of the track and recce has failed to reveal any serviceable track that could be used by the enemy or by our own troops on forward operations.
- (c) Track HOTE-MALOLO - From OP to MALAGOWAN(695037) the track descends sharply by a circuitous route; very narrow at times with precipitous drops both sides. Reccees have revealed that the enemy has cut the track in many places in an endeavour to straighten it. Presumably for a quick getaway from any ambush position they may occupy. The straightening of the track will also assist us as the ground offers us opportunity to set ambush positions from OP to MALAGOWAN.
- (d) A high ridge runs NW from the OP parallel to the coastline, and

as far as the eye can see, is densely timbered. Natives report that there are no tracks crossing this range from the coastal areas. Recce has revealed that the Eastern slopes in squares 6603 and 6604 are precipitous.

- (e) To the EAST and SE of the OP several tracks are in existence. High timbered features are on the SOUTH side of the OP and as no tracks have been discovered in their vicinity these natural obstacles should assist as right flank protection for any movement to the EAST of the OP. ^{A track branches off SE from OP} till it again joins the MALOLO tracks at approx 694036. The MALOLO track crosses the ASINI CREEK 200-300 yds past the track junc and continues on the NORTH side of the creek through MALAGOWAN and MALOLO.
- (f) Enemy AMBUSH positions have been discovered on the track WEST of track junc. Much tree felling and carting of timber has been heard in the vicinity of the junc MALOLO track and ASINI CK and it is considered that a large staging camp is in course of preparation.
- (g) In the NEW WAMASU area (685044) further tree felling was seen and heard; therefore it is likely that another staging camp is being prepared there.
- (h) Information from other sources state that the enemy are in strength in all native villages in the vicinity of ASINI, MALOLO, BUKAUP and BUSAMA.
- (i) My plan therefore is to obtain by further recce information of accessible routes to NEW WOMASU and NORTH of MALAGOWAN. This will enable raiding parties to be sent to these areas. Place fighting patrols on the MALOLO track, and track SOUTH of and parallel to the MALOLO track with the task of pushing the enemy from their ambush positions, thus enabling me to launch a strong attack on MALAGOWAN; the capture of which will provide a firm base for further operations as per 15 Aust Inf Bde Op Instn No 5.

4. SUMMARY OF INFORMATION FROM RECCE OF HOTE-MALOLO TRACK

- (a) Nature of country - The area to 1000 yds NORTH of HOTE is reasonably clear and visibility etc good. Beyond that area however, in a NE direction the HM track enters heavily timbered ranges that restrict movement off track considerably. Movement to left or right flanks, at all times, is hampered by the track being almost entirely bench cut into steep slopes. At OLD AMBUSH position several recce patrols attempted to move to ridges that appeared to be no further than 1000 yds away, but after 6 hrs or so hard travelling would end up with objective unattained.
- (b) Tracks - The HOTE-MALOLO track is a well graded bench cut but fairly heavy traffic ~~and~~ and wet weather has made it extremely slippery and in parts erosion has made movement difficult. There are only two tracks leading off to the other areas from the HM track, as far as recce has shown. 640015
(i) leads along ridge of mountains to PYRAMIDS (64013).
(ii) junc at OP where old MALOLO track turns EAST of the new track.

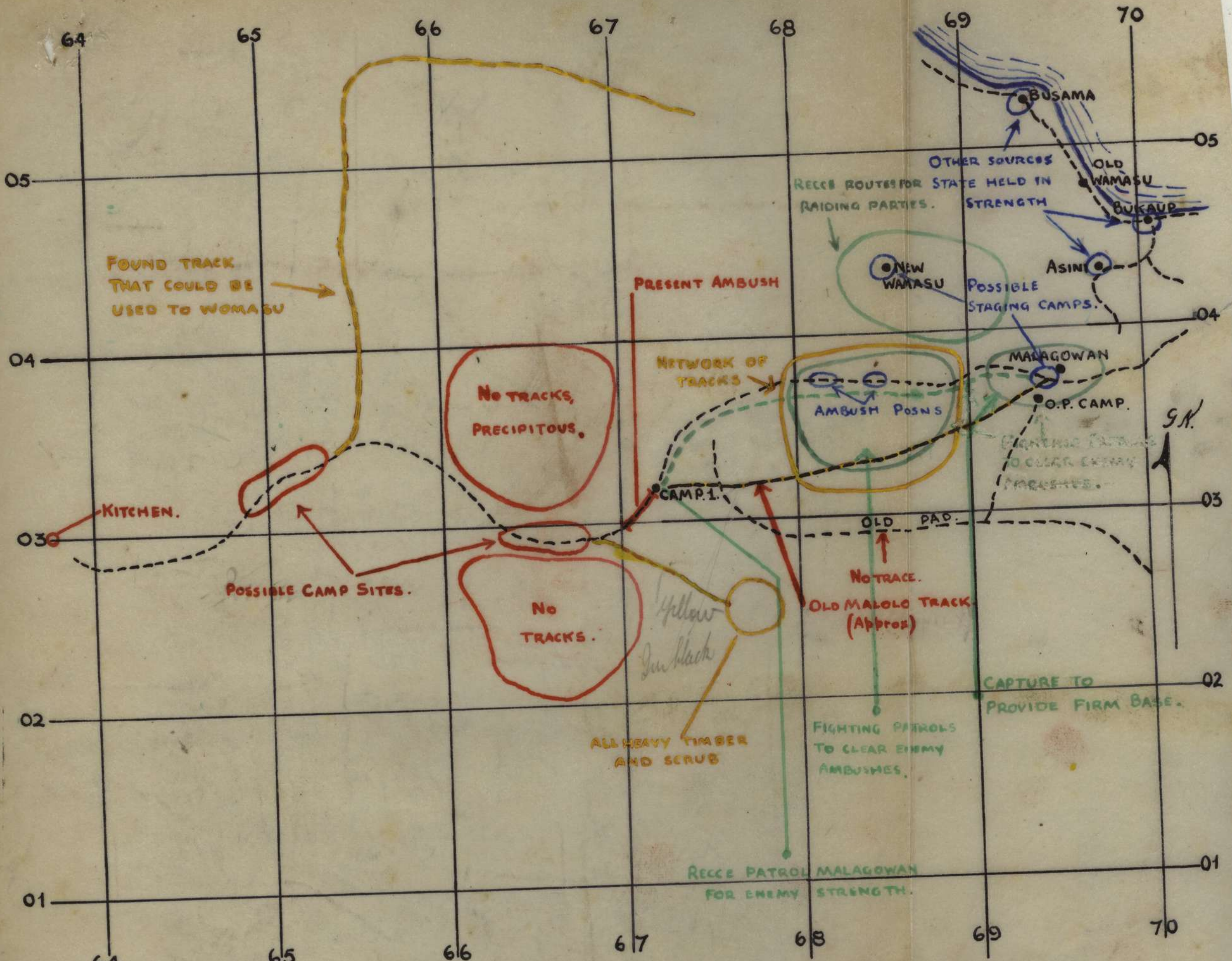
Another track was investigated JUNE 43, which was rumoured to eventually lead to GUADO. This track finishes in a creek bed and any leads off from the creek bed could not be found. Some pigeon trappers tracks maybe encountered; these however usually lead nowhere and are of little use. Any movement other than on tracks is extremely difficult.

- (c) Camp sites - At almost any point along the track a camp site could be situated near by. The country is very steep however and close proximity of water in some cases is of no value owing to difficulty of carting water. Present kitchen site is good but only as a small rest or staging camp. At old AMBUSH POSITION area could be made into good base camp,

water 7 mins away. (small stream). At present OP, 672032 and AMBUSH site good defensive site ~~and~~ ^{and/or} camp site is available, but in both cases limited by tall timber and heavy undergrowth. Establishment of a kitchen in that area again limited by precipitous slopes to water (10 mins from OP)

Forward of OP the NEW MALOLO track zig-zags down a very steep timbered mountain, in an easterly direction. None of this country is suitable for camp sites or firm base areas, owing to nature of ground. The enemy has, from earlier recce patrol reports, established a camp at vicinity FIRST WATER near MALAGOWAN. Country in that area is considerably more level and more light filters through the trees. Water is good and the only handicap is the distance from nearest supply base (approx 5 hrs to HOTE).

A large base in that area would at the present time need considerable protection owing to a network of tracks between Old MALOLO track and New MALOLO track. Country between those two tracks is again very difficult.



Ref map SALAMAUVA
 1/25000.
 TRACE SHOWING INFM GAINED BY
 RECCE DCOY 24 BN MALAGOWAN
 AREA 13 JUL TO 31 JUL 43 AND
 PLAN FOR FUTURE OPS.

LEGEND

- Patrols. —
- Future plans. —
- Allied infm. - - -
- Enemy infm. - - -

Traced by Pte R.J. THORPE under instructions
 by LIEUT COULTER 31 JUL 43. 15 Bde HQ.

VISIT TO A AND C COYS 58/59 AUST INF BN 31 JUL 43
BY CAPT S.R. HEDLEY, IO 15 AUST INF BDE
AND LIEUT D.G. SPINK, IO 58/59 AUST INF BN.

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
/ Aug 43

OBJECT:

To ascertain the actual positions of A and C Coys and to generally look over the country in the area.

1. SITES

- (a) Weapon pits NOT covered at all in any places except by a few scanty leaves.
- (b) C Coy site on side of hill overlooking BENCH CUT, NOT in depth at present, but if anything happened pls are warned to fall back to the track, with coy HQ.
- (c) A Coy
 - (i) Coy HQ situated on flat stretch 50-75 yds off the KOMIATUM TRACK. It is approx 600 yds and about 10 mins from C Coy. Plan at present is to ambush track with two pls, one remaining with Coy HQ. After ambush, the two pls are to move north to another position.
 - (ii) Coy HQ is NOT dug in; plan at present if ambush attacked and forced to fall back, is to concentrate the coy along the track back to C Coy and then stand.
 - (iii) CO 58/59 Aust Inf Bn feels that this position is a bit sticky until 17 Bde starts to ~~fix~~ force the enemy back along the track

2. MMGs

It is difficult to site guns on the track in that area. Visibility is only approx 50 yds and very flat with trees but very little undergrowth. The guns were brought back from track, because the crew considered they would need to sit the gun on the track itself before it would be of use, then protection of the gun with the force available would be almost impossible.

3. MORTARS

Sites could be found and cleared for the weapons, but it is NOT possible to find suitable OP in the area; furthermore the ground cannot be seen - only the tree tops even when some loophole is found to look through.

4. TOPOGRAPHY

- (a) OSBORNE CK does NOT appear to exist; the high ground runs down to a swamp and possibly this is where the creek is thought to be according to the map. 2/3 Aust Indep Coy report a waterfall in this area but so far 58/59 Bn personnel have NOT mentioned it. See Note.
- (b) KOMIATUM TRACK

At a point approx 708966 the track is 15 ft wide and has a 5 ft corduroy strip along it.
- (c) BENCH CUT TRACK /fades out and a foot track
A patrol followed this track to approx 706965 when it turns east and follows the southern edge of a spur which runs down to flat swampy ground at approx 707966. The foot track continues over towards the KOMIATUM TRACK and then runs north parallel to the KOMIATUM TRACK. There is no branch to the south. The patrol only followed this track for about 20 mins. The area immediately north of the OSBORNE CK, as marked on the map, is swamp and covered by low fern 3-4 ft high and some scrubby trees.
Note: Conversation with 2/3 Indep Coy on this matter has revealed a difference of opinion as to a waterfall which is supposed to be where OSBORNE CK is marked. 58/59 Bn personnel have NOT reported this and I have arranged with the IO to tell them of it and get it checked.

(d) GRIFFS TRACK is very rough and steep in several places, rain makes it more difficult. Evacuation of stretcher cases will be a problem; from ridge track at 699962 to the BENCH CUT track at 703958 it takes $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{3}{4}$ hrs each way, normal walking pace.

5. MORALE

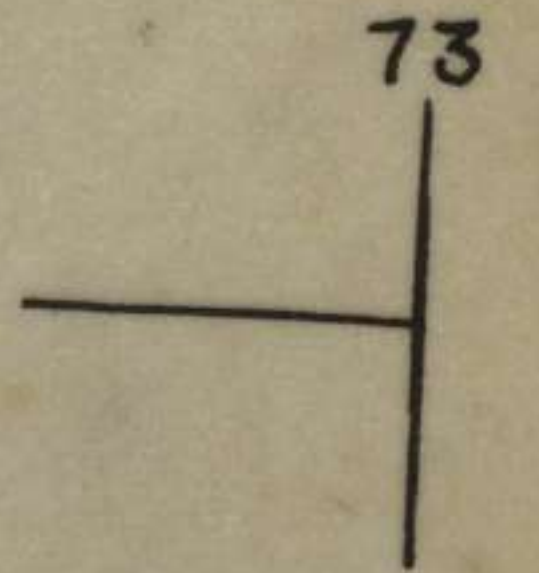
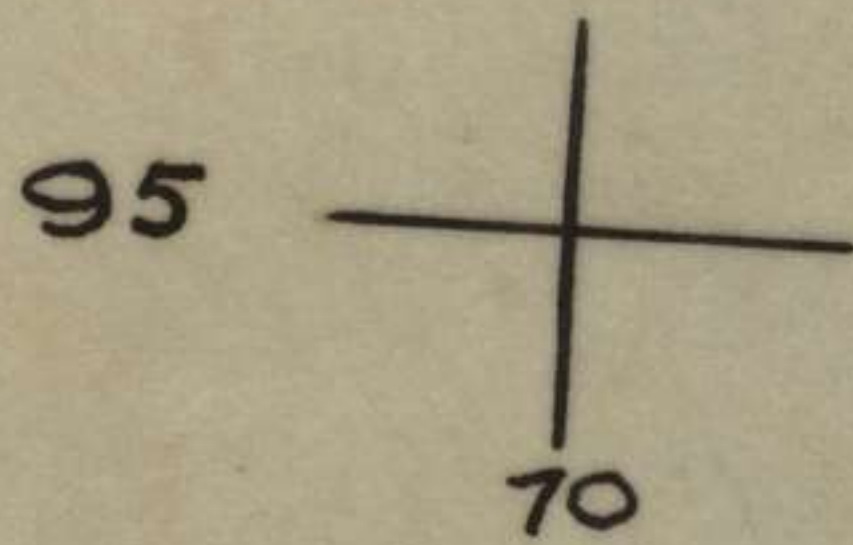
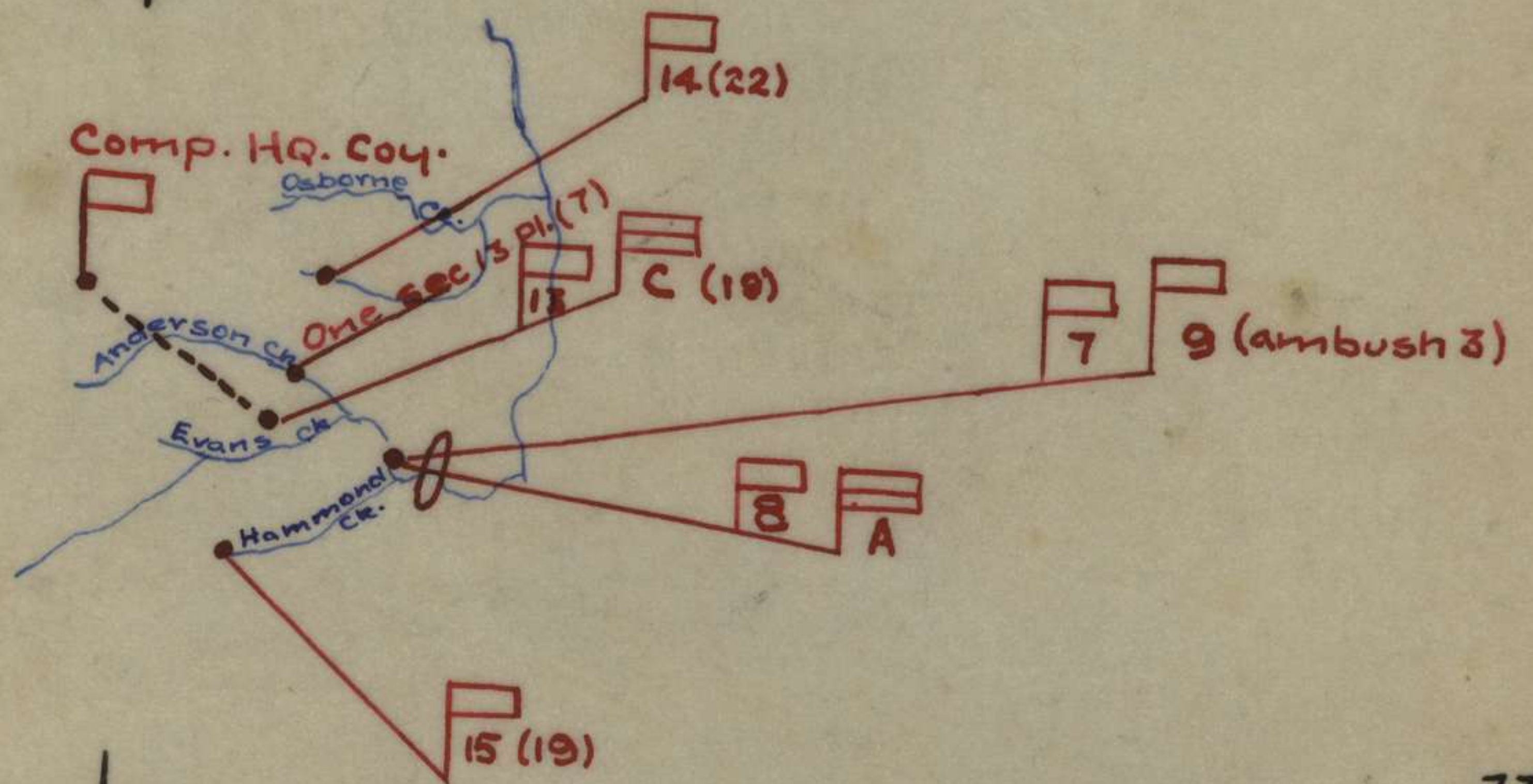
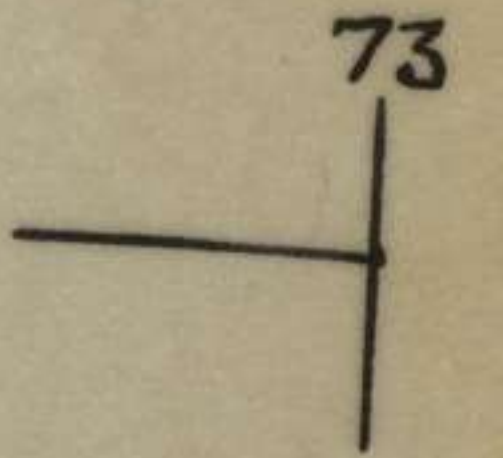
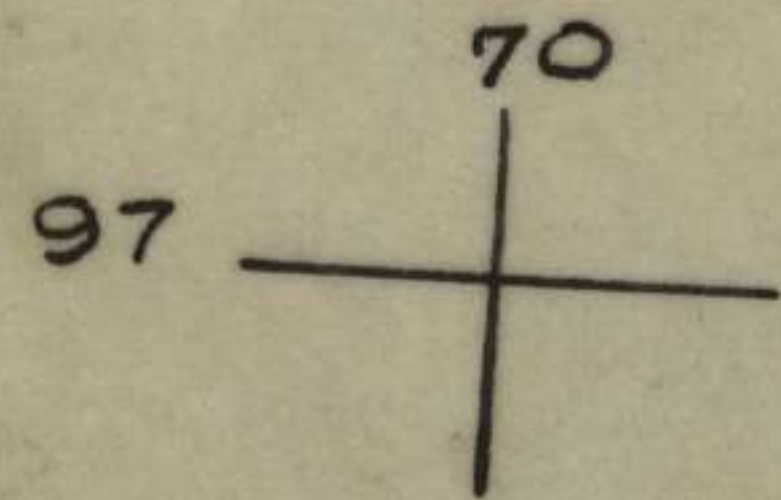
Some soldiers were definitely cheerful and confident, but generally speaking the troops were a bit "damped down". This was due in all probability to the heavy rain and consequent muddy conditions. Little effort had been made however to erect shelters or to make themselves comfortable. A shortage of tools is a contributing factor to this condition.

6. HYGIENE -

Arrangements were there for it and the sites were clean.

Adm. Hedley
Capt
IO 15 Aust Inf Bde

Further to above report, suggestions were made by Capt C.E. NEWMAN, OC C Coy, regarding the naming of creeks in the BENCH CUT area. Names are marked in the attached sketch.



15 AUGUST 1951 INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 85

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
2 Aug 51

Information from 230000/51 to 230000/1

Ref Maps:	LALAKA	1:25000
	KOMIATUM	1:25000
	2300	1:25000

1. OPERATIONS

(a) 703957

703957 - 703957 - JUNE AREA

2/5 Aust Inf Bde - Enemy heard on spur 703908 and on well defined track from 701908 in SUIGAP at 702908. Patrol from 703907 met contact patrol from Coy on SHIFFS TRACK 703907. Believed suitable arty of location on SHIFFS TRACK. 2300/51 2 rounds mortar fired into enemy area 703907 from which position patrol previously fired on by inf and rifles. Spoby traps were observed in this area. Previous reports of enemy along ridge 703914 707914 now appears correct. Known enemy positions in area are along spur running from 707918 to 703918. Position at June SHIFFS TRACK tracks BY TRACK quiet. 1230/1 small enemy known position on SHIFFS TRACK 703908.

2/6 Aust Inf Bde - 31 Jul patrol which moved to within 200 yds of PRICES HILL 693958 found a northerly track which possibly leads to ORCHARD. Patrol from ANBURN KNOLL moved to SUIGAP CR and at approx 701931 found faint pad on bearing 245° mag.; no signs of recent use. Patrol continued up ridge towards KOMIATUM but no movement seen.

SHIFFS TRACK - Throughout 30 JUL aggressive patrolling was continued against the enemy who are well dug in on ROOSEVELT RIDGE. During morning 31 Jul, Coy 5 moved through Coy 3 positions at 744944 and attacked enemy from west. At same time patrols pushed north up slopes at east end of ROOSEVELT RIDGE.

(11) 703957 Area

23/50 Aust Inf Bde - Night 31 Jul/1 Aug 6 Coy listening post 15 pl at 703957 heard Japs moving up west flank. 0600/1 10 pl attacked from west by enemy estimated strength 40 with light mortars. Our casualties 3 wounded 3 missing, no casualties reported inflicted on enemy. Morning 1 Aug 2 Coy two pls moved south parallel with KOMIATUM TRACK then west across well defined track to SHIFFS CRT TRACK south of June with SHIFFS TRACK. Two secs left at June, remainder moved south along SHIFFS CRT. Enemy attacked two secs at June from east. Secs returned to 2 Coy HQ; our casualties 1 killed 1 wounded. 1510/1 4 secs hearing firing returned north and reported to 2 Coy HQ. Dispositions: 3 pl with Coy HQ, one sec 200 yds north along SHIFFS CRT from June with SHIFFS TRACK, one sec 100 yds south, 2 Coy HQ 13 and 15 pls 704255. Enemy estimated 30 250 yds south along SHIFFS CRT. Arty trying to register 000000 1300. Patrol from Composite Pl at RIDGE TRACK SHIFFS TRACK June fired on at 0900/1 from 100-200 yds north along track to SHIFFS POSITION. Estimated 10 enemy in this position. 1500/1 1 and 2 coys under mortar pl from direction KOMIATUM TRACK. 1 Coy casualties 1 wounded. 1510/1 location state amendments: Rear Bn HQ 693950, MAP 693918, 24 Coy HQ 693956. 1445/1 5 shells fell in vicinity 2 Coy - thought to be from gun on SHIFFS TRACK - our casualties 1 killed 3 wounded. 1435/1 2 Coy patrol to Composite Pl at June RIDGE and SHIFFS TRACKS reported track clear (.). 1450/1 1/2 pl sig cable on KOMIATUM TRACK cut by slitting covers and removing wire. 1500/1 20 enemy ambushed; our casualties 1 wounded, enemy 7 killed. 2 Coy withdrew to 2 Coy

perimeter for night. B Coy patrols afternoon report RIDGE TRACK clear. See in position 699957, C Coy 1/2 perimeter vicinity June BRIDGE CUT and GRIFFS TRACKS. B Coy patrol to contact C Coy failed, returned 1645K/1. Report enemy still in occupation BRINKING CK.

E/7 Aust Inf Bn - 0615K/1 A Coy reported enemy opened on their positions from 700528. Fighting patrol cancelled to maintain close perimeter. 0645K/1 L/T out to A Coy. Contact patrol from B Coy 55/59 Bn contacted A Coy 8/7 Bn and returned 0950K/1 and reported A Coy being attacked from east. Enemy within 30 yds our forward positions. Both arty and coy L/T out. When returning, patrol ~~fixed~~ forced to detour west. Am train used detour track, reached A Coy and returned safely. Units sign laying cable to A Coy along detour track. Patrol ~~xxxxxxx~~ Coy to NORTH COCONUTS unable to cross swollen river after 3 determined attempts. 1300K/1 L/T restored to A Coy by alternative route. FOC will use this line. Afternoon 1 Aug A Coy sporadic firing throughout afternoon; casualties enemy estimated 40, own nil. Arty and 3" mortar engaged known enemy positions during afternoon. Patrol to NORTH COCONUTS failed due to FRANCISCO flooding.

2/3 Aust Indep Coy - BRIDGE POST at PARKERS BOWL 698945 reports Japs heard moving and chopping wood 150 yds north towards BRINKING CK, believed to be small party. BRIDGE CUT reported to have been mined by Japs - mines being left in position and added to, also booby traps.

(111) MARLBOROUGH AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn - 1530K/30 one police boy killed by one of our booby traps 547212 (RAGO 1"). 1715K/31 12 PI relieved by 11 PI at LEGA 2 530214. 1700K/31 fighting patrol returned LEGA 2 reports BEING R in flood and impassable. Patrol to 552214 reports no movement seen.

(b) ENEMY
1715K/31 2 Japs observed 693233 thought digging in. 0630K/1 Jap mtn gun KAMIATUM TRACK fired 5 rounds into 2/6 Bn positions and our arty replied. 1530K/1 Jap mtn gun fired 5 rounds into 2/6 Bn positions.

2. OF REPORTS

(a) BELLS CP: 0630K/31 large fires near jetties on Isthmus lasted 40 mins. Night 31/1 loud explosions heard direction BT TAMBU. 0625K/1 smoke observed SE end Isthmus and at 0630K/1 at wooded area north of church. 0700K/1 US arty registered on bridge, AA position near MACDONALDS JUNG and then on clay north of runway - plane slightly damaged by near miss. 0720K/1 smoke seen from back of CHODUBI lasting 40 mins. 0830K/1 Jap mtn gun KAMIATUM TRACK fired 5 rounds on AMBUSH HOLLOW. 0835K/1 US guns fired 20 rounds on Jap mtn gun. 20 yds disappeared from south end of FRANCISCO bridge, probably washed away by flooded FRANCISCO. 0905K/31, 2 Japs moved north and 3 south across bridge, wading across river where bridge is broken. 1015K/1 unusual activity noticed vicinity AA position south end Isthmus when at least 15 Japs observed.

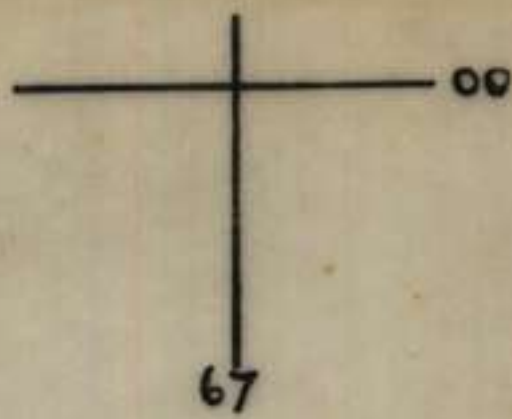
(b) SHAIKOLAH CP: 0700K/1 shell landed vicinity footbridge, unable to observe results. 0805K/1 section of footbridge approx 20 yds observed damaged. 3 men from SALAMUA looked at bridge and returned.

(c) LAE CP: 0640K/1 9 barges in LAE harbour, 4 aircraft parked on LAE airfield.

SA Kelly Capt
Major
24 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION:

E/7 Aust Inf Bn, 55/59 Aust Inf Bn, 2/3 Aust Indep Coy, B Coy
24 Aust Inf Bn, ANGAE, 3 Aust Div, 30, File War diary (2).



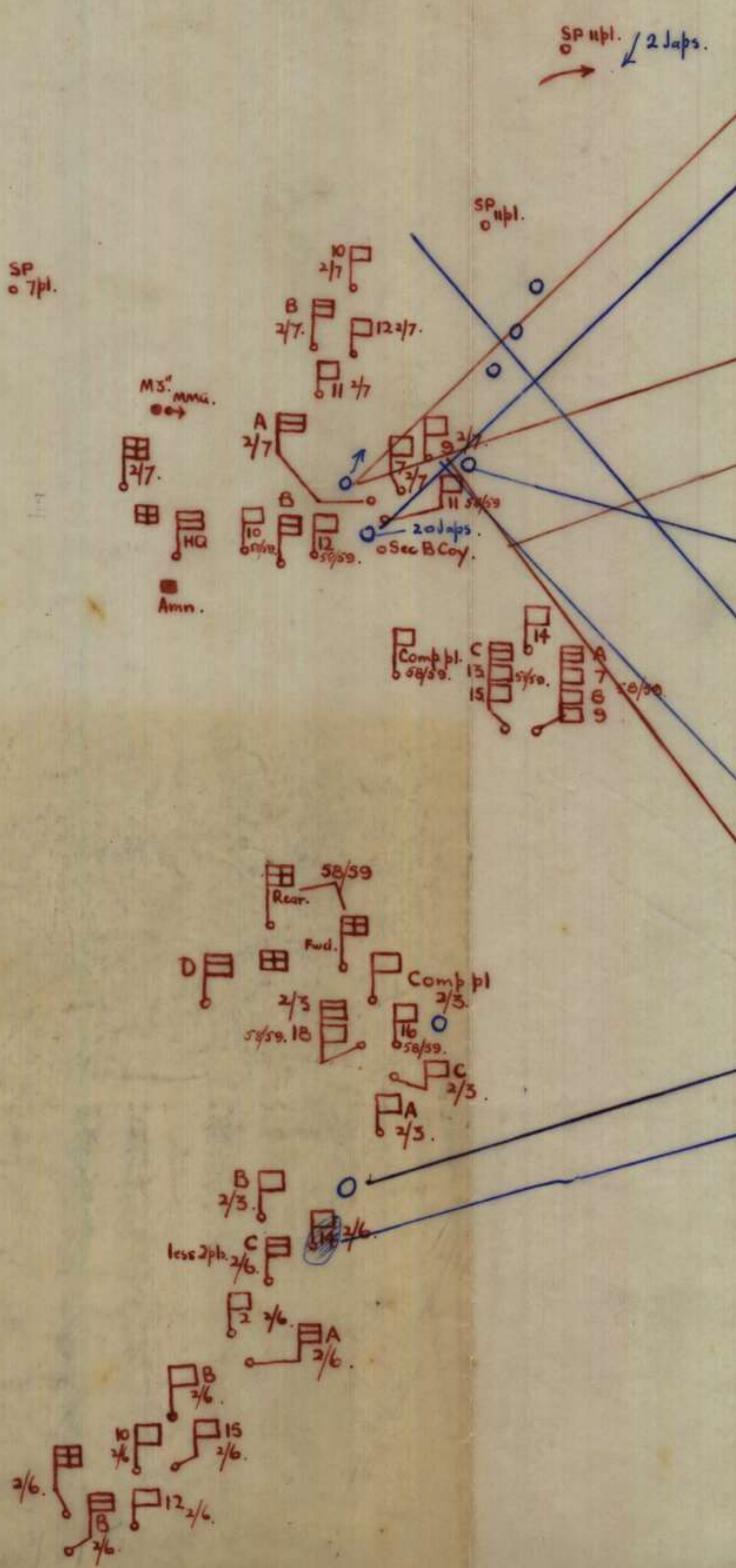
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APPX 6

DOUBLE T

SITUATION MAP AS AT 2359 Hrs 2 Aug 43.

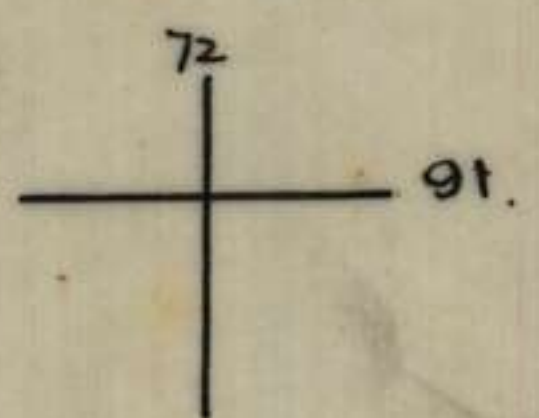
To be superimposed over KAMIATUM 1/25000.



B Coy 58/59.
 1130/2 MMG & mortar fired on japs west of OLD VICKERS POSN & observed enemy making towards COCONUTS. Patrol from BETHUNES POST 698966 towards OLD VICKERS POSN fired on from approx 100' NORTH by est 20 Japs with 2 LMGs. Patrol moved back to POST & engaged enemy with 2" mortar fire.

1630/2. MMG fired on enemy mvt NW of OLD VICKERS POSN
 B Coy patrol east then north from 698966 saw 4 Japs moving down creek believed Jap L of C.
2/7 AUST INF BN.
 0600/2 Enemy attacked A Coy from KNOLL 698969. Enemy being mortared:
 0700/2. Patrol from B Coy bound for NORTH COCONUTS fired at 703980.
 0800/2
 Patrol fired on at 702976 from EAST side of river.
 A Coy - intermittent firing during morning. Our casualties 1 killed 2 wounded.
 Our troops on CANE KNOLL 698968 heavily engaged by enemy LMG.
 Small party 698967, LMG mortared. Casualties 2 wounded, enemy 26 killed.
 B Coy reported continued activity north slopes KNOLL 696969.
2/3 INDEP COY.
 K/2 Movement on EARTHY KNOLL.
 1828/2.
 Mtn gun fired 4 shells onto AMBUSH KNOLL.

15 BDE INT SEC
Aug 43



War Diary

Appendix 7

To : ~~ASP 1~~ 3 aust div

From : ~~FRAX~~ 15 aust inf bde

0943

2

major ~~BAILEY~~ from ~~WOHLERS~~ (.) request bombing of

COCONUTS ref ASP 14 C.10-4.80 to D.10-5.30 at 1000

august 4 (.) mortar smoke on target will be made

available on two minute intervals from 0950 (.)

estimate 150 men in well fortified pillboxes (.)

request bombing from SW to NE (.) bomb safety line

ASP 14 C.00-5.00 to C.50-2.40

Boulder hint

~~Hold till~~
~~0600~~

TOO 2305
THI

apps 7

COPY/AJT

To : 15 bde rptd RAA 3 div
From : 3 div

04356

3

0943

not to RAA (.) NOT desirable to attack from air targets which can be engaged adequately by our arty (.) consider arty fire on COCONUTS would be more effective (.) consult RAA and advise

Immediate

T00 1025
1035
1103

War Diary

Apr 8

COPY XAJT

To : 58/59 bn rptd 2/7 bn 2/3 indep coy
From : 15 aust inf bde 0953

3

using BENCH CUT as firm base and pers from A and C coys combined 58/59 bn will arrange immediately to operate fwd to KOMIATUM TRACK day and night (.) recce patrols will observe fighting patrols will harass enemy (.) night moved may require fighting patrols to be in posn by last light and return to coy at first light (.) wherever possible harassing shoots with limited allotment of amn will take place nightly by all units (.) all ack

Important

T00 1550

COPY/AJT

Appa 9

To : 3 aust div 15 bde
From : 17 bde

1105

3

enemy documents from BOBDUBI indicate reconstruction of 115 regt
prev believed almost destroyed BISMARCK SEA BATTLE (.) now comd
COL MATSUI (.) previous comd COL ENDO now MAJ GEN (.) list of PFC
and superior privates dated 30 jun show total 392 superior ptes
and 439 PFC (.) ~~documents~~ subsequent documents show many
promotions of officers and NCOs (.) all documents received
apparently captured from OGAWA which is 9 coy 115 regt (.) prior
allied occupation of MUBO OGAWA TAI apparently on MT TAMBU but
later rejoined 115 regt in NAMBLING BOBDUBI area (.) possible that
11 coy called TEJIMA TAI was also under comd OGAWA at time
documents captured (.) although details dated 30 jun mentioned
above shows only 12 superior privates and 30 AFC in 9 coy a
manning chart dated 28 jun shows total strength OGAWA TAI 4 officers
23 NCOs 117 ORs (.) will advise further infm later

Immediate

T00 0120
0130
0430

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 26

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
3 Aug 43

Information from 2359K/1 to 2359K/2.

Ref Maps: SALAMAUA 1:25000
KOMIATUM 1:25000
MUBO 1:25000

1. OPERATIONS

(a) Own
(i)

MUBO - GOODVIEW - TAMBU Area

17 Aust Inf Bde - 1000K/2 HQ 17 Aust Inf Bde closed at GUADAGASAL and reopened at 698898 at same time. 1145K/2 C Coy 2/7 Bn left WAU en route SUMMIT.

2/5 Aust Inf Bn - 1 Aug patrol found track branching SW from MULE TRACK at 702915. This track followed and found barricade defences with cut fields of fire in area 30 by 100 yds. No sign of enemy. Patrol to right flank of this position - no contact. Fresh footprints found on MULE TRACK. Dispositions: C Coy less one pl 698903, one pl 698904, 4 Pl 703903.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn - Patrol along BENCH track to KUNAI PATCH 693935 fired TSMG into PRICES KNOLL, enemy fired 3 rifle shots in return. Empty weapon pits found on track between 693935 and PRICES KNOLL. 1825K/1 Jap gun fired 4 rounds between our positions AMBUSH KNOLL and SUGARCANE RIDGE - no casualties.

TAYLOR FORCE - One pl Coy A previously under comd D Coy 2/5 Bn relieved by one pl Coy B. Coy B less one pl 716913, Coy A 716913, Coy C 717907. 1545K/1 3" mortar engaged small Jap party TAMBU PEAK - results NOT observed.

COANE FORCE - Morning 31 Jul Comd Post 2 Bn 162 Regt moved to 738941. Now reported Coy G went into reserve 736941. Coys E and F attacked ROOSEVELT RIDGE from west supported by arty and covering fire from Coy G, making small gains against heavy enemy resistance throughout day. 1800K our troops returned to positions at 742944. During day 218 FA Bn fired 310 rounds harassing fire, 87 rounds supporting fire and 762 rounds counter battery fire. 205 FA Bn also fired 356 rounds. 31 Jul-1 Aug Arty engaged DOT INLET, LOKANU and ridges to north of ROOSEVELT RIDGE with harassing fire. 1600 K/1 one pl Coy L occupied positions vacated by Japs at 724926. Enemy now in position 723921. 1 Aug, Active patrolling against Japs on ROOSEVELT RIDGE - 6 Japs killed. 1300K/1 12 enemy shells landed A Tp 2/6 Fd Reg positions - no damage or casualties. 1524K/1 218 FA Bn neutralized Jap MMG at 746943. 0648-0659K/2 Mtn bt fired 14 rounds onto mtn gun vicinity KOMIATUM. 1000K/1 Arty registered targets in GOODVIEW JUNC area. Two 25 prs temporarily out of action owing to gun positions being flooded.

(ii) MISSIM Area

58/59 Aust Inf Bn - 1200K/2 A Coy in C Coy perimeter junction GRIFFS and BENCH CUT tracks. 0600K/2 contact patrol of 3 men moved to GRIFF and RIDGE track junc - report track clear. Patrol from junc GRIFF and RIDGE tracks to B Coy report track clear at 0800 and 1130K/2. MMG and mortar fired on Jap position west of OLD VICKERS POSITION and observed enemy making way back over ridge in general direction of COCONUTS. Morning 2 Aug C Coy report 2 men missing from patrol. 1445K/2 2 HE shells fell 300 yds NE of Coy HQ. Patrol from BETHUNE'S POST 698966 towards OLD VICKERS POSITION fired on from approx 100 yds north of the post by estimated 20 Japs with 2 LMGs. Patrol moved to post area and engaged enemy with 2" mortar - results unobserved.

Patrol to find L of C to this position NOT yet reported in. 1630K/2 MMG fired on enemy movement NW of OLD VICKERS POSITION. B Coy patrol east then north from 698966 saw 4 Japs moving down creek believed Jap L of C. D Coy patrol ERSKINE CK area believes north flank of enemy located. Enemy gun NUK NUK area firing into TAMBU area.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn - 0600K/2 enemy attacked A Coy from knoll west of OLD VICKERS POSITION area 696969. Enemy strength unknown, knoll being mortared. 0700K/2 B Coy patrol to NORTH COCONUTS moved along north bank of FRANCISCO R, was fired on at 703980. Patrol moved out 0800K/2 along north bank FRANCISCO R. Patrol fired on at 702976 from EAST side of river. Patrol continued on mission. A Coy reports intermittent firing during morning - our casualties 1 killed 2 wounded. Reinforcements A Coy arrived A Coy 1100K/2. Patrol from B to A Coy reached position north of OLD VICKERS POSITION - no movement seen, but moaning and voices heard. A Coy patrol along track leading NW from OLD VICKERS POSITION reached point where further movement impossible. Observed 1 Jap slide down slopes of knoll 696969 during afternoon. Own troops holding CAME KNOLL 698968 heavily engaged by enemy LMG fire. Small party in area 698967, enemy LMG mortared. Casualties own 2 wounded, enemy 25 killed. B Coy reports continued activity north slopes knoll 696969 throughout day.

2/3 Aust Indep Coy - Ambush position established on BENCH CUT track. Daily patrol along ridge to observe enemy FDLs reports movt on EARTHY KNOLL (696945), and LMG fire towards MORTAR KNOLL during day. 2030K/1 booby traps NAMLING RIDGE exploded. Patrol investigated and found that traps had been exploded by pigs.

B Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn - 1203-1222K/2 White object observed in sky bearing 72° from DAHO I, may be parachute, unable to estimate height. 1425K/2 Object still in approx same position. 1225K/2 dense cloud of smoke bearing 107° east side of high feature 6401. MALAGOWAN observed from approx 698031 - no movement seen.

AIR
(a)

Own
LAE bombed by 1 aircraft 1247K/1, bombs falling along SW side of airfield starting 1 small fire. 1250K/2 3 Liberators flying NW from SALAMAUA dropped approx 12 bombs NE of LABODU at 619023. One bomb fell 150 yds north of medical post under construction at 620018. Plane then turned and flew south. 1 native wounded.

(b)

Enemy
1755K/2 3 Jap aircraft flew south over gun positions at TAMBU L.Y. AA engaged, no results. 3 shells landed in 218 FA Bn gun positions immediately after aircraft passed - no damage, no casualties.

3. OP REPORTS

(a)

WELLS: 1350K/1 US arty registered on centre of Isthmus. 1700-1710K/1 19 Japs crossed footbridge into SALAMAUA. 1720K truck moved from KELA to QUARRY. 1745K two fires observed, one on western slopes KELA HILL, other to south near bend in FRANCISCO R. 1800-1820K/1 50 Japs moved into SALAMAUA. 1825K large launches moved from Isthmus along coast towards KELA. Enemy mtn gun fired 4 shells onto AMBUSH KNOLL 1828K. 0700K/1 9 Japs crossed bridge (now repaired) into SALAMAUA and 2 out. 0743K/1 2 Jap smoke shells seen in vicinity BOBDUBI. 0753K/1 Jap gun on KOMIATUM track fired 4 rounds on AMBUSH KNOLL, 2 of which were duds. 0757K/1 US arty replied with 10 rounds. 0842 K/1 3 smoke shells fell in vicinity BOBDUBI. 1045K/2 Allied aircraft bombed and strafed ship in HUON GULF appearing to damage steering gear. 1200K/2 Allied aircraft heavily raided LAE causing huge clouds of black smoke. 2 ships hit and sunk in HUON GULF. Isthmus strafed and numerous air burst bombs dropped area from ref ASP 13 H883 to south of bridge. HQ bombs dropped area M386 and M188. Bombs also fell in direction FINSCHHAFEN where large columns of smoke seen to rise. During strike US arty harassed AA guns at MACDONALDS JUNG where arty

fired a few rounds. 1255K/2 explosions heard north of NUNNS POST. 1400-1600K/2 10 Japs into SALAMAU and 3 out. 1450K arty registered forward of AMBUSH KNOLL. 1630-1800K/2 30 Japs moved into SALAMAU, 3 out. 1800-1830K/2 57 Japs and 1 stretcher moved into SALAMAU. 1832K/2 Mtn gun fired 8 rounds onto WELLS OP ridge.

(b) GWAIBOLON OP: 1215K/2 Aircraft bombing direction LAE. Large flame seen then dense smoke. 2 barges appeared hit, small ship estimated 5000 tons in harbour did NOT appear to be hit. 1525-1730K/2 25 Japs into SALAMAU, 1 out. 1800-1815K/2 33 Japs and 1 stretcher case moved into SALAMAU and 1 out.

(c) LAE OP: 0711k/2 11 barges in LAE harbour. 0845K/2 one barge loaded with men arrived LAE harbour. 0923K/2 barge proceeding south from LAE strafed by 9 Bostons, left drifting. 1143K/2 barge from harbour to assist drifting barge. 1200K/2 both barges sunk. 1118K/2 large flashes and explosions from LAE area indicates large naval gun. 1200K/2 11 bombers 14 fighters attacked LAE. 4 sticks of bombs dropped in vicinity suspected naval gun causing large flash, possible dump. One stick demolished administrative buildings, one stick on wharves and in harbour, one stick blew up large dump - large fires started. 4 barges burning, 1 half sunk, possibly others sunk. 1200K/2 Allied aircraft dropped bombs SALAMAU area.

Major
Major
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION: (To be detached and destroyed when read)

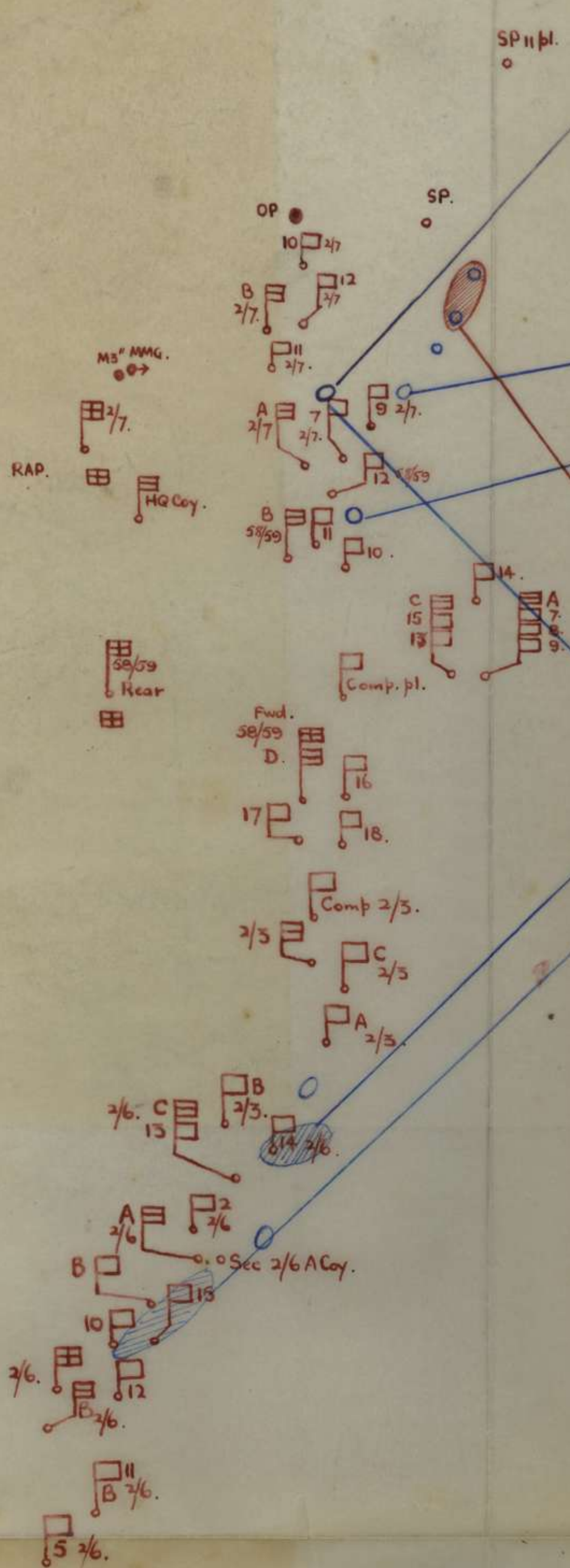
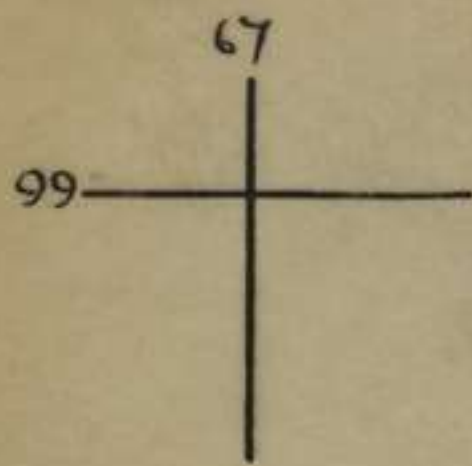
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	Copy No 1
58/59 Aust Inf Bn	2
2/3 Aust Indep Coy	3
2/3 Aust Indep Coy REAR	4
D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn	5
AASC and ANGAU NUNNS POST	6
L Sec Sigs	7
3 Aust Div	8
Comd	9
SMO	10
SC	11
File	12
War Diary	13-14
pare	15

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DOUBLET

SITUATION MAP AS AT 2359 HRS 3 Aug 43

To be super imposed over KOMIATUM 1/25000.

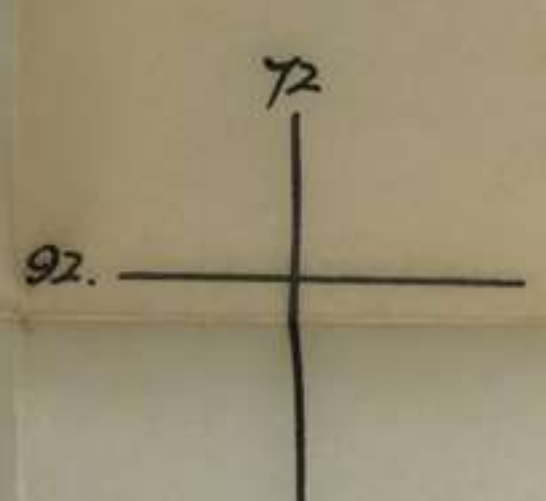


B Coy 2/7
 AM/3. Enemy fired on in area 696969 where they were camouflaging weapon pits.
 Patrol to west slopes KNOLL 696969 found unoccupied weapon pits. When returning 2 enemy contacted 1 killed, 1 probable.
 Our MMG from 697980 killed 2 enemy and harassed slopes KNOLL 696969.

B Coy 58/59
 K/3. Enemy reported still in posn 700969.
 4 enemy observed without shirts 100' NE of BETHUNE'S POST. Probably carriers.

K/3 160 rounds Arty fire on NORTH d CENTRE COCONUTS.

A Coy 2/7
 2115/3. Enemy heavily attacked A Coy from KNOLL 696969 using bayonet. Attack repulsed with casualties.
 Our casualties 1 wounded.
 0745/3. Mtn gun fired 4 rounds including 2 duds on area between AMBUSH KNOLL + SUGARCANE RIDGE.
 1840/5. 6 rounds included on line SUGARCANE RIDGE to track between WELLS JUNC + OP. 4 wounded.
 1630/3. 6 shells onto AMBUSH KNOLL.
 1500/3. 5 rounds same posn.



15 BDE
 AUG 43
 INT SEC

W. D. Gray
REPORT BY MAJOR B.H. TRAVERS, BM 15 AUST INF BDE
ON VISIT TO 58/59 AUST INF BN 1-3 AUG 43

apfa
HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
4 Aug 43

1. MOVEMENT

- 1300K/1 Departed for 58/59 Aust Inf Bn.
1430K/1 Visited 2/7 Aust Inf Bn and gave latest picture, including proposed employment A and C Coys 58/59 Aust Inf Bn.
1615K/1 Arrived 58/59 Aust Inf Bn. Saw CO and gave orders for use of A and C Coys on KOMIATUM and BOBDUEI tracks.
1000K/2 Moved with CO 58/59 Aust Inf Bn to 2/7 Aust Inf Bn HQ to discuss liaison between B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn and A Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn.
1300K/2 Moved to B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn.
1630K/2 Arrived Bn HQ 58/59 Aust Inf Bn.
0900K/3 Visited D Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn, area ERSKINE CK; and 2/3 Aust Indep Coy, area PARERS BOWL.
1300K/3 Moved to C Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn.
1630K/3 Returned to Bde HQ calling at 2/7 Aust Inf Bn en route.
1915K/3 Arrived Bde HQ.

2. DISPOSITIONS

(a) B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn

- (i) B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn are disposed to give depth to OLD VICKERS POSITION should Japs attempt to push along RIDGE from north to south. Pls were NOT disposed to best advantage but CO altered that. OC B Coy had NOT been active in patrolling his front. As a result of an order to patrol, it was found the Jap had been allowed to sit in a position/unmolested for 24 hours, without our knowledge. *North of BETHUNES POST*
(ii) Positions are dug in.

(b) D Coy

- (i) D Coy are sending out small recce patrols to attempt to establish the Jap flanks in ERSKINE CK area. Close liaison is kept with 2/3 Indep Coy in PARERS BOWL area.
(ii) The coy is sited to contain the Jap in the area. It has no depth east and west, and at present is occupying the vital ground.
(iii) Positions are dug in.

(c) Ridge Track Between B Coy and GWAIBOLON

This track is patrolled regularly by contact patrol.

(d) GRIFFS TRACK

This track is also patrolled regularly

(e) A and C Coy - Area NEWMANS JUNC

- (i) Both coys are sited in a close perimeter along a steep EAST-WEST spur leading from NEWMANS JUNC.
(ii) Capt NEWMAN considers the main threat from south and has disposed his force to meet such an attack. His perimeter extends about 200 yds from east to west and about 50 yds from north to south.
(iii) Positions are NOT dug in owing to shortage of picks and shovels. Demands for tools have been made by both coys.

3. ADMINISTRATION

(a) Hygiene

Hygiene in the coys is generally NOT good; in B Coy especially, it was bad.

(b) Meals

Enquiries reveal that troops appear to prefer Fd Op Ration to SWP on account of the ease of cooking. A and C Coys have no coy cookhouse, troops cooking for themselves. I am of the opinion that more could be done to give troops hot meals than is done at present.

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 27

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
4 Aug 43

Information from 2359K/2 to 2359K/3

Ref Maps: SALAMAUA 1:25000
KOMIATUM 1:25000
MUBO 1:25000

1. OPERATIONS

(a) Own
(1)

MUBO - GOODVIEW - TAMBU Area

2/6 Aust Inf Bn - A fighting patrol along BENCH CREEK track to unoccupied ambush position 693935 was fired on at 1530K/2 by 2 LMGs and possibly 1 MMG from suspected pillbox. Patrol returned fire and withdrew, and at 1800K the pillbox was engaged with mortar fire.

COANE FORCE - 1600K/2 harassing fire onto enemy positions MT TAMBU area by 25 prs. During air attack on SALAMAUA 105mm guns neutralized 2 of 3 enemy AA guns on SW end of Isthmus. The third gun was later silenced. 1820K/2 4 enemy mortar bombs incl 2 duds landed in 3 Bn Comd Post at 745931 - our casualties 2 killed, 8 wounded. At 1825K/2 arty and MMG fire into our positions at 738943 - 1 killed. 1950K/2 enemy mtn gun believed vicinity 725957 fired into our positions at 738900 - 2 wounded. Throughout night 2/3 Aug 218 FA Bn harassed enemy positions ROOSEVELT RIDGE. 205 FA Bn also fired 96 rounds harassing fire on SALAMAUA airfield, footbridge and AA gun emplacements, also ridge 700 yds to north of ROOSEVELT RIDGE. 1 Aug 4 offrs and 112 ORs of 11 Aust Fd Coy arrived NASSAU BAY. RAA 3 Aust Div afternoon 2 Aug, 25 prs fired concentration into enemy positions on SUGARCANE RIDGE. 1500K/2 13 Jap 75mm shells landed in B Tp 11 Bty positions. Slight damage caused but no casualties. Early afternoon 2 Aug 2 heavy shells from long range landed in A Tp 11 Bty gun position - no damage caused. 1030K/3 HQ RAA 3 Aust Div closed GUADAGASAL and reopened at 698898.

TAYLOR FORCE - Changes in dispositions at 1200K/3: HQ Coy, D Sec Bn medics, 1 sec A Coy 116 Med Bn at 717904; Coy A less one pl plus one sec HMGs 716910; one pl plus 2 HMGs 3 mortars and mortar 2/5 Bn 716913; Coy B plus one sec HMG 715915; Coy C 717907; 24 Port Hospital 608897; D coy 2/5 Bn 717908.

(ii) MISSIM Area

2/6 Aust Inf Bn - Changes in dispositions at 2000 K/2: A Coy less one sec 692933, one sec 693933; B Coy 10 pl 688928, 12 pl 688926; C Coy 15 pl 689928. An OP is established at MMG site 697980. During morning 3 Aug several groups enemy fired on in area 696969 where they were observed camouflaging weapon pits. Several attempts at digging were harassed also. Patrol 300 yds along track in direction SOUTH COCONUTS found freshly dug weapon pits unoccupied. Second patrol to western slope of knoll at 696969 also found unoccupied weapon pits and heard voices. When returning, 2 enemy contacted - one killed certain, 1 probable. Our MMG firing from 697980 killed 2 enemy and harassed slopes on knoll at 696969 during day. (See further report page 2)

58/59 Aust Inf Bn - Ambush party of 1 offr 6 ORs moved out from B Coy 6630K/3 to position on track from KUNAI spur vicinity 699966 to north in direction east side COCONUT RIDGE. Enemy reported still in position on open kunai spur 700969. Recce patrol to north of BETHUNES POST observed 4 enemy without shirts approx 100 yds NE of BETHUNE POST, possibly supply carriers returning to COCONUT RIDGE. Later report states enemy still in position between BETHUNE POST and TAYLOR RIDGE

Weapon pits reinforced with bags, and western side of position cleared of timber. 160 rounds of arty gun fire fell on NORTH and CENTRE COCONUTS during afternoon 3 Aug.

- (b) Enemy
0743K/2 Mtn gun fired 4 rounds (2 duds) onto area between AMBUSH KNOLL and SUGARCANE RIDGE, and 1840K 6 rounds incl 1 dud on line from SUGARCANE RIDGE to track between WELLS JUNC and OP - our casualties 4 wounded. Enemy mtn gun again in action at 1630K/3 firing 5 shells into 2/6 Bn position on AMBUSH KNOLL, and a further 5 rounds at 1500K.

2. AIR

(a)

Own

1115K/2 12 Bostons bombed and strafed BUIAMBUN-LOKANU and area 766959

3.

OP REPORTS

(a)

WELLS:

1740-1825K/2 77 Japs moved north and 1 south. Considered more following to north but bad visibility prevented observation. 1330K/2 Allied planes bombed Isthmus, footbridge at mouth FRANCISCO R, and NUK NUK. 1111K/3 Black smoke rose from fire after allied bombers had dropped bombs on ref ASP 13 S992. 0900-1200K/3 7 Japs moved into and 5 out of SALAMAUA across footbridge which is still in a damaged condition. 1330-1410 K/3 US arty shelled Isthmus from south to north hitting one hut. 1455K MACDONALDS JUNC and 1520K AMBUSH KNOLL were shelled. 1635K 4 Japs moved into SALAMAUA. 1741K a truck moved from Isthmus to wooded area north of church. 1745-1830 K/3 5 Japs moved in and 5 out of SALAMAUA.

(b)

GWAIBOLON:

1107K/3 9 Mitchells bombed and strafed SALAMAUA - results NOT observed. 1408K/3 three sharp explosions followed by columns of smoke from SE end of KELA HILL.

(c)

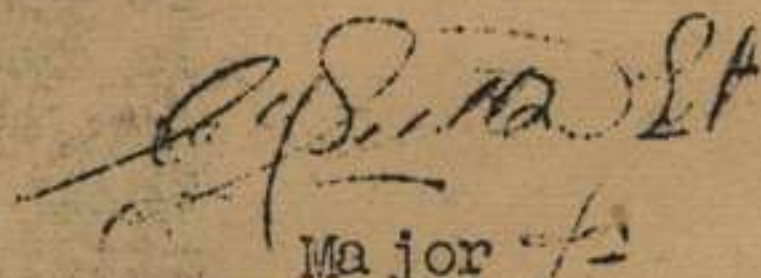
LAE:

4 barges still burning 1415-1600K/2. Ref Intelligence Summary No 26, 1700K 10 explosions heard from direction LAE. 0710K/3 appeared to be 4 undamaged barges in harbour. 7 aircraft parked in blast bays at 0750K/3.

OPERATIONS (Contd)

1. (a) (11)

2/7 Aust Inf Bn - 2115K/3 enemy heavily attacked A Coy from area knoll 696969 using bayonet. Attack repulsed with casualties inflicted on enemy. Direct fire of 3" mortar and grenades broke up attack as enemy reached our positions. Our known casualties 1 wounded. 2200K/3 reported all quiet.



Major

BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION:

As Per Summary No 26

Ward diary *Apr 14*

MEDICAL REPORT ON 15 AUST INF BDE AREA FOR

JULY 1943

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
4 Aug 43

15 Aust Inf Bde.
ADMS 3 Aust Div.

f/capt

MEDICAL POSTS

1. (a) Light Section MEARES CREEK - This was increased from 10 beds to 30 beds, and made into a Surgical Post 11 Jul.
Staff:- Major ROW
 Capt MACOURT.
Ceased to function as a Surgical Post on 27 Jul and ceased as a Medical Post on 30 Jul.
- (b) NUNNS POST - Established as an Ambulance Staging Post with one Medical Orderly 3 Jul. Increased to 10 beds and a Medical Staging Post 12 Jul. M.O. - Capt CHURCH. Shifted from Bde HQ area to ASC NUNNS POST and increased to 20 beds 27 Jul. M.O. - Capt JEFFRIES.
- (c) A.D.S. KELLYS - Established on ULIAP CREEK to fall in with new L of C via 17 Aust Inf Bde area. Established 27 Jul. 59 beds equipped by 29 Jul. Main Surgical Post for 15 Aust Inf Bde troops. Will be increased to 75 beds and to have a reserve ward of 20 beds as well.
Staff:- Major ROW
 Capt MACOURT
 Capt CHURTON
 Capt CHURCH
- (d) A.D.S. MISSIM - When surgical team functioned at MEARES CREEK, ADS MISSIM became "back stop" and rear surgical post. With ~~opening~~ opening of ADS KELLYS, ADS MISSIM assumes function of Medical Staging Post only.
M.O. - Capt CONSTABLE and Capt BROWN.
- (e) BASE 3. - Was established as a Medical Post 12 Jul to cope with 2/3 Aust Indep Coy casualties. M.O. - Capt CHURTON. Ceased as Medical Post 29 Jul.
- (f) PILIMUNG - Ceased to function as a Medical Post 31 Jul. To assume function of Ambulance Staging Post.
Staff:- 3 Medical Orderlies.

COLLECTION OF WOUNDED

2. Forward of the R.A.P. casualties were collected by the unit natives. From R.A.P.'s to ADS MISSIM patients were carried by back-loading carrier lines to MEARES CREEK Light Section and thence to ADS MISSIM.
2/3 Aust Indep Coy casualties reached MISSIM via BASE 3.
Evacuation of wounded - Line of evacuation from MISSIM was POWERHOUSE which was cleared 20 Jul. Before this date only 1 stretcher case was able to be evacuated per day. Walking cases were able to be evacuated along this L of C until 25 Jul. From 27 Jul no evacuations of any sort took place.
New line of collection and evacuation of wounded which partially started 27 Jul is along the ULIAP CREEK.

TIME TAKEN BEFORE OPERATING

3. Whilst ADS MISSIM was functioning as major surgical post average time of receiving casualties after being wounded was 40 hours.
When MEARES CREEK became forward operating centre average time of receiving cases was 14 hours.

At ADS KELLYS average time should be 6 hours. However since ADS KELLYS has started to function a break down in evacuation ~~had~~ occurred and several patients were 30 - 36 hours after being wounded - staying overnight at a site only $\frac{1}{2}$ hours away from the ADS.

ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES TO ALL MEDICAL POSTS

4. See Appendix

GENERAL HEALTH

5. During early part of July a mild epidemic of diarrhoea and dysentery occurred mainly amongst 58/59 Aust Inf Bn. By mid-July this was controlled. Factors which assisted greatly in its control were better rations, drier weather and, most important of all, better hygiene conditions were enforced.
- Tinea and other skin conditions (Impetigo etc) are the main worry amongst the troops. Lack of bathing facilities and clean clothes aggravate these conditions. Troops must avail themselves of every opportunity to keep themselves clean. The RMO's must continually check on the company medical orderlies' treatment of such conditions and inspect any troops who are NOT responding to such treatment. Medical supplies for these conditions were also inadequate. This of course, is an enormous factor in the persistence of the disease once established (see para 7).

HYGIENE

6. This is the subject of a ^{separate} report by the 15 Aust Inf Bde Hygiene Officer. However it is apparently still necessary to keep strict supervision of units and sub - units if good hygiene arrangements are to prevail.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

7. At the beginning of the month ample stocks were held for a fortnight for the number of troops in the area at that time. This was implemented by two small indents originated in June when the number of troops was much smaller. Since mid-July supplies have have been inadequate mainly for the following reasons:-
- (a) MISSIM L of C closed 20 Jul., hence decided to drop medical supplies.
 - (b) Supplies requested were NOT dropped in full. Recovery was poor owing to the drop being "free drop". About 1/3 recovered. Requests for parachute droppings were made.
 - (c) Extension of number of Medical Posts along the L of C forward of MISSIM during the first fortnight in July.
 - (d) Lack of containers - bottles etc. Even with small supplies a much better distribution would have been possible if containers had been available. Bottles were requested to be dropped but none were forthcoming.

CONCLUSIONS

8. (a) Coy Comds (and equivalents) must make themselves, their subordinate Officers, their NCOs and men all hygienically minded. This applies NOT only to their surroundings but also to THEMSELVES. This first task is their junior Officers and senior NCOs.
- (b) RMOs must supervise their coy etc medical orderlies' treatments. Owing to circumstances, such as in

the past month, they cannot do this daily. But they must see all cases which medical orderlies are failing to improve in a few days of treatment. If possible, they should endeavour to see all their troops at least once a week. It is realised that this entails a lot of additional work in this country - but it may mean fitter troops; at the least certain patients will be fit for duty in much less time.

(c) A definite system of evacuation of casualties to the rear of the RAP must be known ~~at~~ to ALL units. This will eliminate "break downs" and ensure the greatest benefit to those wounded by the proximity of the ADS.

(d) Medical supplies be forwarded along the L of C by boy-line with proper priority. It should leave JEEPHEAD at least one week before it is needed in the forward area. Certain items can be successfully dropped by parachute e.g. - serum, glucose, saline etc. These are weighty and would decrease considerably the number of boys needed to carry the supplies forward. Also those items are usually the ones most urgently required.

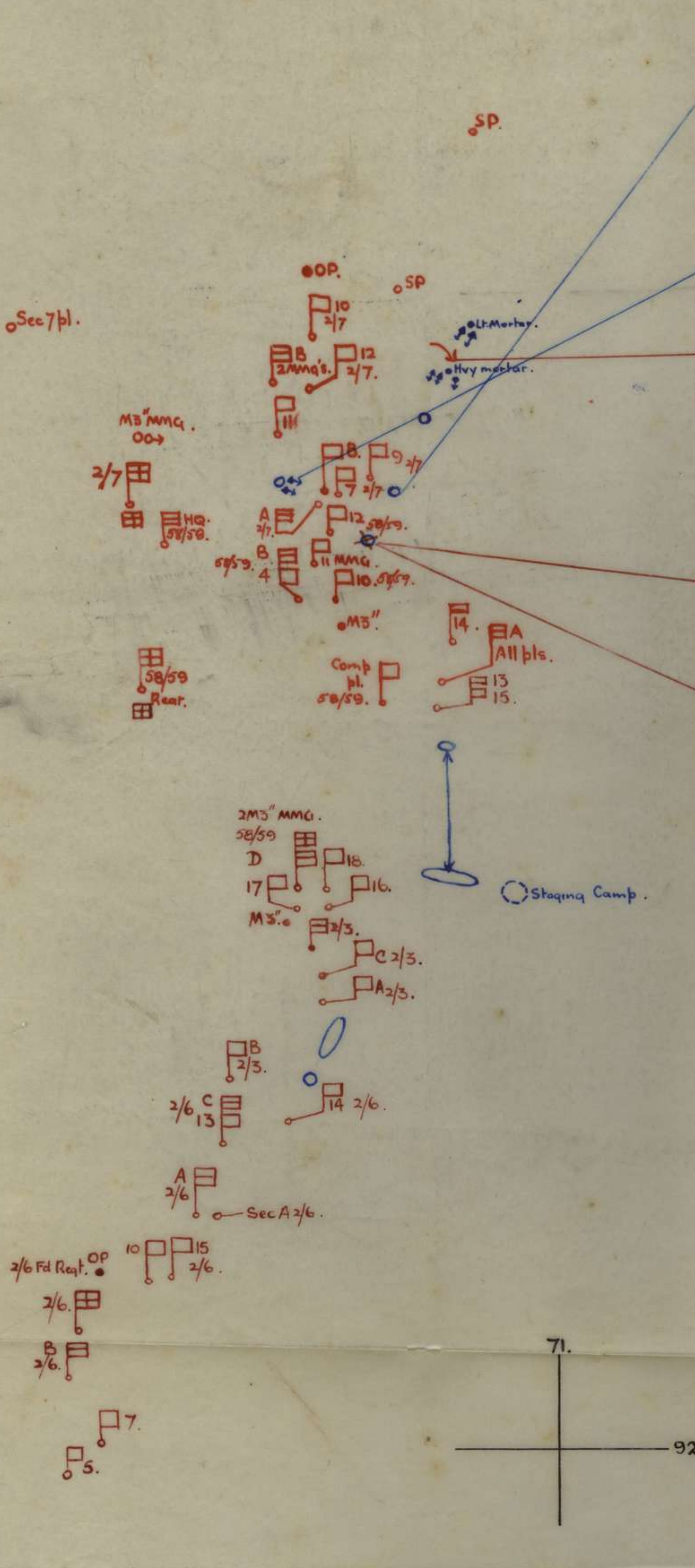
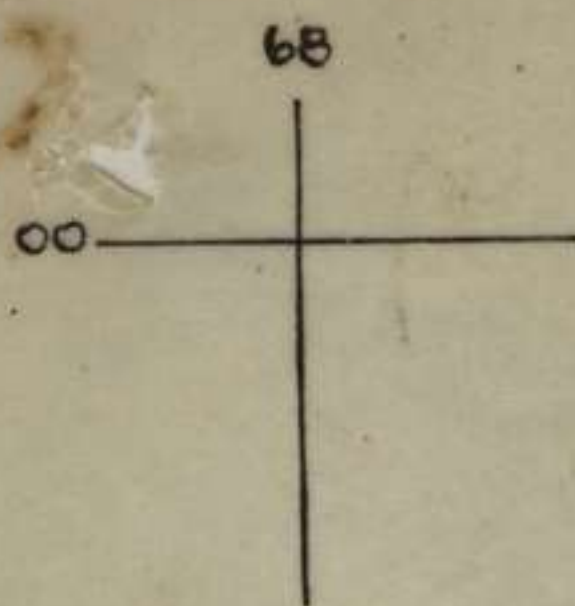
W. Rephauge Lt-Col
SMO 15 Aust Inf Bde

21/4/43 Appx 15

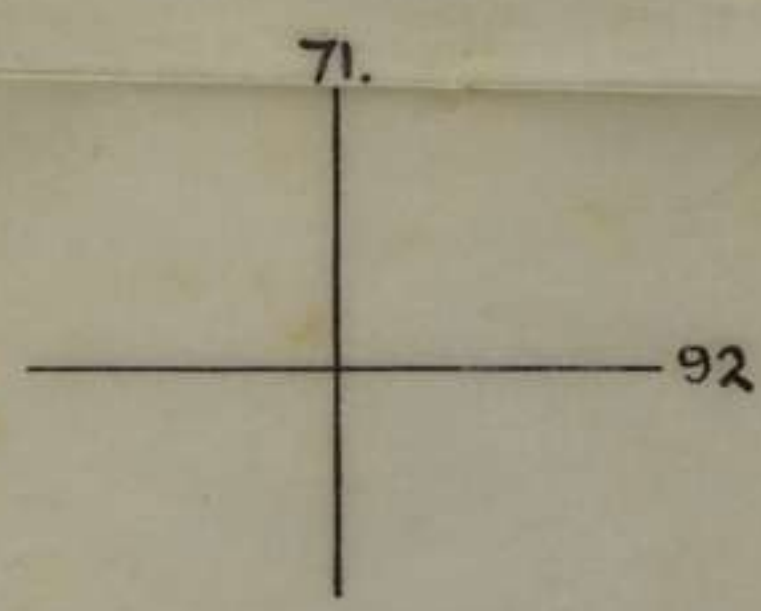
DOUBLET

SITUATION MAP AS AT 2359 HRS 4 AUG 43.

To be superimposed over KOMIATUM 1/25000



2/7 BN
 Night 3/4 Aug. Small enemy party moved to position 698 967.
 A Coy mortars engaged position. 1 killed.
 0930/4.
 Enemy worked around western slope to south of A Coy.
 Counter attack launched by A Coy unsuccessful.
 Later reported enemy digging in on Lof C to A Coy.
 Visual communication maintained with B Coy 58/59.
 Enemy digging in on GRASSY KNOLL 696 969.
 Patrol from B Coy moved out to recce area between NORTH + CENTRE COCONUTS.
 Engaged by 2 LMGs from NORTH COCONUTS + 1 MMG + 2 LMGs from CENTRE COCONUTS.
 Mortar fire commenced.
 Platoon withdrew.
 Casualties 2 wounded. Enemy 1 killed.
 K/4 Subunits 58/59 assisted in clearing enemy positions south of OLD VICKERS POSN.
 Casualties:
58/59 BN.
 1630/4
 B Coy with TK/A pl counterattacked enemy south of OLD VICKERS POSN.
 Casualties 5 wounded. Enemy 20 killed.



15 BDE INT SEC Aug 43.

REPORT ON PRESENT SITUATION BOBDUBI RIDGE area - 15 AUST INF BDE
BY BRIG H.H. HAMMER TO GOC 3 AUST DIV

Ref Map: KOMIATUM 1/25000

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
5 Aug 43

1. ENEMY

(a) BOBDUBI RIDGE The present enemy holdings are confined to the north of the ridge, in the ~~max~~ SOUTH, CENTRE and NORTH COCONUTS, and present estimated strength 150 well dug in pillboxed and well armed.

(b) OLD VICKERS POSITION This is strongly held by the bde and the enemy has been most annoyed at losing it on 28 Jul. Since then he has been constantly attacking mainly by infiltration to small features on the west, south and east of the OLD VICKERS POSITION. These infiltration attacks have been most costly to him, the total counted dead being 70. Added to that a further percentage of uncounted dead, died of wounds and wounded, his losses must have made the situation rather unpleasant for him. Our casualties in the heavy fighting necessary have been 9 killed 33 wounded and 3 missing.

Constant offensive action on the part of the bde in this area has prevented him from getting firmly established to the extent that he has been reported 3 Aug to be collecting his equipment and getting back to his firm base on the COCONUTS. After the action on 4 Aug we have buried 44 Jap dead.

(c) COCONUTS These were attacked by 58/59 Aust Inf Bn on 30 Jul from the south but little progress was made as the enemy is firmly implanted and the COCONUT RIDGE on a razor back with steep sides. The attack too lacked determination and died out. I decided it was NOT wise to waste men to gain ground that was NOT vital at the moment.

The NORTH COCONUTS have been harassed from the north and the strong patrol 2/7 Aust Inf Bn were on the feature on 4 Aug, heavily fired on and returned. They had been instructed NOT to become heavily engaged but to occupy NORTH COCONUTS if only lightly held. This was NOT the case. These actions will make the Jap feel insecure, and uncertain as to the method we will eventually employ to remove him from the COCONUTS.

(d) KOMIATUM TRACK Much movement reported by 58/59 Aust Inf Bn north and south in the OSBORNE CK area. 58/59 Aust Inf Bn were able to harass parties on the track causing 15 killed to the enemy but owing to the unreliability of our troops in this area I withdrew them to the BENCH CUT with instructions to operate from there with recce and harassing patrols to BOBDUBI and KOMIATUM TRACKS.

(e) ERSKINE CK - TIMBERED KNOLL - NAMLING RIDGE AREAS D Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn and 2/3 Aust Indep Coy seem to have the enemy under control in these areas and the enemy's attitude would appear to be defensive. The fact that he has wired and mined portion of the ERSKINE CK area and lack of counter attack or offensive action in TIMBERED KNOLL and NAMLING RIDGE Areas point to this.

(f) ENEMY GENERAL INTENTION He has secured his KOMIATUM L of C on the south by holding defensively west of the KOMIATUM TRACK from a line ERSKINE CK - GRAVEYARD - BOBDUBI-AMBUSH KNOLL - GOODVIEW.

The north ~~max~~ end of the KOMIATUM TRACK is open to us as well as the BOBDUBI L of C. By holding the BENCH CUT, we protect the ground east of the vital ground, BOBDUBI RIDGE, and hold the ground necessary to permit ops eastwards when our strength and the tactical situation permits

The enemy has lost the BOBDUBI RIDGE which is vital to his western defence of the northern end of KOMIATUM TRACK and which must eventually affect his ops at KOMIATUM and TAMBU.

Every effort will be made by the Jap to regain the BOBDUBI RIDGE - his main task to recapture OLD VICKERS POSITION and then endeavour to push down the ridge from the north to GWAIBOLON. Only this can keep his SALANAU - KOMIATUM TRACK L of C open.

2. OWN TROOPS

(a)

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Strength</u>	<u>Casualties to date.</u>	<u>Time in present ops.</u>
2/7 Aust Inf Bn Less C and D Coys and dets HQ Coy	15 : 260	2 killed 12 wounded	9 days.
58/59 Aust Inf Bn	20 : 461 (incl 2 : 76 reinforcements)	32 killed 98 wounded 9 missing	37 days.
2/3 Aust Indep Coy	13 : 185	12 killed 37 wounded	37 days.

(b) MORALE

2/7 Aust Inf Bn (less 2 coys and dets HQ Coy)

These troops arrived in area 28-29 Jul, are fresh seasoned keen and know their enemy. They are however not at the top of their form owing to previous ops, malaria and being in the country for a long period. They are well ~~inst~~ led. CO sound and capable.

2/3 Aust Indep Coy

In present ops from 30 Jun 43 and prior to this date had been in area patrolling and harassing Japs since the 4 Mar 43. They are experienced, well led but at the moment tired. Their actions have always been determined and in general successful. CO sound and capable.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

This is their first battle - they have been involved in close contact with the enemy for 37 days and are feeling the strain of fighting tough terrain and campaigning conditions.

They have NOT a superiority of mind over the Jap and in the main credit him with being superior. Their actions at times have been determined and good (capture OLD VICKERS POSITION 28 Jul 43) - at other times painfully weak. Their good shows can be attributed to the actions of some good leaders and good men - the others are passengers and often runners.

Leaders are mediocre - a few good. CO is knowledgeable but lacks drive. Drive and supervision necessary to uplift a mediocre force. Staff are very inexperienced and NOT learning quickly. Background poor.

The addition of reinforcements in the shape of rear details left at MORESBY has helped. The Tk.A Pl opened its account against the Jap the day after its arrival on 3 Aug by a fine counter attack which killed 27 enemy. 44 enemy dead were found and buried on 5 Aug, some of these are attributable to A Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn.

Constant Bde Staff visits and my own observations show that the unit generally is in a "fear state". Men have panicked on contact with the enemy - have run and received casualties because of it. The good men stay, the others go.

Must consider them an unreliable fighting force.

(W) The force available should be sufficient to hold the enemy unless he reinforces in great strength to gain the ground which is so vital to him to protect his KOMIATUM - TAMBU commitments and to protect the gateway to SALAMAUA.

Any additional force I receive will permit me to operate in greater strength on the enemy L of C.

There will be no relaxation on ~~my~~ my part nor those under my command, no matter what the circumstances, to maintain an offensive spirit and action. The jittery ones will be rested, revitalised and re-used.

3. ACTION BEING TAKEN

In view of the foregoing I have decided to relieve 58/59 Aust Inf Bn with 2/3 Aust Indep Coy to protect the ground most likely to be attacked by the enemy.

Place 58/59 Aust Inf Bn where enemy more defensive.

2/3 Aust Indep Coy more offensive and more reliable in carrying out harassing tasks to KOMIATUM TRACK.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

These are now fairly extensive and as many alternative lines in the forward areas as possible will be laid. Twice recently the Jap has cut our L of C and cable to OLD VICKERS POSITION. Lack of cable is a limiting factor.

Party lines on the long Ls of C are a bit annoying with various people chipping in but we now have a disciplined arrangement working.

208 sets are disappointing mainly through untrained operators, lack of spare parts for maintenance and normal atmospheric interference or whatever it is.

Lucas Lamp was used effectively by A Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn when L/T was cut by Jap.

Communications for artillery, W/T and L/T, have been provided by us. What do the signal people of arty units do these days?

5. ADMINISTRATION

(a) Rest Camps

I have arranged for rest camps to be established on ULIAP CK for all units to rest personnel on a roster system. Provide good food, beds, clean up, medical attention and freshen up, / Jittery men to be given special attention.

(b) Supervision

Ede Staff constantly checking organisation of Q arrangements, food problems, cooking arrangements, laundries etc. Unit officers pressed to ensure that they are caring for their men.

(c) Field Bakery

At NUNNS POST we bake 100 dozen scones yeast buns and rock cakes daily. These are welcomed by the troops.

(d) Supplies

Our supply situation is now well under control. There is organisation, co-operation and Co-ordination out of early chaos.

Units are holding up to 6 days rations forward with adequate reserves of ammunition.

Our greatest difficulty is 3 inch mortar and Vickers belt ammunition supplies. Our harassing fire programmes taking a good deal of this. I harass to keep up our morale and to spoil the Japs slumbers.

(e) Dropping Ground

Capt CHENEY, AASC, has been a great help and the organisation at NUNNS POST is working well. Store huts are built on the ground to permit speedier picking up. We sort out the damaged bully tins and pass the meat to the natives immediately.

Salvage is organised. The damaged beyond use food is incinerated and buried. Parachutes dried and rolled but little opportunity yet to send any large quantities back

6. STAGING CAMPS

(a) POWER HOUSE to MISSIM

The arrangements required are now under control. PIRMUNG is practically cleared, SELEBUB which contains many hundreds of boyloads will be concentrated at MISSIM which is to become our rear store-house.

(b) NUNNS POST - SUMMIT

KELLY'S POST is now well established and small staffs and natives en route to form posts on 17 Ede L of C.

7. MEDICAL

General arrangements good. ADS at KELLYS is handling casualties in 4 hours. Intend to keep ADS MISSIM open to treat minor wounds and sick to save time in evacuation and return. Lt-Col REFSNAUGE is right on the job.

8. NATIVES

We have just sufficient to work now with efficiency. Natives are happy contented and well fed.

Sickness rates have dropped considerably and we are getting a difficult job well done.

Lieut WHITTAKER, ANGAU, handles the show in masterly fashion and the show works like a dream.

100 odd BOBDUBI natives - 30 carrier types the others old men kids and Marys - have been taken into captivity. The police boys describe them as "Japan Bastards". WHITTAKER is deciding what to do with them. We will be able to employ them in some way.

9. SUM UP

We are nicely balanced - we have weaknesses but we know them and will do all we can to counteract ~~them~~ them. Reinforcements must be maintained. Our supply situation is sound and we can feed and fight.

The enemy has been hit hard and is paying for being caught off his guard at OLD VICKERS POSITION and will continue to pay. He may make it difficult if he reinforces heavily.

We have the will to win - the pressure will be on all the time and if we can sew him up here it will limit his activities at TAMBU.

I don't like foolish promises or giving vent to heroic utterances. I prefer to coldly survey the enemy and ourselves and deal with him to the best of our ability and the force available.

H. H. Hammer

Brig
Comd 15 Aust Inf Bde

WAR DIARY

15 AUST INF BDE OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 11

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
3 Aug 43

Ref Maps: KOMIATUM 1:25000
SALAMAUA 1:25000

INFORMATION

1. Own Troops

(a) 2/7 Aust Inf Bn

HQ	687968	
A Coy	OLD VICKERS POSITION	698969
B Coy	HQ	694975
	10 Pl	697977
	11 Pl	695972
	12 Pl	697975

(b) 58/59 Aust Inf Bn

HQ	GWAIBOLON	697949
A Coy		703958
B Coy	HQ with under comd 4 Pl	
		696964
	10 Pl	699964
	11 Pl plus MMG	698965
	12 Pl	699967
C Coy	less one pl	703957
	14 Pl	704962
D Coy	HQ plus MMG, 3" Mortar	
	GWAIBOLON	
	16 Pl	699949
	17 Pl	697947
	18 Pl	698947
	Composite Pl plus MMG and Mortar	699961

(c) 2/3 Aust Indep Coy

HQ		696945
A Pl	TIMBERED KNOLL	698945
B Pl	NAMLING RIDGE	692937
C Pl	PARERS BOWL	697946
	Composite Pl	698947

(d) 17 Aust Inf Bde

As per 15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summaries.

2. Enemy

(a) COCONUTS Area

Dug in in strength in NORTH, SOUTH and CENTRE COCONUTS, and on knoll 696969 west of OLD VICKERS POSITION. Enemy force at present attacking A Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn from spur 697968

Located enemy weapons:

- 1 MMG NE side CENTRE COCONUTS
- 2 LMGs NW side CENTRE COCONUTS
- 1 LMG NW side NORTH COCONUTS
- 1 LMG centre of NORTH COCONUTS
- 1 Light mortar NORTH COCONUTS
- 1 Heavy mortar CENTRE COCONUTS
- 1 Light mortar CENTRE COCONUTS.

(b) ORODUBI

Dug in in located positions from GRAVEYARD 697943 along ridge to ORODUBI 696939 both incl.

(c) ERSKINE CREEK

In position NORTH PIMPLE and SOUTH PIMPLE astride ERSKINE CK on west side of bench cut track. North flank at 704957 protected by trip wires 7 to 8 ft in depth and from 6 inches 1 ft high. No movement has been seen in the immediate vicinity of this wire.

INTENTION

3. 2/3 Aust Indep Coy will relieve 58/59 Aust Inf Bn in area GARDENS 694965 to GWAIBOLON.

METHOD

4. Dispositions

- (a) 2/3 Aust Indep Coy will take over present dispositions of 58/59 Aust Inf Bn.
- (b) 58/59 Aust Inf Bn will take over present dispositions of 2/3 Aust Indep Coy.

5. Times of Relief

Relief will be as per Appendix A.

6. Areas of Responsibility on Completion of Relief

- (a) 2/3 Aust Indep Coy:
Excl OLD VICKERS POSITION 698969 to incl GRIFFS TRACK 699962 - 703958.
- (b) 58/59 Aust Inf Bn:
Excl GRIFFS TRACK 699962 to 703958 - GWAIBOLON - TIMBERED KNOLL 698945 - MORTAR KNOLL 693938 - NAMLING RIDGE 692937 - *NAMLING incl*
- (c) 2/7 Aust Inf Bn:
Incl OLD VICKERS POSITION to north of FRANCISCO R.

7. Tasks when in new area.

- (a) 2/3 Aust Indep Coy:
 - (i) To prevent enemy movement onto BOBDUBI RIDGE in area of responsibility.
 - (ii) To harass by ambush and raids KOMIATUM TRACK and BOBDUBI SALAMAUA TRACK.
- (b) 58/59 Aust Inf Bn
 - (i) To prevent enemy movement onto BOBDUBI- ORODUBI RIDGE in area of responsibility.
 - (ii) To defend GWAIBOLON area.
 - (iii) To contain known enemy localities in ERSKINE CREEK - GRAVEYARD - ORODUBI area.
 - (iv) To patrol to find exact dispositions of enemy in above positions.
 - (v) To give support to 2/6 Aust Inf Bn in area AMBUSH KNOLL, 692935.
- (c) 2/7 Aust Inf Bn
As stated in 15 Aust Inf Bde Op Instn No 10.

8. Mortars

58/59 Aust Inf Bn mortars 3 inch at present in GARDENS area and CUMMINS POST 699961 will remain present location under comd 2/3 Aust Indep Coy.

9. Arty.

- (a) 11 Bty 2/6 Aust Fd Regt is in support of 15 Aust Inf Bde.
- (b) FOOs are located
 - (i) Lieut LORD WELLS OP
 - (ii) Lieut DAWSON GWAIBOLON - KUNDA IS area.
- (c) Units will deal direct with FOOs in own areas for immediate tasks.
- (d) Requests for arty support for planned attacks or deliberate tasks requiring large allotment of ammunition will be referred to HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde. Bde HQ will then make arrangements with RAA 3 Aust Div.
- (e) FOOs will keep 15 Aust Inf Bde advised of ammunition available and harassing tasks being carried out.

10. Liaison

- (a) COs 58/59 Aust Inf Bn and 2/3 Aust Indep Coy will maintain close liaison during relief to ensure that no area is left without sufficient troops to ensure adequate defence of area.
- (b) Close liaison will be maintained at junction points of units to ensure protection at inter-unit boundaries. COs will ensure that subunit comds maintain liaison at all times.
- (c) 58/59 Aust Inf Bn will maintain close liaison with 2/6 Aust Inf Bn and ensure the protection of the inter-bde boundary.

ADMINISTRATION

11. Ammunition and Supply

- (a) Reserves of ammunition and supplies at present in areas will be handed over by mutual arrangement between 58/59 Aust Inf Bn and 2/3 Aust Indep Coy.
- (b) Adequate reserves of ammunition rations and water (a minimum of four days) will be held in all areas liable to be cut off by enemy.
- (c) All other areas will hold a minimum reserve of two days ammunition rations and water.

12. Rest Camps

- (a) All units will establish under unit arrangements a rest camp in area ULLAP CK.
Object: To give a break for 1 to 2 days to the more tired men within the units.
- (b) Special attention will be paid to the following points:
 - (i) Adequate supervision of personnel in rest camp
 - (ii) Adequate housing bedding and feeding of personnel.
 - (iii) Bathing shaving haircuts.
 - (iv) Equipping soldier with new or clean clothing and personal requisites.
 - (v) Medical inspection and treatment.
- (c) The aim is to send the soldier back to his subunit refreshed re-equipped clean and fit.

13. Laundry

Units will establish a unit laundry in vicinity of rest camp for the washing and repairing clothing.

INTERCOMMUNICATION

14. Communication during relief.

Lines and equipment in present locations will be taken over by incoming subunits. Present communication set-up will only be altered by mutual agreement between 58/59 Aust Inf Bn and 2/3 Aust Indep Coy.

15. Lateral communication

- (a) Lateral links will be arranged between all units and alternative lines laid to ensure communication at all times.
- (b) 58/59 Aust Inf Bn will arrange lateral L/T link with 2/6 Aust Inf Bn.

16. Unit Signs

Unit signs and signposts will be displayed at unit HQ to facilitate movement within the bde area.

17. ACKNOWLEDGE.

B. H. Evans
Major
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

Time of Signature: 0005 hrs

DISTRIBUTION:

See Over.

without sufficient balance of resources... 4 -

DISTRIBUTION: to ensure protection of inter-communications...

	<u>Copy No</u>	<u>Appx A</u>	<u>Appx B</u>	<u>Method of Distribution</u>
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	1	1	1	Courier
58/59 Aust Inf Bn	2	2	2	Courier
2/3 Aust Indep Coy	3	3	3	Courier
L Sec, Sigs 3 Aust Div	4	4	4	Hand
3 Aust Div	5	5	5	DRLS
17 Aust Inf-Bde	6	6	6	DRLS
Comd	7	7	7	Hand
SC	8	8	8	Hand
SMO 15 Aust Inf Bde	9	9	9	Hand
File	10	10	10	Hand
War Diary	11-12	11-12	11-12	Hand

(c) All other areas will hold a minimum reserve of two days ammunition stocks and water.

12. Rest Camps
(a) All units will establish under unit arrangements a rest camp in area UICR CH.1. To give a break for 1 to 2 days to the more tired men within the unit.

(b) Special attention will be paid to the following points:
(i) Adequate supervision of personnel in rest camp.
(ii) Adequate housing, bedding and feeding of personnel.
(iii) Bathing facilities.
(iv) Equipping soldiers with new or clean clothing and personal requisites.
(v) Medical inspection and treatment.

(c) The aim is to send the soldier back to his unit refreshed and equipped again and fit.

13. Laundry
Units will establish a unit laundry in vicinity of rest camp for the washing and repairing clothing.

INTERCOMMUNICATION

14. Communication during relief
Lines and equipment in present locations will be taken over by incoming units. Present communication set-up will only be altered by mutual agreement between 2/3 Aust Inf Bn and 58/59 Aust Inf Bn.

15. Laterals communication
Laterals will be arranged between all units and alternative lines laid to ensure communication at all times.

(b) 58/59 Aust Inf Bn will arrange laterals link with 2/3 Aust Inf Bn.
Unit signs and signposts will be displayed at unit HQ to facilitate movement within the area.

17. Signposts
Type of signposts...
DISTRIBUTION: See Over...

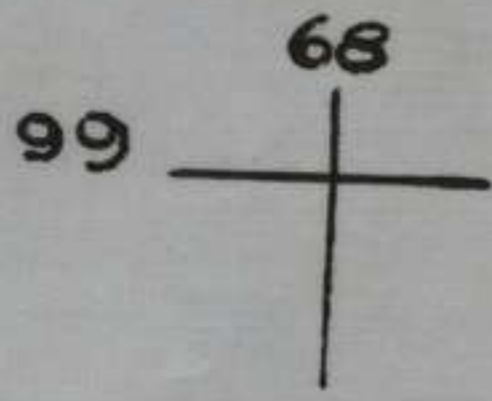
RELIEF OF 58/59 AUST INF BN BY 2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Serial a	Date b	Sub unit c	Strength Offrs ORs d	Present Location e	Area to which to move f	Task on completion of Relief g	Remarks h
1.	5 Aug	C Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn	2 56	Area NEWMANS JUNC 703958	NAMLING RIDGE- MORTAR KNOLL	(a) To prevent enemy penetration WEST from ORODUBI (b) To liaise with 2/6 Bn	
2.	5 Aug	B Pl) 2/3 portion) Indep C Pl) Coy	2 40	NAMLING RIDGE -MORTAR KNOLL	Area NEWMANS JUNC	(a) To establish a firm base on BENCH CUT in vicinity of NEWMANS JUNC for defence of BOBDUBI RIDGE. (b) To harass KOMIATUM TK and BOBDUBI SALAMAUA TK by raids and ambush.	
3.	6 Aug	A Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn	2 56	Area NEWMANS JUNC	TIMBERED KNOLL	To contain enemy in GRAVEYARD Area	
4.	6 Aug	A Pl 2/3 Indep Coy	3 44	TIMBERED KNOLL	Area NEWMANS JUNC	As per serial 2	Portion of this Pl may be dis- posed in GARDEN area at discret- ion of CO 2/3 Indep coy
5.	7 Aug	B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn	4 53	GARDENS	PARERS BOWL 697946	(a) To give depth to position in TIMBERED KNOLL. (b) To give depth to D Coy 58/59 Bn in ERSKINE CK area	
6.	7 Aug	Portion C Pl. 2/3 Indep Coy	1 21	PARERS BOWL	GARDENS	As decided by CO 2/3 Indep Coy	

Serial a	Date b	Sub Unit c	Strength Offrs ORs d	Present Location e	Area to which to move f	Task on completion of Relief g	Remarks h
7.	-	D Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn	2 73	ERSKINE CK	No move	As at present	This Coy remains pre- -sent loc- -ation with present task
8.	-	Comp Pl 58/59 Aust Inf Bn	19	CUMMINS POST	As arranged by COs 58/59 Bn and a/3 Indep Coy	To be used to extend Northern flank of 58/59 Bn and protect inter-unit boundary between 58/59 Bn and 2/3 Indep Coy/ on BENCH CUT and D Coy 58/59 Bn in ERSKINE CK area /and to act as	link between 2/3 Indep Coy
9.	-	Tk.A Pl 58/59 Aust Inf Bn	1 19	GARDENS	as per serial 8	as per serial 8	

APPX B

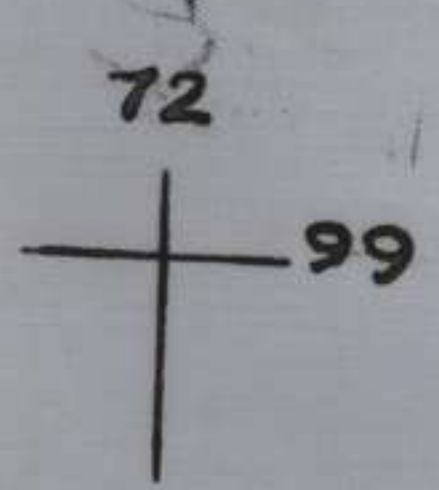
to 15 Aust. Inf. Bde. OP instr No 11
COPY NO 12.



To be superimposed over
KOMIATUM 1:25000

Trace showing
UNIT AREAS of RESPONSIBILITY
AND INTER UNIT BOUNDARIES
AS ORDERED

In 15 Aust. Inf. Bde. OP instr No 11



2/7 Aust. Inf. Bn

• OLD VICKERS POSN

Incl to 2/7 Bn

2/3 Aust. Indep. Coy

GRIFFS TRACK

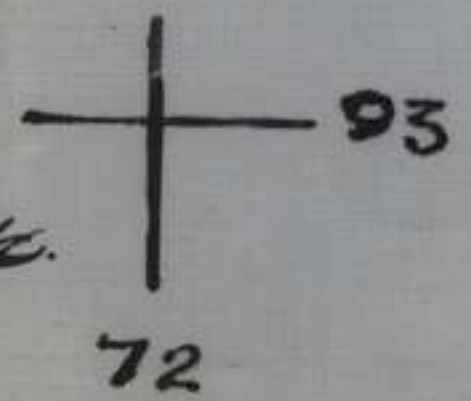
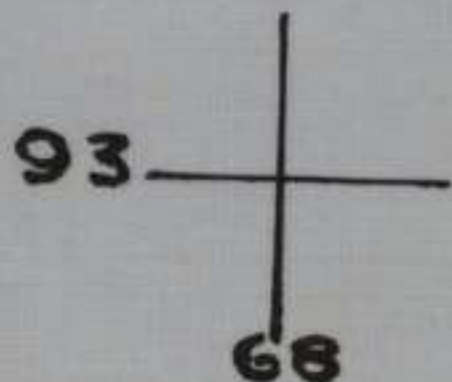
58/59 Aust. Inf. Bn

• GWAIBALON

• TIMBERED KNOLL

Mortar Knoll
Namling Ridge

INTER BDE BDA



HQ - 15 Aust. Inf. Bde.
Int. Sec.
5. Aug. 43.

Mal diary

CONFIDENTIAL

VX 33 LT-COL H.G. GUINN

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
5 Aug 43

Maj-Gen S.G. SAVIGE, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., E.D.,
3 Aust Div.

Dear *Gen Savige.*

Lt-Col GUINN arrived in 15 Aust Inf Bde on 26 Jul 43. He was suffering from a heavy cold, and was weary and tired after long periods of strenuous walking. I ordered him to bed for 7 days.

GUINN has been evacuated to ADS at KELLY'S POST today as a walking case. It seems that he definitely requires treatment and a well earned rest in suitable surroundings.

Lt-Col GUINN'S present condition, I am certain, has been brought about by his devotion to duty and the demands that have been made on him for constant movement from place to place over terrain which can only be appreciated when it is personally experienced.

As you know, the terrain is such that constant movement on the trails, which, in many cases, are just sheer mountain faces, and no matter how fit a man is, the constant movement will eventually cause complete exhaustion, and therefore commanders must be watched closely and rested.

I would like to express my appreciation of the work done by Lt-Col GUINN up to the time when I took over command of 15 Aust Inf Bde from him on 3 July 1943 and for the period he has been under my command.

H.H. Hammer
Brig

War Diary

Appa 19

MR DAMIEN PARER - WAR PHOTOGRAPHER
CAPT IVOR HELE - WAR ARTIST

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
5 Aug 43

3 Aust Div.

Both the above officers have been in the area of operations of this bde for some time.

Mr Damien PARER has been in the forward areas almost since the commencement of operations and in his endeavours to get pictures of the "real thing" has displayed great personal bravery. On many occasions he has been up with the forward platoons in their assaults on the enemy, and I am certain that his camera will eventually show some remarkable scenes.

Capt HELE, since his arrival, has also participated in "close ups" of actual attacks.

Their personal action has been outstanding and I can express only admiration at their keenness, enthusiasm and personal bravery in recording the deeds of the Australian soldier in battle.

H. H. Hammer
Brig
Comd 15 Aust Inf Bde

Appx 20

COPY/AJT.

To 15 aust inf bde
From 17 Aust Inf Bde

I 114

3

Sketch map among captured documents received from 15 bde shows following jap disposns SALAMAUA 18 june (.) MALOLO defence unit 12 coy 115 regt less small det at BUSAMA (.) CHINATOWN 10 coy ~~202~~ 102 regt (.) KELA HILL 2 guns of 4 bty 14 arty bn with 2 HMG (.) on high ground running south towards BOBDUBI toward KELA HQ of a bn with 3 coy less 1 pl 115 regt (.) remaining pl in reserve 1000 yds SW McDONALDS junc BOBDUBI ridge unnamed force and further vicinity high ground 731986 between drome and KENNEDYS crossing (.) 66 regt were at this time bivouaced in area between drome and FRANCISCO R. (.) sketch gives no indication of any dispositions LOKANU RIDGE at 18 june.

TOO 2350

To 15 aust inf bde
From 17 aust inf bde

I 129

4

following from documents captured OLD VICKERS POSITION (.) 2 jul capt KAMINO bn comd in 80 inf regt arrived SAL and was despatched BOBDUBI (.) 4 jul portion KAMINO bn arrived from LAE consisting HQ 15 men (.) KAMINO unit which is number 3 coy (.) MG coy under comd HIMEDA (.) regt sigs with 2 secs number 5 and number 6 wireless rescue squad of six men (.) 5 jul one coy KAMINO BN attached BOBDUBI section (.) 6 jul 109 pers of KAMINO BN incl B ech arrived SAL with MG and light pom pom sec (.) portion of KAMINO bn despatched to meet up with OBA unit which was fleeing from NASSAU BAY

TOO 2300

To ~~15 aust inf bde~~ 2/7 aust inf bn 58/59 aust inf bn
From 15 aust inf bde I 501 5

Additional locations to overlay traces of enemy posns now revealed by captured documents as at 18 jun MALOLO defensive unit 12 coy 115 regt less small det at BUSAMA (.) CHINATOWN 10 coy 102 regt KELA HILL 2 guns of 4 bty 14 arty bn plus two HMGs BHQ with 3 coy less 1 pl 115 regt on high ground south of KELA towards BOBDUBI remaining pl area 737006 66 regt bivouaced in area 740989 unnamed force in general area 730986 and BOBDUBI RIDGE

TOO 1910

To 15 aust inf bde
From 17 aust inf bde

I 139

5

following among documents captured by 2/3 indep coy NAMLING RIDGE 30 july coy in this area comd by lieut USUI and apparently as has has been reduced to 31 men incl 8 MG personnel estimated from a supply report dated July 29 and 30

TOO 1715

Phone message

5

6 jul 109 personnel ~~fr~~ of KAMINO bn incl B ech arrived SALAMAUA with MG and light pom pom sec (.) portion of KAMINO bn despatched to meet up with OBA unit fleeing from NASSAU BAY

TOO 2300

SECRET

COPY NO 13

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 28

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)

5 Aug 43

Information from 2359K/3 to 2359K/4

Ref Maps: SALAMAUA 1:25000
 KOMIATUM 1:25000
 MUBO 1:25000

1. OPERATIONS

(a) Own

(1)

MUBO - GOODVIEW - TAMBU Area

2/5 Aust Inf Bn - Comd post now established at 695903. 9 and 11 Pls endeavouring to link up with 12 Pl at 699907. B Coy now at 699905. Our mortars fired on 5 pillboxes on southern slopes of knoll area 699906, but bombs fell short landing among our own forward troops killing 4. 1405K/4 patrol accurately engaged enemy pillboxes with grenades. By 0756K/4 12 Pl had gained objective 699907 and were consolidating, later firing on GOODVIEW SPUR up to 1100 hrs. 10 Pl still held up by 2 pillboxes on southern slopes of knoll 699906. 9 Pl moved to encircle enemy on this knoll with 7 Pl which was moving up main track.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn - 1355K/3 enemy mtn gun fired on our positions on SUGARCANE RIDGE - 1 killed 4 wounded. Our MMG on AMBUSH KNOLL engaged small enemy party in ORODUBI area at 1520K/3.

COANE FORCE - Morning 1 Aug GOC 3 Aust Div left this HQ to return to HQ 3 Aust Div.

TAYLOR FORCE - Patrol reports considerable enemy activity in area 711917, large party being observed clearing fire lines and fortifying southern slopes of MT TAMBU. To west of 711917 further activity indicates construction of defence line to GOODVIEW JUNC. Arty scored 4 direct hits on enemy covered trenches in MT TAMBU area. Enemy evacuated after second shell landed. Registrations during afternoon 3 Aug were made on GOODVIEW area, MACDONALDS JUNC and footbridge. Location of 24 Port Hospital shown in Intelligence Summary No 27 is amended from 608987 to 698987.

(ii) MISSIM Area

2/7 Aust Inf Bn - Small enemy party moved to position 698967 during night 3/4 Aug. A Coy mortars engaged position - 1 enemy killed. 0930K/4 enemy worked around western slope to almost south of the coy. Counter-attack launched by A Coy unsuccessful. Later reported that enemy digging in astride our L of C to A Coy. Signal line had been cut but visual communication being maintained with B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn who sent fighting patrol out to assist A Coy 2/7 Bn. OP observed enemy digging in on GRASSY KNOLL at 696969 which was mortared. Patrol from B Coy moved out to recce area between NORTH and CENTRE COCONUTS. No enemy seen as far as NORTH COCONUTS but as party moved onto knoll they were engaged by 2 LMGs from NORTH COCONUTS and 1 MMG 2 LMGs and rifle fire from CENTRE COCONUTS. Pl then came under mortar fire and withdrew. Casualties - enemy 1 killed, own 1 wounded. Enemy weapons located were MMG on NE side of CENTRE COCONUTS, 2 LMGs NW side CENTRE COCONUTS, 1 MMG on NW side of NORTH COCONUTS, 1 light mortar NORTH COCONUTS, 1 heavy and 1 light mortar at CENTRE COCONUTS. Patrol north along spur from 683978 to 684986 found no evidence of enemy movement. Enemy on knoll at 696969 active digging defensive positions which appeared to be completed by late afternoon 4 Aug. The area was covered by our mortar fire during afternoon causing the enemy to disclose 2 LMGs. Patrol from A Coy moving north along track towards COCONUTS located

enemy night-aiming posts. The posts were removed and the patrol is keeping the position under observation. Subunits 58/59 Aust Inf Bn assisted in clearing enemy elements from positions south of OLD VICKERS POSITION, but the enemy is still in occupation at the eastern end of ANDERSONS POST.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn - Harassing fire carried out on night 3/4 Aug. 1800K/3 patrol contacted enemy in position 700969 - our casualties 1 wounded. B Coy patrol report no enemy movement along creek bed thought to be enemy L of C. This unit gave defensive fire support to A Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn during attack night 3 Aug. B Coy with Tk.A Pl counter attacked enemy at OLD VICKERS POSITION at 1630K/4. Open kunai spur between BETHUNE POST (698964) and TAYLOR RIDGE 698967 is now thought to be clear of enemy. Estimated enemy casualties by mortar and counter attack are 20 killed - own 5 wounded.

D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn - STEPHEN'S patrol reported large quantities of timber cut into 10 ft lengths at approx 683046. No enemy movement in NEW WAMASU area. Recce patrol along MALOLO TRACK contacted enemy at 1500 K/4 on track in vicinity previous ambush position 685036. Movement heard on both sides of track but no estimate of strength gained - only two being observed. Shots were exchanged and 1 enemy probably killed - our casualties nil.

2/3 Aust Indep Coy - Arty smoke shell landed 50 yds south of NAMLING at 1600K/4. BARONS POST reports automatic fire heard from direction north of TAMBUR at 1430K and at 1725K/4 heavy LMG fire from the same direction.

2. OP REPORTS

(a) WELLS:

US arty shelled south end of Isthmus 1400-1530K/3. 1530K 4 Japs carrying heavy loads and packs crossed bridge moving north. 0625-0745K/4 11 Japs moved across bridge into SALAMAUA while 10 moved out. 0750/K/4 US arty fired 20 rounds in vicinity of footbridge which is still in a damaged condition. During morning 4 Aug. arty fired on whole length of Isthmus from the NE end to MACDONALDS JUNG and buildings in vicinity of hangara on the airfield. Harassing fire on PRICES KNOLL and ORODUBI. Jap movement observed - 3 out of and 2 into SALAMAUA. With exception of small portion, ODEAS HOUSE has been demolished by unknown means. 1135-1500K/4 6 Japs moved out of and 4 into SALAMAUA. 1415K/4 motorcycle moved from MACDONALDS JUNG up the Isthmus. 1500-1700K/4 3 Japs moved into SALAMAUA and at 1650K a Liberator dropped bombs ref ASP 13 M584. AA positions at MACDONALDS JUNG were shelled by arty at 1655K/4. 1700-1830K/4 45 Japs moved into and 7 out of SALAMAUA. 1813K/4 truck moved up Isthmus from MACDONALDS JUNG.

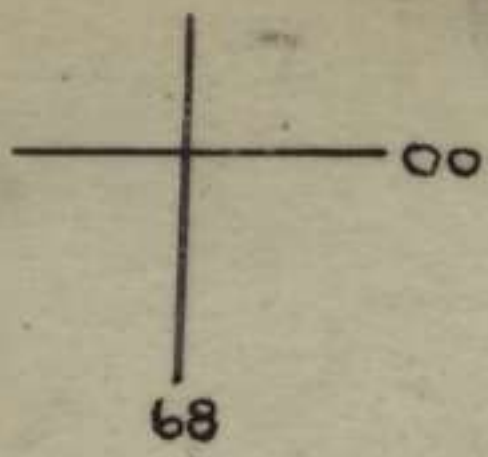
(b) GWAIBOLON

1740-1815K/4 23 Japs crossed footbridge moving north.

[Signature]
Major
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION:

As Per Summary No 26

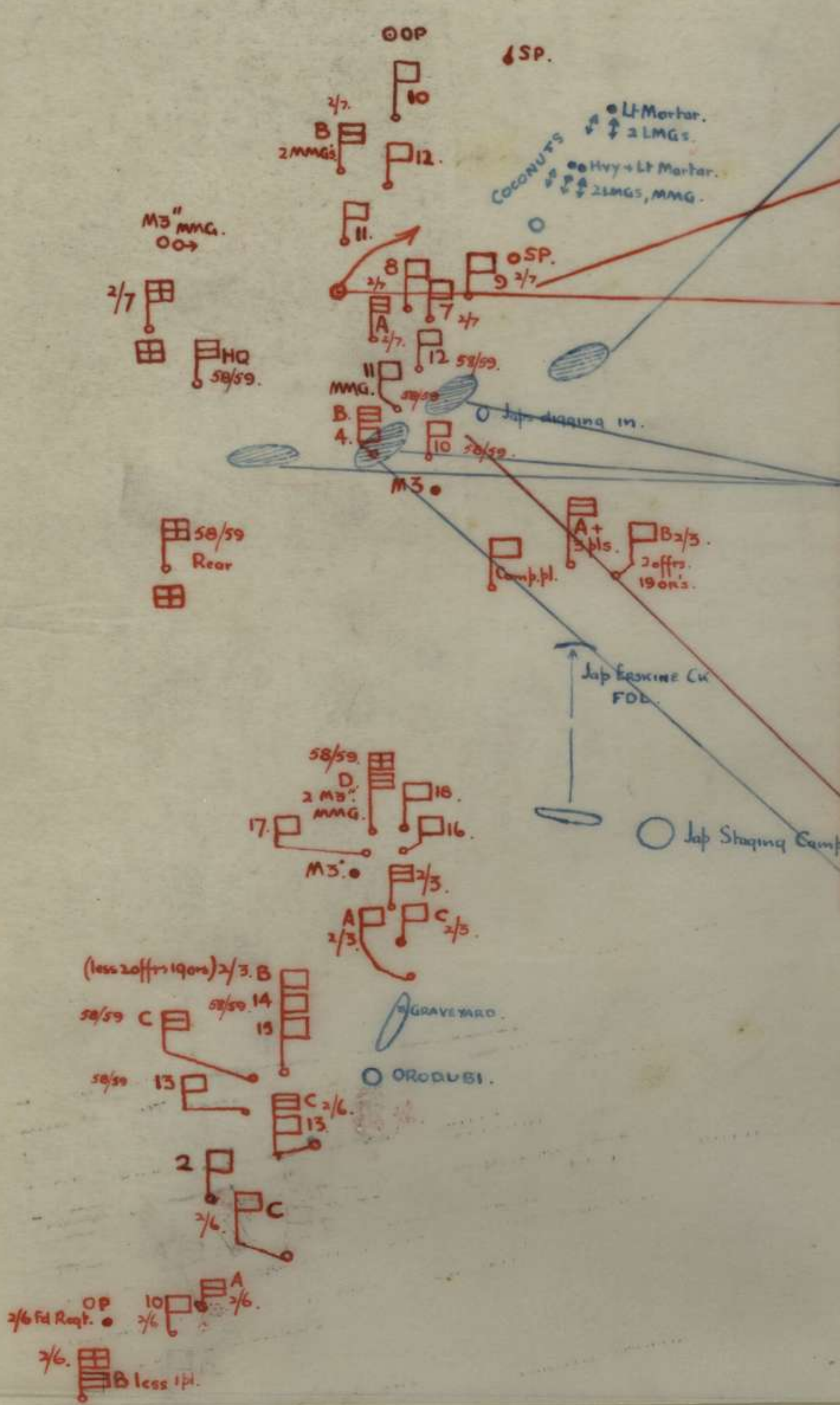


55
Appr 22

DOUBLET

SITUATION MAP AS AT 2359 HRS 5 AUG 43
To be superimposed over KOMIATUM 1/25000.

4SP.



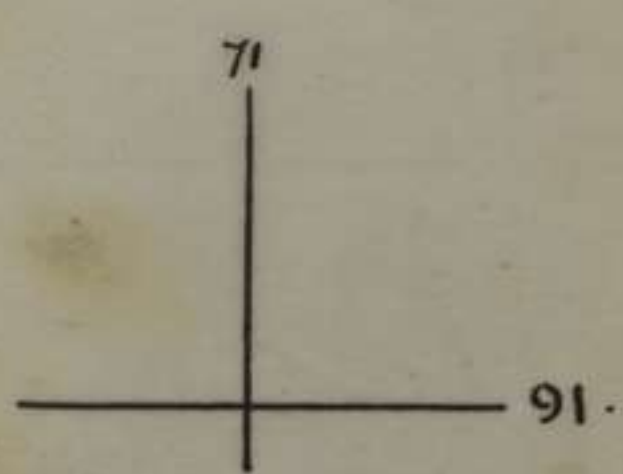
2/7 BN.

1000/5 Enemy guns commenced shelling re-entrant SE Old Vickers posn.
K/5 Composite force moved along ANDERSONS RIDGE clearing enemy. Area reported clear at 1230/5.
1045/5 Enemy on KNOLL 696969 withdrew. Party from A Coy occupied KNOLL & patrolled along enemy line of withdrawal.
K/5.
Track clear for 300' towards SOUTH COCONUTS.

58/59 BN.

1015/5 KELA gun shelled to north of B Coy HQ. and SOUTH into VILLAGE + ULIAP CK.
NIGHT 4/5.
Enemy moved round WEST of JUNG. 3 Killed.
0815/5 Mopping up continued, further 8 enemy killed.
Night 4/5 Fighting patrol 10pl contacted enemy between BETHUNES POST + TAYLORS RIDGE 10ffr = 5 ORS Killed.
1130/5 B Coy occupied position between BETHUNES POST + TAYLORS RIDGE.
1630/5. B Coy HQ again shelled. 1 wounded.

15 BDE INT SEC
AUG 43.



SECRET

COPY NO 13

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 29

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
8 Aug 43

Information from 2359K/4 to 2359K/5

Ref Maps: SALAMAUA 1:25000
KOMIATUM 1:25000
MUBO 1:25000

1. OPERATIONS

(a) Own

(i) MUBO - GOODVIEW - TAMBU Area

2/5 Aust Inf Bn - Casualties from own mortar bombs falling short when engaging enemy at 699906 on 4 Aug now reported as 4 killed 3 wounded. 9 and 11 pls established for night on high ground north of 12 pl. 1800K/4 12 pl was counter attacked on 3 sides and forced to withdraw. 9, 11 and 12 pls occupied DRAKES OP at 694909. Changes in dispositions: A Coy less two pls 697902, one pl 698902, one pl 699904; HQ B Coy 695903, one pl 697905, one pl 696903, one pl 699905.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn - Harassing patrol from A Coy to 695938 accurately engaged enemy approx 310 yds forward of our FDLs with LMG and 7 sec grenades during afternoon 4 Aug. Enemy returned fire, but at 1300K/4 arty engaged the area. 1725K/4 our mortars on AMBUSH KNOLL fired 25 bombs into PRICES KNOLL. 0625K/5 MMG on AMBUSH KNOLL fired on enemy moving in ORODUBI. Patrol located enemy on spur east of PRICES KNOLL. Changes in dispositions: Bn HQ at WELLS JUNC; A Coy less two pls 689929, one pl less one sec 688928, one sec 693933, one pl SUGARCANE RIDGE; B Coy less one pl WELLS JUNC, one pl less one sec plus one mortar at DIEKES OP, one sec 684923; C Coy less one pl and one sec plus 2 mortars and one sec MMGs at AMBUSH KNOLL, one pl 693931, one sec plus sec MMGs 691935, Det mortars 681915, 693918, standing patrol BASE 4; D Coy DRAKES OP 692909; 4 pl at WHITTAKERS dropping ground.

COANE FORCE - Patrolling continuous throughout 4 Aug. Arty engaged targets on MT TAMBU and ROOSEVELT RIDGE. 11 Bty 2/6 Aust Fd Regt laid harassing fire on MT TAMBU. During night 3/4 Aug 60 personnel from one coy 15 Aust Inf Bn arrived TAMBU BAY. Owing to heavy surf the remainder turned back. Enemy arty fire damaged FOO wireless set 11 Bty 2/6 Fd Regt. Coy F now located at 738941. Afternoon 4 Aug our mortars engaged enemy positions at 721972 - results not known. A fighting patrol from Coy I raided enemy positions at 740954 destroying 2 HMGs and capturing one. Enemy casualties 7 killed 10 believed killed, own 2 wounded. Patrol from Coy L to knoll 720934 reports no movement seen. Arty engaged BOBDUBI RIDGE afternoon 5 Aug with harassing fire, also ORODUBI. 0955K/5 US arty shelled south end of Isthmus and at 0955K the enemy gun at approx 720009. BOBDUBI area was shelled also GRAVEYARD during afternoon 5 Aug.

TAYLOR FORCE - Approx 1700K/4 enemy engaged Coy A position 717968 with light mortars. Our arty and mortar replied silencing enemy and dispersing a small enemy party on TAMBU PEAK. Patrol to east of TAMBU to 732927 report enemy activity in area has increased considerably in last 8 days, two pillboxes having been erected and defences prepared.

(ii) MISSIM Area

2/7 Aust Inf Bn - Our casualties for 4 Aug now reported 1 killed 7 wounded, 1000K/5 enemy guns commenced shelling re-entrant SE of OLD VICKERS POSITION, A Coy standing to. A composite force moved along

ANDERSONS RIDGE clearing enemy to eastern end, one sec moving to occupy standing patrol position south of SOUTH COCONUTS. 1045K/5 enemy on knoll 696969 after some digging activity packed gear, collected tools and weapons and withdrew from the area. Party from A Coy occupied knoll and patrolled down line of withdrawal. Area on ANDERSONS RIDGE reported clear of enemy at 1230 K/5. Enemy L of C to knoll 696969 is via CENTRE COCONUTS and along northern slope of feature. Patrol from A Coy reported track clear of enemy for 300 yds towards COCONUTS. Track from 698969 east for 400 yds disclosed many foxholes close to our defences and evidence of enemy casualties. 1640K/5 following our arty shoot on COCONUTS enemy mortar fired 10 rounds onto 696980 simultaneously with gun fire.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn - Patrol to 707964 reported BENCH CUT TRACK clear of enemy at 1630K/4. S A fire heard approx east of ridge, east of BUIRALI CK. KELA gun shelled to north of B Coy HQ area and south into village and ULIAP CK area at 1015K/5. 1700K/4 Tk.A Pl occupied feature south of TAYLORS RIDGE. During night enemy moved west of junc, 3 enemy killed. Mopping up continued at 0815K/5, a further 8 enemy being killed. Fighting patrol from 10 Pl contacted enemy between BETHUNES POST and TAYLORS RIDGE during night 4/5 Aug killing 1 offr and 1 OR, 4 more enemy being killed. 1130K/5 B Coy occupied position between BETHUNES POST and TAYLORS RIDGE, consolidation proceeding. In conjunction with 2/7 Aust Inf Bn enemy casualties for 4-5 Aug total 44 certain killed. Captured enemy equipment includes 8 LMGs and 1 grenade discharger. 1630K/5 B Coy HQ again shelled - 1 OR wounded. Shelling has occurred each time a boyline arrived. Changes in dispositions: C Coy HQ 692939, 14 Pl 15 Pl MORTAR KNOLL, 13 Pl NAMLING RIDGE. 3

2/3 Aust Indep Coy - Dispositions at 1200K/4: 43 troops on NAMLING RIDGE - MORTAR KNOLL, 47 on TIMBERED KNOLL, and 22 in PAPERS BOWL. 2 offr 19 ORs moved from MORTAR KNOLL to 705958, 5 Aug.

2. AIR
(1) Own Nil.

(b) Enemy - 1535-1550K/4 12 aircraft, believed enemy, patrolled between BENS OP and LAE, finally heading south towards BUANG R. 1605K 11 aircraft over BUANG R, 3 breaking formation and heading south.

3. OP REPORTS

- (a) WELLS: 1600-1743K/4 20 Japs crossed north over FRANCISCO R. Heavy arty explosions heard in direction of NUK NUK 1901-1915K/4. 2312K/4 long burst of tracers were seen in HUON GULF slightly east of LAE, while at 2314K a searchlight was visible in direction of LAE. Aust Arty fired a few rounds on ORODUBI 0630K/5. 0600-0700K/5 5 Japs moved into and 3 out of SALAMAUA across footbridge which has now been repaired. 0955K/5 2 enemy guns from position on ridge approx 600 yds SW of highest point on KELA HILL and at junc of long wooded ridge running south to north fired in direction of BOBDUBI. 1735-1830K/5 9 Japs moved in and 11 out of SALAMAUA. Crossings FRANCISCO at dusk were 28 Japs north and 7 south.
- (b) SALAMAUA: Barges were heard in vicinity SALAMAUA 0024K/5.
- (c) GWAIBOLON: 1135-1758K/5 35 Japs moved north and 3 south over footbridge.

Major
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION:

As Per summary No 26.

SECRET

COPY NO 13

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 30

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
7 Aug 45

Information from 2359K/5 to 2100K/6

Ref Maps: SALAMAUA 1:25000
KOMIATUM 1:25000
MUBO 1:25000

1. OPERATIONS

(a) Own

(i)

MUBO - GOODVIEW - TAMBU Area

2/5 Aust Inf Bn - 2030k/5 Changes in dispositions: C Coy less two pls 703903, one pl 700904, one pl 703906. Enemy casualties 4 Aug estimated 28. Patrol to head waters BUIRALI reports no movement seen. 10800K/6 A coy at 698899.

COANE FORCE - 1000K/5 205 FA Bn engaged McDONALDS JUNC with harassing fire. Jap gun at 724957 fired one round into Water TAMBU BAY. Bty C 205 FA Bn engaged Jap gun. 1400K/5 205 FA Bn fired 100 rounds MT TAMBU 70 rounds ROOSEVELT RIDGE and 300 rounds in perimeter 739954 - all harassing fire. Jap MG positions under construction 749942. Morning 6 Aug 218 FA Bn engaged DOT INLET and ridge 100 yds north of ROOSEVELT RIDGE with harassing fire. 11 Bty 2/6 Aust Fd Regt report night 4/5 Aug one barge approaching TAMBU BAY was picked up by searchlight from Isthmus and returned to NASSAU BAY. 0900K/5 11 Bty engaged enemy positions MT TAMBU and ORODUBI with harassing fire. Following arrived COANE Beach night 5/6 Aug: 60 personnel 15 Aust Inf Bn, 2 Bofors with crews 209 CA Bty. 0645K/6 6 large calibre shells believed 155mm landed area 755925-762923, remainder fell in sea approx 775945. Bty C 205 CA Bn now at 750926, morning 6 Aug registered north beach SALAMAUA and shelled McDONALDS JUNC also east and centre Isthmus; started fire believed oil dump centre Isthmus. Registration KEILA HILL delayed due bad visibility.

(ii) MISSIM Area

2/7 Aust Inf Bn - Morning 6 Aug patrol found in re-entrant between knoll 696969 and 7 Pl area 11 enemy rifles and large quantity of equipment. In area patrol saw ample evidence of accurate 3" mortar fire having caused enemy casualties. Patrol searched for graves. Standing patrol on knoll 701971 reports no movement seen, but sounds of loud hammering coming from SOUTH COCONUTS. Patrol in area 699970 located large deserted enemy kitchen in deep re-entrant, no movement seen. 1300K/6 patrol including FOO located new arty OP at 696984.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn - Morning 6 Aug B Coy harassing enemy position approx 200 yds NE of BETHUNES POST with 2" mortar. B Coy recce patrol to enemy positions on spur 200 yds NE of BETHUNES POST out at 1330K/6 - firing heard 1607K/6 - NOT yet reported in at 2000K/6. 1630K/6 A Coy completed relief TIMBERED KNOLL. Enemy positions dug in area cleared 5 Aug estimated would hold 200 men. C Coy 13 Pl report Jap chattering heard in direction ORODUBI.

2/3 Aust Indep Coy - 0800K/6 2 offrs 22 ORs A Pl arrived GWAIBOLON from TIMBERED KNOLL en route NEWMANS JUNC. 1630K/6 1 offr plus engineer sec left GWAIBOLON en route for 699962, remainder B Pl arrived GWAIBOLON from NAMLING RIDGE MORTAR KNOLL. 1040K/6 4 Japs moved out of SALAMAUA. 1530K/6 our arty continued to fire at intervals on ORODUBI. 1630K/6 remainder force TIMBERED KNOLL 1 offr 21 ORs arrived GWAIBOLON.

War Diary

Appx 25

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

The information contained in this document is NOT to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the Press or to any person NOT holding an official position in His Majesty's Service.

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
6 Aug 43

ROUTINE ORDERS - PART 1

BY

BRIGADIER H.H. HAMMER DSO - COMD 15 AUST INF BDE

NOS 158 - 165

"G"

N11

"AQ"

158.

DUTIES To mount at retreat on day preceding date shown:-

Date	Bde Duty Officer
Aug 7	Capt BLACKSHAW
8	Capt HEDLEY
9	Capt LEFFERS
10	Lieut MOYES
11	Lieut SUTTON
12	Lieut COWAN
13	Capt JOHNS
14	Capt BLACKSHAW

159.

INCOME TAX RETURNS L.H.Q. advises that Income Tax returns need not be submitted by military personnel in NEW GUINEA, provided such personnel are not on special duty or liable to furnish a return in respect of private income.(3 Div RO274)

160.

SALT & C.A.B. Any unit not receiving SALT or C.A.B. regularly should submit a return to Education Officer, A.A. Education Service, 3 Aust Div stating dates of last issues received. Attention is directed to GRO 5342/43. "Officers will inform the men of the matter contained in C.A.B." (3 Div RO 275)

161.

PUBLICITY MATERIAL AMF UNITS & PERSONNEL Approval has been given for providing the Australian Press, through Service channels, with supplementary factual material concerning units and individual members of the AMF. The intention is to keep the home front in closer touch with the Army. Within the usual censorship and service regulations, district newspapers are to be supplied with factual stories, paragraphs and group photographs of units or individuals from the area concerned. Undeveloped negatives of such photographs, with corresponding lists of names, should be forwarded by units under command 3, 5 and 11 Aust Divisions to the Public Relations Officer at Divisional HQ. Other units should forward direct to A.D.P.R. HQ NGF. The names of the newspapers published in each district should be included.

162.

USE OF AN FPO OR APO AS POSTAL ADDRESS The use of an FPO as an address for private correspondence is forbidden. The use of an APO address may be permitted as an accommodation address in special circumstances, but only by express authority of the ADAPS or DADAPS. To be repeated in Unit Routine Orders.(NGFO 311)

163. MALARIA RETURN
1. All units will, on or before 20 Aug 43, render a return in duplicate on nominal roll Pro Forma D (Appendix A to this Order) direct to DDMS, NEW GUINEA Force.
 2. A return will be rendered in respect of all personnel on Unit strength as at 2359 hrs on 6 Aug 43, and also in respect of X list personnel, who will be shown separately. In the case of X list personnel, reason for being X list will be stated in the Return.
 3. Only such personnel as have been evacuated to a Medical Unit and have received at least 7 days Malarial Treatment prior to returning to their Unit will be shown in Return as having had Malaria.
 4. If information as to whether or not X list personnel have had Malaria is not available in the Unit, the relevant column will be endorsed "Unknown".
 5. Accuracy in preparation of the Returns is essential and Unit Medical Officers will co-operate in their preparation. Nil Returns are required.
 6. Where detachments of Units are located in widely separated areas, a separate return will be rendered in respect of each detachment. Where it is impracticable to render returns in respect of detachments on or before the due date, Units will furnish advice as to the strength of such detachments in Officers and ORs, together with such returns as are then available.
 7. The information to be included in Returns is required for CONTROL AND OPERATIONAL REASONS ONLY.
 8. In the absence of any official record, Units may use information supplied by personnel in the compilation of the Return. Paras 3 and 7 hereof will be carefully explained to personnel before any information supplied is accepted.
 9. Columns with no heading on Nominal Roll Pro Forma D will be left blank. (NGFO 308)

164. PAY Units will ascertain if any personnel require pay and notify this HQ accordingly.

165. OUTGOING MAIL-CLEARANCE OF With the closure of the MISSIM L of C, arrangements for backloading of outward mail have been altered. Units will notify Bde Postal Sgt of average daily loads. Mail will be fastened securely in canvas bag and be properly labelled with the serial number of the unit concerned.

[Handwritten Signature]
 Lieut
 SC 15 Aust Inf Bde

Appx 26

LOs REPORT ON VISIT TO 2/7 AUST INF BN, 58/59 AUST INF BN
and 2/3 AUST INDEP COY 5/6 AUG 43

By LIEUT G. SUTTON

HQ, 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
6 Aug 43

1. Movements

1600 hrs 5 Aug arrived 2/7 Aust Inf Bn. Departed 0800 hrs 6 Aug.
1130 hrs arrived 2/3 Aust Indep Coy, departed 1300 hrs. 1330
hrs arrived 58/59 Aust Inf Bn, departed 1415 hrs.
1515hrs arrived 2/7 Aust Inf Bn, departed 1615 hrs.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF REST CAMPS

2/3 Aust Indep Coy - For the time being, the rest camp for 2/3
Aust Indep Coy will remain at KELLYS CAMP, but will be brought
forward at completion of change over. Staff: QM and Sgt
PULLMAN in charge, 1 storeman, 1 cook and 1 RAP orderly. There
are now 29 personnel at KELLYS including sick, sigs and RAP.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn - A complete report will be forwarded 7 Aug to
Bde.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn - Rest camp will be in B Ech area. Capt GOOLD
in charge, Lieut ROBITSON, RAP orderly. Laundry in the field as
usual. There will be accommodation for 20 troops for first few
days - 6 from each coy.

3. CHANGE OVER of 58/59 AUST INF BN and 2/3 AUST INDEP COY

Up till time I was there, change was satisfactory. CUMMINS
POST and NEWMANS JUNC area will have 89 personnel incl 15 from
Bn HQ; GWAIBOLON - 38, all HQ personnel;

Aug 7 When changeover complete, strength will be:
CUMMINS POST-GRIFFS TRACK-NEWMANS JUNC area: 85 personnel from
A and B Pls.

BETHUNES POST: 15)
GARDEN AREA : 45) From C Pl.

HQ will be situated between BETHUNES POST and GRIFFS TRACK 699962.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn will leave Tk.A Pl in contact with
right flank and left flank of A coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn.

Plan to put small force on BENCH CUT and holding force to tie
up with OLD VICKERS POSITION. Should Jap come down ERSKINE CK he
will be above this position.

Lt-Col STARR drew my attention to the fact that 2 and 21
were taking over from 4 and 76.

4. HYGIENE

The area vacated by B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn is in a filthy
condition. Ration tins and unconsumed rations are left in
weapon pits plus ammunition and quite a few 36 grenades. 3
pioneers were left to build a new HQ but Major WARFE said he would
use these men to clean up the area. Other areas were good.

5. 2/7 Aust Inf Bn

Major PICKEN states that B Coy have always ^{been} the weakest coy
on patrols but he had issued orders that they must be checked
by the Coy Comd. A report on this will be sent to Bde HQ 7 Aug.
CO has been paying all attention to A Coy. Enemy equipment
and 11 rifles were found today indicating that enemy left in a
panic. Casualties were inflicted by mortars as indicated by
bodies blown about. Complete report will be sent as soon as
check of equipment and graves is completed.

As soon as change is completed, Major PICKEN will contact
Major WARFE and view both positions.

6. MORALE

There is a marked difference between the troops of 58/59 Aust
Inf Bn and those of 2/7 Aust Inf Bn and 2/3 Aust Indep Coy..
2/7 Aust Inf Bn and 2/3 Aust Indep Coy are quite happy about the
change and keen to get on with the job - busily digging and
making themselves comfortable. What personnel I contacted in
58/59 Aust Inf Bn are very discontented.

7. SUPPLY

The following items have been missed from general supply. The 2 1/c 2/3 Aust Indep Coy is of the opinion that the following should be issued without being requisitioned for :

- Toilet paper, soap, Atebrin, Rifle Oil, 4 x 2, Chocolate -
- Field Operation Rations, Canned Meat.

Tobacco for Natives

It is suggested by 2/7 Aust Inf Bn that tobacco could be given to natives for extra work - e.g. They carried out wounded under fire from A Coy area.

2/3 Aust Indep Coy is supplying hot meals to all positions.

[Handwritten signature]

Lieut
LO Att 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION:

- Comd
- File

War Diary (2)

2/7 Aust Inf Bn

2/3 Aust Indep Coy

2/5 Aust Indep Coy

2/7 Aust Inf Bn

2/3 Aust Indep Coy

2/5 Aust Indep Coy

2/7 Aust Inf Bn

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2/5 Aust Indep Coy

2/7 Aust Inf Bn

2/3 Aust Indep Coy

2/5 Aust Indep Coy

2/7 Aust Inf Bn

War Diary

Appre 27

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION : Major WARFE, CO 2/3 Aust Indep Coy and
Lieut COULTER, LO 15 Aust Inf Bde
1930K/6

Now no 2/3 personnel on TIMBERED KNOLL or NAMLING RIDGE.

Some 58/59 Bn personnel still at CUMMINS POST - pioneers cleaning filthy area and digging latrines etc for 2/3. Indep Coy.

Proposes 2 MMGs vicinity CUMMINS POST and 2 mortars vicinity track junc between BETHUNES POST and ANDERSON RIDGE. Mortar crews to act as rfn also.

B Pl and portion of A Pl along GRIFFS TRACK and cutting BENCH CUT. Total 70 considered more than enough. Bench cut area tactically useless to use and Jap (he doesn't use it). Making base only for exploitation. He can maintain GRIFFS TRACK.

Ik. A Pl 58/59 Bn when in p sition tomorrow will be 10 mins from A Pl HQ - 5 mins when track cut.

Spur parallel with GRIFFS TRACK 200 yds north and is possible entry for Jap. Will sew up from CUMMINS POST area or perhaps further east when extra troops arrive. Considers Jap a fool NOT to have used this approach. (That is why BENCH CUT is NOT tactically useless.)

Left 6 men in BETHUNES POST tonight in preparation for tomorrows take over of BETHUNES POST, SUGARCANE and ANDERSON RIDGE. C Pl (29) and portion of A Pl total 40 to take over.

From CUMMINS POST to BETHUNES POST is 15 mins. Half way along is good ground to east of track, worried about thickening this up. Possible 2 MMGs and Coy HQ personnel.

This will all be complete night 7 Aug.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn to take over PARERS BOWL but so far no move. Would like 58/59 Bn adv party early tomorrow.

Changeover NOT satisfactory - areas filthy - no latrines at NEWMANS JUNG - hardly a pit dug.

Ammunition - some good but main too far back. Will have to shift it up onto ridge, also some types of amn will have to be moved from old area.

Anxious to get their reinforcements in.

12 engrs under Lieut JEFFRIES between BETHUNES POST and CUMMINS POST building Coy HQ.

Considering shifting KELLYS CAMP to 58/59 Bn Q Store.

L of C remains through GWAIBOLON for 7th, thereafter through LULUAIS HUT and across new track or upstream a little from that turnoff and then up a creek bed.

Conditions along GRIFFS TRACK very wet - extra tent halves and/or ground sheets required. Unable to cut bush for shelters positions would be exposed

Our arty fire today caused troops to go to ground due to no knowledge of shoot - requests warning in future (FOO should notify them.)

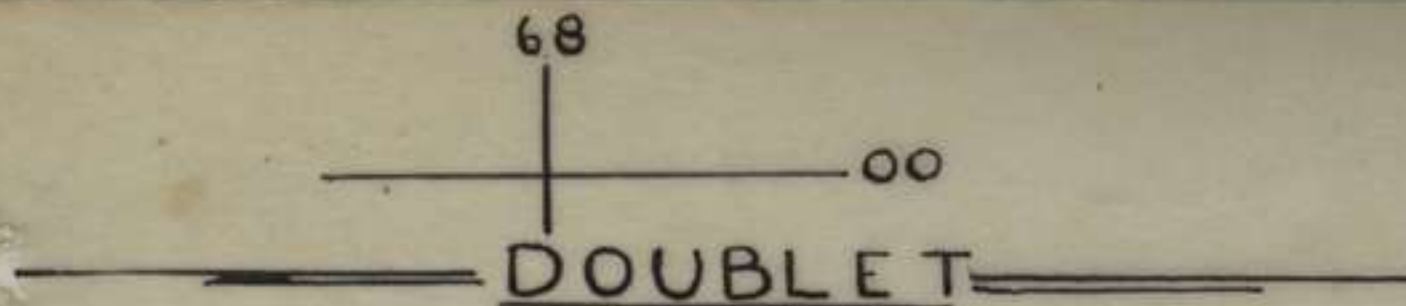
Communication difficult at present due to 58/59 Bn intervening but OK tomorrow. Getting direct line to Bde will mean little extra expenditure of wire.

Timber will be cut from west side new Coy HQ for sunlight and fixing of position from Bde by taking bearings.

COMMENT.

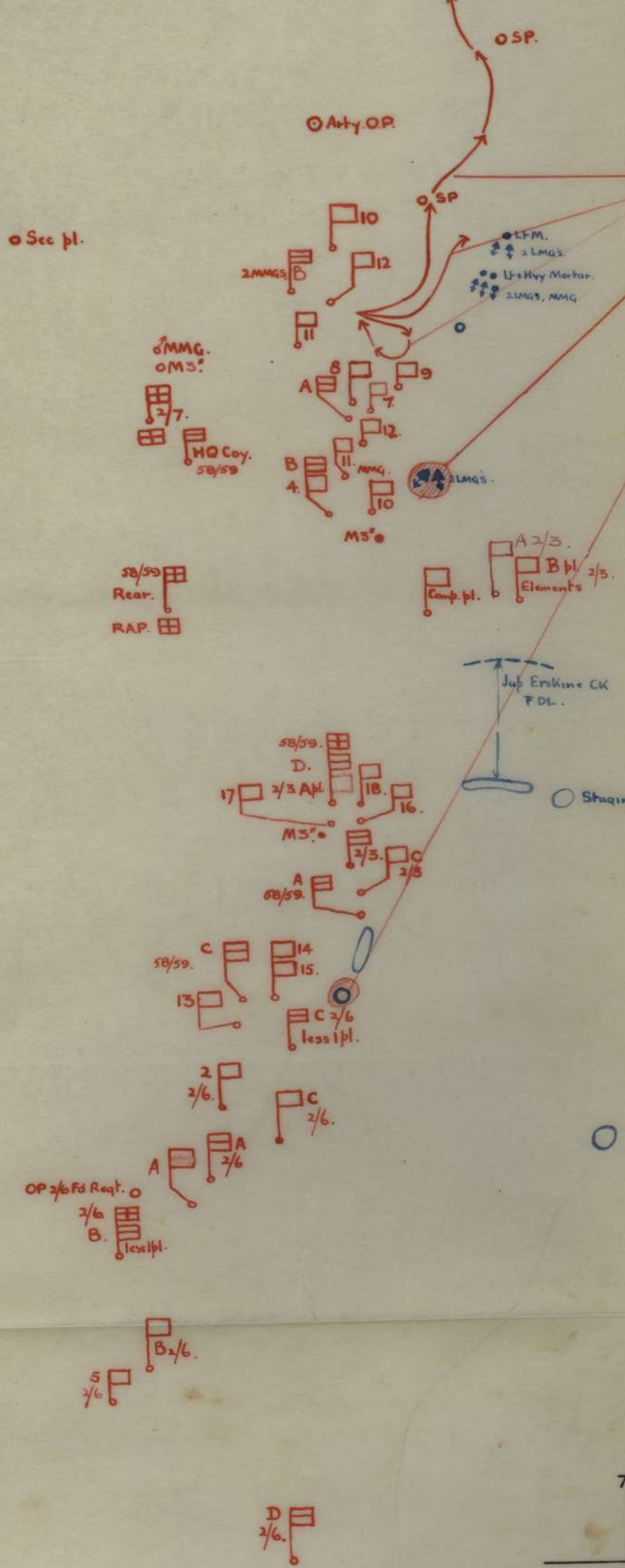
From tenor of conversation there has NOT been much liaison during changeover.

Keouler hunt



85 APPX 28

SITUATION MAP AS AT 2359 HRS 6 AUG 43
 To be superimposed over KOMIATUM 1/25000.



2/7 BN.
 K/6. Standing patrol on knoll 701971
 Reports NMS but sounds of hammering
 from SOUTH COCONUTS.
 1300/6. Patrol incl F.O.O. located new
 arty O.P.
 K/6 Patrols as shown. NMS.
58/59 BN.
 K/6M. BCoy harassing with 2" mortar.
 enemy posn 200' NE of BETHUNE'S POST.
2/3 INDEP COY.
 1530/6 Our arty fired at intervals on
 ORODUBI.

15 BDE INT SEC
 AUG 43

15 AUST INF BDE OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 12

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
7 Aug 43

Ref Maps: KOMIATUM 1:25000
SALAMAUA 1:25000

INFORMATION

1. Enemy)
 2. Own Troops)
-) As per 15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summaries.

INTENTION

3. 15 Aust Inf Bde will maintain control of area NAMLING - BOBDUBI - BUIRIS CK by
 - (a) Offensive patrolling
 - (b) Immediate counter attack against any enemy attack.

METHOD

4. Patrol Policy

(a) 2/7 Aust Inf Bn

Continue reces to :-

- (i) Establish if enemy L of C east of a north-south line through BUIRIS CK NOT including the SALAMAUA - OLD BOBDUBI TRACK.
- (ii) Establish if enemy L of C is via SALAMAUA - OLD BOBDUBI TRACK. (Close co-operation with 2/3 Aust Indep Coy is necessary for this task.)
- (iii) Obtain information regarding any enemy movement along BUIRIS CK to the 01 northing grid line.
- (iv) Obtain information of any enemy movement west of the BUIRIS CK between 97 and 01 northing grids.
- (v) Make track traverses within the above areas and record reliable track information. All information to be submitted to this HQ on traces as it is obtained.
- (vi) Locate and prepare suitable routes for an eventual attack on NORTH - SOUTH COCONUTS.
- (vii) Protective patrols to ensure no enemy penetration west of a NE-SW line through OLD VICKERS POSITION and COCONUTS.
- (viii) Protective patrols east of OLD VICKERS POSITION to restrict any enemy movement between OLD VICKERS POSITION and FRANCISCO R. bend at 705968.

(b) 2/3 Aust Indep Coy

- (i) Protective patrols north and south along BOBDUBI RIDGE to contact flanking units.
 - (ii) Co-operate with patrols 2/7 Aust Inf Bn in keeping east and west flanks of OLD VICKERS POSITION clear of enemy.
 - (iii) Recce patrols to gain information of all enemy movements along
 - (i) SALAMAUA-OLD BOBDUBI TRACK in the area track junctions 705967 and 708968.
 - (ii) SALAMAUA-KOMIATUM TRACK in 2/3 Indep Coy sector.
 - (iv) Provide fighting patrols to harass and ambush enemy moving along tracks in (iii) above.
 - (v) Protective patrols along BENCH CUT TRACK to
 - (i) Keep track clear of enemy.
 - (ii) Ascertain enemy northern flank north of ERSKINE CK area.
- (By arrangement, with 58/59 Aust Inf Bn, troops in that

area may be used for this purpose.)

(c) 58/59 Aust Inf Bn

- (i) Protective patrols from GWAIBOLON incl to junction with 2/3 Aust Indep Coy on the north along BOBDUBI RIDGE TRACK.
- (ii) Contact patrols on inter-bde boundary to 2/6 Aust Inf Bn.
- (iii) Patrol east from NAMLING RIDGE towards ORODUBI to prevent enemy closing in towards NAMLING RIDGE.
- (iv) Patrol and improve track NAMLING RIDGE - PARERS BOWL area.
- (v) Recce and strong fighting patrols to ascertain and harass enemy localities in ERSKINE CK area.
- (vi) Establish routes for an eventual attack on ERSKINE CK area.
- (vii) In conjunction with 2/3 Aust Indep Coy to fix enemy positions on BENCH CUT TRACK north from ERSKINE CK area.

(d) General

- (i) All patrols will be given a serial number.
- (ii) Patrols will be properly briefed as to task.
- (iii) Patrol map will be kept at coy and bn HQ.
- (iv) Patrols will be interrogated on return by Coy Comd who will be responsible to submit Patrol Report in the sequence previously laid down.
- (v) COs will probably need to brief and interrogate patrol leaders on the more important tasks.
- (vi) Written patrol reports will be submitted without delay to HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde. Any urgent information being sent by L/T.
- (vii) Patrols will prepare track traverses and establish reliable information of tracks, topography, own and enemy locations.
- (viii) Members of unit "I" sections to be used to assist patrols in traverses, etc.

5. Counter Attack Plans

- (a) All units will prepare plans for, and instruct sub-units required, to counter attack vital positions which must be retained.
- (b) Plans are to be prepared for :-
 - (i) Immediate counter attack. This method best where possible.
 - (ii) Deliberate counter attacks.
 - (iii) Arrangements to concentrate all available Bn weapons and arty onto areas gained by the enemy. Such a concentration will often blast the enemy off a position before he can become established.
 - (iv) Concentration of 3" mortars etc on the areas as in para 5(b)(iii) above will require careful planning.
 - (v) Routes to be used for counter attacks will need to be reced by all those who are to take part.
- (c) Units will be prepared to counter attack on localities of flanking units in the vicinity of inter-bn boundaries. Close liaison is necessary for this.

6. Improvement of Tracks and Ls of C.

- (a) By recce all units will select Ls of C for supply, patrols etc.
 - (i) To enable more rapid movement
 - (ii) To give covered approaches for supply lines.
 - (iii) Alternative routes in the event of the normal L of C being cut by the enemy.
- (b) Improve tracks selected.

7. Liaison

Units will liaise direct. Any points requiring clarification will be referred to this HQ.

8. Plans

(a) Plan for patrols will be put into effect immediately.

(b) All plans for counter attack will be prepared and completed by 14 Aug 43. Immediate temporary arrangements can be arranged with sub-units verbally. Plans to be submitted to this HQ by 14 Aug 43.

ADMINISTRATION

9. Administration as per 15 Aust Inf Bde Op Instn No 11.

INTERCOMMUNICATION

10. Patrols

(a) Where possible L/T is to be carried by patrols to pass information from time to time. This will save a long time lag in awaiting the return of the patrol for information.

(b) Light assault cable is most suitable for this task.

(c) 208 sets are worth trying to give rapid communication.

(d) Where L/T or 208 sets are NOT available additional runners are to be sent, returning at stated intervals with information obtained.

11. Counter Attack

(a) Early information is required of enemy attacks so that counter attacks can be prepared.

(b) Reserve of cable is to be held for move with counter attacking forces to ensure rapid communication.

12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

B. M. Frazer
Major
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

Time of Signature: 2250hrs

DISTRIBUTION:

	<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>Method of Issue</u>
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	1	DRLS
58/59 Aust Inf Bn	2	DRLS
2/3 Aust Indep Coy	3	DRLS
L Sec Sigs 3 Aust Div	4	Hand
ANGAU, NUNNS POST	5	DRLS
3 Aust Div	6	DRLS
RAA 3 Aust Div	7	DRLS
17 Aust Inf Bde	8	DRLS
Comd	9	Hand
SC	10	Hand
SMO	11	Hand
File	12	
War Diary	13-14	
Maps	15-17	

2 Jul. Capt KAMINO Bn
 comd in 80 regt
 arrived SALAMAVA went
 to BOBUBI area.
 4 Jul. Portion KAMINO
 Bn arrived from LAE
 consisting of HQ & 15
 MTR - KAMINO UNIT.
 (No 3 Coy)
 MMG Coy (comd HIMEA)
 Regt sigs & 5-6 Jacs
 wireless reserve squad of
 6 MTR.
 5 Jul. One Coy KAMINO
 Bn attached to BOBUBI
 - 81 sec.
 6 Jul. 109 pers KAMINO
 Bn incl Bn comd arrived
 SALAMAVA WITH MMG &
 Lt POM POM JAC.
 Portion of KAMINO
 Bn despatched to
 meet OBA unit fleeing
 from NAUNAU BAY.

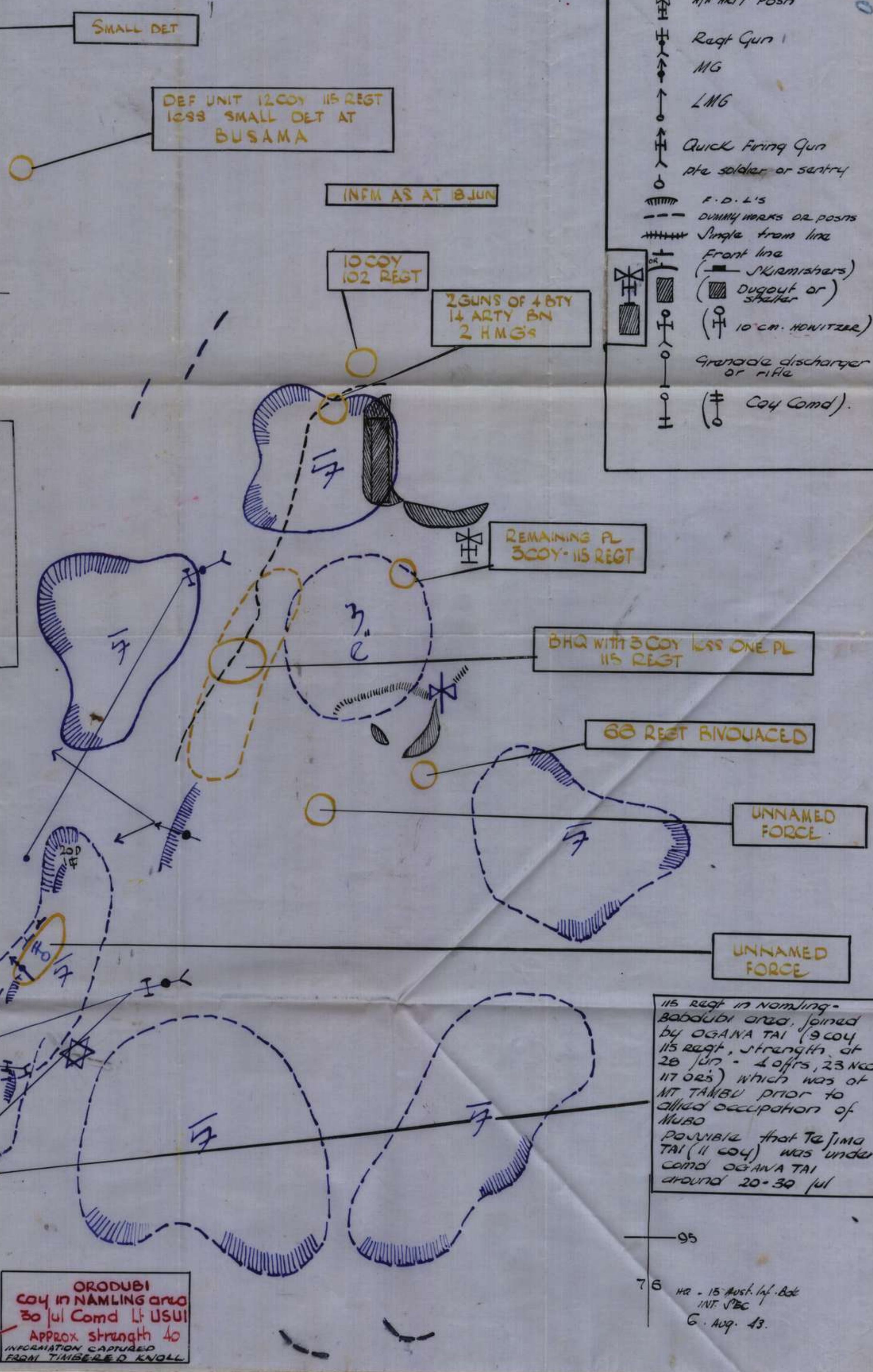
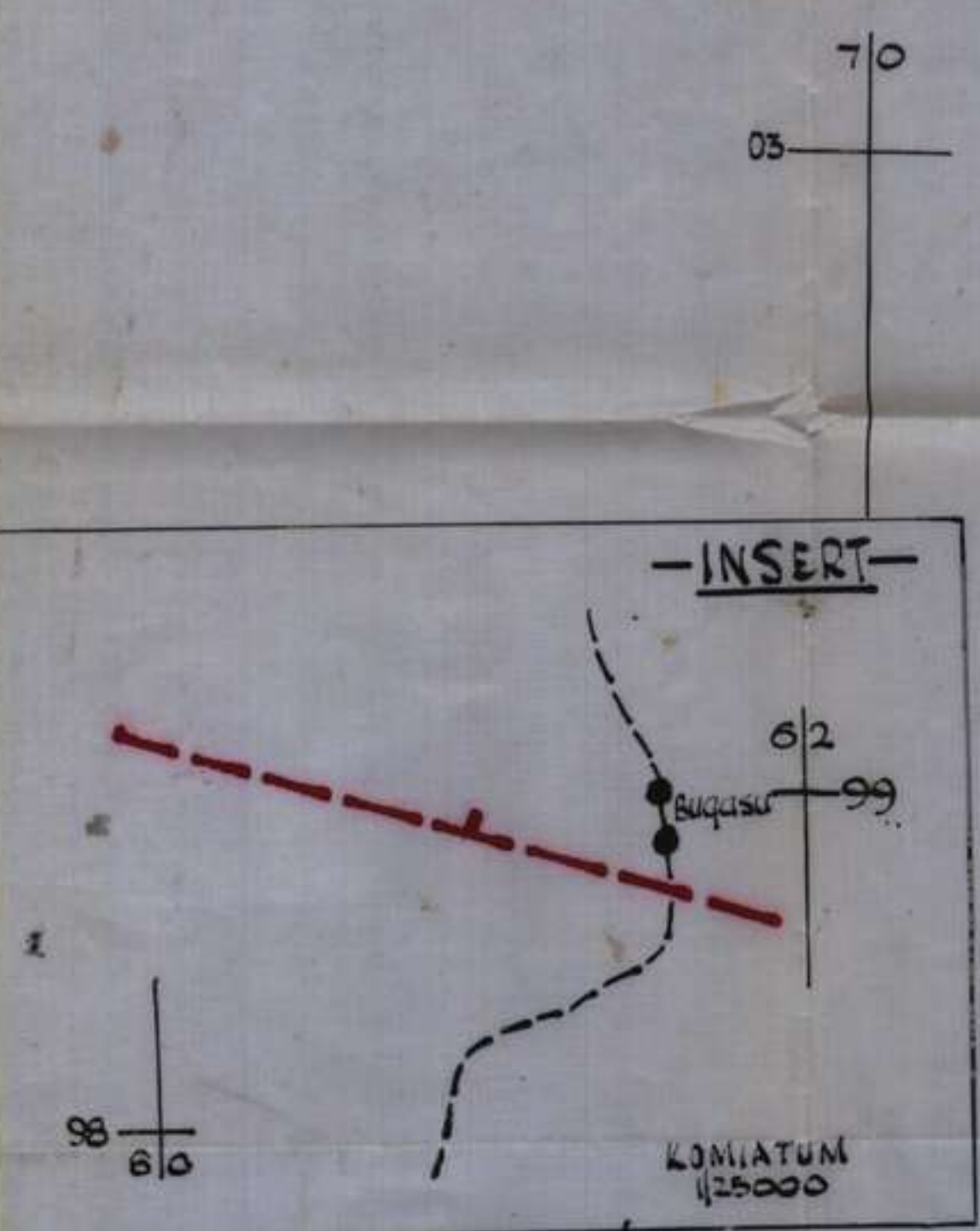
INF M FROM CAPTURED ENEMY MAPS
 & DOCUMENTS

OLD VICKERS POSN - 28-30 JUL 43
 & TIMBERED KNOLL 29 JUL 43.
 TO BE SUPERIMPOSED OVER SALAMAVA-KIMIATUM-1/25000
 INFORMATION IN BLUE & RED TAKEN FROM MAPS
 CAPTURED OLD VICKERS POSN - 28-30 JUL 43.

APPX 30

—LEGEND—

- ☆ Inf. Bde. HQ
- ✕ Aircraft
- ⊕ A/A ARTY Posn
- ⊕ Regt Gun
- ⊕ MG
- ⊕ LMG
- ⊕ Quick Firing Gun
pke soldier or sentry
- ⊕ F.D.L'S
- DUMMY MARKS OR POSNS
- ⊕ Single front line
- ⊕ Front line
(Skamishers)
- ⊕ Dugout or
shelter
- ⊕ 10 CM. HOWITZER
- ⊕ Grenade discharger
or rifle
- ⊕ Coy Comd.



SECRET

COPY NO 13

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 31

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
7 Aug 43

Information from 2100K/6 to 2100K/7.

Ref Maps: SALAMAU 1:25000
KOMIATUM 1:25000
MUBO 1:25000

1. OPERATIONS

(a) Own
(i)

MUBO - GOODVIEW - TAMBU Area

2/5 Aust Inf Bn - A patrol along CAFFINS TRACK to TAYLOR FORCE and general direction KOMIATUM TRACK observed enemy at 698906 and pillboxes at 697905. Mortars engaged enemy position on HODGES KNOLL 698906 throughout 6 Aug. At 0605K/7 10 Pl at 697905 was heavily attacked and forced to withdraw. 1130K/7 10 Pl counter attacked and at 1300K re-occupied the area.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn - At 694935 Coy C patrol fired on enemy sentry who withdrew. Patrol found 3 tracks leading to ORODUBI - PRICES KNOLL - EXTONS. 50 yds along track to EXTONS KNOLL enemy pillboxes were engaged. They returned fire with 2 LMGs and grenades. 3" mortars on AMBUSH KNOLL fired onto enemy positions PRICES KNOLL.

COANE FORCE - Coy I 162 Regt observed enemy constructing 3 MG pillboxes at 744955 and engaged the party with arty and mortars. Enemy casualties believed heavy. Bty A 205 FA Bn harassed MT TAMBU during the day and night. Fire from enemy mtn gun in TAMBU area was neutralized by Bty C 205 FA Bn. 11 Bty 2/6 Aust Fd Regt harassed ORODUBI all day. A fire in aircraft hangar at 752888 was reported by OP Bty C 205 FA Bn morning 6 Aug. Arrivals at NASSAU BAY 6 Aug were 2 offrs 30 ORs 16 Aust Sup Dep Pl, 4 offrs 78 ORs 15 Aust Inf Bn, at 0130K/7 14 offrs 314 ORs 42 Aust Inf Bn. Night 6/7 Aug 1 mtn bty engaged targets GOODVIEW JUNC with harassing fire. Bty C 205 FA Bn engaged NW slopes of MT TAMBU with harassing fire. 0735K/7 arty accurately shelled the Isthmus.

3 Aust Div - Adv HQ opened at MANGO 2400K/6.

(ii) MISSIM Area

2/7 Aust Inf Bn - Further patrols to areas adjacent to OLD VICKERS POSITION report a total of 27 rifles, approx 40 discharger bombs and 25 grenades recovered. Large quantities of equipment have been discarded in the area. A booby trap of 36 grenades was left by the enemy. Approx 49 weapon pits incl Comd Post, OP and mortar posts were also located. Patrol from 8 Pl followed track east then north to knoll 701971, located a large coil of enemy signal wire and 50 ft length leading up to weapon pits, comd post and OP. Observations from this point include portions of 8 Pl and 9 Pl areas. A further 18 bodies were found and buried. Observations from OP 696969 include own L of C from KUNDA BR NEW BOBDUBI area, also along ULIAP CK to GARDENS area. Patrol north along BUIRIS CK found no trace of enemy movement. B Coy reported that enemy were sniping personnel crossing the river to 10 Pl area, also on the track to Coy area from KUNDA IS. The fire is believed to come from SOUTH COCONUTS. An estimate by the CO at 0850K/7 states: "At least 100 Japs killed". Estimates attacked by at least 300 (possibly 2 coys). 38 bodies found on ground 6 Aug but thinks 20 of these are some of the 44 buried by 53/59 Aust Inf Bn. 17 definitely killed during fight in area leading to COCONUTS NOT found. Therefore this brings the tally of certain kills to 79.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn - A Coy completed relief of TIMBERED KNOLL at 1630K/6. Patrol from B Coy found enemy in occupation of kunai spur which runs approx 150 yds SE to the NE of BETHUNES POST. Enemy opened fire with 2 LMGs on our party. 1200K/7 C Coy reported track clear to 2/6 Aust Inf Bn. Patrol to ANDERSONS RIDGE came under enemy fire from eastern slope of ridge 700965. Casualties 3 wounded. Considered a strong attacking force and fire support required to clear same. Fwd HQ closed at GWAIBOLON/and re-opened at 696945 at 1500K/7. Rear HQ closed at 688958 and reopened at 696945 at 1700K/7.

2/3 Aust Indep Coy - 0900K/7 remainder of A Pl moved to NEWMANS JUNC. 2 offrs 21 ORs still at PARERS BOWL and BARONS POST.

D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn - 15 Japs and 10 well constructed huts were observed at NEW WAMASU.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn (Contd)- 1600K/7 B Coy attacked enemy positions 702966 unsuccessfully. Our casualties 2 wounded.

2. AIR
(a)

Own
0950K/7 8 Mitchells and 15 Liberators bombed north and south ends of footbridge. No damage was caused to bridge. Airstrip bombed causing a large fire. The Isthmus and SE end of KEHA HILL bombed. Light AA fire ceased when bombs fell. A Liberator returning from SALAMAUA cleared its guns while flying over AMBUSH KNOLL, many rounds striking the ground close to 2/6 Aust Inf Bn forward troops.

(b) Enemy Nil.

(c) Unidentified
2/6 Aust Inf Bn OP on SUGARCANE RIDGE observed 6 planes from north swing west and fly low over the water towards LAE at 0945K/7.

3. OP REPORTS

(a) LAE
0700K/6 approx 6 enemy barges were at VOCO Wharf and 3 aircraft seen on LAE airfield.

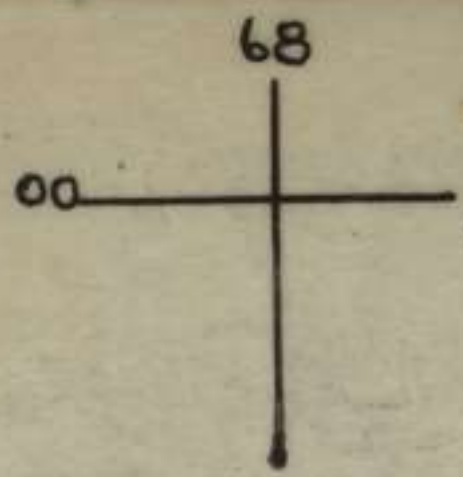
(b) WELLS
0900K/6 6 Japs moved south over FRANCISCO R. From 0835 - 0920K/6 arty fire and black smoke on the Isthmus. 0900-0915K/7 US arty shelled Isthmus. From 0930-1030K/7 2/6 Aust Fd Regt shelled ORODUBI area. 1100K/7 US arty shelled the area approx 739988 and 740990 where fire were caused by bombing. Bridge crossings 0730K/7 - 20 south. 1440K/7 US arty fired on SALAMAUA drome area and on footbridge at 1625 K/7. 2/6 Aust Fd Regt shelled ORODUBI at 1625K. One Allied aircraft bombed north end of Isthmus 1656K/7,

4. GENERAL

Attention is drawn to information on Jap Booby Traps as per Part II para 5 of 3 Aust Div Intelligence Summary No 15 (NOT to alladdressees.)

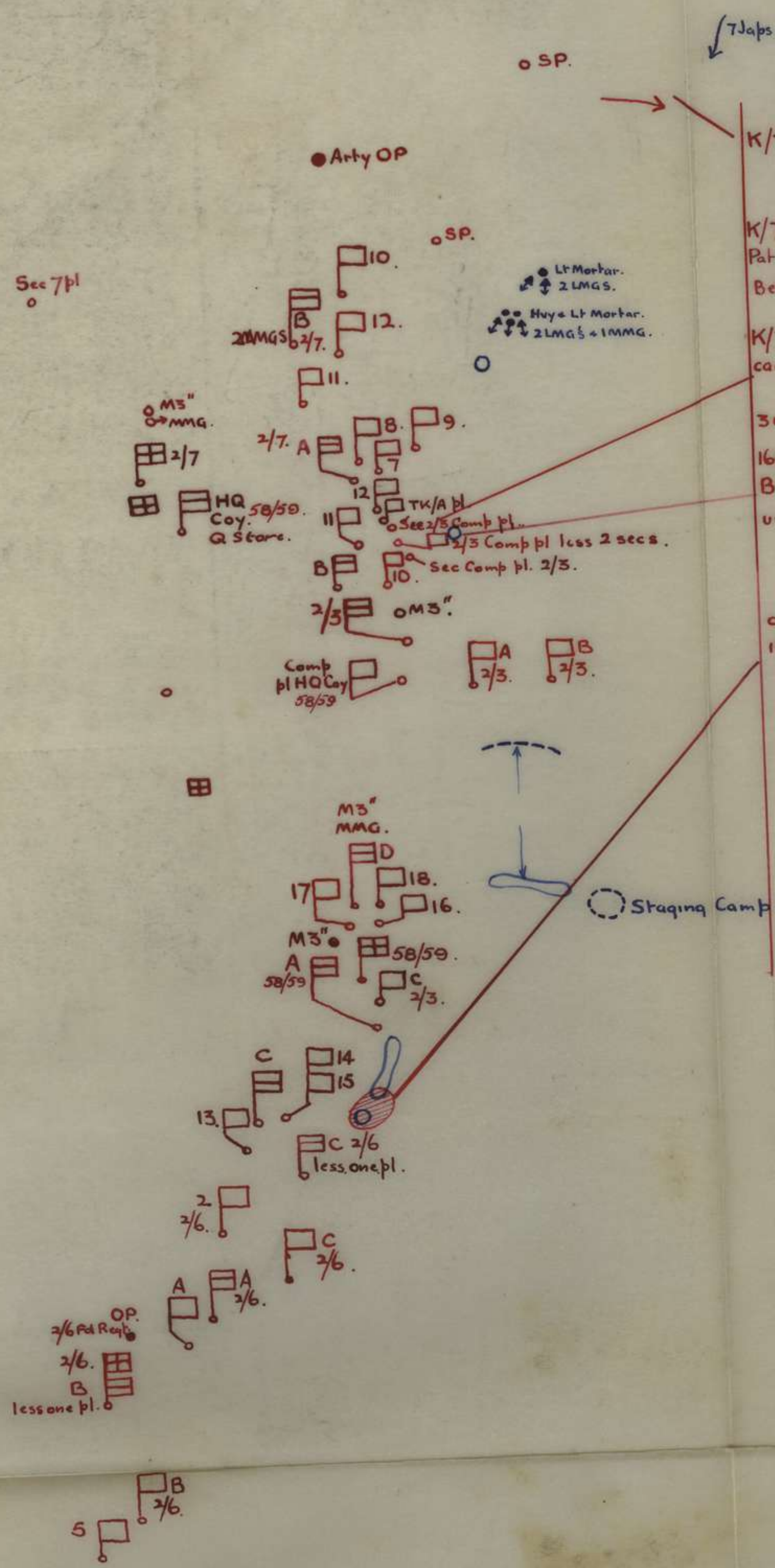
B H Francis
Major
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION:
As per Summary No 26.



DOUBLET
 SITUATION MAP AS AT 2359 Hrs 7 Aug 43.
 To be superimposed over KOMIATUM 1/25000.

Appx 32

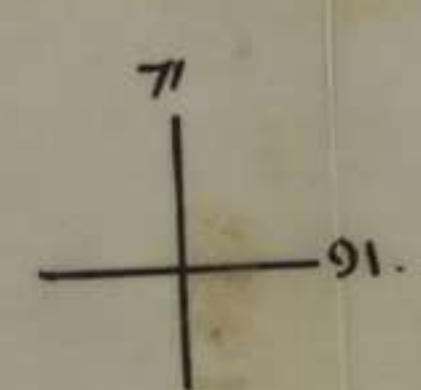


2/7 BN.
 K/7 Patrol sighted 7 Japs.

58/59 BN.
 K/7 Patrol found enemy in occupation 150' NE Bethune's Post. Opened with 2 LMGs.
 K/7. Patrol to ANDERSON'S RIDGE came under enemy fire from 700965.
 3 wounded.
 1600/7.
 B Coy attacked enemy at 702966 unsuccessfully. 4 wounded.

2/6 FD. REGT
 0930-1030/7 } ORRUBU1. shelled.
 1625/7

15 AUST INF BDE
 INT SEC
 AUG 43.



15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 32

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
8 Aug 43

Information from 2100K/7 to 2100K/8

Ref Maps: SALAMAUA 1:25000
KOMIATUM 1:25000
MUBO 1:25000

1. OPERATIONS

(a) Own
(1)

MUBO - GOODVIEW - TAMBU Area

2/6 Aust Inf Bn - 0900K/8 10 rounds mortar fire from AMBUSH KNOLL onto PRICES KNOLL.

TAYLOR FORCE - Patrol from 1 Bn 162 Regt contacted Coy L 725926 and staged night 5/6 Aug. 6 Aug moved to hill 719935 where no signs of enemy were seen. GOOD OP 719935 reports Jap mortar believed to be firing from 711938. Much chopping heard north of MT TAMBU along general line of heavy contour which passes through 720922. One Jap tree sniper killed 704914. 1735K/7 81mm mortars fired 29 rounds west crest of MT TAMBU - results unobserved. 24 Port Hospital 717907.

COANE FORCE - 7 Aug Bty 218 FA Bn engaged enemy positions north of GOODVIEW JUNC with intermittent harassing fire. 1500K/7 8 pillboxes on ROOSEVELT RIDGE 747943 area discovered by patrol engaged by arty 1700K/7 11 Fd Bn engaged NE slopes of MT TAMBU. 0300K/8 7 offrs 177 ORs 42 Aust Inf Bn arrived NASSAU BAY. 1130K/8 enemy 75mm gun fired 12 rounds into TAMBU BAY area. Bty C 205 FA Bn engaged suspected gun area.

(ii) MISSIM Area

2/7 Aust Inf Bn - Patrol from 696969 to 699973 reports no movement seen. From 697969 Jap track followed to within 200 yds SOUTH COCONUTS but no movement seen. OP sited 699969. FRANCISCO observed from 705970 and 720974. 1820K/7 smoke from guns firing observed at bearing 22° mag from 699969. Patrol moved along track to 712986, moved up spur to NE, but when 7 enemy were seen moving down feature towards them patrol returned. 7 Aug arty fired 140 rounds into COCONUTS. Fighting patrol from A Coy along track from knoll did not locate evidence of enemy, moved up to point 200 yds south of SOUTH COCONUTS and contacted enemy 130 yds further on. Enemy dispositions: 1 LMG and 1 rifle covering east approach and STEPHENS TRACK, 1 rifle covering west approach. Arty fired 40 rounds on SOUTH COCONUTS from 1200-1300K/8, 1300-1415K/8 70 rounds on NORTH COCONUTS, and 1630K/8 45 rounds in COCONUTS area.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn - 1300K/8 A Coy patrol to ambush position on BENCH CUT reports no movement seen. C Coy contact patrol to 2/6 Aust Inf Bn afternoon 8 Aug reports track clear. 1620K/8 1 Jap seen ORODUBI. B Coy commenced change over 1430K/8, Coy complete in PARERS BOWL 1730K/8.

D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn - Fire reported on SALAMAUA airstrip 1955K/7. Rifle and LMG fire heard at 1420K/7 in direction of MALAGOWAN. An ambush position was established on OLD MALOLO TRACK at 680034.

2/3 Aust Indep Coy - 1700K/7 dispositions: HQ 699962 (will be known as ARTIE FADDEN), Composite Pl less two secs MIDDLE SPUR 699966, one sec TAYLORS RIDGE 698967, one sec BETHUNES POST 698964, one 3" mortar det one MMG sec plus 15 personnel 58/59 Aust Inf Bn CUMMINS POST 699961. Recce patrols from NEWMANS JUNC and CUMMINS POST located a good covered track to be known as TOMMIES TRACK. This track runs parallel to and north

of GRIFFS TRACK from CUMMINS POST to BENCH CUT 200 yds north of NEWMANS JUNC. Lights were seen flashing at mouth of FRANCISCO R. during night 7/8 Aug. A Pl at NEWMANS JUNC 704958.

(iii) MARKHAM Area

HQ 24 Aust Inf Bn opened at 272212 (ROAMER 1") at 1800K/7

2. AIR Nil.

3. OP REPORTS

(a) FA OP 697984 - 1800K/7 and 0600K/8 6 Japs moved from SOUTH COCONUTS over ridge into re-entrant to east reappearing 10-15 mins later apparently carrying food. Evening 7 Aug and morning 8 Aug fire observed burning in CENTRE COCONUTS. 1750K/7 5 Japs observed around plane on drome engaged by US arty - direct hit on plane and 3 Japs at 1820K/7. Plane burst into flames and at 1940K/7 exploded.

(b) WELLS - 1800K/7 2 Japs moved north and at 1815K/4 moved south with packs. 1830K/7 3 Japs observed in ORODUBI. 1950K/7 to 0545K/8 enemy gun on Isthmus fired 9 rounds while harassing fire from arty was directed at MT TAMBU - GOODVIEW - SALAMAUA and KOMIATUM during the night. 1010K/8 2/6 Aust Fd Regt fired 10 rounds onto ORODUBI. 1150-1330K/8 2/6 Aust Fd Regt placed harassing fire onto ORODUBI. 1215K/8 12 Japs observed vicinity MACDONALDS JUNC.

B N James
Major
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION:

As per Summary No 26.

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15 AUST INF BDE

WARR DIARY

ADV 3 AUST

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personal to HAMMER from SAVIGE ○ ref
 your letter 5 aug ○ words fail to convey
 of my appreciation your splendid efforts and
 in all the circumstances that of Aps also ○
 I realise fully your present predicament ref
 strengths and quality ○ immediate relief NOT
 possible ○ following reinforcements should reach
 you evening 10 aug ○ 2/7 bn 40 2/3 indep coy 45
 ○ # 58/59 bn 10 ○ two days ago asked for more
 particularly 58/59 BN ○ if you so desire and con-
 sider security reasonable you may relieve one
 coy 58/59 BN by coy 24 bn at HOTE ○ you may
 also if practicable do likewise with one of
 SMITH'S coys from within his area and 24 pl
 on L of C duties within your area if considered
 desirable notify me of date most suitable
 for change over to take place ○ if STARR has
 reached stage of exhaustion may be able to
 provide relief by capt BENNET 2/6 bn. recomm-
 ended for majority ○ WOOD can give you
 values this offer ○ your rest camp idea splendid

⊙ This should provide tonic suggest in meantime
you limit offensive action to that only deemed
necessary and essential by you unless otherwise
ordered ⊙ should now be able to give you
harassing arty fire day and night ⊙ can you
give me your requirements ⊙ any more I can
do to assist

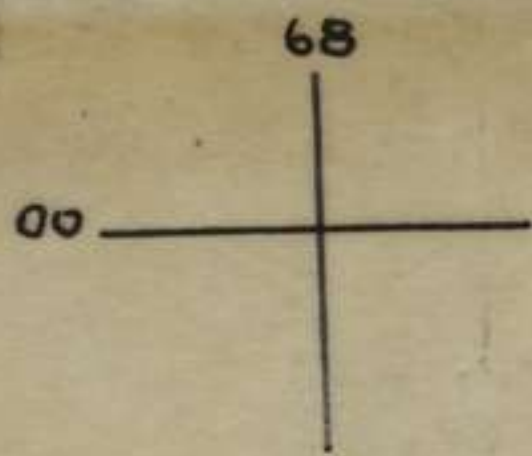
L 1630
C. N. Wallhead
Mf

IMMEDIATE

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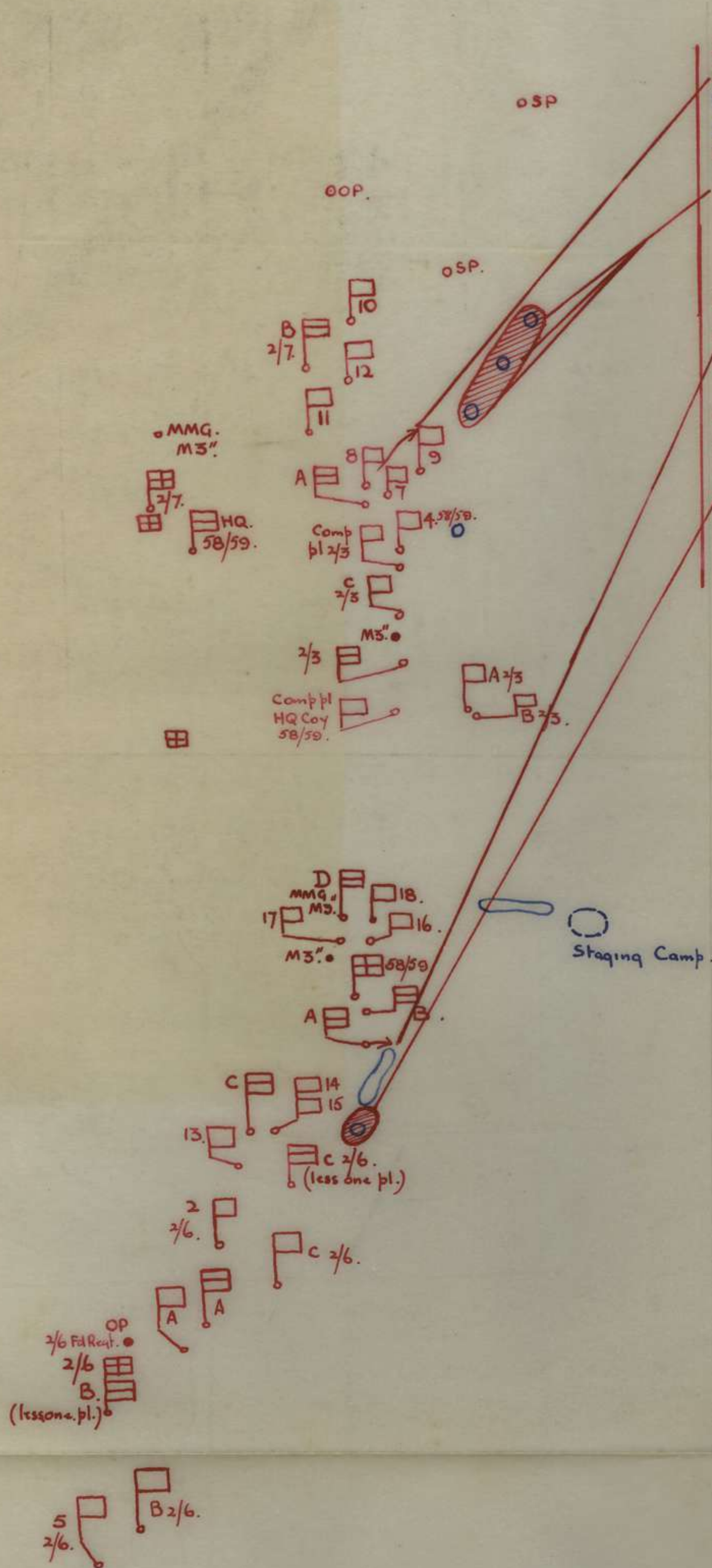


DOUBLET

SITUATION MAP AS AT 2359 Hrs 8 AUG. 43

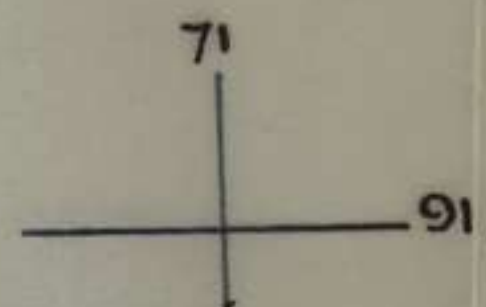
To be superimposed over KEMIATUM 1/25000.

2c Appx 35



2/7 BN.
 ACoy fighting patrol moved from Knoll west OLD VICKERS POSN, towards South Coconuts. Contacted enemy 70' South of Coconuts.
 1200-1300/8 } ARTY fired 70 rounds
 1300-1415/8 } on NORTH + SOUTH COCO.
 1630/8 Further 45 rounds on COCONUTS AREA.
 58/59
 1300/8 ACoy patrol to AMBUSH POSN on Bench Cut. NMS.
 2/6 Fd. Reqt.
 1010/8 10 rounds fired into ORODUBI
 1150-1330/8 - Harassing fire on ORODUBI.

15 BDE INT SEC
 AUG 43



15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 33

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
7 Aug 43

Information from 2100K/8 to 2100K/9.

Ref Maps: SALAMAUA 1:25000
KOMIATUM 1:25000
MUBO 1:25000

1. OPERATIONS

(a) Own
(1)

MUBO - GOODVIEW - TAMBU Area

2/5 Aust Inf Bn - Patrol moved down STEPHENS TRACK to 697912, south to MULE TRACK 699910 then up spur to 701912 where trip wire was located. 80 yds to south barricade defences were found and 100 yds on more trip wires. Two enemy were observed patrolling south of 700910 and enemy movement heard in creek and on spur area 704914. Morning 9 Aug mortars harassed HODGES KNOLL with 35 rounds, also pill boxes immediately south.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn - A party patrolled down STEPHENS TRACK to west edge of kunai patch approx 697911 and around south to MULE TRACK at approx 699911 - no movement seen and track shows little sign of use. 0800-0900K/9 12 mortar bombs fired from AMBUSH KNOLL onto PRICES KNOLL. Patrol from B Coy moved to within 70 yds of enemy positions on PRICES KNOLL where talking and chopping was heard. Moving further forward enemy was engaged with TSMG and EY rifle fire, the enemy replying with light mortar fire. Unknown casualties inflicted on enemy - own nil. 1130-1200K/9 5 rounds mortar from AMBUSH KNOLL onto PRICES KNOLL.

2/5 Aust Inf Bn - (Contd) Patrol to 698907 killed 1 Jap 30 yds forward of enemy pillboxes. Patrol to 699907 report enemy still in occupation. Patrol to 697908 reports no movement seen in HODGES SADDLE 699908 but could hear work in progress north and south of saddle. Patrol to 702910 report enemy still in occupation this area. Patrol to 701907 reports no sound of enemy. Further 45 rounds harassing fire by mortars on enemy pill boxes 698907.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn - Portion of D Coy staged night 8/9 Aug at HOUSE BANANA and remainder at SKINDIWAI.

TAYLOR FORCE - Coy C patrol observed track GOODVIEW JUNC and MT TAMBU at point approx 300 yds west of enemy positions on MT TAMBU. Party of 30 Japs carrying what appeared to be ammunition seen moving east but patrol NOT in a position to engage it. MT TAMBU harassed by mortar and arty fire during night 8/9 Aug.

COANE FORCE - Constant patrol from TAMBU BEACH reached TAYLOR FORCE in 2 hrs 40 mins. Afternoon 7 Aug patrol from Coy E 162 Regt found strong enemy lines of defence being constructed from 739955 to 734960, two bunkers being completed. 2 enemy seen in tree and 1 on ground vicinity 738963. Arty fire destroyed the tree. Arty fire for 7/8 Aug: 218 FA Bn 36 rounds on ROOSEVELT RIDGE, 50 rounds on DOT INLET and area to west, 205 FA Bn 52 rounds on SALAMAUA and 18 on airfield.

17 Aust Inf Bde - Afternoon 8 Aug three coys 42 Aust Inf Bn plus one coy 15 Aust Inf Bn at BOISI placed under operational command of 17 Aust Inf Bde.

(ii) BOBDUBI Area

From the receipt of this Summary the MISSIM Area will be known as BOBDUBI Area.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn - One OR killed by enemy sniper morning 9 Aug. Enemy gun shelled A Coy Area 1550-1620K/9. Out of 30 shells fired, 15 fell in A Coy area. Approx position of gun junc KOMIATUM 72 BOBDUBI tracks.
A Coy

A Coy fired 22 HE and 2 smoke 3" mortars into area ref 699966 to assist 58/59 Bn. Further 4 enemy bodies located forward of 7 Pl area.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn - Party of 20 all ranks from 9 Pl 24 Aust Inf Bn has been attached as from 9 Aug for operational use. Shelling from SALAMAUA commenced 0745 K/9 and to 0830K 16 shells incl 2 duds fell approx in line from OLD VICKERS POSITION to 693947. 0755K one shell landed in ULIAP CK area and cut L/T communications. 0710K/9 2 HE and 1 smoke arty shells landed 50 yds north of C Coy HQ at 695940, believed to be own arty ranging as shelling continued on ORODUBI. 1000-1010K/9 SAA and mortar detachments preparing position on NAMLING RIDGE. 1120K/9 one HE arty shell landed 50 yds south of C Coy HQ. No casualties. A Coy reports 5 enemy seen on spur south of SOUTH PIMPLE, engaged with LMG, results unobserved. C Coy patrol to 2/6 Bn reported track clear at 1500K/9. D Coy patrol out 0900K/9 to NORTH PIMPLE was fired on by rifle and LMG at 1045K - Own casualties 1 killed.

D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn - Patrol on 8 Aug reports no enemy in MALAGOWAN but 10 enemy seen in vicinity creek junc 687036. No defensive work apparent in area. 5 iron roofed huts and some fires seen in MALOLO but no movement observed.

2/3 Aust Indep Coy - Patrol from A Pl moved from NEWMANS JUNC area across NORTH PIMPLE to B Coy 58/59 Bn. Unoccupied enemy weapon pits and equipment found on NORTH PIMPLE but no movement seen. On SOUTH PIMPLE weapons pits were also located but again no movement seen. Patrol from C Pl moved north from TAYLORS POST and contacted 2/7 Bn at OLD VICKERS POSITION/ Second patrol from C Pl moved from MIDDLE RIDGE to investigate enemy positions 200 yds east. Owing to heavy timber, no observation was possible, and a listening post was established with L/T communication on TOMMYS TRACK 500 yds east of CUMMINS POST. 2100K/8 enemy threw 4 grenades which fell 25 yds from our forward positions on MIDDLE SPUR. 0600K/9 patrol from BETHUNES POST south along RIDGE TRACK to contact patrol from CUMMINS POST reported track clear. Rear HQ closed at MISSIM and re-opened at KELLYS CAMP at 0700K/9. Recce patrol observed 15 Japs carrying along ridge 250 yds SE of BETHUNES POST. Sounds of digging and chopping heard. 1400K/9 one Engr Offr and 11 ORs moved from ARTIE FADDEN to establish defensive position to be known as SAPPERS on spur running east from ridge track between CUMMINS and BETHUNES POSTS. Recce patrol from TAYLORS RIDGE moved east and south down spurs and located enemy weapon pits and heard voices on ridge east of BARRYS on MIDDLE SPUR. A further enemy weapon pit found and two Japs seen on spur to SE and between BETHUNES POST and BARRYS. Dispositions altered are: CUMMINS POST 13 incl MMG sec and 3" mortar det; TOMMYS TRACK listening post 19 in defensive positions.

(b) Enemy

Enemy guns fired at 1550K/9 approx 25 rounds on OLD VICKERS POSITION and the west of that area. Bearing of gun 121° grid, estimated map ref 725961. Smoke observed from east of large clump of trees on south of large kunai patch. Type of gun: 3 to 3½" flat trajectory. Two double explosions followed by black smoke thought to be caused by shells failing to clear crest.

2. AIR
(a)

Own
1245K/9 18 Liberators and 7 Fortresses bombed KELA RIDGE area and 1300-1325K/9 heavily bombed area between KENNEDYS CROSSING and NUK:NUK. AA fire from area above quarry but ceased to fire when engaged by arty 1247K/9.

3. OP REPORTS

(a) WELLS: 1740K/8 3 Japs moving south at 705929. 1755-1810K/8
15 Japs crossed mouth FRANCISCO to north, 1 south
/3 Footbridge

Footbridge now down in several places and enemy wade the whole way across the river. During night harassing arty fire observed MT TAMBU - GOODVIEW - KOMIATUM - SALAMAUA areas. 1630K/8 3 Japs observed on bridge over mouth FRANCISCO R. Enemy gun vicinity LOKANU fired 25 rounds into area 756924 1800K/8. Harassing fire by 2/6 Aust Fd Regt on ORODUBI was observed during morning 9 Aug. 0945K/9 US arty commenced ranging on ODEAS HOUSE. 1435K/9 US arty directed by BOOMERANG shelled area NUK NUK. 1555-1610K/9 Jap gun fired 28 rounds BOBDUBI area. Gun thought to be firing from NUK NUK area. 1640K/9 loud explosions heard from direction NUK NUK. 1440K/9 - 1710K/9 12 Japs moved south along KOMIATUM TRACK and 6 Japs moved north across FRANCISCO.

- (b) DAHO OP
0829K/9 1 Mitchell flew low over range in direction SALAMAUA from where sounds of straffing and loud explosions heard.

4. TOPOGRAPHY

- (a) The area 699962 is known as ARTIE FADDEN.
- (b) TOMMYS TRACK runs from CUMMINS POST (699961) meeting BENCH CUT 200 yds north of NEWMANS JUNC (703953).
- (c) MIDDLE SPUR is an east west spur in area 699966.

B. H. Frasers Major
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

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As per Summary No 26.

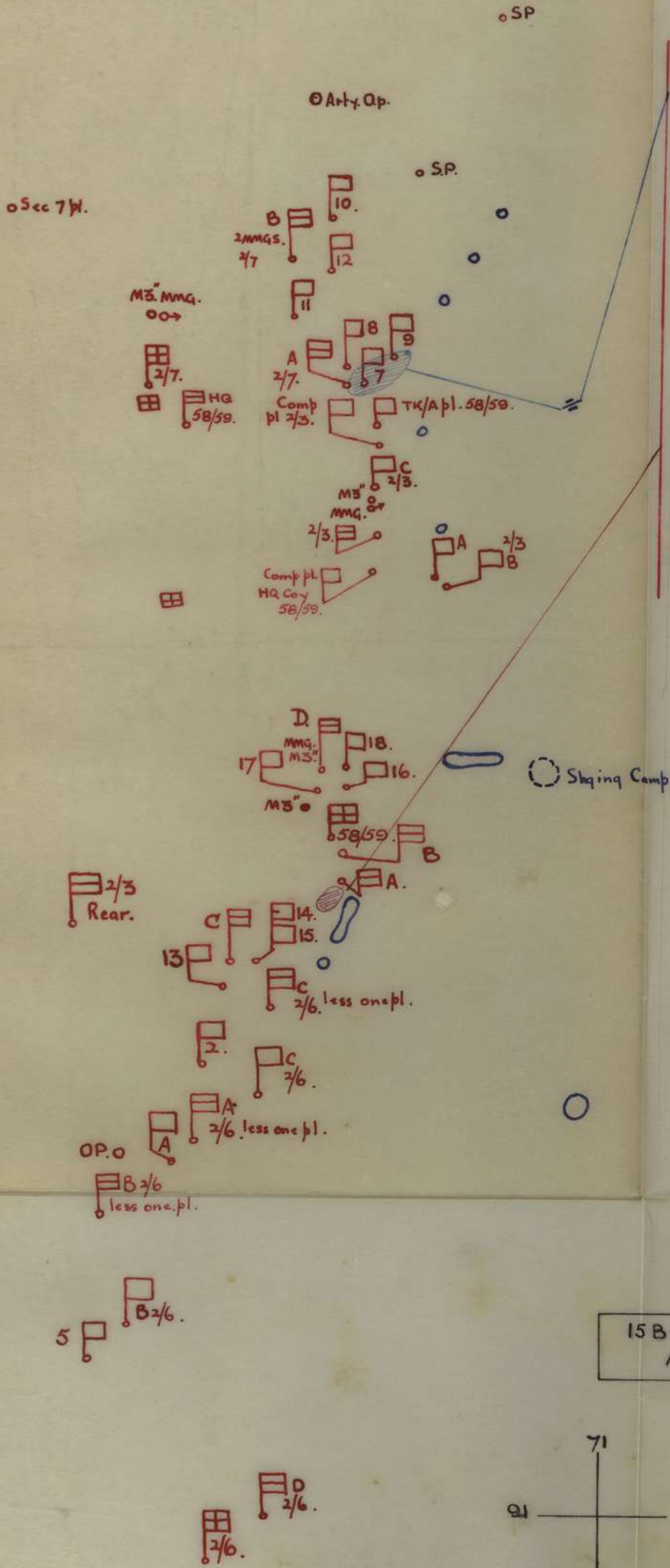
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DOUBLET

SITUATION MAP AS AT 2359 HRS 9 AUG 43

To be superimposed over KOMIATUM 1/25000.

7E 17PPK 37



2/7 BN.

1550-1620/9. Enemy gun shelled A Coy area.

A Coy fired 22 HE & 2 Smoke mortars onto 693966 to assist 58/59.

0745-0830/9. 16 shells from SAL on Old Vickers Posn to 693947.

0755/9. One shell in ULIAP cut L/T communications.

58/59 BN.

0710/9 2 HE 15 smoke shells landed 50' north of C. Coy area, believed own arty ranging.

K/9. Shelling continued on ORODUBI.

0900. D Coy patrol to NORTH PIMPLE fired on. 1 Killed.

15 B DE INT SEC
AUG 43.

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DOUBLET

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(OP)

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appx 38

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15 BDE 17 BDE 29 BDE (NASSAU) COMNEFORCE RAA 3 DIV
RAE 3 DIV SIGS 3 DIV AAQM ADMS RPTDNGF

ADY HQ 3 DIV

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MOST SECRET (1) Tasks and objectives for addresses for operation in the immediate future (1) (1) COMNE FORCE (1) secure the general line ROOSEVELT RIDGE to high ground 735954 thence line of ridge to include track June 728938 (1) when this objective is secured to patrol north east towards LOKANU IS and SCOUT HILL and maintain contact with the enemy (1) this task must be completed by D minus 2 (1) (2) (1) 17 bde (1) to secure the general area excluding track June 728938 to high ground 720935 by D minus 2 (1) to secure the MT TAMBU GOODVIEW spur and GOODVIEW June areas and drive the enemy north of the general line high ground 720935 KOMIATUM SUGAR CANE RIDGE AMBUSH KNOLL (1) operations to secure MT TAMBU GOODVIEW area will commence D day (1) 15 bde (1) to attack the enemy in the FERSKINE CR area enroute east to the KOMIATUM TRACK WITH the object of preventing any enemy movement north or south along KOMIATUM track (1) this attack will take place on morning D plus 1 (1) 29 aust inf bde less 42 bn and one Coy 15 bn will move to a bivouac area south west of BOISI AND will constitute divisional reserve (1) RAA 3 aust div (1) will support the above operations and arrange direct with commanders concerned the detailed fire plan to support the operations in each sector (1) priority for concentrated fire support of all guns will be (1) COMNE force up to and including D minus 3 (1) 17 bde D minus 2 to D day (1) 15 bde morning D plus 1 (1) when all guns are supporting operations in one bde sector CRA will arrange for certain guns to be superimposed so that they can be switched to meet any emergency call if required from the other sectors (1) harassing fire in accordance with the present tables will be continued in so far as direct support

Apr 38

2

requirements and ammunition limitations will permit
 ① AIR SUPPORT ② arrangements will be made by this HQ for a heavy attack to be made on D minus 1 on the KOMIATUM RIDGE and ENSKINE CK area
 ③ 15 and 17 hrs will notify this HQ as soon as possible of suggested targets and bombings as they affect their sectors
 ④ ENGINEER ⑤ all available eng'g resources will be concentrated forth with in the TAMBU BAY area to connect a jeep and carrier track from the beach southwest to connect with KOMIATUM track and later to develop the area for movement of supplies and artillery
 ⑥ CRE 3 Aust div will control and coordinate this work and has been issued with detailed instructions separately D day will be NOT be fore 15 Aug ⑦ acknowledge

01017

Immediate

B.M.

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L 1908 Jimmy

SECRET

COPY NO 13

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 34HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
10 Aug 43

Information from 2100K/9 to 2100K/10.

Ref Maps: SALAMAUA 1:25000
KOMIATUM 1:25000
MUBO 1:25000

1. OPERATIONS

(a) Own

(1)

MUBO - GOODVIEW TAMBU area.

2/5 Aust Inf Bn - Patrol 9 Aug found enemy still in occupation 699907 and 702910. No movement seen at SADDLE 699908 but activity heard to north and south of saddle. Further 45 rounds harassing mortar fire placed into enemy pillboxes at 698907 - one enemy killed. 10 Aug patrol to 698906 reported enemy still in occupation pillbox area but no activity observed. Subsequent patrols to this area and GOODVIEW JUNC report all quiet but considerable activity on south slopes spur 701911. Mortars fired 26 rounds onto position 698907. OP overlooking HODGES KNOLL established at 702983.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn - Bn HQ closed at WELLS JUNC and re-opened STEPHENS TRACK 690908 at 1100K/10. Late afternoon 9 Aug increased enemy activity noticed in ORODUBI area. 1625-1730K/9 mortars engaged PRICES KNOLL 1740-1910K/9 15 mortars fired onto enemy in ORODUBI. Patrol from D Coy to KUNAI patch 698911 was seen and fired on with mortars by enemy. 0630K/10 MMG on AMBUSH KNOLL fired on ORODUBI killing 2. Patrol from B Coy to PRICES KNOLL reports further sounds enemy activity. 1530K/10 arty shelled ORODUBI area. Changes in dispositions 2000K/10: Bn HQ plus 5 pl 690908, 7 pl 685910, 8 pl 688908, 9 pl 686909, HQ A Coy 687907, HQ C Coy plus one sec 14 pl less two secs 691935, one sec DIEKE, 15 pl less one sec 689930, one sec plus sec MMG LULUAI HUTS 690939. Harassing patrol to EXTONS KNOLL fired on from NAMLING RIDGE. 693937 enemy engaged with EY rifle. Enemy party observed in ORODUBI engaged by patrols LMG. 1600-1700K/9 mortars fired 10 rounds onto PRICES KNOLL. Considerable digging and chopping observed at 699910, 10 enemy being seen in area.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn - Portion D Coy staged night 9/10 Aug OBSERVATION HILL, remainder at HOUSE BANANA.

29 Aust Inf Bde - Bde HQ, L Sec Sigs 5 Aust Div, FPO 069, sec 5 Aust Div Fd Cach Office, sec 5 Aust Div Pro Coy, 312 IAD located in area 841811 (BADEN BAY 1"). 7 Aust Fd Amb 840810. 47 Aust Inf Bn 839804, 18 and 19 Sup Dep Pls and B pl 154 Gen Tpt Coy 834795.

42 Aust Inf Bn - Dispositions 1800K/9: Bn HQ 745934, B, C and D Coys less one pl 739925, A Coy plus one pl D Coy en route to 739925. 0730K/10 42 Bn less one coy moved to occupy positions on ridge east of KOMIATUM and track junc 724935.

15 Aust Inf Bn - 1800K/9 B Coy less two pls 727934, one pl 726909, one pl 725925.

COANE FORCE - Dispositions 1800K/9: HQ 2 Bn 162 Regt 744936, Coy E 745938, Coy F 743937, Coy G 739943, Coy H det with each coys E F and G, HQ 3 Bn 162 Regt 744933, Coy L less two pls 730936, ambush party 733945, Coy I less one pl plus two pls Coy L 736947, Coy K plus one pl Coy I 742935, Coy M dets with each coy I K and L. During airstrike 9 Aug on SALAMAUA one enemy AA gun opened fire from Isthmus but was neutralised by 105mm guns. 1500-1603K/9 Bty A 205 FA Bn registered targets c KOMIATUM and spur west of MT TAMBU.

TAYLOR FORCE - Patrol to waterhole 716918 fired on.

/2 Fire

Fire was returned - 1 enemy believed killed.
RAE 3 Aust Div - 2 pl 15 Aust Fd Coy staged night
9/10 Aug at MANGO, one pl 2/8 FD Coy staged SKINDIWAI.

(ii) BOBDUBI Area

2/7 Aust Inf Bn - Standing patrols established
704954 and 702994. Patrol at 702994 attacked by 15 Japs
from north - 3 enemy killed. Patrol withdrew to B Coy
area. Further party sent out to strengthen ambush pos-
ition. Enemy gun fired 15 rounds into A Coy area 1230-
1240K/10 causing no damage or casualties. Sniper fired
into area with LMG - no casualties. Defence of OLD VICKER
POSITION improved, tracks cut and fire plan co-ordinated
with 2/3 Aust Indep Coy. Standing patrol 704983 engaged
by 20 enemy; patrol withdrew to ambush at 702980. No
further details. FOO reports enemy gun firing from
same position as 9 Aug onto OLD VICKERS POSITION at noon.
Enemy pillbox north end of SOUTH COCONUTS 702973 engaged
50 rounds fired - 13 direct hits observed on area 6 yds
square with pillbox in centre.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn - 0830K/10 7 pl A Coy with mortar
det occupied TIMBERED KNOLL, Coy HQ 8 and 9 pls occupied
PARERS BOWL. 0930K B Coy HQ and 10 pl 699951, 11 and 12
Pls 699949. Arty shelled ORODUBI and east slopes PRICES
KNOLL morning 10 Aug. 1100K track C Coy to Bn HQ reported
clear. Contact patrol to 2/6 Bn reported track clear to
1700K/10. D Coy relieved by B Coy 0930K/10 and pro-
ceeded to CUMMINS POST.

D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn - Lulual and 2 natives captured
in garden approx 679038 stated enemy NOT in strength
MALOLO area and have vacated ASINI due to air strikes.
Main body of troops evidently on foreshore BUSAMA to
CHINATOWN. Large concentration in ck bed south of BUKAUF
while Japs are sleeping in OLD MISSION cattle sheds near
jetty.

2/3 Aust Indep Coy - 9 Aug patrols from B Pl left
NEWMANS JUNC as follows: No 1- East to KOMIATUM TRACK
and maintained observation for 8 hrs. Enemy sentry seen
patrolling 200 yds along KOMIATUM TRACK and 20 yds west
along track towards NEWMANS JUNC. 2 Japs moved south and
1 north along KOMIATUM TRACK. No 2- Moved south parallel
and west of BENCH CUT for 500 yds where enemy activity
heard. No 3.- Moved north parallel and west of BENCH
CUT for 600 yds - Considerable enemy activity heard on
spur at this point. No 4- Moved north along BENCH CUT
for 500 yds - track reported clear of enemy. A Pl
patrolled this afternoon to NORTH PIMPLE around west side
to open kunai spur leading to NORTH PIMPLE. Moved up
ERSKINE CK and contacted D Coy 58/59 Bn who stated that
their patrol to same kunai spur had been fired on by enemy
morning 9 Aug. A recce party from SAPPERS (700963) and
RAYS POST 700959 on TOMMYSTRACK discovered an enemy
weapon pit and 10 Japs on a spur 1/2 hr along track NNE
from RAYS POST at approx 701961, voices and chopping
were also heard north of this position. Patrol north
from NEWMANS JUNC between BENCH CUT and KOMIATUM TRACK
moved 1000 yds heard considerable talking and movement
approx 200 yds to east while to north on flat heavily
timbered ground movement east and west of enemy carrying
packs and rifles was observed.

(iii) MARKHAM Area

24 Aust Inf Bn - 8 Aug patrol from 11 Pl to 598223
WAGO 10 reports no fresh enemy footprints. 1330K/9 Cpl
PIB apprehended 10 natives fishing in MARKHAM R 547437
and escorted them to OOMSIS. Patrol from 11 Pl fired on
by Japs and 631219, patrol returned fire killing 1 enemy
and withdrew to 545210.

(b) Enemy

Ref Int Summary No 33 bearing to enemy gun 121° was
taken by FOO 2/6 Fd Regt at OP 697982.

2 AIR

(a) Own Nil

(b) Enemy - 1425K/9 16 enemy aircraft flew south over OP at 3064 WAIME 1"

3. OP REPORTS

(a) WELLS - 1640K/9 17 Japs moving north across mouth of FRAN-CISCO R were fired on by US arty and quickly dispersed. 1745-1825K/9 8 Japs moved south and 1 north along KOMIATUM RIDGE at 708939. During night 9/10 Aug our arty shelled MT TAMBU GOODVIEW KOMIATUM and SALAMAUA areas. 0620K/10 4 Japs moved south across river. 0705K/10 Stationary ship sited bearing 359° mag across HUON GULF. 0720K 2/6 Fd Regt shelled ORODUBI. Enemy gun fired 6 rounds into BOBDUBI area 1245K/10

(b) LAE - 1850K/9 1 aircraft landed on LAE drome. 2020K/9 1 aircraft took off from LAE drome.

(c) GWAIBOLON - 1050K/10 3 Liberators bombed vicinity ODEAS HOUSE which was completely wrecked, some bombs fell in sea. 1010-1018K SE slope KEHA HILL bombed - results unobserved. 1012-1021K 6 Liberators bombed MALOLO - damage unobserved.

4. TOPOGRAPHICAL

Attached (Not to all addressees) is an interim overlay showing corrected track information in the GWAIBOLON - OLD VICKEE POSITION area. A complete overlay will be submitted when complete information is available.

B. H. Francis
Major
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION:

	Copy No	Trace No
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	1	1
58/59 Aust Inf Bn	2	2
2/3 Aust indep Coy	3- 4	3
D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn	5	4
AASC and ANGAU NUNNE POST	6	-
L Sec Sigs 3 Aust Div	7	-
3 Aust Div	8	5
Comd	9	-
SMO	10	-
SC	11	-
File	12	-
War Diary	13-14	6-7
Spare	15	-

Appic 39.40

REPORT RE CATERING - 58/59 AUST INF BN

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
6 Aug 43

War Diary

Bde Comd.

1. The above unit was visited with a view to investigate and re-organising the messing.
2. At the time of arrival, 4 Aug 43 companies A, B, C, were living on Field Op Rations. D Coy were existing on stew and BHQ forward were living a little better but nevertheless poor.
3. B Echelon were not cooking any meals during the day and the meals were as follows:-

Breakfast	- 0600 hrs
Lunch	- 1200 hrs (cold)
Dinner	- 2000 hrs

The staple diet appeared to be stew and was prepared for variety by adding biscuits.
4. It was quite apparent that 3 Coy Comds with one exception C Coy, had made little or no effort to have their cooks prepare appetising foods and were quite content to use Field Ops. In one instance only had any effort been made to improvise an Aldershot oven or prepare a tidy kitchen.
5. Cooks were contacted at D Coy and BHQ. They were unclean and unshaven. The BHQ cook appeared reasonable enthusiastic and with some assistance from CQMS would be quite capable of preparing good food. The other cook has since been removed.
6. Thorough investigation of the method of ration handling at B Echelon showed that the job was carried out satisfactorily and that all available SWP rations were forwarded to Coys when requested. In majority of cases only Field Ops were called forward.
7. Instructions were issued to QM to have large Aldershot oven capable of catering for two Companies installed at new B Echelon site. This oven can be fired either by wood or "Hydro Burner". The latter being forwarded to this unit from this area. Arrangements have been made for the dropping of sufficient Range Fuel to operate it.

This oven can cook at all times for B Echelon and if occasion arises that forward companies are unable to cook, their meals will be prepared here and sent to them. Burnzo can be used to reheat this food if necessary. Hot tea will be carried in one gallon containers.
8. As at 6 Aug C, D and BHQ had installed Aldershot ovens and were preparing three hot meals daily, and in daylight. Menus included baked potato pie, rissoles and baked rice.
9. Owing to the shifting of A and B Coys it has not been possible to install ovens, but directions have been given for these Coy cooks to move forward to new sites (selected by 2 i/c 58/59 Aust Inf Bn), and prepare these ovens and hot meals for incoming troops. I have been guaranteed that all companies will be eating hot meals by 8 Aug.
10. Menus are being submitted daily for one week showing what the troops have in fact eaten.
11. I am sending copy of menu capable of being prepared from the present ration to this unit today.
12. Efforts are being made to obtain Hydro Burner for 2/7 Aust Inf Bn, They will then be able to cook hot meals on Vickers Ridge.
13. 2/3 Aust Indep Coy are having hot meals. The personnel appear

very satisfied.

14. With the present enlarging of the field bakery it is proposed to make pasties, say once weekly to supplement the yeast buns etc.
The yeast buns are without question the most popular food item with the troops.

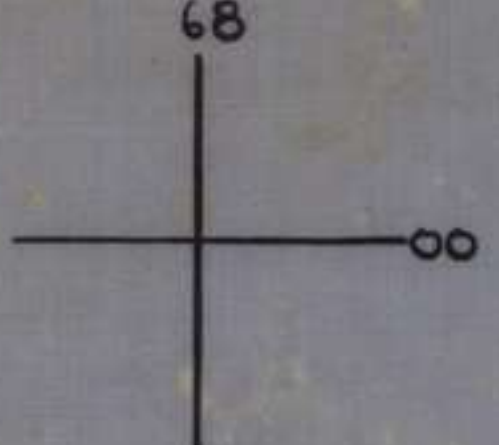


Capt
EASCO 15 Aust Inf Bde

DOUBLET

SITUATION MAP AS AT 2359 HRS 10 AUG 43

To be superimposed over KOMIATUM 1/25000



2/7 BN.

K/10 Patrol at 702994 attacked by 15 Japs.
5 Killed.
Patrol withdrew to B Coy area.

K/10 Standing patrol 704983 engaged by
20 enemy. Patrol withdrew to ambush at
702980.

1230-1240 K/10 Enemy gun fired 16 rds into
A Coy area. No damage or casualties.

K/10
Arty fired 50 rounds onto pill box north of
S. Coco's. 13 direct hits on pillbox.

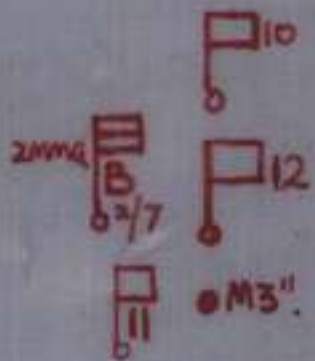
2/3 INDEP COY.

K/9 Patrol activity.

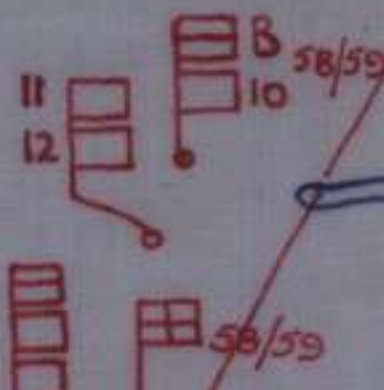
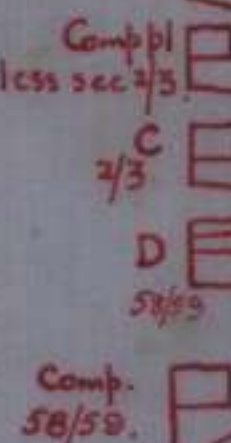
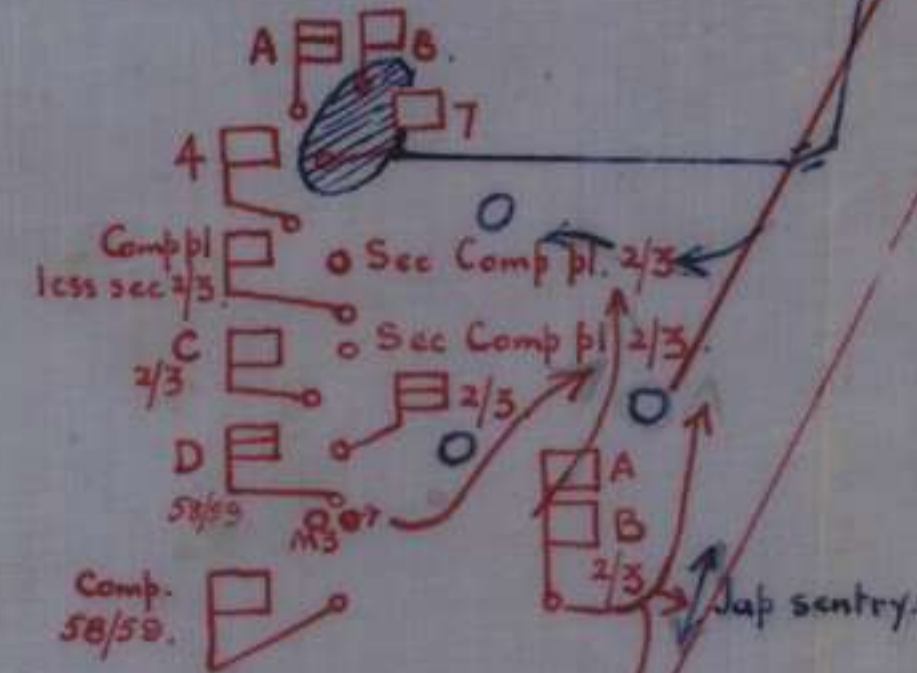
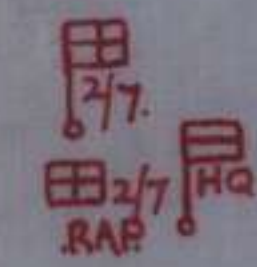
2/6 FD REGT

0720/10. ORODUBI shelled.

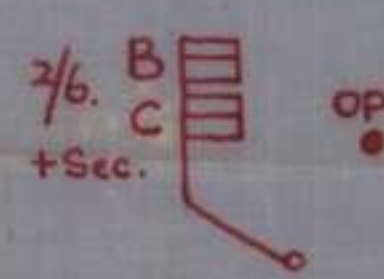
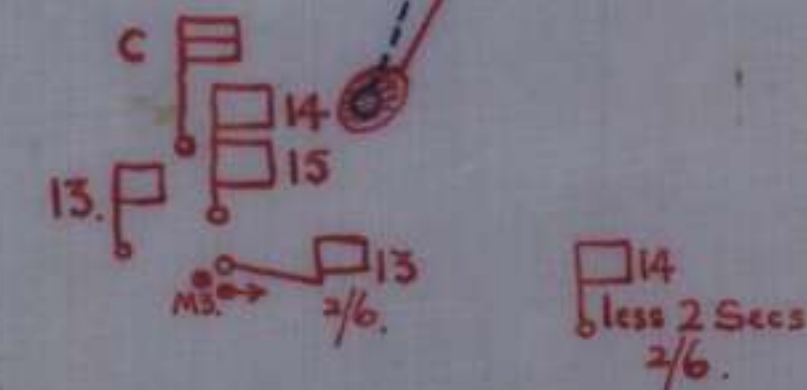
o Sec 7 pl.



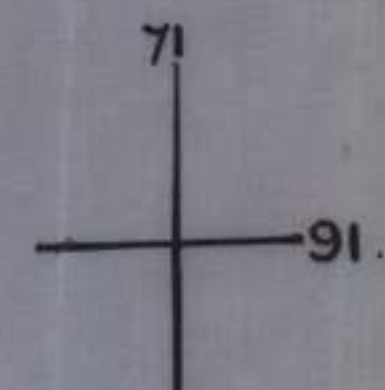
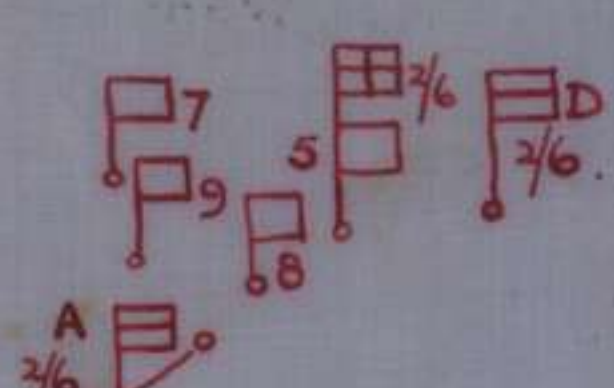
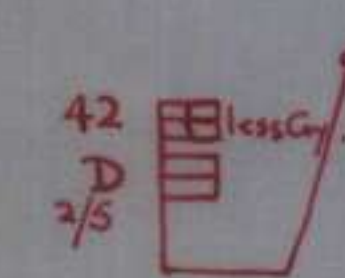
M3.
oo→



2/3 Rear.



B 2/6
Sec 14 pl.



15 BDE INT SEC
Aug 43

War Diary

H Q 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
11 Aug 43.

NOTES FOR G O C - 3 Aust Div. *Append 42*

1. Ops in COCONUTS (13 or 14 Aug probably 14 Aug Dependent on completion of recces)
- | | Date |
|---|------------------|
| (a) Arty harassing fire to soften | 12-13 Aug |
| (b) Arty support - heavy concentrations | 14 Aug |
| (c) Air strike | 14 and/or 13 Aug |
| (d) Inf attack | 14 Aug |
- (i) Two pls B Coy 2/7 Bn attack NORTH COCONUTS from north.
(ii) One pl A Coy 2/7 Bn attack SOUTH COCONUTS from OLD VICKERS POSN
(iii) A composite force 100 men (one coy 58/59 Bn balance 2/7 Bn) attack SOUTH and CENTRE COCONUTS from east.
2. Re-organisation and Dig In.
- Hold against counter attack. 14/15 Aug
3. Holding Force 15 Aug
- (a) Two pls B Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn - NORTH COCONUTS
(b) One pl B Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn - CENTRE COCONUTS
(c) One pl A Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn - SOUTH COCONUTS
(d) Two pls A Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn - OLD VICKERS POSITION
(e) One coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn held northern flank FRANCISCO R incl north along BUIRIS CK.
4. Strengthen BENCH CUT TRACK and cut KOMIATUM TRACK 15/16 Aug
Force available
- (a) 2/7 Aust Inf Bn WENA FORCE - 40 men
(b) Two pls 2/3 Aust Indep Coy - 100/120 men
(c) Possibly a composite coy.

FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

1. When coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn relieve northern 2/6 Aust Inf Bn force at AMBUSH KNOLL
- (a) 15 Aust Inf Bde take over coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn and the responsibility AMBUSH KNOLL incl.
(b) Regroup all 2/7 Aust Inf Bn coys in BOBDUBI RIDGE northern area (OLD VICKERS POSITION to the north)
(c) 2/3 Aust Indep Coy occupy centre sector east west line through GWAIBOLON.
(d) Regroup 58/59 Aust Inf Bn to hold to the south - AMBUSH KNOLL incl.
2. On completion of regrouping as above attack enemy (NOT before 21 Aug.)
- (a) GRAVEYARD - BOBDUBI - PRICES KNOLL - EXTONS KNOLL line.
(b) This would straighten out our western flank and give command with MMGs and mortars on the KOMIATUM RIDGE.
(c) Force the enemy into BUIRALI and prevent his western protection of KOMIATUM TRACK.
3. As BOBDUBI RIDGE is highly desirable to enemy and there is always a strong possibility of a northern attack via BUIRIS CK to concentrate 15 Aust Inf Bde (2/7 Bn, 2/3 Indep Coy, 58/59 Bn) in the area north of NAMLING ~~xxxx~~.excl.

Discussed at NAMLING RIDGE

*A. H. Hammer
Brig.*

COPY/AJT

alpha 42

To : CP 3 aust div
From : 15 aust inf bde

01045

11

to WILTON from SAVIGE (.) COCONUT plan too far advanced to alter to ERSKINE (.) instructed HAMMER carry on with plan for COCONUTS and cutting track as originally planned for B Coy. (.) harassing fire by arty on COCONUTS tomorrow 12 aug most important and desirable (.) please arrange with CRA (.) HAMMER will advise you direct about air strike and further details (.) will phone you from MOTEN evening 12 aug.

Immediate

TOO

1510

War Diary

MESSAGE FORM

Alpha 43

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN
OUT

COPY

No. of Groups
GR.

Serial No.
OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO 24 Bn 57/60 Bn rptd 3 Aust Div 15 Bde

FROM ADV 3 Aust Div

Originator's Number
AQL067

Date
9

In Reply to Number

<i>(Write horizontally)</i> each	24	and	57/60	bns	5
will	forthwith	select	a	capable	10
lieut	for	immediate	duty	on	15
HQ	15	aust	inf	bde	20
as	L0	(.)	name	of	25
of fr	selected	to	be	fwded	30
direct	to	15	bde	by	35
ll	Aug	rptd	to	this HQ	40
for	necessary	action	to	have	45
appointment	effected	(.)	officer	selected	50
will	move	forthwith	and	report	55
HQ	15 bde	in	the	field (.)	60
57/60	of fr	should	be	brought	65
by	moth	to	WAU	under	70
arrangements	L.	3 Aust Div	(.)	for	75
15 bde	only (.)	take	necessary	action	80
to	obtain	L0	from	58/59 bn	85
and	advise	name	to this	HQ (.)	90
appointment	Lieut	R.L. COULTER	HQ	3 aust	95
div	as	IO	15 bde	approved	100
subject	to	confirmation	higher	authority	105
(.)	advise	disposal	of	CAPT	110
S R HEDLEY					115
					120
					125
					130

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS: (* (EXCEPT)) WIRELESS

THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CYPHER IF LIABLE TO INTERCEPTION OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS.

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY
IMMEDIATE

TIME OF ORIGIN
1440

SIGNATURE
* ORIGINATOR MAY DELETE "EXCEPT" AND INSERT "INCLUDING."

SIGNATURE

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

T.H.I. 1451

SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER
	1550										

T.O.R.

Appx 44
14

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 35

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)

17c Aug 43

Information from 2100K/10 to 2100K/11.

Ref Maps: SALAMAUA 1:25000
KOMIATUM 1:25000
MUBO 1:25000

1. OPERATIONS

(a) Own
(i)

MUBO - GOODVIEW - TAMBU Area

2/5 Aust Inf Bn - D Coy previously under comd of TAYLOR FORCE plus MMG Pl moved to join 42 Aust Inf Bn. PIB patrol on 9 Aug reported area 720934 clear of enemy, and good observation of SALAMAUA - KOMIATUM - MT TAMBU. Patrol night 10 Aug moved close to enemy pillboxes 698907 and heard movement of sentry. After 3 hrs in area patrol came under rifle fire when attempting to circle round sentry. 1500K/9 4 enemy patrols estimated total 80 moved south along ridge possibly to KOMIATUM or MT TAMBU. Morning 11 Aug patrol surprised enemy party on HODGES KNOLL inflicting 5 certain casualties - Own nil. Harassing mortar fire maintained on HODGES KNOLL afternoon 11 Aug.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn - Amendment to dispositions at 1200 K/10: HQ C Coy plus one sec 14 pl WELLS JUNG, 13 pl at AMBUSH KNOLL, 14 pl less two secs 687936, one sec DIEKES OP. 10 rounds fired by mortar from AMBUSH KNOLL onto PRICES KNOLL 0830K/11.

29 Aust Inf Bde - Night 10/11 Aug B Coy 15 Aust Inf Bn in NASSAU BAY area. Ref Int Summary No 34, dispositions for B Coy 15 Aust Inf Bn should read "C Coy 15 Bn less two pls 727934, one pl 726929, one pl 725925.

COANE FORCE - HQ now established 738925. 1800K/10 Cannon Coy and service Coy 162 Regt at 745931. RAA 3 Aust Div engaged pillboxes north end of SOUTH COCONUTS afternoon 10 Aug scoring 125 hits. One pl 2/8 Aust Fd Coy staged HOUSE BANANA night 9/10 Aug. 2 Pl 15 Aust Fd Coy now at 694870.

TAYLOR FORCE - 24 Port Hospital now at 717907 - Coy C established standing patrol at 719908

(ii) BOBDUBI Area

2/7 Aust Inf Bn - Fighting and recce patrols moved out 11 Aug to cover BUIRIS CK, COCONUT RIDGE to STEPHENS TRACK - ALLENS CK areas, also squares 6997 and 6998. 1700K/10 OLD VICKERS POSITION OP reports fires seen in areas vicinity BUIRIS CK on bearings 3°, 18°, and 20° mag B Coy re-established standing patrol morning 11 Aug in area 704984. Patrol covering BUIRIS CK area returned 154 K/11 and reported no movement seen. 1135-1155K/11 KELA gun fired 10 shells onto OLD VICKERS POSITION, 5 shells incl 1 dud fell in A Coy area and remainder in reentrant to east - no damage or casualties. From 696969 bearing to gun 26° mag. 1020K/11 A Coy mortars fired 96 HE 3" mortars to assist 58/59 Bn attack. 1915K/11 OP on OLD VICKERS POSITION observed 8 Japs moving north approx 703026. Fighting patrols to BUIRIS CK and STEPHENS TRACK did NOT contact enemy. Dispositions A Coy area 698969, B Coy 698973 and 696977, HQ 687969.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn - 0900-1000K/11 6 Japs seen moving in ORODUBI but did NOT present suitable target. 0800K/11 patrol reported track to 2/6 Aust Inf Bn clear of enemy. Mortar fire ranged on ORODUBI. 1030K/11 D Coy launched attack on enemy positions ridge 702965 but did NOT gain any ground. Mortar and arty fire was NOT accurate. When moving across start line rifle and LMG fire was encountered - our casualties 1 killed 5 wounded. Patrol sent to right flank in attempt to encircle enemy. After counter

/s attack

attack by enemy D Coy withdrew to position approx 701959 1530K/11. Estimated enemy strength 40. Our casualties in counter attack 1 killed 1 wounded. A Coy patrol to C Coy reported track clear to 1430K/11 B Coy patrol heard considerable noise at enemy position 702950 where enemy strength estimated 20. No movement seen 702952 but fresh signs of enemy footprints along west branches of ERSKINE CK. Estimated 15 enemy along each branch. Remnants 15 Pl C Coy merged into 13 and 14 pls. Dispositions now 13 pl MORTAR KNOLL plus 3" mortar, 14 pl NAM-LING RIDGE with one sec MMG, 9 Pl 24 Aust Inf Bn and Coy HQ DOCTOR BOY HUT. D Coy withdrawn to CUMMINS POST. 1801K/11 mortar at 699949 engaged smoke observed vicinity BUIRALI CK. 12 bombs at 1325 yds range after which smoke ceased to rise.

2/3 Aust Indep Coy - Disposition changes: 1400K/11 2 offrs 16 ORs moved from GRIFFS TRACK area to RAYS POST 700959. 45 reinforcements arrived ARTIE FADDEN. 1630 K/11 rear Coy HQ closed KELLYS CAMP and reopened CURTINS CORNER 688959. All recent patrol indicate enemy in occupation between CUMMINS POST and OLD VICKERS POSITION east to BENCH CUT track.

RAA OP - OP at 700968 reports good observation over enemy HQ area 708967. 1030K/11 99 rounds fired in support of 58/59 Bn attack on enemy positions ridge 702965. Observation on target area nil and ranging carried out by sound of bursts and splinters. Effectiveness of shoot NOT guaranteed. Enemy gun at 725962 engaged at 1100K/11. 1630K/11 enemy gun again engaged but NOT neutralized. Poor observations prevented use of 105mm bty.

D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn - Further information from captured natives reveals enemy in strength along fore-shore BUSAMA - BUKAUP - MISSION PT. They do NOT live in native villages but have erected camps along beach. Large camp on SE shore Mission Pt 726043.

2. AIR Nil

3. OP REPORTS

- (a) SALAMAUA - During air attack 1000-1030K/10 O'DEAS HOUSE at 723003 completely destroyed by fire.
- (b) GWAIBOLON - 1320K/11 dark object thought to be launch was seen moving through water in vicinity 760045. 1650-1815K/11 9 men moved north into SALAMAUA across footbridge.
- (c) WELLS - Stationary ship reported in HUON GULF 10 Aug now be to have been MALAHANG Wreck. 1820K/10 10 Japs moved south along KOMIATUM RIDGE. Throughout night 10/11 Aug SALAMAUA MT TAMBU and GOODVIEW harassed by arty fire. 25 prs fired 10 rounds on ORODUBI 0740K/11. 0815K smoke shells observed vicinity OLD BOBDUBI. 0740K 4 Japs crossed north over FRAN CISCO. 0850K/11 1 Jap with pack moved north along KOMIATUM TRACK at 708939. 0900K smoke trailers seen vicinity KENNEDYS CROSSING. 1110K arty fired PRICES and EXTONS KNOLL. 1205-1325K US arty shelled SALAMAUA. 1212-1315K 25 prs ranged on ORODUBI and at 1415K on SALAMAUA. 1415K 1 Jap observed ORODUBI area.

4. MORALE - ENEMY

Following is an extract from a captured notebook belonging to Sgt KOBAYASHI of TEJIMA Unit formerly 11 Coy 115 Inf Regt.

Comment- Tejima Unit is believed to be under comd OGAWA TAI (9 Coy 115 Regt). Believed to be at BOBDUBI area 7 Jun, COCONUTS 3 Jul.

"23 Jul - The situation becomes worse for us from day to day. The remaining personbel of the KAMINO UNIT landed in SALAMAUA They will occupy the left high ground of KOMIATUM. This is our 71st day at BOBDUBI and there is no relief yet. We must trust our lives to God. Every day there are bombings and we feel so lonely. We do Not know when the day will come for us to "join our dead comrades. Can the people at home imagine our suffering. 8 months without a letter. There is no time even to dream of home."

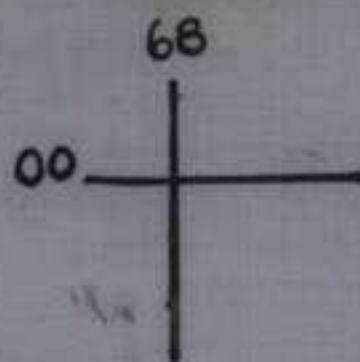
Comment: (a) It is thought that Sgt KOBAYASHI was in the

/3 OLD

45

24

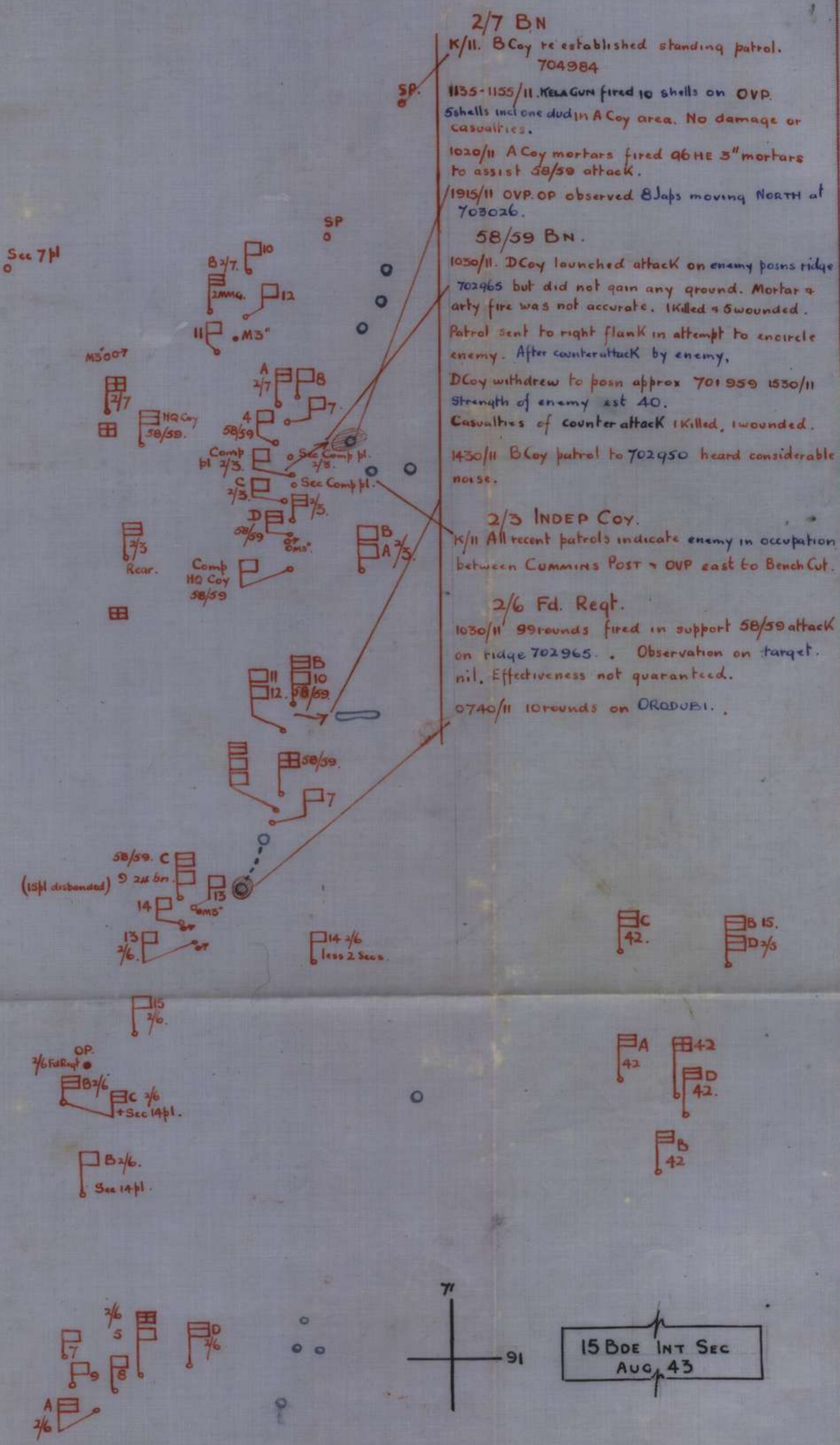
Appx 4.5



DOUBLET

SITUATION MAP AS AT 2359 HRS 11 AUG 43.

To be superimposed over KOMINTUM 1/25000.



2/7 BN

K/11. BCoy re-established standing patrol. 704984

SP. 1135-1155/11. KELA GUN fired 10 shells on OVP. 5 shells incl one dud in A Coy area. No damage or casualties.

1020/11 A Coy mortars fired 96 HE 3" mortars to assist 58/59 attack.

1915/11 OVP. OP observed 8 Japs moving NORTH at 703026.

58/59 BN.

1030/11. DCoy launched attack on enemy posns ridge 702965 but did not gain any ground. Mortar & arty fire was not accurate. 1 killed & 5 wounded.

Patrol sent to right flank in attempt to encircle enemy. After counterattack by enemy,

DCoy withdrew to posn approx 701959 1530/11 strength of enemy est 40.

Casualties of counterattack 1 killed, 1 wounded.

1430/11 BCoy patrol to 702950 heard considerable noise.

2/3 INDEP COY.

K/11 All recent patrols indicate enemy in occupation between Cummins Post & OVP east to Bench Cut.

2/6 Fd. Regt.

1030/11 99 rounds fired in support 58/59 attack on ridge 702965. Observation on target. nil. Effectiveness not guaranteed.

0740/11 10 rounds on DRADUBI.

15 BDE INT SEC
AUG 43

-3-

OLD VICKERS POSITION on 28 Jul. when captured by us.
(b) The above extract should be passed on to all troops.

B. N. Francis.
Major
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION:

As per summary No 34.

War Diary

Appx 46

To : 3 aust div rptd RAA 3 aust div

From : 15 aust inf bde

01056

12

SECRET (.) attack on COCONUTS area now planned for
 14 aug (.) airstrike and arty support required that
 date (.) arty 600 rounds if possible (.) details
 and zero hour later (.) arty harassing fire required

COCONUTS 12/13 aug

*At Hammer
- big*

*Emergency
Ops*

TOO

THI

1427

COPY/AJT

appa 47

To : 15 bde 17 bde COANE FORCE RAA 3 div
From : adv 3 div 0160 12

MOST SECRET (.) further to my 062 of 9 aug (.) D day will be 16 aug ack
all informed

T00 1638
1650
1755

Was Diary

Appse 48

To : 58/59 aust inf bn

From : 15 aust inf bde

01057

12

for lt-col STARR (.) please report to ADS KELLYS

13 aug for consultation (.) ack

*Stammer
by*

Immediate

TOO

1427

THI

War diary

SECURITY

Appa 49

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
10 Aug 43

444

To All Members of Staff
HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde

In the course of your duty on this HQ, it is necessary at times for you to come in contact with MOST SECRET, SECRET and CONFIDENTIAL documents. I realise that it is human nature to talk about these things; however, I must impress on you the importance of emulating the three monkeys who "see nothing, hear nothing and say nothing".

Do NOT talk about any thing you may learn whilst on duty.

This is a general reminder to all ranks. If you hear anyone talking out of turn, then stop him AT ONCE.

B.H. Trauus
Major
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

Comd *(for info)*

BM

SC

IO

Chief Clerk

Sig Offr

Sig Clerk

To be passed by the above to all concerned.

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 36

Appa 50

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
/2 Aug 43

Information from 2100K/11 to 2100K/12

Ref Maps: SALAMAUA 1:25000
KOMIATUM 1:25000
MUBO 1:25000

1. OPERATIONS

(a) Own

(i)

MUBO - GOODVIEW - TAMBU area

2/5 Aust Inf Bn - Area 698907 where enemy pillboxes are located was again patrolled night 11/12 Aug and kept under observation for several hours. Slight activity heard 1900K/11. Harassing mortar fire on HODGES KNOLL continued at 1200K/12. 1700K/12 harassing mortar fire on pillboxes continued.

2/6 Aust Inf Bn - Harassing arty fire observed on targets in SALAMAUA, GOODVIEW JUNC and KOMIATUM areas during night 11/12 Aug. 1610K/12 Harassing MMG fire on ORODUBI. B Coy listening patrol to right flank PRICES KNOLL heard enemy activity in area. 0800-1000K/12 mortar fired 10 rounds onto PRICES KNOLL. C Coy less one pl arrived at 685906.

2/7 Aust Inf Bn - C Coy arrived WELLS JUNC 1110K/12.

29 Aust Inf Bde - Dispositions 42 Aust Inf Bn 1900 K/11: HQ and details 724927, A Coy 720927, B Coy 723923, C Coy 720935, D Coy 724926. Recce patrol reported sounds of enemy driving stakes at 723921 while enemy party observed moving west at 718932. Bde HQ and recce party 47 Aust Inf Bn at 831834. C Coy 42 Aust Inf Bn heard enemy movement during night and threw grenades with unobserved results. 1200K/12 42 Aust Inf Bn patrols active in all areas.

TAYLOR FORCE - 40 heavy delayed action mortar bombs seen to fall in pillboxes and fortified positions being constructed in area 707915-709916. Logs and dirt seen to fly in air. Same position later engaged by rifle fire from 12 man patrol. No estimate of enemy casualties in these two actions. Patrol from C Coy 1200K/12 observed estimated enemy coy in vicinity 732910 moving in SE direction. Party fully equipped and camouflaged with leaves.

(ii) BOBDUBI Area

2/7 Aust Inf Bn - Recce patrol from A Coy to flats on FRANCISCO R 704969 located track with enemy signal wire on western side of track. No sign of movement during 11 Aug until approx 1600 hrs when one enemy seen moving in northerly direction along track. Spurs from OLD VICKERS POSITION to flat are very steep and heavily timbered. Patrol to BUIRIS CK area saw footprints of approx 12 enemy pointing west at 687000. 1200K/12 A Coy observed 2 enemy moving through crawl trench in SOUTH COCONUTS from west to east. 1500K heavy fire from 2 MMGs bren, grenades and rifle heard by A Coy to SE. 1740K/12 3 fires reported previously were again observed from OLD VICKERS POSITION also new fire on bearing 358° mag from OLD VICKERS POSITION OP.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn - Ref Summary No 25, B Coy patrol observed enemy position, strength approx 20 at 702952 should read 702950. Sounds of chopping in ORODUBI heard by C Coy 2028K/11. Mortar fire opened on ORODUBI and intermittent harassing fire continued throughout the night 11/12 Aug. D Coy dispositions 1330K/12: HQ 699959, 16 pl 702963, 17 pl 699957, 18 pl 699958. Afternoon 11 Aug patrol from B Coy moved to 701951 and observed positions holding approx 20 Japs at 702950. 2020K/11 chopping in ORODUBI heard and ORODUBI harassed by mortar fire that night. 9 pl 24 Aust Inf Bn is now located at 692938. During past 10 days over 200 natives (old men

/2 women

women and children) have passed through bn lines from SALAMAUA area. A Coy patrol from TIMBERED KNOLL forward 200 yds towards GRAVEYARD heard enemy voices but no movement seen.

2/3 Aust Indep Coy - Listening post on KOMIATUM TRACK east of NEWMANS JUNG reported movement in area during night 11/12 Aug. Also 18 fully equipped Japs north along KOMIATUM TRACK 0800K/12, and 0815K 20 fully equipped Japs moved south along the same track. Patrol on 12 Aug heard chopping and voices in vicinity BOBDUBI TRACK, but no movement seen. Second patrol of 2/7 Aust Inf Bn personnel under comd 2/3 Indep Coy guide moved in general area of STEVES TRACK - BOBDUBI TRACK reported both tracks clear but parts of STEVES TRACK open to observation from SOUTH COCONUTS. 1 Jap seen was fired on but escaped. Listening post on KOMIATUM TRACK reported 1005-1710K/12 25 Japs moved north up track and 32 south. All carried either rifles and packs or rifles only. Latter believed to be patrolling KOMIATUM TRACK. Recce patrol further east of TAYLORS RIDGE heard voices.

2.

AIR

- (a) Own Nil
- (b) Enemy 10 Zekes flying SE approx 20000 ft reported at 1455K/11 by OP at 310302. (ref map BULOWAT 1")

3.

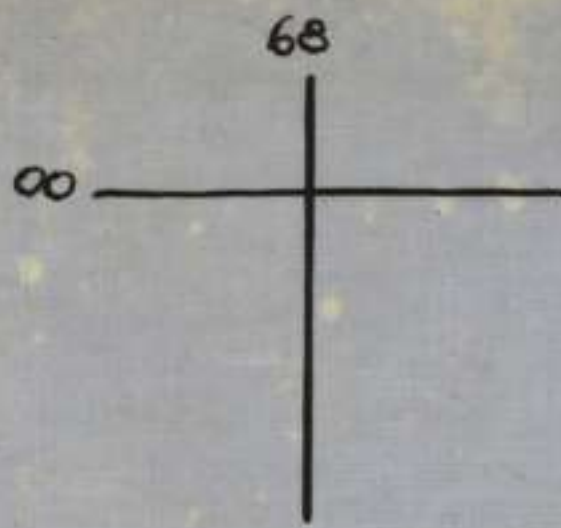
OP REPORTS

- (a) WELLS 1735K/11 1 Jap crossed north over FRANCISCO R and further 4 at 1755K. 1800K/11 2 Japs moved south along KOMIATUM RIDGE and at 1815K 6 Japs followed carrying boxes. 1825 K/11 1 Jap observed in ORODUBI. 0405K/12 explosions heard in direction SALAMAUA. Our arty fired on GOODVIEW - TAMBU areas during night 11/12 Aug. 0645K/12 3 Japs seen on south end SALAMAUA drome. 0710K/12 loaded rowing boat with 2 men observed off north point of peninsular going out of sight at 0715K. 0750K/12 3 Japs with packs moved south up KOMIATUM RIDGE. 0755K 3 Japs moved north down KOMIATUM RIDGE. 1425K smoke seen at 748985. Smoke from fires lasting 10 minutes seen in direction NUK NUK on bearing 53° mag from OP at 0900K.
- (b) RAA OP at 697982 observed movement SOUTH COCONUTS 1130-1430K/12. Enemy gun previously at 725962 had been moved to west side of kunai patch 723962.
- (c) MALOLO - 1600K/11 2 rowing boats moved SW from MISSION PT 715047 to mouth ASINI CK. Unable to identify occupants. Sound of engines heard in direction SALAMAUA Harbour 1930-2045K/11 and again at 0530K/12. Sound too loud for an ordinary motor truck and may have been a Diesel.
- (d) LAE - 1 aircraft heading west left LAE drome 0607K/11. 0720K/11 approx 8 barges seen in LAE Harbour.

Boulton Hunt
 for Major
 BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION:

2/7 Aust Inf Bn	Copy No 1
58/59 Aust Inf Bn	Copy No 2
2/3 Aust Indep Coy	3
2/3 Aust Indep Coy REAR	4
D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn	5
KELLYS CAMP	6
AASC)	
ANGAU)	7
L Sec Sigs	8
3 Aust Div	9
Comd	10
SMO	11
SC	12
File	13
War Diary	14-15



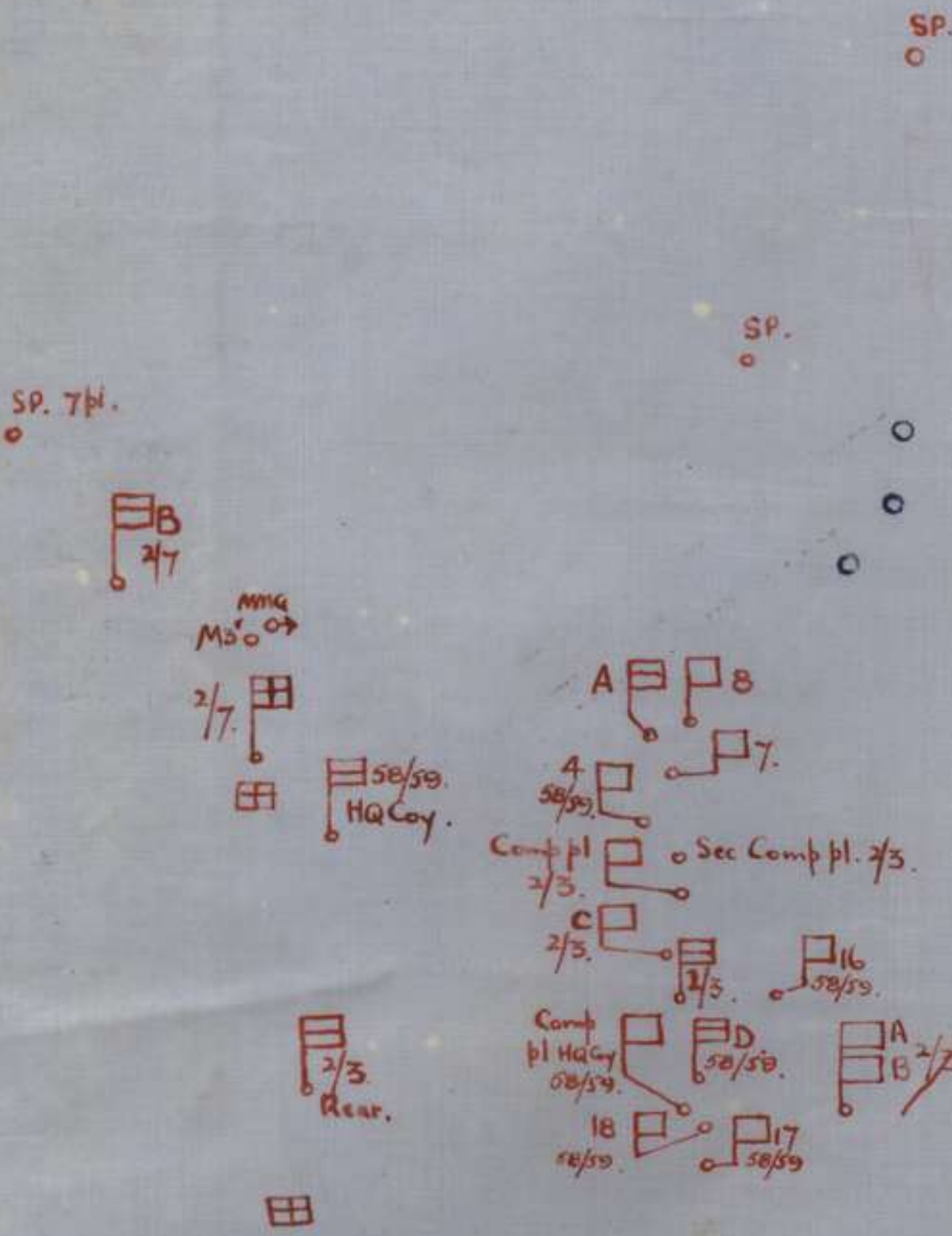
DOUBLET

SITUATION MAP AS AT 2359 HRS. 12 AUG 43.

To be superimposed over KOMIATUM 1/25000.

12

Appendix 51

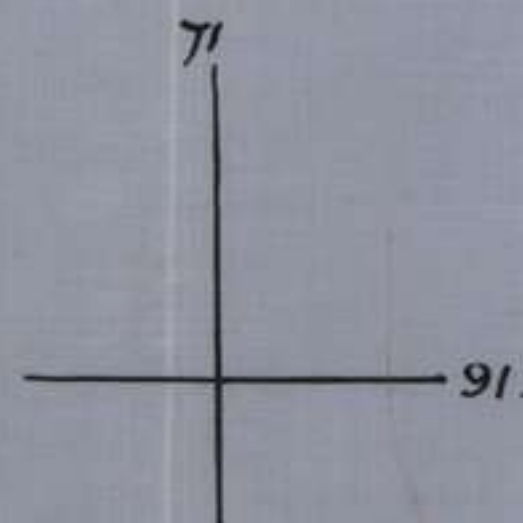
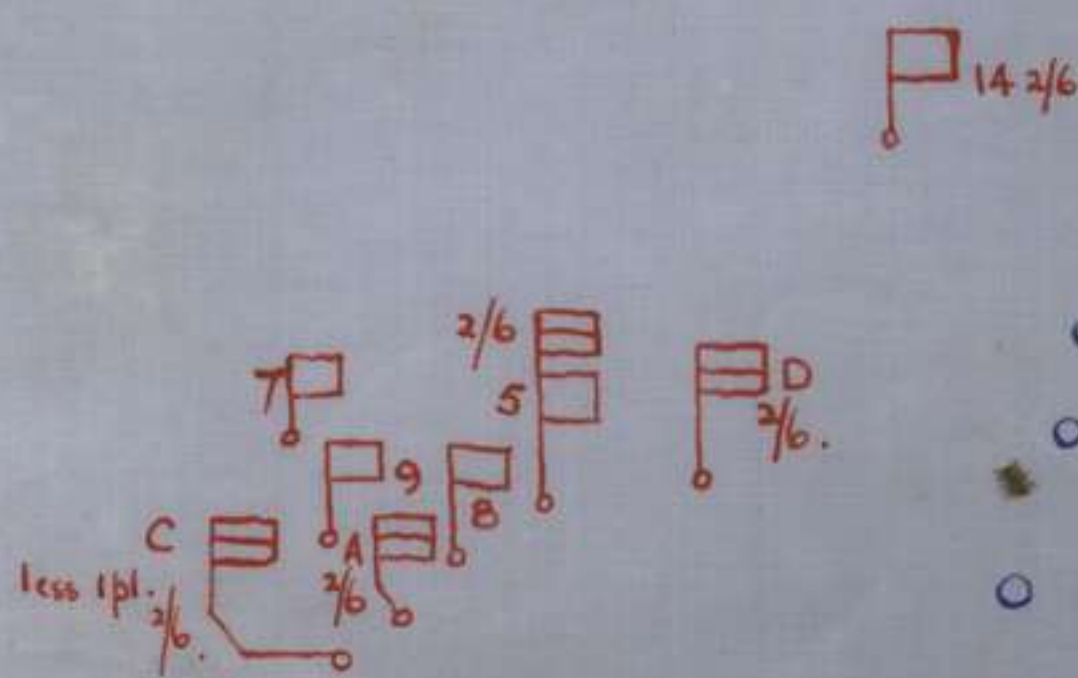
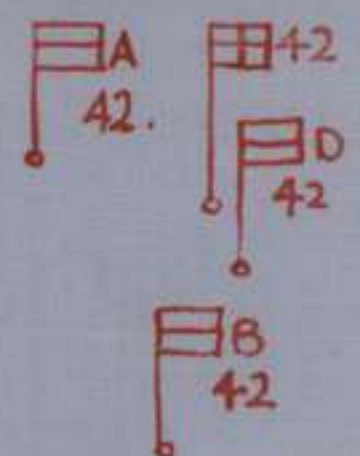
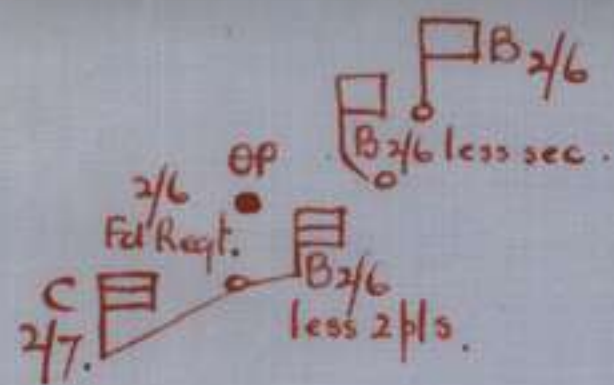
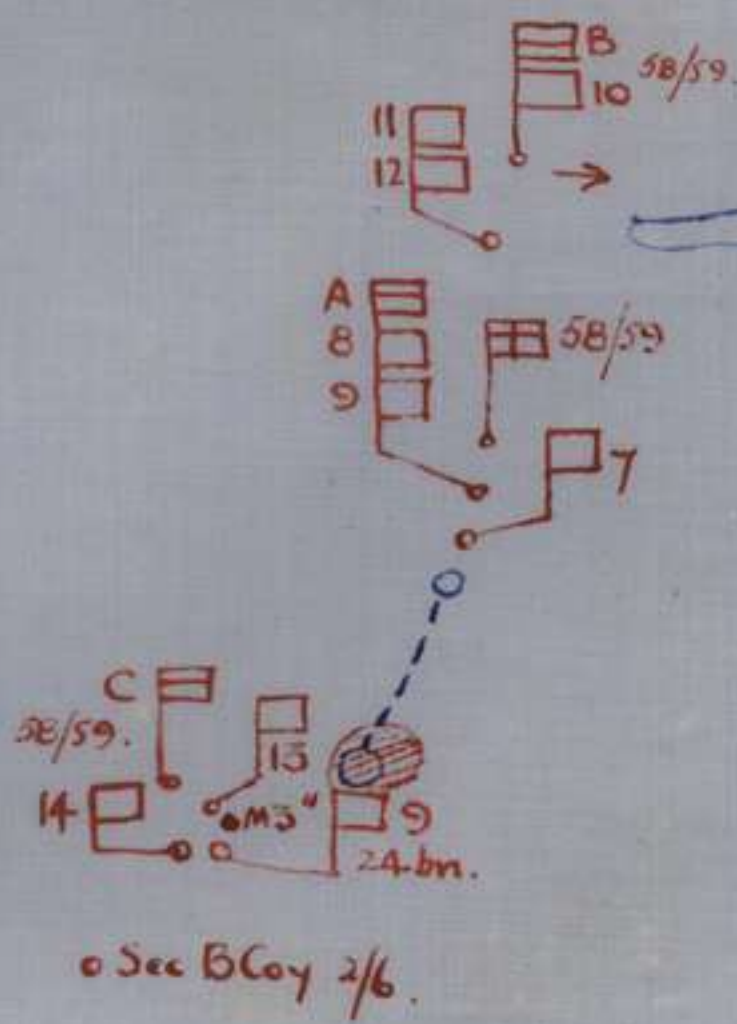


58/59 BN.

Night 11/12 Aug. Harassing fire on ORODUBI.

2/3 INDEP Coy.

0800/12. Listening post east of NEWMANS JUNG reported 18 fully equipped Japs NORTH along KOMIATUM TRACK.
 0815/12 20 fully equipped SOUTH.
 1005-1710/12 25 Japs NORTH 32 SOUTH
 All carrying rifles + packs or rifles only.



15 BDE INT SEC
AUG 43.

W.D

SECRET
COPY NO 14
.....

15 AUST INF BDE OPERATION INSTRUCTION No 13

Hq 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
13 Aug 43

Ref Maps: KORIATUM 1:25000
SALAMASA 1:25000

INTRODUCTION

1. The following is confirmation of verbal orders issued to COs 2/7 Aust Inf Bn, 58/59 Aust Inf Bn, 2/3 Aust Indep Coy at Hq 2/7 Aust Inf Bn on 8 and 11 Aug.

The detail planning for phase 1 of this operation will be carried out by CO 2/7 Aust Inf Bn.

INFORMATION

2. Own Troops

As per 15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summaries.

3. Enemy

(a) BUIRIS CR area

- 10 Aug - Patrol attacked by 15 Japs 702994. SP at 704983 engaged by 20 Japs.
- 11 Aug - 8 Japs moving north at 703086.
- 12 Aug - Footprints estimated 12 enemy seen 687800. pointing west. Native report states enemy use BUIRIS CR to ASINI.

(b) COCONUTS AREA

- 10 Aug - Patrol north from NEWMANS JUNG then 600 yds west up spur reports considerable activity heard. Patrol between BENCH CUT and KORIATUM tracks saw enemy carrying packs and rifles moving east and west vicinity BOBOBI TRACK. Patrol confirmed existence of Jap positions 600 yds north of NEWMANS JUNG on BENCH CUT.
- 12 Aug - 1 Jap moving north at 704969, chopping and voices heard BOBOBI TRACK 708968.
Comment: This area is suspected to be Jap Staging Camp.
STEVES TRACK and a parallel track north reported clear. Sig wire ^{seen} on west side of BOBOBI TRACK at 704969.

Note - This wire will be cut by 2/3 Aust Indep Coy during Phase 1 as soon as possible after arty fire commences 14 Aug.

Patrol east from TAYLORS RIDGE heard voices. Patrol to spur leading to old graveyard south of SOUTH COCONUTS heard talking. Sig wire seen from graveyard to COCONUTS.

All 2/3 Aust Indep Coy patrols indicate ^{enemy} positions between CUMMINS POST OLD VICKERS POSITION and BENCH CUT TRACK.

(c) KORIATUM TRACK - Enemy movements.

- 9 Aug - 8 Japs south 1 north at 708939.
- 10 Aug - 10 Japs south along ridge.
- 11 Aug - 1 Jap north at 708959, 3 south.
- 12 Aug - 3 Japs north, 3 south along KORIATUM TRACK.
2/3 Aust Indep Coy listening post

on track east of NIWNIANS JUNG reports 43 Japs north, 52 south. 1 party of 32 going south included in above carried rifles only and were thought to be patrolling the track.

(d) General

OP located 700970 in bomb crater gives observation over junction FRANSOIS R - BURALI CR and surrounding areas. Areas suspected enemy staging camp and possible HQ were seen.

OP 690959 gives observation over NORTH CENTER and SOUTH COCONUTS.

Captured documents show a regimental HQ at 700967.

INTENTION

4. 15 Aust Inf Bde will capture COCONUT RIDGE on 14 Aug.

METHOD

PHASE 1

5. 2/7 Aust Inf Bn

(a) Task: To capture NORTH centre and SOUTH COCONUTS.

(b) Force: (i) B Coy
(ii) WALKER FORCE comprising of BENA FORCE and one pl A Coy.

(c) Routes Assembly areas, start lines and timings to be arranged by 2/7 Aust Inf Bn on completion of reces now being conducted.

(d) D Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn will occupy positions previously held by B Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn.

Tasks: As set out in 15 Aust Inf Bde Op Instrns 10 and 12.

6. 2/3 Aust Indep Coy

(a) Task: To cut and hold until relieved by this HQ SALAMAVA - BOBUBI TRACK in vicinity 704970. Exact locality will be at discretion of 2/3 Aust Indep Coy.

(b) Object: To protect any approaches by enemy to COCONUTS area from east and south during the attack and consolidation of 2/7 Aust Inf Bn on COCONUT RIDGE.

(c) Route: OLD VICERS POSITION then as decided after recce.

(d) Force: 2/3 Aust Indep Coy will provide a force of approx 65.

7. 58/59 Aust Inf Bn

(a) A, B and C Coys will remain present locations.

(b) D Coy will hold DUNES RIDGE vicinity 702956 linking up with B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn in SHAKINS CR area, and with 2/3 Aust Indep Coy in GRIFFS TRACK area.

8. Fire Plan - Details to be co-ordinated by 2/7 Aust Inf Bn.

(a) Air Support: Bombing has been requested on COCONUT RIDGE from 0830 - 1000 hrs 14 Aug. There will be NO bombing after 1000 hrs.

(b) Arty:

(i) 2/6 Aust PA Regt in support. 500 rounds available for task.

(ii) Concentration will be fired on COCONUT RIDGE from 1000 - 1130 hrs.

(iii) DP tasks will be fired on area 707962 and track junction vicinity 708967 from 1130 hrs

/3 Mortars

- (c) Mortars
- (i) 6 Mortars will be used.
 - (ii) Supporting fire - 100 rounds per mortar.
 - (iii) Reserve held with each mortar - minimum 50 rounds.
- (d) MMGs
- (i) 6 MMGs will be used.
 - (ii) Supporting fire - 3 belts per MMG.
 - (iii) Reserve held with each gun - minimum 14 belts.

9. CONSOLIDATION

- (a) On Capture of COCONUT RIDGE, A and B Coys 2/7 Aust Inf Bn will dig in and consolidate.
- (b) Dispositions on consolidation will be:
- (i) Two pls - NORTH COCONUTS
 - (ii) One pl - CENTRE COCONUTS
 - (iii) One pl - SOUTH COCONUTS
 - (iv) Two pls - OLD VICKERS POSITION
- (c) COCONUTS RIDGE will be organised against immediate counter attack.
- (d) After consolidation, BRNA FORCE will move to OLD VICKERS POSITION and be available for:
- (i) Defence of OLD VICKERS POSITION
 - (ii) Immediate counter attack in COCONUTS area.
 - (iii) Move to SALAMAVA - BOBUBI track area for Phase 11 of this operation.
- (e) 2/7 Aust Inf Bn will ensure sufficient carrying parties are arranged to carry forward rapidly reserves of ammunition and rations.

10. Patrols

Arrangements will be made for protective patrolling during consolidation to maintain contact with the enemy.

11. Liaison

COs 2/7 Aust Inf Bn and 2/3 Aust Indep Coy will maintain close liaison to arrange fire plan and co-ordinate movement of troops.

PHASE 11 - Outline plan - further details to be issued later.

12. Exploitation

Exploitation will be carried out towards KOMIATUM TRACK with the object of preventing enemy movement north and south along KOMIATUM TRACK.

13. 2/3 Aust Indep Coy

- (a) Task: To capture and hold track junctions vicinity 706957 and 708968 with object of preventing enemy movement north and south along KOMIATUM TRACK.
- (b) Route: NEWIANS JUNG - BENCH CUT - area 707957.
- (c) Force: A force of approx 100 personnel will be made available for this task. The force mentioned in para 6 (d) above may be included.

14. 2/7 Aust Inf Bn

2/7 Aust Inf Bn may be required to make available one coy, one det mortars, and one sec ^{MMGs} for this phase. This is dependent on the tactical situation on the completion of attack in phase 1.

15. 58/59 Aust Inf Bn

58/59 Aust Inf Bn may be required to make available a suitable force to occupy positions vacated when 2/3 Aust Indep Coy

moves to execute Phase 11.

16. Command
Command of all troops in area 708987 and 708988 will be advised later.

17. Consolidation
The area 708987 to 708988 will be prepared for all round defence against attack from all approaches.
A good river crossing is reported at 715973. It may be possible to cross further to the west. This will need consideration.

ADMINISTRATION

18. Ammunition
AF - GARDENS area 694965.
Issues will NOT be made without instruction from this HQ.

19. Rations
(a) On the man - one days rations plus one emergency ration.
(b) Unit reserve - NOT to be consumed without instructions from this HQ - three days PD Op Ration.
(c) 2/3 Aust Indep Coy in para 6 will carry forward to their positions 3 days rations.
(d) 2/7 Aust Inf Bn during consolidation of COCONUTS RIDGE will carry forward ammunition and rations and water for three days.

20. L of O
Ls of O will be established as soon as possible to new positions. Units will provide for protection of any native carrier lines.

21. Water
Three days reserve per man will be held in each section post.

22. Salvage
Units will collect salvage into unit dumps and notify location to NCO i/c det Salvage Unit.

23. Medical
(a) A Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn RAP 696976.
B Coy 2/7 Aust Inf Bn RAP 695967.
58/59 Aust Inf Bn RAP 686953/
ADS KELLYS
(b) Unit carriers will evacuate to 2/7 Aust Inf Bn RAPs.
(c) 24 carriers will be based at A Coy RAP, 12 carriers at B Coy RAP for evacuation to 58/59 Aust Inf Bn RAP.
(d) Additional 32 carriers will be based at 58/59 Aust Inf Bn for evacuation to ADS KELLYS.

INTERCOMMUNICATION

24. L/T
L/T will be laid behind attacking troops.

25. Lateral lines will be laid wherever possible to provide alternative means of communication.

26. V/S
Visual stations will be sited to provide alternative communications

27. Signals

Success Signal } To be arranged by 2/7 Aust Inf Bn.
SDF

28. ACKNOWLEDGE.

B. H. Davers.
Major
HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde

Time of signature: 1415 hrs

DISTRIBUTION

	<u>Copy No</u>	<u>Method of Issue</u>
2/7 Aust Inf Bn	1	LO
58/59 Aust Inf Bn	2	LO
2/5 Aust Indep Coy	3	LO
L Sec Sigs 3 Aust Div	4	Hand
ANGAU MUNNS POST	5	Hand
FOO, 2/8 Aust Fd Regt	6	LO
3 Aust Div	7	DRLS
RAA 3 Aust Div	8	DRLS
17 Aust Inf Bde	9	DRLS
Comd	10	Hand
SC	11	Hand
SHO	12	Hand
File	13	
War Diary	14-15	
Spare	16-17	