

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

Item number: 8/2/20

20 Infantry Brigade
Appendices 1945, part 2 of 2

File *M* *D*
CONFIDENTIAL

HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde
29 Aug 45

Maj Ralph
Maj RALPH
2/8 Aust Fd Regt

1. Your unit reports that soldiers found guilty of being in possession of civilian property were admonished. Advice as early as possible will be appreciated of the extenuating circumstances which led to this punishment on serious charges.
2. The Bde Comd explained to you personally that cases were seriously regarded and summary trial approved by 9 Aust Div in lieu of court martial only because of special circumstances.

Maj Ralph

The Bde Comd desired that you should receive this advice as early as possible. I have signed it in his absence. The Bde Comd would, I think, like you to contact him as early as possible.

[Signature]
Capt for Bde
HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde

218 Aust Fd Regt
AIF

30. 8. 45

H.Q.

20 Aust. Inf Bde

Ref. Looting of civilian Property

1. The evidence against the soldiers charged was not sufficient to warrant a court martial.
2. RHO had issued instructions to sub. units that all civilian property in possession of individuals were to be collected & returned to RHO.
3. The brig concerned ordered all civilian property to be returned to its H.Q. The soldiers named were detailed to the return the property & collected all articles from their particular sub-section. Whether they were in possession of the articles or not. & on reporting to Brig HQ their names were taken & submitted to RHO.
4. Until these charges were prepared & the men charged RHO was not aware that the above procedure had been adopted.
5. Consequently no evidence could be produced that the articles returned were in fact taken by the individuals named.
6. No admission could be obtained from the soldiers charged that they had taken any civilian property but they admitted being in possession of certain articles which they alleged they had obtained

2. through various channels. such as purchase, barter etc
& no evidence could be produced to the contrary.

7. In the circumstances it is considered that no
heavier punishment could be awarded.

8. Summary trial was approved for only one soldier.

1001. J. Williams & his evidence was that he
had been detailed to collect the articles and an
officer had taken his name as being in possession
of civilian property. In this case the charge was
dismissed.

M Ralph
Major

admt and 218 Aust Fed Regt.

SUBJECT : LOOTING OF CIVILIAN PROPERTY

2/8 Aust Fd Regt
A4/1270
27 Aug 45

HQ
20 Aust Inf Bde

1. Ref HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde A38/1154 of 15 Aug. This HQ
A14/945 of 17 Jun 45.

2. Personnel of this unit found in possession of civilian
property with the exception of the following have been dealt
with summarily.

Award - Admonished.

TX 1475	L/Sgt	GUNN	J
VX 141461	Gnr	PARRY	R W
TX 3164	L/Bdr	WALDUCK	R
TX 3100	L/Bdr	OSBORNE	F C
WX 39238	Gnr	BUTLER-MILTON	T C
*VX 25867	L/Bdr	EDNEY	H R
*VX 13998	WO 11	WILLIAMS	J A

* Have since been discharged.

3. Owing to the absence of the principal witness Lt G
HODGMAN in hospital, it has not been possible to deal with
these personnel.

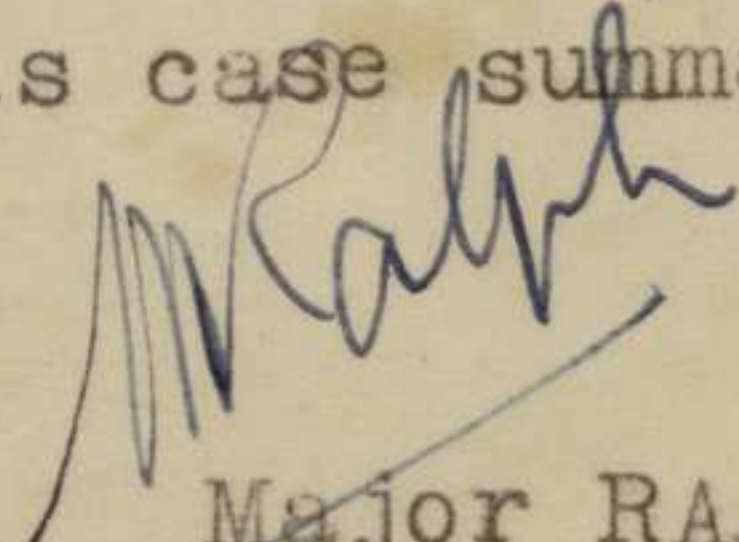
W. J. O'Sullivan Major RAA
Adm Comd 2/8 Aust Fd Regt

SUBJECT : LOOTING OF CIVILIAN PROPERTY

2/8 Aust Fd Regt
A4/1224
17 Aug 45

HQ
20 Aust Inf Bde

1. Ref your A38/1154 of 15 Aug 45.
2. One of the soldiers charged is VX 13998 W.O.11 WILLIAMS J A.
3. The evidence against the soldier appears not to warrant a court martial.
4. W.O.11 WILLIAMS, apart from this offence, has had a good record and proved a capable soldier, he is due for discharge under the 5 year plan and will be leaving the Regt approx 25 Aug.
5. Permission is requested to deal with this case summarily.


Major RAA
Adm Comd 2/8 Aust Fd Regt

SUBJECT : LOOTING OF CIVILIAN PROPERTY

HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde
A38/1154
15 Aug 45

2/8 Aust Fd Regt

1. GOC 9 Aust Div has directed that tps found in possession of civilian property on about 15 Jun 45, at BRUNEI, be dealt with summarily unless evidence discloses that cases should be dealt with by Court Martial.

2. Accordingly Bde Comd directs that the twenty personnel of 2/8 Aust Fd Regt, whose names are known to the CO, be charged as set out hereunder and that such charges be disposed of summarily unless the CO considers that trial by Court Martial is warranted. The charge will be as follows :-

WOAS conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, in that he, WOAS in the field on about 15 Jun 45 was improperly in possession of civilian property. AA Sec 40.

3. Please advise this HQ of result of any disciplinary action taken.

E. J. M. M. S.
Capt
SG 20 Aust Inf Bde

Subject: LOOTING OF CIVILIAN PROPERTY

file

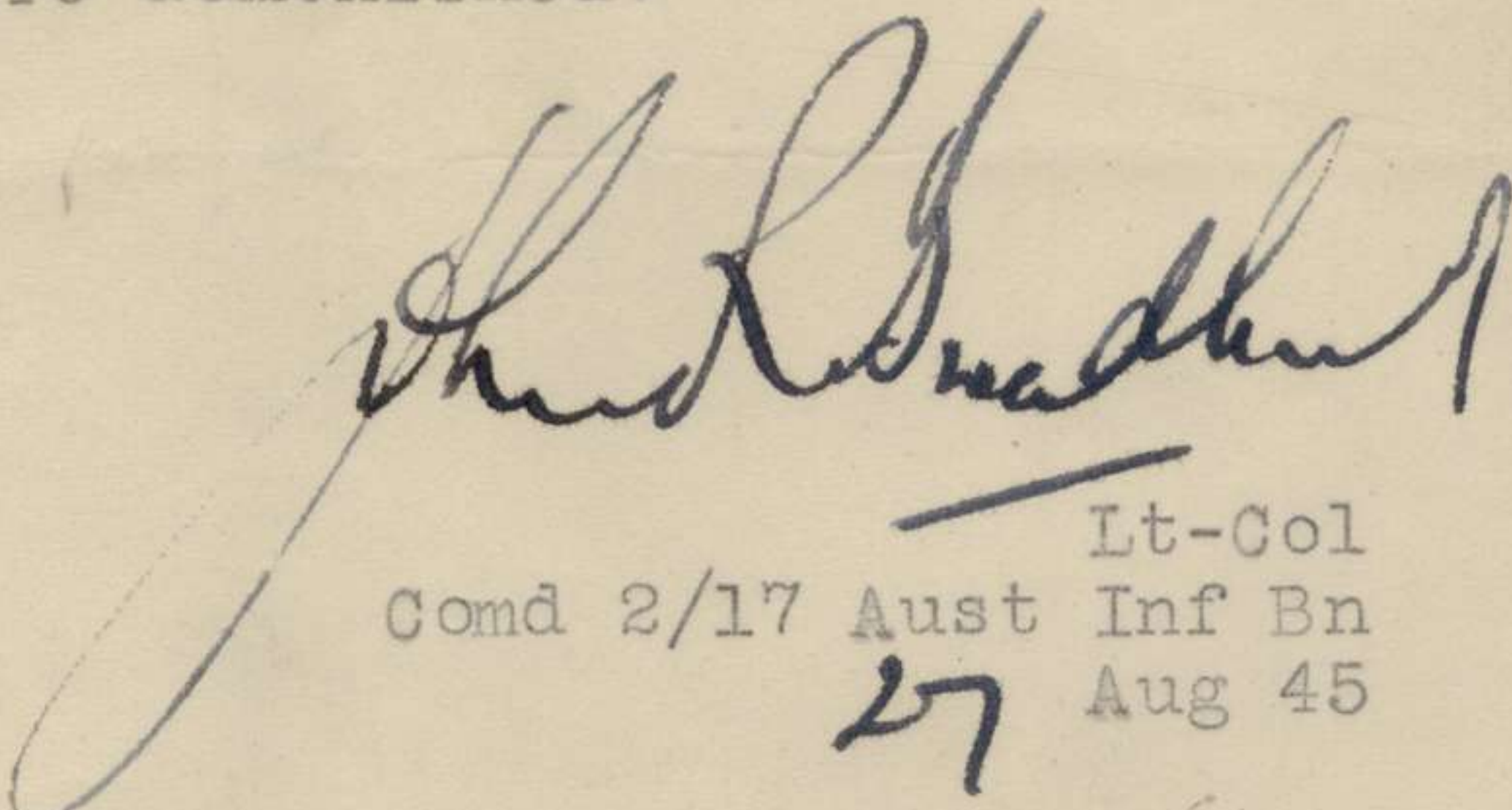
HQ 2/17 Aust Inf Bn
A139/ *1437*
27 Aug 45

20 Aust Inf Bde (2)

1. Ref 20 Aust Inf Bde A38/1155 of 15 Aug 45, it is advised that the undermentioned personnel were dealt with summarily by CO 2/17 Aust Inf Bn on 27 Aug 45:

NX171472	Pte	COLLEY	D N
NX190541	"	TURNBULL	A P
VX125370	"	LEE	H E W

2. All personnel were admonished.


Lt-Col
Comd 2/17 Aust Inf Bn
27 Aug 45

Subject: LOOTING OF CIVILIAN PROPERTY

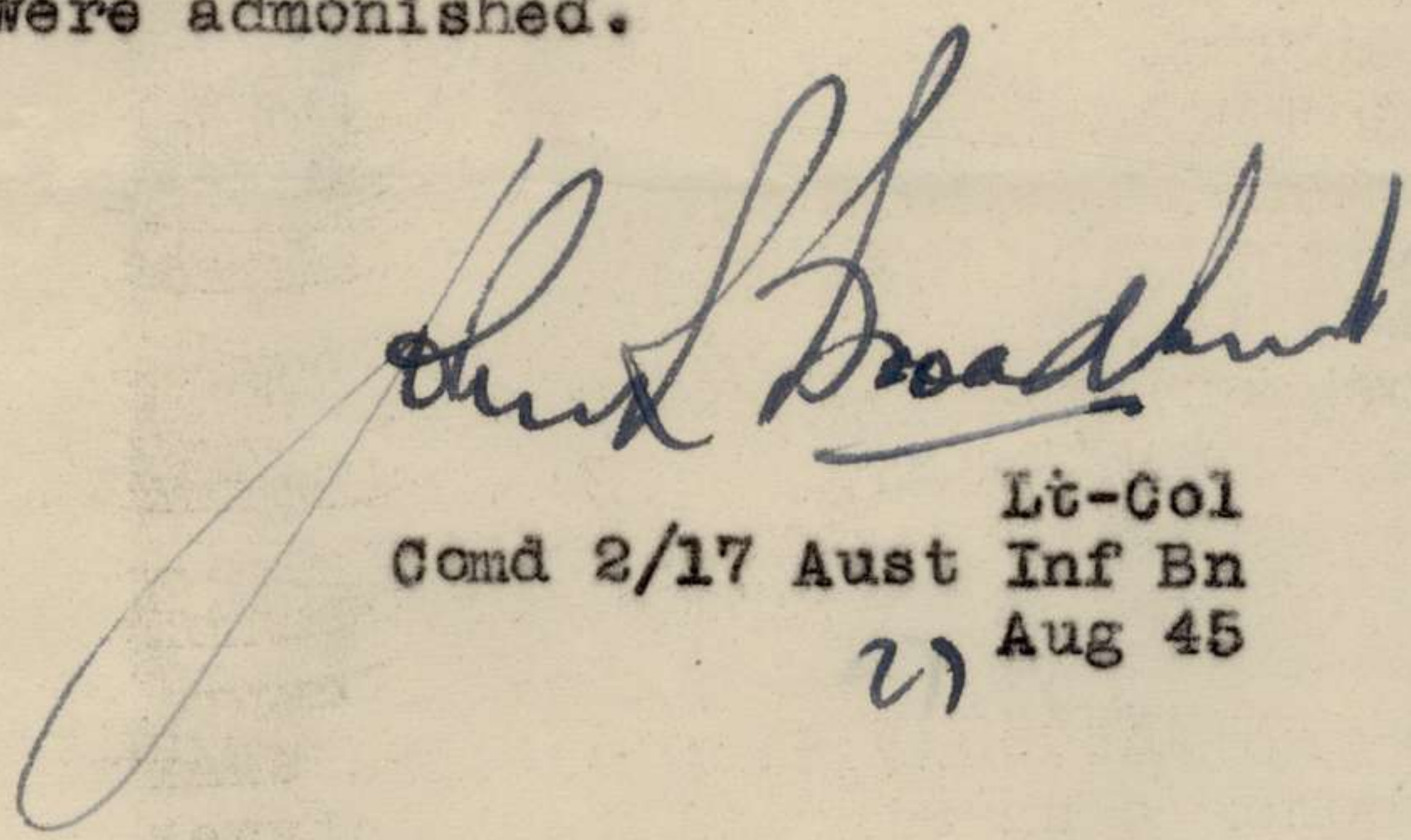
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Comd 2/17 Aust Inf Bn
27 Aug 45

SUBJECT : LOOTING OF CIVILIAN PROPERTY

HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde
A38/1155.
15 Aug 45

2/17 Aust Inf Bn

1. GOC 9 Aust Div has directed that tps found in possession of civilian property on about 15 Jun 45, at BRUNEI, be dealt with summarily unless evidence discloses that cases should be dealt with by Court Martial.

2. Accordingly Bde Comd directs that the four personnel of 2/17 Aust Inf Bn, whose names are known to the CO, be charged as set out hereunder and that such charges be disposed of summarily unless the CO considers that trial by Court Martial is warranted. The charge will be as follows :-

WOAS conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, in that he, WOAS in the field on about 15 Jun 45 was improperly in possession of civilian property.
AA Sec 40.

3.
taken.

Please advise this HQ of result of any disciplinary action

Edwin M. Smith Capt
SC 20 Aust Inf Bde

MESSAGE FORM

Register No. 14

Call	Ser. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions CIPHER D985
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ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A)	Originator 9 DIV	Date—Time of Origin 140825 I	Office Date Stamp
TO	For Action 20 BDE		
	(re) For Information (INFO.)		Message Instructions GR

ORIGINATOR'S No. AG 1624 restricted @ Jan A 138/3941 of
30 Jul Para 8(a) @ COM R 9 DIV concurs
CO's deal summarily men concerned
unless evidence discloses cases should be
dealt with by court martial

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN
by any means { except } Wireless

Signed

If liable to be intercepted or fall into
enemy hands, this message must be
sent IN CIPHER

Signed

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

Time	System	Op
THI or TOR 1144		
Time Cleared		

SUBJECT: THE PROPERTY OF THE SULTAN OF BRUNEI

HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde
A138/3941
2025 Jul 45

9 Aust Div

1. Further to our A138/3900 of 26 Jul.
2. Att are reports by
 - (a) Sub Lieut L W CHAD RANR Cdo C RAN Beach Unit.
 - (b) Certain members of 2/8 Aust Fd Regt.
 - (c) Cpl ALLGOOD 2/17 Aust Inf Bn.
3. Extensive investigations have been made in other channels also; but without further information being obtained which implicates any persons other than those mentioned in the attached reports.
4. The circumstances surrounding the jeep load of articles brought into HQ 2/8 Aust Fd Regt as reported by Lt McDONALD the IO are, the CO reports, not discoverable by him.
5. It is regretted that Bde HQ was not in a position to take earlier action in this matter. The first reports merely stated that certain civilian goods were held by 2/8 Aust Fd Regt who asked for instructions as to their disposal. The Regt was told that being civilian property they should be handed to BBCAU. It was not till some hours later that information was received of the existence of the house and of other goods being in it.
6. Disciplinary action has not yet been taken against the AMF personnel. No action has been taken in regard to Sub Lieut CHAD.
7.
 - (a) The names of 4 soldiers of 2/17 Aust Inf Bn and 20 of 2/8 Aust Fd Regt who were at or before the time of the kit inspection found in possession of articles from the house are known.
 - (b) In addition some other articles were recovered, but who had been in possession of them cannot now be established.
 - (c) The names of members of 5 Aust Fd Svy Coy which were on articles are on the list annexed to 2/8 Aust Fd Regt's G8/157 of 23 Jun 45 attached. These soldiers are not now in this area. Apparently no evidence against them is available except that their names were on articles sent to HQ 2/8 Aust Fd Regt.
8.
 - (a) As evidence of actual stealing is in most cases not obtainable or inconclusive, and a Court Martial seems undesirable it is proposed subject to other direction that COs deal summarily with the men mentioned in para 7(a) above on charges of being improperly in possession of civilian property.
 - (b) All the articles these men had were returned. Some were only of a trivial nature.
9.
 - (a) It is assumed that any action deemed necessary in respect of Sub Lieut CHAD will be taken by HQ 9 Aust Div.
 - (b) He returned the ornamental sword and the other small articles which he had. Apart from the sword they seemed to be of no intrinsic value.

(c) He made his statement in a most frank and credible manner and there is no reason to believe that he ever had any other articles from the house

W. J. V. Anderson

Brig
Comd 20 Aust Inf Bde

SUBJECT: THE PROPERTY OF THE SULTAN OF BRUNEI

HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde
A133/3941
29 Jul 45

9 Aust Div

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- 2 -

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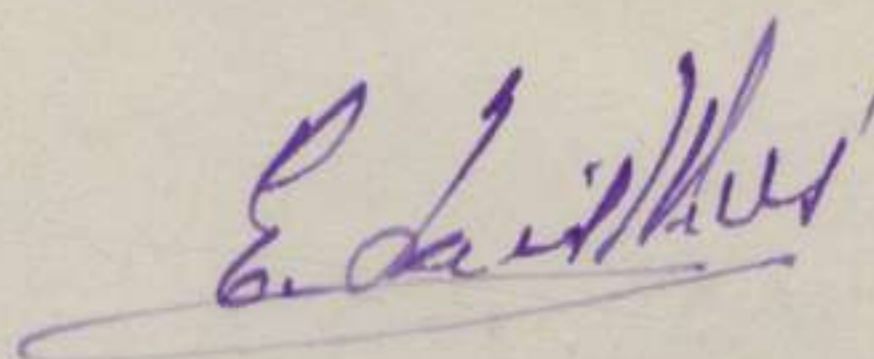
Brig
Comd 20 Aust Inf Bde

SUBJECT: SECURITY GUARD

HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde
A30/ 3615
1 8 Jun 45

2/8 Aust Fd Regt

1. Ref your G8/142 of 17 Jun 45.
2. 2/8 Aust Fd Regt will obtain and fwd the names of the two soldiers concerned and will provide security gd until relieved.


Capt
SC 20 Aust Inf B de

2/8 Aust Fd. Regt.
17 Jun 45.

Ref 48/142

SUBJECT : LOOTING.

H.Q. 20 AUST INF BDE.

1. At approximately 1500 hrs today CAPT. STEWART of Regimental L.A.D. visited a Mechanical Equipment Dump and found two men of 2/16 AASC with a bag of fitter's tools dismantling a brand new M.T. pump worth between £400 and £500, to obtain parts to make an air compressor to pump up their tyres.
2. CAPT. STEWART ordered the machine to be reassembled and the men to report to their C.O.
3. A Picquet was been placed in this area which contains equipment worth thousands of pounds.
4. It is requested that the Regiment be relieved of this duty as soon as possible.

*Obtain names of two soldiers
Maj Chapman to take over*

R. J. Johnston
Lt-Col.
Comd. 2/8 Aust Fd Regt.

2/8 Aust Fd. Regt.
17 Jun 45.

Ref C 8/142

SUBJECT : LOOTING.

fy

*Alleged looting
by AASC drivers*

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R. Johnston

Lt-Col.
Comd. 2/8 Aust Fd Regt.

Det 2/16 Aust Tpt Pl
19 June 45

O.C.
2/6 Aust Sup Dep Coy

REPORT ON ALLEGED SCROUNGING OF EQUIPMENT - 17 June 45.

This detachment was sent from Morotai without any workshop equipment or mechanical aids of any kind and only the barest of essential tools for 2 mechanics.

Rigid enforcement of correct tyre pressures has always been maintained in the interests of rubber conservation, but with the issue hand pumps (mostly US) it is not practicable to blow our tyres to the correct pressure by hand, on G/M/C 6 x 6.

Mechanical means have not been available in the area except at such times when a D.T. wrecker has been available at the L.A.D. and this does not always coincide with our vehicles being available.

With the idea in mind of making a motor air compressor with their limited tools, 2 mechanics went without my knowledge looking for parts.

They first obtained a cylinder and piston off a burnt and wrecked motor cycle, for the compressor.

Whilst looking for a suitable motor they came across a small single cylinder motor on a chassis, which they commenced to remove.

A Capt., presumably from an L.A.D. came along and enquired what they were doing.

They explained the position to him and he in turn explained to them that this particular motor was required at the water point.

The mechanics then reassembled their work and awaited the Capt. return to get an O.K. on the job.

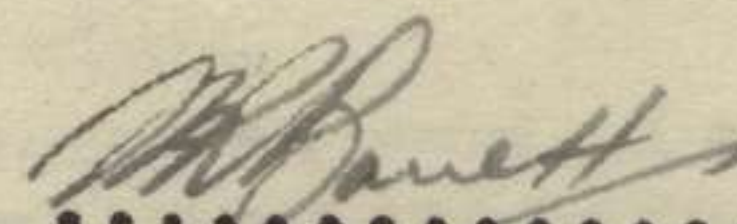
The Capt. also told them to try and obtain a motor from 2/17 Bn "B" Ech.

He also informed them that the C.O. Mech. Equip. had inspected the ~~xxx~~ equipment that morning and they were lucky to be caught by him then and not later found with the motor in their possession.

He also told them to inform me that from now on the area was out of bounds, which they did on their return.

The mechanics were not asked their names or unit and not questioned in any other way.

Although they had been warned about scrounging they did not consider they were doing so as they were not after personal gain, but just working to make the Pl more efficient, and give the drivers more time for other maintenance than spending their time trying to blow up tyres with inadequate pumps.



..... Capt
(W/R. Barrett)

O.C. Det 2/16 Aust Tpt Pl

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19 June 45

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.....*W.R. Barrett*.....Capt
(W.R. Barrett)

O.C. Det 2/16 Aust Tpt Pl

*Type copy of
sig. att. and return
to the file
R.L.*

Comd.
20 Aust Inf Bde.

2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE
Ref 37/1/1
4 Jul 45

file

Subject : LOOTING
Ref your A44 of 4 Jul 45.

1. It is requested that a copy of AG 31 of 16 Jun '45 be forwarded to this unit since no record of it being received exists nor can the signal be located.
2. Enquiries have been made among the personnel who were in BRUNEI at the time, which consisted of Coy Tac H.Q. only. This comprised of the O.C., the I.O. and an orderly on the telephone. Sig operators were stationed in a separate part of the camp.
3. Neither of the three mentioned above can remember seeing the message or receiving it on the phone. The phone was also being used to 20 Bde "B" Mess and it is possible that another person took the call. No message was passed on.
4. The report requested was forwarded to 20 Aust Inf Bde tonight in accordance with the Brigade Commander's direction.
5. The matter has been investigated as far as possible pending the sighting of AG 31 of 16 Jun 45. A further report will then be made as to the non-compliance with this signal.
6. In 2/3 Aust Fd Coy Administrative Order No 1 of 24 May the following was promulgated under para 20 (c) :- "Enemy materials surplus to requirements of the force will be collected and held pending disposal" and this was read to the troops.

Abamuk Major.
OC 2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE

*Copy of sig 2/3/1
forwarded to Maj Eastick
07/10/307*

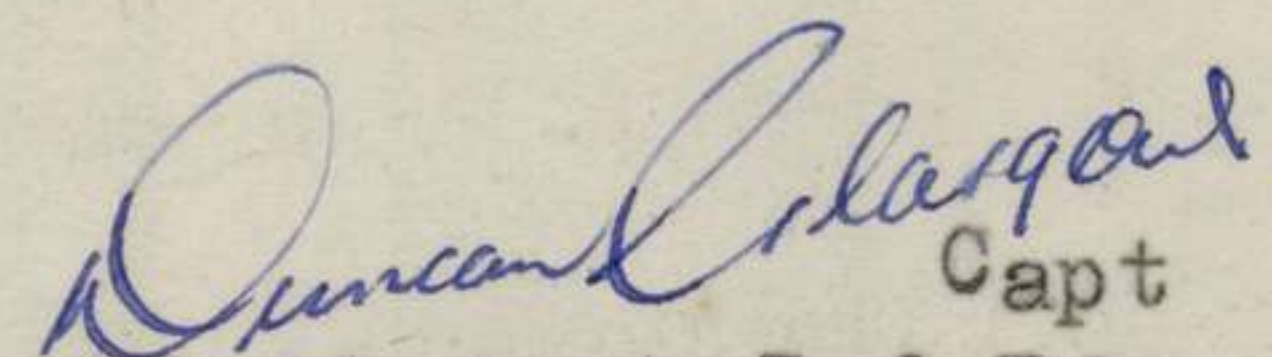
CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT : LOOTING

HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde
A44/
4 Jul 45

2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAE

1. On 16 Jun 45 this HQ signal AG31 directed you to hold a detailed inspection of kits and vehs and report results.
2. An explanation is required ~~of~~ why this report has not been furnished.
3.
 - (a) It is reported that certain soldiers were in possession of articles taken from a house at 466393 and that these were not returned to this HQ as ordered.
 - (b) It is also reported that some offrs and/or NCOs knew that men were in possession of civilian articles and failed to take action to recover or report this.
4.
 - (a) The matter will be personally investigated by the OC and a full report on the whole circumstances will be furnished immediately.
 - (b) This matter is ~~very~~ seriously regarded by the Bde Comd. Attention is directed to 20 Aust Inf Bde Adm Order No 1, para 35.


Capt
SC 20 Aust Inf Bde

COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: LOOTING OF HH THE SULTAN'S VALUABLES

Y Det BBGAJ
21 Jun 45

Commanding Officer,
20 Aust Inf Bde

Until approximately six weeks ago the Sultan was living in a secondary residence some distance from his Istana. He then left to take refuge in a native village leaving his residence and many valuables inside.

This residence was ransacked, much valuable staff being taken.

From all the evidence obtainable it appears that much was taken by natives, possibly some by Japanese.

A large quantity was taken into safe keeping by an officer of 20 Brigade. I took some more for the same purpose as soon as I reached the place. This residence was not known to me, it did not exist when I was in BRUNEI.

When we landed at BROOKETON we obtained information that the Sultan was at a native village and the discovery of this place full of valuables was most unexpected.

The valuables taken into safe keeping have been returned to His Highness who informs me that much belonging to himself, to his wife, and family is still missing.

Naturally he is upset about it, but has accepted the loss with extremely good grace.

Leaving a house full of valuables like this he is of course extremely fortunate not to have lost the lot. Enquiries as to the possible whereabouts of some of the missing valuables have been instituted and will continue, and it is hoped, without perhaps much ground for hope, to retrieve some.

A guard was put on this house to prevent further trouble as soon as the existence of this valuable property was known to HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde.

W Key W/Cde
OC Y Det BBGAJ

SUBJECT: BRUNEI WIRELESS STATION

File

HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde
~~A55~~ A1/3658
23 Jun 45

9 Aust Div

1. Immediately after our troops entered BRUNEI the station was inspected by an officer.
2. It was then reported to Div as badly damaged by strafing. It was in a wrecked and untidy condition. But a picquet was placed on it the afternoon our troops entered the town to prevent further damage.
3. Subsequently it was inspected by AEME and placed in charge of 2/64 Aust LAD. When that unit moved it was in charge 2/9 Aust Armd Regt stationed there.
4. (a) ~~CO~~ Sigs 9 Aust Div visited this area on 19 Jun 45.
(b) He reported to this HQ that it had been damaged by vandalism of troops.
5. This is not correct. If anything has been removed or damaged otherwise than by strafing or removal by AEME it was done by natives who entered houses in this area between the time of Jap evacuation and effective control of the area by us.
6. Reports from 2/118 Aust Bde Wksp and 2/8 Aust Fd Regt are att.

W.F.V. Whalley
Brig
Comd 20 Aust Inf Bde

COPY

2/118 Aust Bde Wksp
20 Jun 45

C. O. ,
2/118 Aust Bde Wksp

I inspected the Brunei wireless station the day after Brunei was taken. I found -

- (a) the equipment had been severely damaged by M. G. fire, probably from the air.
- (b) A considerable amount of transmitting equipment was missing, probably taken by Japs when leaving.

In my opinion the equipment was completely US, there being practically no serviceable equipment. There was no prospect of restoring the station, even at that stage, without installing completely new equipment.

D Galton Capt(EME)
2/118 Aust Bde Wksp

20 Aust Inf Bde

Above report is forwarded for your information.

W S Cha~~man~~ *man* Major
C.O. 2/118 Aust Bde Wksp

SUBJECT : DAMAGE TO WIRELESS STATION AT BRUNEI

2/8 Aust Fd Regt

Ref *98/151*

21 Jun 45

HQ

20 Aust Inf Bde

1. 2/64 Aust LAD were stationed approximately 300 yards from the wireless station.
2. Capt W J STEWART, OC 2/64 Aust LAD states that during the time he was stationed in BRUNEI, the wireless station was guarded by 2/17 Aust Inf Bn. He visited the wireless station with Capt GALLON of 118 Bde Wkps who removed all valuable instruments into safe keeping ^{which} and were being guarded by 118 Bde Wkps when he left for TUTONG.

R L Johnston

Lt-col RAA

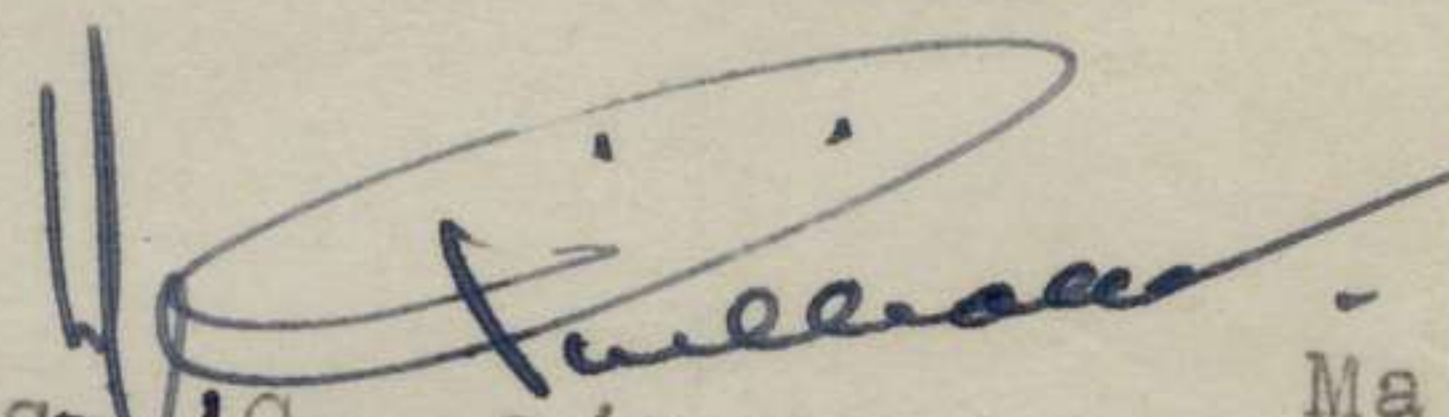
Comd 2/8 Aust Fd Regt

20 JUN 45 Aust Inf Bde

'A' Squadron Group,
2/9 Aust Armd Regt.
20 Jun 45.

REPORT ON TAKING OVER AND OCCUPATION OF
MAIN WIRELESS STATION AREA - BRUNEI

1. This area was taken over by us at approximately 1200 hrs on 18 Jun 45.
2. There was no formal hand over of the area, as there was no occupancy at the time of taking over.
3. During the afternoon of 19 June the Staff Captain was contacted by phone, and advised that no picquet was posted at the time of taking over, and that the wireless station proper was open to all and sundry. He explained that an assurance had been given him by Major Chapman, AEME, that there was nothing of value there, and that therefore, picqueting was unnecessary. No picquet was posted by this sub-unit, because of this explanation. On the afternoon of 19 June the B M(L) gave instructions, that a picquet was to be posted and this was done, at approximately 1630 hrs, and still remains.
4. On taking over, the Equipment in the Station was scattered all over the building. The building had been subjected to strafing, and damage had been caused to Generating Machinery, and other Equipment. From a brief inspection of the equipment, there appeared to be nothing of value.


O C 'A' Sqd Gp, 2/9 Aust Armd Regt. Ma.

SUBJECT: PROPERTY OF HIS HIGHNESS THE SULTAN OF BRUNEI

HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde
A 138/3900
26 Jul 45

9 Aust Div

1. The Sultan's "palace" which he occupied before the war was a large double story building at 466385 (Ref Map BRUNEI 1/50000).
2. At some time during the Japanese occupation he left this building which was taken over by the Japanese. He moved to a house at 466392. This place is among trees and cannot be seen from the BRUNEI - TUTONG Road.
3. About a month or six weeks before our troops entered BRUNEI he left this residence to take refuge in a native village some distance down the BRUNEI River.
4. His reason for leaving is not clear. He states it was because of his treatment by the Japanese.
5. When he left the house in which he had been living it was locked up. Much property was left in it.
6. Our troops entered BRUNEI on the afternoon of 13 Jun. A standing patrol was established across the Clifford Bridge at 484401. But no advance was made beyond this point; and this detachment remained the nearest troops to the area of the Sultan's house until the morning of 15 June when an advance began by two companies towards TUTONG.
7. On 16 June the existence of the house became known to HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde also the fact that troops who had come into its neighbourhood were removing articles from it.
8. Action was taken to prevent this. Kit inspections and other measures were subsequently ordered to recover all property removed. Sentries were posted on the house. And all valuable articles were taken into custody.
9. Up till 16 June the existence of the house was not known to Bde HQ or any unit HQ. It had been known that the Sultan had left BRUNEI and gone into hiding in a native village. But it was assumed that up till the time of doing so he had been living in his normal palace. But it was found to be unoccupied, much damaged by the Japanese and quite bare of furniture.
10. The Sultan returned to BRUNEI on the afternoon of 17 June. He went first to his main palace and moved again some days later into the house.
11. On his return all the property held in safe custody for him was returned to him. The most valuable items seemed to be various articles of regalia, ornamental swords, silverware, ornaments and valuable cloths and household furniture.
12. It is reported that some articles said to have been in the house when the Sultan left it are missing. These are said to include the lesser crowns belonging to members of his family and some jewellery. His own crown is not missing.
13. The Bde Comd has personally investigated the matter. The facts ascertained on this investigation are set out in the following paragraphs.
14. When first examined by officers on 16 June the house was in considerable disorder. This was in part due to our troops having been in it and removing some articles.
15. (a) A rear door had however been broken open and entered some time before our troops came to BRUNEI.

- (b) The person or persons who did this are unknown.
- (c) The back room in the house had been in disorder before our troops entered BRUNEI.
- (d) The front room in which most of the valuables were had been slightly disturbed and one glass case broken before our foremost troops came to the house on the morning of 15 June.
16. (a) On 15 June and 16 June some of our troops were in the house. Some articles were removed by them and further disorder caused particularly in the front room.
- (b) It is thought that all property taken by our troops was recovered. Kit inspections were held early on 17 June of all troops who had been in the area; and other enquiries and searches have been made.
17. (a) It is impossible to establish the whereabouts of the missing articles or who took them.
- (b) (i) There is no evidence that they were taken by our troops. It seems probable that they were taken before our troops came to BRUNEI either by natives or by Japanese.
- (ii) Natives are known to have looted a number of the wealthier houses and government buildings after their occupiers had left them and before our troops arrived. Many articles from them are now being recovered from distant native villages.
- X (iii) There was considerable looting by Japanese during their occupancy. Identified furniture from the Sultan's palace was found at TUTONG where it was reported by natives to have been taken by Japanese. And articles identified as coming from houses in MIRI have been found in houses occupied by Japanese in BRUNEI.
18. (a) Reports are attached by :-
- (i) Wing Commander KAY RAF, OC Y Det BBGAU. He lived in BRUNEI before the war and knows the Sultan. He is the only person who has seen the Sultan on this matter. The Bde Comd considered it better that he himself should not do so.
- (ii) NX89831 Cpl J E ALLGOOD 2/17 Aust Inf Bn. His section were the first of our troops in the neighbourhood of the house.
- (iii) Maj L C MACLARN 2/17 Aust Inf Bn. Maj MACLARN inspected the house closely on 19 June. This was after the Sultan had returned to his palace, but before he went back to his house. At the time of Maj MACLARN'S inspection the valuable articles from the front room of the house which had been taken into custody had been restored to the Sultan; but most of them were then in his palace not in the house. Maj MACLARN'S report is therefore only direct evidence so far as it relates to the doorway and the back rooms from which property had not been removed by us for safe custody.
19. A separate report will be submitted in more detail concerning the action of our troops and disciplinary action.

W. J. W. MacLarn
Brig
Comd 20 Aust Inf Bde

COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: LOOTING OF HH THE SULTAN'S VALUABLES

Y Det BBCAU
21 Jun 45

Commanding Officer,
20 Aust Inf Bde

Until approximately six weeks ago the Sultan was living in a secondary residence some distance from his Istana. He then left to take refuge in a native village leaving his residence and many valuables inside.

This residence was ransacked, much valuable stuff being taken.

From all the evidence obtainable it appears that much ~~was~~ taken by natives, possibly some by Japanese.

A large quantity was taken into safe keeping by an officer of 20 Brigade. I took some more for the same purpose as soon as I reached the place. This residence was not known to me, it did not exist when I was in BRUNEI.

When we landed at BROOKETON we obtained information that the Sultan was at a native village and the discovery of this place full of valuables was most unexpected.

The valuables taken into safe keeping have been returned to His Highness who informs me that much belonging to himself, to his wife, and family is still missing.

Naturally he is upset about it, but has accepted the loss with **extremely** good grace.

Leaving a house full of valuables like this he is of course extremely fortunate not to have lost the lot. Enquiries as to the possible whereabouts of some of the missing valuables have been instituted and will continue, and it is hoped, without perhaps much ground for hope, to retrieve some.

A guard was put on this house to prevent further trouble as soon as the existence of this valuable property was known to HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde.

W Kay W/Cde
OC Y Det BBCAU

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: PROPERTY OF HIS HIGHNESS THE SULTAN OF BRUNEI

HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde
A
26 Jul 45

9 Aust Div

1. The Sultan's "palace" which he occupied before the war was a large double story building at 466385 (Ref Map BRUNEI 1/50000).
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Brig
Comd 20 Aust Inf Bde

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call

Ser. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM
(A)

Originator

Date—Time of Origin

Office Date Stamp

20 Bde

162340I

For Action

2/17 Bn 2/8 Fd Regt 2/9 Armd Regt 2/3 Fd Coy

TO

(w) For Information (INFO.)

Message Instructions

GR

COPY

ORIGINATOR'S No.

AG31 (-) some looting civilian property by mbrs 2/17 bn gp incl
possibly gunners and armd tps has been reported (-) no further move this
gp until detailed inspection kits and vehs by responsible offrs (-)
report results incl names any persons found in possession of any civ
articles and name of NCOs and pl comd (-) any further infm this matter
to be added to this report (-) understand some Americans involved and
Pro action being taken and further action pending (-) investigating
offr being appointed (-) any articles recovered to be delivered this
HQ (-) all addressees take action

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN
by any means { except }
Wireless

If liable to be intercepted or fall into
enemy hands, this message must be
sent IN CIPHER

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

Time	System	Op
THI or TOR		
Time Cleared		

Signed

Signed

E Tait Wills

IMPORTANT
Capt

Subject:

REPORT ON SULTAN'S RESIDENCE

HQ 2/17 Aust Inf Bn

A

23 Jun 45

20 Aust Inf Bde

1. Herewith Report on Sultan's Residence by Maj L C MACLARN in accordance with verbal request.



Adm Comd Rear Det 2/17 Aust Inf Bn

Maj

23 Jun 45

REPORT ON SULTAN'S RESIDENCE

As Directed by Comd 20 Aust Inf Bde

On 19 June the 2/17 Aust Inf Bn Rear Det were requested to supply a guard of one NCO and ten OR for the Sultan's Palace, its duty being protection of the Sultan and his property. The tour of duty commenced at 191700I and would continue until relieved by orders from Bde HQ.

At approx 1000I next morning the Guard comd was informed by the DAPM that the Sultan would send his servants to prepare his Residence so that the Sultan could move in later that day.

The Guard comd came to my HQ to request transport to move his guard and informed me of the change in plans.

Although I was informed that the Sultan's servants had returned to the house, at the time of my inspection I saw no one there except the guard from the 2/17 Aust Inf Bn which had been posted on the house. The Sultan himself was reported to be still at his palace where he had gone on his return. I understood he was preparing to move again to the house as his palace had been damaged by the enemy.

I made a thorough inspection of the house and from it I made the following observations:

(a) The residence comprises of:-

Office, State Room, three (3) Bedrooms, Breakfast Room, and Bath Room.

(b) There are five entrances to the house, three on the side and two at the rear. The side doors were locked and intact. One rear door had been forced open to gain entrance to the house. I closely examined the door and found that it had been nailed from the inside, and it was evident by the rust on the nails and the broken pieces of woodwork which had been exposed to the weather, that the door had been forced open some weeks before my visit.

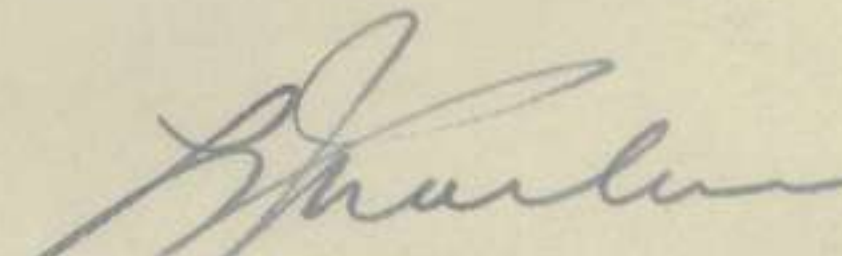
(c) The entrance from the rear leads into the Breakfast Room. This room contained an amount of crockery and glassware on the floor. The floor was in a state of disorder - papers firewood and old clothes scattered all over the floor. None of this seemed to have been recently done. I examined the room carefully and noticed that the crockery and papers were very discoloured and covered in dust, which had accumulated round each article so that when moved it clearly left its pattern on the floor. I formed the definite opinion that the disorder in this room had existed for several weeks at least.

(d) From the Breakfast room entrance could be made to any Bedroom, and through them to any other room in the house. The three bedrooms had been ransacked - clothing, bedclothes, papers, and books had been emptied out of trunks and suitcases. It was very evident by the accumulation of dust on top of the clothing and books, both inside and outside of the trunks, and from the rust and mildew that had collected on the broken locks and leather that there was sufficient evidence to confirm my opinion that the damage had been done for some considerable time.

- (e) The State Room contained a number of articles such as beaten silver and brassware, and a number of spears. Pictures, amongst which were two groups of the Sultan taken with Japanese Officers) had been taken from the walls and stacked in a corner. The room also contained a number of glass showcases containing glassware and ornaments, a quantity of furniture, a desk, and book cupboard. A close examination revealed that this was the only room in the house that showed any sign of recent damage. One glass case was broken and appeared to have been done within a few days.

Other damage in this room was as follows:

- (i) the drawers of the desk had been turned out, but this had not been done recently as a film of dust covered the papers.
- (ii) in the centre of the room was a large silver casket which had been forced open and split at the seams. I examined this casket very closely to try and establish how long it had been forced but was unable to accurately estimate the period, but it would appear by the blackened and tarnished nature of the damage to the silver that it had been forced open some time ago.
- (f) The office: Very little damage in this room, which contained two desks and one large Bookcase. The only apparent damage was one drawer which appeared to be forced. It was not possible to form any opinion as to when this had taken place although it did not appear to be recent.
- (g) General: As a result of my inspection I consider it evident that whoever was first responsible for the damage and disorder forced an entrance through the rear door of the building, and that it had occurred some weeks ago. No traces of recent damage were evident apart from the State Room in which one glass case appeared to have been broken recently.


Maj
2/17 Aust Inf Bn

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT : LOOTING - SULTAN OF BRUNEI'S PALACE AND OTHER RESIDENCES

HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde
A44/3665
22 Jun 45

2/17 Aust Inf Bn

1. Certain regalia, swords and walking sticks believed to have come from a residence of the Sultan of BRUNEI have been recovered by this HQ from 2/17 Aust Inf Bn store. Some of these have the names of soldiers. The house in question is at 466392 and is not the former Palace.
2. Other civilian articles apparently from the same source were recovered from soldiers of the bn.
3. Before the recovery of these articles and after receipt of this HQ's order that a kit inspection be held the CO had asked that such inspection be dispensed with on the assurance that none of his unit was in a position to have obtained possession of any of the articles.
4. A report from Lt TRUDGEON obtained later shews that his platoon was in the area of the house.
5. A report from 2/17 Aust Inf Bn states that OC fwd coys are quite certain that their tps were not concerned in the removal.
6. A report from Cpl ALLGOOD states that his sec moved through the area and entered the house.
7. ALLGOOD's report does not state that any member of his party removed any articles from the house. It implies that they did not.
8. Some of the articles recovered were however from members of ALLGOOD's sec.
9. Reports from 2/17 Aust Inf Bn by offrs who interviewed dvr's states none of them visited "the Rajah's House" except under supervision of an offr.
10. The Bde Comd directs that CO 2/17 Aust Inf Bn give his personal attention to the matter and report in reference to the above paras as follows :-
11. Para 1. (a) What offr or NCO received the regalia articles into unit store or knew they were there, and what knowledge he had of where they were obtained
(b) Who handed these articles in; were any of them obtained from the abovementioned house or in its vicinity. A list of those with name tags is att.
12. Para 2. Were these articles recovered from Pte TURNBULL AW and Pte LEE HEW obtained from the house or its vicinity.

13. Paras 3 and 4.

- (a) What pls other than Lt TRUDGEON's have been subjected to kit inspection?
- (b) How is coy cmd's assurance reconciled with receipt of articles in unit store and with possession of other articles by Cpl ALLGOOD's sec?

14. Para 7. (a) Did ALLGOOD know his men had articles

- (i) when he wrote his report
- (ii) before they were recovered in kit inspection?

15. Para 9. (a) Is the "Rajah's House" referred to in this report the house in question?

- (b) Under what offr's supervision did dvrs visit the "Rajah's House" and for what reason?
- (c) During day 14 Jun and night 14/15 Jun were any soldiers of 2/17 Aust Inf Bn or any other unit known to proceed in front of our foremost posns near Clifford Bridge.

16. This report will be submitted as soon as possible to enable the Bde Comd to complete his investigations and furnish his report to higher authority.

17. (a) Disciplinary action will not be instituted until directed by this HQ but unit will be in a position to produce evidence of improper possession of civilian property for taking of summaries.

(b) Attention is directed to this HQ Adm Order 1 para 35(h) ref looting.

E. L. M. S.
Capt
SC 20 Aust Inf Bde

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT : LOOTING - SULTAN OF BRUNEI'S PALACE AND OTHER RESIDENCES

HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde
A44/3665
22 Jun 45

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E. Laithwaite
Capt
SC 20 Aust Inf Bde

ARTICLES STOLEN FROM SULTAN OF BRUNEI

Articles, the property of the Sultan of Brunei, stolen but subsequently recovered and held by 20 Aust Inf Bde Hq.

Court sword - gold mounted
with blade leather scabbard

) Pte COLLEY D
) "B" Coy 2/17 Aust Inf Bn -
) recovered from Bn Kit Store.

Walking sticks

) NX124412 Pte SUTTON
) Bn Hq 2/17 Aust Inf Bn
) recovered from Bn Kit Store.

Two swords - one in silver
scabbard and one in gold

) persons unidentified handed in by
) the YMCA rep att 2/17 Aust Inf Bn.

Silver ornament - Motor Boat

) Pte A N TURNBULL
) 11 Pl 2/17 Aust Inf Bn
) recovered in kit inspection.

Small silver dish and beaded
bag

) Pte H E W LEE
) 2/17 Aust Inf Bn
) recovered in kit inspection.

Sword in wood scabbard
(possibly not the property of
the Sultan)

) NX91964 Pte FAHY
) "A" Coy 2/17 Aust Inf Bn.

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) 2/17 Aust Inf Bn
) recovered in kit inspection.

Sword in wood scabbard
(possibly not the property of
the Sultan)

) N191964 Pte FAHY
) "A" Coy 2/17 Aust Inf Bn.

Articles stolen from Sultan of Brunei

Articles the property of the Sultan of Brunei stolen but subsequently recovered and held by 20th Inf Bde HQ.

One sword with gold plated scabbard	}	Sub-Lieut. Chad R. V. R.
Walking stick		returned to base camp.
Elephant		

Court sword - gold mounted with black leather scabbard	}	Pte Colley D. "B" Coy 2/17 Inf Bn recovered from kn kit store
---	---	---

Walking sticks

NX 124412

Pte Sutton

Bn HQ

2/17 Inf Bn

recovered from kn kit store

Two swords one in silver scabbard and one in gold	}	persons unidentified handed in by the YMCA rep att 2/17 Inf Bn
--	---	--

Silver ornament - Motor boat	}	Pte S. P. Turnbull 11 pl. 2/17 Inf Bn recovered in kit inspection
------------------------------	---	---

Small silver dish and headed bag

Pte H. E. W. Lee

2/17 Inf Bn

recovered in kit inspection

Quincey L. Langens Cape

Sword in wood scabbard

NX 91964

Pte Fahy J. Coy

2/17 Inf Bn

possibly
probably not the property
of the Sultan

Articles stolen from Sultan of Brunei

Articles the property of the Sultan of Brunei stolen but subsequently recovered and held by HQ 20th Inf Bde

Dress sword with gold plated scabbard } Sub Lieut Lehad Retd RPR
Walking sticks } returned to his command.
Elephant }

Carved sword - gold mounted with scabbard } The Colley R.
Bcoy 2/17 Inf Bn
recovered from his kit store

Walking sticks NX 129412
The Lutterell R. Bn
2/17 Inf Bn
recovered from his kit store

Two swords - one in silver and one in gold plated scabbard } persons unidentified - handed in by YMCA ref all 2/17 Inf Bn

Silver Ornament motor boat The Turnbull - 11th Bn 2/17
Inf Bn.
Recovered after kit inspection

Small silver dish and a set of beaded bag The NEW. Bn
2/17 Inf Bn
recovered in kit store

Ornament Chagou

Sword in wood scabbard NX 91964
The Faby - 11th Bn
2/17 Inf Bn
probably not the property of the Sultan

But if you have the letter to the
 2/17 Bm will you att a return.
 Love:

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means { except } Wireless		If liable to be intercepted or fall into enemy hands, this message must be sent IN CIPHER	Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority	Time TH or TOR	System Op
Signed				Time Cleared	Signed

Subject: LOOTING - SULTAN OF BRUNEI'S PALACE AND OTHER RESIDENCES

27 JUN 1945
A138/4025

HQ 2/17 Aust Inf Bn

A
26 Jun 45

20 Aust Inf Bde

1. Ref your A44/3665 of 22 Jun 45 the points raised are answered below.
2. Para II (a) Articles were returned to B Ech which is under comd of Capt L C SIMPSON. He knew that some articles had come in from B Coy and directed they be packed with other souvenirs being held without personally inspecting the articles. He has now been specifically directed to make personal examination of all articles being sent to B Ech for custody.
 - (b) (i) Sword with name Pte COLLEY found outside house.
 - (ii) Walking sticks located old hut within 1/2 mile of wireless station BRUNEI.
 - (iii) Only gold sword is known to YMCA rep. It was placed on his jeep when delivering coffee to B Coy night 15/16 Jun. Not known by whom.
 - (iv) Sword with Pte FAHY's name tag attached. This was found among remains of Jap CCS in RANGOON area.
3. Para 12 Yes.
4. Para 13 (a) None.
 - (b) All previous enquiries were on the basis of advice that house concerned was "Rajah's Palace" at 466386 and NOT as subsequently advised house at 466392. Rajah's Palace area was completely by-passed by adv gd coy.
5. Para 14 ALLGOOD states did not know articles in possession of men in his sec till told by them after warning of kit inspection. Report and kit inspection were contemporaneous. Fuller report by ALLGOOD att.
6. Para 15 (a) No.
 - (b) Maj L C MACLARN and Lt POLLOCK on recce. Dvr merely drove them there.
 - (c) None.
7. It appears that Lt TRUDGEON was informed that there were valuables in the house concerned but not of the full extent. He took no immediate steps in regard to control because of his tac obligation as point pl and because area was in process of being taken over by Arty. He failed to make any report whatsoever to his Coy comd and tolerated the possession of articles by members of his pl. He was also aware that other articles (found later) had been returned to B Ech but he did not see them.


Lt-Col
Comd 2/17 Aust Inf Bn
26 Jun 45

STATEMENT BY NX89831 Cpl ALLGOOD J E
2/17 Aust Inf Bn

1. I was in charge of the forward section in the advance forward along the road from CLIFFORD BRIDGE.
2. On reaching the track leading left towards a number of buildings I left four (4) members of the section on a small knoll overlooking the buildings and moved forward with three (3) privates (WALKER, SMITH and GRAHAM) to the buildings on the right. Two huts had been occupied by the Japs and were found to contain Japanese literature etc.
3. We then moved to the buildings to the left of the large house in the centre and found them clear. One Austen car was found in the garage and was reported to the TO who came through approx 30 minutes later.
4. I then tried all doors at the sides and front of the main building and found them to be padlocked. Moving to the rear of the building with Pte WALKER JV I found the rear door leading through a bathroom open. We moved into the building and noticed beds and bedding had been turned over and the rooms at the rear were in an untidy state. One bed on the left appeared to have been occupied a day or so previously.
5. The main room was furnished with many glass cases containing trinkets of many types and in some cases the cases had been turned round on their stands, although there was only small quantities of broken glass on the floor. I moved through the whole building and then moved back and reported the area to Mr TRUDGEON.
6. Other members of my section moved through the area to the right and to the rear of the main building and exploited to a depth of about 100 yds. The section then took up position on a small knoll overlooking the area forward.
7. A number of jeeps then moved down the track containing other units - Artillery and RAE personnel etc who appeared to make a recce of the area in the vicinity of the buildings and some troops also moved through the buildings and huts.
8. The order then came for us to move back to the main road and have lunch and the section moved back to an assembly area on the road.
9. Two members of the section picked up small trinkets in the area I was advised later and handed them to Mr TRUDGEON before a kit inspection two days later.
10. I gave instructions to be most careful of booby traps and not to touch any goods in the main building while the section was in the area I did not see any members of the section touch any glass cases.
11. The trinkets referred to, picked up by Ptes TURNBULL And LEE, I was informed by them were picked up in the vicinity of the bath room. They advised me of this prior to the inspection when they produced the articles two days later.

Allgood

Taken by me in the field on 24 Jun 45.

*R.R. Walker Capt
oc Blay*

STATEMENT BY NX89831 Cpl ALLGOOD J E
2/17 Aust Inf Bn

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J. Allgood

Taken by me in the field on 24 Jun 45.

*B&B Murray
OC Blay.*

2/3 Aust. Fd. Coy. R.A.E.
4 July 45

Comd.,
20 Aust. Inf. Bde.

REPORT ON ARTICLES IN POSSESSION OF

TX820 S/Sgt BUTLER M C - TX5273 Spr DOCKING J E

1. The following articles were received from the a/m soldiers:-

1 pair of earrings - TX820 S/Sgt BUTLER M C
1 watch - TX5273 Spr DOCKING J E

under the following circumstances.

2. At an 0845 Conference on about the 16 June Bde Commander said that it has been found that some regalia and valuables have been taken from the Sultan's palace. The Commander ordered that enquiries be made amongst units whose personnel were in the vicinity and reports to be made of the removal of articles and of the unauthorised movements of personnel in that area. Also that souvenirs be closely examined and a kit inspection of all persons concerned be carried out. At an interview several nights later I was informed by the Bde Commander that it had been reported to him by AASC that the Engineers were in the area and had obtained some gold rings. I was instructed that I should make discreet enquiries and try to verify this statement. The only Engineer personnel in the area were 3 Platoon. On my contacting Lieut B. UNDERWOOD he made the required kit inspection and reported the holding of the ear rings and watch already held by 20 Aust Inf Bde.

NX40095 Lieut B. UNDERWOOD makes the following statement:-

On the 13 June S/Sgt BUTLER M C & Spr DOCKING J E returned to Platoon HQ after a recce with the forward platoon into Brunei with towels and singlets for camp use and reported that they had found a pair of ear rings and a watch. I allowed them to retain them. At about 1930 hrs 15 June I sent S/Sgt BUTLER in a jeep to clear the Sultan's Palace Road.

Previous to this none of the engineers had been beyond the Clifford bridge.

Q. Have you conducted a kit inspection.

A. Yes.

Q. Has any parcel been sent through the mail by your platoon.

A. No.

Q. Have you heard whether other units were in that area.

A. At about 1600 hrs 15 June I overheard a conversation amongst a group on the roadside that ~~the~~ personnel had been in the Sultan's Palace area and that the Provost had recovered the Sultan's jewels.

Q. To which unit did the group belong.

A. To either the Artillery or the Signals, but I am not sure which since I was writing a message at the time.

[Signature]
.....
[Signature]

*Re J. Carlick Bay oc.
2/3 Aust Fd Coy R.A.E.*

TX 820 S/Sgt BUTLER M C makes the following statement:-

On the 13th of June Spr DOCKING & I were with the forward company of the infantry when it advanced into Brunei and were instructed by the forward Platoon Commander to search the houses and ~~XXXX~~ installations for booby traps. Near the wharf a heap of clothing, towels, materials and Jap cigarettes were found. There was nearby a suitcase in the open containing odds and ends, Jap cigarettes, the ear rings and the watch. I took the ear rings and Spr DOCKING took the watch. We returned to Platoon H.Q. that night and turned the towels and singlets into the Platoon for cleaning rags. I informed Lieut B. UNDERWOOD of the ear rings and watch and was allowed to keep them.

On the 15 June I was forward with Lieut B UNDERWOOD with B Coy 2/17 Aust Inf Bn advance. At 1930 hrs Lieut B UNDERWOOD ordered me to return to camp and on my way back to remove the obstruction from the Sultan's Palace road and investigate to the end of the road. I was travelling in a jeep with Spr DOCKING J. I removed the tree from the road and went to the end of the road and returned without entering any building what so ever. I returned to camp at 2000 hrs.

Q. Did you see anybody in vehicles in that area.

A. No

Q. Have you any knowledge of any engineers moving in that area.

A. No.

Q. Have you been subjected to a kit inspection.

A. Yes.

Q. Have you overheard any allegations or conversations relating to soldiers being in possession of any rings or articles.

A. No.

Butler.....

TX 5273 Spr DOCKING J E makes the following statement.

On the 13 June I was with S/Sgt BUTLER M C at the wharf and we found a suitcase containing clothes, Jap cigarettes, ear rings and a watch. I took the watch and on return to camp I reported it to Lieut. B. UNDERWOOD and was allowed to retain it.

On the 15 June I drove S/Sgt BUTLER down the Sultan's Palace road to clear obstructions. We ran about half way along the road and returned without leaving the jeep or seeing any personnel in the area.

Q. Have you been subjected to a kit inspection.

A. Yes.

J. Docking.....

Michael Mayoc
2/3 Aust Fd Coy RAB.

SUBJECT : REMOVAL OF ARTICLES FROM SULTAN'S HOUSE AT 467393

2/8 Aust Fd Regt

Ref A14/956

22 Jun 45

HQ

20 Aust Inf Bde

-/- 1. Forwarded herewith Reports on the above mentioned subject by :-

Lt-col	R L	JOHNSTON
Major	M R	RALPH
Capt	F	McASKILL
Capt	J A	ALLISON
Lt	P L	WHARTON
Lt	A W J	SMITH
Lt	A J F	McDONALD
Sjt	HUGHES	T D
Bdr	OCCO	N

R L Johnston

Lt-col RAA
Comd 2/8 Aust Fd Regt

REPORT BY VX 173 Lt-col R L JOHNSTON on ARTICLES TAKEN FROM HOUSE AT 467393.

1. At approximately 161230 I it was reported to me that TX 1441 Sjt HUGHES T D of 2/8 Aust Fd Regt Survey Party had brought into RHQ a quantity of valuable swords, ornaments and articles of native manufacture. (See report by Sjt Hughes T D).
2. I inspected the articles and ordered the IO to place all the articles in the orderly room for safe keeping and advise Bde HQs.
3. At 1315 hours Bde HQs were informed (entry in Regt Log) and the IO was instructed through Capt J A ALLISON to hold the articles and inform BBKAU.
4. The IO was unable to contact BBKAU and at 1400 hours rang Bde HQs (entered in Regt Log) and advised Capt Allison that he had been unable to contact BBKAU, gave the location of the house and said there were a lot of valuable articles being held in RHQ. Capt Allison said he would contact BBKAU. (see reports by Capt Allison and Lt McDonald).
5. At approximately 1300 hours I told Major M R RALPH to go out to the house and gather up any remaining articles of value and take whatever steps he considered necessary.
6. Shortly after this conversation I left RHQ because of a report of an accident to two guns.
7. I returned at approximately 1700 hours and saw a large collection of articles in the orderly room.
8. Major Ralph informed me he had visited the house, removed the few remaining articles which he considered of value and had ordered A Troop to return any articles taken from the house to RHQ. (see report by Major Ralph).
9. Lt McDonald, the IO informed me that Bde had been advised and all articles were in safe custody in accord with my instructions.
10. At approximately 2100 hours Brig W J V WINDEYER rang ~~me~~ and told me there was a report of looting from the Sultan's Palace; and asked did I know anything about it. I told him that Sjt Hughes had seen the house, collected most of the valuable articles and they were now in safe custody in RHQ.
11. At approximately 2300 hours Brig Windeyer rang me and ordered me to have a search ~~of~~ made of all mens gear as early as possible the following morning.
12. A search was carried out by officers in RHQ and 58 Bty and no articles were found; all articles having been placed in HQs previously.
13. I cannot ascertain if the return of the articles prior to the morning search was the result of Major Ralph's orders (see para 8) or pre-knowledge that a search was to be made.
14. The following morning I visited 58 Bty for purposes of investigation.
15. Capt F McASKILL, BC 58 Bty, told me he had seen articles on the various Bty positions at approximately 161100 I, and immediately issued orders that no person was to visit the house. I have been unable to verify this statement. I asked him why he had not advised RHQ or told me about the matter at once or when he

visited me in RHQ at approximately 161200 I. He gave no satisfactory reason. I asked him why he had not taken steps to safe guard the property and he told me he had placed a piquet on the road leading to the house.

~~I have been unable to verify this statement. I have been unable to verify your statement.~~

16. In my opinion Capt McAskill was extremely negligent in this matter.

As far as I can ascertain, he took no steps to safe guard or collect the articles, or advise RHQ. The only action taken was at approximately 1600 hours when he ordered that no personnel would enter the house, and ordered a picquet on the road at 1630 hrs.

17. Prompt action by Capt McAskill - in my opinion, would have averted considerable trouble.

18. I interviewed Lt P L WHARTON, CPO 58 Bty, who told me that he had visited the house at 160930 I in the course of a recce; but as he was extremely busy getting the position ready for the guns, he had no time to stop to safe guard native property, and that by the time his work was completed Capt McAskill was on the Bty position and he considered he was relieved of further responsibility in the matter. (see report by Lt Wharton).

19. Prompt action by Lt P L Wharton would have avoided considerable trouble, but I consider his explanation reasonable.

20. The articles returned to RHQ by personnel of 58 Bty were of little value, being mostly pieces of silk and other materials which were being used as scarves or handkerchiefs.

21. All articles collected by this Regt were returned to BBKAU.

R L Johnston

Lt-col RAA
Comd 2/8 Aust Fd Regt

2/8 Aust Fd Regt
21 Jun 45

CO
2/8 Aust Fd Regt

At approximately 161300 I after conversation with the CO, I proceeded to A Troop position to investigate a report that articles of value were lying loose in a native hut nearby.

The entrance to the house was strewn with linen, dress materials, articles of apparel and odd pieces of cloth.

A room off the entrance had a number of glass cases, some of which were broken and a few pieces of native silverware were lying around.

The house had been ransacked prior to the arrival of A Troop at the gun position.

At the time I visited the house (approximately 1400 hours) A Troop were not yet in position.

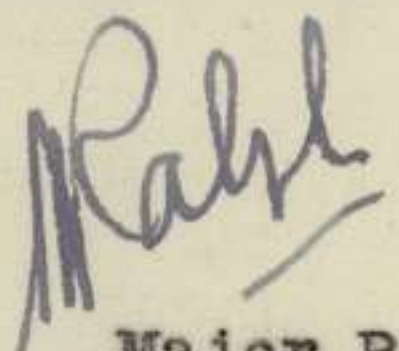
I removed for safekeeping articles which I saw that appeared to be of value.

I did not remain long in the area as I was informed that two of our guns were off the side of the road further along Tutong Road. I left immediately to investigate the matter..

The CO arrived later and I returned to A Troop position. On arrival at A Troop position, I warned Lt A W J SMITH, the GPO that the house had apparently been ransacked and if any of his men had obtained souvenirs from the house, they were to be collected and returned to RHQ and no further visits were to be made by personnel.

I did not notice any silverware or other souvenirs on the position, only a few lengths of cloth which may have been taken from the house.

When the CO returned, I showed him the articles I had brought back for safekeeping and told him that as far as I knew, there were only articles of no value left.



Major RAA
2 IC 2/8 Aust Fd Regt

SUBJECT : LOOTING

58 Aust Fd Bty
17 June 45

HQ
2/8 Aust Fd Regt

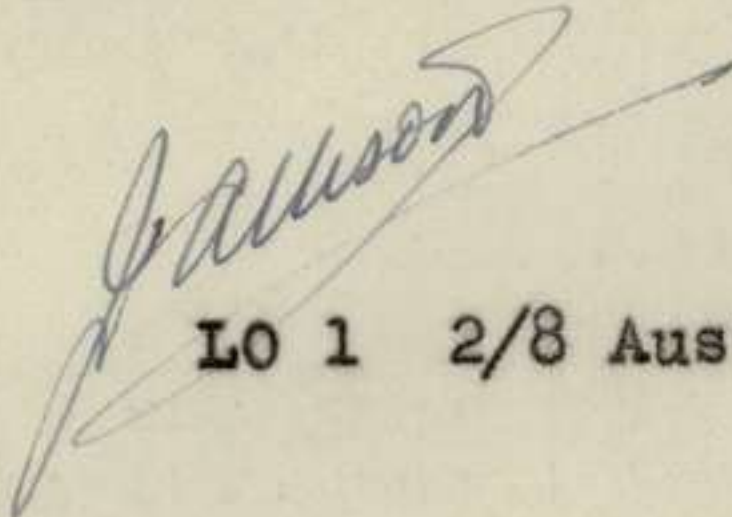
1. The following report is submitted on looting from house at Map Ref 4673914.
2. When I returned to Bty area at approximately 161100 I noticed a number of articles on the various positions. On enquiring into the source of same it was apparent they had been procured from the above house. I immediately gave orders that no person would go into the house area.
3. A number of articles which are being returned were picked up on the road in the vicinity of the Bty area.

[Signature] Capt RAA
BC 58 Aust Fd Bty

2/8 Aust Fd Regt
20 Jun 45

REPORT BY VX 13932 Capt J A ALLISON ON REMOVAL OF CIVILIAN
PROPERTY FROM AREA OF SULTAN'S PALACE sq 4638

1. In my capacity as Arty LO at Bde HQ, I received a call by phone at 161315 I from Lt A J F McDONALD, IO 2/8 Aust Fd Regt, requesting disposal of articles, including silks handed into RHQ, and could personnel attach names to articles should they not be required. I referred the matter to Capt J MURRAY, IO 20 Aust Inf Bde who suggested that RHQ contact BBKAU, and that articles could be tagged with names attached, but that there was little chance of personnel getting them back. This information was passed to Lt McDonald. During telephone conversation with Lt McDonald, no mention was made in reference to the source from which these articles were being obtained.
2. At 161400 I Lt McDonald rang me at this HQ, stating that a quantity of silks, silverware, swords and other items had arrived at RHQ, he further said that these articles were being removed from the Sultan's house in sq 4638. At the time, I understood that 58 Aust Fd Bty were taking action, but subsequently have ascertained that RHQ had made arrangements for the protection of the articles.
3. Capt Murray advised me to contact ~~XXXXX~~ Wing Commander KAY and notify him of the circumstances and location of the house. During this conversation with Capt Murray, W/Comd Kay arrived at Bde HQ, and I passed the information and map ref of the Sultan's house to him.
4. At approximately 1700 hours, Lt McDonald rang me reporting that owing to shortage of transport he had been unable to have the articles taken to BBKAU.

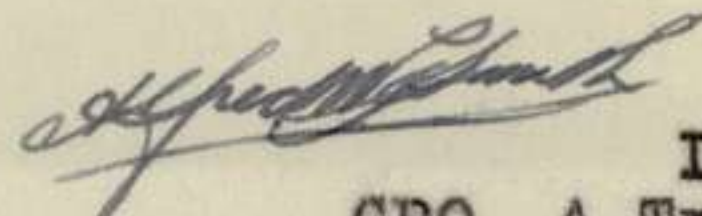

Capt RAA
LO 1 2/8 Aust Fd Regt

SUBJECT : REPORT ON ARTICLES TAKEN FROM HOUSE AT 468393

A Tp 15 Aust Fd Bty
21 Jun 45

CO
2/8 Aust Fd Regt

1. On Sat 16 Jun 45 at approximately 1400 hours I arrived with the guns at A Troop gun position. On the track in from the road a multi-coloured umbrella was picked up.
2. The 2½ ton truck towing the leading section ^{bogged} down making the occupation more difficult.
3. I placed all spare personnel on the cutting fatigue and ordered that no personnel from A Troop would visit the house, my reason being, I had several hours cutting to do before I could cover my zone.
4. Time was now approximately 1445 hours and my BC, Capt McAskill arrived on the position and commenced pressing me for the two 2½ tonners to be unloaded as quickly as possible and returned to RHQ. I supervised the unloading of, and dismissal of the vehicles.
5. At this time I did not know of any articles taken from the house.
6. After the guns were in position and I was checking zones of fire, and crest clearance etc, I noticed four small rolls of silk on the position which I had collected.
7. About 1600 hours Major Ralph visited A Troop position and told me no articles would be taken from the house and anything on the position belonging to the house would be returned to RHQ. During the digging and construction of the position and command post I forget now whether I passed this on to the BCP or not; but I did promulgate it to the troop.
8. Approximately 1615 hours an MP was seen to go along the track towards the house.
9. Approximately 1630 hours the BC told me any taking of articles from the house would cease and to place a picquet on the track by the gun position to prevent personnel going to the house. I placed the picquet as directed.
10. At 2355 hours the BC told me to submit a report on the house and return any articles to BHQ by 0700 hours. I returned the silk and umbrella to BHQ at 0700 hours 17 Jun 45.


Lt RAA
GPO A Troop.

SUBJECT : REPORT ON ARTICLES FOUND IN NATIVE HOUSE at 467393.

I was in the area of the house at approximately 160930I while doing a recce for A Troop gun position as CPO 58 Fd Bty. I had occasion to look inside the house and it was in a chaotic state with stuff strewn everywhere. This was ~~not~~ definitely not done by personnel of 58 Fd Bty because at the time none but the recce party had arrived in the area. The only other time I went near the house was when I visited A Troop position with the BC in the afternoon and again~~x~~ saw no-one in the area of the house.

During the afternoon there was a bit of coloured material such as scarves and handkerchiefs brought on to my position. I noticed them but they seemed of so little value that I did nothing about it.

The BC arrived at the position at approximately 1200 hours and was ~~on~~ the position at the time the material was brought on the position. Later at approximately 1630 hours, he gave an order that ~~no one further~~ no one further was to go to the Sultan's house. No one went after order given.

In most cases those that left the position were not on duty as we had completed our digging and were working in our normal shifts which allows as many as possible to be off duty for rest.

W. D. Cartwright
Lt RAA
CPO 58 Aust Fd Bty

REPORT ON ARTICLES TAKEN FROM NATIVE HOUSE at 467393

2/8 Aust Fd Regt
21 Jun 45

CO
2/8 Aust Fd Regt

At approximately 1200 - 1215 hours on 16 Jun 45, personnel of the Regt Survey party returned to RHQ in possession of several bundles of silks, swords and silverware. The articles were brought back by TX 1441 Sjt HUGHES T D, 2/8 Aust Fd Regt and listed. The list is attached.

The CO ordered me to collect the articles and bring them to RHQ. He also instructed me to ring Capt J ALLISON at 20 Bde. At 1315 hours I rang Capt Allison and told him we had some articles of silverware, silks and weapons which were at RHQ, Capt Allison told me to hold the articles and contact BBKAU for disposal. I asked Capt Allison if personnel who wanted articles after BBKAU had finished with them could tag articles with their name and/or names of persons to whom they were to be sent. He told me that the articles could be tagged but the possibility of getting them back was slight.

At approximately 1325 hours I ~~XXXX~~ came down and told personnel that they could tag articles. Articles were tagged and all articles in the area were brought to RHQ under supervision of Sjt Hughes.

At about this time I noticed a jeep drawn up on the road outside RHQ and that a number of personnel were crowded around it and gear was being unloaded from it and ~~XXXXXX~~ placed in the dump at RHQ. Some of these articles were tagged. (See list of names attached) All articles in the area were brought into RHQ for safekeeping. These articles were NOT listed as too much gear was to hand. I was unable to contact BBKAU at that time.

At 1400 hours I again rang Capt Allison for instructions. I told him the articles had been found at what I called the Sultan's Palace near 58 Bty position and I gave him the map reference. I told him we were making temporary arrangements here but owing to the amount of gear to hand the situation was getting out of control. Capt Allison told me that BBKAU would be advised of the location of the house and that I was to hold the articles until they were removed to BBKAU.

After this conversation I stayed in the area of RHQ and the dump, until all articles had been collected and taken to RHQ. The articles remained in RHQ until collected by BBKAU.

Later in the afternoon Major M R RALPH went to the house, I understood on the direction of the CO to collect any more articles of value. He returned later with more silverware which was put on the dump in RHQ.

At 1700 hours I rang Capt Allison to inform him that no transport was available then to take the articles to BBKAU.

Robert J. Donald
Lt RAA
IO 2/8 Aust Fd Regt

STATEMENT BY TX 1441 Sjt HUGHES T D 2/8 AUST FD REGT

On 16 June 45 at approximately 1100 hours, while in the course of Survey Duties I noticed a house which appeared to be empty and which covered our line of traverse. The house was an ordinary native dwelling surrounded by trees and situated on a short road leading South from the Tutong Road. Map Reference 467393. Taking the obvious precaution of searching the house for enemy snipers, I and a small party entered the house by an open door and proceeded to make a search. No enemy were located but strewn all over the house were quantities of clothes, dress material, silver and many articles, some of which appeared valuable. I collected what appeared the most valuable and brought them back to RHQ where I reported the matter. This would be approximately 1200 hours.

I then assisted the IO to list the materials which were placed in safe custody in RHQ office.

During my Survey Duties I noticed three soldiers, one of whom was a member of an infantry battalion proceeding down the side road towards the house. While I was at the house I saw several natives (4 to 6) in the immediate vicinity of the house.

N.B. While surveying in the same locality on the previous day, that is 15 June 45, I noticed a naval officer and two Americans carrying swords similar to one I salvaged from the building, and ornate walking sticks. At the time I was not aware of the existence of the house and was not so until the next morning.

Lance D Hughes
Sjt
TX 1441

SUBJECT : REPORT ON ARTICLES TAKEN FROM HOUSE AT 468293

VX 43350
Bdr Occo N.G.
A Troop 58 Bty
2/8 Aust Fd Regt
21 Jun 45

RHQ

1. At approx 0930 hrs Jun 16 I arrived at above mentioned area for the purpose of selecting a gun position for A Troop. During the recess I noticed the house and on investigation found that it was in great disorder.
2. A gun position was then selected approx 200 yds north of house. I then selected the individual gun positions and looked for any trees hindering the fire of the guns. A cutting party of five men from the troop then arrived and I assisted them in cutting of trees and unloading ammunition. From the gun position (approx 15 yds from track) I noticed a jeep moving down the track to the house. It contained two men who I did not recognise as belonging to 2/8 Aust Fd Regt. I cannot remember whether or not jeep had trailer attached, or contained any articles. I did not notice when jeep left area, or if men in jeep entered house or left jeep unattended. I did not see the unit sign on jeep.
3. The guns arrived at approx 1400 hrs and on proceeding to load them in I noticed a multi coloured umbrella on the track. Guns were then put into position, after bogging of 2½ ton truck towing leading section.

.....*N. G. Occo*.....Bdr
VX 43350

20. CO.

11 Pl B. Coy.
2/17 Inf. Bn.,
20 Jun 45.

2/17 Inf. Bn.,

I have examined
the bits of 11 Pl B Coy
20 Jun 45 and have
found several tinbets.
These are stated to have
been taken from a house
462 392 opposite road
from CHIFFORD 24.5
when 11 Pl went first
to secure KNOLL and
TR. mine. The house
was reported to me as
being a quantity of broken
glass on its floors. In
tinbets were scattered around.

11 Ph were out of contact
with B Coy as two PL & B Coy
motorised had passed through
without stopping and were
out of range Walby Valley.

Other troops were immediately
in rear and were to take
up positions in the area and
I did not think of reporting
the matter or that I should
provide a guard ~~on~~
~~reporting~~

NX 65621

Lt MP Sanderson

11 Pl. B Coy
2/17 Bvt.

20 June 45

To C. O.

2/17 Bvt.

I was in charge
of the forward section in
the advance from Clifford
Bridge. On reaching
the track leading towards
the Sultan's Palace
3 members of the section +
myself moved through all
buildings in the area.
In one building
glass cases contained many
trinkets but the floor

was also covered with
broken glass in many places.
Japs had been in the
area & the building was
in a most untidy state.

We moved back
to the road & I reported
the buildings to the
platoon Commander, M. Ludge.

Cpl Allcorn JE.
6 Dec 11 RH.

STATEMENT BY SUB-LIEUT L W GHAD
RAIR Cdo C RAN BEACH UNIT

On 18 Jun 45, I received a message to report to the Bde Comd 20 Aust Inf Bde and did so. The following conversation ensued.

Bde Comd: It is alleged that you removed an ornate sword from a house beyond Clifford Bridge.

Self: That is so, sir.

Bde Comd: Taking property from houses is looting and is a serious matter. I understand two American Officers were with you.

Self: Yes, two American Naval Officers whom I met on the barge coming across. I do not know their names.

Bde Comd: Were any other items taken?

Self: Yes.

Bde Comd: Any articles which you have will be returned here as soon as possible. I do not administer the Naval Discipline Act but you are now under my command and have disobeyed orders. Would you like to tell me about it? You may do so if you wish but you are not obliged to do so.

Self: Do you know to whom the house belonged?

Bde Comd: Yes, the Sultan of Brunei.

Self: I would like to tell you about it. We only took a few things.

Bde Comd: Yes tell me all about it.

I then made the following statement and the Bde Comd asked me questions as I went along. The substance of my answers appears in the statement.

"I am stationed in the Brooketon Beachhead. I came to Brunei from Yellow Beach on 15 Jun by barge. I arrived fairly early in the afternoon. I was just sight-seeing. On the barge coming over I met two American Naval Officers. One was a Lieutenant, one was an ensign. I do not know their names. They said they were coming over to look for booby traps and mines. We got off at Brunei Wharf and the Americans enquired the whereabouts of any engineer officers. They met some engineer officer in the town and said they were there to look for booby traps and mines. We left the engineer officer and got a lift in a jeep. It was an engineer's jeep. It was just a chance lift. The jeep was not specially provided. The men in it offered us a lift. They were going out of town along the Tutong Road. We got out of the jeep on the far side of the bridge from the town; the jeep drove on. We strolled along the road and walked into a small house on the left at the end of a small track. There was no one in or near the house that we saw. When we went into the house we saw a marvelous display of silverware, cutlery and cloth goods. The silver articles seemed to be trophies. I did not take much notice of them. They were in glass cases. They and other articles were adorning the place. The place was in some disorder drawers were pulled out. So far as I can remember the glass cases were mostly not broken; some panes were. I cannot say for certain. Most articles seemed in place and untouched but some were loose and scattered. One drawer of swords was open and some swords, probably from the drawer, were laying on the floor. Other articles about were walking sticks. I, myself, took a sword, a small carved walking stick, a small black elephant and some Japanese invasion currency. The currency was new notes in bundles. It was lying in an open suit case in the back room. All these articles seemed of small value in comparison with the silverware etc. I thought it would not be wrong to take them as souvenirs.

I had heard of Japanese swords but had never seen one. I thought from the markings on the blade that the sword was Japanese. The two Americans took similar articles. The three of us took in all two swords and three walking sticks and other small articles I have mentioned. We then left the house and walked back to Brunel. We saw no one near the house while there. On the main road between the house and the bridge we saw some tank soldiers. We showed them the swords and they admired them. There were two tank officers there. They asked where we had got them. I did not tell them exactly where we had obtained the. I just said up the road. I did not tell them of the house. I did not report to the Provost or any officer the existence of the house and its valuable contents. The reasons I did not tell anyone in the detachment of the tank unit was because I thought the property in the house was of considerable value and for that reason it was better not to disclose exactly where we had got the swords. It did not occur to me to report the matter officially to the Provost or any Headquarters. I have the sword still in my kit and can return it.

This statement was made by me voluntarily.

On 19 Jun I attended to sign my statement and in further conversation with the Bde Comd I stated :-

"The silverware and swords were in the main room. There was another room at the back which we also entered. It was very untidy - articles were about as if they had been neglected for some time. It gave the appearance of a very untidy family having lived there. The bed had not been made apparently for some time.

L.W. Chad
S/Lt R.A.N.R.

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

Office Date Stamp

181700I

For Action

9 div

(u) *For Information (INFO.)*

-Message Instructions-GR

ORIGINATOR'S No.

offer only @

AC 63

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4

on direction bde comd 2/8 fd regt has

relieved capt McKASKILL of comd 58 bty (-) bty undisciplined (-) men

seeking loot muslims property 16 jua when necessary get bty in action

sp adv (-) articles actually taken by bty recovered but only after

direction this HQ(-) report follows when bde comds investigation

complete (-) NO charges yet preferred (-) not suspended from duty (-)

McKASKILL now with LOB (-) replacement desired

except

Wireless

Signed

If liable to be intercepted or fall into enemy hands, this message must be sent **IN CIPHER**.

Signed

PHER
E. L. Smith

Capt

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

Time

System

Ob

THI or TOR

Time Cleared

CONFIDENTIAL
Hq 20 Aust Inf Bde
A44/3622
18 Jun 45

2/8 Aust Inf Bde
Copy to ORA 9 Aust Div

1. The Bde Comd directs that Capt McASKILL be relieved of his comd of 58 Bty forthwith on account of inefficiency shown in control of this bty in ops.
2. He will be left out of battle at YELLOW BEACH.
3. (a) He will NOT be suspended from duty under AMRAO 379 para 2.
(b) It is not known whether or not as the result of investigations any disciplinary action will be instituted.

E. Lawless
Capt
SC 20 Aust Inf Bde

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call

Ser. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM

Originator

Date—Time of Origin

Office Date Stamp

(A)

20 INF BDE

261400I

For Action

TO

9 DIV

(w) For Information (INFO.)

Message Instructions—GR—

ORIGINATOR'S No.

AG 336 UNCLASSIFIED (-) ref your G03158 of 10 Oct 45 (-) detail
jap strengths MIRI area (-) A 20 and 77 B 21 C 97 D 21 E nil F nil
G 20 and 98 (-) BRUNEI area no change

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN
by any means {except

incl

Wireless

Signed

Capt

If liable to be intercepted or fall into
enemy hands, this message must be
sent IN CIPHER

Signed

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

Time	System	Op
THI or TOR		
Time Cleared		

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call

Ser. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM

Originator

Date—Time of Origin

Office Date Stamp

(A)

20 INF BDE

221430I

For Action

TO

9 DIV

(w) For Information (INFO.)

Message Instructions—GR—

ORIGINATOR'S No.

AG 313 UNCLASSIFIED (-) ref your GO3158 of 10 Oct 45 (-) detail
JAP strengths MIRI area (-) A 68 and 1041 B 80 C 1109 D 80 E nil
F nil G 68 and 1121 BRUNEI no change

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN
by any means { except

incl

Wireless

Signed

Capt

If liable to be intercepted or fall into
enemy hands, this message must be
sent IN CIPHER

Signed

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

Time

System

Op

THI or TOR

Time Cleared

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call

Ser. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM

Originator

Date—Time of Origin

Office Date Stamp

(A)

2/13 AUST INF BN

211800I

For Action

TO

20 AUST INF BDE

(u) For Information (INFO.)

Message Instructions

GR

ORIGINATOR'S No.

GI83 unclassified (.) A 1109 (.) B 80 (.) C 1109 (.)

D 80 (.) E NIL (.) F NIL (.) G 1189

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN
by any means { *except* }

Wireless

Signed

If liable to be intercepted or fall into
enemy hands, this message must be
sent IN CIPHER

Signed

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

SDS

Time

System

Op

THI or TOR

Time Cleared

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call

Ser. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM

Originator

Date—Time of Origin

Office Date Stamp

(A)

20 inf bde

1914001

For Action

TO

9 dw

(w) For Information (INFO.)

Message Instructions

GR

ORIGINATOR'S No.

*298 unclass ref your GO 3150 of 10 Oct 45
O detail jap strengths MRI area @ 464 and 999 GRs
B 80^{max} C 64 and 999 D 80 E 600 400 F Nil G 70 60 and
11700 @ Bunei area no change*

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN
by any means { *ind* } except

Wireless

If liable to be intercepted or fall into
enemy hands, this message must be
sent IN CIPHER

Signed

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

Time

System

Op

THI or TOR

Time Cleared

Signed

James L. Lacey
LCM

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call

Ser. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM

Originator

Date—Time of Origin

Office Date Stamp

(A)

Winf bde

161700T

For Action

TO

7 dnl

(w) For Information (INFO.)

Message Instructions—GR—

ORIGINATOR'S No.

*280 unclass @ ref your GO 3158 of 10 Oct 42
@ detail for strength by dnl as at 151800T @ first
min @ H 51 after 8530R B 25 C 27 and 853 D nil E
33 and 657 F 25 G 1743 @ second BRUNEI @ transmit
1 and 17*

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN
by any means { *except* } Wireless

If liable to be intercepted or fall into
enemy hands, this message must be
sent IN CIPHER

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

Time	System	Op
THI or TOR		

Signed

Winf bde

Signed

MESSAGE FORM

Register No. 11420

Call	Ser. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions	
ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY				
FROM (A)	Originator	Date—Time of Origin		Office Date Stamp
	2/13 Bn	151930 I		Admiral
For Action				
TO	20 Bde		Message Instructions	GR
(re) For Information (INFO.)			SC (U)	29

ORIGINATOR'S No.

G 174 unclass O Sitrep 18 to
151830 I O Total of 523 Japs incl 101
women children and civilians being
loading on LST for KUCHIANG O Expected
loading to be complete by 152030 I

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN
by any means { except } Wireless

Signed

If liable to be intercepted or fall into
enemy hands, this message must be
sent IN CIPHER

Signed

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

[Handwritten Signature]

Time	System	Op
THI or TOR		
Time Cleared	W	

1617

1617
~~523~~

179-152

A.	Total Tps opps + OR's	1205 1617
B.	Total civilians	152 (23 Japanese 53 women 17 children)
C.	Tps in custody	51 opps 853 OR's)
D.	Civilians in custody	124 (23 Japanese)
E.	Tps in transit	33 + 657. RIAMAD area.
F.	Civilians in transit	25
G.	Area Total	1743

[Signature]

Adm bond
se
se (✓)

51 - 853		
17 - 393		
34	904	458
	690	492
	1594	690
		1182
		25

MESSAGE FORM

Register No. 1N19

Call

Ser. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM

Originator

Date—Time of Origin

Office Date Stamp

(A)

2/13 Bm

160900 I

For Action

TO

20 Bde

(u) For Information (INFO.)

Message Instructions

GR

ORIGINATOR'S No.

G 275 unclass @ Detail report of
Jap strength as at 141800 I @ A 1617 @
1B 158 incl 23 javanese 53 women
1B children @ 51 offrs 853 OR @
D 12th incl 23 javanese @ E @
Riam Rd area 33 offrs 657 OR @
F 25 G 1743

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN
by any means { except

Wireless

If liable to be intercepted or fall into
enemy hands, this message must be
sent IN CIPHER

Signed

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

161125

Signed

Time System Op

THI or TOR

102/5

W

Time Cleared