

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

Item number: 8/3/24

2/24 Infantry Battalion
September - October 1942

2/24 AUST INF BN

27. Oct. 1942

WAR DIARY

176 Aug Lt-Col C.G. WEIR - Comd.

Army Form C. 2118.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
QASABA	1 Sep	42	Quiet day. EA active over whole area, recce only. 'C' Coy complete new disposns and move down to flat at QASABA 1/50,000 MR 43359010. At present Bde has in support 32 Fd Regt RA, 2/2 Aust MG Bn, 3 Aust A Tk Regt and 2/7 Fd Coy RAE.	
	2 Sep	42	32 Fd Regt relieved by 2/12 Aust Fd Regt at first light. 4 Lt AA also moves into area. Bomb dropped by EA 500 yds South of 'C' Coy area just prior to first light. 6 ORs returned from Hospital.	
	3 Sep	42	<u>NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER</u> . Anniversary of commencement of war. RC mass at BHQ. T/Maj GEBHARDT promoted to substantive rank. Capts MOLLARD and SNELL promoted T/Majs.	
	4 Sep	42	Training schedule issued for period 5/11 Sep. One OR taken on strength from 2/15 Aust Inf Bn.	See Trg Instn No 2
	5 Sep	42	Recce party to (EL HAMMAM 1/100,000) MR 440893. Lieut DOUGHAN and 5 ORs march out to METC (GR) Course. 21 ORs rejoin unit from AIF (ME) Staging Camp.	
	6 Sep	42	Normal training. 2/12 Aust Fd Regt move out from Bn area. Bn provides guards for arty stores. MAIL FROM HOME. Following message received: "The battle of ALAMEIN has now lasted for 6 days and the enemy has slowly but surely been driven from the Eighth Army Area. Tonight 5 Sep his rear guard is being driven West through the mine-field area North of HIMEIMAT. All formations and units both armed and unarmed have contributed towards this striking victory and have been magnificently supported by the RAF."	
	7 Sep	42	Lieut J.F. McNAMARA rejoins unit from Hospital. Lieut G. THOMAS evacuated to 2/11 MDS. Lt-Gen Sir Leslie J. MORSHEAD invests 9 Aust Div personnel with ribbons of awards won during the July action at ALAMEIN. Bn recipients were: DCM - Sgt W.T. HUGHES - A Coy MC - Lieut J.F. McNAMARA - HQ Coy MM - WO (1) J.A. NICOLL - BHQ MM - WO (11) J. RODEN - C Coy MM - L/Cpl J. HOLMAN - HQ Coy MM - Pte A. DWYER - B Coy	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
QASABA	7 Sep	42	CO and senior offrs of the Bn attended the ceremony and the CO entertained the medal winners in the offrs mess after the investiture. Regtl auxiliary makes available the sum of ££5 for the purchase of records for the entertainment of Bn personnel.	
	8 Sep	42	Lieut J.F. McNAMARA appointed A/OC 'B' Coy.	
	9 Sep	42	Personnel of the 2/7 Aust Fd Coy commence school for Bn personnel on dis-arming, lifting and laying of British type mines. School held in BHQ Area. Lieut F.R. NELSON and 13 ORs march out to 9 Aust Div VMG School. 9 ORs rejoin unit from Hospital. Regtl auxiliary provide ££20 for the purchase of books for a Regtl library.	
	10 Sep	42	Lieut R.H. BURNABY and 9 ORs rejoin unit from hospital.	
	11 Sep	42	Brig TOVELL visits area on farewell visit having relinquished his command to Brig WHITEHEAD. Regtl Funds provide radio sets for each rifle coy.	
	12 Sep	42	Brig WHITEHEAD visits area. 6 day leave to ALEXANDRIA or CAIRO instituted.	
	13 Sep	42	Officially promulgated that Lt-Col SPOWERS DSO, MC is a PW. 7 ORs rejoin unit from AIF (ME) Staging Camp.	
	14 Sep	42	Normal training.	
	15 Sep	42	Lieut R.H. BURNABY seconded to 26 Recruit Trg Coy as 2 i/c. 4 ORs rejoin unit from hospital. Grenade demonstration at 'A' Coy. EA flying at high level drops bombs to rear and front of Bn posns.	AIF (ME) Orders List 97
	16 Sep	42	Grenade demonstration at 'D' Coy.	
	17 Sep	42	Maj GEBHARDT marches out to METC Tactical School - Unit Comds. 13 ORs taken on strength from AIF (ME) Staging Camp.	

2/24 AUST INF BN

-3-

WAR DIARY

Lt-Col C.G. WEIR - Comd.

Army Form C. 2118.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
QASABA	18 Sep	42	Bn prepares for tanks - infantry co-operation exercise. R and O Gps RV at Bn HQ 1315 hrs and recce area. 5 ORs rejoin unit from school.	
	19 Sep	42	F Gp recce exercise area. One OR rejoins unit from hospital. <u>2000 hrs.</u> Bn moves out to assembly area for exercise. Object of exercise - to practice unit in night approach march with the aid of marked axes of advance. To give practice in the passage of enemy mine-fields by night and the co-ordination of all arms in a dawn attack from advanced posns. Tanks, arty, MG and engrs participated. Much valuable data was secured and experience gained for future use in ops. Lt-Gen MORSHEAD and Brig WHITEHEAD were among the spectators.	
	20 Sep	42	2 ORs rejoin unit from hospital.	
	21 Sep	42	Warning order received that 20 Bde will be relieved by 26 Bde night 22/23 Sep, 2/23 Bn will relieve 2/13 Bn. 2/24 Bn will relieve 2/17 Bn and the 2/48 Bn will relieve the 2/15 Bn. A party from 5 Seaforths arrives for attachment to observe Bn battle drill during move. Party included Bn 2 i/c Maj WALFORD. <u>1730 hrs.</u> Advance parties of coys leave for new area.	
	22 Sep	42	<u>2030 hrs.</u> Bn moves out by road tpt to new area. Bn HQ opens at Pt 26 MR ALAMEIN 1/50,000 - 87913003. Coys took up posns - 'A' Coy 87843002, B Coy 87893002, 'C' Coy 87722990 and 'D' Coy 87912999. HQ Coy located 87913003. Bde has in support 2/7 Aust Fd Regt, 2/2 Aust MG Bn, 4 Lt AA Regt, 2/7 Aust Fd Coy RAE, 9 Aust Cav and 3 Aust A Tk Regt. 3 ORs rejoin unit from hospital.	
ALAMEIN	23 Sep	42	Settling down in new area. Very quiet. 3 ORs rejoin unit from hospital.	
	24 Sep	42	Lieut DOUGHAN and 8 ORs rejoin unit from school. 6 ORs rejoin unit from hospital. A further party from 5 Seaforths arrive for temporary attachment to Coys.	

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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALAMEIN	25/27	Sep 42	Normal training. Capt RASH and Lieut HOWLETT detached to AITB pending secondment. Bn allotted patrol area on 2/48 Bn front.	
	28	Sep 42	6 ORs detached to AITB for duty. One OR detached to 26 Bde for duty. Some enemy air activity. All recce and interception planes. No bombing aircraft have so far paid any attention to Bde area. Many of our bombers seen in almost continuous sorties towards EL DABA.	
	29	Sep 42	7 ORs march out to school. (9 Aust Div Sig School). 2 ORs taken on strength from AIF (ME) Staging Camp. Seaforths leave area.	
	30	Sep 42	Quiet days continue. 2 ORs rejoin unit from hospital. One OR taken on strength from AIF (ME) Staging Camp.	

..... Lt-Col.,
Comd., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
(C.G. WEIR).

..... Capt.,
Adj.,
2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
(R.O. BEAL).

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/24 Aust Inf Bn

5 Sep 42

(Unit.) For Week Ending

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

FILE

War Establishment:	1	2	3	4
	Ranks..	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*			
Lieut.-Colonels ...		1		2
Majors... ..		1		3
Captains		7	2	
Lieutenants		23		
2nd Lieutenants		1		
Quartermasters				
District Officers				
TOTALS		33	2	5

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

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Capt	RASH G.H.	2/24 Bn	29 Aug 42	From "X" List

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).
Lieut	McNAMARA J.F.	2/24 Bn	I.T.B.

PART 7 - NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1		Lt-Col		WEIR C.G.	2/24 Bn	Yes		CO
2		Capt	S/Maj	GIBHART P.	"	"		2 1/c
3		Capt		MOLLARD K.F.	"	"		OC A Coy
4		Capt		WELL H.H.	"	"		OC D Coy
5		Capt		RASH G.H.	"	"		A/OC H Coy
6		Capt		SIMPSON J.	"	NO		26 Aust Inf Bn
7		Capt		BRYANT G.A.	"	Yes		OC
8		Lieut		MACEARLANE A.	"	"		OC 7 Pl
9		Lieut	S/Capt	HARTY E.P.	"	"		OC C Coy
10		Lieut		LINTON J.D.	"	"		OC 14 Pl
11		Lieut		DEWY G.Z.	"	"		OC 1 Pl
12		Lieut	S/Capt	HACKWORTH I.S.	"	"		2 1/c A Coy
13		Lieut		McINTOSH F.J.	"	"		2 1/c C Coy
14		Lieut		McLEOD R.	"	"		OC 3 Pl
15		Lieut		HOLETT H.G.	"	"		A/2 1/c D Coy
16		Lieut		GEALE P.B.	"	"		A/OC B Coy
17		Lieut	S/Capt	BEAL R.O.	"	"		A/lt
18		Lieut		HALLIDAY I.C.	"	"		A 7th Pl
19		Lieut		CATHERALL J. M.P.	"	"		S.O.
20		Lieut		JONES L.L.	"	"		OC 11 Pl
21		Lieut		CUNNING D.	"	"		L.O.
22		Lieut		SCHRODER E.M.	"	"		W/O Pl
23		Lieut		ANDERSON K.A.	"	"		OC 13 Pl
24		Lieut		KEARNEY E.A.J.	"	"		OC 15 Pl
25		Lieut		THOMAS G.J.	"	"		OC 16 Pl
26		Lieut		McLEOD R.	"	"		OC 5 Pl
27		Lieut		WILSON P.B.	"	"		W/O Pl
28		Lieut		DOUGHAN C.J.	"	"		OC 12 Pl
29		Lieut		KELSEY R.F.S.	"	"		OC 9 Pl
30		Lieut		STONE J.V.	"	"		OC 8 Pl
31		Lieut		BRAINBRIDGE	"	"		OC 18 Pl
32		Lieut		GREATHEX A.G.V.	"	"		OC 17 Pl
33		Lieut		HETHERINGTON K.B.	"	"		OC 10 Pl
34								

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt		ROBERTSON T.E.G.	AAMC		H/O
Chaplain		HONNER J.E.	AA Ch D		RC Chaplain

R.O. Beal kept
for Lt-Col

2/24 Aust Inf Bn

(Unit.)

6 Sep 42

(Date of Despatch.)

Comd., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn

(Signature of Commander.)

26 Aust Inf Bn (O. BEAL) 9 Aust Div
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/24 Aust Inf Bn

(Unit.) For Week Ending 12 Sep 42

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*			
	Lieut.-Colonels ...	1	-	-
	Majors... ..	3	-	-
	Captains	5	-	5
	Lieutenants	24	3	-
	2nd Lieutenants			
	Quartermasters	1	-	-
	District Officers			
	TOTALS	34	3	5

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

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut.	MCNAMARA J.P.	2/24 Bn	7 Sep 42	Returned from Hosp
Lieut.	BURNHAM R.H.	"	10 Sep 42	" " "

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut.	THOMAS G.R.	2/24 Bn	7 Sep 42	Rec to 2/11 Inf

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1		Lt-Col		WEIR C.G.	2/24 Bn	YES		CO
2		Maj		CHAMBERLAIN P.	"	"		2 1/c
3		Capt	1/Maj	HOLLAND R.F.	"	"		OC A Coy
4		Capt	1/Maj	HILL H.W.	"	"		OC B Coy
5		Capt		ROSE G.H.	"	"		1/OC M Coy
6		Capt		SMITHSON J.	"	NO		16 Aust Inf Bde
7		Lieut		BRENNAN G.A.	"	YES		Q.M.
8		Lieut	2/Capt	MAGFARLANE A.	"	"		OC 7 Pl
9		Lieut		HASTY H.P.	"	"		OC C Coy
10		Lieut		LINTON J.D.	"	"		OC 14 Pl
11		Lieut		DUNN G.T.	"	"		OC 1 Pl
12		Lieut	1/Capt	MCKENZIE I.S.	"	"		2 1/c A Coy
13		Lieut		McKENNA S.F.	"	"		2 1/c B Coy
14		Lieut		MELROSE P.S.	"	"		2 1/c C Coy
15		Lieut		MELBOB A.	"	"		OC 3 Pl
16		Lieut		HOWLITT H.G.	"	"		1/2/c D Coy
17		Lieut	1/Capt	GEAR F.S.	"	"		1/OC B Coy
18		Lieut		BELL R.O.	2	2		Adjt
19		Lieut		HULLDAY I.C.	"	"		A Tr Pl
20		Lieut		CATHERALL J. M.P.	"	"		T.O.
21		Lieut		JOHN L.I.	"	"		OC 11 Pl
22		Lieut		CUNNING B.	"	"		T.O.
23		Lieut		SCHROEDER K.M.	"	"		1/3 Pl
24		Lieut		ANDERSON K.A.	"	"		OC 13 Pl
25		Lieut		KENNEDY M.A.S.	"	"		OC 15 Pl
26		Lieut		MELBOB A.	"	"		OC 5 Pl
27		Lieut		BURNETT R.H.	"	"		Unposted
28		Lieut		WILSON F.A.	"	NO		School
29		Lieut		DOUGHERTY C.A.	"	NO		School
30		Lieut		KRISTOF R.F.S.	"	YES		OC 9 Pl
31		Lieut		STONE J.W.	"	"		OC 8 Pl
32		Lieut		BRIDGEMAN	"	"		OC 15 Pl
33		Lieut		GRANTON A.G.W.	"	"		OC 17 Pl
34		Lieut		WILKINSON L.A.	"	"		OC 10 Pl

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt		ROBERTSON T.S.G.	AAMC		MO
Chaplain		HOLLAND J.F.	AA Ch D		BC Chaplain

2/24 Aust Inf Bn

12 Sep 42

(Date of Despatch.)

Comd 2/24 Aust Inf Bn
26 Aust Inf Bde 9 Aust Div

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

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/24 1942 THE BN

(Unit.) For Week Ending 19 Sept 42.

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
*				
*				
*				
*				
	Lieut.-Colonels ...	1	-	-
	Majors... ..	3	-	-
	Captains	5	-	5
	Lieutenants	23	2	-
	2nd Lieutenants			
	Quartermasters	2	-	-
	District Officers			
	TOTALS	33	2	5

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

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut.	BERNARD R. H.	2/24 Bn	15 Sept 42	seconded to 26 Recruit Coy Coy 102 IP (10) 11st 97.

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1		Lt-Col		WEIR C.G.	2/24 Bn	Yes		C.O.
2		Maj		WILSON P.	"	No		School
3		Capt	1/Maj	HOLLARD K.F.	"	Yes		1/2 1/8
4		Capt	1/Maj	SMITH H.W.	"	"		CC 1st Coy
5		Capt		NASH G.H.	"	"		1/00 Bn
6		Capt		SUMMERTON J.	"	No		26 Aust Inf
7		Capt		BRYANT G.A.	"	Yes		Bde.
8		Lieut		MACFARLANE A.	"	"		CC 7 Pl
9		Lieut	1/CAPT	HART E.F.	"	"		CC 1st Coy
10		Lieut		LINTON J.D.	"	"		CC 14 Pl
11		Lieut		BENNETT G.R.	"	"		CC 1 Pl
12		Lieut	1/Capt	MACKENZIE I.S.	"	"		1/00 "A" Coy.
13		Lieut		McMURRAY J.F.	"	"		2 1/8 "B" Coy
14		Lieut		McINTOSH F.J.	"	"		21/00 "C" Coy.
15		Lieut		McLEOD R.	"	"		CC 3 Pl.
16		Lieut		McLEOD A.G.	"	"		1/21/00 "B" Coy.
17		Lieut		GEARIE F.S.	"	"		1/00 "B" Coy.
18		Lieut	1/Capt	SMITH A.G.	"	"		Adjt
19		Lieut		HALLIDAY I.C.	"	"		1/18 Pl.
20		Lieut		CATHERALL J.M.P.	"	"		TO
21		Lieut		JONES L.I.	"	"		CC 11 Pl.
22		Lieut		CUNNING D.	"	"		TO
23		Lieut		SCHROEDER K.M.	"	"		VMS Pl.
24		Lieut		ANDERSON K.A.	"	"		CC 13 Pl.
25		Lieut		KEARNEY A.A.S.	"	"		CC 15 Pl.
26		Lieut		McLEOD E.	"	"		CC 5 Pl.
27		Lieut		MELSON F.R.	"	No		School
28		Lieut		DOUGHAN C.A.	"	No		"
29		Lieut		KEISEY R.F.S.	"	Yes		CC 9 Pl.
30		Lieut		STONE J.W.	"	"		CC 8 Pl.
31		Lieut		BRAINBRIDGE F.	"	"		CC 16 Pl.
32		Lieut		CREATOREX A.G.W.	"	"		CC 17 Pl.
33		Lieut		NETHERINGTON K.B.	"	"		CC 10 Pl.
34		Lieut						

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt		ROBERTSON T.E.G.	AANC		MO
Chaplain		HONNER J.F.	A A Ch D		AC Chaplain.

2/24 Aust Inf Bn. (Unit.)

20 Sept 42 (Date of Despatch.)

Flannery G. Kent
(Signature of Commander.)
Comd., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
(D. Cunningham)
(Bde., Divn., Area, etc., with which Unit is serving.)
20 Sept 42

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.								REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.								REMARKS.			
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers																				
Butchers																				
Carpenters and Joiners																				
Clerks																			1	1
Cooks																			1	1
Despatch Riders																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked)																				
" " (Wheeled)																				
Drivers-Mechanics																			9	9
Drivers-Operators																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers... ..																				
Farriers																				
Fitters																				2 AGOC Attd
Machine Gunners																				
Masons																				
Motor Mechanics																			2	2
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters																				
Range Takers																			1	1
Saddlers and Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers																				
Sanitary and Water Duties... ..																				
Signallers																			5	5
Storemen technical																				
Tailors																				
Wheelers																				
Gunlayers																			3	3
Intelligence																			1	1
General duty personnel				1		5		3		9		1							132	133
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A).				1		5		3		9		1							158	159

2/24 AUST INF BN

Unit.

Date of Despatch... 20 Sept 42.

Cond., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

Signature of Commander.

(D. Cuning).

26 Aust Inf Bde. 9 Aust Div.

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

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/24 Aust Inf Bn

26 Sep 42

(Unit.) For Week Ending

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*	1		
	Lieut.-Colonels ...	3		
	Majors... ..	5		5
	Captains	23	2	
	Lieutenants			
	2nd Lieutenants	1		
	Quartermasters			
	District Officers			
	TOTALS	33	2	5

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

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1		Lt-Col		SMITH C.G.	2/24 Bn	YES		CO
2		MAJ		CHAMBERLAIN F.		NO		SCHOOL
3		Capt	1/MAJ	HARRISON R.F.		YES		1/2 1/c
4		"	1/MAJ	SMITH R.W.		"		OC B Coy
5		"		SMITH G.A.		"		1/2 1/c B Coy
6		"		JURISTON J.		NO		26 Aust Inf Bn
7		"		HARRISON G.A.		YES		"
8		1/MAJ		HARRISON R.		"		OC 7 Pl
9		"	1/capt	HARRISON R.F.		"		OC C Coy
10		"		LITTLE J.D.		"		OC 14 Pl
11		"		SMITH G.S.		"		OC 1 Pl
12		"	1/capt	HARRISON R.L.		"		2 1/c A Coy
13		"		HARRISON J.F.		"		1/2 1/c B Coy
14		"		HARRISON F.J.		"		2 1/c C Coy
15		"		HARRISON R.		"		OC 3 Pl
16		"		HARRISON R.G.		"		2 1/c D Coy
17		"		SMITH F.B.		"		OC 10 Pl
18		"	1/capt	HARRISON R.O.		"		MAJ
19		"		HARRISON L.C.		"		A TR Pl
20		"		CHAMBERLAIN J. MOP		"		I.O.
21		"		JONES L.L.		"		OC 11 Pl
22		"		CUMMINGS D.		"		I.O.
23		"		SCHROEDER R.M.		"		MG Pl
24		"		HARRISON R.A.		"		OC 13 Pl
25		"		KEARNEY S.A.J.		"		OC 15 Pl
26		"		HARRISON R.		"		OC 5 Pl
27		"		HARRISON F.R.		NO		School
28		"		DOUGLAS C.A.		YES		OC 12 Pl
29		"		HARRISON R.F.S.		"		OC 9 Pl
30		"		JONES J.V.		"		OC 8 Pl
31		"		BRAINIDGE F.		"		OC 18 Pl
32		"		HARRISON A.G.W.		"		OC 17 Pl
33		"		HARRISON R.B.		"		1/2 1/c B Coy
34								

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt		HARRISON T.S.G.	AMC		MO
Chaplain		HARRISON J.F.	AA Ch B		RC Chaplain

2/24 Aust Inf Bn

(Unit.)

27 Sep 42

(Date of Despatch.)

[Signature] Lt-Col

(Signature of Commander.)

Comd. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn
(C.G. Bde)
26 Aust Inf Bde 9 Aust Div

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

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.								REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.								REMARKS.			
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers																				
Butchers																				
Carpenters and Joiners																		4	4	
Clerks																				
Cooks																				
Despatch Riders																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked)																				
" " (Wheeled)																		8	8	
Drivers-Mechanics																				
Drivers-Operators																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers																				
Farriers																				2 AAOC att
Fitters																				
Machine Gunners																				
Masons																		2	2	
Motor Mechanics																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters																		1	1	
Range Takers																				
Saddlers and Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers																				
Sanitary and Water Duties																		5	5	
Signallers																				
Storemen technical																				
Tailors																				
Wheelers																		3	3	
Gunlayers																		1	1	
Intelligence																				
General duty personnel				1	5	4	10			1								130	131	
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A).				1	5	4	10			1								154	155	

2/24 Aust Inf Bn

Unit.

Comd 2/24 Aust Inf Bn
(C.G. WEIR)

Signature of Commander.

Lt-Col

Date of Despatch 27 Sep 42

26 Aust Inf Bde 9 Aust Div

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

LOCATION

QASABA

until 22 Sep. 42 when moved to Pt 26 2/24 INF BN
 (Alamein 1:50,000. 87913003) SEP.42
 26 Bde relieved 20 Bde.

TRAINING

NORMAL

training for month App. C. 2/24 INF. BN
 SEP. 42

MINES

9 SEP 42

training for personnel in dis-
 arming, lifting & laying of
 British type mines commenced.
 demonstrations to Coys in turn.

GRENADE

NIGHT EXERCISES

19 SEP. 42

with co-ordination of all arms-
 passage through minefields-tanks,
 arty, MG & engrs participated.

21 SEP. 42

first party of Seaforths arrive
 for experience.

PERSONNEL

HONOURS & AWARDS

7 SEP. 42

GOC Presents ribbons to En. 2/24 Inf Bn.
 recipients of awards. App. B. SEP. 42

APPOINTMENTS & COMMAND

BRIG TOVELL

11 SEP. 42

farewelled. His comd goes to 2/24 INF BN
 Brig Whitehead. SEP. 42

INTELLIGENCE

I SUMMARIES.

APP. D. 2/24 INF BN
 SEP. 42

War Diary

September - 1942

Appx "B"

"Routine Orders"

(Copy 1)

ROUTINE ORDERS

Part 1.

by

No 6.

Lt-Col. C.G. WEIR. Commanding 2/24 Aust Inf Bn

355. STERLING CURRENCY : AIF Order No 1232 of 29 Aug 42 is rptd :
1. All ranks are warned that the acceptance or purchase of Sterling Currency in the Middle East from other than official Army sources may be of assistance to the enemy and is forbidden. Breach of this order may entail severe disciplinary action and confiscation of the money without compensation.
2. The despatch of Sterling notes by post or other means is strictly forbidden.
356. ORDNANCE M.L. 2-INCH MORTARS, MARK 11 : AIF Order No 1238 of 29 Aug 42 is rptd:
Firing mechanisms in mortars of the above description will not be operated with the barrel removed, unless the bush, firing hole, Part No MR 167 is held in posn by hand, so that it is seated correctly in the breech piece. Unless this is done, the bush, firing hole, is liable to be canted and this may result in fracture of the firing pin when the firing mechanism is operated.
357. BOMBS A.W. : Attention is drawn to the circular issued to all Coys 4 Sep 42.
Instns contained therein will be promulgated to all personnel forthwith.
358. GROUND TO GROUND RECOGNITION SIGNALS - MT : 9 Aust Div RO No 516 of 7 Sep 42 is rptd :
Our MT carry blue flags for use as recognition signals when challenged. If challenged, MT show a blue flag held either horizontally or vertically as notified from time to time. The flags will not be flown except when answering or anticipating a challenge.
359. SALVAGE : 9 Aust Div RO No 520 of 7 Sep 42 is rptd :
(a) AIF units will NOT remove any items of salvage or eqpt from either the corps salvage dump EL HAMMAM or the army salvage dump BURG EL ARAB. Units will not send tpt to these dumps unless directed to do so by Div H.
(b) Empty food tins will not be returned to salvage dumps. These will be disposed of, by burning and burying if practicable, or burying only.

Distribution : List "A"

R.O. Beal
..... Capt.,
Adjt., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn
(R.O. BEAL).

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

by

General Hon Sir Harold R.L.G. ALEXANDER, KCB., C.S.I.,
D.S.O., M.C.
Commander-in-Chief, Middle East Forces

General Headquarters
Middle East
2nd September 1942

I have received the following message from H.M. The King :-

"I pray that God may Bless the Desert Army in the important battle which has now begun, from which great results may flow to the cause of the United Nations in every part of the World.

I have the utmost confidence in my Troops from all parts of my Empire and their Commanders.

All my thoughts are with you.

The following reply has been sent to H.M. The King :-

" I have conveyed to all ranks under my Command Your Majesty's gracious and encouraging message which is highly appreciated.

Your Majesty may rest assured that we shall do our duty."

H.R. ALEXANDER.

PARCELS FOR BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR IN ENEMY HANDS

1. HM Government has, for some time, viewed with growing concern the increasing number of food parcels that are being sent to individual British Ps W from the Middle East.
2. This is in direct opposition to the deliberate policy of HM Govt. That policy seeks to avoid any differentiation between British Ps W in the matter of food supplies as well as to conserve the facilities and food supplies by canalising all food supplies for Ps W through the British Red Cross Organisation in LONDON.
3. The Service of the British Red Cross Organisation aims at providing each prisoner with one standard food parcel each week and apart from temporary interruptions, has on the whole succeeded in its aim.
4. The parcels, which are not addressed to individual prisoners, are sent through the International Red Cross Committee, GENEVA, to the Camp Leaders at the various Camps in GERMANY and ITALY in sufficient numbers for the strength at each particular camp.
5. The ration supplied by the Detaining Power together with the contents of the food parcels are maintaining our Ps W in good health, and give them a reasonable variety of food.
6. HM Govt has, therefore, approached the British Red Cross to support this policy and discontinue the despatch of parcels from the Middle East to individual British Ps W. Under present arrangements, individuals and Units have been subscribing sums of money or bringing in parcels to be despatched to prisoners in whom they are interested. This will be discontinued, and in future, no fresh contributions either in cash or kind will be received by the British Red Cross War Organisation. The balance of existing contributions will, however, be utilized for parcels to be sent for the next three months only, after which they will cease.
7. The only exceptions to this rule will be where next-of-kin are actually resident in the Middle East. They will be allowed to send a quarterly parcel as in the case of next-of-kin in ENGLAND, but this parcel will only consist of clothing and a small amount of chocolate. Ps W who have left their personal effects in the Middle East and desire articles of clothing from them will be able to obtain them on the same principle.

W.D.

HQ 2/24 Aust Inf Bn
In the Field

10 Sep 42

SPECIAL ORDER No 2

by

Lt-Col C.G. WEIR, Comd., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn

HONOURS & AWARDS

Advice has been received that H.M. the King has approved of the following Immediate Awards for Gallantry in Action during the present Egyptian Campaign.

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL

VX 42434 Sgt William Thomas HUGHES

MILITARY CROSS

VX 30994 Lieut John Francis McNAMARA

MILITARY MEDAL

VX 48692	WO (1)	James Andrew	NICOLL
VX 26678	WO (11)	John B.	RODEN
SX 11128	Cpl	Jack Taylor	HOLMAN
VX 52935	Pte	Allan Joseph	DYER

Distribution as per List 'A'.



.....Lt-Col.,
Comd., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
(C.G. WEIR).

ROUTINE ORDERS

Part 1.

by

No 7.

Lt-Col. C.G. WEIR. Commanding 2/24 Aust Inf Bn

360. F.G.C.M. - PROMULGATION : On 1 Sep 42, at HAMMAMA, a Field General Court Martial convened by Brig R.W. TOVELL, Comd 26 Aust Inf Bde tried

VX 39751 Pte SMELLIN John Earle

of 2/24 Aust Inf Bn, on the following charge :

"When on active service, deserting His Majesty's service" A.A. 12(1)(a)

FINDING : On 1 Sep 42 the Court found that the accused VX 39751 Pte SMELLIN John Earle of 2/24 Aust Inf Bn was NOT GUILTY of the charge of desertion but GUILTY of absence without leave and sentenced the accused to be imprisoned WITH HARD LABOUR for a period of SIX (6) mths.

The Finding and Sentence was confirmed on 4 Sep 42 by Lt-Gen-Sir L.J. MORSHEAD, Comd 9 Aust Div.

361. PUNISHMENTS BY COURTS MARTIAL : 9 Aust Div Order No 524 is rptd :
The following punishments imposed by Courts Martial recently held in this area are published for infm.

1. A private soldier convicted of stealing property belonging to a person subject to military law (£S 35) was sentenced to 120 days detention.
2. A private soldier convicted of disobeying a lawful command was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment with hard labour and to be discharged with ignominy.
3. A private soldier convicted of disobeying a lawful command was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment with hard labour and to be discharged.
4. A Lieutenant convicted of striking a soldier and conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline (using obscene language to the soldier) was sentenced to be severely reprimanded and to the loss of 12 months seniority.
5. A private soldier convicted of one charge of desertion and two of AWL was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for 18 months and to be discharged.
6. A private soldier convicted of three charges of AWL was sentenced to two years imprisonment with hard labour.
7. A Staff Sergeant convicted of neglect to the prejudice of good order and military discipline (negligently leaving a military vehicle unattended in ALEXANDRIA) was sentenced to be severely reprimanded and to forfeit 28 days pay.
8. A private soldier convicted of failing to appear at a place of parade and disobeying a lawful command was sentenced to 90 days Field Punishment with forfeiture of pay for that period.

362. MILITARY CAR PARKS : The official Military Car Parks in ALEXANDRIA are :-

(a) C.M.P. Barracks KOM-el-DIK (accommodation 120).

(b) "The Military Car Park" which is now open. This is the largest (accommodation 600) and is situated on the Corniche overlooking the Eastern Harbour approximately 700 yards West of the Cecil Hotel near the Native Law Courts.

363. RESTRICTIONS UPON MOVEMENT OUT OF ARMY AREA :

All Ranks are forbidden to proceed on or EAST of the CAIRO - ALEXANDRIA Road unless in possession of a duty pass issued by their unit.

364. MOTOR VEHICLES - DISCIPLINE - CONTROL OF : No army MT Vehs may leave the Army Area unless on duty and with a written authority signed by a Staff Officer of a Formation not below Bde.

MD

365. FD AMB VEHICLES - PASSING ON RDS : All MT drs will be instructed to "make-way" for motor embs at all times. It should be explained to drs that the embs may be carrying wounded men who should be carried without delay and with the least possible discomfort to the next medical installation. Vehicles meeting an amb on a narrow rd should be driven well over to the side of the rd and if necessary should be driven off the rd and stopped until the amb has passed.

366. FIELD CENSORSHIP - GREEN ENVELOPES : AIF Order No 1245 is rptd : Attention is directed to the certificate on Green Envelopes, which the writer is required to sign that the contents of the envelope refer to nothing but personal and family matters. Reference to other matters, even though not otherwise censorable, is not permitted.

367. DISCIPLINE : AIF Order No. 1246 is rptd : The under-mentioned sentences by courts-martial are published for info :-

(a) A Private soldier, convicted of two offences of disobeying a lawful command given by his superior offr (A.A. Sec 9(2)), was sentenced to 60 days Field Punishment and to forfeit all ordinary pay for a period of 60 days.

(b) A private soldier, convicted of two offences of obtaining rations by false pretences contrary to Section 32(1) of the Larceny Act 1916 (A.A. Sec 41) and of an offence of fraudulently misapplying rations, public property (A.A. Sec 18(4)), was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for 23 months.

Distribution as per list 'A'.

R. O. Beal
..... Capt.,
Adjt., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
(R.O. BEAL).

W.D.

For Official Use Only
A.M.R. & O 1587.

2/24 Aust Inf Bn
24 Sep 42

ROUTINE ORDERS

Part 1.

by

No 8

Lt-Col. C.G. WEIR, Commanding 2/24 Aust Inf Bn

68. F.G.C.M. - PROMULGATION : On 9 Sep 42, in the Field, a Field General Court Martial convened by Brig R.W. TOVELL, Comd 26 Aust Inf Bde tried

VX 53027 Pte BURGUN W.G.

of 2/24 Aust Inf Bn, on the following charge :

"When a soldier acting as a sentinel on active service sleeping on his post" A.A. 6(2)(e).

FINDING : On 9 Sep 42 the Court found that the accused VX 53027 Pte BURGUN W.G. of 2/24 Aust Inf Bn was GUILTY of the charge and sentenced him to undergo detention for a period of SIXTY (60) days.

The Finding and Sentence was confirmed on 17 Sep 42 by Lt-Gen Sir L.J. MORSHEAD, Comd 9 Aust Div.

1. E.F.M. STANDARD TEXTS : In accordance with AIF Order 625, EFM Standard Text No 141 reading "Sorry to tell you died" cannot be used by members of the AIF.

2. TPT WITH BATHING PARTIES : When MT is used to carry bathing parties, one man will be detailed to disperse each veh and remain with it while personnel are swimming. 150 yds dispersion will be maintained approaching, while at and leaving beaches.

3. DISCIPLINE : The C-in-C has noted that when driving in a car his flag is not being saluted.

All Coy Comds will warn their men that cars flying the authorised flags on the bonnet must be saluted.

4. PAYBOOKS - LOSS OF : Cases of loss occasioned by the negligence or carelessness of the soldier are to be severely dealt with as breaches of military discipline.

Infm received indicates that thieving of paybooks by pick-pockets in CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA is still prevalent.

All ranks will be reminded that every soldier is responsible for the safe custody of his paybook and that this order will be enforced in every case of loss of paybook.

Distribution : List 'A'.

R.O. BEAL
..... Capt.
Adjt., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
(R.O. BEAL).

R O U T I N E O R D E R S

Part 1

by Lt. Col. C G WEIR, Commanding 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

373. FGCM - PROMULGATION : On 21 Sep 42 in the Field, a FGCM convened by Comd 26 Aust Inf Bde, tried VX 35099 Pte ALFORD Kenneth John of the 2/24 Aust Inf Bn on the following charge :
- "When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service" AA12(1)(a)
- FINDING : On 21 Sep 42 the Court found that the accused VX 35099 Pte ALFORD K J, 2/24 Aust Inf Bn was NOT GUILTY of the charge of Desertion but was GUILTY of ABSENTING HIMSELF WITHOUT LEAVE and sentenced him to undergo DETENTION for a period of ONE (I) YEAR.
- The Finding & Sentence was confirmed on 26 Sep 42 by the Officer Administering Command of 9 Aust Div.
374. EQPT & PERSONAL KIT BELONGING TO PERSONNEL EVACUATED BEYOND RAP :
- Under no circumstances will arms or amm proceed with personnel evacuated to either an ADS or MDS. These should be collected at RAP and later returned to Q Staff for re-issue. Where a man is suffering from a minor complaint and is expected back within a short period (i e 3 or 4 days) then this eqpt could be retained with COMS. Packs normally should NOT accompany the man unless it is obvious that his injuries will keep him away from the unit for some time. These packs should likewise be kept under the control of either the coy or Q staff. Contravention of these instns causes Fd Ambs a considerable amount of work in sorting out personal kit, a task which Fd Ambs are NOT equipped to control with the personnel on their War Establishment. Respirators, AG and Helmets steel should always accompany the man wherever he goes.
375. LOOTING : Some misapprehension has arisen regarding the measures which may be taken and the force which may lawfully be used to prevent looting. Looting means the ransacking of unoccupied premises and the theft of exposed or unprotected property, public or private, in the zone of operations. The misunderstanding may be due to the warning issued in recent ACIs regarding the use of firearms to prevent the escape of soldiers from lawful custody. The law does not require the exercise of a like restraint towards those who engage in looting and are found in the act. The civil offences which come under the general description of looting are punishable with death (Defence Reg 38A). All the force necessary even to the use of firearms may be used and will be used to prevent this crime. Such action taken in good faith and with a sense of responsibility by sentries and others whose duty it may be to protect property from pillage (and this incl all offrs and soldiers present) will not be made the subject of a Court Martial and will receive the full support of military authority.
376. SALUTING : Saluting dates from the time of armour, the salute representing the motion of a knight raising the visor of his helmet with the open hand to the front showing that, though raised, it contained no missile. The practice of combining "eyes right" or "eyes left" with the salute originated from the olden days when it was the privilege of men-at-arms to look their superiors in the face while others must pass with downcast eyes. The salute is, therefore, a recognition of comradeship and mutual trust between men-at-arms; it is at the same time an acknowledgement of discipline and has become a visible indication of common allegiance which all ranks owe to the Crown and its service. The standard of saluting is therefore an indication of the esprit-de-corps of units and formations. History, incl the present war, has proved that high esprit-de-corps and good discipline increased the fighting efficiency of fighting units and formations. The recognition of comradeship and mutual trust inherent in the salute must be mutual and not one-sided, e.g., both parties must look each other in the eyes and offrs receiving the salute must return it in a smart soldierly and orthodox manner. The slovenly return of a salute cannot but breed slovenliness. The offr will therefore return the salute in a proper manner and will invariably look the giver of it in the eyes. Offrs and soldiers when on leave or detachment will show by the standard of their saluting their determination to maintain with pride the reputation of their Unit, Corps and Formation.

377. SMOKING IN VEHS : The following extracts from Standing Orders for drs of mechanical vech and motorcycles is published for compliance :
Smoking is prohibited on any veh when explosive or inflammable articles are being carried and in the vicinity of any such articles when being handled. In no case will the dr smoke while actually driving any veh.
8. TRAFFIC REGULATIONS - ALEXANDRIA : The following orders are in force in ALEXANDRIA.
1. The official Military Car Parks now in ALEX are (a) Military Car Park, accommodation 600 vech. This is situate 700x West of the Cecil Hotel on the CORNICHE, overlooking the Eastern Harbour and can be approached after dark from the SHARI side EL AUWAL. This Park is wired in, has a gd and also a small NAAFI for drs. (b) KOM EL DIK, accommodation 120 vech. To be used only when the Military Car Park is full.
 2. UNATTENDED VEHS : No military vech will be left unattended in ALEX, except at one or other of the official Military Car Parks and then only if immobilised. Arms must not be left in vech in either of these Car Parks. 173 vech were stolen in ALEX during the month of July alone.
 3. AIR RAIDS : Owing to improvements, the noise of traffic no longer interferes with AA instruments. In future military vech which are on duty may continue to circulate during air raid alerts and need not stop. A military arrete is being published by the Governorate to this effect.
 4. PROHIBITED ROADS : For operational reasons, the CORNICHE (Sea front rd running whole length of ALEX, approx 11 miles) is OUT OF BOUNDS to ALL veh traffic between the hrs of 2000 and dawn. OSc are responsible for the promulgation of this to all offr and ORs in their coys.
 5. LIGHTS : Lights of all vech will be screened as laid down in ME GO 221 of 42 (See DROs 159, 203 and 404 of 42,)
 6. SPEEDING : There is a speed limit of 20 MPH throughout ALEXANDRIA.
79. INJURIES - ACCIDENTAL : Attention is directed to ARO 381 of 42 which is republished :
- "381. INJURIES - ACCIDENTAL :
- (a) The number of accidental injuries causing absence from duty has reached serious proportions. In the case of British tps it gives rise to 20 % of admissions to hospital and it is the greatest single cause of admission in the army as a whole.
 - (b) The main causes of these accidental injuries are (i) Improper use of pet; (ii) Unauthorised interference with enemy amm and explosives etc. Frequent orders have been issued in regard to each of the above causes, and it is clear that these orders are not being enforced by all Comd Offrs.
 - (c) Immediate steps will be taken by all Comds to stop this useless waste of manpower. The attention of all ranks will be drawn to the matter.
 - (d) Numerous accidents are being caused by the use of pet in stoves, oil, wickless (primus stoves). Paraffin is the authorised fuel for these stoves and they are not constructed for use with pet. The use of pet in these stoves is forbidden."
380. DAMAGE TO PRIVATE PROPERTY :
- (a) Numerous complaints have been received that units have occupied empty buildings from which the local inhabitants have been evacuated. In some cases considerable damage has been caused.
 - (b) All private buildings incl wooden huts are out of bounds to tps.
 - (c) Any units wishing to occupy such buildings will first apply for permission to the Office of the Frontiers District Adm, BURG-EL-ARAB, through this HQ.

Distbn : List "A"

.....*R O Beal*..... Capt.,
Adjt., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn
(R O BEAL)

- War Diary -

September - 1942 -

Appx "C"

"Op Orders & Instrns"

(Copy 1)

WD

SECRET

2/24 Aust Inf Bn
4 Sep 42

Copy No ...16...

TRG INSTN No 2

1. The following trg will be carried out by rifle Coys during the period 5 - 11 Sep 42.

2.

SYLLABUS

Date	A Coy	B Coy	C Coy	D Coy
5 Sep	Mob Role practice	Route March A.M.	Route March P.M.	Improvement of defences
6 "	MAKE AND MEND			
7 "	Disarming of mines and booby traps	Counter attack exercise on foot	Mob Role Exercise : Paratp landing	Improvement of defences
8 "	Route March A.M.	Disarming of mines & booby traps	Mob Role Exercise : Counter attack	Route March P.M.
9 "	Tactical deploy- ment of the Coy A.M.	Improvement of defences	Disarming of mines & booby traps	Tactical deploy- ment of the Coy P.M.
10 "	Mob Role	Tactical deployment of the Coy	Improvement of defences	Disarming of mines & booby traps
11 "	Route march	Mob role Exercise : Paratp landing	Tactical deployment of the Coy A.M.	Improvement of defences

A.B. On Fri 11 Sep 42 as many personnel as possible from HQ Coy will attend the demonstration by NCO from 2/7 Fd Coy on the dis-arming and lifting of mine-fields. Locality : B Ech area.

3. Programme of Reliefs : Gds & Duties

'D' Coy relieve	'B' Coy	at 1800 hrs	4 Sep	42
'A' " "	'D' " "	" "	" 7 "	42
'B' " "	'A' " "	" "	" 8 "	42
'C' " "	'B' " "	" "	" 9 "	42
'D' " "	'C' " "	" "	" 10 "	42

4. Route marches will be at least of 3 hrs duration. Coy Comds will also ensure that in the tactical deployment of the Coys sufficient time is taken and distance covered so as the trg also takes the form of hardening up.

5. An NCO from 2/7 Fd Coy will demonstrate the disarming and lifting of mines. All stores will be provided. Details of 30 - 40 men are as many as can be instructed at a time.

6. Coys will in addition carry out two night exercises during the period. These may take the form of night marching, patrols, compass reading etc and it will be found most convenient to carry them out by secs.

P.T.O.

7. Coys will adhere strictly to the above syllabus and will notify this HQ by 1800 hrs each day the location of their exercise for the following day.

8. Specialist pls will fwd their syllabus for the period to this HQ by 1800 hrs 5 Sep 42.

P. Gebhardt
Comd., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
(P. GEBHARDT).

Copy No	1	A Coy
	2	B "
	3	C "
	4	D "
	5	HQ Coy
	6	No 1 Pl Comd
	7	No 3 Pl Comd
	8	A Tk Pl Comd
	9	OC Carriers

Copy No	10	T.O.
	11	C.O.
	12	2 i/c
	13	Adjt
	14	R.S.M.
	15	Rde
	16 - 17	War Diary
	18 - 19	File

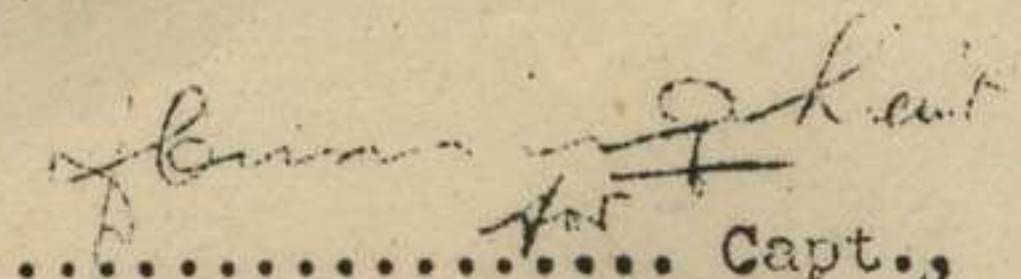
War Diary

13 Sep 42

2/24 AUST INF BN ADMINISTRATION INSTN No 43

LEAVE - CAIRO & ALEXANDRIA 6 DAY.

1. Allocations and dates will be notified from Bn HQ.
2. Movement : Personnel will RV Bn HQ by 0745 hrs on the morning the leave commences. T.O. will arrange tpt to Bde RV.
3. Accommodation : All details will be accommodated as follows :-
 - (a) ALEXANDRIA - Eighth Army Leave Camp AGAMI.
 - (b) CAIRO - Leave & Transit Camp ABBASIA.
 - (c) No restriction will be placed on the local movement of personnel from these camps. Every effort will be made to afford as many facilities as possible for the comfort and entertainment of leave personnel.
4. Equipment : (a) Leave parties will take with them personal gear incl knife, fork and spoon, mug, eqpt, rifle and 50 rds amm. (b) Offrs if intending to stay at a Leave Camp must take knife, fork and spoon and mug. Pistols WILL be worn at all times. (c) Leave personnel will carry haversack lunch.
5. Leave Passes : All personnel MUST carry leave passes. Failure to produce a leave pass will result in the immediate return to his unit, of the man concerned.
6. Pay Books : Under no circumstance will personnel proceed on leave if not in possession of their paybook, which must be produced for identification purposes when required. A leave pass will not be accepted as a means of identification.
7. Pay : Pay will be available at the Pay Sgt office at 1400 hrs on the day prior to proceeding on leave. Pay is NOT available in CAIRO or ALEXANDRIA.
8. Dress : (a) Shirt, shorts, hat (turned down) boots, puttees (short), belt (web). (b) Pullover may be worn. (c) Strict attention must be paid to dress to ensure that all ranks are properly dressed before proceeding on leave.
9. Discipline : (a) The continuance of this leave is dependant on the maintenance of good discipline. (b) Coy Comds will warn all personnel as to the necessity
 - (i) for the maintenance of good discipline.
 - (ii) To be correctly dressed.
 - (iii) To pay strict attention to notices etc, limiting areas which may be visited.
 - (iv) For the correct use of prophylactics and PACs by those whose indulgence make it necessary.
10. Offrs who decide not to live in camp must notify their address to
 ALEXANDRIA - Adv LO Mustapha Barracks. Phone extension 126.
 CAIRO - Aust LO HQ MEF Phone extension 387.


 Capt.,
 Adjt., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
 (D. CUNNING).

Distribution :

HQ Coy	CO	RMO	File
A "	2 i/c	I.O.	Spares.
B "	Adjt	RSM	
C "	Q.M.	Pay Sgt	
D "	T.O.	War Diary (2)	

Handwritten signature

SECRET
EXERCISE ONLY

19 Sep 42

Copy No 28

2/24 AUST INF BN OO No 16

Ref Map QASABA 1:50,000

INFORM

1. Enemy : As per patrol reports, Tac R, and trace issued with order.

2. Own Tps : As per 2/24 Aust Inf Bn I Summary No 37.

(b) The following tps come under comd 2/24 Aust Inf Bn :

One det 2/7 Aust Fd Coy
and in support :
40 RTR less one sqn
0 Tp 12 Aust A Tk Bty
2 Pl A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn
Elements 4 Aust Lt AA Regt

(c) Attack will be supported by 9 Aust Div Arty.

INTENTION

3. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn will attack and capture enemy posns from incl Pt 9 MR 42928967 - incl Pt 25 MR 42978976 and will exploit to general line 42978954 - 43148976.

METHOD

4. Attack will be in three phases.

5. Phase 1. Fwd Coys. A Coy Rt, D Coy Left with each under comd one det Mortars, one sec Carriers.
Objective : Line EAST of minefield from incl 42778975 to incl 42858982.

Inter Coy boundary : Bn axis of advance.

Direction of attack : 125 degrees Mag.

Rate of Advance : 100x in 2 mins.

Limit of exploitation : 200x EAST of objective.

6. Phase 2. B Coy Rt, C Coy Left with each under comd one det Mort.
Objective : From incl Pt 9 MR 42928967 to incl Pt 25 MR 42978976.
B and C Coys will leapfrog through A and D Coys and on success will immediately re-organize on objective.

Inter Coy boundary : Bn axis of advance.

Direction of attack : 125 degrees Mag.

Rate of advance : 100x in 2 mins.

7. Phase 3. On capture of objective by B and C Coys, A and D Coys will move fwd on the previous axes of advance to area 42908975 and at first light will exploit fwd of objective to the general line 42978954 - 43148976.

Inter Coy boundary : Bn axis of advance.

Direction of attack : 125 degrees Mag.

Rate of advance : 100x in 2 mins.

8. Assembly Area : Bn assembly area Square 424900. RP's will act as marshalls in assembly area under comd RSM.

9. Route to assembly area as per Appx B attached.

10. Move to assembly area as per Appx B attached.

11. Time arrival at assembly area 2330 hrs.

12. F.U.P. General Line 42568992 - 42619000.

13. Route from Bn assembly area to FUP will be as ordered on arrival at assembly area. Bn I Sec will arrange light sigs as guide to FUP.

4. Start Line : Phases 1 & 2.: Line 42598992 - MR 42628996. Bn I sec will tape and mark extremities with light sigs.
Start Line Phase 3 : Line 42928967 - MR 42978976.
5. Start Time : Phase 1 - 0140 hrs 20 Sep 42
Phase 2 - Z plus 20
Phase 3 - 0615 hrs 20 Sep 42.
6. Limit of Exploitation : General Line 42978954 - MR 43148976.
7. Patrols : C Coy will provide protective patrol strength one Pl 50x fwd of start line from 0100 hrs to 0145 hrs 20 Sep 42. OC protective Pl will liaise with IO on arrival at assembly area.
8. Carriers : One sec under comd B and C Coys
One sec Mortar Pl
One Sec less one carrier res.
One carrier sig Pl.
9. MMGs : 2 Pl A Coy 2/2 Aust MG Bn will move with Phase 2 to posns in rear of A and D Coys and will move in rear of Phase 3 to objective where they will support with fire the exploitation at first light.
One sec 2/24 Aust Inf Bn MG Pl in res.
10. Arty : Timed programme on located enemy posts until capture of objective has been arranged under orders issued by CRA 9 Aust Div. After capture of objective concentrations will be put down on located posts until Zero for phase 3.
In phase 3 from Z to Z plus 20 arty concentrations will be put down on 43168958 and on 43188969 and will assist exploitation by observation on disclosed targets. FOO will move with Bn HQ until commencement of Phase 3 and thence with RHQ 40 RTR. One OPO will move with each B and C Coys to commencement of Phase 3 and thence with HQ A and D Coys.
21. A Tk : 0 Tp 12 Aust A Tk Bty will take up posns on final objective immediately on capture. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn A Tk Pl will move in rear of second wave of tks and will be prepared to protect the flanks of the attack in Phase 3 against possible enemy counter attack.
22. Mortars : Mortar Pl less four dets in res.
23. Tanks : 40 RTR less one sqn will move from Bn assembly area at 0330 hrs 20 Sep 42. One guide will be provided by each A and D Coys 2/24 Aust Inf Bn from FUP and will guide tks as follows :
A Sqn along axis of advance A Coy
B Sqn along axis of advance D Coy
RHQ will be guided along Bn axis of advance by inf liaison offr. Tk assembly area for phase 3 fwd of A and D Coys posns WEST of Bn objective. Tks will be in assembly area by 0515 hrs and will be contacted by OSC A and D Coys. Tks will attack in Phase 3 in two waves A Sqn as protective screen 200x in advance of leading inf, B Sqn following immediately behind and co-operating with inf Coys.
24. Pnrs : Pnrs will arrange marking of lines of advance as under :
Bn axis of advance Green lights at 200x intervals from centre of FUP on bearing of 125 degrees.
Coy axis of advance amber lights at 200x intervals
Coy axes of advance 150x right and left of Bn axis of advance. Lights will be suspended on wooden pickets and shaded on enemy side.
25. Engrs : Det 2/7 Aust Fd Coy will open three 8x gaps in minefield on the axis of advance of A Coy, Bn HQ and D Coy. Immediately leading inf have passed through gaps engrs will endeavour to widen flanking gaps to 40x. Covering parties will be supplied by each A and D Coys. 2 Pl will provide covering party for engrs with Bn HQ. Gaps will be marked in accordance with 9 Aust Div GS Instn No 75.
26. AA Defence : 4 Aust Lt AA Regt will provide AA protection in gun areas and minefield gaps.

- 27. Bn Res Co : Under Comd Capt G.H. RASH will move in rear of Phase 2 to minefield and thence as ordered by Bn Comd.
- 28. Bn Res Amn : At Bn tpt Park.
- 29. Battle scale of amm and necessary tools will be carried on men.
- 30. Rations : Hard rations for one meal will be carried on men.
- 31. WCP : Shaded light on Bn axis of advance displaying Red Cross emblem.
- 32. RP : Will move with Bn Res Co and will be established vicinity Bn HQ on capture of objective.
- 33. Pat : Will be escorted along Bn axis of advance and delivered to RPs vicinity Bn Control post.
- 34. A Ech Tpt : Remains in Bn tpt Park vicinity Bn assembly area and will be called fwd as required.
- 35. B Ech Tpt : Remains present location.
- 36. Co-ordinating conference Bn HQ 2330 hrs 19 Sep 42. (42499004)

INTERCOM

- 37. V/T by lucas lamp between barrier sects.
- 38. No 18 V/T sets : One each A, B, C and D Coys. One Bn HQ.
- 39. No 108 V/T sets : One 4 Pl Comd. One tpt Park. One Bn Res Co.
- 40. 101 Control set : With Bn HQ.
- 41. V/T will be laid along Bn axis of advance immediately on completion of Phase 1 and will be extended to all Coys on completion of Phase 2.
- 42. I Sec will provide pro forma message forms with Battle Sketch on reverse side for the furnishing of sitreps should other means of comm fail.
- 43. All reports to Bn Control Post on Bn axis of advance.
- 44. Control Post will be marked by large shaded amber and green lights side by side. BnHQ will be marked in a similar manner immediately established.
- 45. Bn HQ at assembly area will be established on EAST side of track at 42499004 and will move on Bn axis of advance with Phase 2 and on capture of objective will be established vicinity 42848975.
- 46. Liaison : Maj K.F. MOLLARD will act as liaison offr with 40 RTR.
- 47. Success sig : To be fired on completion of Phase 2 - GREEN WHITE GREEN.
- 48. Watches will be synchronised at 2330 hrs 19 Sep 42.
- 49. ACK by code word BOOF and Copy No.

Signed at 330 hrs

Method of Distribution Hand

[Signature]

 A/Adjt., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
 (D. CUNNING).

NOTE : Appendices A & B NOT to all addressees. /Distribution

MOVEMENT TABLE.

Exercise Only.

W.D

Issued as Appx "B" to 2/24 Aust Inf Bn CO 16.

333

VEH MOVEMENT

Serial No	Sub Gp	Veh Serial No	Assembly Place	Time	Time past S.P.
1	Bn Hq OC Coy 1 M/C DR Int Sec Sig w/T 1 M/C DR 1 Pl Office Van	1 - 2 3 - 4 5	Bn Hq	Vehs will report to Sub-Unit areas not later than 1900 hrs	2030
2	A Coy	6 - 7	Coy Area		2032
3	D Coy	8 - 9	Coy Area		2032
4	B Coy	10-11	Coy Area		2032
5	C Coy	12-13	Coy Area		2032
6	MGs 3 Pl 5 Pl A Tk Pl Res SAA RAP TO	14 15-16 17 18-23 24 25 26	Hq Coy Area		2037
7	Carriers	27-38			2040

Route : - S.P. - 42609024 - Marshalling Pt 42479006.

S.P.: Track Junction 43129016

Speed & Density :- Wheeled vehs 20 MIH 10 VTM
Tracked vehs 15 MIH 10 VTM

Order of March :- As movement table.

Note :- Vehs will report to posn in convoy 10 mins before start time.

MARCHING PERSONNEL

Serial No	Sub Gp	Assembly	Time past S.P.
1	A Coy	Coy Area	1900 hrs
2	D Coy	Coy Area	1908 hrs
3	B Coy	Coy Area	1916 hrs
4	C Coy	Coy Area	1924 hrs

Start Point :- Track Junction 43129016.

- War Diary -

September 1942-

- Appx "D" -

"
" " "
Bn I Summaries "

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 30

(Based on infn received to 1500 hrs 1 Sep 42)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE1. GENERAL

The enemy is striving to gain the high ground at DEIR EL RAGIL. In the fighting SW of this area the enemy to 2030 hrs 31 Aug had lost 55 tks definitely destroyed with a further 20 probables.

The general direction of the enemy thrust appears to be NE and reports indicate that elements at least, of 15 and 21 Armd Divs and of 90 Lt Div are in action.

Up to 0900 hrs 1 Sep our heavy armour had not been involved.

Enemy, believed to be German paratps, attacked RUWEISAT Ridge at 0330 hrs 31 Aug, and, after some initial success, were driven out by 0607 hrs. No tks were used in this operation. In the southern sector, however, there is no indication that enemy inf are being used in strength.

In the sector S of the ry at 1745 hrs 31 Aug, enemy were seen moving in open order to NE at 875297. They were engaged by arty and SA fire.

Our tps, sp by tks and planes, commenced an all-day raid at first light this morning, with the object of disrupting enemy L of C south of SIDI EL RAHMAN. The first objective, W pt 23 872296, was gained by 0700 hrs. 200 PsW, mostly Germans, were taken. Raid is continuing according to plan.

Enemy laid down by arty, mortar and MG fire and at 0840 hrs staged an attack which was beaten off.

2. AIR OPS.

Our bombers heavily bombed enemy veh concentrations RAGIL sector in an all-night "shuttle" service.

The destruction of three enemy aircraft by AA fire has been reported for 31 Aug. - one CR 42 and two MACCHI 202s.

Five unexploded "Butterfly" bombs are reported area 43548981.

3. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLEItalian

A report of unknown reliability which requires confirmation states that a new Reece Regt has been formed in LIBYA with the following composition:-

Armd Gp consisting of:-

Go HQ with a pl of armd cars, a tk pl, and Engr pl and services. Armd Car sqn of four tps, each of 4 armd cars, a W/T tp, services and one armd car. Two tk sqns, each 4 pls of 5 tks and a comd gp of two W/T tks and one other, plus services.

RHQ., consisting of a pl of 4 armd cars, a W/T pl, and Engr pl and services.

Sp Gp consisting of:-

Motor cycle coy of HQ pl and two pls of 4 secs and one pl of 2 secs armed with MGs. (Nos of motor cycles and MGs not stated).

Mob bty of two tps, each of 4 47/32 guns.

AA tp of HQ sec and four secs each of two 20mm AA guns.

(GHQ MEF I.S. No 816)

SEC "C" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

4. ENEMY EGYPT

A prisoner from 2 Bn 435 IR states that, in AFRICA, each man of his unit carried rifle, trenching tool, waterproof sheet and a cooker. As fuel for the latter each man carried two packets of over 20 cubes of solidified methylated spirits. Two were required to warm food for one meal. British and German tinned stews were usually warmed by this method.

5. ENEMY METHODS

a. (i) Italian - Recently cap documents show that the Italians when in a defensive posn endeavour to put out short ranging posts for the A Tk guns at a distance of 500 metres. These are apparently marked in white facing their own lines. 400 metres in front of their posns and at greater distances piles of stones with scrub on top are said to be erected for the same purpose. (GR. MEF I.S. No. 815)

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

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

[Signature]
I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn

SITREP - Additional infn received up to 1730 hrs -

Up to 1200 hrs an additional 40 enemy tks have been destroyed making the bag 95 definitely destroyed and 20 probables.

Enemy attempted to establish an A Tk gun screen but was NOT successful.

A comb of mixed enemy MT from 435871 to 431865 is being engaged at both head and tail by our armed forces. At approx 1230 hrs 150 MT and some tks were engaged by our med arty and some MT set on fire. A NZ patrol destroyed some MT during the night and the RAF attacked two tk leaguers by "shuttle" service destroying at least 60 MT.

Later infn to hand reports number of PsW taken in this morning's raid as being 10 offrs and 98 ORs from 532 IR (see para 1.)

2/24 AUST INF BN

~~SECRET~~

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 31.

(Based on info received to 1500 hrs 4 Sep 42)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE

1. GENERAL.

for the last two days. Sector no 1-25 have withdrawn. 432873 - 432865 southwest to 427861 and thence W towards HIMKINAT. A concentration of MT is reported in area RAGIL and along escarpment to the S. Some tks are known to be N of RAGIL and an A Tk screen and guns covering to the E.

Latest info to 1500 hrs 5 Sep indicate that main enemy MT concentrations are moving towards the West.

AIR OPS

Our bombers and fighters continue their very active ops. For 2 Sep 500 fighter sorties and 167 bomber sorties were made. A total of 19 EA were destroyed for the loss of 11 of our planes of which five pilots are known to be safe.

In the coastal sector night 3/4 Sep one of our fighting patrols struck a booby trap field. Moving along this fd an enemy strongpt thoroughly wired and dug, was located at 87143017. The enemy detected the approach of our patrol and, surprise being lost, our patrol withdrew.

Another patrol engaged 7 Germans near W pt 24 but patrol was held up by a minefield of B4 AP mines at 77463043.

S of ry a raiding party to 872293 found two small enemy patrols in the area patrolling beat of 400 - 500 yds. This prevented our men from making gaps in the minefield without being detected and no close contact was made. The enemy opened fire on fixed lines with 6 MGs. Our patrol withdrew at moonrise without loss.

A further patrol to 87312019 was fired on with three rifle shots at 87642921.

SEC "C" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

2. ENEMY METHODS

(a) German anti-personnel S mines have been located at 87273018 with pull type igniters. Mines are laid in a straight line with taut trip wires fastened to pickets. The mines are laid 10 yds apart and the pickets are in between the mines. Each mine has, therefore, two trip wires.

(b) Statements made by a PW indicate that, prior to the raids carried out on our FDLs night 30/31 Aug, recon had been made of our wire and minefields by small patrols of inf. During the raid engra had been brought fwd with the inf to blow gaps in our wire.

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

3. ENEMY EQPT.

ENEMY EQPT

See "butterfly" bombs mentioned in our I.S. No 30. The

Enemy Eopt cont

Six of these bombs were found in the southwest part of the northern sector about mid-Aug. Five were exploded by rifle fire and showed very good fragmentation. In shaly ground a hole about three in deep and six in in diameter was blown and earth was disturbed to a depth of between 1 1/2 and 1 3/4 in over an area of 1 ft 0 in in diameter.

One of the six bombs, failed to explode due to some defect, was split by the rifle bullet, but failed to explode and was examined. The explosive charge is contained in a cast iron cylinder 75mm long and about 75mm in diameter. The casing varies between 7 and 9mm in thickness. The detonator which is about two cms long and two cms diameter, is embedded deep in the charge, and opposite the detonator in the side of the casing is an opening 30mm in diameter, into which a screwsa plug about 25mm long. Screwed into this plug (not removable) is a length of twisted steel wire about 6 ins long, and 2 sets of twin wings with spring hinges are free to slide along this wire. These sets of wings when folded down would encase the bomb in a light metal casing held by a pin. The pin is missing and how it would be released is not known.

In the same area was found a hinged light metal container about 3 ft 0 ins long and about 9 ins in diameter. It had four small fins and appears to be the container in which the bombs are dropped from a plane. Container is painted grey with red stripes between the fins.

GROUND OPS

The following is a further account of the ops night

31/1 Sep:

The zero hr for the raiding force was 0535, the arty concentrations falling at 0550 hrs. The initial contact surprised the enemy and our fwd tps attacked the first enemy posts immediately the arty lifted. During close contact fighting, hy casualties were inflicted. Over 100 PWs were rounded up. The only enemy def fire encountered was from mortars and was not hy.

Some army tks in sp passed thr ugh the gap at 0645 hrs. Exploitation by the inf continued for about 1000 yds before being held up. All objectives in the original plan were reached.

Movement of the sp tks was restricted due to the concealed minefields.

By 0730 hrs the enemy fire was hy and increasing in intensity. Difficulty was experienced in bringing fwd our MT due to the concealed mines and difficulty in finding the gaps already made, the visibility being very limited due to hy smoke and dust. At 0750 hrs it appeared as if a counter attack was forming up from the SW. This was shelled and did not develop. The withdrawal was effected from behind a smoke screen. The enemy continued to shell the ground for some time after our withdrawal. The first sign of reoccupation by the enemy was reported by an arty OP at 1125 hrs when parties were seen picking up wounded.

Patrol on night 2/3 Sep penetrated the enemy's FDLs engaged a strongpt at 87283028. Fire was exchanged before our patrol withdrew. The patrol was not able to determine if casualties were inflicted on the enemy.

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

[Signature] Lieut.
K.O.2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 32

)Based on info received to 1500 hrs 5 Sep 42)

SECTION "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE1.1. GENERAL

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

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

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

A further 40 German PW were taken RAGIL area night 4/5 Sep.

Reports to 1500 hrs 5 Sep state that the enemy forces generally are W of 888 Easting Grid, with the German armour and 90 Lt Div in minefield area vicinity cross grids 880 and 260.

Patrols were active on the Div front and report the enemy to be alert to the point of nervousness. Enemy working parties were active in all sectors visited night 4/5 Sep and the nature of the work is thought to be the laying of mines and wire.

In the coastal sector a patrol was fired on by 4 LMGs about 87203018. More movement than usual is reported S of ry to trig 22 for 5 Sep. A daylight patrol reached within about 600 yds of the enemy wire. An enemy counterpatrol was sent out.

Our arty continued its task of harassing the enemy 24 hrs of the day. Enemy arty activity in the northern sector is reported with 111 shells on the CUTTING area for 5 Sep.

In the Central sector our tps on RUWEISAT Ridge were subjected to bombing night 3/4 Sep. The raiding aircraft were assisted by parachute flares and searchlights.

On the night 3/4 Sep a plane was seen to crash into the sea to the north of the Div area. The following afternoon the navigator came ashore in the vicinity of the ALAMEIN Lighthouse. He stated that the plane was a JU 88 damaged by AA fire in a raid on ALEXANDRIA. The remainder of the crew were presumably lost. This brings out again that planes can be destroyed by AA fire without the actual gunners being aware of the fact.

Our maximum losses during the recent actions are considerably less than those known to be definitely lost to the Germans. They amount to a maximum total of 50 tks, many of which are recoverable. This works out to be something under 50 per cent of the German losses.

SEC "C" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE2. ENEMY METHODS

PW from 4 Coy 61 IR (Location not definitely known) made the following statement:-

50 yds in front of coy posn are 4 or 5 rows of AP mines, set in gps of three.

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

A black tube about 50 cms long is put in the ground

Enemy Methods cont

This is intended to guide their tps going out on patrol.

These minefields extend in a semi-circle in front of the strong pts. In front of the minefield is a trip wire.

PW did not know if these minefields extended along the whole front

To give the alarm the sentries fire a white very light and pull a string leading to Coy HQ. This sets the alarm bell ringing and the men stand to. The sentries then withdraw to the strongpt. Between 2000 hrs and 2200 hrs this system of warning is augmented by a patrol of 4 men with a Breda MG. This patrol is supposed to go out in front of the minefields but, in practise the patrols prefer to remain close in.

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

From 0400 hrs to 0600 hrs the Germans patrol outside the minefield. PW had often seen a German patrol of 15 or so men returning at first light. When the Germans go out on patrol the Italians are warned not to shoot for a specified time, i.e. 2 hrs.

No special boots are worn by patrols. (S.A. Div I.S. No.161)

ENEMY EQPT

Infn from PW and from censorship sources tend to indicate the imminent use in the WESTERN DESERT the SCHWERE WURFGERAT and the NEBELWERFER d., both of which are designed to throw rocket projectiles.

The Germans have recently been disseminating, for propaganda purposes, details of what they describe as "compressed air" amm. This is supposed to have terrific blast effect. The two weapons mentioned above are both said to fire this amm and other types have been reported. There is, so far, no confirmation that this type of amm exists, but owing to the large HE content in comparison with the weight of the projectile of these weapons, a high blast effect would be produced undoubtedly by using a normal HE filling.

The following is extract from a cap document at least 4 or 5 months old: dealing with the SCHWERE WURFGERAT:- "Eqpt appears to consist of 6 projectors mounted on a med armd half tracked veh with a crew of four. Projectors apparently consist of adjustable frames which are set up before firing. The projectiles are fired in rapid succession but not simultaneously and the range is stated to be 1000 metres minimum and 1900 maximum." The document gives no details of the projectile but it seems possible that it is rocket propelled, particularly as its marked flame track is mentioned.

Infn from the Russian front states that 2 types of projectile had actually been encountered there, HE and incendiary. The HE weighs 82 kgs and contains 50 kgs of TNT. It has a powerful blast effect and is said to be designed for demolition of defences.

The Incendiary projectile weighs 79 kgs and contains 50 litres of oil. A single hit is said to ignite an area of up to 200 sq metres oil being scattered over an area 20/25 metres long by 10/15 metres wide.

In both these projectiles the propellant is contained in the tail and the filling in the nose. The HE are marked with a pink band 3 cms wide and the incendiary with a green and yellow band.

NEBELWERFER D - Infn was received in late Jul 42 that the Germans had three Smoke Tps on the AFRICAN Front. Each tp was equipped with 6 rocket producing weapons, details of which are:-

- (a) Six 15 cm barrels
- (b) Fires 6 rockets every 90 seconds
- (c) Maximum range - 8,100 metres
- (d) Gun Crew - 6
- (e) Fires liquid incendiary charge with burster and smoke
May possibly fire HE.

[Signature] Licut.
I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 33

(Based on infn received to 1500 hrs 8 Sep 42.)

SPECIAL NOTE

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

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE1. GENERAL

In the South the enemy line runs approx 882262-885250 with strong points at 880259, 882252 and in HIMELMAT area. Our patrols are operating west against these posns. The indications are that the enemy intends to retain some of his forces at least in the area east of the minefields. He still has his strong A Tk screen to protect himself from the constant pressure of our light armd forces.

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

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

No contact with the enemy is reported by our patrols night 7/8 Sep in the Coastal sector. Two enemy patrols, however, were observed area 87523040 and were engaged by our arty and MG fire. Reports generally indicate that the enemy is very much on the alert.

2. AIR OPS

Night 3/4 Sep Not relaxing pressure on enemy forces in southern battle area, Wellingtons (some making double sorties) with Albacores for third night running made all night attack dropping bombs (including 2 x 4,000). Good results are reported and many fires in target area at conclusion of attack. Enemy night fighters seen in vicinity but no engagements. Hurricane night fighters operating in the aerodrome area made no contact with EA.

4 Sep. During morning Bostons, Baltimores and B25 Mitchells continued attacks on enemy cols withdrawing westwards reporting increased dispersal of targets towards mid-day. Two formations operated to assist NZ forces in meeting enemy counterattacks. Bombing reported good incl direct hits on MT and in one attack bombs fell among gp of 25 tks at 873259. Only first formation engaged by enemy fighters resulting 1 Me 109 probable without loss. During sweeps over battle area Spitfires and Hurricanes engaged formation of 21 Me 109's and Me 202's probably destroying 1 Me 109 and damaging 3 Me 109s without loss. In one further combat with 5 Me 109s, 1 Me 109 was damaged while one Hurricane was damaged but returned safely to base. Rising dust effected ops from mid-day. On report of isolated gp of armd v at 889239 Special Hurricanes armed with buffies bombs located and attacked a small armd concentration scoring direct hits on two tks one 6 wheeled AMC, also strafing personnel. Bomb splinters damaged 2 Hurricanes who forced landed in our lines. During afternoon Beau-fighters again carried out successful sortie against enemy L of C destroying one articulated pot carrier and one MT near SOLLUM and inflicting casualties on tps in 30 remaining MT. Nearby 6 guns eastbound effectively strafed. Enemy air effort much reduced but incl two acks by 25 plus Stukas (with fighter escort) on NZ forces at 1040 hr.

ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY - Night 3/4 Sep

A considerable number of enemy bombers thought to be JU 88s carried out bombing and strafing attacks against the NZ Forces from 2200 hrs until daylight. Hy HE and fragmentation bombs were dropped. One aircraft is reported to have been fitted with "siren". Many yellow flares were used and red sig lights were fired by the enemy when targets were bombed in their lines. Total casualties: one killed and one wounded. One of the bombers is reported to have strafed the ALEAMEIN area.

SEC "C" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

2. ENEMY METHODS

(a) It is reported that the enemy is using "crowsfeet" in the areas recently evac by him. "Crowsfeet" consist of sharp spikes which are scattered on the ground to puncture tyres. They are often difficult to locate owing to the dust and if found, their locality should be reported immediately.

(b) On night 3/4 Sep an enemy aircraft dropped 5 white flares fwd of our FDLs. Immediately afterwards red veroy lights were put up along the length of the enemy FDLs. It is thought that this is the enemy signal indicating the posn. of his FDLs to his aircraft.

3. ENEMY LOSSES

Tks - PW captured 6 Sep stated that in the general area 4258 he personally counted 24 German tks destroyed. During the initial stages of the adv, he also saw at least 20 Italian tks badly damaged the minefield. These tks were said by PW to be ML3s and identified them from photographs by the leafsprings in the suspension. (The L6 sprung by tension bars).

Armd/Cs - Two are claimed destroyed in area 888254. PW cap 4 Sep stated that 3 Recce Unit has now only 10 out of 17 Armd/Cs left.

MT - It is estimated that 500 MT have been left in the area evac by the enemy.

Further details are now available of the action by NZ Div night 3/4 Sep and morning 4 Sep. The following casualties were inflicted:-

Total killed 515
of which 150 to 200 were German.

The following Eopt was destroyed:-

36 MGs
3 A Tk guns
1 Hy Mortar
Some lt tks and probably 2 88mm guns.

4. ENEMY MORALE

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

PW from 10 Coy 104 Panzer Grenadier Regt at 425873 states that the orders for withdrawal had been received 4 Sep but owing to lack of tpt 10 Coy were unable to move. They had only two out of 20 vehs left. Our bombing and arty caused numerous casualties. 10 Coy, according to PW, had only 60 men left out of a total of 120. Morale was very low and personnel in 10 Coy "were fed up to the teeth".

ENEMY METHODS

Enemy working parties have been reported by our patrols to only work for about 5 mins and then cease for a similar length of time. This is apparently done to prevent our patrols from surprising them under cover of the noise of their efforts.

5. ENEMY PROPAGANDA

A cap airman carried a booklet printed in German and Arabic. The booklet pointed out the friendly feeling which GERMANY had for the Arabic people and asked that "Noble Arabs" into

whose hands the bearer might fall if forced down, to extend their "traditional hospitality" and give him all the assistance in their power.

6. ENEMY EQPT

(a) According to PW of 554 bty SEMOVENTE, the proportion of amm for the guns of their bty is as follows:-

Three-fifths	HE
One fifth	AP
One fifth	EP hollow charge.

(b) The following additional infn ref "Butterfly" bombs is taken from the translation of an Italian document dated 24 May 42:-

The LUFTWAFFE intend to employ in future a 2 kg bomb S.D. 2. The bomb is cylindrical in shape and 8cms long, painted grey-green. Att to the body of the bomb is a wire 15 cms long with two twin wings at the end of the wire. All tps must be informed at once how to deal with this bomb. The bomb explodes at the slightest touch. It is to put out of action by a rifle shot at a distance of 50 metres or by placing an explosive charge near, but not touching the bomb".

This bomb, often called the "Butterfly" bomb, has an outer case which opens under the influence of a powerful spring when released. This outer case, when opened, forms the "twin wings" described above. The wings, revolving during descent, arm the bomb.

The presence of these bombs is usually given away by the opened up wings or cases lying about on the ground and, as stated above, the slightest disturbance is usually sufficient to actuate them.

Recent fragmentation tests carried out with these bombs have shown that wounds may be caused within a radius of 150 yds.

The following is infn gained from one offr and 13 NCOs of 34 Bn ? SAN MARCO MARINES captured 483918, 4 Sep 42, and one NCO who was cap 3 1/2 miles south of check post at Km 39 on ALEXANDRIA Rd same night who came ashore and blew a break of 15 inches in the ry and a breach in the pipe-line. Four trains passed along the ry before the gap was noticed in the ry line.

Unit Most of the PW state that they are part of the sabotage unit belonging to the San Marco bn now at MERSA MATRUH. Estimates of the strength of the Bn vary up to 1,000 men. Several PW state that not more than two coys totalling in all 300 men, have arrived. Statements indicate that they are saboteurs.

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

Movements

The party possibly 60 men in all was flown to MERSA MAERUH from LECCE on or about 24 Aug 42. The majority appear to have come from POLA. Several PW stressed the haste with which the journey was made.

Action

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

The second attempt was made on the night of their capture. On this occasion two MTBs left MAERUH at about 1500 hrs 3 Sep 42, No 12 with a party of 20 men on board and another (NO unknown) with 15 on board. Nothing is known of the fate or the role of the second MTB. Of the 20 on NO 12, 5 did not leave the MTB (either because there was no room in the dinghies or because they had lost their nerve).

The plan was for the "N" tps to swim ahead and recon the beach while the dinghies paddled in the rear. Actually the sea was so rough that the swimmers had to cling to the stern of the dinghies. The fifteenth

man captured alone was lost during ops. Also the dinghies landed at different points and in the process of collecting the members of the party, nearly fired on each other. The distance from the MTB to the shore was variously given as 2 Kms and 2 1/2 miles. Time of landing was given variously between 2100 and 2300 hrs.

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

- (a) The pipeline (acquadotto) and
- (b) The railway.

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

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

E-PT

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

The dinghies were made of rubber and worked by two pairs of paddlers.

The offr carried a marked map. The route marked crosses the narrowest part of the marsh at approx 479917.

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

General Intentions

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

Morale.

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

Flaming

I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf D.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 34

(Based on info received to 1500 hrs 9 Sep 42)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE1. GENERAL

There is no further development reported from the south.

Situation on the div front is very quiet, no info having been received during the last 24 hrs.

Four more of our PWs have returned from TOBRUCH, this time they are Indians.

1st OPS

Night 4/5 Sep. For fourth night in succession Wellingtons operating with Albacores bombed withdrawing enemy cols in the southern sector starting numerous fires, incl one in an ammo dump. Hurricanes patrolling our and enemy LGs sighted no enemy aircraft.

5 Sep. Supporting pressure by our arm forces on enemy rearguard moving through minefield Baltinores made one early attack on target of 1,000 MT scoring two direct hits starting two fires. Despite poor weather on LGs Spitfires, Hurricanes and Kittyhawks made sweeps over battle area engaging two formations of Me 109s and Me 202s damaging 5 Me 109s for loss of three Spitfires and 1 Kittyhawk (2 pilots safe). Hurricane IID operation abortive owing to interference by enemy fighters. Enemy air ops on moderate scale incl sweeps by formations of 10/15 fighters battle area and 2 reported attacks by fighter-bombers and one by Stukas in fwd areas. In addition fighter-bombers dropped bombs SW of MIRIYA and on LG 28 without causing damage or casualties.

SEC "C" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE2. ENEMY EQUIP

A new German mine has been reported. This mine is adjustable and may be set A-Tk, Anti-MT, Anti-Personnel or Booby Trap. "Trapped". Fuller details will be promulgated as soon as they are available.

3. ENEMY METHODS

Engrs who accompanied a patrol to 874293 report that mines in that area have been fitted with a device to prevent them from being lifted. The nature of the device has not been reported.

4. ENEMY MAINTENANCE

Indian ORs who escaped from TOBRUCH state that thry is being continued to DERN. So far it had progressed about 6 miles.

5. ENEMY ORGANIZATION

PW made the following statement concerning 7 Special Engr Regt (Italian):- There are only 3 Coys left in the Regt, 1, 7 and 8. 1 Coy has strength of 100 men all ranks, and has 3 pls of 32 men each. Each pl has 3 secs; each sec has No 1 Gp (Destruction) armed with explosives and Bangalore torpedoes, and No 2 Gp (Sp) with 2 LMGs. No 1 Gp goes fwd first and if it is held up No 2 Gp covers it with automatic fire. The actual detection of mines is done with the normal electromagnetic rod fitted with a ring which causes a ringing sound to be transmitted to earphones when it passes over a mine.

NOTE

It has been ascertained that the revolving light which has been seen recently to the eastwards is a mobile 230 candle power beacon controlled by the RAF. The light is used as a ref pt for night flying aircraft and its location is changed weekly.

I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

Lieut

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 35

(Based on infn received to 1500 hrs 11 Sep 42)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE1. GENERAL.

No change is reported from the south where our light armed patrols have the enemy under observation.

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

Shells

Approx 500/were registered in the div area for 24 hrs to mid-day 10 Sep, the large majority of which fell about our FDLs. About two thirds of this shelling is reported from the coastal sector.

Tac/R reports indicate no large activity but point out a considerable increase in diggings. This is confirmed by our patrols who report enemy working parties active in all sectors visited.

AIR OPS

7 Sep. Light bombers did not operate but fighters maintained constant patrols over the battle area without incident during the morning. In early afternoon, Spitfires and Hurricanes escorted Rac/R Central Sector where 4 Me 109s and Me 202s were encountered resulting in two Me 109s destroyed and 1 Me 109 and 1 Me 202 damaged. On return 3 Me 109s flying east over BURG EL ARAB were intercepted one being shot down LAKE MARIUT area and 1 damaged, all by Spitfires without loss. Later Kittyhawks and Tomahawks on report of Stukas Central Sector patrolled that area engaging 2 Me 109s which were destroyed at the expense of 1 Kittyhawk shot down and one Tomahawk damaged (pilot safe). Enemy air activity on reduced scale incl sweeps by 4/10 Me 109s and Me 202s battle area, fighter number attacks battle area and one on a LG (where no damage reported) and one Stuka attack by 9 Ju 87s.

3 pilots missing from ops on 5 Sep are now safe. 1 pilot missing on 4 Sep now safe and one Me destroyed in addition. Additional enemy casualties on 6 Sep - 1 Ju 87 and 1 Me 109 probable and 1 Me 109 damaged.

Bomber Ops - Night 6/7 Sep - 15 Wellingtons attacked TOBRUCH jetties and the area to the NW starting 3 fires. AA was intense and accurate and 12 searchlights were observed. (Adv Air HQ IS 216)

SEC "C" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE2. ENEMY METHODS

(a) The Germans are apparently making extensive use of British Respirators, several of which have been found on German vchs. (7 Mot Bde Gp I.B. No 50)

(b) A party of enemy inf were observed debussing behind his FDLs. This party appeared to move to a line of white flags set in the ground running roughly parallel to his FDLs. It is thought that the flags may have marked the limits of a task for a working party. The flags could not be seen the following morning. (30 Corps IS No 177)

3. ENEMY EQPT.

A new enemy mine has been encountered; weight of mine complete 8/9 lbs; weight of filling 3/4 lbs. It consists of a circular body 8" diameter by 1 1/2" deep and in the centre of the top of the lid the brass fuze assembly is screwed; a domed metal mushroom shaped pressure plate, diameter 10" is positioned over the

Enemy Eapt cont

body and takes the load causing pressure to come on the fuze assembly thus detonating the mine. The fuze is a neat workshop job and has almost certainly been made in EUROPE; it has settings to use the mine as AP or Tk, or as a booby trap operated by a trip wire.

Samples of this mine are urgently required and their location should be reported to the nearest RE offr.

The chief interest of this mine is that it contains only 5/4 lbs of explosive (compared with the Tellermine 12 1/2 lbs) and it thus comes into line with our mines in that respect; it has no special holes to accept additional anti-lifting devices like the Tellermine but these devices can readily be att to ANY mine, and care should be exercised accordingly.

Mines so far reported have been laid flush with the ground. (30 Corps I.S. No 177)

Michael F. Lieut.
I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

The following is a German appreciation of our dispositions prior to the attack in the south 1 Sep. It is taken from an Intelligence Summary addressed to 15 Armd Div, and is dated 28 Aug. -

1. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS.

The Southern Sector of the ALAMEIN posn from the ATTARA Depression to ALAM NAYEL is occupied by mob forces of 7 Armd Div (7 Mot Bde and the reinforced 4 SAAC Regt). Their task is probably to provide a mob def cover on the S flank of the enemy line, making use of the extremely broken country and of the minefields, and, in the event of an enemy attack, to gain time for a counter-attack from the forces which are ready behind the front line. (For a strategic counter attack English Eighth Army has at its disposal in Army Res 1 Armd Div in the area BOASHAZA and another unidentified mot or armd force of about div strength round GEBEL BEIN GABIR).

The main body of SAAC Regt, reinforced by tks and arty is probably in the area QARET EL HIMELMAT. During the daytime armd cars are pushed fwd from time to time for recce and protection (not regularly to the posns shown on the map). At night they are generally withdrawn a few kms to the East.

On the western edge of NAQB EL KHADIM are arty OPs, apparently with inf protection.

The fire of the identified HBs is directed mainly on our posns on both sides of the two QARET EL KHADIM and harassing fire is also put down in the areas to the rear. At night most of the enemy's fwd btys posns are vacated.

The force in the area SAMAKET GABALLA may be either 4 Armd Bde now reformed and re-equipped, or a new mot force. Even if this Bde Gp is to be employed in a mob role it must be expected that it will be organized in strong pts for the defence of the locality.

2. TANKS - In 4 SAAC Regt sector up to 1 sqn of tks (1E) has been observed so far; 7 of these were for a short time in the front line. It can be assumed that the total enemy strength at present on the ALAMEIN front is 400. Of these 100 at most will be with 7 Armd Div. (The remainder will be with 1 Armd Div and the new mot or armd force already referred to).

3. MINES - In the last few days active mining has been observed in the area of the two tracks. It is definitely established that mines have been laid in the area Pt 115. It may be deduced that this fd is continued to the South immediately west of the 2 tracks. These are probably scattered fds for the most part. No continuous barrier of mines or deep minefields have yet been discovered. Nevertheless, small dispersed minefields in chessboard pattern, not yet inter-connected, must be expected in the enemy area, particularly in defiles, as for example along the two tracks or in the area of the "tomb".

The English have laid warning devices (e.g. petrol tins which ignite on contact) especially in front of their minefields.

4. ENEMY INTENTION

In the event of an attack it is to be expected that reinforced recce unit will withdraw to the East, making skilful use of the country and of the minefields. It will maintain close contact and will attempt to harass the front and the exposed flank of our forces with arty fire. Harassing fire and brief concentrations on enclosed areas must also be expected at night.

Enemy Intentions cont

Serious resistance must be looked for from the Bde Gp in the area SAMAKET GABALLA. It may be assumed that in accordance with English Tactics, his mob forces will not launch an immediate counter attack, but will allow the attack to come up against planned defence fire in a favorable area. In conjunction with this a counter attack by the enemy Army Ros is to be expected after a brief time, in view of the short distance.

2/24 AUST INF

SECRET

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 35

(Based on infn received to 1500 hrs 13 Sep 42)

SEC "A"

OPS

INTELLIGENCE

1. GENERAL

It armd patrols in the south continue to watch the enemy and take every opportunity of harassing his movement. On 11 Sep it, was reported that arty engaged the enemy at 881259, scoring a direct hit on a tk which blew up, and also hitting a petrol lorry setting it on fire.

The situation on the Div front remains unchanged, though reports indicate some increase in hostile shelling in the coastal sector where 400 shells were reported for 12 Sep.

Enemy fire was of a harassing nature, and the use by the enemy of 17cm guns during the last few days has been reported. Enemy arty also carried out air burst ranging shoots on the following areas: Pt 24, TEL EL EISA STA, 878299, 875297.

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

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

Air photographs of 6 Sep which cover most of the enemy gun area, have shown little change in the enemy arty dispositions since 28 Aug except for an increase of 22 fd guns in the northern sector:

A new HQ of 3 tps has appeared N of the ry in the area 871305 two tps of which are in old pits. Some of the fd arty in the northern sector appear to have a roving commission and fires from the open and not the pits. Also at least 2 bty posns of three tps each have alternative sets of pits dug nearby.

Two tps of widely disp guns thought to be either 1 Tk guns or fd guns in an 1 Tk role, have appeared in the area 868304.

The bulk of the med arty remains in the central sector (i.e. between northings 287 and 293), where it can oppose any thrust from the north or south.

In the general area west of the DEIR EL SHEIH Depression a line of diggings running north and south has appeared in the area 871280. Some of these diggings are thought to contain 1 Tk guns.

Several hy bty posns have become unoccupied since 28 Aug but these btys have probably moved into an area not covered by the latest photographs. The strength of the hy guns is thought not to have changed.

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

3. AIR OPS - 10 Sep.

Hurricanes escorted early Tac/R on full recon of battle area reporting no movement and sighting no EA. Spitfire top cover sighted 4 EA too far away for contact. On report of approaching enemy formation Spitfires and Hurricanes did not contact Stukas with fighter escort who attacked NZ posns at 1015 hrs; dust curtailed ops during the afternoon but Spitfires made a late uneventful sweep over the battle area. Enemy air activity was restricted by dust.

EFFECTS OF OUR BOMBING

Two recent statements by PSW illustrate the moral and physical effects produced by the continuous attacks of our Lt bombers during the period 31 Aug - 6 Sep.

Effects of our bombing cont

Prisoners of 115 Panzer Grenadier (1st Armd Div) tell of the legend which has grown up in the Div around 18 Bostons; named by them "the 18 Imperturbables" which had arrived so regularly and bombed regardless of flak and opposition from the Luftwaffe. There is no doubt that the consistence both in timing and in numbers of our raids has made a deep impression on the minds of the enemy forces.

According to a PW from 65 Regt TRIESTE Div, such was the effectiveness of the bombing to which that unit was subjected in the late afternoon of Sep 3, and during the ensuing night, that a large proportion of the MT and amm and stocks held were destroyed. Until reinfts arrive by sea the unit will, to all intents and purposes, be out of action. (Adv Air HQ Western Desert I.S. No. 218)

SEC "C" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

4. ENEMY METHODS

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

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

(iii) A captured order by ROMMEL regarding defensive measures by night orders frequent short bursts of LMG fire and immediate counterattack by second line against any penetration. The warning is given that, if successful one night British patrols will very likely visit the same place on the next

(iv). A PW from 8 Tk Regt has given the following info about the organization and employment of the Regt's MT. Although each sqn has theoretically a certain number of MT under its comd they no longer work direct under the sqns but are controlled by the Regt. They are divided into the following gps:-

(a) 1st line tpt; these vehs operate immediately behind the tks and are responsible for the supplies of food, amm and pet for the tks and their crews.

(b) When a veh comes out of the workshops it goes first to "Fahrver-eirschaft" to await disposal. Here it comes under the orders of Oberinspktor Lampe who is responsible for the employment of and allocation of all soft skinned MT. These vehs are often used for special purposes. The PW, for instance, made three trips to TOBRUCH to fetch some spare parts for the tk wkshops. Lampe usually has a good pool of about 20 MT but on 31 Aug it had only 7 which were used as pet vehs.

(c) 3rd line Tpt. This remains well behind the front with the luggage and is usually in the vicinity of the wkshops.

In order to overcome the difficulties of very heavy going on 1 Sep, pet in canisters being taken to the Regt by lorries was loaded onto 4 12-ton tractors of the rec section about 5 kms behind the front.

According to the PW new Mk IV Specials do not move fwd under their own power like other German tks but are taken fwd on transporters. When new tks arrive at AFRICA CORPS HQ they are allotted to the 2 Regt. Those destined for the 8 Tk Regt go to the wkshops where they are overhauled and given a trial run of 20 to 30 km. This usually takes day after which they are driven to the 2nd line tpt where they await collection by the tk crews. (30 Corps I.S. No. 180)

Flamingo Lieut.

I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No 37

(Based on infn received to 1500 hrs 17 Sep 42)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE1. GENERAL

Considerable northward movement of enemy MT has been reported for 15 Sep continuing morning 16 Sep though on a slightly reduced scale. The concealment of a large stationary convoy was unsuccessfully attempted morning 16 Sep on two or three occasions by smoke laying vehs.

Standing patrol exchanged fire with a large enemy party night 15/16 Sep and deep daylight recon on foot next morning recovered a SPANDAU complete with spare parts and amm. Signs and blood stains indicated that at least 4 men had been dragged away either killed or wounded.

Patrol to 87392948 night 16/17 Sep report 2 MGs firing from 87329: and further patrol to 875291 reports flares put up by the enemy.

2. AIR OPS.

The following is extract from Adv Air HQ I.S. No 222:-

13 Sep - Spitfires, Tomahawks and Kittyhawks patrolled battle area during day and engaged four formations of enemy fighters resulting in 3 Me 109s probable and 3 Me 109s damaged for loss of one Kittyhawk (pilot safe) and damage to 1 Spitfire. Enemy air activity on a small scale incl patrols by small numbers of fighters morning and afternoon with Stuka or fighter-bomber attacks Central and Northern Sectors.

Bomber Ops 12/13 Sep - 23 Bostons co-operated with 3 Albatrosses who also bombed, in attacks against LGs 13 and 101. 8 bombs fell near 10-15 badly dispersed a/c and 1 fire was started in NW corner of LG. Slight inaccurate AA was encountered over the target area. A total of 79 x 250 lb bombs and 20 boxes of incendiaries was dropped by the Bostons and 19 x 250 lb bombs by the Albatrosses.

NOTE - 30 Corps I.S. No 183 supply the following clarification on claims of enemy air casualties:-

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

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

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

3. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

following infn about ^{PW cap night 13/14 Sep approx 871298} his posn:-

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

Coloithurn A Tk rifle in place of the A Tk gun.

It appears that this part of the front may be held by alternate German and Italian units and that bn's are sited with a front of 500/1000 metres and 2/3 kms in depth.

Recent air photographs and CB reports show that a second line is being formed 2/3 kms west of the main minefield along the general line of the 25 metre contour, and therefore overlooking the fwd line. According to PW's statements, 1, 2, and 4 Coys of his Bn (1 Bn, 62 IR) would be in that area through which the 25 metre contour passes.

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

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

The lack of wiring or mining within the coy posns shows that the fwd line itself is not yet complete, but this development must be expected in the near future.

CB reports show inf guns, which must belong to German units, at the following locations:- 870300, 872294, 868299.

It is noticeable that the ground west of these locations is high ground, especially pt 29 at 868300 and pt 30 at 869292. It seems that the Germans have chosen to occupy dominating ground themselves and in addition have allotted to the Italians narrow frontages, no doubt with the idea that, if an Italian sector collapses, Germans can intervene immediately and decisively. (30 Corps I. S. No 183)

SEC "A" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

1. ENEMY METHODS

(a) To cover MT movement it has been observed that the enemy are employing smoke carrying vehs which move up and down the line of vehs in convoy laying smoke as they go.

(b) There are indications that the enemy is becoming 'counter-battery conscious'. Apart from interfering with our Photo R he is thought to be using the following methods of deception:- dummy flashes; ranging guns placed well to the flank; dummy guns; alternate posns and synchronised firing of guns of different calibres.

5. ENEMY MORALE

The PW referred to above states that when our patrol cap him he tried to tell them that 10 others of his party would arrive shortly, and that, if our patrol waited, the entire Italian patrol would be cap. This, he considered, would be a much better fate than living in constant fear and trembling, on 2 litres of water per day. Our patrol did not understand and when the 2 patrols met in the dark, he shouted the password "Catania".

- 3 -

6. RUSSIAN VIEWS ON TANK WARFARE

The following is based on a recent RUSSIAN paper. It is clear from this and other evidence that the GERMANS have had tk superiority from the start of the campaign and these notes should be considered in this light.

German Methods

1. In attack, armour is not committed until a weak spot is found in the defences and the GERMANS are masters of the local situation. Massed forces, often composed of entire arm'd divs, are then thrown in, generally on a narrow front.
2. In defence, tks are held in res to break up cols which have penetrated posns. Such methods were used during the RUSSIAN offensives of last winter and of this Spring (KHARKOV). In the course of the latter ops large enemy arm'd forces had to be employed to break up the RUSSIAN attacks.
3. The GERMANS are always trying to create a situation where their tks have room to manoeuvre and do not have to accept battle with strong posns.

RUSSIAN EXPERIENCE AND METHODS

1. The enemy's arm'd forces are very strong but can be overcome if all are properly trained in the use and tactical handling of Russian Weapons. Neither trg or tactics are satisfactory throughout the army.
2. In view of GERMAN tk strength the scope of inf alone is limited. Russian inf has frequently been caught unawares by hy tk counter-attacks. Good air recce will guard against such surprise. If there is any likelihood of a clash with enemy armour, mixed cols of inf, arty and tks must be employed closely sp by aircraft. Comment: The good results obtained against AFV by the STORMOVIK and other RUSSIAN close sp air craft have frequently been reported.
3. If a clash with the enemy's armour is inevitable, he must not be allowed to choose his own ground or time. Denial of manoeuvrability is half the battle, and he can often be forestalled and even made to split his armour.
4. It is often believed that it is best to fight off armour by remaining on the defensive. This may be right in a narrow tactical sense but if the enemy retains freedom of movement he will invariably find a way through or round posns. Time can be gained and forces spared by the adoption of defensive tactics but one must build up as rapidly as possible for a counter-attack. This will be launched in one sector, while rigid defence is maintained elsewhere. Forces must not be whittled away in small counter-attacks which can be smashed up by enemy armour after initial penetration.
5. Tks will never be strung out to cover a whole sector. Either in attack or in defence, they will be under higher comd to be thrown in at one or at most, two pts when the opportunity arises. They will then be used in strength.

S. M. ...
I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Div

(Based on infn received to 1400 hrs 19 Sep 42)

SEC "A" OPS INTELLIGENCE1. GENERAL

The situation remains quiet, enemy air activity and shelling both being on a reduced scale during the last two days. The activity of enemy working parties, however, appears to continue. Our patrols night 18/19 Sep report enemy working parties busy S of ry. A further patrol exchanged fire with enemy post at 8737-3029 and from sounds heard, apparently inflicted casualties. Our patrol returned safely.

Flanking formation reports by explosions in the area 874289 and interpret them as blasting ops. This lends colour to a theory that the enemy is busy on defensive works on the MITEIRIYA Ridge.

Our arty finds it difficult to locate suitable targets during the daytime but persevere with their harassing fire at night.

2. AIR OPS - Night 14/15 Sep

Hurricanes on intruder patrols to DABA area sighted no e/a but straffed camps in area without observed results. 15 Sep - Spitfires, Kittyhawks, Warhawks and Hurricanes in course of patrols battle area had 3 engagements with enemy fighters. First combat with 7 Me 109s no claims made and in second 1 Me 109 probable, without loss. Late afternoon Kittyhawks intercepted formation of 50 Me 109s and Me 202s Central Sector claiming 1 Me 109 destroyed 4 Me 109 probable and 2 Me 109 damaged. Our losses 6 a/c missing (1 pilot safe). Spitfires and Hurricanes provided cover for comprehensive Tac/R battle area without incident. At 1300 hrs Stukas bombed posns in the N while enemy fighter bombers made 4 sorties with single a/c in morning and 1 late attack ALAKHIN area. Formation of 50 fighters put up by enemy late afternoon possibly as screen to Stukas combated by Kittyhawk wing and no reports of bombing received from our land forces. At mid-day special Spitfire closed with Ju88 on recce DELTA area at over 40,000 feet attacked from close range and claims e/a probably destroyed over DABA.

From PW Sources - Referring to the attack on the most recent MALTA Convoy, a GAF prisoner from LG.1 said they received practically no assistance from the ITALIAN Fleet, but even worse, two German a/c were shot down by Italian fighters. (Adv Air HQ I.S.)

3. ENEMY DISPOSNS

The strength in which the enemy has decided to hold the S Sector and the location of his main defences cannot be judged yet. It may be his intention to keep only a "forward posn" on approx the line of our western minefield and to re-establish his main defensive zone on the line QARET EL ABD - KALAKH - TAQA.

(30 Corps I.S. No 186)

SEC "C" GENERAL INTELLIGENCE1. ENEMY METHODS

(a) PW reports having seen and used the following method for tk destruction:- The petrol tank cap is removed, and a runnel made in the sand close to the petrol tank, filled with petrol and ignited.

(b) GERMAN TK TACTICS - During a tk attack A/Tk guns are placed on both flanks. If a withdrawal is necessary the tks try to retire on the axis of the adv, and when they are through the guns move across to form a screen.

Enemy Methods cont

(c) Enemy methods of clearing minefields during his adv on 30/31 Aug were noted as follows:- A. During the Night - (i) 3 or 4 men worked with spades, picking up the mines to make one narrow gap. Immediately behind each man was an AFV (tk or Armd C) covering him with its weapons. As the digger moved a pace or two fwd, so the AFV followed up behind him. No lights were visible.

(ii) Up to 10 or 14 vehs or AFVs were driven straight at the minefield in an attempt to find at least one clear route through.

It is not known whether or not this was successful as the first minefield had to be abandoned before first light. Mines were seen to explode, however, and it is considered that several vehs must have been destroyed.

B. After first Light - On a front of about 400 yds, AFVs adv 50 yds apart. In the front of each veh were men picking up mines covered by the weapons of the AFVs. Between the AFVs, inf adv across the minefield in line about 3 yds apart with bayonets fixed. In one area, an inf gun was seen to be brought into posns on the Western edge of the minefield covering the adv.

C. General - (i) Arty preparation was made on the Eastern edge of the minefield before the adv began. This appeared to be on areas selected for a break-through.

(ii) No attempt was made to clear the mines before the moon was up.

(iii) The enemy adv on a wide front, finally selecting his routes where the opposition was weakest. (30 Corps I.S. No 186)

5. ITEMS OF GENERAL INFN

PW from II Bn 101 PGR cap recently in the S provided his share of evidence on subjects which are frequently mentioned by German PW. According to him only 5 vehs in the Bn are not British but all petrol is now German. Also that his bn CO incl, has neither washed nor shaved for several weeks. His report of "gypsy tummy" in the bn is interesting in connection with an order issued by 15 Armd Div that men suffering from dysentery must remain the responsibility of the fwd tps as it is not possible to get them back to base. He added to the increasing membership of the German "bomb-bore" club, by confirming the devastation at COLOGNE and he had his own version of the recent failure at RAGIL: he said that ROMMEL, who had been ill some weeks ago, had called off the ops after a quarrel with the ITALIANS, who had not adv rapidly enough. (30 Corps I.S. No 186)

6. ENEMY EQPT

According to a cap document 12 Coy 115 Panzer Grenadier Regt had the following weapons at an unspecified but probably fairly recent date:-

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 85 Carbines | 4 MMGs |
| 39 Pistols | 2 81mm Mortars |
| 6 Tommy guns | 1 5cm A/Tk Gun |
| 10 LMGs. | |

The total strength of the coy is thought to be about 120-130 strong.

7. ENEMY MORALE

The following is extract from a letter dated 31 Jul to a Cpl in 5 Tk Regt from a girl in HAMBURG:-

"This place looks terrible. Tommy visited us properly on two consecutive nights. They were nights of horror - the worst since the war started. Terrible fires everywhere, no part of the city has been spared.

[Signature] Lieut
I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 39

(Based on info received to 1400 hrs 21 Sep 42)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCEGENERAL

There has been a substantial move fwd of our FDLs on the SW front of the Div sector. The new line had been planned, a protective minefield laid over a period of three nights and on night 17/18 Sep the units moved fwd and dug themselves into their new posns. The move fwd was behind strong protective patrols and was carried out smoothly without any interference from the enemy, who, in fact, was observed morning 20 Sep to be apparently registering with arty our former line.

This fwd move varies in depth from 1000 to approx 2,000 yds which reduces the distance between our FDLs and the enemy in this sector to an average of 2,000 yds. This move will, amongst other things, give increased observation of enemy territory and enable all arms to harass more effectively his defences.

During the night standing patrols covered improvements to the new posns.

In the south, the enemy posns on the minefield appear to have been thinned out. DEIR EL ANQAR is unoccupied and DEIR EL MUNASSIB east of 882 Easting, but there are strongpoints in the area 881234. South of HIMEIMAT, the only posn reported is at 881242 where there is a post covering the escarpment. Our armd patrols report enemy armd cars operating on general line 882 Easting. (9 Aust Div I.S. No 302)

Latest report of enemy arty activity to hand reports it is shelling on CUTTING area.

Patrols night 19/20 Sep report enemy working parties at 872294 - 87182996 - 87212979 - 87364541 - 87323019.

2. AIR OPS Night 17/18 Sep - Wellingtons and Halifaxes attacked TOBRUCH observing a direct hit on No 4 Jetty and leaving 6 fires burning in the target area. Hurricanes on intruder patrols DABA/FUKA area sighted no enemy a/c but strafed camps coastal sector.

18 Sep During day of reduced activity Spitfires, Kitthawks, Warhawks, Tomahawks and Hurricanes patrolled the battle area. In only engagement late afternoon formation of 10 Me 109s were intercepted resulting 2 Me 109s probable and 2 damaged without loss. Our losses 1 Hurricane (pilot safe) from Tac R escort during morning when 4 Me 109s unsuccessfully attempted to hinder operations. Enemy air activity incl patrols by small numbers of fighters over battle area, early fighter bomber attack on our LGs, and 3 attacks by fighter-bombers. (Adv Air HQ I.S. No 227)

SEC "C" GENERAL INTELLIGENCE3. ENEMY METHODS

(a) previous to their withdrawal, PW from HQ 2 Bn stated his bn had been in posn 10 1/2 PGRcap at 888256 some 3 kms NE of HIMEIMAT in front of our old minefield. By day the tps lived in holes in the ground, and by night they laid mines about 2 kms in front of their posns (approx the line of the 884 Easting). Mine laying, which was done only in the rdark,

consisted of scattered mines being laid in the wadis. Minefields were NOT wired or marked and it was difficult to see the mines as some had been in posn for 7 or 8 days already. GERMAN mines only were laid. (30 Corps I.S. No 187)

(b) It is now learnt that it was officially announced at an unspecified date this Spring that members of the SA "were fulfilling their military duties at the front". The figure of 989,000 out of 1,400,000 party members was mentioned; of these some 33,000 being offrs and 100,000 NCOs. The announcement then went on significantly to state that there were 10/20 SA men in every coy of the GERMAN Army.

Comment- The party is thus admirably placed to watch for disaffection or defeatism within the army.

The same report states that a number of SA "Special Units" have been armed and formed for security police work, within GERMANY, normally the responsibility of the SS.

Comment - This is the first time that SA have been used as an armed force for internal security since the ROEHM purge of 1934. The change of policy is doubtless dictated by the man-power problem. (GHQ MEF I.S. No 835)

4. ENEMY EQPT

(a) The following is a brief description of an enemy Circular Variable Pressure Mine. This mine can be employed in an A Tk or anti-personnel role. The body, which is of steel, is circular and is approx 8 inches in diameter and 1 1/4 inches in depth. The igniter assembly screws into the top of the body and projects upwards from it. A steel pressure plate 10 inches in diameter and slightly domed rests on the top of the body and projects upwards from the body of the igniter assembly. The pressure plate is fitted with three studs equally placed round the circumference which fits into three lugs which project sideways from the body of the mine, thus holding the pressure plate in posn. The igniter assembly is fitted with a knurled ring with a red pointer which can be set to the following readings:-

H, N, 3, 2, 1, K.

The settings N to K control the pressure at which the igniter is actuated. These settings represent the following pressures:

- K equals a pressure of 35 kgs
- 1 " " " 100 "
- 2 " " " 200 "
- 3 " " " 300 "
- N " " " 350 "

When set at H, the mechanism operates as a pull igniter. This is actuated by a trip wire which is attached to the projecting end of a cutting blade. A brass safety pin projects from a socket diametrically opposed to that of the cutting blade. The filling is 3 1/2 lbs of what appears to be poor quality TNT. (GHQ I.S. 834)

(b) A PW reports having seen tks mounting 8.8 cm guns. They were two in number, and PW is quite certain that the guns were 8.8 cm and not the long barrelled 7.5 cm gun. (30 Corps I.S. No 187)

[Signature] Lieut.
I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

SPECIAL NOTE Details are required of GERMAN tentage with particular reference to any special "black-out" devices or material. Any info on this subject is urgently required if and when available. (Rptd from 9 Aust Div I.S. 302)

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 40

(Based on info received to 1400 hrs 24 Sep.)

SEG "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE1. GENERAL

Situation on the Div front remains quiet. On night 22/23 Sep Patrols in the TEL EL EISA and Coastal Sector had nothing of importance to report.

Night 21/22 Sep all patrols in the Div sector report having been fired on, indicating that the enemy is very much on the alert.

AIR OPS

Night 19/20 Sep - Hurricanes strafed camps Central sector without observed results. Wellingtons and Halifaxes continued their attack on TOBRUCH in face of intense AA, starting 3 fires in target area and one large explosion.

20 Sep - In the course of Tac R escort over battle area Hurricanes encountered enemy fighters and 1 of our a/c is missing. Mid-morning Kittyhawks with bombs attacked 50 MT and some tents in northern sector observing all bombs in target area and resulting in one oil fire. 2 Me109s encountered on return were engaged and 1 destroyed without loss. Late afternoon Kittyhawks and Warhawks with Spitfire cover engaged formation of Me109s covering small number of Stukas bombing Central Sector. In resulting engagement 1 Me109 destroyed, 2 probable and 2 damaged at the expense 3 Kittyhawks (2 pilots safe). Enemy air activity on small scale incl patrols morning and afternoon by fighters battle area, 3 attacks by fighter-bombers and one small attack by 6-8 Stukas with escort central sector.

(Adv Air HQ I.S. No 2-9)

Flanking formation was visited by 12 JU87s escorted by Me109s at 1715 hrs 22 Sep. They bombed areas 885287 and 886288 causing slight damage.

2. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS

(i) According to PW from 2 Coy 3 Parachute Regt 1 Coy was situated approx 400 metres in rear Pt 62, 8775 2973. On the left of 1 Coy, and in the depression, was 2 Coy while on the right of 1 Coy was 3 Coy. PW could give no indication of the extent of the front occupied by any of the Coys. PW stated that there was a fourth coy but had no knowledge of its location.

(ii) A cap doc dated 26 Jul 42 was mentioned which apparently showed five strongpts and two areas for def fire west of TEL EL EISA. Another doc now makes it clear that the areas for DF were correct (871300 and 872297) but that the other areas were for arty concentrations. The DF areas are in front of two sectors which are believed to be strongly held by GERMANS; the other areas are behind the enemy's FDLs (which have remained unchanged) and cover the immediate approaches to what is believed to be part of the main defences in 869299 and 869298. (30 Corps I.S. No 130)

While it is not thought that there is any drastic changes in enemy dispositions on the day front, air photographs show considerable thickening of defences in depth. This may mean some changes in unit dispositions to man the new posns as they are completed. In this respect it is considered that tps will be placed so that all vital or commanding ground will be held by GERMANS. (9 Div I.S.)

3. REVIEW OF SITUATION

There has been increasing indications during the week that the enemy is preparing to settle down to a period of defensive warfare, and at the moment his dispositions appear to be hardening into their final form.

This form follows closely what has become almost a classic pattern for LIBYA and bears a resemblance to the dispositions adopted when the two opposing forces last faced each other at such close

such close quarters on the GAZALA-SEGNAI line. They are indeed today at even closer quarters since the southern flank is not here so far refused, owing perhaps to the opportune capture of a plan of our southern minefields the enemy has established himself firmly in possession of them and has much reduced the extent of "No Man's Land" in this sector. For the rest 21 Corps is responsible for the northern flank resting on the sea, with under command TRENTO and apparently BOLOGNA stiffened by 164 Div in the role previously played by 90 Lt, and sp by the bulk of the Army med arty. The centre from KHAWABIR to MUNASSIB is held by 10 Corps with BRESCIA and part of FOLGORE Divs sp by the RAMKE Parachute Bde and, for the moment at least, elements of 90 Lt Div. The south flank is looked after by 20 Corps with ARIETE, LITTORIO, TRIESTE and the bulk of FOLGORE.

So much for the static defence of the front. The mob counter-attack force is provided by D.A.K, as would be expected which, as by far the most important formation in the fd, is res to act as the sheet anchor of defence and to rest and recover from the damage sustained in the abortive offensive.

The German Armd Divs will no doubt play the same part as they played at GAZALA, each with a "duty tk son" at short notice to move and to assist in immediate counter attack, and the remnants of the div at longer notice.

While these def disposns are orthodox and follow the enemy's traditional practise, there is one new feature which cannot fail to attract attention. This is the mixing up of GERMAN and ITALIAN units along the front. Study of a map of detailed disposns shows that it is a case of not only sandwiching ITALIAN divs between GERMAN but actually of regts and bns. There can be only one reason for these measures which must have accompanying difficulties in comd and bring some friction in their train. The reason must be GERMAN uncertainty of ITALIAN morale. The ITALIAN inf, BRESCIA and SABRATA in particular, made a very poor showing in Jul, and since those days ITALIAN formations have not appeared by themselves in the line. Cap docs, too, have yielded evidence of the GERMAN desire to pull the ITALIANS together, and ROMBERG found it necessary early in Aug to issue special orders that every offr would be held liable for the behaviour of his tps. Every effort is being made to find the antidote for what Marshal BASTICO once called "almost a tactical rule" on the part of ITALIAN tps - to abandon their posns when shelled. How this enemy experiment of mixing tps will work remains to be seen. If the problem of liason is solved smoothly it will be a surprise. While it is always hazardous to discuss enemy morale - especially ITALIAN morale which can veer from the audacious to the ridiculous in a few days - it is clear that the value of their ITALIAN allies is becoming less to the GERMANS and their liability greater. The small and rather feeble part played by the ITALIAN Mob Corps during the recent ops in contrast to their comparatively large role at GAZALA is symptomatic.

With little activity on the front at present we must attempt to look fwd and svy the enemy's general posn. One factor in the recent ops was the enemy maintained posn, especially in fuel. Reduction of ground and air activity, (due mainly to the calling off of the offensive and also, in the case of the G.A.F., to the prevalence of sandstorms hampering ops) has naturally reduced the enemy consumption of fuel and other maintenance requirements.

One convoy of three large ships arrived at BENGHAZI and TOBRUCH at the beginning of the month and a number of smaller vessels have succeeded in reaching AFRICA. As a result the enemy's supply situation is out of danger for the present and he now probably has in hand between one and two weeks of stocks of most requirements.

There can be little doubt that the enemy's intention is to seize the DELTA whenever he can. He has tried once and has obviously found his forces inadequate. He could probably, from the maintenance point of view, carry out another attempt in a few weeks time, but without a substantial increase in strength that would be unlikely to yield more success than the first. It is clear that before he can consider his chances of successfully resuming the offensive to be adequate, the enemy must reinforce to a considerable extent. The growth of ITALIAN forces will not materially affect the enemy's ability to strike and the only reinforcement that matters must be GERMAN.

Lt. I.S. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

War Diary

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 41

(Based on infn received to 1400 hrs 25 Sep 42)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE

GENERAL

The last 24 hrs has been quiet. No reports have been received of shelling or of contact with the enemy in the Bde area.

AIR OPS

Night 20/21 Sep - Landing grounds at DABA attacked by Bostons who reported many bombs among disp a/c. Hurricanes strafed camps and MT coastal sector reporting 5 fires and 1 MT destroyed. Wellingtons maintained attack TORRUCH starting several fires harbour area.

21 Sep. - Patrols over battle area flown by Spitfires, Kittyhawks Warhawks and Hurricanes resulting two engagements. First in morning when Spitfires in high cover to Tac/R destroyed 1 Me109 without loss; second in late afternoon when Spitfires high cover to Kittyhawk sweep ALAMBIN area engaged 25 Me109s and Me202s without cas to either side. Enemy air activity incl patrols by small numbers fighters morning and afternoon and large scale sweep late afternoon. Small sections fighter-bombers attacked southern sector early and late. (Adv Air HQ I.S. No. 230)

12 Ju87s escorted by 12 Me202s and 6 Me109s ineffectively bombed area 886279 at 1500 hrs 24 Sep.

SEC "C" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

ENEMY METHODS

(i) Patrol in area 87532921 reports that mines examined in this fd had had the shear pin removed making the mines anti-personnel. There appeared to be no set pattern to the fd but there were at least two rows of mines, all British.

(ii) PW of 3 Coy 1 Bn 62 IR cap'night 13/14 Sep at 87172984 states that extensive minefields exist in rear of 1 Bn posn. These, he states, are electrically wired and exploded by gps. Between them are placed 200-kg air-craft bombs, half protruding from the ground, to be exploded by sympathetic detonation. Gaps through these minefields are known to offrs only. 62 IR is supposed to fall back through the minefield in the event of an attack. A total of 300,000 British mines is mentioned by PW as having been used by the enemy.

Note:- The report of the British OR who walked into our lines last month, concerning the boxes wired together may have some bearing on the detonating of these minefields. (vide Bn I.S. No. 4 para 5 a(ii))

INTERCHANGEABILITY OF S.A.A.

Infn received on British and American S.A.A. suitable for certain enemy weapons is given in the following table. This has been confirmed by firing.

(a) <u>Enemy Weapons</u>	Suitable British or American gun.
German 7.92mm dual purpose M.G. 34.	British 7.92mm Besa Ball, AP etc.
German 7.92mm a/c MG 15.	British 7.92mm Besa Ball, AP etc.
German 9mm machine Carbinos M.P. 38 and 40	British 9mm Parabellum ball and U.S. 9mm Winchester Parabellum ball.
Italian 7.7mm Aircraft M.G. Breda-Safat	British .303 Mk VII

Interchangeability of S.A.A. cont.

British Besa ball should also function satisfactorily in German rifles and carbines though this has not yet been definitely confirmed by firing.

(b) As regards enemy amm suitable for British weapons:-

(i) German 7.92mm s.S., s.m.K., s.m.K.1'spur, and s.m. K(H) will function satisfactorily in British 7.92 Besa M.G.

(ii) The British 9mm "Sten" and "Lanchester" machine carbines are designed to fire German 9mm Parabellum (Pist. Patr,08) as well as British and American amm. They will also fire the Italian 9mm Med. 38 type amm used in the Beretta machine carbine.

(iii) Italian 7.7mm S.A.A. (used in Italian aircraft MGs) has been approved for the use in British rifles and Bren LMGs in the MIDDLE EAST.

4. ENEMY DISPOSNS.

Photo R of 22 Sep reports many suspected tks in area 860303 - 856304 - 859291 - 857291 and a possible tk workshop at 859306. This fits in well with reports that 15 Armd Div is in this general area.

Tac R 24 Sep revealed about 400 MT in sq 8629 and another 200 MT in NW of DEIR EL ABYAD; it also reported 150 MT in the area MITEIRIYA Ridge. Part of these concentrations are probably accounted for by units of 15 Armd Div. Some of these gps are a few miles further SE than usual; it is possible that they represent battle gps, which the enemy normally organizes during static periods in order to deal with any snap attack by us.

(30 Corps I.S. No 191)

In the last three days five tps of fd guns have been brought in north of the 300 Grid Line. These have all come into old pits and complete the btys that were depleted by our shelling.

[Signature]
Liout.
I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

Special Notes

1. It is reported that some radio receiving sets in GERMAN tks may bear a plate giving instns that they should be destroyed if the tk carrying them has to be abandoned. It is highly important that a watch should be maintained for sets of this type in order that they may be thoroughly examined.

Inf is also required on the use of substitutes for quartz in signal eqpt. Should any examples be noted all details, with specimens if possible, should be fwded to BHQ as soon as possible.

2. ENEMY ARTY

Since many guns fire simultaneously, it is very difficult to decide just which HB is active and it becomes most important to send fragments of shell to C.B.O. Yesterday, the calibre of three HBs was determined by shell fragments, but fragments of 105mm and 75mm shells are still urgently required. Fragments should, if possible, bear the place and time of arrival and be fwded to BHQ as soon as possible.

Inf received 1700 hrs - A fighting patrol last night exchanged fire with covering det for an enemy minelaying party at 87432944. Gas are believed to have been inflicted on the enemy without any reported loss by our patrol. Fire was also exchanged with enemy working parties at 87592934 and 87372933. An enemy party laying mines at 87472949 is reported. One of our patrols examined minefield at 87572912.

War Diary

2/24 AUSTRALIAN INF BN

SECRET

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 42

(Based on infn received to 1500 hrs 26 Sep 42)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE

1. GENERAL.

Situation remains quiet.

2. GROUND OPS

Patrol from left fwd bn to approx 87442967 night 24/25 Sep came under MG fire. Voices were heard from Pt 23, but after what appeared to be an order, there was complete silence.

Patrol to 87253015 night 24/25 Sep reported enemy working party activity on or in the vicinity of the ry line.

3. AIR OPS.

Night 22/23 Sep - Enemy LGs SIDI HANEISH attacked by Bostons who returning sighted enemy cols on escarpment S of FUKA. Making second sortie Bostons bombed these cols starting 3 fires causing large explosion, and strafing from low level. Hurricanes strafed coastal sector ME at DABA and Central Sector. Wellingtons also bombed HANEISH LGs starting 6 fires. Wellingtons attacked TUB. RUCH starting 2 large fires dock area while Liberators made last light attack BENGHAZI Harbour setting one ship on fire followed by a very large explosion.

25 Sep. - Our fighters incl Spitfire Wing patrolled battle area not sighting o/a, 1 Kittyhawk forced landed, pilot safe. Mid-day Kittyhawks intercepted enemy fighter bombers shortly after attack on BURG EL ARAB area damaged one without loss. Enemy air activity incl patrols battle area by fighters on a small scale, one Stuka attack Central Sector, raid by 4 fighter bombers Southern Sector and the attack on BURG EL ARAB at 1135 hrs by 6 Me109s.

(Adv Air HQ I.S. No. 232)

SEC "C" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

4. ENEMY METHODS.

(i) Patrol to dordieet carriers in the Coastal Sector report that many booby traps have been rigged in and around these vehs, consisting mainly of stick pens.

This is to be expected at all times and more especially in crashed aircraft, particularly if it is our own.

(ii) It is thought that the enemy is using dummy flashes in order to mislead our flash spotters and have the fire from our guns diverted from their battle posns. It is also thought that some enemy guns sometimes fire from out in front of their battle posns, no doubt with the same object in view.

Lieut.

A.C. 704 Aust Inf Bn.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 48

(Based on info received from 1700 hrs 26 Sep to 1500 27 Sep)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELIGENCEGENERAL.

Tac R over the southern sector morning 26 Sep reported increase in MT concentrations. In DEIR EL QATTARA there were 600 MT over a wide area and in the triangle TAQA - ABU DWEISS - KALAKH, 750 MT were seen. There were a further 300 MT at 845265. MT in the MUNASSIB area, however, appeared to have decreased.

Flanking formation carried out a harassing shoot on enemy posns during night 25/26 Sep, firing some 3,000 shells onto a small area.

GROUND OPS - Night 25/26 Sep - Large enemy patrol 40/50 strong observed moving down right fwd slopes of CLOVERLEAF feature sq 874304. Near foot of CLOVERLEAF, patrol split into two gps and continued moving directly towards our outpost. Our patrol withdrew to coy area.

At 87533005, patrol encountered OP pole erected by right fwd bn when in the line previously. Sig wires led to C.Ts at base of pole, which was facing our FDLs. Apparently this posn has been used as an enemy OP, so was destroyed by our patrol.

ENEMY DISPOSNS

Minefields - Patrol reports encountering minefield at 87313014, comprising E.P Mk II mines. Also 3 S type and Teller AP mines were seen in the fd. Spacing was 10 yds between mines and rows. Fd was marked on our side by single strand trip wire, about knee high.

Other minefids are at 87412933 and 8757529120.

Mortars - 87413043; 87473036.

Diggings - 87432943 stored amm, buried.

Working parties - 87303020; 87383012.

Posts - 87702906 - Also thought to be strongpt vicinity 87303014.

Dumps - 87482948 Australian clothing.

ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

At 87313013 GERMAN voices were heard night 26/27 Sep from NW at approx 87303014. It would appear that the strongpoint in this vicinity is definitely manned by GERMANS.

SEC "B" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCESOUND RANGING

The enemy has discovered that we are using sound ranging and is counteracting it by firing a number of tps simultaneously. The enemy is also reported to possess Sound Rangers. So far no evidence has come to light of the enemy using this method of ranging. Sound Ranging is distinctive from other methods of ranging in that there is no bracketing. Each round getting nearer and nearer to the target. Any evidence of such ranging should be reported immediately to BHC for transmission to CBO.

Enemy documents report the possible use by us of warning devices such as tins of petrol to be ignited by trip wires. It is thought that the enemy may make use of this method himself and any indication of same should be reported immediately.

ENEMY METHODS.

Dud 25 pr shells and fragments of fuse show that the enemy fires 117 and 119 fuzes frequently with caps on. He also uses fuze A2 23 converted to 2 secs delayed action.

(Classified on 11/11/00 by 1500 V 800)

SEC "A" - OWN OPS

The R over the northern sector... 2

SEC "C" - OWN OPS

8. Following is report of our patrol of 2 Offrs (1 att) and 6 ORs night 26/27 Sep to 87382962:-

Enemy working party heard driving pickets at 87372961 and 3 men were observed through binoculars. These men went to ground shortly after being seen and all noise of work ceased immediately. A portion of the patrol then moved fwd to 87362960, but with the exception of a number of apparently derelict vehs, nothing further was seen.

Flanagan
Lieut.
1.0. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

At 87382962... in this vicinity is definitely marked by...

87382962 - Also thought to be strongly visible...

At 87382962... in this vicinity is definitely marked by...

SEC "D" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

The enemy has discovered that we are using... in this vicinity is definitely marked by...

Many documents report the possible use by us of warning devices... in this vicinity is definitely marked by...

The R over the northern sector... in this vicinity is definitely marked by...

2/24 AUST INF BR

SECRET

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 45

(Based on info received from 1000 hrs 28 Sep to 1000 hrs 29 Sep)

GROUND OPS INTELLIGENCE

1. GENERAL.

Ops this week have been transferred from the narrow confines of the ALAMAIN front to the wider distance of CYRENAIKA. While the armies in EGYPT face each other across the narrowest "No Man's Land" seen in NORTH AFRICA we have been carrying out raids, on a small scale so far as numbers are concerned, at many distant pts in the enemy's rear areas. These raids, though they have not with less success than they deserved, have brought home to the enemy the length and the essential precariousness of his lines of comm. For the first time he is seriously concerned with defending the rear against attacks from both the sea and the desert. It is noteworthy that for the first time in Africa the Axis feels obliged to provide a guard for its left flank. It must be remembered, however, that the move of 90 Lt Div to the Coastal Area will relieve some strain on the enemy's fwd sup system and will also provide that div with a refreshing period by the sea after its severe handling by the Eighth Army.

In the battle area itself an unexpected feature is the dispersal of the GERMAN rear counter-attack force over a wide area. It was suggested last week that the whole GERMAN mob force might be moved to the northern sector as a mob res, but it is now clear that the enemy has not felt able to leave the southern sector unsupported by tanks.

GHC MEF Weekly I.S. No 103 of 24 Sep.

2. GROUND OPS.

Our arty shelled DEIR EL SHEIN 28 Sep, enemy replying with CB fire.

An observation tower which appeared sq 872291, which may have been responsible for an increase in enemy ranging shoots recently, provided a target for one of our guns 28 Sep. One warmer and 5 ranging rounds proved too much for it and after the 6th round it vanished from the ridge. This should prevent the enemy from carrying out ranging shoots in areas other than FDLs. (9 Div I.S. No 310)

Patrols in Edo area last night made no contact with the enemy. Valuable salvage work, however, was done, one patrol to 87463019 bringing back a wireless set from a Valentino tk, and another patrol to 87562919 recovering a 2 pr A Tk gun. A further patrol discovered a booby trap fd at 87413040.

A daylight patrol yesterday to 873297 came under MG fire and was forced to withdraw.

3. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE. (GERMAN)

4 Coy, I Bn, 382 Inf Regt identified from PW cap at 872297 night 27/28 Sep.

4. ENEMY DISPOSNS

PW from 4 Coy 382 IR stated that half of 1 pl was in posn about 120 yds to the rear of a minefield guarding a gap through the fd. The other half of 1 pl with one A Tk gun was another 300 yds to the rear. Two by MGs covered the gap. On their left and near the minefd was 2 pl and in between and to the rear (almost in line with the A Tk gun of 1 pl) was 3 pl with one A Tk gun. Further to their left were 2 and 3 Coys with 1 Coy in res. No contact existed with the unit on their right flank which was bounded by a hill feature with a barrel on top.

In front of 4 Coy posn is a minefd about 200 yds in depth marked by wire on posts on the defenders side but unmarked on the enemy's side. Through the centre and length of the minefd was densest wire. The gap through the minefd was at an angle and marked on the right side only, starting from shoulder high for about 100 yds to knee high for another 100 yds towards the enemy. Gap was about two yds wide. PW stated that from the posn guarding the gap four wires ran to the edge of the minefd, and he had been told that these wires were connected to mines known as "Boobachtungsmine" (observation mine).

(9 Div I.S. No 310)

ENEMY DISPOSALS cont.

- 87323020 - Minefd, 3 rows Mk LV mines, 6 yds between rows and 8-10 yds between mines.
- 87242989 - scattered minefd, some mines lifted and deactivised.
- 87413040 - Booby trap fd.

SEC "B" - GENERAL REFERENCE

5. ENEMY METHODS

(i) PW previously referred to stated that he had been fwd as a listening post on several occasions but had always remained inside the minefd. On the night he was cap, however, his job was to guide an incoming patrol to the minefd gap. Patrols coming in were guided to the minefd gap by the firing of a white flare light. (9 Div I.S. No 310)

(ii) Two forms which resemble dummy bodies were seen in strong pt at 87423018 in same posn all day. No movement was seen in this area by day and it is thought that this so called "Strong Pt" may be just a blind while the enemy tps are used elsewhere. (2/23 Bn I.S. No 127)

6. ENEMY ORGANIZATION

PW already referred to gave the following infn re garding his coy:

- 4 Coy consists of 3 pls, is about 110 men strong and has - 4 M Gs (two in 1 Pl and two in 2 Pl)
- 2 A Tk guns 5 cm (one in 1 Pl and Dnc in 3 Pl)
- 12 LMGs
- 1 8.1 cm mortar.

Amn:- PW stated that for the A Tk gun in 1 Pl some 120 rds of amn were carried in boxes of four, all well dug in around the gun emplacement. They had type 38/39, 40 and EE but he didn't know in what proportion.

Reinfnts: These had been made up from GERMANY and were mostly youngsters of 20 as well as some Russian war veterans.

Tpt: Although a lot of their tpt had arrived from CRETE, the regt was still short and PW ascribes the shortage of water to this fact.

(9 Div I.S. No 310)

7. ENEMY EQPT

A PW states that he has seen a 90/53 SEMOVENTE in ITALY. These he believes are being used in RUSSIA and as yet have not appeared in AFRICA. A 90/53 gun is carried on a mounting of entirely new design in the centre of a M15 chassis. The gun, which fires fwd, is capable of limited traverse only and the barrel slightly overhangs the front of the chassis. The chassis is identical with that of the familiar M 13/40 as regards suspension armour and appearance but the engine is of greater power. In order to fire the gun the tracks must be locked, but PW could give no particulars of the method used. A limited number of rds only can be carried. Wireless eqpt is fitted. The crew carried is probably 6.

Whether the chassis is used only for SEMOVENTE or is that of an M 15 tk is obscure.

No other report of this eqpt has been received and any further infn is urgently required. (GHI MEF I.S. No 844)

SEC "C" - OWN OPS

Nothing to report.

Simon ...
1.6.22/24 Aist Inf Bn.

2/24 '84' EAST INF BN

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 46

(Based on infn received from 1000 hrs 29 Sep to 1000 hrs 30 Sep)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE

1. GENERAL

Early this morning arty fire could be heard in distance to the south. This was in sp of a raid being carried out on the enemy, no further details of which are as yet available.

Patrols were active in the Bde area last night but no contact was reported.

An enemy patrol was seen at 87513035 around U/S carriers.

Shelling - 51 shells reported in the last 24 hrs in Bde area, these falling in CUTTING and EAST Pt 24 areas.

SEC "B" GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

2. ENEMY METHODS

The following additional infm has been given by PW of 382 IR cap night 27/28 Sep:- Each night 4 Coy puts out three listening posts; these consist of 2 men each, in small trenches 15/20 yds west of the minefd. When a patrol is sent out, a post of 2 men is established immediately east of the minefd gap in order to guide patrol back; on night 27/28 Sep the sig was to be one white very light.

Standing Patrols - On the front of 4 Coy a standing patrol is put out every night 60 yds due east of the minefd gap; PW did not give the size of this patrol.

SEC "C" - OWN OPS

3. The following is report of our patrol last night:-

On reaching 8742029705 one veh was heard moving from W to E on left of patrol. Veh stopped vicinity EAST Pt 23 and thought to be enemy standing patrol. No action taken. 87342970 further MT movement was heard rear of enemy FDLs, thought to be ration trucks.

At 87342970 one B antam and one Chev 15 cwt were found. Bantam is in fair condition with damage to radiator on the near side. One .303 Lee Enfield was salvaged.

At 87322969 many weapon pits were located apparently hurriedly prepared and depth ranging from 6 ins to 2 ft 6 ins.

Patrol moved fwd to 87312969 and saw two men leaving a derelict Valentine tk. Investigation proved that it had been used as a listening post. Five to ten mins later one RED over two WHITE tracers were fired to right and left. MGs opened up on left from area 8728-2968 followed by a WHITE flare. On the right from 87262975 LMGs were fired followed by a gun similar to our VMG, and then a SPANDAU opened up. Guns in this area appeared to be sited approx 500 yds behind the derelict tk. Patrol remained 200 yds East of tk and watched for further developments, but the Listening Post was not reestablished.

At 2215 hrs our aircraft heavily bombed areas in rear of enemy FDLs.

Patrol Leader's Comment - WEST Pt 23 is definitely a hot spot and enemy are very much on the alert.

[Signature] Lieut.
I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

Aircraft recognition sigs for 1 Oct are as follows:-

0300/0800 GG; 0800/1700 YY; 1700/2300 GY; 2300/0300 RR.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 47

(Based on infn received from 1000 hrs 30 Sep to 1000hrs 1 Oct 42)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE

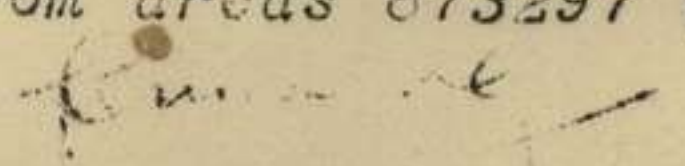
1. GENERAL situation on the Bde front remains quiet. Recce patrols last night have little to report. A recovery patrol sent out by the 1st fwd Bn, however, succeeded in bringing in a VALENTINE tk intact from 87463026. Another recovery patrol brought back a quantity of personal eqpt and 250 cases of 25 pr amn from 87422945 without any interference from the enemy, night 29/30 Sep.
2. ENEMY ACTIVITY At 1215 hrs 30 Sep a party of 20 enemy at 87222991 were engaged by arty and MG fire causing them to go to ground and finally withdraw. Later some men were seen moving in this area and they appeared to be picking up cas.
Shelling - 15 shells reported area E Pt 24;
20 shells between E Pt 24 and W Pt 24;
2 shells 87652991
Works Working parties heard from areas 873297 to 87302968;
3. AIR OPS Morning 30 Sep one unidentified and two enemy aircraft were reported to have crashed behind enemy lines. Of the identified planes one was a Me109 and the other a two-engined machine.

SEC "B" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

4. ENEMY EQPT Patrols report finding of a black cylindrical object 3" diam and 4" long with plunger protruding from the top. Two trip wires were att to the plunger stretched taut and fastened to stakes. The object is too thin to be the GERMAN S type mine but is considered to be a prepared demolition charge set as an anti-personnel device.

SEC "C" - OWN OPS

5. PATROL Night 30 Sep/1 Oct. The following infn was reported by patrol:-
Explosion heard from approx area 87252970 at 2055 hrs;
Five white flares from WEST Pt 23 at 2112 hrs.
Working parties heard to West from areas 873297 to 87302968.


Lieut.
I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

Aircraft recognition sigs for 2 Oct:-

0300-0800 GG; 0800-1700 YY; 1700-2300 GY; 2300-0300 RR.

2/24 AUST INF BN

810 *Aug 176*

Lt-Col C.G. WEIR Commanding

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

4 DEC 1942

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL ALAMEIN	1 Oct 42		Normal patrol activity. 3 ORs evacuated to Hosp.	
	2 Oct 42		Bn allotted patrolling area (incl 299 Northing Grid to excl ry line). Lieut JONES evacuated to Hosp. 2 ORs marched out to school.	
	3 Oct 42		Normal patrolling. Lieut F.R. NELSON and 3 ORs return from MMG School. 2 ORs marched in from AITB. 7 ORs return from hosp.	
	4 Oct 42		2/7 Aust Fd Coy lectures to Coys on booby traps. Recce patrol to enemy wire accompanied by engr. s. 1 OR marched out to 9 Aust Spec Gp. 1 OR returned from hosp.	Ref patrols See att Int Summaries.
	5 Oct 42		Dust storm followed by heavy rain. Many dug-outs flooded. Recce patrol accompanied by engr. s.	
	6 Oct 42		6 shells in tpt lines. No damage. 3 ORs evacuated to hosp. 2 ORs return from hosp.	
	7 Oct 42		Recce patrol accompanied by engr. s. All patrolling about this date was in search of detailed infm regarding enemy mine-fds and wire. Maj MOLLARD visits ALEXANDRIA to buy Xmas presents - to be paid for by Regtl Funds and resold to tps. Lieut R.F.S. KELSEY evacuated to hosp.	
	8 Oct 42		0200 hrs. Infm received that 8 or 9 enemy batteries were shelling 2/48 Bn. 2/48 and 2/23 Bns standing to. 2 shells in B Coy area. No damage. Recce patrol at night accompanied by engr. s. First purchase of Xmas presents, £E 200 sold first day. Capt R.P. SERLE rejoins unit from AITB and is appointed OC 'D' Coy. Maj H.W. SNELL relinquishes comd 'D' Coy and is appointed OC 'HQ' Coy.	
			4 ORs marched in from AITB. 3 ORs rejoin unit from Hosp. 1 OR evacuated to Hosp.	

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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL ALAMEIN	9 Oct 42		2 ORs evacuated to Hosp. 8 ORs return from MMG School.	
	10 Oct 42		0 Pips established WEST Pt 24. Details of observations att. Normal patrolling. 1 OR evacuated to Hosp. 1 OR rejoins unit from Hosp.	
	11 Oct 42		10 shells, five of which were air bursts, in Bn area. 1 OR evacuated to Hosp. 4 ORs rejoin unit from Hosp.	
	12 Oct 42		Normal patrol at night. OP again established on WEST Pt 24 - details att. Concluding day of sales of Xmas presents to tps, a total of approx £850 being sold. 2 ORs evacuated to Hosp.	
	13 Oct 42		Warning order of relief by 2/32 Bn received. Relief to take place night 14/15 Oct 42. <u>1800 hrs.</u> Advance party move out. Advance party arrive from 2/32 Bn at <u>2000 hrs.</u> 14 shells in 'B' Coy area. 1 OR slightly wounded. Normal patrol. 7 ORs return from School - 1 from MAOC School, 6 From Sig School. 1 OR marched in from AITB. 2 ORs evacuated to Hosp. 2 ORs rejoin unit from Hosp.	
	14 Oct 42	<u>2100 hrs</u> <u>2345 hrs</u>	Patrols accompanied by members of 2/32 Bn. Bn moves out to new posns at 44059024 Ref Map EL HAMMAM 1/100,000. Move to new area completed. 2 ORs evacuated to hosp.	Ref patrols See Int Summaries att.
	15 Oct 42		Settling into new area. Maj GEBHARDT returns from Tac School. 2 ORs evacuated to Hosp. 2 ORs rejoin unit from Hosp.	
	16 Oct 42		Dust storm followed by rain. CO attends Brig's conference. 8 ORs return from Hosp. 2 ORs rejoin unit.	

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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL HAMMAM	17 Oct 42		<p>Rainy day. COs conference. Coy Comds notified that an attack by EIGHTH ARMY was pending and that rehearsal of coming attack would be carried out in vicinity EL HAMMAM night 18/19 Oct 42. <u>1920 hrs.</u> Bn moves to vicinity EL IMAYID Sta for night exercise. Object: to exercise coys in movement by night in battle formation. The exercise gave Comds practice in the handling of Coys and Pls by night, and enabled many problems of battle drill by night to be solved. 3 ORs evacuated to hospital. 1 OR returned from hospital.</p>	
	18 Oct 42		<p><u>1330 hrs.</u> Bn moves by MT preparatory to Bde exercise. <u>1530 hrs.</u> Bn arrives at debussing area. <u>1600 hrs.</u> Recce of exercise area by R and O Gps. <u>2030 hrs.</u> Bn moves out to exercise. Preparations for exercise, though hurried, had been made in great detail. An actual section of the GERMAN front was reproduced on the ground complete in every detail with wire, mines and booby traps. This embodied all known details of the section to be later attacked. Patrol infm, aerial photographs and OP observations were all collated and the disposns as reproduced were, as was later proved, an almost exact replica of the enemy front. Many lessons were learned to be put into practical use at a later date. 2 ORs evacuated to hosp.</p>	O.O. No 1 (Exercise Only).
	19 Oct 42		<p><u>0830 hrs.</u> Exercise repeated in daylight. <u>1330 hrs.</u> Bn returns to bivouac area. COs conference. All offrs given general picture of EIGHTH ARMY plan. Warning order received for first move fwd. Bn to move night 20/21 Oct to SHAMMAMA HALT 43298984. Lieut E.J. SHATTOCK returns to unit.</p>	
	20 Oct 42		<p>All leave cancelled. <u>2000 hrs.</u> Bn moves to new area. BHQ est 43358986. Area previously occupied by 2/13 Bn. Lieuts J.H. CAPLE and A.D. FITZPATRICK return to unit from OCTU. 2 ORs returned from hosp. 3 ORs returned from School. 1 OR evacuated to Hosp.</p>	

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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ref Maps	SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN, EL WISHKA EL MAHK-KHAD 1/25,000	<u>21 Oct 42</u>	<p><u>1330 hrs.</u> Recce of "Lying Up" area by R and O Gps. <u>1900 hrs.</u> Bn parade. Address by CO giving outline of the carefully planned offensive which was to open shortly on the EGYPTIAN Front. CO mentioned the magnitude of the arty and air sp which were to be on a scale without precedent in the previous actions of the Bn, and this, with the fact that the attack was to be made simultaneously along the entire front with the exception of the coastal sector extending from the coast to just Sth of the ry, raised still higher the high hopes of the Bn for a successful and decisive action.</p> <p>Units of 24 Bde who would be occupying FDLs in coastal sector would give assistance by conducting "CHINESE WARFARE" in order to suggest to the enemy that this sector was being attacked. Dummy figures attached to pull wires had been prepared. Approx 1600 25 lbs HE bombs were to be hurled in the general direction of the CLOVER LEAF Feature by means of Gas projectors. RING CONTOUR 25 would be presented with 800 ITALIAN Bombs fired by their own 81 m/m Mortars, and the units occupying the FDLs would create as much diversionary noise as possible.</p> <p>Bn was advised that they, with 2/48 Bn, were the flanking unit for EIGHTH ARMY attack and, as the coastal sector was not being attacked, they would therefore be the only units with an exposed flank. Very heavy arty sp, however, had been made available to help deal with counter attacks, and air sp was on call. In addition, a COMPOSITE FORCE under Comd Lt-Col MacARTHUR-ONSLOW had been allotted the task of protecting our exposed flank.</p> <p>CO informed Bn that on night 22/23 Oct they would move fwd to a "Lying Up" area into diggings previously prepared by 24 Bde where they would remain with a minimum of movement all the next day. For weeks past a number of dummy vehs corresponding to required number of Bn vehs had been in posn and as our own vehs moved in these dummy vehs would be removed and replaced by Bn tpt. Tps were particularly warned not to look up at enemy recce planes, and it was hoped that with the veh substitution planned, the enemy would not become aware that so many tps were in the fwd areas. The complete surprise of the enemy in the first attack fully justified this hope.</p> <p>1 OR evacuated to hosp. 1 OR returned from hosp.</p>	
		22 Oct 42	Great activity all day finalizing preparations for the attack.	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ref Maps	SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN, EL WISHKA, EL MAHK-KHAD 1/25,000	<u>22 Oct 42</u> 2000 hrs <u>2300 hrs.</u> 877298. 5 ORs returned from hosp.	Recce of SL area by Int Sec. Bn moves fwd to "lying up" area. Coys SOUTH of ry vicinity TEL EL EISA Sta 87852995. BHQ NORTH of ry at 87852995. 1 OR evacuated to hosp.	
		<u>23 Oct 42</u>	Bn "lying up". 1 OR evacuated to hosp. 1 OR returned from hosp.	
		<u>1205 hrs.</u>	Conference of CO and Coy Comds.	
		<u>1245 hrs.</u>	Brig WHITEHEAD confers with CO.	
		<u>1535 hrs.</u>	IO 2/48 Bn liases with unit IO.	
		<u>1900 hrs.</u>	Portion of 'I' Sec and pnsr proceed to set out axis of advance from "lying up" area to FUP and SL and lay SL.	
		<u>2030 hrs.</u>	Coy move from "lying up" area to FUP.	
		<u>2140 hrs.</u>	Arty barrage opens. The massed arty of 30 Corps proceeding to pound all known enemy bty posns.	
		<u>2155 hrs.</u>	Arty barrage switches from CB to enemy FDLs as a "creeping barrage" moving at the rate of 100 yds in 3 mins.	
		<u>2200 hrs.</u>	Zero hour. B Coy on right under Comd Lieut J.F. McNAMARA and D Coy on left under Comd Capt R.P. SERLE move fwd from their respective SLs. Axis of advance is maintained by Pnr offr and IO and marked with lights by pnsr, later being taped and marked by engr.	O.O. No 1 See trace
		<u>2210 hrs.</u>	Enemy put down DF with Mors and MGs. Bn experienced some trouble throughout by one of our 25 pdr guns dropping short.	
		<u>2223 hrs.</u>	A Coy on right under Comd Maj K.F. MOLLARD and C Coy on left under Comd Capt E.P. HARTY move fwd from SL. Fwd BHQ moved behind these Coys.	
		<u>2230 hrs.</u>	Fwd Coys reach enemy mine-fd and go to ground while engr move fwd and blow gaps in wire with bangalore torpedoes. By this time by Mor and MG fire has been experienced and casualties suffered. These included Lieut McNAMARA OC B Coy, wounded but remaining on duty, Capt R.P. SERLE wounded and Lieut HETHERINGTON OC 12 Pl Killed. Lieut GREATORIX assumed command of D Coy.	
			Enemy defensive fire continued on and for some distance fwd of the mine-fd. Once FDLs were reached at 87152987 fire slackened and B Coy were able to reach their objective without great opposition.	

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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ref Maps	SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN EL WISHKA EL MAHK-KHAD 1/25,000	23 Oct 42.	<p>D Coy, on the other hand, were held up for a time until enemy MG posts were silenced, after which they passed on to reach their objective at 2310 hrs.</p> <p>Both B and D Coys were held up for 20 mins waiting for the arty barrage to lift from enemy FDLs.</p> <p>2330 hrs. A and C Coys passed through B and D Coys.</p> <p>2400 hrs. A and C Coys reach objectives, no great opposition being encountered.</p> <p>Casualties to date : Lieut K.B. HETHERINGTON and 3 ORs Killed, Capt R.P. SERLE, Lieut A. MACFARLANE and 37 ORs wounded.</p>	
24 Oct	42	0055 hrs.	<p>2/48 Bn passes through fwd Coys.</p> <p>When 2/48 Bn gained their objective C Coy moved around in line with A and B Coys to give a three Coy front to the unit leaving D Coy in reserve. Thus 2/24 and 2/48 Bns formed the right flank of 30 Corps attack.</p> <p>Liaison with 2/48 Bn resulted in our carriers being placed to fill the gap between the two units. Sp arms, were advised of Coy disposns and their own arms suitably sited.</p> <p>The unit took 43 GERMAN and 35 ITALIAN Psw during the operation and captured the following enemy eqpt : Four 47 m/m Breda A Tk Guns with 900 rds of amn; Two 20 m/m Zoluthurns with 800 rds of amn, Eight Spandau MGs with 20,000 rds of amn, Seven Lt Breda MGs with 20,000 rds of amn and One Fiat MG with 2,000 rds of amn as well as quantities of rifles, Italian Grenades etc.</p> <p>1400 hrs. Lieut K.A. ANDERSON, OC 13 Pl, took out a daylight patrol and silenced a Spandau post which had been worrying C coy during the morning.</p> <p>The day passed without the expected counter attack developing. Arrangements had been made for hy arty sp in this eventuality.</p> <p>Coy areas were lightly shelled throughout the day, with, at times, hy shelling on BHQ area.</p> <p>1730 hrs. A salvoe of three shells at BHQ caused six casualties, Lieut R. McLEOD, OC 3(Mor) Pl and 2 ORs wounded and 3 ORs Killed. During this and subsequent shelling the German 88 M/m triple purpose gun was found to be an unpleasant weapon.</p> <p>The fact that most shelling is in the rear of our FDLs indicates that the enemy is in doubt as to our exact disposns.</p>	See trace.

2/24 AUST INF BN

-7-

Lt-Col C.G. WEIR Commanding

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ref Maps SIDI ABD EL RAHMAN, EL WISHKA, EL MAHK-KHAD 1/25,000			<p><u>Night 24/25 Oct</u></p> <p>Two patrols from A Coy and one each from B and C Coys reced ground to Bn front without incident.</p> <p>Casualties for 24 Oct 42 : 13 ORs Killed, Lieuts R. McLEOD, F. Braimbridge, J.H. CAPLE, and 30 ORs wounded.</p> <p>4 ORs evac to hosp. 5 ORs returned from hosp.</p>	See Int Summary.
	25 Oct 42		<p>The day passed quietly with intermittent shelling.</p> <p>Lieut J.F. McNAMARA evacuated to hosp. Command of B Coy passing to Lieut F. GEALE.</p> <p>3 ORs returned from hosp.</p>	
		1600 hrs.	<p>Orders were issued for a further attack, 2/24 Bn final objective vicinity FIG GARDEN 87033009. and 2/48 Bn objective Pt 29 MR 86823007. A Coy on right and B Coy on left with an intermediate objective Line 86773003 - 86943007, to be followed through by C Coy on right and D Coy on left to capture line 87073009 - 87033014.</p>	See trace
	26 Oct 42		<p><u>0020 hrs.</u> SL laid and axis of adv indicated by 'I' Sec.</p> <p><u>0040 hrs.</u> Leading Coys crossed SL amid some MG fire.</p> <p>Our arty again put down a hy barrage on enemy posns. Both Coys struck by opposition and sustained many casualties incl Maj K.F. MOLLARD, OC 'A' Coy, Comd of which passed to Capt I.S. MacKENZIE. Both Coys reached intermediate objective though some divergence of direction was caused by the hy opposition. C and D Coys then passed through the fwd Coys to take the final objective.</p> <p>Further opposition had to be overcome in the capture of the FIG GARDEN during which attack Lieuts LINTON and ANDERSON were wounded.</p> <p>D Coy on the left also met with hy opposition during which Lieut GREATOREX was wounded and the Coy Comd passed to CSM CAMERON.</p> <p>B Coy then pushed out to the left to contact the 2/48 Bn, which was est after further fighting. During this period Lieut GEALE, OC B Coy, was wounded and Lieut DOUGHAN took Comd of the Coy.</p> <p>A Coy attempted to contact B Coy but was unsuccessful, hy opposition being encountered and Lieut STONE, OC 8 Pl, wounded.</p>	
		0200 hrs.	<p>2 Pl, reinforced by 7 personnel from 4(Carrier) Pl moved out from the first objective with a task of silencing enemy posts in area 87063000 and est contact with the COMPOSITE FORCE whose adv had been timed to coincide with our own.</p>	

2/24 AUST INF BN

-8-

Lt-Col C.G. WEIR, Commanding

Army Form C. 2118.

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

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ref Maps	EL RAHMAN, EL WISHKA, EL MAHK-KHAD 1/25,000		<p><u>26 Oct 42.</u></p> <p>The COMPOSITE FORCE was unable to adv beyond 87063000 and 2 Pl was unable to make contact. 2 Pl overcame opposition encountered and moved NORTH to est contact with the unit's right flank in the FIG GARDEN AREA 87033009.</p> <p>An attempt was again made to contact the left flank. Hy fighting ensued and contact was made for a short time. Casualties were so hy however and opposition so strong that the contact could not be maintained. This resulted in B Coy being in contact with 2/48 Bn, on the left flank and the remainder of the unit isolated in the vicinity of the FIG GARDEN.</p> <p><u>0400 hrs.</u> The CO contacted A, C and D Coys and after reviewing the situation, decided to withdraw sufficiently to permit contact with B Coy on the left flank and the COMPOSITE FORCE on the right.</p> <p><u>0500 hrs.</u> The three Coys withdrew approx 1000 yds to link up with B Coy though a considerable gap still existed between the right flank and the COMPOSITE FORCE.</p> <p>Reorganisation on the new line was completed by first light, the line occupied being 86843006 - 86933003 - 86963000 with BHQ at 86882977.</p> <p><u>0600 hrs.</u> Enemy mortaring and shelling over the unit area commenced at first light, heavily at times. Troublesome snipers were silenced by our arty concentrations.</p> <p><u>1700 hrs.</u> Lieut DOUGHAN wounded and CSM BAILEY took over Comd of B Coy.</p> <p><u>1930 hrs.</u> Ration trucks arrive and the hot meal was greatly appreciated.</p> <p>During this attack 143 GERMAN and 26 ITALIAN Psw were taken and the following eqpt captured: Two 88 m/m guns with 250 rds of amn; Two 20 m/m Zoluthurns with 400 rds of amn; Three 47 m/m Bredas with 300 rds of amn, 12 Spandau MGs with 14,000 rds of amn, 4 Lt Bredas with 4,000 rds of amn, 4 machine pistols, One 81 m/m Mor with 80 rds of amn, 2 Fiat MGs with 8,000 rds of amn and one range-finder.</p> <p>Casualties were: Maj K.F. MOLLARD, Lieuts F.B. GEALE, J.W. STONE, K.A. ANDERSON, J.D. LINTON, A.G.W. GREATORIX and C.A. DOUGHAN and 95 ORs wounded, 10 ORs killed and 2 ORs missing</p> <p>During period 25/26 Oct 42 five ORs evac to hosp. 4 ORs returned from hosp.</p> <p>Night 26/27 Oct passed quietly and improvements were made in defences.</p>	See trace.
		27 Oct 42	<p>Lieut E.A.J. KEARNEY appointed OC B Coy.</p> <p>Shelling of our posns by Fd and Med guns was resumed by the enemy after first light.</p> <p><u>1505 hrs.</u> C Coy reported a number of enemy tps on ridge to the front. These were dispersed by MG fire.</p>	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ref Maps	EL RAHMAN, EL WISHKA, EL MAHK-KHAD 1/25,000	27 Oct 42	<p><u>1635 hrs.</u> Both A and C Coys reported that an attack appeared to be developing, tks and mob inf being seen assembling 3000 yds NORTH.</p> <p><u>1730 hrs.</u> Attack developed on 2/48 Bn front and left flank of own unit.</p> <p><u>1750 hrs.</u> Concentration of 2 Fd Regts together with local fire succeeded in breaking up attack.</p> <p>The enemy were heavily bombed by RAF several times during the day.</p> <p><u>2230 hrs.</u> D Coy reported enemy inf advancing in open order. MG fire effectively broke up this formation.</p> <p><u>2250 hrs.</u> An enemy attack on 2/48 Bn was effectively countered.</p>	
		28 Oct 42	<p><u>0430 hrs.</u> Relief of the Bn by 2/13 Bn. The relief had been timed for 2300 hrs but enemy activity necessitated this postponement.</p> <p>Bn embussed and moved back to original "lying up" area vicinity TEL EL EISA Sta. Two 50 m/m Brauns and one 47 m/m Breda were towed out by the A Tk Pl and the sights removed from an 88 m/m gun and fwded to 26 Bde.</p> <p><u>0600 hrs.</u> Bn arrived at "lying up area". En route an amount of enemy bombing was observed over our rear areas and several enemy planes were heard using sirens.</p> <p>A quiet day was spent.</p> <p>A third attack was planned for night 28/29 Oct with THOMPSONS POST as the Bn objective. 2/23 Bn with armoured sp, 2/48 Bn and units of 20 Bde were also to be employed. The SL and Zero hr for this Bn was dependant upon the success and timings of 2/23 Bn ops.</p> <p><u>2400 hrs.</u> Unit embussed and proceeded along the DIAMOND TRACK until contact was made with 2/48 Bn, there to await infm of the progress of 2/23 Bn and 40 RTR.</p>	
		29 Oct 42	<p><u>0300 hrs.</u> Maj GEBHARDT, 2 i/c, contacted Bde and learned that 2/23 Bn had not been sufficiently successful to permit of our unit operating.</p> <p><u>0400 hrs.</u> Orders received for Bn to return to "lying up" area, operations for 2/24 and 2/48 Bns being cancelled.</p> <p><u>0600 hrs.</u> Bn arrives at "lying up" area.</p> <p><u>1130 hrs.</u> Enemy planes bombed arty posns in and around Bn "lying up" area. One unit amn truck destroyed and the driver killed.</p> <p><u>1700 hrs.</u> Further bombing attack on the arty but no damage suffered by the Bn.</p>	

2/24 AUST INF BN

Lt-Col C.G. WEIR, Commanding

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ref Maps	EL RAHMAN EL WISHKA EL MAHK-KHAD 1/25,000	29 Oct 42	Casualties for period 27/29 Oct were : 1 ORs Killed, Lieut A.D. FITZPATRICK and 4 ORs wounded. 15 ORs evacuated to hosp. 16 ORs returned from hosp. Night 29/30 Oct - Bn enjoys a good rest. Some bombs were dropped through the night but none within unit area.	
		30 Oct 42	During the morning a dust storm blew up making conditions rather unpleasant. Plans again being made for our unit to take part in an attack night 30/31 Oct. The broad plan of this attack was that 2/32 Bn should attack from area 869300 to ry line approx 87003045 - 87073042, 2/3 Pnr Bn should pass through them to attack NORTH to the coast. 2/24 and 2/48 Bns should leave adjacent SLs line 87053041 - 87103046. 2/48 Bn on left would attack Northern slopes of Pt 25 as their first objective and then turn NORTH to the CLOVER LEAF Feature 87413044. 2/24 Bn on the right would at the same time attack along the flat with a two Coy front, the first two Coys taking first objective 87233029 and the other two Coys passing through to second objective 87353021. The first two Coys would then move SOUTH to capture THOMPSONS POST area 872302. 1915 hrs. Bn embusses for move to assembly area 86953025. 2210 hrs. Assembly area reached without incident, some intermittent Spandau fire. 2211 hrs. Lieut DENNYS OC 1(sig) P1 wounded by spandau fire. Sig P1 taken over by Sgt OPFY. 2240 hrs. Bn moves from assembly area following 2/48 Bn.	See trace
		31 Oct 42	0100 hrs. SL laid by 'I' Sec. 0110 hrs. SL crossed by leading Coys, C Coy on right, B Coy on left. Enemy MG fire which had been experienced intermittently throughout approach to and arrival at assembly area and continued to the SL, quickly increased as the attack commenced. One feature of this attack was that both 2/24 and 2/48 Bns were advancing towards our own arty sp. The result of this was that the barrage could not be followed so closely as when coming from the rear, and there were occasions when, after a lift, the enemy were still so far away that they could in some measure reorganize before our own attacking tps were within striking distance. B Coy on the left flank soon came up against hy opposition, a number of enemy strongpoints were stormed and wiped out, casualties were suffered, Coy wireless set destroyed	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ref Maps	EL RAHMAN EL WISHKA EL MAHK-KHAD 1/25,000	<u>31 Oct 42</u>	<p>and comms reduced to runner. A 20 m/m FLAK gun which the enemy had been using against us was captured.</p> <p>C Coy on right experienced much less opposition, apart from considerable long range MG fire from the left, and the first objective was reached without great difficulty.</p> <p>The two rear coys following behind struck by MG and Mor fire with some shelling. During this period Capt MACKENZIE was wounded and Comd of A Coy passed to Lieut NELSON.</p> <p>When half way from SL A Coy received a message from B Coy asking for assistance. Lieut NELSON detailed 8 Pl for the job and with this assistance B Coy were able to take their objective. 8 Pl then rejoined A Coy who were further strengthened by dismounted personnel from the Carrier Pl.</p> <p><u>0230 hrs.</u> D and A Coys passed through fwd Coys towards second objective. Intense opposition was encountered. Our arty ceased firing and enemy MG and Mor fire became very hy. The enemy also made considerable use of A Tk guns. A Coy contacted enemy posts and attacked. Very hy casualties were suffered incl Lieut NELSON and Comd of Coy was taken over by Sgt K.T. LEWIS.</p> <p>At the same time D Coy suffered by casualties incl Lieut E. McLEOD OC Coy killed. CSM CAMERON took charged and shortly afterwards was slightly wounded but remained with the Coy. He ordered a withdrawal for a short distance and there, on instns, had the coy dig in SOUTH of the ry at approx 87233024. A, B and C Coys were also ordered to withdraw to this pt for reorganisation and a very depleted Bn assembled.</p> <p><u>0330 hrs.</u> A W/T message received from 26 Bde stated that THOMPSONS POST, the third objective, was believed to be unoccupied, and instructing the Bn Comd to send out a patrol to verify this infm.</p> <p>A patrol accompanied by CO immediately left for THOMPSONS POST. The POST was penetrated and patrol came under hy MG fire at close range establishing that THOMPSONS POST was still strongly held.</p> <p>The patrol returned to the ry line further casualties having been sustained.</p> <p><u>0430 hrs.</u> A message was received from 2/48 Bn stating that they were withdrawing to 2/32 Bn area, vicinity BLOCK-HOUSE 87073039. The CO decided to also link up with 2/32 Bn and orders were issued for a withdrawal to this area.</p> <p>During this move aerial bombs operated by trip wires were exploded and 28 casualties incl Lieut E.A.J. KEARNEY, OC B Coy, Killed and Lt-Col WEIR, CO wounded.</p>	

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

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ref Maps	EL RAHMAN EL WISHKA EL MAHK-KHAD 1/25,000	31 Oct 42	<p>The dressing and removal of these casualties was a considerable task and was completed only by first light.</p> <p>Capt E. HARTY now assumed Comd of the Bn.</p> <p>0530 hrs. 2/32 Bn area reached.</p> <p>Bn 2 i/c Maj P. GEBHARDT took over Comd of the Bn from Capt HARTY and organised Bn on a two Coy front with 2/32 Bn on the right flank and 2/15 Bn on the left, with the gap between our unit and 2/15 Bn covered by A Tk guns.</p> <p>In the re-organisation, the greatly reduced strength of the Bn and particularly the shortage of offrs, made it adviseable to form A and C Coys and B and D Coys into composite Coys.</p> <p>Shelling and MG fire was experienced all day and four attacks were made on the area from the NORTH and the WEST. Two of which from the WEST came in on A and C Coys. These were broken up by arty and MG fire.</p> <p>A small scale tank engagement took place during the afternoon on the NORTH-WEST front.</p> <p>2100 hrs. Instns were received that the Bn was to be relieved by 2/28 Bn and that the unit should move back to the posn Pt 33 captured and occupied by it early in Jul 1942.</p> <p>2300 hrs. Bn embussed for move to new posn, relief being effected without incident.</p> <p>In the course of the ops night 30/31 Oct 48 GERMAN and 14 ITALIAN PsW were taken and the following enemy eqpt captured : One 88 m/m gun with 100 rds of amn; Tqo 50 m/m Braun A Tk guns with 200 rds of amn; Two 47 m/m Breda A Tk guns with 200 rds of amn; Two 20 m/m Flak guns with 200 rds of amn; Two 20 m/m Zoluthurns with 200 rds of amn; 12 Spandau MGs with 18,000 rds of amn; One 81 m/m Mor with 140 rds of amn; One 50 m/m Mor with 60 rds of amn Seven 100/17 Hows with 400 rds of amn and one range-finder.</p> <p>Casualties for 30/31 Oct : Lieuts E. McLEOD, E.A.J. KEARNEY and 40 ORs Killed;</p> <p>Lt-Col C.G. WEIR, T/Capt I.S. MacKENZIE, Lieuts G.E. DENNYS, F.R. NELSON and 112 ORs wounded;</p> <p>2 ORs missing.</p> <p>10 ORs evac to hosp. 7 ORs returned to unit.</p>	See trace
			<p>..... Adjnt., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn. (R.O. BEAL).</p>	<p>..... Lt-Col., Comd., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn. (C.H. FINLAY).</p>

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/24 Aust Inf Bn

(Unit.) For Week Ending

4 Oct 42

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment:	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
*				
*				
*				
*				
Lieut.-Colonels	...	1		
Majors...	...	3		
Captains	...	4		6
Lieutenants	...	21		
2nd Lieutenants	...			
Quartermasters	...	1		
District Officers	...			
TOTALS	30	-	6

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

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Capt	BASH G.H.	2/24 Bn	26 Sep	To 26 Aust Inf Trg Bn
Lieut	HENLITE H.G.	"	"	" " " " " "
Lieut	JONES L.L.	"	2 Oct	Evac to 2/8 Bn

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).

FIELD RETURN OF OTHER RANKS.

2/24 Aust Inf Bn (Unit). 4 Oct 1942 (Date).

(To be furnished by all units of Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps, Infantry, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Army Educational Corps, Corps of Military Police, and all Headquarters units).

Part A. Strength, Surplus or Reinforcements required.

1	2	3	4
Detail.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment	Reinforcements required (i.e. deficits on establishments).
W.Os. Class I.	1		
W.Os. Class II.	5		2
W.Os. Class III.			
Squadron or Company Quartermaster-Serjeants OR Colour-Serjeants	6	1	
Staff Serjeants			
Serjeants	42	5	
Buglers, Trumpeters, etc.			
Corporals	72	1	
Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, etc.	557		157
TOTALS	683	* 7	* 159

* These Totals should agree with the details shown in Part D on page 2 of Army Form W.3009.

Part B. Other Ranks attached from other Corps.

Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.	Detail.	Unit and Corps to which they belong.
1 Pay Sgt	AAPC	1 Med Sgt	AAMC
1 Postal L/Sgt	AA Post C	1 Chiropodist	AAMC
1 Fitter L/Sgt	AAOC	2 Med Orderlies	AAMC
1 Shoemaker	AAOC		
1 Armourer	AAOC		
2 Fitter Ptes	AAOC		

Part C. Description of other ranks whose return to the unit is particularly requested.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g. present whereabouts if known).
VX 45186	L/Sgt	BURGESS W.J.	2/24 Bn	AITB ?

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.									REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.									REMARKS.	
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.		TOTAL.
Bricklayers																				
Butchers																				
Carpenters and Joiners																				
Clerks																			3	3
Cooks																				
Despatch Riders																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked)																				
„ „ (Wheeled)																			8	8
Drivers-Mechanics																				
Drivers-Operators																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers																				
Farriers																				
Fitters																				2 AOC at
Machine Gunners																				
Masons																			2	2
Motor Mechanics																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters																			1	1
Range Takers																				
Saddlers and Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers																				
Sanitary and Water Duties																			4	4
Signallers																				
Storemen technical																				
Tailors																				
Wheelers																			3	3
Gunlayers																			1	1
Intelligence																				
General duty personnel				1		5		1	7	2									133	135
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A).				1		5		1	7	2									137	139

2/24 Aust Inf Bn

Unit.

Comd 2/24 Aust Inf Bn
(C.G. WEIR).

Signature of Commander.

Lt-Col

Date of Despatch 4 Oct 42

26 Aust Inf Bde 9 Aust Div

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

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, ETC.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT.								REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.								REMARKS.			
	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Staff-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.	W.Os. Class I.	W.Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.O.M.S.; C.O.M.S., or Colour-Serjeants.	Serjeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.		Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers																				
Butchers																				
Carpenters and Joiners																				
Clerks																		3	3	
Cooks																		1	1	
Despatch Riders																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked)																				
" " (Wheeled)																		8	8	
Drivers-Mechanics																				
Drivers-Operators																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers																				
Farriers																				2
Fitters																				AAOC attd
Machine Gunners																				
Masons																		1	1	
Motor Mechanics																				
Pioneers, Infantry (other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters																		1	1	
Range Takers																				
Saddlers and Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers																				
Sanitary and Water Duties																			4	4
Signallers																				
Storemen technical																				
Tailors																				
Wheelers																				
<u>Gunlayers</u> <u>Intelligence</u>																		3	3	
General duty personnel				1		7			8		1							135	136	
TOTALS (to agree with Columns 3 and 4 of Part A).				1		7			8		1							157	158	

2/24 Aust Inf Bn

Unit.

Comd., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn
(C.G. WEIR)

Lt-Col.

Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 11 Oct 42

26 Aust Inf Bde 9 Aust Div

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

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/24 AUST INF BN

(Unit.) For Week Ending 11 OCT 42

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

War Establishment.	1	2	3	4
	Ranks.	Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	Surplus to Establishment.	Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits on establishment).
	*			
	*			
	*			
	*			
	Lieut.-Colonels ...	1		
	Majors ...	3		
	Captains ...	5		2
	Lieutenants ...	20		1
	2nd Lieutenants ...			
	Quartermasters ...	1		
	District Officers ...			
	TOTALS ...	30	-	6

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

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Capt	WELLS R.P.	2/24 Bn	10 Oct 42	r'd from 26 AITB

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	KELBY R.F.S.	2/24 Bn	9 Oct 42	Gastro - Enteritis lvac to 2/6 AITB

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known).
Lieut	CABLE J.H.	2/24 Bn	26 AITB
"	FITZPATRICK A.	"	26 AITB

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M. or S.	Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No).	Date Joined Unit.	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
1		Lt-Col		WELCH C.G.	2/24 Bn	Yes		CO
2		Major		WELCH P.	"	No		CO
3		Capt	1/Maj	WELCH R.P.	"	Yes		A 2 1/8
4		"	1/Maj	WELCH R.V.	"	"		CC HQ Coy
5		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		CC 3 Coy
6		"		WELCH R.P.	"	No		26 Asst Bde
7		"		WELCH R.P.	"	Yes		CO
8		Lieut		WELCH R.P.	"	"		CC 7 PI
9		"	1/Capt	WELCH R.P.	"	"		CC 6 Coy
10		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		CC 24 PI
11		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		CC 1 PI
12		"	1/Capt	WELCH R.P.	"	"		1/CC A Coy
13		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		1/CC B Coy
14		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		2 1/8 C Coy
15		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		CC 3 PI
16		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		CC 10 PI
17		"	1/Capt	WELCH R.P.	"	"		ASST
18		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		A TR PI
19		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		T.O.
20		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		T.O.
21		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		VAD PI
22		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		CC 13 PI
23		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		CC 15 PI
24		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		CC 5 PI
25		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		VAD PI
26		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		A 2 1/8 B Coy
27		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		CC 8 PI
28		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		CC 18 PI
29		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		CC 17 PI
30		"		WELCH R.P.	"	"		CC 12 PI
31								
32								
33								
34								

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt		ROBERTSON T.S.G.	ASC		IBO
Chaplain		HENNER J.F.	AA Ch D		RC Chaplain

2/24 Aust Inf Bn

(Unit.)

11 Oct 42

(Date of Despatch.)

[Signature] Lt-Col

Comd 2/24 Aust (Signature of Commander.)

26 Aust Inf Bde 9 Aust Div

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

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON STRENGTH.

(i) Officers posted to Unit (Total to agree with column 2 of Part A).

1	2	3	4	5	6
Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No.)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.
Lt Col.		Weir C.G.	2/24 Bn	Yes	CO.
MAJ.		Gebhardt.P.	"	"	2 I/C
Capt.	T/MAJ.	Hollard K.F.	"	"	OC A Coy.
Capt.	T/MAJ.	Snell H.W.	"	"	OC B COY.
Capt.		Serie.H.P.	"	"	OC B Coy.
Capt.		Bryant.G.A.	"	No	School.
Lieut.		MacFarlane.A.	"	Yes	OC 7 Pl.
Lieut.	T/Capt.	Harty.S.P.	"	"	OC C COY.
Lieut.		Linton.J.D.	"	"	OC 14 Pl.
Lieut.		Dennys.G.B.	"	"	OC 1 Pl.
Lieut.	T/Capt.	Mackenzie.I.S.	"	"	2 I/C A COY.
Lieut.		McNamara.J.F.	"	"	A/OC B Coy.
Lieut.		McIntosh.F.J.	"	"	2I/C C Coy.
Lieut.		McLeod.R.	"	"	OC 3 Pl
Lieut.		Scale.F.B.	"	"	OC 10 Pl.
Lieut.	T/Capt.	Beal.R.C.	"	"	Adjt.
Lieut.		Halliday.I.C.	"	"	A/Pl. Pl.
Lieut.		Catherall.J.McP.	"	"	TO.
Lieut.		Cunning.D.	"	"	IO.
Lieut.		Schroder. K.M.	"	"	VMS Pl.
Lieut.		Anderson. K.A.	"	"	OC 13 Pl
Lieut.		Kearney.S.A.J.	"	"	OC 15 Pl.
Lieut.		McLeod.S.	"	"	OC 5 Pl.
Lieut.		Nelson.F.R.	"	"	VMS Pl.
Lieut.		Doughan.C.A.	"	"	A.A. Pl.
Lieut.		Stone.J.H.	"	"	OC 8 Pl.
Lieut.		Brainbridge.P.	"	"	OC 16 Pl.
Lieut.		Greuterex.A.G.W.	"	"	OC 17 Pl.
Lieut.		Hetherington.K.B.	"	"	OC 12 Pl.

(ii) OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER CORPS.

Substantive Rank.	Higher acting or temporary rank, if held.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
Capt.		Robertson.F.B.G.	AAMC		RMO.
Chaplain.		Honner.J.F.	AA Ch D		RC Chaplain.

2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

(Unit.)

18 Oct 42

(Date of Despatch.)

K. Ch. Schroder Lieut for

(Signature of Commander.)

Comd. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

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

26 Aust Inf Bde. 9 Aust Div.

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

DETAIL OF SPECIALISTS, TRADESMEN, Etc.	SURPLUS TO ESTABLISHMENT								REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.							REMARKS				
	W.Os. Class I.	W. Os. Class II.	W.Os. Class III.	S.Q.M.S.; C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Staff-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL	W. Os. Class I	W. Os. Class II.	W Os Class III	S.Q.M.S., C.Q.M.S., or Colour-Sergeants.	Sergeants		Buglers, Trumpeters, &c.	Corporals.	Troopers, Privates, Guardsmen, Fusiliers, &c.	TOTAL.
Bricklayers																				
Butchers.																				
Carpenters and Joiners..																				
Clerks... ..																		3	3	
Cooks																		1	1	
Despatch Riders																				
Drivers I.C. (Tracked)..																				
» » (Wheeled) .																				
Driver-Mechanics																		6	6	
Driver-Operators.																				
Electricians																				
Equipment Repairers ...																				
Farriers..																				
Fitters... ..																				3 1100 attd
Machine Cunnors																				
Masons..																				
Motor Mechanics																		2	2	
Pioneer, Infantry (other than tradesmen)																				
Plumbers and Pipefitters.																				
Range Takers																		2	2	
Saddlers & Harness Makers																				
Saddle Tree Makers ...																				
Sanitary & Water Duties.																				
Signallers																		4	4	
Storemen technical																				
Tailors.																				
Wheelers																				
Gunlayers																		3	3	
Intelligence																		1	1	
General duty personnel .				1		6				7		1				3	127	131		
Totals (to agree with Columns 3 & 4 of Part A)				1		6				7		1				3	147	151		

2/24 Aust Inf Bn

Unit.

K. Ch. Schroder Lieut for

Signature of Commander.

Date of Despatch 18 Oct 42

Comd., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn

26 Aug (C.G. WEIR) Bde, Divn, Area, etc, with which unit is serving.

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS.

2/24 Aust Inf Bn

(Unit.)

PART A.—STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1 Ranks.	2 Posted strength counting against authorised establishment (excluding attached).	3 Surplus to Establishment.	4 Reinforcements required (i.e., deficits one establishment)
Lieut.-Colonels ...	1		
Majors ...	3		
Captains ...	4		6
Lieutenants ...	23	2	
2nd Lieutenants ...			
Quartermasters ...	1		
District Officers ...			
Totals ...	32	2	6

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

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

Officers JOINED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.
Lieut	SHATTOCK E.J.	2/24 Bn	20 Oct 42	Ceases to be seconded
Lieut	CAPLE J.H.	"	20 " 42	Marched in from 26 AITB
Lieut	FITZPATRICK A.D.	"	20 " 42	Marched in from 26 AITB

Officers QUITTED during week.

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date.	Cause.

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

Rank.	Name and Initials.	Corps.	Remarks (e.g., present whereabouts, if known.)

by

Lt-Col. C.G. WEIR, Comd., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

31. DEFENSIVE POSNS. - Certain defensive posns, chiefly in the area 887294 - 889293-887293 and the area astride the GATTARA Rd have been vacated. They are to be retained intact, and will ON NO ACCOUNT BE DESPOILED TO SECURE ENGR STORES OR FOR OTHER PURPOSE.
32. REPATRIATION OF WIVES OF MEMBERS OF THE AIF TO AUST.
 1. Approval has been given by the Commonwealth of Australia Govt for the repatriation at Public Expense of wives and children of members of the Forces, who married during the period of their active service outside Aust subject to the condition that ships are convoyed from the Middle East, India, and Great Britain as the case may be.
 2. Applications for repatriation must be made by the soldier concerned, or widow, and must be on the prescribed forms. They will not be accepted from wives. Copies of these forms will be fwded by HQ AIF (ME) to Formations, etc on demand.
 3. Forms have already been fwded, for completion, to every member known to be married and who is still serving in the AIF (ME).
 4. Members of the AIF who married during their period of active service in Great Britain or India will complete forms in same manner as members married in Middle East.
33. Ref BRO 369 - EFM CABLES - 1. Standard text 141 applies only to messages to members of the Forces from private sources, and not vice versa.
 2. Censorship regulations do not permit the use of this text by members of the Forces for advising casualties.
34. INVENTIONS - SUBMISSION OF : 1. Research is constantly being carried out in order to improve our present weapons and to produce new weapons. It is essential to develop new ideas if we are to outstrip the enemy.
 2. Fighting soldiers may think of other or new types of weapons and eqpt or possibly of completely new ideas of waging war, any of which may materially assist us in battle. New ideas connected with MT, suitable clothing, eqpt and tools, the right type of food and method of cooking it and many other essential parts of our war material may all contribute to the defeat of the enemy.
 3. Suggestions made by offr and ORs have already been accepted and are now in general use. No offr or soldier should hesitate to put fwd any genuine ideas, however novel or however small, which may appear to him to be likely to improve or accelerate the defeat of the enemy.
 4. It has therefore been decided that normal channels will be disregarded and that direct access to GHQ will be accorded to any suggestions or inventions which may be put fwd by an offr or OR. Suggestions or inventions will be fwded direct to GHQ addressed as follows : INVENTIONS, GHQ (GSD 6) MEF. The regtl number, rank, name and unit of the sender will be written in block capitals at the beginning of all letters put fwd.
 5. The receipt of all such letters will be acknowledged at once. No effort will be spared to ensure that every really constructive suggestion is fully investigated by technical experts and if necessary the inventor will be enabled to explain details in person.
 6. When security permits, descriptions of ideas or inventions adopted and the names of the persons responsible will be published in GOs and entries made in their documents. All questions connected with patents and rewards will be dealt with according to the provisions of KR and such instns as may be laid down from time to time.
35. REMOVAL OF RY SLEEPERS : Advice has been received from higher authority that sleepers have been removed from ALEX-MATRUH ry line. This practice will seriously impede movement at a later date. Coys will submit a return to this HQ by 1200 hrs 8 Oct of all sleepers either in use or otherwise in Coy area. Nil returns are required.
36. SECURITY : 1. Infn has been received from FS Sources that personnel when registering at hotels while on leave have been including the identification of their unit. All that a soldier need provide other than his No, name and rank is "AIF". Should a hotel insist on the identification of his unit the matter should be reported immediately to FSS or Provost personnel.
 2. It has been est that personnel are leaving unit identifications with shopkeepers so that they may receive the receipt of postage of gifts purchased for despatch to Aust. This is contrary to Security Regs as it provides the enemy with our Order of Battle.
 3. TO will be personally responsible to ensure that all log books have been removed from vehs before they go into action.
 4. It is forbidden to despatch or carry correspondence by the hand of an offr, soldier, airman, or civilian, FROM any place TO any place either within or outside the Command. A personal search may be conducted at any point in the area and correspondence being carried by hand will be seized. Disciplinary action will follow against the

37. LEAVE PASSES : All leave passes will be collected from personnel upon termination of leave and returned to Bn HQ. An explanation will be reqd from personnel unable to produce leave passes.

38. FGCM - PROMULGATION : On 21 Sep 42, in the Field, a Field General Court Martial convened by Brig D.A. WHITEHEAD, Comd 26 Aust Inf Bde tried VX 58970 Pte KENNEDY A.J.R. of 2/24 Aust Inf Bn on the following charge

1st Charge : "When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service" Army Act Sec 12 (1)(a).

2nd Charge : "When on active service when in confinement escaping". Army Act Sec 22.

3rd Charge : "When on active service deserting His Majesty's Service". Army Act Sec 12 (1)(a).

FINDING : On 21 Sep 42 the Court found that the accused VX 58970 Pte KENNEDY A.J.R. of 2/24 Aust Inf Bn was GUILTY of the charges and sentenced him to undergo imprisonment for FIVE (5) YEARS with HARD LABOUR and to be discharged with ignominy from His Majesty's Service. The finding and sentence of the Court so far as it relates to imprisonment with Hard Labour was confirmed by Lt-Gen Sir Leslie J. MORSHEAD, Comd AIF (ME), on 3 Oct 42 but reserves confirmation by superior authority that part of the sentence which relates to discharge with ignominy from His Majesty's Service.

Distribution : List "A".

Beal
..... Capt.,
Adjt., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
(R.O. BEAL).

NOTICE

CHRISTMAS PARCELS

1. It is advised that parcels lodged for transmission by post must not exceed the following dimensions and weights :

- LENGTH - Maximum 3 feet
- GIRTH - Maximum 3 feet, except that when the length is LESS than 3 feet, the GIRTH may be increased until LENGTH plus GIRTH measures 6 feet (e.g. a parcel 3 feet long may measure 1 foot wide & 6 inches high; a parcel 2 feet long may measure 1 foot wide and 1 foot high).
- WEIGHT - Maximum 11 lbs.

2. Articles weighing up to 16 ozs may be registered; it is recommended that they are so registered.

1 Officer

1. Allocations and dates will be notified from Bn HQ.
2. Movement : Personnel will RV Bn HQ at times notified on the morning leave commences.
3. Accommodation : All details will be accommodated as follows :
 - (a) In ALEXANDRIA - At EIGHTH Army leave camp or at authorised hotels and pensions.
 - (b) In CAIRO - At leave and transit camp ABBASIA, or at authorised hotels and pensions.
 - (c) No restriction will be placed on the local movement of personnel from these camps. Every effort will be made to afford as many facilities as possible for the comfort and entertainment of leave personnel.
4. Egpt : (a) Leave parties will take with them personal gear incl, knife, fork and spoon, mug, egpt, rifle and 50 rds amn.
(b) Offrs if intending to stay at a Leave Camp must take valise, knife, fork and spoon and mug. Pistols WILL be worn at all times.
(c) Leave personnel will carry haversack lunch.
5. Leave Passes : All personnel MUST carry leave passes. Failure to produce a leave pass will result in the immediate return to his unit, of the man concerned.
6. Pay Books : Under no circumstance will personnel proceed on leave if not in possession of their paybook, which must be produced for identification purposes when required. A leave pass will not be accepted as a means of identification.
7. Pay : Units will pay all personnel prior to departure. Personnel on leave of three days or more may on production of leave pass have one withdrawal of pay whilst in CAIRO or ALEXANDRIA. Addresses of AIF Cash Offices are :-
CAIRO - 13 Midan Ismailia (near KASR-EL-NIL Barracks).
ALEXANDRIA - Room 8, North Block Mustapha Barracks.
8. Dress : (a) Shirt, shorts, hat (turned down) boots, puttees (short), belt (web).
(b) Pullover may be worn.
(c) Strict attention must be paid to dress to ensure that all ranks are properly dressed before proceeding on leave.
9. Discipline : (a) The continuance of this leave is dependant on the maintenance of good discipline.
(b) Coy Comds will warn all personnel as to the necessity:
 - (i) for the maintenance of good discipline.
 - (ii) to be correctly dressed.
 - (iii) To pay strict attention to notices etc, limiting areas which may be visited.
 - (iv) For the correct use of prophylactics and PACs by those whose indulgence make it necessary.
10. Bounds : The BERKA Area in CAIRO will be placed out of bounds to all ranks. The following reasons for placing the BERKA out of bounds, will be promulgated to all ranks, proceeding on leave.
 - a) The BERKA is dirty, unsanitary and a hot bed of disease and crime. It has however, achieved such notoriety that large numbers of soldiers visit it, many of them out of curiosity or bravado. It has a degrading effect on all who frequent it and no self respecting soldier can find himself in this sordid atmosphere without a feeling of shame and disgust.
 - b) It has been decided to place this area out of bounds, in the interests of the physical efficiency and morale of the MEF.
11. PAC : (a) The following centres are available in ALEXANDRIA :
Sgts - 5 Rue MATUNETY (Pension V)
ORs - 54 Rue Aly El Kobir (6 Sister St).
LONDONDERRY Camp (Rue Corniche).
SIDI BISHR Staging Camp,
Mustapha Barracks.
(b) CAIRO : Kasr-el-Nil Barracks - Midan Ismailia
Bab-el-Hadid Barracks - Midan Bab-el-Hadid.
12. Method of Despatch : (a) Parties for ALEXANDRIA will be despatched to arrive at EIGHTH Army leave camp AGAMI by 1200 hrs on first day of leave.
(b) Parties for CAIRO will be despatched to arrive at EIGHTH Army control post AMIRIYA by 1200 hrs on first day of leave when all CAIRO leave passes will be stamped. Party will be entrained at AMIRIYA By Sta by 0 i/c leave party.

13. Action on Arrival at AGAMI Leave Camp :

- (a) Personnel will NOT debuss until ordered to do so by O i/c leave party.
- (b) O i/c leave party immediately reports to "AUSTRALIA HOUSE" and obtains all necessary infm.

14. Action on Arrival at CAIRO Sta :

- (a) Personnel detrain, form up under senior NCO, and await further orders from O i/c leave party.
- (b) O i/c leave party reports to Leave Accommodation Bureau CAIRO Ry Sta.
- (c) Personnel desirous of residing at ABBASIA leave camp, move under the direct orders of O i/c leave party, to ABBASIA leave camp.
- (d) Personnel desirous of residing other than at leave camp :
 - (i) File past CAIRO Ry Sta armoury, hand arms and amn in and obtain receipt for same.
 - (ii) File past leave accommodation bureau reception clerks and obtain full details of authorised hotels and pensions.
 - (iii) Have passes stamped.
 - (iv) Free tpt is provided for personnel staying at authorised hotels and pensions.

15. Method of Return

Return will commence from ALEXANDRIA or CAIRO on the morning of the SIXTH day.

- (a) Return from ALEXANDRIA will be by the turn round of leave tpt coming in each morning with fresh details.
- (b) Return from CAIRO will be by special train from CAIRO departing approx 0600 hrs to arrive at the EIGHTH Army control post AMIRIYA in time to catch the returning leave tpt of that day.
- (c) It will therefore be necessary for tpt, which is conveying leave parties to AGAMI or AMIRIYA to wait to collect returning personnel on days when these are expected.

16. Offrs who decide not to live in camp must notify their address to
ALEXANDRIA - Adv LO Mustapha Barracks. Phone extension 126.
CAIRO - Aust LO HQ MEF Phone extension 387.

..... *R. O. Beal* Capt.,
Adjt., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
(R.O. BEAL).

DISTRIBUTION :

HQ Coy	CO	RMO	
A Coy	2 i/c	IO	
B Coy	Adjt	RSM	File
D Coy	QM	Pay Sgt	Spares.
C Coy	TO	War Diary (2)	

5 Oct 42

743/A1

To be read in conjunction with 2/24 Aust Inf Bn Op Instn No 1A.

Ref Map : EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000.

1. Amn : Amn will be carried on the man to conform with tables previously issued. Carriers will be used for amn replenishment. Bn Amn reserve will be mobile and remain at present location unless otherwise ordered.
2. Sups : Hard scale rations will be carried on the man.
3. P.W. : A Bn PW collecting Post will be established at Rear Bn HQ. Coys will provide escorts.
4. Engr Stores : Tools, sandbags etc will be carried on the man to conform with tables previously issued. 5 Pl will maintain a mobile emergency reserve of engr stores to be called up if required.
5. A Ech Tpt : Vehs will move fwd to re-captured posns on instns from coy comds. 2 - 30 cwt vehs will be allotted to RAP for movement of casualties from CCP to RAP.
6. Medical : RAP will remain in present location and maintain a mobile detachment. Casualty Collecting Posts will be established as follows :
 - (a) Pt 33. At approx 87733015
 - (b) EAST Pt 24) at approx
 - (c) Pimple and Barrel Hill Area) 87782994

Coys will evacuate to CCP. RSM will arrange movement from CCP to RAP.

7. ACK by Code Word FAME and Copy No.

DISTRIBUTION :

As for Op Instn No 1A.

.....*R. O. Beal*..... Capt.,
Adjt., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
(R.O. BEAL)

OIB/742

SECRET
Copy No ...
5 Oct 42

2/24 Aust Inf Bn Op Instr No 1A

Ref Map : EL ALAMEIN 1/50,000

NFM

1. The enemy may cause a break in the FDLs of the right fwd Bde sector, the most likely pts of entry being :
 - (a) Pt 33 Area 87543017
 - (b) East Pt 24 87442997 and
 - (c) The Pimple and Barrel Hill area 87582982 and 87552973 respectively.

ATTENTION

2. The reserve Bn of the right fwd Bde will restore the situation by counter-attack.

METHOD

3. Pt 33 Area

- (i) Inf Strength : Two Coys
- (ii) Assembly Area : Upon receipt of instns from Bn HQ coys will immediately assemble in coy areas.
- (iii) FUP : As indicated on trace attd.
- (iv) Start Line : As for (iii) above. Has been pegged.
- (v) Start Time : Will be notified separately.
- (vi) Axis of advance : 293 degrees.
- (vii) Frontage : 250x coy frontage.
- (viii) Rate of advance : (a) By day : 75x per min.
(b) By night : 50x per min.
- (ix) Distance from SP to objective : 3000x.
- (x) Check Pt : (posn of inf when arty barrage opens). Leading inf reach CP at Z plus 20 by day and Z plus 30 by night.
- (xi) Time on objective : Z plus 40 by day and Z plus 60 by night.
- (xii) 4 (Carrier) Pl : Carrier Pl will provide one sec per coy for the supply of amn. One carrier will be supplied to 3 (Mor) Pl and two to 1 (Sig) Pl.
- (xiii) MMGs : By Day : Will occupy posns as indicated on attd trace and provide flank protection.
By Night : Will be prepared to move on receipt of orders.
- (xiv) Arty
Two Btys. Day by obs. Night by barrage.
W, being right of base of barrage, at 87583020.
Direction of barrage 285 degrees.
12 lifts each of 100x.
3 mins on opening line.
2 mins on each subsequent line.
To commence : By Day : (if required) Z plus 20
By night : Z plus 30

At conclusion of opening phase barrage will lift to Pt 25 area.
W at 87363025.
10 mins normal or as required.

OPO with each coy. Bty comd with Bn HQ.

- (xv) A Tk : Co-ordinated by Div.
- (xvi) 3 (Mor) Pl : A det will be under comd each coy.
- (xvii) Engineers : Dets will move with fwd coys to repair mine fields when required.
- (xviii) AFVs : Carriers of Div Cav will provide flank protection and will lay smoke screens by day if required. Tks in reserve.
- (xix) Limit of Exploitation : Own original FDLs.

4. East Pt 24

- (i) Inf Strength : Two Coys.
- (ii) Assembly Area : Upon receipt of instns from Bn HQ coys will immediately assemble in coy areas.
- (iii) FUP : As indicated on attd trace.
- (iv) Start Line : As for (iii) above. Has been pegged.
- (v) Start Time : Will be notified separately.
- (vi) Axis of advance : 253 degrees to EAST end of cutting.
- (vii) Frontage : 250x Coy frontage.
- (viii) Rate of advance : (a) By day : 75x per min.
(b) By night : 50x per min.
- (ix) Distance from SP to Objective : 3000x.

- (x) Check Pt : (posn of inf when arty barrage opens). Leading inf reach CP at Z plus 20 by day and Z plus 30 by night.
- (xi) Time on Objective : Z plus 40 by day and Z plus 60 by night.
- (xii) 4 (Carrier) Pl : Carrier Pl will provide one sec per coy for the supply of amn. One carrier will be supplied to 3 (Mor) Pl and two to 1 (Sig) Pl.
- (xiii) MMGs : By Day : Will occupy posns as indicated on attd trace and provide flank protection.
By night : Will be prepared to move on receipt of orders.
- (xiv) ARTY
Two Btys. Day by obs. Night by barrage.
W at 8758829980.
Direction of barrage : 270 degrees.
15 lifts each of 100x.
3 mins on opening line.
2 mins on each subsequent line.
To commence. By Day (if required) Z plus 20
By Night Z plus 30
- (xv) A Tk : Co-ordinated by Div.
- (xvi) 3 (Mor) Pl : A det will be under comd each coy.
- (xvii) Engineers : Dets will move with fwd coys to repair mine fields where required.
- (xviii) AFVs : Carriers of Div Cav will provide flank protection and will lay smoke screens by day if required. Tks in reserve.
- (xix) Limit of exploitation : Own original FDLs.

5. PIMPLE AND BARREL HILL AREAS

- (i) Inf Strength : Two Coys.
- (ii) Assembly Area : Upon receipt of instns from Bn HQ Coys will immediately assemble in coy areas.
- (iii) FUP : As indicated on trace attd.
- (iv) Start Line : (As for (iii) above). Has been pegged.
- (v) Start Time : Will be notified separately.
- (vi) Axis of advance : 230 degrees.
- (vii) Frontage : 250x Coy frontage.
- (viii) Rate of Advance : By day 75x per min.
By night 50x per min.
- (ix) Distance from SP to First Objective : 2900x.
- (x) Check Pt : Leading inf reach CP at Z plus 24 by day and Z plus 36 by night.
- (xi) Time on Objective : Z plus 39 by day, Z plus 58 by night.
- (xii) 4 (Carrier) Pl : Carrier Pl will provide one sec per coy for the supply of amn. One carrier will be supplied to 3 (Mor) Pl and two to 1 (Sig) Pl.
- (xiii) MMGs : By Day Will occupy posns as indicated on attd trace and provide flank protection.
By Night : Will be prepared to move on receipt of orders.
- (xiv) ARTY
Two Btys. Day by obs. Night by barrage.
W at 87572983.
Direction of barrage : 210 degrees.
15 lifts each of 100x.
3 mins on opening line.
2 mins on each subsequent line.
To commence : By Day (if required) Z plus 24
By Night Z plus 36.
- (xv) A Tk : Co-ordinated by Div.
- (xvi) 3 (Mor) Pl : A Det will be under comd each coy.
- (xvii) Engineers : Dets will move with fwd coys to repair mine fields where required.
- (xviii) AFVs : Carriers of Div Cav will provide flank protection and will lay smoke screens by day if required. Tks in reserve.
- (xix) Limit of exploitation : Own original FDLs.

ADM

6. Issued separately.

INTERCOMN

7. Allotment of W/T Sets : One 18 Set with each coy and one with fwd Bn HQ. One carrier netted to Cav and provided by Cav will move with fwd Bn HQ. FOO will move with Cav. OPO with each coy with own W/T. 1(Sigs) Pl will provide rear link to bde.

- 3. Synchronisation of Watches : On receipt of start time.
- 4. Success Sigs : Will be notified separately.
- 5. Fwd Bn HQ will move along Axis of Advance at rear of attacking coys. Upon re-organisation Fwd Bn HQ will be situated :
 - (a) Pt 33 Area at 87663018.
 - (b) EAST Pt 24 Area at 87522995.
 - (c) Pimple and Barrel Hill Area at 87722990.

11. ACK by code word BOMA and copy No.

Signed at 12.15 hrs.
Method of distribution.
DISTRIBUTION

Runner

Beal Capt.,
Adjt., 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.
(R.O. BEAL).

HQ Coy	Copy No 1	OC 5 (Pnr) P1	Copy No 16
A Coy	" " 2	A Sqn, 9 Div Cav	" " 17
B Coy	" " 3	7 Aust Fd Regt	Copies 18-21
C Coy	" " 4	3 Aust A Tk Regt	Copy No 22
D Coy	" " 5	2/2 Aust MG Bn	" " 23
CO	" " 6	7 Aust Fd Coy RAE	" " 24
2 i/c	" " 7	RSM	" " 25
Adjt	" " 8	26 Aust Inf Bde (For infm)	" " 26
I.O	" " 9	2/23 Aust Inf Bn	" " 27
MO	" " 10	2/48 Aust Inf Bn	" " 28
S.O.	" " 11	War Diary	Copies 29-30
Q.M.	" " 12	File	Copy No 31
OC 1 (Sig) P1	" " 13		
OC 3 (Mor) P1	" " 14		
OC 4 (Carrier) P1	" " 15		

Ref Map : EL HAMMAM 1/100,000.

15 Oct 42

INFM

1. Enemy : See Daily Sitreps and current Int summaries.
2. Q.D. Tps : 9 Aust Div is to attack and capture enemy posns at limit of objective at 45488997 to SPUR at 45538969. Two Bdes fwd, inter Bde bdy all, incl 26 Aust Inf Bde as shown on trace attd.
3. 26 Aust Inf Bde will attack and capture enemy posns from incl 45488997 to 45498990. 20 Aust Inf Bde on left. Bde objectives as follows :
 - (a) 1st objective 45739003 to 45758995.
 - (b) 2nd objective Div objective from 45488997 to 45498990.
4. Arty sp under div arrangements. The following allocation of sp arms under comd 26 Aust Inf Bde has been made :
 - 12 Aust Artillery Bty
 - 4 Coy. 2/2 Aust MG Bn
 - with in sp 26 Aust Inf Bde ;
 - 2/7 Aust Fd Coy.
5. 2/23 Aust Inf Bn has been withdrawn and is under 9 Aust Div for a separate role.
6. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn will attack and capture enemy FDLs from 45739003 to 45758995 and provide bridgehead for 2/48 Aust Inf Bn which will pass through 2/24 Aust Inf Bn's objective and capture Bde second objective.

METHOD

7. The attack will be in two phases.
8. 1st Phase :

Fwd Coys :	Right	B Coy
	Left	D Coy

 Objective and inter Coy Bdy : See attd trace.
9. 2nd Phase :

Fwd Coys :	Right	A Coy
	Left	C Coy

 Objective and Inter Coy Bdy : See attd trace.
10. Assembly Area : Bn go will move to assembly area as per trace and march table attd. On arrival personnel will "lie up" until last light.
11. FUP and Start Line : See attd trace.
12. Start time for attack : 2200 hrs.
13. Timings : See detailed programme attd.
14. Re-organisation : On re-organisation coys will be prepared to meet counter attacks from North and West.
15. Limit of Exploitation : See attd trace. B Coy will NOE exploit more than 100x North.
16. Axis of advance : See attd trace. Will be marked at 50x intervals with green shaded lamps supplied by 2/7 Aust Fd Coy. 10, pns with RPs will posn axis marking lights, police and service lights and act as guides on axis of advance.
17. Rate of Advance :
 - (a) From SL to enemy FDLs : 75x per min.
 - (b) From enemy FDLs to final objective : 100x in 3 mins.

18. Arty : Details of concentrations and timings as per outline programme att'd. OPCs will accompany the Bn from Z and arty sp after first light will be by obs.
19. Eng : 2/7 Aust Fd Coy will sp the attack asset out below;
(a) Booby trap clearance - four sappers will accompany each inf to detect and neutralise booby traps.
(b) Wire cutting - 3 Bangalore torpedoes will be provided per inf coy with 3 sappers per coy for laying and lighting - inf coys will provide 6 men per coy for carrying purposes.
(c) Mine-fd gaps - Three 6x gaps will be made in the first enemy mine-fd, one on inter Bn bdy, one 400x North of inter bde bdy and the third, to be cleared after the first two, halfway between. These gaps will be commenced after this Bn passes through the minefd. Two gaps will be made in the second enemy minefd, one on the inter Bde bdy and one 200x North of it. All 6x gaps will be enlarged to 24x as soon as practicable.
(d) Marking : Standard Eighth Army marking will be used.
(e) 4 sappers per inf coy will be provided to move with A Ech tpt to assist with No 75 greas or re-organisation.
20. A Tk : One tpt of 12 Aust A Tk Bty are allotted in sp for re-organ. Tpt will move with A Ech tpt to A Coy area to resist enemy armour from North and West. One sec Bn A Tk Pl will move fwd to left of B Coy on re-organ and one sec with C Coy.
21. MMGs : One Pl, A Coy, 2/2 Aust MG Bn has been allotted to this Bn. This Pl will move fwd on re-organ and will be prepared to assist 2/48 Aust Inf Bn attack when opportunity offers. Two secs Bn MMG Pl will move with and be in sp of B Coy. One sec will move with and be in sp of D Coy.
22. Mortars : One det mortars under comd each A, B, C and D Coys will move fwd as per outline programme att'd.
23. Carriers : One sec less one carrier with each A, B, C and D Coys. One carrier allotted 3(Mor) Pl and one to Bn HQ (CO). On completion of re-organ carriers will revert to comd No 4 Pl.
24. 2 (Pnr) Pl : In reserve and will move with fwd Bn HQ.
25. 5 (Pnr) Pl : Two men will move with Engrs att'd to each fwd Coy and assist with dis-arming of booby traps and lifting of minefids. One NCO and six ORs will posn guide lights along Bn axis of adv under supervision of IO. 5 (Pnr) Pl less one NCO and 14 ORs will move with Main Bn HQ.
26. Preliminary Moves : 2/24 Aust Inf Bn will move direct from "lying up" posn to ZUP at 2030 hrs. Allotted sub-units of sp arms will join 2/24 Bn in veh assembly areas. 2/24 Bn A Ech vehs and allotted sp arms will move at last light to a fwd veh assembly area fwd of our FDLs and North of the axis of adv. Movement fwd of A Ech vehs as in detailed programme att'd.
27. Guides : One OR from Bn Int Sec per coy to act as guides. Guides will be provided to guide vehs from assembly area to start line.
28. AMM : AMM will be carried on the men in accordance with Bn man load tables. Bn amm reserve will move in accordance with outline programme.
29. Supps : Hard rations will be carried on the men sufficient for three full meals.
30. Water : Full water bottles will be carried. Replenishment water will be carried in A Ech vehs.
31. Blankets : One per man will be carried.

IDM.

- 32. PWs : Will be evacuated by coys back to Bn HQ. Posn of Bde PW collecting posts will be notified later.
- 33. Veh allocation and movement : See attd load and movement table.
- 34. Medical : RaP and WWCP in vicinity of the Start Line from Z to Z plus 105 and will then move with Main Bn HQ as per attd March Table.

INTERCOMN :

- 35. Fwd Bn HQ will move in accordance with outlined programme attd. Main Bn HQ will open on axis of advance at rear of the SL at Z minus 20. Will then move in accordance with outline plan attd and will be established in B Coy area on re-orgn.
- 36. Tac HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde opens 86059014 at 1900 hrs 18 Oct 42.
- 37. Bde report centre follows 2/48 Bn on inter bde bdy setting up level with 2/24 Bn objective.
- 38. Tac HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde moves to fwd areas as soon after capture of final objective as situation permits.
- 39. Rear report centre opens at 46059014 when Tac HQ moves.
- 40. Main HQ remains assembly area.
- 41. Rear HQ remains present location.
- 42. Success Sigs : Reports of capture of objectives will be made as follows
 (a) Coy objectives by the naming of the coy comd as a single word.
 Bns will report by 1700 hrs 18 Oct which coy roads are taking which objective.
 (b) First Bn objective - the surname of the Bn comd.
- 43. V/T : A, B, C and D Coys will each carry one Lucas Lamp with coloured screens as follows :-
 A - White
 B - Red
 C - Amber
 D - Green

When called to show their posn, these lamps will be flashed in an arc slowly in the approx direction of Bn HQ. The coy letter will be signalled. In event of failure of W/T or line, lamps will be flashed continuously until comm re-established.

Bn HQ will carry one lamp with green shade and night-screen for signalling fwd. This will only be used where situation demands. Code books will be issued and serials on right hand side of pages will be used in lieu of 3 figure code groups.

- 44. No 18 W/T Sets : One each A, B, C and D Coys.
 One CO (Carried on foot).
 One OC HQ Coy (carried in Jeep)
 One each Mortar and Carrier Pl Comds.
- 45. No 108 Sets : Four to Mortar Pl - 2 for OPs
 2 for Mortars.
- 46. DRg : 1 Pl will provide 1 DR for CO.
- 47. Call Signs, Sig Diagram : See attd Appx.

48. L/T : Line will be laid along Bn axis of advance. Each section of 400m be patrolled by one linesman. Coys will connect to this line by laying in towards axis on arrival at objective. Line veh (Jeep) will follow in rear of fwd Coys.

Signed at hrs.

In Case of Distribution

Distribution : /

ack

Ponseal
 Cap
 18 Oct 42
 2/24 Bn

MOVEMENT TABLE

APPX 10 00 No 17

1. Routes : Unit Area - MAIN Rd - Junc rds MAIN - PERTH - HAMMAM ry sta - along track south of ry line to 46989078 - assembly area.
2. Speed and Density : 15 MIN 20 VEH
3. S.P. : Junc rds MAIN - BOMBAY.
4. Time Post : Head 1300 hrs, Tail 1445 hrs.
5. Dispensal Pt : Ruined huts 47129074.

Serial	Op	Veh	ASCO	Assembly Area	Allotment of A Ech Vehs	
1	BHQ CO OC HQ Coy Sigs M/C DR Int Sec & BHE	Car DS Bantam W/T van & Bant M/C	1 2		1 Carrier Bantam 3 - 3 ton (reserve S/A) 1 W/T van Bantam (Sigs)	
2	A Coy	1 - 30 cwt 1 - 3 ton	4		2 carriers 1 trailer	
3	B Coy	1 - 30 cwt 1 - 3 ton	4		2 carriers 1 trailer	
4	C Coy	1 - 30 cwt 2 - 3 ton	2		2 carriers	
5	D Coy	2 - 30 cwt 1 - 3 ton	3	COY AREAS	2 carriers	
6	2 (Prot) Pl		1			
7	MMG Pl		2			
8	5 (Pnr) Pl	1 - 3 ton	1			1 - 3 ton
9	A Tk Pl	6 Portees				6 Portees
10	Reserve S/A	3 - 3 ton				
11	3 (Mor) Pl	4 Carriers 1 - 30 cwt				4 carriers
12	4 (Car) Pl	9 Carriers				
13	RAP	1 - 3 ton				1 - 3 ton

ASCO and other vehs 1st or A Ech allotment will remain at Rear Assembly Area.

Order of March : As for above table.

Op Arms A Ech vehs move to fwd assembly area with Bn A Ech Vehs.

DISTRIBUTION

HQ Coy	Copy No 1	OC No 2 P1	Copy No 15
A Coy	2	OC No 3 P1	16
B Coy	3	OC No 4 P1	17
C Coy	4	OC No 5 P1	18
D Coy	5	OC A Tk P1	19
CO	6	OC MMG P1	20
2 i/c	7	12 Aust A Tk Bty	21
Adjt	8	A Coy, 2/2 Aust MG Bn	22
IO	9	2/48 Aust Inf Bn	23
QM	10	LO 26 Aust Inf Bde	24
RMO	11	26 Aust Inf Bde	25
TO	22	Umpires	Copies 26/30
RSM	13	War Diary	31/32
CC 1 P1	14	File	33
		Spares	34/36

Own FDLs.

Enemy FDLs

Coy Locations.

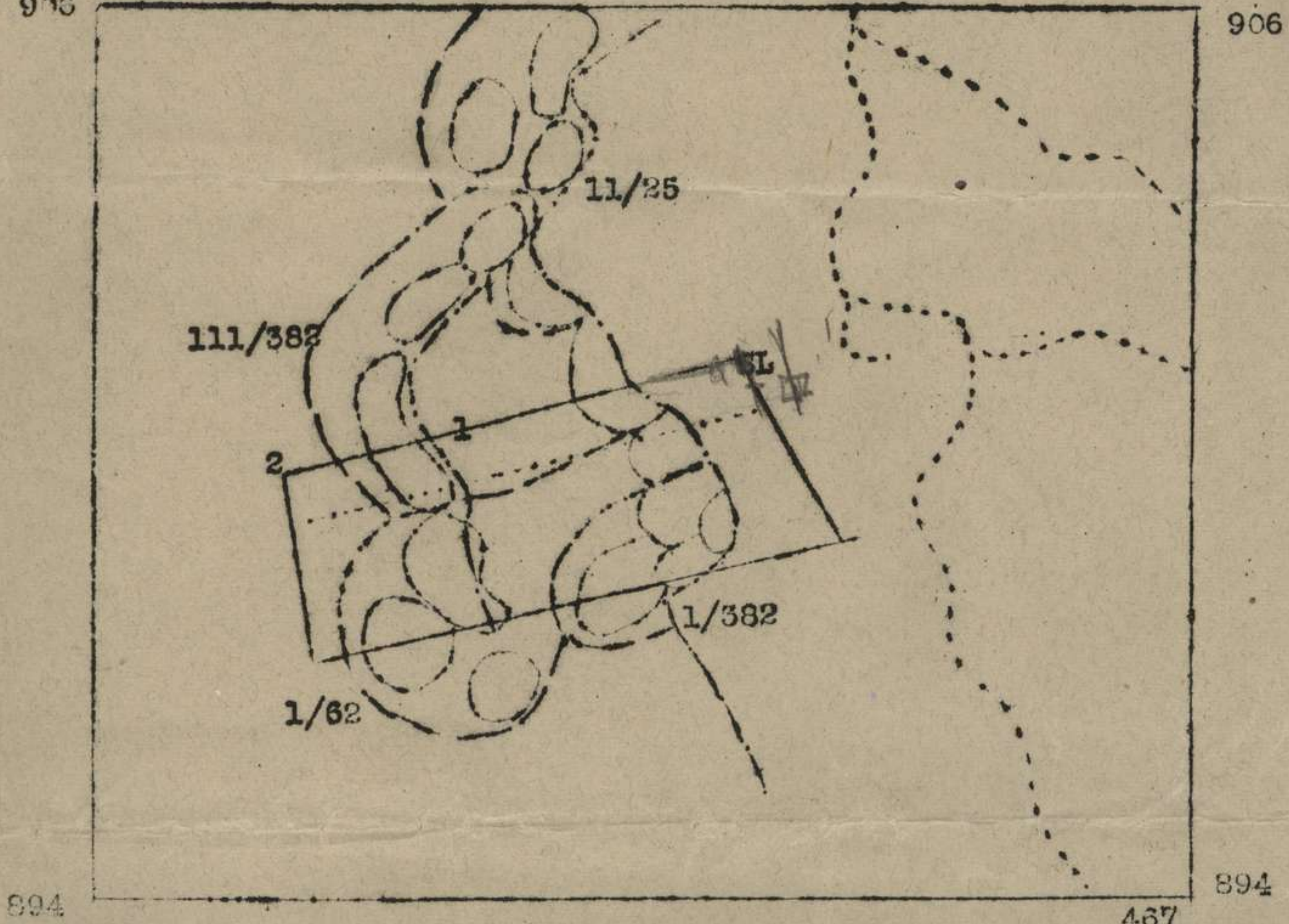
Bn Boundaries.



452
976

467

906



894
452
452

467

906

906

2/24 Bn Veh
Assembly Area.

2/24 Bn Fwd Veh
Assy Area.

26 Aust Inf
(less 2/24
Assy Area.)

Extent Exploitation
1st Objective

2/24 Bn FUP
and SL

2nd Objective

2/24 Bn Lying
up Area.

Line of march
2nd Bn

2/48 Bn Fwd Veh
Assy Area.

2/24 Bn
2nd Bn

2/48 Bn FUP
and SL

Stage	Time	Unit
1. Move to assembly area	1300	2/24 Aust Inf Bn. Vehs form up Coy areas and pass start pt at 1300 hrs
2. From rear assembly area to "lying up" posn	Immed. on arrival	as above
3. A Ech tpt to fwd assembly area	last light	
	2030 (Z-90)	2/24 Aust Inf Bn from "lying up" posn to FUP
5.	Z -20 to Z	Arty preliminary CB: CB on known bty posns.
6.	Zero	B & D Coys cross SL
7.	Z to Z plus 20	Arty on wire and FDLs
8.	Z plus 25	Fwd Bn & 2 Pl cross SL
9.	Z plus 20 to Z plus 55	Arty creeps over E FDLs - 100x in 3 mins
10.	Z plus 30	A & C Coys cross SL
11.	Z plus 35	B & D Coys reach objective
12.	Z plus 55 to Z plus 70	A & C Coys pass through B & D Coys. Pause of 15 mins in arty barrage.
13.	Z plus 70	B & D ana vehs cross SL
14.	Z plus 75	Mortar vehs cross SL
15.	Z plus 85	Sec A Tk Pl cross SL
16.	Z plus 70 to Z plus 115	Arty barrage moves fwd
17.	Z plus 90	Att MGS cross SL and move to Bn Area
18.	Z plus 95	One sec A Tk Pl crosses SL to C Coy Tp A Tk Bty crosses SL
19.	Z plus 105	Rear Bn Hq crosses SL
20.	Z plus 110	A & C Coys reach objective
21.	Z plus 115 to Z plus 175	60 mins pause in arty

Ref Map : 1:50,000 DABA - ALEXANDRIA Series

INFM :

1. Enemy : As for int report issued separately, trace attd, int summaries and sitreps.
2. Own Tps :
 - (a) Eighth Army is to attack with the object of destroying the enemy forces in their present posns.
 - (b) 9 Aust Div is the right fwd div of 30 Corps attack. 51 H.D., 2 NZ Div and 1 S.A. Div are also fwd divs in that order on the left of 9 Aust Div.
20 and 26 Aust Inf Bde fwd - 24 Aust Inf Bde in res.
 - (c) On capture of Pt 27 867298 - 86702960 - Trig 30 870292 - MITELRYA RIDGE to Pt 33 877287, 10 Armd Corps is to debouch and continue the battle to the West and SW.
 - (d) 13 Corps is to attack in the South at the same time.
3. Tps under comd 26 Aust Inf Bde for ops :
 - 12 Aust A Tk Bty
 - A Coy, 2/2 Aust MG Bn
 - One sec 9 Aust Div Pro

Tps in sp :

2/7 Aust Fd Coy with under comd
One scorpion

Composite force under comd 26 Aust Inf Bde for right flank protection.

Comd : Lt-Col MacArthur CNSLOW 2/2 Aust MG Bn

Tps : C Sqn, 9 Aust Cav
Two Tps 11 Aust A Tk Bty
D Coy, 2/2 Aust MG Bn
A Coy, 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn
One A Tk Pl, 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn

2/23 Aust Inf Bn is withdrawn to Div res.

4. Tps in sp 2/24 Aust Inf Bn :

One tp, 12 Aust A Tk Bty
One Sec, 2/7 Aust Fd Coy
One Pl A Coy, 2/2 Aust MG Bn

5. 26 Aust Inf Bde and allotted sp arms will

- (a) Capture and hold area incl enemy locations from 87122991 - 87152983 - track at 86702982 - Pt 27 86712989.
- (b) Protect the right flank of 30 Corps attack.
- (c) Later, as situation permits, exploit.

INTENTION :

6. (a) 2/24 Aust Inf Bn will attack and capture enemy FDLs from 87012983 to 87002990.
- (b) Est bridgehead for 2/48 Bn which will pass through and capture Bde second objective.

METHOD :

7. The attack will be in two phases.

8. 1st Phase :
- Fwd Coys : Right : B Coy
 Left : D Coy
Objective and inter Coy Bdy : See attd trace.
9. 2nd Phase :
- Fwd Coys : Right : A Coy
 Left : C Coy
Objective and inter Coy Bdy : See attd trace.
10. Assembly Area : Bn Gp will move to rear veh assembly area where personnel will debuss and move to "lying up" area. See attd trace.
11. FUP and Start Line : See attd trace. Will be taped.
12. Start time for attack : 2200 hrs.
13. Timings : See detailed programme attd.
14. Re-organisation : On capture of objective Bn will re-organise West and North. Fwd Coys B & D, on arrival at their objective will not re-organise until A & C Coys have passed through. After 2/48 Bn passes through first Bde objective C Coy will re-organise on the left of A Coy. Re-organisation in this area will not commence before Z plus 235.
15. Patrolling : 2 (Prot) Pl will patrol fwd while the SL is being taped and will maintain the patrol fwd of the SL until Z minus 5. The Pl will then provide protection for the marking of the axis of advance. Upon re-organisation coys will provide strong patrols fwd until first light.
16. Limit of Exploitation : See attd trace. B Coy will NOT exploit more than 100x North.
17. Axis of Advance : See attd trace. Will be marked at 200x intervals with GREEN shaded lamps. 10, pnrs with RPs will posn axis marking lights, police and service lights and act as guides on axis of advance. One RED light will be placed on axis of advance to indicate first objective to tpt. Engrs will re-organise axis marking lights after A & C Coys have passed through.
18. Rate of Advance :
- (a) From SL to Enemy FDLs : 75x per min.
 (b) From Enemy FDLs to final objective : 100x in 3 mins.
19. Arty : Arty sp will be by timed concentrations under control. 30 Corps. OPOs will accompany the Bn from assembly area and arty sp will be as follows :
- (a) Between cessation of timed concentrations and first light by calling for numbered concentrations (See arty concentration trace attd). FOO will do OP duties after first light D plus 1. Two further OPOs will report to BHC at first light D plus 1.
- (b) After first light by obs.
20. A Tk : One Sec Bn A Tk Pl with C Coy - One Sec with A Coy and will move as indicated on timed programme attd. One tp 12 Aust A Tk Bty are allotted in sp for re-organisation and will occupy a posn in B Coy Area. Tp Comd will move fwd with Fwd Bn HQ. The tp vehs will move in with B Coy vehs.
21. Eng : 2/7 Aust Pd Coy will sp the attack as set out below :
- (a) Booby trap clearances - four sappers will accompany each fwd Coy, 2 with each rear Coy to detect and neutralise booby traps. Two pnrs will move with each fwd coy to assist.

- (b) Wire Cutting - 6 Bangalore torpedoes and three sappers will be provided per fwd Coy for laying and lighting torpedoes. Coys provide 12 personnel to carry bangalores - two reliefs of 6.
- (c) Mine fd Gaps - One 8x gap will be made in the first enemy minefd, on the Bn front. An additional gap will be made on the Bn front 100x Sth as an emergency gap. 100x South of this will be the 2/48 Bn gap. These gaps will be enlarged to 24x as opportunity occurs.
- (d) A & C Coys will carry and operate three Bangalore torpedoes each.

22. MMGs : Pl of 2/2 Aust MG Bn will move in with A Coy vehs and occupy posns recd by Pl Comd who will move fwd with Fwd Bn Hq. 4 guns, carried on the man, will move rear of A Coy and will report to B Coy and site gun posns in B Coy. Remaining 2 guns will come fwd on B Coy A Ech tpt and will be used as a reserve.

23. Mors : One det of mors under comd each coy will move fwd with the Coy packet as per timed programme. One rep per det will move with each coy.

24. 4 (Carrier) Pl : Carriers will be used in initial/attack as pl packets and allotted as follows :

CO (wireless)	1
Mors	1
Per rifle Coy	2
OC 4 Pl	1

Upon re-organisation 4 (Carrier) Pl will assemble in area South of BHQ 200x Sth of 2/48 Bn axis.

25. 2 (Prot) Pl : As per para 15. After the axis of advance has been marked the pl will be under comd A Coy.

26. 5 (Pnr) Pl : 2 pnr personnel will be allotted per fwd coy for assistance in de-lousing booby traps and minefds. 2 personnel to BHQ. Remainder will assist IO in marking of axis of advance.

27. Preliminary Moves : Move from present posn to Rear veh assembly area as in appdx attd.

28. Guides : Immediately upon re-organisation coys will send guides to axis of advance to guide coy vehs to the coy area. Veh guides posn will be marked by coy directional signs. So arm comds will arrange own guides after receiving their areas. Guides will be provided to guide sub-units to their posns in "lying up" area. Veh guides will be arranged to guide vehs from Rear Veh assembly area to Fwd Veh Assembly Area.

29. Air Sp : Air bombing targets will be reported to Bn Hq indicating type of target, size and map reference.

30. TCPs : One 500x East 66 Enemy wire on axis of advance. This pt will prevent any movement of vehs fwd until orders have been received that vehs ahead are clear of the gap. The following TCPs will be maintained under Bde arrangements :

- TP 1 Main rd and track junc 87782994
- TP 2 Rail and track junc 87682986
- TP 3 Exit from own FDLs at 87592986
- TP 4 Main rd and track junc 87722999
- TP 5 Exit from FDLs 87592989

31. A Ech Veh Pks : Until such time as the first enemy minefd is opened, unit A Ech vehs will park under unit arrangements. Outside own FDLs on right of centre line - no move through FDLs before Z. Prior to Z will park in rear of FDLs on Sth side of ry in own lying up area. See attd trace. All vehs upon reporting to Coy areas will remain in Coy areas dispersed off the axis of advance until recalled by the IO.

32. Security : Coy Comds will ensure that personnel do not take any article into battle which would disclose Bn identity. Large bodies of prisoners must be thoroughly dis-armed and sent back under strong escort - such bodies being a method of infiltration and sabotage.
33. Liaison : C & D Coys Comds will liase with Comds of flanking Bde Coys on D minus 1.
34. "Lying Up" Area : The following personnel, excl Coy Comds, will move to "lying up" area upon debussing in rear assembly area :

Rifle Coys
Engr personnel
MMG Pl
2 (Prot) Pl

ADM

35. Ann : Bn ann reserve will be est in vicinity of Bn HQ.
36. Sups : Hard scale rations will be carried on the man.
37. POL : Vehs will move with full tanks.
38. Blankets : 3 blankets per man will be used in lying up area, 2 of which will be collected by Cqs before Coys move to Start Line. One blanket will be carried on the man. Greatcoats may be taken in under Coy arrangements.
39. CW Eot : Respirators need not be carried. Capes AG may be carried in lieu of water-proof ground sheets.
40. Water : Water will be supplied in tins provided by Coys for use of tps in "lying up" posn. Cqs will collect tins when collecting blankets.
41. Medical : RAP will move with Rear BHQ along Bn axis of advance and be est in vicinity of BHQ on re-organisation. Casualties will be directed to this axis. Stretcher cases will be taken to vicinity of Bn Check Post (500 yds East of minefd gap) as far as possible prior to RAP moving through gap to posn on re-organisation. Area East of minefd will be combed by SB squads 2/11 Fd Amb following RAP. 2/11 Fd Amb temporary collecting post vicinity Sth of FUP. Moderate casualties can therefore go back on empty Coy vehs to this area without going to RAP if considered desirable.
(Wounded marked during advance by rifle stuck into ground by bayonet)
- Allotment of SBs :
- | | |
|---------|---|
| A | 4 |
| B | 4 |
| C | 3 |
| D | 4 |
| No 2 Pl | 1 |

INTERCOMM :

42. (a) The capture of objectives down to and incl Coy objectives will be reported and repeated by every means available.
- (b) Reports will be furnished when each Coy objective is secured or, in event of delay, at the time it was planned to secure the objective. In the latter case progress reports will be furnished at short intervals until the objective is gained.

43. Code words for Objectives :

Att Appx B are codewords for each objective and intermediate objective. They will be used as follows e.g.

"Gin captured" or
"Am held up 500 yds short of Weir).

44. Success Sigs :

On capture of RED LINE 2/24 Bn will signal success by one signal rocket yellow.
This signal will be repeated twice at intervals of one min to ensure recognition.
This rocket shows a large number of yellow stars.
On capture of blue line 2/48 Bn will fire the same signals.
Signal rockets YELLOW will NOT be used for any other purpose than shown in this para.

45. SOS :

- (a) By light signal and through sigs.
- (b) SOS light signal will be by signal rocket three star with trailer. This rocket shows three white stars with a pronounced trail.
- (c) On capture of objective def fire plan will be co-ordinated by CRA.
- (d) Cloth will be tied on SOS rockets to facilitate recog at night.

46. W/T Silence :

W/T silence will be observed from 1000 hrs D day till 2.
This will only be broken for urgent operational reasons.

47. Ground to Air Recognition :

Aldis lamp letter for the day will be "G" and the ground signal, blue smoke.

48. Synchronisation of Watches by L/T at 1700 hrs D day.

- (a) Tac HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde opens 87632983 at 1900 hrs D day.
- (b) Subsequent move of Tac HQ will be as situation demands and will be notified by sig.

49. Marking of HQ :

- (a) Sub-units will ensure that their H_q are clearly marked by day and that signs leading into them are placed on the unit centre line.
- (b) Bde HQ will be marked by blue lights facing in four directions.

50. Allotment of W/T Sets :

18 Sets : One to Bn Comd (Fwd Control)
One each A, B, C, D & HQ Coys.
One Mortar Comd
One Carrier Comd.
Reserve - 2 sets.

101 Sets : 101 set to main BHQ. Role - listening set to provide infm from traffic overheard on fwd group. This set is available to replace Bde W/T set. Should this be necessary, Main BHQ will take over one res 18 set.

4 - 106 sets held in reserve.

51. Call Signs : Call signs will consist of initial letter of Bn Call sign followed by a numeral as follows :

- e.g. M Fwd Control
- M1 A Coy
- M2 B Coy
- M3 C Coy
- M4 D Coy
- M5 HQ Coy
- M6 Main BHQ (101 Set)
- M7 Mortar Comd
- M8 Carrier Comd
- M9 MG Pl

Netting : All sets will be netted to freq on D minus 1 with single rod aerials at close range.

At 1930 hrs on D sets will be re-netted in same manner. Coy Sigs with sets report BHQ 1915 hrs.

One set of static batteries will be carried with set, and spare set of static batteries will be carried on A Ech tpt for each coy.

52. V/T :
(a) Each coy will carry one Lucas lamp, coloured as follows :

A Coy	White
B Coy	Red
C Coy	Amber
D Coy	Green

These lamps will be used - for success signal. Coys will flash their lamps towards BHQ, sending the coy letter in morse. This is in addition to rocket success signal and verbal success signal by W/T.

(b) As an indication of Coy posn and as a reserve comm channel. BHQ will carry three Lucas lamps, using night-shade with green colour screen.

53. L/T : On night of D minus 1, 1 Pl will lay twisted D (111) pair from 2/24 Bn "lying up" area to SL. Distance 3000 yds. This will be connected to line laid from 26 Tac to 2/24 Bn LO area vicinity Pt 26. On night of D a phone report centre will be est on the line at or behind SL. Bde line truck will move with BHQ and lay an extension of this line along the Bn axis to BHQ posn. This will be connected to BHQ switch and this truck will then lay a lateral to 2/48 Bn; a tee in on the 2/48 Bn line from Bde will be made where it passes 2/24 Bn HQ and connected as a reserve channel. On Coys re-organising, the runners returning to coys will guide line parties out. Essential skeleton comms will first be laid, and L/T comms improved until 3 channels exist to each coy. 2 (Prot) Pl will be teed in on lateral between A & C Coys. C Coy will be responsible for L/T link to right Coy 2/48 Bn.

54. DRa : 2 to OC HQ Coy

55. Orderlies : 4 Coy orderlies will move with CO. Immediately on success each coy will despatch 2 orderlies to BHQ, one to remain the other to return guiding a line party.

56. Casualties : In the event of casualties to sigs or damage to sets, reserves are carried at BHQ. Every effort to be made to get such infm back as soon as possible.

57. Bn HQ closes present posn 2300 hrs 22 Oct and re-opens same time at 87852997. Bn HQ will remain in that area until last light thence Fwd Bn HQ moves to FUP. Fwd BHQ will move into the attack with C Coy and on re-organisation will est BHQ in vicinity D Coy. Rear BHQ will be est at Z at FUP and will move as indicated in timed programme.

58. ACK by code-word TAMO and copy No.

Signed at 1910 hrs
Method of Distribution

Roseal Capt.
Adjt.
2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

		<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>			
H ₂ Coy	Copy No	TO	Copy No	2/48 Aust Inf Bn	Copy No
A Coy	1	RSM	12	LO 26 Aust Inf Bde	23
B Coy	2	OC 1 Pl	13	War Diary	24
C Coy	3	OC 2 Pl	14	File	25/26
D Coy	4	OC 3 Pl	15	Spares	27
CO	5	OC 4 Pl	16		28/30
2 i/c	6	OC A Tk Pl	17		
Adjt	7	OC 5 Pl	18		
IO	8	OC 1 MG Pl	19		
QM	9	12 Aust A Tk Bty	20		
RMO	10	A Coy, 2/2 MG Bn	21		
	11		22		

NOTE : Appendices have been attd only where they to recipient of order.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

on Enemy Defences in the ALAMEIN SECTOR as at 21 Oct 42

(To be read in conjunction with 2/24 AJEF INF LN 05 No. 10)

1. GENERAL

(a) The defences run from the coast at MARSALA HAMRA to Kilo 110, with a tongue of fwd posts to Kilo 109, thence to a strongly defended locality, THOMPSON'S POST 872-302. From this pt the line extends southwards to a further defended locality in the area WEST 23 872296, thence SE to RUIN RIDGE.

(b) The defences consist of two principal lines varying from 2-4 kms apart and running roughly parallel to each other.

(c) The fwd line is wired and mined, and, in comparison with the second line, is lightly held. In particular, the presence of this first line permits uninterrupted development of the main defences in the rear. By night, listening posts are maintained fwd of the FDLs, by day outposts and OP posts are manned.

(d) The second line, together with a third series of posts which run from the coast along the 868 easting and join at 868300, forms the main defensive line.

This line is strongly held in all respects.

(e) The fwd and rear lines are connected laterally by further defended lines running in a general east-west direction at intervals of 4-5 kms. The result is a series of hollow squares. The three sides of these squares are mutually supporting, and, in the event of a breakthrough in the FDLs def fire can be concentrated immediately in the hollow squares.

2. Central Northern Sector.

(a) The tps in this area are disposed in considerable depth, and there are two strongly defended localities in area THOMPSON'S POST 872302 and WEST 23 872296.

(b) The hollow square is clearly evident in this sector, with the centre of the square at 870293.

(c) Italian forces are in posts flanked by Germans.

(d) Bn areas are NOT clearly defined due to the necessity for preserving areas held by Italians and due to the fwd and main defensive lines already described. As a general rule, only one coy is fwd in the FDLs, with the remaining coys disposed in depth either immediately in rear and in the area of the defended localities or as part of the main defensive line.

(e) Due to the open and vulnerable flanks and the fluidity of desert ops, the German unit is the coy rather than the regt or bn. Each coy has a balanced armament, incl A Tk guns and IMCs, which are decentralised down to pls. This accounts for several coys being disposed some considerable distance away from their parent bns.

(f) All round defensive measures are always adopted.

(g) Coy frontages average 750 metres, and coys have 400-450 metres in depth.

(h) Posts for hy weapons (IMCs, AA and A Tk guns) are dug with protective BMC to the both flanks and towards the rear. IMC posts are connected to the hy weapon pit by crawl trenches. The average frontage of these V-shaped posts is 30 metres.

(i) The majority of the hy weapons are sited in the main defensive line, NOT in the FDLs.

(j) All fire plans of both automatic weapons and arty are arranged, not only to fire fwd of all posts, but also to actually fire ON these posts in the event of their being over run.

(k) ARTY

i. Gun posts are located in rear of second line defences, and guns are liable to frequent and rapid changes and are normally guarded by protective tps.

ii. Guns are disp sed so that def fire can be put down at any pt along the front, and, in particular to enable fire to be concentrated in the area of the hollow squares.

(l) Mob Res

i. The employment of armour in the fwd area is limited by the extensive mining and wiring. Any counter attack in the event of local penetration, therefore is likely to be delivered by coys of inf bns sited to the rear.

ii. The armd forces available are 15 Armd Div with HQ at 859301 and Littorio Div. Each has an estimated strength of 170 tks.

iii. Latest info points to the formation of three battle gps in the northern sector from these divs. These gps are thought to be a combination of German and Italian units despite the difference of performance and procedure which so far has been regarded as a certain bar to the close co-operation of the German and Italian armour on the same lines as the unifying of the inf formations.

iv. Each gp is considered to consist of 90 tks with sp arms.
Anticipated disposition:-

South of BIDA ABD EL RAHMAN
EL WISMA 867291
EL AQQAQIR 860297.

Further the concentrations are along the 800 easting between 300 and 290 northings and in area East of 800 easting between 301 and 299 northings.

v. Smaller mob gps of up to 10 tks may be employed in the fwd area for immediate counter-attack roles at first light. Four tks dug in at 8635-2959 may be used in this role.

vi. 90 LR DIV at CHAZAL - no indication of formation of tk bn.

(a) Minefields

i. There is no shortage of mines, and British, Egyptian, Italian, and German mines are used in large numbers throughout the defences.

ii. Details of located minefields between the British and Axis lines are as shown on 1: 25000 SBL EL BISA maps.

iii. Booby Traps - (Mostly Italian B4 types) are being added to the minefield and wire in increasing numbers to act as a deterrent to British patrols.

3. ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE

(a) 164 Inf Div, sp by TRONTO Div is located in the area from 283 northing to the coast. Composition:-

164 Inf Div 2000 men, 24 Pz, 120 A Tk
18 75 mm inf guns, 200 MT.

Tronto Div:- 2300 men, 40-48 Pz, 70 A Tk guns.

(b) Between 297 northing and ry line the following inf units are located:-

II Bn 125 Inf Regt
III Bn 352 Inf Regt
I Bn 62 Inf Regt.

Composition of each of these bns is:

4 Coys each of 3 Pz each of 4 Secs.

Coys are in a process of re-organization on the AFRICAN Model which provides for an establishment per coy of:-

3 - 50 mm A Tk guns
3 - model 41 A Tk rifles
3 - 81 mm mortars
18 - LMGs
2 - HMGs

To what extent this re-organization has been carried out is not known, but it is unlikely that 164 Inf Div would be completely equipped. At present a bn is thought to have about 500 men 16 - 50 mm A Tk guns, 6-81 mm mortars, 9 - 50 mm mortars, 12 - HMGs and 35 LMGs.

Composition of I Bn 62 Inf Regt is:-

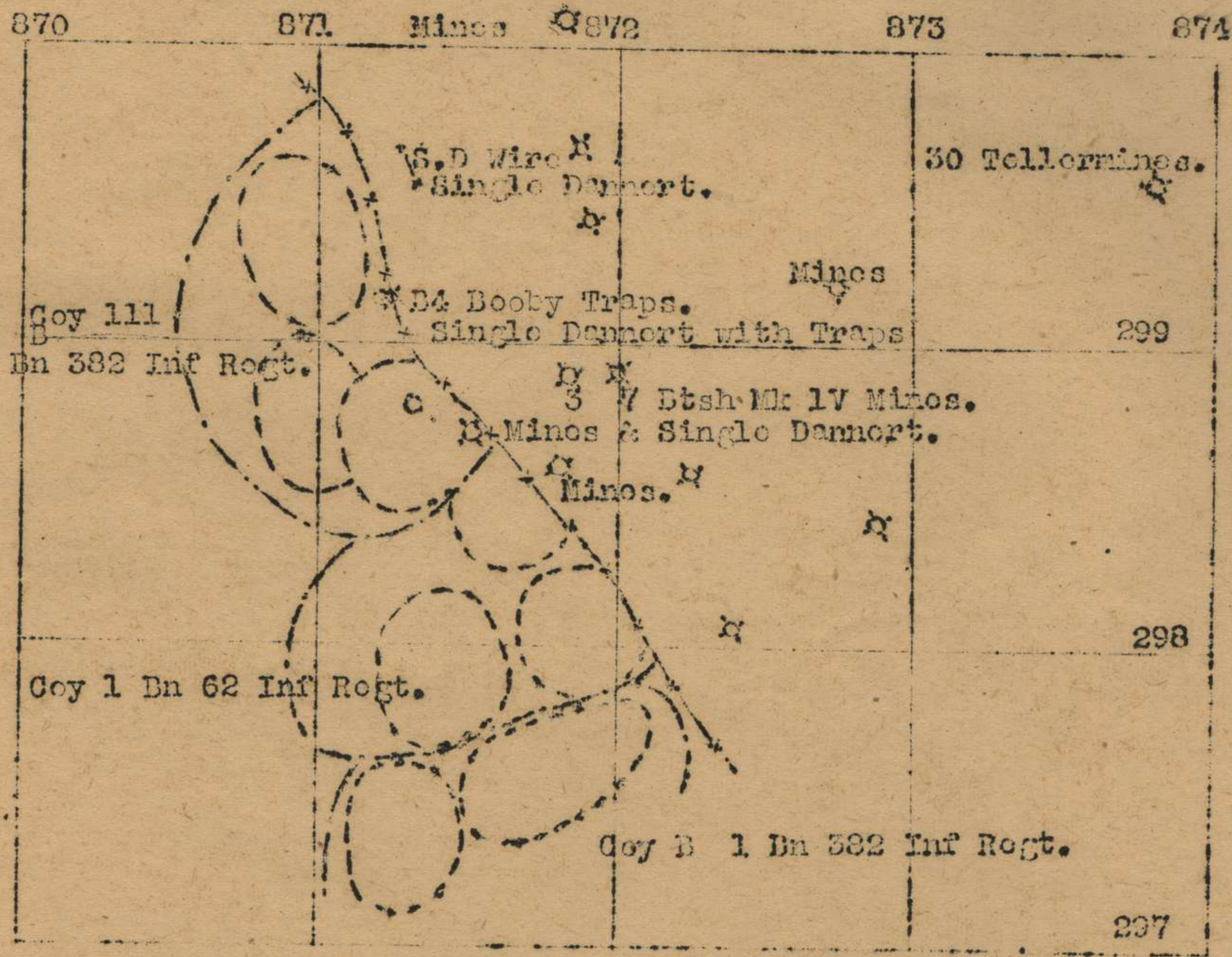
4 Coys totalling approx 500 men.

Coys are organized on the "AS 42" scale which provides for 3 - 47 mm A Tk guns, 3 - 20 mm A Tk rifles, 3 HMGs, 6 LMGs. It is thought that these figures represent present holdings, whilst the bn may have an allotment of 3 81 mm mortars from Regt.

[Handwritten signature]

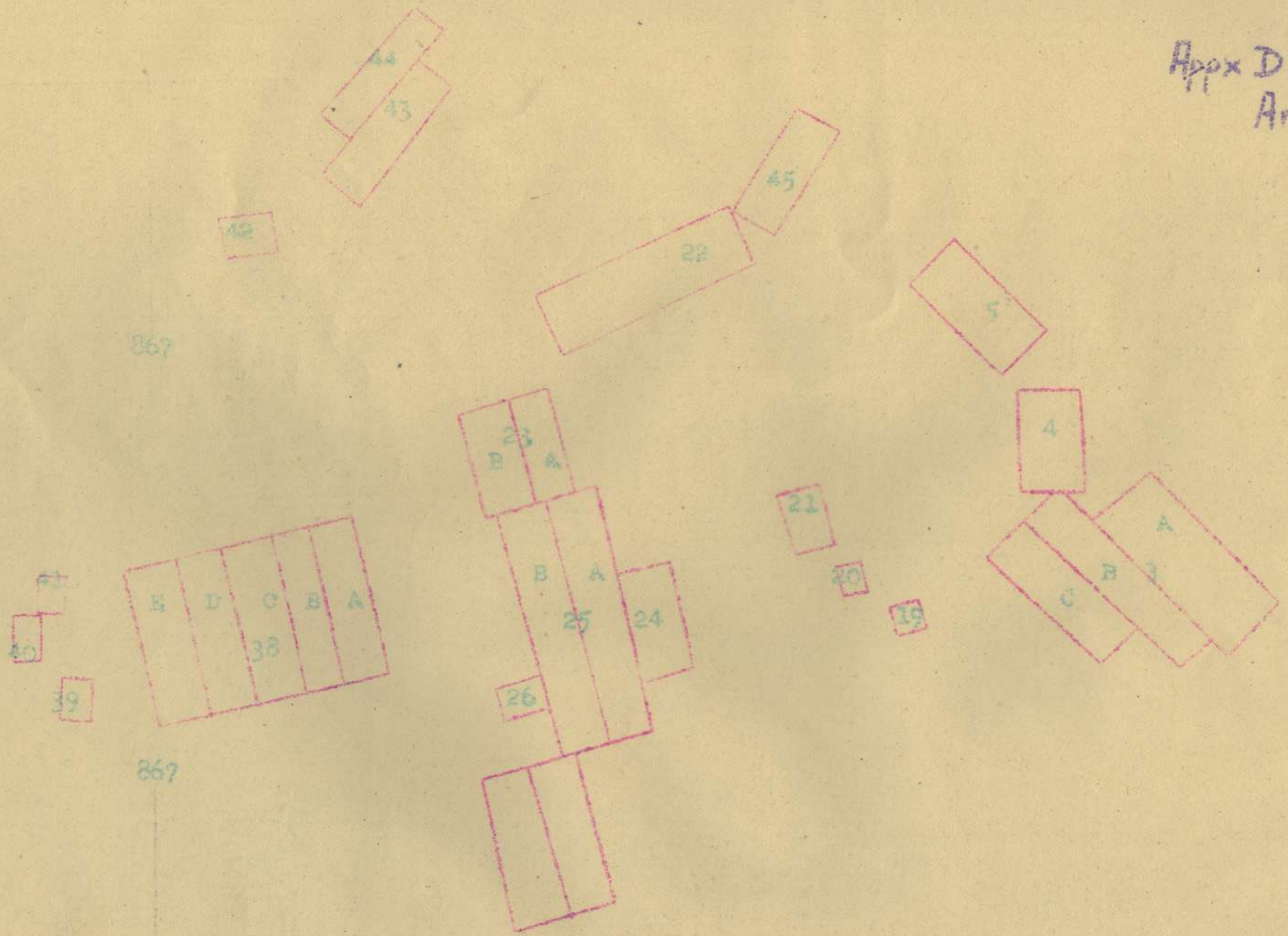
Lieut.
I.O. 2/24 Ajst Inf Bn.

APPX "G" to O.O. No 10.



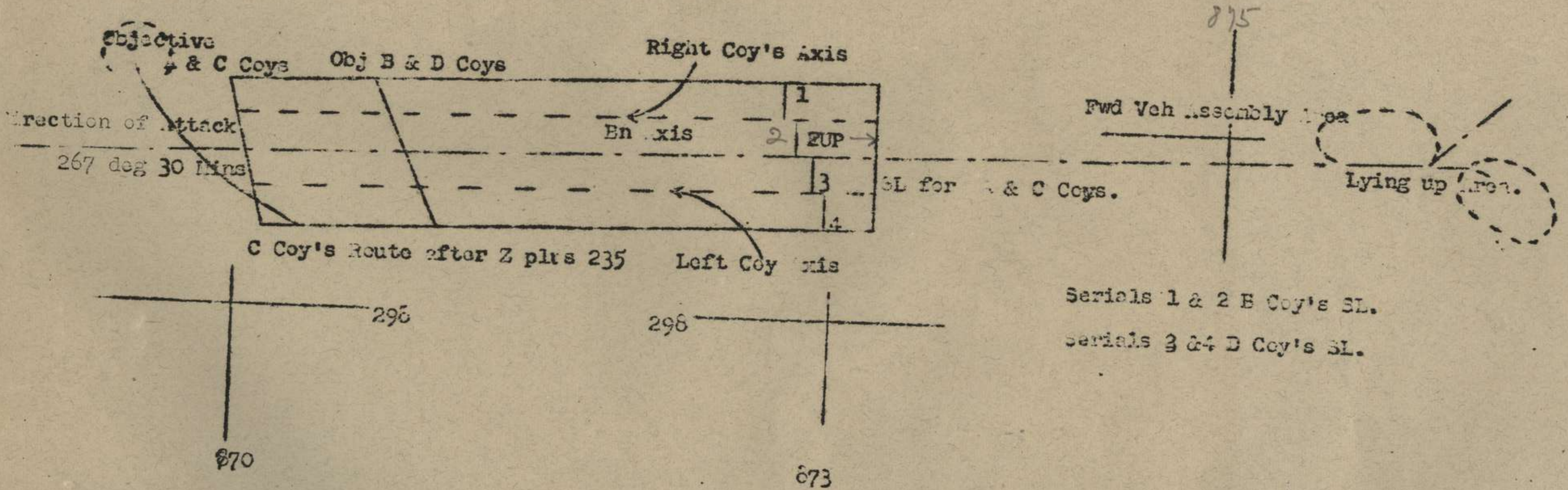
SECRET

Appx D to 26 Aust Inf Bde 00 No 21
Arty Task trace



TRACE SHOWING FUP, SL AND AXIS OF ADVANCE

Ref sheets 1/25000-



To be read in conjunction with 2/24 Aust Inf Bn 00 No 10

Stage	Time	Action
1	Z = 60	Coys move from lying up area to JOP
2	Z = 30	Vehs commence move from rear assembly area to forward assembly area.
3	Z = 30 to Z = 5	Arty CB fire.
4	Z	B and D Coys cross start line. Rear HQ is established at JOP.
5	Z to Z plus 20	Arty on wire and PDL's. B and D Coys pass through wire.
6	Z plus 20 to Z plus 55	Arty barrage creeps over defended localities rate 100m in 5 mins.
7	Z plus 25	A and C Coys cross start line. Forward HQ with C Coy.
8	Z plus 44	B and D Coys reach objective.
9	Z plus 55 to Z plus 70	Pause in arty to pass A and C Coys through B and D Coys. B and D Coys start re-organizing.
10	Z plus 80	B Coy Packet crosses start line in following order: 1 Carrier with Tractor (Arm) 1 15cwt Veh (Engr Stores) 2 15 " " (2 Pkts 2/24) 4 Portco's (one to 12 ATK Pkts) 1 Mortar Carrier 1 Carrier (Arm with Tow Rope)
11	Z plus 95	D Coy Packet crosses start line in following order: 1 Carrier (Arm) 1 15cwt Veh (Engr Stores) 1 Mortar Carrier 1 Carrier (Arm with Tow Rope)
12	Z plus 96	A and C Coys reach objective.
13	Z plus 70 to Z plus 115	Arty barrage moves forward.
14	Z plus 115	Bn HQ and A Ech crosses start line: 1 Carrier (OC & PL) 1 3cwt Veh (SIG) 1 3 " " (1 Sec) 3 3Ton " (Res SAA) 1 30cwt " (Mortar)
15	Z plus 115 to Z plus 175	Pause in arty barrage. 2/24 Bn form up rear A & C
16	Z plus 175	Arty re-commences. 2/24 Bn passes through A and C Coys. A Coy commences re-organisation.
17	Z plus 170	A Coy Packet crosses start line: 1 Carrier with Tractor (Arm) 1 15cwt Veh (Engr Stores) 1 15 " " (2 Pkts) 4 MMG Vehs in support 4 Portco's (1 Sec 2/24 ATK PL) 1 Mortar Carrier 1 Carrier (Arm with Tow Rope)
18	Z plus 185	C Coy Packet crosses start line: 1 Carrier (Arm) 1 15cwt Veh (Engr Stores) 4 Portco's (2 Sec 2/24 ATK PL) 1 Carrier (Mortars) 1 Carrier (Arm with Tow Rope)

(2)
DETAILED TIMINGS "LIGHTFOOT"

Stage	Time	Action
19	Z plus 200	Rear Bn HQ crosses start line: 1 Jeep 2 DR's 1 Carrier (W/T) 1 Bde W/T Van 1 3 Ton RAP 1 Amb 1 WW Veh
20	Z plus 235	C Coy moves to area 86962993
21	Z plus 310	2/28 Aust Inf Bn on final objective.

FILE

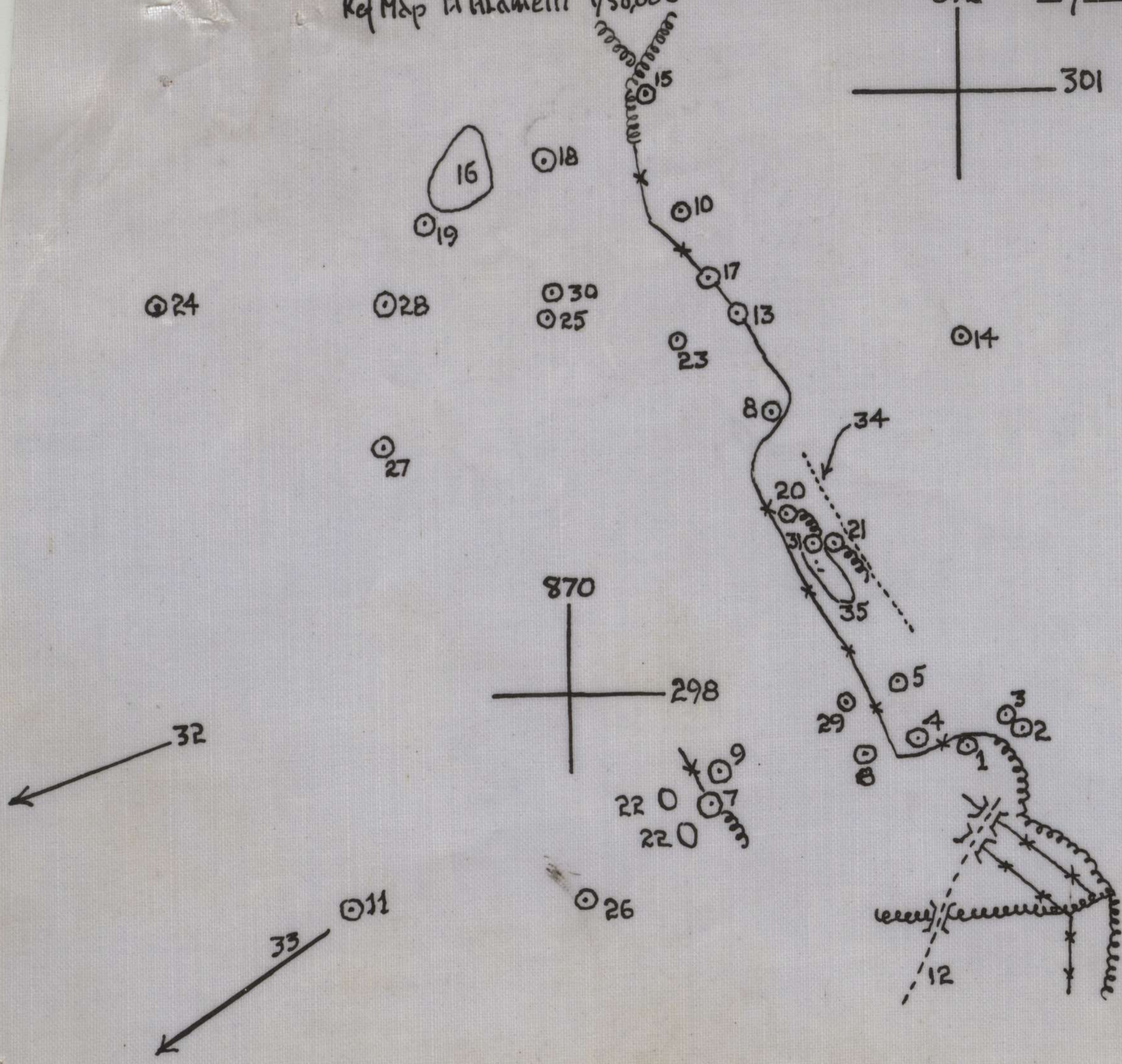
REPORT: OBSERVATIONS MADE FROM BOB'S OP 87292994 and EWEEN'S OP 8729529915 from 0600hrs to 1900hrs 12 Oct 42.

Observations made by Lieut R. McLeod
Lieut D. Canning
Sjt E. French

1. General: Observations made confirmed information gained on 10 Oct and this report should be studied in conjunction with the report of that date. Where differences are shown the information herein may be regarded as more reliable since the posn of EWEEN'S OP allowed of better resection than resections from DEV'S OP.
2. Posns noted as trace att:-
 - Serial 1. Black 3 Ton Truck.
 2. 15 cwt Chev.
 3. Derelict carrier (may be on minefd)
 4. Yellow 3 Ton Truck Brit Pat.
 5. LP. Four men left here at 0640hrs, passed through wire and continued on bearing of 220deg from BOB'S OP until out of sight.
 6. Brown drum marking summit of rise.
 7. HFIP type tent. Much movement in this area throughout day.
 8. Four men seen moving north as if returning from a LP at 0642 hrs.
 9. Derelict Tank.
 10. Small depression with two sandy knolls on east and west extremity. Western knoll has two long stakes on top. This knoll occupied by 4 plus tps.
 11. Some MT dispersed.
 12. Track disappearing over crest.
 13. Wire established by arty fire.
 14. Sanger unoccupied.
 15. Depression 1200x across running north and south with dannert running through. No tp movement seen.
 16. Much tp movement 1100hrs - 1300hrs. 30 men seen at one time.
 17. Wire pinpointed.
 18. Tent. Volkswagen left 1230hrs after our shelling.
 19. Possible HQ, continuous movement.
 20. Sanger. Dannert from this to two vehs at serial 21.
 21. Two trucks, German 3 Tonners.
 22. Large numbers tps, 50 plus moving around during day.
 23. Tps, 10 plus seen on sandy knoll digging dugouts.
 24. Tps, at least 2 coys, one moving north, one moving south at 1815 hrs along track.
 25. Sounds of blasting 1500 - 1700hrs.
 26. 11 vehs dispersed during day, some moving at last light.
 27. 50 MT stationary most of day.
 28. Large building.
 29. Two small parties tps digging during day.
 30. Small party digging towards evening.
 31. Inf gun or mortar.
 32. Flash spot of fd gun firing from behind ridge 1840hrs. 250 deg from BOB'S.
 33. Flash spot from tracer MG bullets firing from behind ridge 1845 hrs. Two guns.
 34. Pickets thought to continue across here.
 35. Defended locality.

Trace Showing Infrm. obtained from OP's fwd of .24 West
Ref Map El Alamein 1/50,000

872 10/12 Oct 42

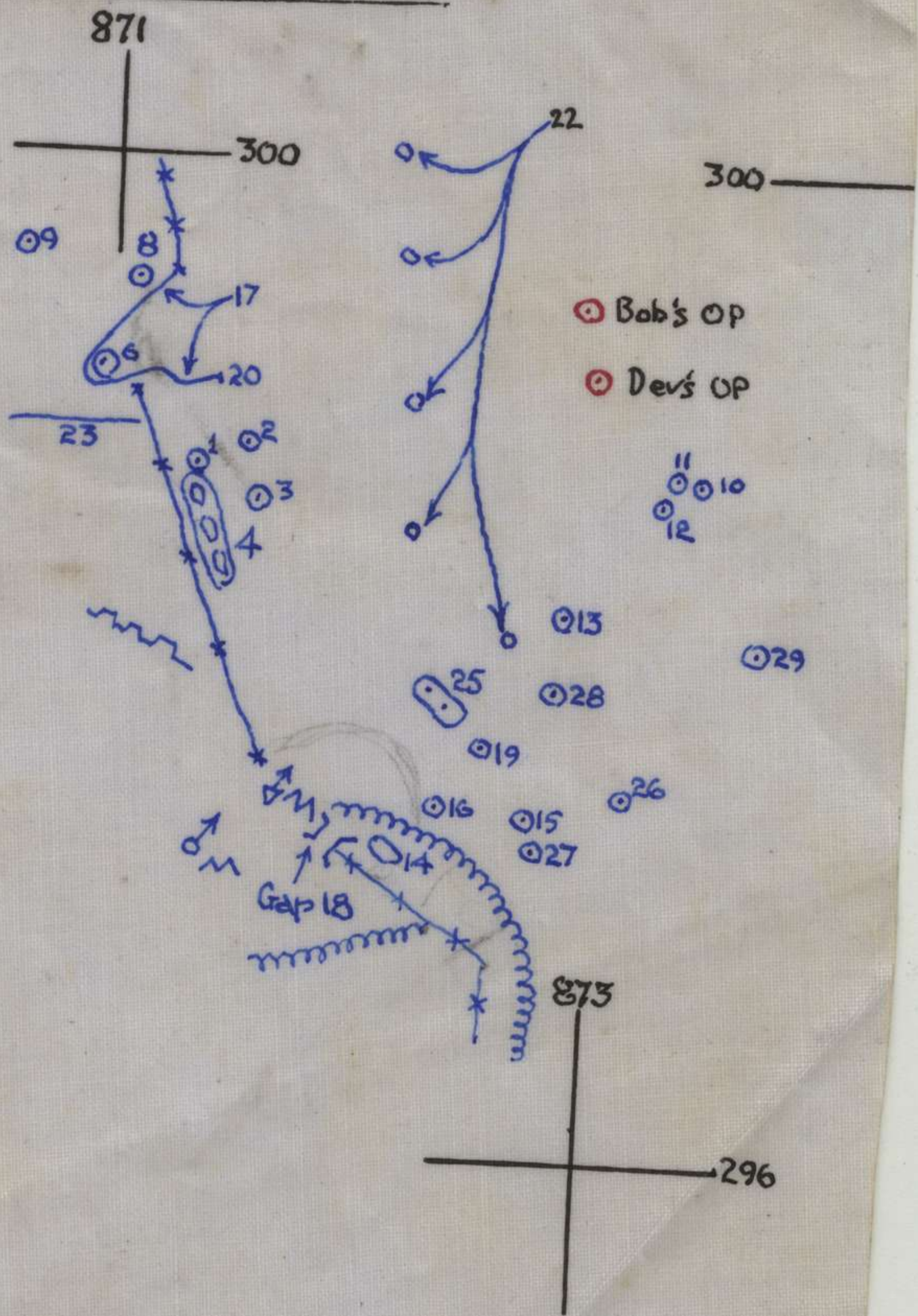


Appx. to 2/24 Aust Inf Bn. Observation Report 11 Oct 42

07

030

05
021



copy 1.0
A special map is to be prepared of this area
All positions marked as located

2/24 Aust Inf Bn
 In the Field.
 11 Oct 42.

REPORT: OBSERVATIONS MADE FROM BOB'S OP (87292994) and DEV'S OP (87292991) FROM 0600HRS - 1900HRS 10 OCT 42.

Observations made by Lieut. R. McLeod.
 " D. Cunning
 Cpl A. Devereux

10

1. General: The area observed extended from West Pt 24 to West Pt 23 thence north to the 500 northing grid.. From West Pt 24 the ground falls away to flat low ground broken by many sandy and rocky low ridges and along the line of the enemy FDL's again rises with a gentle slope in the north and a slightly steeper slope in the south. West Pt 23 is marked with two black 44gal drums standing one on top of the other.

No vehs were seen by day near the enemy posts. Food was cooked in pl localities on open fires. Very little movement was observed throughout the day but in the early morning some airing of blankets disclosed posns. Much noise of MT to SW was heard throughout the day but no vehs were visible. Estimated distance 8000x.

2. Posns noted as trace attached:

1. SANGER (SQUARE) On ridge running NW + SE, Sanger is located in break in ridge. LMG tested. No other weapons seen. Three men returned from Serial 2 at 0646hrs to this sanger. The sanger is occupied by day and by night and a continuous lookout kept. A total of eight men seen at one time. Towards evening one man entered sanger from direction of serial 5. All eight men then lined rear of sanger and it seemed that observations for say a patrol were made, as one kept pointing towards West Pt 24.
2. Listening Post.
3. Two vehs, one facing west one north. German 3 tonners?
4. Defended locality, 10 men plus. No wire. One new pit in southern extremity at least two others of older origin.
5. RAP tent.
6. Wired area. BWC 100x apart with short pickets in front and along sides. Diggings in rear.
7. MDS.
8. Troops and dugouts. Six men seen. Weapons zoluthorns.
9. " " " Four men seen. Weapons zoluthorns.
10. Inf assualt gun. Pointing south. Hard rubber tyres.
- ✓ 11. German veh. Truck with outside tyres.
- ✓ 12. Italian veh. Truck with heavy list.
- ✓ 13. Tracked recce car. Salmon colour with gun turret to NE
- ✓ 14. WR's and sangers. 10 men plus identified as Germans.
15. Two derelict carriers.
16. Strong point. 20mm Breda, one MG.
17. Short pickets.
18. Gap marked on our side.

19. Derelict carrier.
20. Short pickets appear to mark forward edge of minefd.
21. Heavy gun KO'd with blue shield facing east.
22. Row of sig cable drums.
23. Suspected row of short pickets running west.
24. Square 887302. Possible HQ or workshops. Continuous movement of MT and some tks.
25. Listening posts?
26. Jeep, one wheel off. 15 cwt Chev.
27. Jeep.
28. Two derelict Crusader tks.
29. Derelict arty carrier.
30. Possible HQ. Staff car in vicinity. Movement.

6. BNC ?

14. WRs ?

15. Does the position of these carriers coincide with previous patrol discoveries.

19. Ditto

24. Not shown on trace.

26 }
27 } see 15419

WAR DIARY

APPX "B" - ROUTINE ORDERS

OCTOBER 1942

copy of this trace please



OPERATIONSLIGHTFOOT OPS
23 OCT 42

2200 hrs. Zero. B Coy on right; D Coy on left; A and C Coys follow. 2330 hrs fwd Coys reach minefids and go to ground while sappers blow gaps in wire with bangalores. CO No 1 See trace. B and D Coys reach objectives and A and C Coys pass through 2300 and take their objectives.

24 OCT 0055hrs. 2/48 Bn passes thru fwd Coys and later 2/24 Bnd 2/48 Bns form right flank of 30 Corps attack unit took 43 German POW and 35 Italians; captured many weapons and much amm.

25 OCT . 0040 hrs. Objectives were Fig Garden 2/24 Bn; and Pt 29, 2/48 Bn. Intermediate and final objectives reached by Coys of 2/24 Bn. Then there was difficulty in joining up with other units - contact on left only made for short time so C.O decided withdraw 1000 yds See trace new line. More POW and booty captured.

Artillery broke up attacks on Bns' fronts on 27 OCT. on 28 OCT by 2/13 Bn and went back to Tel el Eisa Stn.

30/31 OCT. Plan: 2/32 Bn to attack to railway line; 2/3 Pns to pass thru them north to coast; 2/48 Bn to attack northern slopes of Pt 25 and then turn north to Clover Leaf feature; 2/24 Bn on right to attack along flat - first two Coys turning south to capture Thompson's Post. Delaying feature of this attack was that both 2/48 and 2/4 Bns advancing towards own arty support B Coy on left wiped out enemy strongpoints and C Coy on left right reached objective without difficulty.

0230 hrs A and B Coys passed thru fwd Coys, but D Coy had to dig in south of rly. Other Coys also ordered withdraw to this point, and a very depleted Bn assembled. Thompson's Post investigated by C.O and party and found to be strongly occupied -- more casualties.

0430 hrs 2/48 Bn withdrew to 2/32 Bn area near Block House and it decided that 2/24 Bn should link up with 2/32 Bn. C.O wounded and 2 l/c took over new front. See trace.

Bn then re-organised and owing to greatly reduced numbers and shortage of officers A and C and B and D Coys were formed into composite Coys.

There were so many officer casualties during these three major Ops that on occasions senior N.C.O's had charge of Coys.

2300 hrs. 31 OCT. 42. Bn relieved by 2/28 Bn and went back to Pt 33.

BN HAD TO
WITHDRAW

BN RELIEVED

ATTEMPT ON
THOMPSON'S POSTGENERAL
WITHDRAWALSHORTAGE OF
OFFICERS.MOVEMENT

LEFT ALAMEIN

14 OCT when relieved by 2/32 Bn and went to Hamman 44059024.

Then went to lying up area Tel el Eisa 22 OCT for Lightfoot. Moved to Pt 33 at end of month.

2/24 AUST. I
INF BN OCT 42INTELLIGENCE

PATROL REPORTS

in Intelligence Summaries attached. including recce patrols accompanied by sappers. attached.

2/24 AUST INF
BN OCT 42TRAINING

BOOBY TRAPS

lectures to Coys by sappers 4 OCT.

2/24 AUST INF
BN OCT 42

BDE EXERCISES

18 and 19 OCT 42.

MAPS

TRACE

showing three directions of attack 23 -- 31 OCT 42. attached. Captured map showing German Minefids. attached.

2/24 AUST INF
BN OCT 42APPOINTMENT & COMD.

C.O WOUNDED

31 OCT. Lt Col. Weir wounded. Maj. Gebhardt took comd.

2/24 AUST INF
BN OCT 42

2/24 AUST INF BN

SECRET

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 47

(Based on infn received from 1000 hrs 30 Sep to 1000hrs 1 Oct 42)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE

1. GENERAL situation on the Bde front remains quiet. Recce patrols last night have little to report. A recovery patrol sent out by the 1st fwd Bn, however, succeeded in bringing in a VALENTINE tk intact from 87463026. Another recovery patrol brought back a quantity of personal eqpt and 250 cases of 25 pr amn from 87422945 without any interference from the enemy, night 29/30 Sep.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY At 1215 hrs 30 Sep a party of 20 enemy at 87222991 were engaged by arty and MG fire causing them to go to ground and finally withdraw. Later some men were seen moving in this area and they appeared to be picking up cas.

Shelling - 15 shells reported area E Pt 24;
20 shells between E Pt 24 and W Pt 24;
2 shells 87652991

Works Working parties heard from areas 873297 to 87302968;

3 AIR OPS

Morning 30 Sep one unidentified and two enemy aircraft were reported to have crashed behind enemy lines. Of the identified planes one was a Me109 and the other a two-engined machine.

SEC "B" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

4. ENEMY EQPT

Patrols report finding of a black cylindrical object 3" diam and 4" long with plunger protruding from the top. Two trip wires were att to the plunger stretched taut and fastened to stakes. The object is too thin to be the GERMAN S type mine but is considered to be a prepared demolition charge set as an anti-personnel device.

SEC "C" - OWN OPS

5. PATROL Night 30 Sep/1 Oct.

The following infn was reported by patrol:-

Explosion heard from approx area 87352970 at 2055 hrs;

Five white flares from WEST Pt 23 at 2112 hrs.

Working parties heard to West from areas 873297 to 87302968.

Lieut.

I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

Aircraft recognition sigs for 2 Oct:-

0300-0800 GG; 0800-1700 YY; 1700-2300 GY; 2300-0300 RR.

(Based on info received for 24 hrs ended 1000 hrs 2 Oct)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE

1. GENERAL

Situation on the Bde front remains quiet. Normal patrolling last night was carried out but no contact was made with the enemy.

In the SOUTH our forces attacked the EASTERN end of MUNASSIB Depression just before first light 30 Sep. At 1130 hrs the enemy was still holding out at Pt 94 88242616, although on the northern edge of the Depression we had reached the 880 EASTING Grid, and on the southern side 880261. At 2215 hrs our forces held re-entrant and spur at 882263, Pt 92 881261 and part of 100 feature. The enemy was still in possession of 882261 and 880261. The situation had not changed up to late yesterday morning.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY

Shelling - 18 shells EAST Pt 24
14 shells ST1 area

Works - 87262974 - ITALIAN working party
87282973 - estimated 30 men (ITALIANS) heard digging and hammering pickets.
Blasting heard to rear of this party behind ridge.

Patrols - Enemy patrol seen at CLOVERLEAF feature and at 87343020.

3. ENEMY DISPOSNS

Tac/R to 0700 hrs this morning reports as follows:)

Approx areas 869283 - 300 MT; 857286 to 869280 - 300 MT strung out along low ridge; 859277 - 100 MT; 845278 to 857272 scattered MT; 863274 - 100 MT; 863267 - 300 MT; 857263 - 50 MT; 863258 - 600 MT; 873259 - 400 MT. Report adds that there is little change recently in general concentrations, and that enemy AA was exceptionally active this morning.

Arty Strength and Disposns

Enemy arty strength is estimated at: 150 Fd Guns
61 Med Guns
19 Hy Guns

These are disposed with a small gp of med (13 GERMAN and hy (4) above 305 Northing Grid line. Next comes the main body of fd (65) (mostly GERMAN) from 364 to 295, then the med gp (34 GERMAN and (ITALIAN) between 293 to 287. From 283 to 279 is the ITALIAN fd gp (46) sited to the E and SE.

The hy guns are all ITALIAN 149/40 except for 17cm guns recently arrived in this sector. The 152/37 have not been reported for several weeks. The hys are all north of 305 Grid line on this front. The GERMAN fd gp has been brought up to strength apparently by 105 gun/how. No 7.5cm Mountain guns have yet been located and it is presumed that they have been replaced by 25 prs. It is estimated that there are 24 25 prs in use by the enemy against this corps.

The greatest gun density is at TEL EL RISA CUTTING against which

Enemy Disposns cont

80 fd, 30 med and 19 hy guns could bring down fire. In the past 3 weeks 50 guns have been reported to fire in that area. The meds cover the whole front with an average density of about 25 guns. The fd gun density thins to 14 about 286 Northing line, and increases to 52 on RUSEIS T Ridge. The hys are disposed with greatest density (19) in the North. (Counter Bty I.S. No. 4 of 29 Sep)

SEC "C" - OWN OPS

4. PATROL NIGHT 1/2 OCT

Although considerable movement was heard on two different occasions, the enemy was not contacted.

On reaching 8733 2972 movement was heard in area 875-2-76 and from the stench in area it was deduced to be burial party.

At 2100 hrs a patrol at approx 87282955 exchanged fire with the enemy for about 15 mins.

At the end of the first leg ITALIAN voices laughing and talking could be plainly heard to the front. At 2145 hrs one truck stopped at 87282973, tools and pickets were unloaded and party commenced digging and hammering pickets. Size of the party estimated at 20 men. Silence during these operations was NOT observed by the working party.

Some blasting was being done in rear of this working party behind ridge.

On return journey three derelict enemy trucks were located at 87402970. These trucks were not booby trapped.

[Signature]
Lieut.
I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn

METEOROLOGICAL

Date	1 Light	Sunrise	Sunset	Last Light	Date	Moonrise	Moonset
2 Oct	0527	0555	1749	1819	2/3	2335	1330
3 "	0528	0558	1748	1818	3/4	0016	1413

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No. 49

(Based on infm received 24 hrs ended 1000 hrs 3 Oct 42)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE1. GENERAL

No change reported on the Bde front except for the withdrawal of one of our outposts at 87453006 due to enemy sniping.

In addition to harrasing fire, our arty conducted a Regt shoot on approx areas 871302 and 872297 at 1145 hrs and 1230 hrs respectively. An effective shoot was also carried out by arty, mortars and MMGs on CLOVER LEAF feature 87453041.

An ITALIAN gun tractor was salvaged during the period.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY

sniping - Enemy sniping forced outpost at 87453006 to withdraw.

3. ENEMY DISPOSALS

Post - 87293018 (approx) probable enemy post.

4. AIR OPS

Night 28/29 Sep - Bostons attacked DABA LGs starting 7 fires in dispersal areas. Hurricanes patrolled uneventfully ALAMEIN area. Wellingtons bombed TOBRUCH scoring near miss on ship starting 3 fires in harbour area.

29 Sep - Escorted by Spitfires special Hurricanes scored direct hits on three AMCs southern sector. Long range Spitfires on offensive patrol along ry W of CHARING CROSS failed to locate train but attacked a Ju52 shooting it down 10 miles W of CHARING CROSS. Fighter patrol in battle area during day having two inconclusive engagements with Me109s and Mc202s. Enemy fighters patrolled battle area in small numbers while our land forces reported four small fighter-bomber attacks central sector and one attack mid-afternoon by 9 Ju87s with med and top cover Me109s and Mc202s central sector. (Adv Air HQ I.S.No.238)

At 1800 hrs 1 Oct our fighters intercepted an escorted formation of Ju87s and after a 30 mins fight claim 6 destroyed, 4 probable and 1 damaged of the Stukas, 1 Me109 probable and 1 Me109 damaged.

SEC "C" - OWN OPS5. PATROL

Last night's patrol to 87343014 proved uneventful and had nothing to report.

Fleming Lieut.
I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

PASS WORD for 24 hrs ending 1200 hrs 4 Oct: KOOKABURRA

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 53

(Based on infm received 24 hrs ended 1000 hrs 4 Oct 42)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE1. GENERAL

Engrs, with a covering dot, last night attempted a reconce of minefd at 87303017. Enemy wire at this pt had just been reached when, from only about 50 yds to the front, flares were put up and the enemy opened up with rifles and 2 SPANDAUS, forcing our party to withdraw.

Salvage - An ITALIAN tractor was salvaged during the night by flanking unit.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY

Patrols - Enemy patrols seen at 87373026 and approx 87312974.

Works - Working party heard driving pickets area 87343016.

Shelling - 30 shells CUTTING area
6 " EAST Pt 24
10 " SIA area
12 " 87543017

Mortaring - 30/40 bombs 87623027
25 " 87523018

3. ENEMY DISPOSNS

MGs - 87293018 2 Spanduas about 150 yds apart

Mortar - Vicinity CLOVER LEAF

Minefd - 87303017 minefd with single apron over single dannert wire.

4. AIR OPS

Operations 2 Oct resulted in the destruction of 4 Me109, 1 Me202 and 1 Ju88 with 1 Me109 probable. A train attacked in area 640/660 eastings was left stationary and the engine (diesel) left smoking. We suffered no losses.

SEC "B" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE5. ENEMY METHODS

PW from 1 Coy 433 Inf Regt (GERMAN) cap 30 sep at 878283 gives the following info on enemy patrol signals:-

3 short green flashes - "Here we are. All in order".
1 long green flash - "Here we are. Have not found gap in minefd. Send guide".
3 short red flashes - "I see or hear enemy. Report on way. Continuing observation".
1 long red flash - "Have been observed by enemy. Cannot report further. Request assistance".
Continual red flashes - "Enemy approaching in strength. Am retiring".

SEC "C" - OWN OPS6. PATROL

Activity last night was of a protective nature, a covering /dot.

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

(S) 24 Oct 42

SECRET

5. Patrol (cont).

det being supplied for engrs reaco of minefd at 87303017.

Party proceeded to 87393009 where they were forced to ground by our own MMG fire which was falling 50 yds to their front.

On reaching 87383010 our own mortar and arty fire was observed N of ry line.

From 87393008 to 87353014 engrs made a detailed search on a front of approx 30 yds but did NOT locate any mines.

From N of the ry at 87343016 a working party was heard driving pickets. Talking and laughing was also heard.

Patrol continued to 87303017 and was halted by a single apron fence with single danner underneath. Before investigation could be commenced 2 flares went up from 50 yds distance and 2 SPANDEUS and rifles opened up. Six flares in all went up accompanied by MG fire. MGs were located at 87293018 - 2 guns 150 yds apart.

[Signature] - Lieut.
I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

PASSWORD for 24 hrs ending 1200 hrs 5 Oct 42 - PLATYPUS

2/24 AUST INF BN

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 51

SECRET

(Based on infm received fro 24 hrs ended 1000 hrs 5 Oct 42)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE

1. GENERAL

Patrols last night in the Bde area to 87102996 - 87322974 - 87352990 - 87343021 - 87363026 report no mines discovered and no contact with the enemy. Several enemy working parties, however, were heard.

Our arty engaged an enemy MG post at 87463042 scoring a direct hit. 40 MT also were engaged at 86853039, one of which was seen burning.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY

Works - 87112994 working party apparently digging gun-posn.
87112993 working party with 7 vehs in vicinity.
Movement - 87112996 three vehs seen thought to be 1 tk and 2 trucks. Flares also sent up. /vehs
87182996 Movement of track./heard to immediate front.

3. ENEMY DISPOSNS

Wire - 87132996 Single dannert running on bearings of 315 deg and 180 deg from pt of contact.
Slit-trenches 87262996 Several old unocc slit trenches.
Track - 87222996 Well marked track running on bearing 340 deg.

SEC "B" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

4. ENEMY METHODS

An OP tower was observed at 870291; this was reported as a mob tower mounted on a truck which moved frequently.

(CB Int Summary No. 75)

SEC "C" - OWN OPS

5. PATROL

Patrol last night to area 87132996 brought back the following infm:-

At 87262996 several old slit trenches were found unocc. At 87222996 a well marked track running on a bearing of 340 deg was crossed. A heavy four-strand ran along this track. This was cut and a sample brought back. (This proved to be 4-strand HT cable)

At 87182996 movement of track vehs to immediate front was heard and at 87132996 single dannert was found. This wire ran on bearings of 315 deg and 180 deg from pt of contact. Voices were heard from approx area 87122996.

Engrs searched 70 yds W for mines and a similar distance to the E without result. Flares went up from 87112996 and in that area 3 vehs were seen, probably 1 tk and 2 trucks.

Patrol then moved 200 yds S and a further unsuccessful search was made for fwd to locate wire. At 100 yds S Patrol Comd moved W 100 yds and saw enemy working party at 87112994 apparently digging a gun posn. A further working party was seen at 87112993 with 7 vehs in the vicinity.

On return journey at 87202995 a small electric generator was seen but it proved too heavy to carry and had to be left.

L. O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn. Licut.
I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

PASSWORD for 24 hrs ending 1200 hrs 6 Oct 42 - GUNDAGAI

(Based on infm received for 24 hrs ended 1000 hrs 6 Oct 42)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE1. ENEMY DISPOSNSSlit Trenches:

- 87313012 to 87283007 numerous slit trenches recently dug.

Gun:

- 87423001 one large gun calibre approx 6 ins.

Wire

- 87142996 single dannert wire.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITYShelling

- 12 shells only reported in Bde area to 2000 hrs 5 Oct.

Movement

- 87222998 by truck moving in area. Voices from truck heard also.
87142996 and 87132996 unloading of stores heard also voices.
87142996 2 men seen about 30 yds inside wire. Also truck heard which was thought to have been delivering water.

SEC "B" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE3. ENEMY METHODS

Patrols have frequently reported enemy patrolling between CLOVERLEAF and EGG feature - 874303 and 875303* sometimes fwd of and sometimes behind his wire. This particular gap is known to be thinly held and apparently he depends on patrols to prevent infiltration by us. (9 Div I.S. No. 318)

4. ENEMY EQPT

A rifle fitted with a new type discharger cup and three grens have been captured in area 878284 with a PW of 433 IR. The PW said he had been issued with the discharger 14 days ago. The cup is cylindrical and is fitted to the muzzle of the rifle by a simple clamp. The cylinder is rifled and has 8 lands.

The gren is cylindrical and has 8 serrations around the base and a rounded conical nose. The lower half is aluminium and the upper black. There are no visible safety devices on the gren. The gren is packed, together with a ballistite cartridge, in an oval black container sealed with gummed tape.

Markings: On the container - G. Pzgr. On the gren - 42 W a 17 d. One of the four grens is marked - G. Gr. Gor. From these markings, it appears that the grens are hollow charge armour piercing type.

(9 Div I.S. No. 318)

SEC "C" - OWN OPS5. PATROLS - Our patrols last night to areas 87303009 and 87132995 were again accompanied by engr. No mines were found.

Patrols reported as follows:-

(1) At 87323012 a working party was heard in vicinity 87313013. Party appeared to be unloading stores.

From 87313012 to 87283007 numerous slit trenches were seen which appeared to have been recently dug. No mines located.

At 87393002 one VALENTINE tk with a corpse beside it was located, and at 87423001 a large gun was seen, calibre approx 6 ins.

(2) Second patrol report having heard a hy truck moving W in area 87222998 from which voices could be heard. Voices and unloading of stores was heard from areas 87142996 and 87132996.

Single dannert wire was struck at 87142996 about 30 yds behind which 2 men were seen walking. This would appear to indicate that no mines were laid there but, owing to proximity of the enemy, engr. were unable to make a search. In this area a truck, thought to be delivering water was heard.

[Signature] Lieut.
I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

PASSWORD for 24 hrs ending 1200 hrs 7 Oct - GUNYAH

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 53

(Based on infm received for 24 hrs ended 1000 hrs 8 Oct 42)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE1. ENEMY DISPOSNS

- Listening Post - 87182990 suspected LP
 Weapon Pits - 87182990 number of shallow deserted weapon pits which do not appear to have been recently occupied.
 Minofields - 87323005 Scattered BP Mk II minofield
 87192989 two British Mk IV mines; also number of empty mine crates.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY

- Shelling. - During last night between 0150 hrs and 0210 hrs 400 shells were reported by left fwd unit. 15 shells were reported in Bde area to 2000 hrs yesterday.

SEC "B" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE3. ENEMY METHODS

- The following is taken from recent patrol reports:-
 (i) Appearance of warning sigs on the enemy wire in the form of bells probably made from brass shell cases. These bells were fastened to the wire at about 300 yds intervals.
 (ii) Repeated attempts by the enemy to attract patrol's attention by unnecessarily loud talking, whistling and rattling of tins and tools. While this is going on enemy patrols attempt to outflank our patrols. In the absence of enemy patrols these decoy noises have almost invariably been followed by fire from the direction of the sounds.
 (iii) Minofields in area 87512918 which was followed for 200/300 yds contained anti-personnel mines, the posts securing which are concealed behind hummocks.
 (iv) Enemy minofield reported in area 87353025 is laid as a scattered field in stony ground. Mines have strips of white paper on them. Except for paper strips field is not marked in any way.

SEC "C" - OWN OPS

4. PATROL - Last night our fighting patrol to area 87152992 was unable to contact the enemy. In an endeavour to draw enemy fire a TSMG was fired into the ground at 87212989 but without success. A derelict enemy tk with a hy sig cable leading back towards the enemy was located at 87242986. No phone was connected. At 87192989 two British Mk IV mines were found together with a number of empty mine crates. An exhaustive search failed to reveal any buried mines in this area. A number of shallow deserted enemy weapon pits were located at 87182990. These had not been recently occupied. The patrol proceeded to 87152992 without hearing anything or seeing anything except tk tracks thought to have been made before the rain. While at 87212989 our planes flew over and dropped flares and bombs on the enemy. The patrol comd took advantage of the flares to search his front with binoculars but could not locate enemy wire or posns.

[Signature]
 I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

PASSWORD for 24 hrs ending 1200 hrs 9 Oct 42 - BILLABONG%

NO
 IN COPY SERVICE ORDER

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES - SOUTHERN COMMAND

TELEPHONE

2/24 AUST INF BN

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 54

SECRET

(Based on infm received for 24 hrs ended 1000 hrs 9 Oct 42)

SEC "A" .. OPS INTELLIGENCE

1. ENEMY DISPOSNS

- LMG - 87202983 2 man post with LMG.
- Weapon Pits - 87202983 many shallow weapon pits freshly dug, unoc.
- FDLs - 87182980 enemy FDLs located.
- Mines - 87413039 (gap at this pt) mined with B4 mines on our side and 6 rows of British Mk V mines 8 - 10 ft apart in the main fd.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY

- Shelling - 87863004 2 shells in this area 1100 hrs yesterday.
- Movement - 87222980 working party in this area.
- Fireworks - 87182980 many flares put up in this area, forming a "U" shaped pattern.

SEC "B" .. GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

3. ENEMY METHODS

(i) In the recent ops in the MUNASSIB Depression, an improvised wood-on mine was encountered; it consisted of a wooden box about 1 ft sq which contained 9 1-lb slabs of GC (ours); a wooden lid, loosely att to the box with wire, rested on a pressure igniter which detonated the mine when pressure was put on the lid. The mine was thus anti-personnel and A Mk in effect; mines of a similar type were encountered in the ABISILIAN campaign.

The merit of the mine is that it does not react to a mine detector, having no metal parts; this characteristic was vitiated in the event by the fact that little attempt at concealment had been made, and each mine was located by the mound of spoil beside it.

(ii) Warning Devices - During the raid on Pt 62, night 5/6 Oct, a triple Gamort fence was found surrounding the enemy post at a distance of 150 yds. On this fence were booby traps which gave warning of the approach of our patrol. Few details are available but it appears that the explosions caused by these traps was not very great. Pt 62 is believed to be occupied by GERMANS and it is possible that the traps consist of German "egg" hand grens with the screw caps removed and the igniter strings tied to the wire fence. This type of booby trap was found at SULTUM in Jan 42 where a derelict veh which would have afforded good cover for attacking tps had at least 20 such grens tied to it. The German "egg" gren relies on blast for its effect and is comparable with the ITALIAN red hand gren (30 Corps I.S. No.199)

SEC "C" .. OWN OPS

4. PATROL - Reco Patrol last night to area 87182980 found the enemy very alert and using many flares. This was attributed largely to the mortar shoot conducted by one of our flanking units on WEST Pt 23. These flares were in a "U" shape and kept the front continuously lightd. Patrol located an enemy working party at 87222980 and a 2-man post with a LMG at 87202983. Near this post many shallow freshly dug weapon pits were noted. Patrol comd moved 50 yds between these pts and located enemy FDLs at 87182980. No wire was seen in this area and the only mines located were in the known floating fd at 87462987. At 2245 hrs a patrol crossed the front at 87422980 strength 16/20 men.

Lieut.
T.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

PAGE 1 OF 2 24 HRS ending 1000 HRS 9 Oct 42 - SECRET

2/24 AUST INF BN

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 55

SECRET

(Based on info received for 24 hrs ended 1000 hrs 11 Oct 42)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE

1. ENEMY DISPOSNS

- Track - 8737229785 well-marked track running on bearing of approx 340 deg. HT cable along track.
- Post - 87252977 enemy post just fwd of this pt.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY

- Movement - sq 867299 3 tks moving north (engaged by our arty).
sq 867302 6 tks seen
3 tks seen moving S along SKYLINE track.
sq 868301 50 enemy seen in this area daylight 10 Oct.
87252977 number of enemy tps attempted to out-flank our patrol last night.
- Shelling No shells in Bn area.

SEC "B" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

3. ENEMY METHODS

Patrol reports mines in enemy fd linked with by cable which runs back to the enemy's posn. This may have some connection with the "observation mines" stated by GERMAN PW to be laid fwd of his posn. (PW referred to belonged to 4 Coy 382 Inf Regt and was cap night 27/28 Sep) It is thought that these mines would be fired electrically when enemy is seen in vicinity of the field.

SEC "C" - OWN OPS

4. PATROL

Our patrol last night visited area 87382977. A well marked track was seen at 8737229785 which ran on a bearing of 340 deg. Along this track was a HT cable similar to that seen by patrol night 4/5 Oct. At 87342978 a Bantam with one left wheel blown off and a 15 cwt truck were seen, and neither of which were booby trapped. Both of these vchs are salvageable. At 8728729773 a MkIII tk was seen which had been both blown up and burnt out. At 87252977 patrol went to ground at the sound of a MG being cocked. Voices were heard to left and right. Later a large body of enemy were seen attempting an outflanking movement and our patrol withdrew. Carriers seen by patrol night 9/10 Oct were seen in this area but a detailed inspection was not possible owing to the proximity of the enemy. After withdrawing 600 yds a vch was heard to start up in the direction of the enemy.

[Signature]
Liout.
I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

PASSWORD for 24 hrs ending 1200 hrs 12 Oct 42 DINGBAT

AIR OPS (From 9 Aust Div I, Summary No 323)

4 Mel09s dropped 6 bombs on area 881294 9 Oct. without doing damage. Bombing of LGs by med Bombers same day is reported to have been successful and fighter escorts destroyed up to 20 a/c in combat or by ground strafing for the loss of 5 of our fighters.

2/24 AUST INF BN

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 56

SECRET

(Based on info received for 24 hrs ended 1000 hrs 12 Oct 42)

SPECIAL NOTE - FAIR WEATHER TRACKS

Excessive traffic on the fair weather tracks on the coastal strip where water is lying may make them impassable in patches for some days at a time and lead to serious difficulties. Until they dry out after 24 hrs at maximum use will be made of the main rd even though this entails 30-40 mileage. Where Main Rd is not available, tpt of fms and NCOs will be reduced that traffic is reduced to the minimum by postponing non-urgent traffic until tracks dry, or as long as possible. This order will be brought to the notice of all drivers.

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE

1. ENEMY DISPOSALS

- (i) Posts - 87112988 Two enemy posts
- (ii) Wire - 87112990 Single danner on bearing of 350 deg. enemy side for 100 yds across front of posts a second row of danner laid in approx semi-circle and joined at each end to the main wire.
- (iii) Booby Traps - 87112990 Row of B4 mines booby trapped 15 yds from enemy wire spaced about 15 yds apart mounted on short pickets with trip strings att to bushes. Similar traps laid on other side of wire mounted on pickets 9" high. B4 mines laid in all the danner about 15 to 20 yds apart and also in bushes.

(iv) Vehicle

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY

- (i) Shelling - 87112989 Utility Truck.
- (ii) Movement - 87913002 2 shells
- (iii) Air - 87902997 8 shells. Five of the ten were airbursts.
- 87112989 3 enemy seen patrolling inside wire.
- At 1740 hrs yesterday 2 enemy a/c flew in a westerly direction over Bn area. An object was heard falling with a swishing noise but no explosion followed. Object has not yet been reported found, and presumably was a bomb.
- 87112990 In this area rows of earth heaps were seen though no mines were found.

SEC "C" OWN OPS

3. PATROL

Patrol last night reached enemy posts at 87112988. Patrol proceeded to 87292994 and from there on a bearing of 256 deg for 1900 yds. At this point a row of B4 mines booby trapped were located. Mines were mounted on short pickets with trip strings att to bushes amongst which B4s were also found concealed. 15 yds fwd of these booby traps was single danner wire running on a bearing of 350 deg and on enemy side a second danner about 100 yds long curved out towards the enemy and with both ends joining the main wire. B4 mines with strings connected and about 15/20 yds apart were laid in all the danner and fwd of the wire further booby traps were found mounted on pickets about 9 ins high. Although rows of earth heaps were found there were no mines laid. Patrol moved fwd 120 yds on same bearing and 50 yds to the front two enemy posts were located. At one of these a utility truck was seen. GERMAN voices talking and singing were distinctly heard, also the playing of a mouth organ. Patrol moved back outside the wire and halted for half an hour. During this time three men were seen patrolling inside the wire.

Get 2 copies for Lt Col, I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn

PASSWORD for 24 hrs ending 1200 hrs 13 Oct 42 "SNOWY RIVER"

WD

2/24 AUST INF BN
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 57

SECRET

(Based on info received for 24 hrs ended 1000 hrs 13 Oct 43)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE

1. ENEMY DISPOSALS

- Posts - 87132988 (approx) Enemy post. GERMAN voices heard.
- Minefields - 87152987 Single row of GS Mk IV mines on bearing of 320 deg. 5 yds between mines.
87063010 GS Mk V minefield) Rows 8 yds apart and
87092994 EP Mk II minefield) mines 6 yds apart,
87202989 seven and 87182989 three GS Mk IV mines laid some time and considered dangerous to handle.
- Booby Trap - 87152987 one ITALIAN B4 mine seen mounted on picket.
- Wire - 87152987 single danner on bearing 320 deg. Parallel to and 30 yds further W triple danner.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY

- Shelling - 8 shells only reported in Bde area
- Mortaring - Salvaging of 3 carriers last night by right fwd Bn was prevented by enemy mortar fire.
- Works - 87182989 Intermittent picking heard in a westerly direction from this pt.
- Movement - 87152987 three sentries about 75 - 100 yds apart seen inside wire.
- Fireworks - 87152987 three flares, one of which did not ignite sent up in this area.
87222991 six searchlights on bearing 250 deg and 2 on 330 deg were seen from this pt.

SEC "B" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

3. ENEMY METHODS

It has been reported that a patrol heard a voice shout in URDU "I have been captured". No Indian tps are missing and it is considered that it was a decoy. Similar tactics may be used on other parts of the front.

(ii) Patrol, when examining enemy field of Mk IV mines at 87173017, found 4 mines which had had the shear pin removed.

SEC "C" - OWN OPS

4. PATROL

Last night patrol reced enemy wire and minefield at area 87152987. From SP patrol proceeded to 87282944 and thence on a bearing of 240 deg to 87222991 at which pt a track with a hy cable beside it running on bearing 350 deg was again seen. Whilst at this pt 6 searchlights on bearing 350 deg and 2 on 330 deg were seen.

At 87202989 seven GS MkIV mines and 87182989 three GS MkIV mines were seen. These appeared to have been laid for a considerable time and probably dangerous to handle. A search in these areas failed to reveal any more mines.

Intermittent picking was heard to the front from 87182989. This was afterwards thought to have come from enemy post.

At 87152989 single danner on bearing of 320 deg was located. Patrol comd went fwd 20 yds and found single row of GS Mk V mines spaced at 5 yds apart and 30 yds fwd of mines located triple danner wire running parallel to the single danner. Three sentries 75 - 100 yds apart were seen 25 yds fwd of the triple danner.

An ITALIAN B4 mine, from which the patrol comd removed the flash cap pin, was found about 3 ft from the triple danner,

Three flares, one of which failed to ignite, were put up by the enemy while the patrol was in this area and from these flares it was estimated that enemy post was about 200 yds inside the wire. Voices heard were definitely GERMAN.

[Signature] Lieut.
I.O. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

PASSWORD for 24 hrs ending 1200 hrs 14 Oct - "BANJO"

2/24 ADST INF BN

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 58

SECRET

(based on infm received for 24 hrs ended 1000 hrs 14 Oct 42)

SEC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE

1. ENEMY DISPOSALS

- Embanking Posts - 87292983 two weapon pits camouflaged with sig cable loading into one may be LP.
87202983 sig cable seen near sangar; possible LP.
Sangars - 87232985 many sangars unoc.
Wire - 87172983 single dannert bearing of 325 deg.
Minfields - 87162986 two rows GS Mk IV mines; rows 10 yds and mines 20 yds apart. Mines carefully laid and empty det. cases seen indicate mines were detonated.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY

Shelling

- 18 shells in the Bn area yesterday, three of which were air-bursts, distributed as follows:-
87863003 - 14 shell incl 3 air-bursts
87893004 - 2 shells
87762984 - 2 shells.
- 87162986 - working party heard immediately W of this pt.

Works

Sec "B" - GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

3. ENEMY METHODS

Daylight observation in area west Pt 23 reveals that the enemy cooks his breakfast and midday meals by seas over an open fire. Apparently his supply of fuel tablets is not sufficient to meet the demand.

SEC "C" - OWN OPS

4. PATROL

Patrol last night visited area 87162986 and recced enemy wire and minfields in that area.
At 87282982 the usual 4-strand HT cable was cut. This cable is joined by each length being plugged into the cable drums which are fitted for the purpose enabling the cable to be quickly lifted.
At 87232985 many unoccupied sangars were found, and at 87202983 the end of a new looking sig cable close to a sangar suggested a possible OP.
The minfield was located at 87192983 but only 2 mines could be located on the way through.
At 87172983 single dannert wire was located running on a bearing of 325 deg. This was followed for a distance of 300 yds. to 87162986. Immediately to the west, sounds of digging and coughing disclosed the presence of a working party.
At 87162988 the minfield was again found and consisted of 2 rows of GS Mk IV mines 20 yds apart with 10 yds between the rows. The fd appeared carefully laid and the presence of empty detonator packages suggested that the mines were detonated.
At 87292983 two weapon pits well screened by camel bush and with a sig wire running into one of them indicated another possible OP.

24 Dec 42 *Adjutant*

PASSWORD for 24 hrs ending 1200 hrs 15 Oct 42 SECRET DOCUMENTS

AIR OPS - Yesterday morning air activity over the fwd posns resulted in three planes crashing. One at 88552933 was a Me109, one of 2 engaged by Lt AA who claim its destruction and damage to the other. Up to the time of writing the other 2 planes had not been positively identified.
At 1610 hrs 12 Oct a Me202 was shot down at 885279 by a Spitfire. The plane jettisoning one bomb before crashing. The bomb failed to explode. (Extract from 9 Aust Div Int. Summary No 326)

(Based on info received for 48 hrs ended 1000 hrs 25 Oct 42)

SIC "A" - OPS INTELLIGENCE

1. ENEMY DISCLOSES:

- Digging - 87012998 many fresh diggings unoc and incomplete.
 87052999 from this pt sounds of diggings heard to the NW.
 - 87122991 many unoc diggings from this pt.
Posts - 86983002 (approx) Enemy Post (German).
Minifields - 87112998 minefield consisting of British Lt V mines running N and S. Booby trap wire bounding the field.
Booby Traps - 87052999 Dummy figures many of which are booby trapped.
 87052999 to 87072997 a number of Italian Lt V mines booby trapped.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY

- Shelling - Area 87102983 300 shells during last 24 hrs
 " 87022991 30 shells " " "
 " 87092983 20 shells " " "
 " 86982994 20 shells " " "
Air - Areas to the south of this Bn were subjected to considerable bombing during last night.
 Photo/Recon plane flew high over our area in a westerly direction this morning.

SIC "B" - GENERAL INT. DISCLOSES

3. ENEMY METHODS

- (i) At 87052999 numerous dummy figures were found by one of our patrols, and many of which were booby trapped. The figures consisted of wooden trunks about 2'6" by 2' inside which is the head and shoulders of a man cut from tin sheet metal.
 (ii) LP consisting of two sensors was discovered night 23/24 Oct. At one of these was a rocket fixed in a firing pan and to which was attached a wire which led to the other sensor, about 80 yds to the flank and 50 yds to the rear. On hearing any of our patrols on the listener was thus enabled to discharge the rocket without disclosing his actual location.

SIC "C" - OWN OPS

4. Night 23/24 Oct an attack was made by units of 8 Army simultaneously along the entire front with the exception of the sector from 291 Northampton Grid to the coast. Our Bn task in this attack was to capture enemy FDLs from 87012985 to 87002990. The Start Line was crossed at 2300 hrs and our objective was captured within the scheduled time. A sister Bn later was ordered through on the same axis of advance and tackled the enemy's main defences. When they achieved success our swung the left flank and to the north filling the gap between the two Bns. This Bn now has a three coy front to the North with one in res.

During the operation my op was given by our arty and advisors.

The Bn captured the following capt:-

- 3 - 47 mm Breda A Mk guns complete with 900 rds of amm
- 1 - 47 mm Breda less breechblock
- 2 - 30 mm Solothorns with 300 rds amm
- 1 - 311 Fiat MG with 2000 rds amm
- 7 - Lt Bredas with 40,000 rds amm
- 1 Fiat Tripod

80 rifles . quantity of Italian guns.

One signal wireless set - Stationed RFE - complete.

68 PWs were cap of whom 9 were German, and from these the following units were identified:-

- Italian:- 1 Coy and Mortar Coy 1 Bn 62 IR TRENTO Div
 46 Arty Regt TRENTO Div
 355 Co Corps Arty.
 German:- 90 Lt Div.

5. PATROLS

These patrols were sent out last night to recon in front of our FDLs. Reports are as follows:-

- (1) At 87012998 many fresh diggings were located which apparently had been commenced earlier in the night. These were deserted though not complete. The patrol then swept the area W for a distance of 500 yds without making any contact. Moving out 300 yds further the area to the E was covered for approx 400 yds without contact. No mines or wire were located.
- (ii) Second patrol proceeded to 87052999 where numerous dummy figures were located. Many of these were booby trapped. Figures consisted of wooden frames approx 2'6" by 2' inside of which is the head and shoulders of a man in tin sheet metal. Area to 87052999 was free from enemy. From here digging could be heard a considerable distance to the NW. From 87052999 to 87072997 a number of Italian Booby traps were found but no mines or wire.
- (iii) Third patrol located a minefield at 87112998 running N and S. Mines were British Mk V and the fd was bounded by booby trapped wire. Patrol moved along this fd to 87122991 seeing numerous diggings - deserted - to the W.
- (iv) Fourth patrol reached 86933000 and observed enemy in positions 200 yds distant. These positions appeared to be complete as no digging was in progress. Owing to the bright moonlight, the patrol did not attempt a closer recon of the positions. Positions were occupied by Germans. No mines or wire were located.

[Signature] Lieut.
I.C. 2/24 Aust Inf Bn.

SITREP received at 1300 hrs as follows:
Remainder of objective of our other ID captured last night. Early morning counter attack on our left flank unit by 12 tks and 50 MT broken up by our arty and tks. Patrols report enemy posts at 86773002, 86743002, 86703004, 86692999. 88 mm gun Pt 29 868500. 0815 hrs NZ Div Cav reached objective 868289 - 871286. 0825 hrs ID now occupying NW locality final objective. Battle in progress 86852950.

Stellungsbauplan verst. II. 125.

I. 125.

Maßstab 1:10000.

Geheim.

II. 125.

Erläuterungen:

- ⊕ Scheingeschütze - 3mm SP Dummy
- ⊙ Nummer der Kampfgruppe NUMBER OF FIGHTING GP
- Ausgebaut - Built
- - - im Bau befindlich - Under construction
- - - Geplant - Proposed
- Taktische-u. Ausbausignaturen gem. Rgt. Befehl.
- +++ Stolperdraht TRIP WIRE

Aufnahmestellung für Gefechtsvorposten

ital. Art. B-Stelle

OP Stehender Spähtrupp (bei Nacht) BY NIGHT

EPMINES Agypt. T-Minen

THREE STICK HIGH Drei-Stangenhöhe

Stützpunkt Crisandt.

1/62 (Ital.)

J.R. 62 (Ital.)

Stand vom 11.9.42 STARTING POINT

H (sub)

Stützpunkt Heinrich

STONE RIDGE

8.

5.

6.

3.

2.

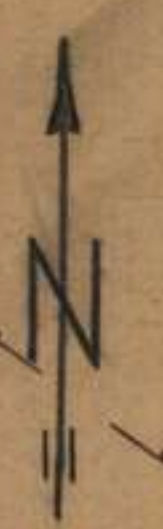
Bomben BOMBS

Bomben

500

3/125

Bir Sultan Omar



868

869

871

872

13 02

13 01

13 00

12 99

H5.

Trace Showing 2/24 Aust Inf Bn. Disasns Period 23 Oct 42 - 3 Nov 42

Ref Maps - Sidi el Rahman 1/25,000
 " " el Whisha " "
 " " al Mohkhad " "

