

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

**Item number: 8/3/27**

**2/27 Infantry Battalion**

**March 1942**

4 JUL 1942

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

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

~~Robert de Marist~~

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 2/27 In.

Commanding Officer LT. Col. G. S. T. COOPER  
M.B.E.

Month and Year ~~Mar. 42~~

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
H.M.T "CITY of LONDON" AT SEA.	1/2	0700	<p>Convey moved into port. and sailed, 4 ships and an escort of seven warships</p> <p>7 Cargo Boats 6 Troopships 1 Oil Tanker</p> <p>Escort 1 Battle Cruiser (H.M.S. "Royal Sovereign" (in the middle of the convey) 1 Heavy Cruiser (H.M.S. CORNWALL) 1 Cruiser 2 Destroyers 1 A/A vessel 1 Auxiliary Cruiser</p>	810
		1015	Church service on the troopship. Padre Wheat officiated.	

G. S. T. C.

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# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

Unit *2/27 Div.*

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer *LT. Col. G. J. T. COOPER.*

Month and Year *MAR. 1918*

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
<i>H.M.T</i>	<i>2/3</i>	<i>0900 1200</i>	<i>Training was resumed, P.T. and lectures.</i>	
<i>"CITY of</i>			<i>The band played on the promenade deck during the afternoon.</i>	
<i>LONDON"</i>			<i>Second day at sea sailing in a S.S.E. direction. Weather cool and heavy rain fell during the night.</i>	
<i>AT SEA</i>				

*G. J. T. C.*



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Month and Year.....

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit *2/27 Bn.*

Commanding Officer *LT. COL. G. J. T. COOPER M.B.E.*

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
H.M.T. "CITY of London"	4/5.		Fourth day at sea sailing south to S.E.	
AT SEA		0900.	Training P.T. and lectures.	
		1200.		
		1600.	H.M.S. "Cornwall" had practice shoot with her heavy armament. From below the horizon she fired into the wake, about 300' in rear of H.M.S. "Royal Sovereign". Most excitable shooting.	
			Throughout the convey flags were flown at half mast in honour of rating who died on H.M.S. "Cornwall"	
			Heavy swell and ship pitching a great deal Rain during the night.	<i>J.B.P.C.</i>

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Month and Year MAR. 42

# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 2/27 Bn.

Commanding Officer LT. COL. G. D. T. COOPER  
M.B.E.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
H.M.T. "CITY of LONDON" AT SEA	5/6		Fifth day at sea, sailing P.E. generally.	
		0900- 1200.	Training P.T. & Lectures.	
		0900	Int. school commenced. Two men from each Coy. to be trained in Int. duties to act as Int. Sec. representatives in their Coys.	
		1115	Practice emergency stations.	
			Heavy rain fell, off and on, all day and night. The sea is running to a heavy swell.	
			<i>[Signature]</i>	P. G. T. C.

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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 2/27 Bn.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. G. D. T. COOPER  
M.B.E.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
H.M.T. "City of London" AT SEA	6/7.		Sixth day at sea sailing from E.S.E. to South.	
		0900- 1200	Training P.T. & Lectures.	
		1115	Emergency stations	
			After a lot of pitching and tossing during the last two days several cases of sea-sickness have occurred.	
			Heavy rain has fallen again during the last 24 hours and sea becoming choppy.	
			<i>[Signature]</i>	G.D.T.C.

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# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Unit 2/27 Bn.

Month and Year MAR. 42.

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. G. J. T. COOPER.  
M.B.E.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
H.M.T. "CITY of LONDON" AT SEA.	7/8		Seventh day at sea. After travelling nearly due East all night we changed course in the morning to S.S.E. and maintained this course, generally, all day.	
		0900 200	Training - P.T. and Lectures.	
			Weather cool with overcast sky, no rain for the last 24 hours.	



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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 2/27 In

Commanding Officer LT. COL. G. J. T. COOPER  
M.B.E.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
H.M.T. "CITY of London"	8/9		Light lighth day at sea sailing in a S. S. E. direction	
AT SEA.		0900	P.T. and Sektuntes.	
		1200	Weather cool with an overcast sky sea choppy.	
			M.M.	G.D.C.

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Unit ~~to~~ 2/27 *Br.* Army Form C. 2118.

Commanding Officer *Lt. Col. (P.) T. COOPER*

Month and Year *MAR. 42*

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices. <i>M.S.E.</i>
<i>H.M.T. "CITY of London"</i>	<i>9/10.</i>		<i>Ninth day at sea and sailed in a general direction S.E. to E.S.E.</i>	
<i>P.T. SEA.</i>		<i>0900 1200.</i>	<i>P.T. and letters.</i>	
			<i>The band played on the promenade deck during the afternoon.</i>	
			<i>Sea is calm again, weather cool and an overcast sky.</i>	
			<i>M.L.</i>	<i>P. 6. 7. 8.</i>



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Unit 2/27 Bn. Army Form G. 2118.

Commanding Officer LT. COL. G. D. T. COOPER.  
M.B.E.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
H.M.T. "CITY of LONDON"	11/12		Eleventh day at sea. Still sailing E.S.E.	
AT SEA.		0900. 1200.	Training P.T. and Lectures.	
			Intelligence school continues.	
			A novice boxing tournament was held during the afternoon.	
			Lt. Heavyweight. L/Sgt. Burnett. (D Coy) D Coy (E Coy)	
			Middle-weight Pte. Spence L.T. B. Coy	
			Welter-weight Pte. Miller	
			Feather-weight. Cpl. Bond (B. Coy).	
			<p style="text-align: center;">M.M.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">G.D.T.C.</p>	

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# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Unit *2/27 Bn.*

Month and Year *MAR 42*

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer *Lt. Col. G. J. T. COOPER*

*M.B.E.*

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
<i>H.M.T. "CITY of LONDON"</i>	<i>12/13</i>		<i>Twelfth day at sea, sailing S.E. to East.</i>	
<i>AT SEA</i>		<i>0900- 1200.</i>	<i>Training - P.T. Lectures.</i>	
		<i>1200.</i>	<i>3. Cargo-boats (oil-burners) left convoy under escort of auxiliary cruiser "Manora" to proceed to Adelaide.</i>	
			<i>Wet day and very windy. Sea very choppy.</i>	

*[Signature]*

*G.J.T.C.*

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or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 2/27 Bn.

Commanding Officer LT. COL. G. D. T. COOPER  
M.B.E.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
H.M.T. "CITY of LONDON" AT SEA.	13/ 14.	0900- 1200.	Thirteenth day out. Our direction has been practically due East all day.  Training - P.T. & Lectures.  Planes from a land base patrolled area of the convoy.  Have been in a rain squall all day. Sea is very choppy.	
			<p>WJH</p>	
				<p>9.6.7. Cr.</p>

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2113.

Unit *2/27 Bn.*

Commanding Officer *LT. COL. G.O.T. COOPER. M.B.E.*

Month and Year *MAR. 42.*

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
H.M.T. "CITY of LONDON" AT SEA.	14/ 15	0900. 1200.	<p><i>Fourteenth day out from Colombo, again sailing in a general easterly direction.</i></p> <p><i>Training - P.T. &amp; Lectures.</i></p> <p><i>Band played during the afternoon.</i></p> <p><i>Rough sea and some cases of seasickness. Fine rain has been falling and a strong wind blowing.</i></p>	
			<i>11/11</i>	
			<i>9.6.7.e</i>	

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# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Unit 2/27 Bn.

Month and Year MAR. 42.

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Commanding Officer LT. COL. G. D. T. COOPER  
M.B.E.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
H.M.T.	15/16.	0715	Land sighted at sunrise - Rattnest Island	
"CITY of LONDON"		0930.	Moved into Fremantle Harbour and cast anchor exactly a fortnight since leaving Colombo.	
AT SEA		1015	Church parade held on Troop deck during the morning Padre Wheat officiated.	
		1700	<del>A pack of U.S. submarines put to sea.</del> Five U.S. Submarines seen in harbour. Weather mild, overcast sky	
			<i>[Signature]</i>	
			G.D.T.C.	



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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 2/27 Bn.

Commanding Officer LT. COL. G. J. T. COOPER  
M.B.E.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
H.M.T. "CITY of LONDON"	16/17.		Training suspended for duration of time in port.	
FREMANTLE HARBOUR.		1515 1815	Took the pilot aboard and moved into wharf at 1715 hrs. and moored.  A large quantity of mail was taken aboard, sorted & distributed to the troops. This was the first mail we had received since leaving H.M.S. by.  Bn. was paid at 2000 hrs. and then general leave was granted till 2400 hrs.  Weather cool and cloudy.	

G.J.T.C.  
M.C.

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Unit 2/27 Bn.

Commanding Officer LT. COL. G. D. T. COOPER  
M.B.E.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
H.M.T. "CITY of LONDON" FREMANTLE HARBOUR	17/18		Coal and stores taken aboard  General leave was granted from 1100 hrs. to 2300 hrs.  Weather clear and warm.  Each man was given opportunity to send one free telegram of a standard text. "Have arrived back in Australia hope to see you as soon as leave is granted"	

G.D.T.C.

MP

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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 2/27 Bn.

Commanding Officer LT. Col. G. D. T. COOPER.  
M.B.E.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
H.M.T. "City of London" FREMANTLE HARBOUR.	18/19.		Preparation of ship for sea, completed.	
		1300.	Moved away from wharf and anchored out in the harbour.	
		1500.	Convey sailed 6 Transports 4 Cargo Boats Escort, 1 Heavy Cruiser H.M.S. "CORNWALL." 2. U.S. Destroyers 3. Submarine chasers	
		1630	Convey run into a wind and rain squall soon after leaving port. Practice boat station	

9.8.79

Wm

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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 2/27 Bn.

Commanding Officer LT. COL. G. D. T. COOPER.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
H.M.T. "CITY of LONDON" AT SEA.	19/ 20.	0900.	H.M.S. "CORNWALL" having brought us safely from Bombay, signalled good wishes to all in Australia and then broke away from the convoy	
		0900 1200.	Training was resumed again. P.T. and lectures	
			Band played during the afternoon.	
			Overcast sky, windy and a gentle swell running. Second day at sea.	
			<i>W.P.</i>	
				<i>9.8.7.9.</i>



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Unit 2/27 Br.

Army Form C. 2118.

Commanding Officer LT. COL. R. D. T. COOPER.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
H.M.T.	29	0900.	P.T. and Lecturettes.	
"CITY of LONDON"	21	1200		
AT SEA		1130.	Now being in safe waters, convoy broke up on order "full steam ahead" being given. The faster ships soon disappeared over the horizon.	
		1400.	A debate was held on the truck deck between C.O.'s Coy. Mon by Clay	Attached.
			Third day at sea. Overcast sky no wind blowing and a gentle swell running.	
			Planes from shore bases have been flying round convoy from time to time.	R.D.T.S.

2  
Debate  
between  
C.O.'s  
Coy.

Inter Coy. Debate

20 Mar. 44

PROS. C Coy.  
Cpl. Robertson  
Pte. Seening.  
" Baker

CONS. D Coy  
Pte. Lander  
" Savage.  
" Badcock.

Subject

"Should Australia rely on complete support from America."

C Coy. won the debate.

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Unit 2/27 Bn.

Commanding Officer LT. COL. G. D. T. COOPER  
M.B.E.

Month and Year MAR. 42.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
H.M.T. "CITY of LONDON" AT SEA	21/22	0930.	C.O. lectured Int. school on "Int. duties of unit Int. sec." school was then concluded	
		09 1200.	P.T. & Lectures.	
		1115	C.O. Lectured C.D. & B.H.Q. on troop-deck. "Our homecoming, and what we should expect on landing and the soon. in Australia today."	
			Overcast sky, calm sea.	

*10/11*

*G.D.T.*







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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Unit *2/27 Br*

Month and Year *MAR. 42*

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer *Lt. Col. G. D. T. COOPER M.B.E.*

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
<i>H.M.T. "CITY of LONDON" AT SEA.</i>	<i>24/25.</i>		<i>At daybreak we were in Buckstair's Passage and all the morning sailed up St. Vincent's Gulf.</i>	
		<i>1200.</i>	<i>"Towed to" in Semaphore anchorage took pilot aboard at 1230 and moved up Pt. River berthing at Pt. Adelaide at 1430.</i>	
			<i>Preparation for disembarkation</i>  <i>Overcast sky and several light showers of rain.</i>	<i>Prep. instr. for disemb.</i>

*G.D.T. Cooper*

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Unit 2/27 Bn.

Commanding Officer LT. COL. G. O. T. COOPER *M.B.E.*

Month and Year MAR. 42

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
H.M.T. "CITY of LONDON"	25/ 26.		Prepared to disembark, hammocks and other ship's stores returned.	
AT SEA.		1130- 1230.	A.E. & H.Q. Coy, Bn. H.Q. disembarked marched through cargo sheds and entrained at 1300 hrs.	
		1400.	Detained at Mitcham and marched 2 miles to Springbank camp where we were hosted in by 2/25 Bn. party. B.C. 20 Coy arrived by a second train 1 1/2 hrs. later. Men were quartered & men to I.R.O. tent. Blankets issued.	
		1600.	Bn. H.Q. was established. <i>Warm clear day</i>	<i>G.O.T.</i> <i>MC</i>

W1 13471 1505 1,200,000 7/40 BPL 51-7171 Forms C2118/22

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Unit 2/27 Bn.

Month and Year MAR. 42

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Commanding Officer LT. COL. G. D. T. COOPER  
M.B.E.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
<del>H.Q.T.</del> <del>CITY of</del> <del>LONDON</del> <del>AT SEA.</del> SPRING.	26/27		Kit inspection in morning. Men living in metro habit area prepared for leave, equipment placed in store. Replacement of hats.	
BANK CAMP.		1545	Bn. was paid, above personnel <sup>were</sup> inspected and proceeded on leave till 1200 hrs. 3 Apr.	Leave Instr.
			Rain fell during the morning, but during the afternoon a wind came up and conditions were dusty.	
				G.D.T. <i>[Signature]</i>





War Diary

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

LT-COL G D T COOPER MBE

NO. 14

COMD

AT SEA

2/27 Aust Inf Bn AIF

2 Mar 42

LM BOAT STATIONS - The following regulations will be enforced strictly:-

- i. When tps leave tp decks they will carry haversacks in addition to lifebelts so that no delay will be occasioned when the alarm is sounded.
- ii. Tps parading at boat stations will place haversacks on the deck between their feet.
- iii. Tps must parade at boat stations within 5 minutes of the commencement of the sounding of the alarm. Disciplinary action will be taken against offenders.

PART "B"

PROMOTIONS

SX 4594 L/Cpl PICK J H promoted A/CPL as from 1 Mar 42.

REVERSIONS

SX 9701 A/CPL DEVINE AJM reverts to Pte as from 28 Feb 42 for disciplinary reason.

PUNISHMENTS

- SX 12368 Pte WOODROFFE E - Absent with leave - Admonished.  
WX 7780 Pte BELLCHAMBERS F D - Absent without leave - Fined £3/10/- and 14 days detention.  
SX 13339 Pte KEMP S R - AWL - Fined £3 and 7 days detention.  
SX 3958 Pte LAUDER A C - Breaking out of quarters - Fined £3/10/- and 14 days detention.  
SX 12207 Pte THOMAS F - Absent without leave - 7 days C B  
SX 12114 Pte FEDER N G - Unlawful possession - 4 days C B.  
SX 3660 Pte BEAUFOY R B - Failing appear place of parade - 4 days C B.  
SX 5439 - Pte TURNER A E - A W L - 2 days C B.  
SX 4153 Pte TIPPER G M - A W L - 3 days C B.  
SX 4521 Pte WINKLER C R - A W L - 3 days C B.  
SX 5868 Pte OLIVER W B - A W L - 3 days C B.  
SX 12283 Pte HOEY H M - A W L - 3 days C B.  
SX 8585 Pte KROGDAHL N J - A W L - 3 days C B.  
SX 10942 Pte DODD R R - Breaking out of quarters - Fined £3 - 7 days det.  
SX 10929 Pte GILES T P - " " " " - Fined £3 - 7 days det.  
SX 12079 Pte DUFFIELD N V - A W L - Fined £3 and 7 days detention.  
SX 11477 Pte WILKIN T R - Breaking out of quarters - Fined £3 - 7 days det.  
SX 5008 Pte BIRCH W H - A W L - Fined £3 and 7 days detention.  
SX 3662 Pte LEMON G J - A W L - Fined £3 and 7 days detention.  
SX 10930 Pte NEWTON J - Breaking out of quarters - Fined £3 and 7 days det.  
SX 12008 Pte DICKESON C W - " " " " - Fined £3 and 7 days det.  
SX 8551 Pte McMAHON F J - " " " " - 14 days detention.  
WX 12632 Pte WHITTON J - " " " " - 14 days detention.  
SX 4104 Pte JOHNS I F - " " " " - 14 days detention.  
SX 3950 Pte STEPHENS F J - Misconducting himself at mess parade - Admonished  
SX 3950 Pte STEPHENS F J - Breaking out of quarters - 14 days detention.  
SX 9701 A/Cpl DEVINE AJM - A W L - Reprimanded.  
SX 10195 Pte ASHENDEN A K - A W L - Fined £3 and 7 days detention.  
SX 10402 Pte FOLEY PFJ - Breaking out of quarters - Fined £3 and 7 days det  
SX 2904 Pte HARPER FHC B - " " " " - Fined £3 and 7 days det  
SX 4948 Pte TOWERS D W - " " " " - Fined £3 and 7 days det  
SX 12460 Pte SIMS W M - A W L - Fined £3 and 7 days detention.  
SX 3430 Pte CLARKE H S - Breaking out of quarters - Fined £3 and 7 days det  
SX 4843 Pte CLIFTON W J - Failing appear place of parade - 4 days C B.  
SX 7422 Pte WRAITH J F - i. Breaking out of quarters) 14 days C B  
ii. Not shaven 1000 hrs 28 Feb 42)
- SX 11619 Pte GLEESON N L - Using insubordinate language - 14 days detention.

*H. H. Hatcher* Capt

Adjt 2/27 Aust Inf Bn A I F



War Diary

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BY

LT-COL G D T COOPER MBE

NO. 14

COMD

AT SEA

2/27 Aust Inf Bn AIF

2 Mar 42

LM BOAT STATIONS - The following regulations will be enforced strictly:-

- i. When tps leave tp decks they will carry haversacks in addition to lifebelts so that no delay will be occasioned when the alarm is sounded.
- ii. Tps parading at boat stations will place haversacks on the deck between their feet.
- iii. Tps must parade at boat stations within 5 minutes of the commencement of the sounding of the alarm. Disciplinary action will be taken against offenders.

PART "B"

PROMOTIONS

SX 4594 L/Cpl PICK J H promoted A/CPL as from 1 Mar 42.

REVERSIONS

SX 9701 A/CPL DEVINE AJM reverts to Pte as from 28 Feb 42 for disciplinary reason.

PUNISHMENTS

- SX 12368 Pte WOODROFFE E - Absent with leave - **Admonished.**  
WX 7780 Pte BELLCHAMBERS F D - Absent without leave - **Fined £3/10/-**  
and 14 days detention.  
SX 13339 Pte KEMP S R - AWL - **Fined £3 and 7 days detention.**  
SX 3958 Pte LAUDER A C - Breaking out of quarters - **Fined £3/10/-**  
and 14 days detention.  
SX 12207 Pte THOMAS F - Absent without leave - **7 days C B**  
SX 12114 Pte FEDER N G - Unlawful possession - **4 days C B.**  
SX 3660 Pte BEAUFOY R B - Failing appear place of parade - **4 days C B.**  
SX 5439 - Pte TURNER A E - A W L - **2 days C B.**  
SX 4153 Pte TIPPER G M - A W L - **3 days C B.**  
SX 4521 Pte WINKLER C R - A W L - **3 days C B.**  
SX 5868 Pte OLIVER W B - A W L - **3 days C B.**  
SX 12283 Pte HOEY H M - A W L - **3 days C B.**  
SX 8585 Pte KROGDAHL N J - A W L - **3 days C B.**  
SX 10942 Pte DODD R R - Breaking out of quarters - **Fined £3 - 7 days det.**  
SX 10929 Pte GILES T P - " " " " - **Fined £3 - 7 days det.**  
SX 12079 Pte DUFFIELD N V - A W L - **Fined £3 and 7 days detention.**  
SX 11477 Pte WILKIN T R - Breaking out of quarters - **Fined £3 - 7 days det.**  
SX 5008 Pte BIRCH W H - A W L - **Fined £3 and 7 days detention.**  
SX 3662 Pte LEMON G J - A W L - **Fined £3 and 7 days detention.**  
SX 10930 Pte NEWTON J - Breaking out of quarters - **Fined £3 and 7 days det.**  
SX 12008 Pte DICKESON C W - " " " " - **Fined £3 and 7 days det.**  
SX 8551 Pte McMAHON F J - " " " " - **14 days detention.**  
WX 12632 Pte WHITTON J - " " " " - **14 days detention.**  
SX 4104 Pte JOHNS I F - " " " " - **14 days detention.**  
SX 3950 Pte STEPHENS F J - Misconducting himself at mess parade - **Admonished**  
SX 3950 Pte STEPHENS F J - Breaking out of quarters - **14 days detention.**  
SX 9701 A/Cpl DEVINE AJM - A W L - **Reprimanded.**  
SX 10195 Pte ASHENDEN A K - A W L - **Fined £3 and 7 days detention.**  
SX 10402 Pte FOLEY PFJ - Breaking out of quarters - **Fined £3 and 7 days det**  
SX 2904 Pte HARPER FECB - " " " " - **Fined £3 and 7 days det**  
SX 4948 Pte TOWERS D W - " " " " - **Fined £3 and 7 days det**  
SX 12460 Pte SIMS W M - A W L - **Fined £3 and 7 days detention.**  
SX 3430 Pte CLARKE H S - Breaking out of quarters - **Fined £3 and 7 days det**  
SX 4843 Pte CLIFTON W J - Failing appear place of parade - **4 days C B.**  
SX 7422 Pte WRAITH J F - i. Breaking out of quarters) **14 days C B**  
ii. Not shaven 1000 hrs 28 Feb 42)
- SX 11619 Pte GLEESON N L - Using insubordinate language - **14 days detention.**

*H. H. Hatcher* Capt  
Adjnt 2/27 Aust Inf Bn A I F

*Br 10/10*

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

LT-COL G D T COOPER MBE

COMD

AT SEA

NO. 15

2/27 AUST INF BN AIF

5 Mar 42

1. DUTIES

	<u>Ships Duties</u>	<u>Guard (incl 2 runners)</u>	<u>Ships Orderly Officers</u>	<u>Ships Orderly Sjts</u>
6 Mar 42	B. Coy	E. Coy	Lieuts Puttman & Pickering.	Sjts Penney & Driscoll
7 Mar 42	A. Coy	D. Coy	Lieuts Bennier & Clampett	L/Sjt Philipso & " James.
8 Mar 42	HQ Coy	C. Coy	Lieuts Applebee & Trenerry.	Sjts Isaachse & Burnett.

PART "B"

REVERSIONS

SX 9684 L/Cpl EDWARDS E R reverts to Pte as from 3 Mar 42 at own request.

*W. H. ...*

Capt

Adjnt 2/27 Aust Inf Bn . AIF

NOTICES

Receipt is acked with thanks from Australian Comforts Fund of the undermentioned:

60 packs Playing Cards.

*War Diary*

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ROUTINE ORDERS

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LT-COL G D T COOPER MBE

COMD

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ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

LT-COL G D T COOPER MBE

COMD

2/27 AUST INF BN AIF

AT SEA

11 Mar 42

NO. 16

1. DUTIES

	<u>Ships Duties</u>	<u>Guard (Incl 2 runners).</u>	<u>Ships Orderly Officers</u>	<u>Ships Orderly Sjts</u>
13 Mar 42	HQ	C	Lieuts Kimber TRS and Bell.	Sjts Koehne and Agars.
14 Mar 42	A	D	Lts Langsford and Hewitt.	Sjts Nosse and Keeley.
15 Mar 42	B	E	Lieuts Inglis and Martin.	Sjts Gleeson and MacDonald.

PART "B"

PROMOTIONS

SX 8049 L/Cpl TREMBATH C C promoted A/Cpl as from 10 Mar 42.

REVERSIONS

SX 3898 L/Cpl Mathews D J reverts to Pte as from 10 Mar 42.

APPOINTMENTS

SX 7307 Pte ROSENBERG L L appointed L/Cpl as from 10 Mar 42.

CLASSIFICATIONS

SX 3106 Pte SMALLACOMBE G J relinquishes Td Tp ii Cook as from 3 Mar 42 and is transferred to "E" Coy.

SX 3364 Pte PORTER W R V classified Td Cp ii Cook as from 3 Mar 42.

PUNISHMENTS

SX 9884 pte DOBIE R W - Neglecting to obey general order in that he on 12 Dec 41 failed to remove the bolt from his rifle, when the said rifle No. 56854 was left in a tent under the care of a roving picquet - Fined £1 and 7 days detention.

*G. D. T. Cooper*  
Capt  
Adjnt 2/27 Aust Inf Bn AIF

*Handwritten: New Lang*  
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

LT-COL G D T COOPER MBE

COMD

2/27 AUST INF BN AIF

AT SEA

11 Mar 42

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*Handwritten signature*  
Capt  
Adjnt 2/27 Aust Inf Bn AIF

War diary

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

LT-COL G D T COOPER MBE

COMD

At Sea

No. 17

2/27 AUST INF BN AIF

19 Mar 42

1. DUTIES

	<u>Ships Duties</u>	<u>Guard (Incl 2 runners)</u>	<u>Ships Orderly Officers</u>	<u>Ships Orderly Sjts</u>
20 Mar 42	E	A	Lieuts Reddin and Cook.	Sjts MacPherson and Moores.
21 Mar 42	D	B	Lieuts Warburton and Bennie	Sjts Scally & Underwood.
22 Mar 42	C	HQ	Lieuts Caddy and Attiwill.	Sjts Koehne & Paine.
23 Mar 42	B	D	Lieuts Bennier & Puttman.	Sjts Short and Sherwin.

PART "B"

REVERSIONS

SX 4083 A/Cpl Lundie F J P reverts to Pte to comply with W.E. as from 17 Mar 42.

PUNISHMENTS

SX 4047 Pte Sims C - (i) Using insubordinate language to his superior officer.  
(ii) Disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer:- 7 Days Detention.

*A. H. Hatcher*

Capt  
Adjt 2/27 Aust Inf Bn AIF

NOTICES

Received with thanks from the Australian Comforts Fund the following goods:-

- 854 - 2 oz tins Capstan Tobacco.
- 854 pkts Cigarette Papers.
- 854 Razor Blades.
- 400 cakes Soap.

War diary

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ROUTINE ORDERS

BY

Lt-Col G D T COOPER MBE

COMD

At Sea

No. 17

2/27 AUST INF BN AIF

19 Mar 42

1. DUTIES

	<u>Ships Duties</u>	<u>Guard (Incl 2 runners)</u>	<u>Ships Orderly Officers</u>	<u>Ships Orderly Sjts</u>
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PART "B"

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PUNISHMENTS

SX 4047 Pte Sims C - (i) Using insubordinate language to his superior officer.

(ii) Disobeying a lawful command given by his superior officer, - 7 Days Detention.

*G D T Cooper*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adj't 2/27 Aust Inf Bn AIF

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*War Diary*

SECRET

7 AUST DIV

APPX 'A'

(Issued in conjunction with "Notes on Jungle Warfare")

### JAPANESE TACTICS IN MALAYA

Terrain - The country consists of rubber plantations, interspersed by padi with mangrove swamps near the coast. The area is generally wet and intersected by numerous streams. Observation is very restricted.

#### General Tactics and Methods

The Japanese forces in NORTH MALAYA are a trained army of gangsters, who fight with fanatical fury accompanied by wild screams. They can do two miles an hour through thick forests. They are equipped with a high proportion of tommy guns one to every three or four soldiers, and mortars. The mortars are 4", the shell bursts six feet above the ground with a bang and a blast and inflicts large wounds; they appear to be their best weapon.

Their light tanks, which occasionally give support, are a type of armoured carrier, vulnerable to our anti-tank rifles and heavier weapons. Tanks on roads are preceded by motor cycles. They have little artillery and their ~~shrapnel~~ shrapnel is said to be not very effective.

They are full of low cunning and by various means, such as mortars with a loud explosion, Chinese crackers and bullets which make loud noises on impact, they seek through noise to lower morale and cause premature withdrawals. The automatic rifle they use also gives a sharp report.

Tracer ammunition is used to some extent with rifle fire. Rifle fire is, generally speaking, inaccurate.

Snipers are reported to have been armed with tommy guns, which they used as single-shot weapons until they were discovered. They have also caught dogs and beaten them up, after which they have tied them below trees in which they were hidden. The dogs howled when anyone approached.

The Japanese repair bridges very quickly.

Parachute troops have been used.

There is no regularity in their dress, troops sometimes wearing native dress. In rubber plantations they have been seen wearing white. In the attack, first waves have been led by officers dressed in slacks, shirts and helmets. Equipment is very light, consisting of belt and pouches only. They are prepared to live on the country to a greater extent than our troops and are therefore less dependent on lines of communication. They have, however, kept mainly to roads. They can move rapidly through jungle swamps and across rivers, for which they are sometimes equipped with rubber belts.

Tactics in the Attack - A screen of men is sent forward to locate our positions and to employ the methods outlined above. These are often dressed in ordinary shorts, shirts and running shoes, and where possible they mix with civilians. As soon as the screen has located our position, strong forces, often deploy in the rear and pass round its flanks.

This is done rapidly and every endeavour is made to maintain the momentum of the attack.

Attacks are made in waves, leaders not being prominent except in the first wave. Minor tactics are poor and attacks are often made in close formation over open country.

Aircraft

Messerschmits and Lockheeds have both been seen, and dive-bombing and machine-gunning attacks are reported. Their anti-personnel aircraft bombs have not been very effective. The Japanese are also using cannon but their fire is not very accurate. Japanese planes break up very easily on being hit.

Fifth Columnists

Many of the Malays are inclining towards the Japanese. They have been placing "V" signs 2 ft long pointing towards our positions. These signs are made with ~~xxx~~ bamboo and light cloth.

Their light tanks, which occasionally give support, are a type of armoured car, which is not very effective. Tanks on roads are proceeded by motor cycles. They have little artillery and their main strength is said to be not very effective.

They are full of low cunning and by various means, such as mortars with a loud explosion, Chinese crackers and bullets which make loud noise on impact, they seek through noise to lower morale and cause premature withdrawal. The automatic rifle they use also gives a sharp report.

These munitions are used to some extent with rifle fire. Rifle fire is, generally speaking, inaccurate.

Snipers are reported to have been armed with Tommy guns, which they used as anti-air weapons until they were discovered. They have also caught dogs and beaten them up, after which they have tied them below trees in which they were hidden. The dogs howled when anyone approached.

The Japanese repair bridges very quickly. Parachute troops have been used.

There is no regularity in their dress, troops sometimes wearing native dress. In rubber plantations they have been seen wearing white. In the attack they have been led by officers dressed in black, white and red. Equipment is very light, consisting of belt and pouches only. They are prepared to live on the country to a greater extent than our troops and are therefore less dependent on lines of communication. They have, however, kept mainly to roads. They can move rapidly through jungle swamps and rivers, for which they are sometimes equipped with rubber belts.

Tactics in the Attack - A number of men is sent forward to locate our positions and to employ the methods outlined above. These are often dressed in ordinary native dress and running shoes, and where possible they mix with civilians. As soon as the person has located our position, strong forces, often deployed in the rear and pass round the flank.

This is done rapidly and every endeavour is made to maintain the momentum of the attack.

Attacks are made in waves, leaders not being prominent except in the first wave. Minor tactics are poor and attacks are often made in poor formation over open country.

## 7 AUST DIV

APPX 'B'

(issued in conjunction with "Notes on Jungle Warfare")

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON FIGHTING IN TROPICAL COUNTRIES SIMILAR TO MALAYAGeneral

1. Although normal principles apply in fighting in this class of country, methods must be adapted to suit the nature of the country and the armament and methods used by the enemy. Modifications which apply to fighting in bush, as indicated in the manual (but against a well-equipped and properly organised enemy - the manual frequently deals with bush fighting against ill-equipped natives) are generally applicable to fighting in MALAYA. Fighting will have many of the characteristics of night operations.

Physical features

2. The country consists of -

- (a) steep mountains rising to from five to eight thousand feet, most of which is covered with thick jungle;
- (b) areas of undulating ground covered with rubber plantations or jungle. Heights run to one to five hundred feet. Although the hills are not high, they are often steep. Other forms of cultivation include oil-palm plantations, in ground similar to that suitable for rubber;
- (c) flat alluvial areas near rivers, river mouths, or streams used for the cultivation of rice (paddy fields) and for tin-dredging.

3. Jungle consists of heavy growth some forty feet high. Undergrowth consists mainly of vines and is often very wet. Some narrow tracks used by jungle tribes exist. Unless they are in constant use, they are soon grown over, and they rarely lead in a useful direction. Once jungle is cleared and the sunlight can penetrate to the ground, a heavy secondary growth occurs - known as "Bilukar". This exists at the side of all roads through jungle. This growth is even more difficult to penetrate than virgin jungle.

4. Rubber plantations consist generally of -

- (a) young rubber up to a few feet high, which is not an obstacle to vision or to movement on foot;
- (b) half-grown rubber about six feet high. The ground between the trees is usually covered with vines, and vision is restricted to a few yards;
- (c) fully-grown rubber about twenty feet high. The trunks are clear up to about twelve feet, and the ground is kept clear of all cultivation. Owing to the undulating nature of the country and because of changes in direction of rows of trees, vision is restricted to about 300 yards;
- (d) oil-palm plantations, which are similar to rubber, but, whereas fully-grown rubber gives almost complete cover from air observation, oil palms do not;
- (e) coconut-palm plantations near the coast. Their military characteristics are similar to rubber, but they do not give as much protection from air observation.

### Roads

5. Main roads are surfaced with tarmac. Side roads into plantations areas and into actual plantations are made of gravel. In MALAYA roads have a grass strip on either side. In undulating country they have cuttings or embankments at the side for a large part of their length. In flat wet country they have a drainage ditch about six feet deep on both sides. These ditches are crossed by foot bridges or light-veh bridges, which are often inadequate for loaded military vehicles.

### Rivers

6. Rivers in mountainous country are fast-flowing streams. In lower country suitable for rubber, they are usually suitable for navigation by small craft. Near the sea they are flanked by mangroves, and higher upstream the banks are covered with dense undergrowth.

### Climate

7. The climate is hot and very humid, and remains more or less the same throughout the year. In most areas rain-storms occur almost daily and last only for short periods. The ground is always damp. Dust is almost unknown. Nights are very little cooler than the days. The sun is not strong. Sunburn results only from continuous exposure to the sun's rays.

### Tactical considerations

8. In rubber or jungle, contours mean very little because it is not possible to see the shape of any feature so as to identify it on the map.

9. Information of enemy movement is difficult to obtain. In fully-grown rubber, detachments the size of coys can pass within about 500 yds of one another without disclosing their presence.

10. Intercomm is very difficult. Wireless is restricted in range unless special serials are fitted. Runners are liable to get lost. Telephone wire is liable to be cut by enemy patrols who may wait to ambush linesmen when they move out to repair breaks.

11. In rubber, inf move in dispersed formation similar to that adopted during an advance to an objective by inf in a night attack. Dispersion is limited by the distance one can see.

12. In jungle, troops can move only by cutting their way through the undergrowth with "parangs" (a heavy Malayan hacking knife about 2'08" long with a short wooden handle). They usually move in a number of cols, and deploy onto a wider front before emerging from jungle. Speed of movement is limited to about 1000 yds an hr.

13. AFVs are practically confined to roads. Carriers and very light tanks can negotiate paddy-fields, except when they have been flooded recently. Banks between fields slow up movement of tracked vehicles. Carriers can move through rubber, but they must move slowly; their vision is very restricted and they are liable to be ambushed. They should always move by bounds covered by the fire of stationary vehs in rear.

14. Small protective detachments which do not remain within view of the main body are almost certain to lose touch. Communication with patrols until they return is difficult. Runners, unless they move by a well-marked route, are liable to get lost.

15. Even well-trained troops are liable to over-estimate the distance they have moved. In rubber or jungle, distance must be measured by tape or telephone wire. It is essential to use a compass to maintain direction. Arrangements for guiding or navigation are as necessary as in night operations.

(3)

16. Objectives are difficult to describe and locate. Those which can be recognised both on the map and on the ground are of more tactical importance than high ground.

17. Owing to the ease with which small parties can move without being detected, all-round protection of all HQs, rear echelons, etc. is essential.

18. It is difficult to handle effectively more than a tp of ~~any~~ arty. To secure observation the OPO must be with the most fwd det-pl or coy. It is often necessary to determine the relative position of the pivot gun and OPO by traverse before it is safe to fire, or before the OPO would have any chance of seeing the fall of shot.

20. Movement for any distance and maintenance must take place along roads. Movement across country, except on foot, is impracticable.

21. MT must move from harbour to harbour. Harbours can usually be found in rubber plantations which have second-class tracks through them. The normal capacity varies from fifty to a few hundred vehicles. Tracks rarely provide turning circuits. Vehicles must move off tracks and should be left facing so they can move straight out of harbour. An adv party to reconnoitre new harbours should move forward well before transport, and may have to give extensive supervision to parking vehs.

Improvement of entrance and exit, and repair of tracks are often required, and a party with tools should accompany the recon party. Inf pnr pls should be trained in this work.

22. It has been found to be desirable to restrict the number of vehicles in forward areas. A bn may be accompanied only by pl trucks on a restricted basis and a few essential vehicles. B ech may stay 20 miles, or even more, in rear. In some cases, an intermediate echelon carrying essential stores such as amm may be required. Control of MT movement is difficult. Motor cycles are required for this purpose. Normally transport should not move forward until a suitable harbour has been located and reconnoitred, but, if harbours do not exist, essential vehicles with forward troops park on the side of the road. If harbours are known to exist, it can be arranged that transport moves at a stated time, which will allow for recon of the new harbour, and continues to move forward until met by guides.

23. When advancing by road, an advance guard is required. It should be provided with the means of A/Tk defence - two A Tk guns - a rd block such as an old lorry filled with stone, or mines and wire.

The main body moves in column, dispersed in depth, with essential pl etc vehicles. Other transport remains in harbour until required.

24. The humid climate reduces the limit of human endurance. Troops must move as light as possible. It is the usual practice to carry anti-gas gear in pl trucks with packs.

25. The value of a Bron is less than in open country. The Tommy gun has sufficient range for most purposes. Mortars are very useful. Arty is hard to employ.

26. When cover from air is good, much greater concentration (and therefore better control) is feasible. The location of troops has been indicated to the air force by the smoke of cooking fires, which stays just above the tops of the trees.

(4)

27. Troops halting in jungle form a close perimeter camp. Protection is limited to defence of the actual perimeter which has to be cleared before dark. An area round the camp should be searched and patrols left a short distance out until the camp is occupied, so as to ensure that the enemy will not know where the det is lying up for the night.

28. Defence is mainly a question of holding by all-round defence important areas on or near the line of communication and dealing with infiltration by counter-attack. The retention of very large reserves is of first importance. It is important for troops to understand that they must not retire even although they appear to have been surrounded. Intercomm between defended areas may be spasmodic, as it often is in other theatres where more mobile fighting is possible.

29. The Jap is using men lightly clad in white singlet, shorts, sandshoes, and carrying only pea-rifle, 40 rounds of SAA and iron rations, for infiltration. But a decision cannot be reached with this class of attack alone. The main object can be achieved only by formed bodies of troops operating on a definite plan. It is wise to avoid a natural tendency to turn the army into a swarm of patrols.

SECRET

APPX C

7 AUST DIV

(Issued in conjunction with "Notes on Jungle Warfare")

EXTRACTS FROM A PERSONAL LETTER WRITTEN ON 30 DEC 41, BY A BDE-MAJ,  
8 AUST DIV (AFTER OPERATIONS STARTED IN MALAYA)

1. We are at the moment fortifying ourselves, using our new Defence Pl for the purpose. It is a good institution and has reinvigorated Bde HQ. We have now adopted in this HQ a system of adv HQ and rear HQ, each of which is a self-contained unit complete with office, sigs and kitchen and adm departments. We thereby avoid having two echelons, and, within limits, each HQ is able to do the job of the other. The other Bde has its whole HQ in the one area, which seems a fallacy to me.

2. The most interesting part of hostilities here, to me, is that after doing all sorts of fancy jungle tng, we are now reverting to the old system taught in Australia, moving well dispersed and disposed in depth, and ready to meet any movement to a flank. Our fellows are well used to moving dispersed and moving fast, and should be able to counter the Jap, I think.

3. The Jap moves very light - singlet, shorts, sand-shoes, pea rifle, 40 rounds SAA, emergency rations, no pack, no anti-gas equipment. We must therefore make ourselves more mobile and cut out a lot of our stuff, even taking the risk of discarding all anti-gas gear. We must also defend by attacking. I think the only way is to have small feeling parties out in front with a mobile reserve able to punch hard as soon as the enemy is found approaching in force. The feeling parties must not shoot until they see their enemy clearly and discern his intention. I feel that mortars are very useful.

4. One thing has surprised people - the Jap can go nearly anywhere and moves very fast. We must therefore do likewise.

O M Diary

January 4<sup>th</sup> 2.

Jan 4. New Years Day, 1947, - still going skiing, Br still at Ramlegh, Syria shivering with cold, and quarantined in m.c. Q.M. not in best of health, been off color for some weeks, spent a day in bed. Q.M. evacuated to hospital, - later in afternoon snow begins to fall - snow all night, marvellous sight on rising next morning, see everything covered in snow - being most of the troops first experience with it, had some great fun - all good laughs with unfortunate one, having his tent collapse with weight of snow.

Reports from hospital Q.M. Capt. Pearce, seriously ill - some kind of Typhoid, not so good - looks like a long spell - still good work still goes on.

What have we struck, a cyclone strikes the camp, blows like hammers of hell tents blown down, kitchens lose their roofs, the post office goes up - in the early hours of morning "Little Colonel" is found under table, with his steel hat

"E boy

20 Jan 42

Boy formed & organised, followed by kit inspection etc, the boy goes for route march in the afternoon & an exercise by night (recc Patrol)

21 Jan 42

An issue of kit, lectures & instruction on S.M.G. & gas. boy goes for route march in the afternoon 28 O.R. march in.

22 Jan 42

Boy training in arms drill, instruction on Bren & gas, 10 men to range rest of boy route march. 26 men march out to other boys.

23 Jan 42.

The boy has trial move & at 11.45 move out to assist in Bn exercise

24 Jan 42

boy attends Bn Parade & are addressed by. — afternoon each troop issued with shorts & shirts

25 Jan 42

church parade & the rest of day free for enter camp leave

26 Jan 42

boy has training in arms drill & bay drill followed by route march in the afternoon lectures & instruction on L.M.G. S.M.G. & bayonet training

27 Jan 42

Bn parade & address by B. lectures on security L.M.G. S.M.G. Arms Squad & R drill, afternoon a route march by all the boy

Night at 11.30 hrs 60 O.R. 2 off. march out to —



28 Jan

Part of Coy left behind does guard duties etc.  
& move to train at 1800 hrs

29 Jan.

Part Coy spent night on train arriving at  
Transit camp at 1200 hrs. Spent day cleaning  
up etc.

30 Jan 42.

Leaving the above camp at 0500 hrs embarking  
boat. 0930 rest of day spent settling down.

31 Jan.

The working hrs spent on P.T. & L.M.G. instructions

Al Dean  
OC E Coy

on, dodging shrapnel bullets which Pevsly  
thought was an air raid, when he comes  
to earth, finds only a gust of wind.  
Nevertheless, postal officials shift gear to  
Cantonment. - Knowing the efficiency of his  
dept, the troops still get their mail - nice  
work -

Rumours everywhere: we are moving - but  
are we - look like it; the 'Q' store get  
busy packing, so look like we may shift  
camp. - Yes! we are off, 'Q' has orders to  
pack & brand everything: so we are pretty  
busy as usual. - Lieut J. D. Lee, takes over  
position as QM - have time for new work  
take the rein, everything topsy turvy, but  
will soon get the run of things.

Draws out Transport leaving <sup>the camp</sup> <sup>concrete</sup> <sup>camp</sup> <sup>plenty</sup> <sup>to!</sup>  
we are still packing things away & <sup>are</sup>  
off. - HQ & ~~the~~ Coy left behind. At last  
we are on move; catch train at <sup>the</sup> Myaial  
& set sail for somewhere down Suez Canal.  
Travel all night; and about 10 am next morning  
arrive at Pt. Saffi & spend day & night  
here - Next morning rise at 3.30 am, start  
an hour & do not leave until 6.30 am

What a hike it will be, tramp to what  
with all gear on our backs - what a  
jerk to arrive at what - get on board  
the boat The D. France - only in a few  
minutes + off - what a hurry!

Any way we are on our way, to where?  
Drops out all troops to arms in shorts,  
even these are too hot, one should wear these  
conditions from the 'Nudest Column'. very smooth  
sea, - no escort, shows how confident our Navy  
is. - Still going strong, passed noon,  
must be going to India, what for?  
Weather still hot, and very little duty appears  
being called. - Still in sea, and running  
very smooth, great trip up to date.  
will continue next month.



# Summary of months activities for January 1942

'H' Coy

Variety has been the key-note of our activities this month for from the snows of Syria we find ourselves now, sweltering in the heat of the tropics. Apart from the disagreeable change in climate we are all pleased to be moving to the scene where a <sup>rapid</sup> change of supremacy has temporarily placed the Japanese in control of the Far East. We feel that we have left a job well completed in Syria and are looking forward to the future events with the greatest of confidence.

This month saw several changes in our H.Q. staff. W.O. Wilson R.M. rejoined the Coy on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan whilst T/Capt G.H.W. Sims came from C Coy to temporarily take position of officer commanding. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan Lt. B.H. Magarey marched in from 'B' Coy as our 2<sup>ic</sup>. Reinforcements arrived on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan to bring our Coy <sup>up</sup> to

war establishment.

Although snow hampered our efforts work was carried out on the battle positions between 1-7 Jan and <sup>there</sup> were ~~in~~ almost completed when we moved into winter quarters on the 8<sup>th</sup> Jan.

Between 8<sup>th</sup> Jan and 27<sup>th</sup> Jan life resumed the old routine as we remembered it at Julis. This intensive training proved

very satisfactory and exercises carried out in the vicinity of Hill 69 were most helpful not only to officers, N.C.O.s

but also to the men who were inclined to be a little stale at first after their long absence from the parade ground.

Ceremonial parades and guard mountings very quickly restored our old snap & precision. Our embarkation

move was carried out with the minimum of discomfort and so the end of January finds us at sea again and bound for shores unknown.

Leave was a rare occurrence this month although whilst in Palestine advantage was taken off of the Sunday Bus Service

for the purpose of visiting friends in other  
Bns. 3<sup>o</sup>/R had 7 days leave and 7<sup>o</sup>/R  
had 1 day leave in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem  
on the 16<sup>th</sup> Jan. A highlight of the month  
was our visit to Jim Gerald's room and  
this was much enjoyed by the Coy.

Present Coy strength - 5 offrs 121<sup>o</sup>/R

HQ. Coy 2/27/42

Summary of activities for January 1942

The Coy in the early part of the month continued in the preparation of the Tripoli defences. The first week of the year was notable also for heavy snowfalls in the Bu area - our first experience of snow. The unit then moved to Hill 69 Camp Palestine where the rest of the month was occupied with fog, re-equipping, immunisations and that camp was left on 28 Jan for an unknown destination.

During the month the new establishment for HQ. Coy came into force and the necessary men to bring the Coy up to its new strength were obtained from the rifles Coy and re-inforcement <sup>and gunners</sup> these were mainly motorcyclists for 4 Pl and drivers and mortar men for 3 Pl. Unfortunately the Bu carriers did not arrive until some time after the Coy from Tripoli and as the new carriers were picked up at Tel el Kebir and taken direct to Suez by our drivers 3 + 4 Pls were unable to train under their new establishment. The Coy also received its full establishment of motorcycles except for combination cycles. All the 4 Pl (incl motor cycles) left Hill 69 on Sunday 25th Jan for Suez & embarked on separate ships. The balance of the Coy embarked on HT Le de France on 30th Jan.

O. S. Isaachsen  
May

March 1<sup>st</sup> Church Parade

- 2 Gas Quiz followed by P.T. in morning. Mr Applebee lectured NCO's & runners on Map Reading. Weather warm, with scattered showers.
- 3 Capt Katchar gave a very interesting lecture on "Japan & the Pacific". Troops were very interested. P.T. in morning followed by a lecture by Capt Shipper on Mines.
- 4 Verbal message competition. Capt Lee lectured NCO's & runners on "Duties of NCO's in the field". P.T.
- 5 "Gas Quiz" followed by P.T. NCO's map reading class resumed.
- 6 General knowledge Quiz followed by P.T. Capt Shipper lectured NCO's on "Demolition explosives".
- 7 Mr Flight lectured boys on M.M.G. P.T. was carried out. NCO's & runners engaged on Map enlargements.
- 8 Church Parade.
- 9 Capt Shipper lectured boys on "Camouflage". Quiz was conducted followed by P.T. Capt Lee MC lectured NCO's on "Operation Orders".
- 10 Men tested & cleaned respirators in morning followed by P.T. Mr Wolfe from an Engineer's Unit gave an interesting lecture on Duties of Engineers in the field, also discussed tactics adopted by them at Tobruk. Weather fine.
- 11 R.A.P. personnel demonstrated to the men, the correct procedure in applying bandages. Men displayed keen interest & gained in knowledge. P.T.  
Capt Lee MC instructed NCO's on Operation Orders.
- 12 P.T. followed by lecture by Capt Lee MC on Badges & Recognitions. Boxer boxing tournament in afternoon. B-boys representatives: Cpl. Philman & Bond. S/Plt O'Connor, Pte Sparre, L.I. Cpl Bond & Pte Sparre were successful in the Lightweight & Light Heavyweight respectively, while S/Plt O'Connor who was successful in the Welter heat was forbidden by the M.O. to contest final.
- 13 P.T. followed by lecture by RSM (Mr Garrett M.M.) on Awards & Honours. NCO's received lecture on "Points for Instruction" given by Sgt Sherwin.
- 14 Lecture by Mr Applebee on Aircraft recognition, followed by a lecture from Mr Cook on care of respirator. P.T. Weather fine.
- 15 Anchored in Fremantle harbour in morning.



- 16 "City of London" moved into wharf in afternoon. Troop granted leave from 1900 to 2400
- 17 Leave again granted from 1100 hrs to 2300 hrs
- 18 City of London & convoy steamed out of Fremantle & proceeded to its next destination.
- 19 P.T. Duty bay men engaged in general duties.
- 20 P.T. Gas instruction. B bay defeated A bay in a debate
- 21 P.T. General duties
- 22 Church Parade followed by a talk from the C.O. on matters pertaining to Bn
- 23 Men preparing clothes & kits, etc. ready for disembarkation
- 24 City of London berthed at Port Adelaide
- 25 Troops disembarked in afternoon & proceeded by train to Springbank, where the camp is situated.
- 26 Metropolitan members of the bay commenced 7 days leave expiring on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Country members remained.
- 27 Remainder of personnel went for route march in morning. Weapon training carried out in the afternoon.
- 28 Route march in morning. Leave granted to men in afternoon.
- 29 Day's leave granted to remaining troops
- 30 Leave
- 31 Leave.

M/2/27 B. C.O. MONTHLY SUMMARY for MAR 42.

The majority of this month was again spent at sea.

At 0700 hrs. on Mar. 1 the convoy sailed from Colombo Harbour; 6 transports, 8 cargo boats and an escort of seven warships, the latter of which gave rise to thought of an eventful trip although this unique sea voyage terminated without any hostile action whatsoever.

For the next 15 days we sailed in a general south easterly direction, the <sup>weather</sup> remaining cool and several rain squalls were encountered. The sea remained calm until 48 hours from Fremantle where a heavy swell was encountered: there were very few cases of seasickness, the past six weeks having accustomed the men to the effects of the sea.

H.M.S. "Cornwall" (Troop Cruiser) had a practice shoot one afternoon and most onlookers were astounded at the remarkable display of gunnery, shooting from a range of approximately 10 miles, her shells exploding in the wake of H.M.S. "Royal Sovereign" in the rear of the convoy.

Due to limited deck space training was reduced to P.T., lectures and weapon training, principally Map reading classes were conducted for all officers and V.C.O. under company arrangements. The officers also had their own lectures once a day on varying military subjects. An Int. School was conducted on board for 2 men from each company, the object being to train men to act for the Int. Sec. in their coys, emphasising the importance of the various reports required.

Entertainment etc., for the troops, to break the monotony of seaborne life, was provided in various ways a luck tournament was held, a novice boxing championship, which induced many laughs, a series of inter-coy debates and many company conducted Quiz competitions.

On Feb. 15 at sunrise the Australian coast was sighted causing much excitement aboard. The ship did not move into wharf <sup>at Fremantle</sup> until the following morning afternoon. Mail was brought on board and distributed, pay made available at 2000 hrs. and then general leave was granted till midnight. The next day, Mar 17, leave was granted from 1100 hrs. to 2300 hrs. and each was given the opportunity to send home one free telegram of standard text.

MAR. SUMMARY CONTD.

The following day we put to sea again in convoy and on Mar. 20 the ships proceeded full steam ahead, individually, without escort to Adelaide.

At daybreak on Mar. 24 we were in Backstairs Passage and then steamed up St. Vincent's Gulf, up the Port River and berthed at Port Adelaide at 1430 hrs. The next afternoon the battalion disembarked. Bn. H. & H. & A, & E Coy. at 1200 hours. and B, C & D Coy. 1 1/2 hrs. later. The former portion entrained at 1300 hrs. detrained at Mitcham and marched 2 miles to Springbank camp where we were fostered in by a party from the 2/25 Bn., B, C & D Coy. came in 1 1/2 later.

On Mar. 25 all ranks were paid and then men living in the metropolitan area were granted seven days leave, 26 Mar - 3 Apr. Arrangements were hurried along with transport officials in order to get country men away as soon as possible and on Mar. 28 personnel from districts including the Lower North, Far North, River Murray, Broken Hill and South East marched out on seven days leave with allowances made for travelling time.

This month, as was the case in February, has been one of varied occurrences, finalised by the return of the battalion to its parent state, not under very pleasant circumstances but nevertheless a time for many happy reunions after an absence of 18 months.

9.6.5  
M. J. M.

Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>.

Medical Monthly Summary for war diary.

March was a quiet month on the medical side. There was some recurrence of the pharyngitis seen early in February but not to epidemic extent.

Six men contracted venereal disease: of these, three men apparently became infected at Bombay and three at Colombo.

At Fremantle, three men were placed in 110 Aust. Military Hospital. Hospital accommodation was very limited and many men were carried on with us who were hospital patients.

So, at Adelaide, twenty-three men were taken from the ship to hospital. This included in these were ten cases of probable venereal disease (contracted in Bombay and Colombo), three of malaria, and three of pharyngitis. About eight other men, with more chronic complaints were not admitted to hospital as beds were very short. These men are now being evacuated.

The food on the ship between Colombo and Fremantle was most unsatisfactory. The <sup>poor</sup> quality of the meat and the rarity of green vegetables were very noticeable. After Fremantle the quality of the food left nothing to be desired.

After landing, two further cases of malaria appeared. These, and further cases, are only to be expected.

Kkimer Smith Capt

From \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_



4 APR

1942

"F" Coy.

The month of March was spent mostly at sea, where as much Anti Gas T.S.M.G. & Bren M.G. training as possible was carried out. P.T. was also carried out daily.

Many interesting lectures were given by Officers of our Bn on subjects such as Bren Carriers, Mortars, Pioneers etc.

And by Officers of other units on ~~Engineering~~ Engineering, Field Security etc.

One of our main features being a debate on "Whether Aust would be invaded by the Japs or not. So pleased was the Adjutant that he organised debates for other companies in the Bn.

On the 15 MAR much to everyones pleasure Fremantle harbour was reached, & during our stay one night & a days leave was enjoyed by the whole company.

On 18 MAR set sail once more this time in hopes of seeing Adelaide.

Light automatic weapon training was continued & much time was spent sorting out lost equipment & ~~training~~ training clothing which had

From .....

No. ....



19

got mixed up after our long period at sea.  
On the 24 MAR arrived at Port Adelaide  
& on the 25 disembarked to proceed by  
rail in the first train to leave for  
our present camp site.

Next day 7 days leave was granted to  
all ranks living in the metropolitan area,  
a few days later when train & shipping  
arrangements were completed country  
personnel also received their leave.

W.S. English Lieut.

General

"A" Coy. Mar. 42.

Owing to the limited space on the boat there was only a small amount of P.T. done, but the little seemed to keep the troops in fair condition, as they all looked very well on disembarkation. "A" Coy had only one entry for the boxing <sup>Pt</sup> A.G. Juffery who was not quite good enough but will make amends on his next appearance on the 16 Mar 42 all ranks had leave at Fremantle from 2000 hrs till 2400 hrs on the 17 Mar 42 leave was granted from 1100 hrs till 2300 hrs & every body seemed to have a good time. Unfortunately our prequet of 1 N.C.O. & 2 OR missed the ship at Fremantle. Disembark at Pt Adelaide on the 25 Mar 42, & leave was granted the next day 26 Mar 42 for the whole Coy for 7 days at home.

- 1 Mar. City of London leaves Colombo.
- 2-7 Lectures on Gas L.M.G. T.S.M.G. & P.T.
- 8 Church parade rest of day free.
- 9-11 Lectures P.T. & cleaning of respirators
- 12 Lectures & P.T. afternoon Boxing Tourney.
- 13-14 Lectures Gas L.M.G. T.S.M.G. & P.T.
- 15 Church Parade, arrived at Fremantle Anchorage
- 16 Berthed at Fremantle. night leave.
- 17 Full days leave for all ranks
- 18 Ship sails from Fremantle
- 19-21 Usual ship syllabus.
- 22 Lecture by CO. & church Parade.
- 23 Coy has day cleaning & washing clothes
- 24 Arrive at Outer Harbor 1200 hrs berth at Pt Adelaide at 1500.
- 25 Disembark at 1200 hrs travel to Springbank arriving at 1500 hrs
- 26 Coy goes on leave for 7 ~~the~~ days.

J. H. B. Lieut.

