

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

Item number: 8/3/27

2/27 Infantry Battalion

December 1942

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 1 Dec To 0600 hrs 2 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	1 Dec 42	0600	Our tps along whole front charged fwd with fixed bayonets, when start signal RED over GREEN given. ARTY and MORTAR SMOKE screen laid to cover advance. Fierce enemy fire encountered. Advance on RIGHT flank held up. Bn HQ moved fwd 75 yds abreast of RIGHT flank where only about 30 to 40 yds of ground gained; Lieut Twist and protective Pl committed on RIGHT flank also held up; Our casualties heavy. CO wounded. Posn on LEFT flank NOT known. Capt O'Neill and Lieut Warburton out of comm by wireless; Runners sent to try to contact.	See Phase 2 attached.
		0645	CO 3 Bn rang stating that his Bn had NOT moved fwd as our LEFT flank had NOT moved. Runner sent to check.	
		0700	Runner returned with information that Capt O'Neill and part of his Coy and part of DON Coy 2/27 Bn had moved into and through village. Much firing still heard in village area. Enemy snipers active along whole front apparently firing at wounded and stretcher parties. Amn urgently required by all Coys. Amn carrying parties supplied requirements under fire.	
		0730	Wireless comm established with Lieut Warburton who confirmed that Capt O'Neill and part of his Coy had moved into village and also 16 Pl 2/27 Bn under Lieut Inglis. 17 Pl had been and still was pinned down in burnt kuni grass 50 yds short of the village. The balance of DON Coy still remained on fwd edge of tall kuni.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 1 Dec To 0600 hrs 2 Dec 42 (Sheet 2)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.						
GONA	1 Dec 42	0900	Maj Hearman 2/16 Bn assumes comd when CO 2/27 Bn evacuated. Enemy snipers still active.							
		1030	Area too small for ARTY to shoot. 10 mins 3" MOR bombardment of village area (90 rds) and 2" MOR HE and SMOKE fired along coconut fringe.							
		1040	Maj Robinson 2/16 Bn and 15 OR attacked strong enemy post on RIGHT flank. Objective gained. Many casualties.							
		1115	Enemy counter attacked; Maj Robinson wounded and forced to give up enemy post.							
		1400	Our strengths reduced to dangerous minimum especially if forced to resist enemy counter attack. Strength of combined 2/16 Bn and 2/27 Bn then present as follows :-							
			<table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>2/16</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>2/27</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4 and 160</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4 and 12</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><u>Total 8 and 172</u></td> </tr> </table>	<u>2/16</u>	<u>2/27</u>	4 and 160	4 and 12	<u>Total 8 and 172</u>		
		<u>2/16</u>	<u>2/27</u>							
4 and 160	4 and 12									
<u>Total 8 and 172</u>										
		KIA 6 OR WIA Col Cooper, Lieut Twist, 29 OR Missing believed KIA Lieut Inglis 14 OR								
		Check of Jap dead revealed that in 75 yds ground gained along beach there were 50 Jap dead; also that enemy posts along the beach were all well dug in approx 5 yds apart. Adjut 2/27 Bn returned to Bde and reported nature of enemy defences and strengths, and our shortages of men.								

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 1 Dec To 0600 hrs 2 Dec 42 (Sheet 3)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	1 Dec 42	1515	MORTARS both 2" and 3" continue harassing fire.	
		1615	Burial party commences to bring in our dead. Reports from wounded who had escaped from village proved that attack on LEFT flank had failed mainly because of small number of men who had reached village.	<i>Phase 2 attached.</i>
		1800	Hot meal served to all pers	
		1900	Infm received that enemy expected to reinforce sometime during the next three nights. Our tps formed up into close perimeter with posts covering beach with fire. System of warnings arranged. CO decided to seek heavy air support for any future attacks on enemy posns. Use of tanks also advocated.	
		DURING THE NIGHT	Our Many flares dropped by our A/C along the coast. A/A fire seen well out to sea. Our MORTARS continued harassing fire. One Jap shot walking in our lines about 20 yds from Bn HQ. Casualties for the day ¹³ Casualties to date 14 ² officers + 129 O-Rs.	
				<i>100%</i>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C, 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 2 Dec To 0600 hrs 3 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	2 Dec 42	0600	Our A/C strafed enemy wreck. Very little firing from enemy posns.	<i>See phase 2 attached.</i>
		0830	Hot breakfast supplied to tps.	
		1030	Further assault on strong enemy beach post planned; Attack to be preceded by fire for 10 mins from 3" MOR on village area and from three 2" MOR on enemy beach posns with supporting fire from 3 Bn on enemy posns on left of village; Our IMG's would also fire into trees along beach in order to counteract snipers; Attack to be carried out by Lieut Warburton Hicks and 20 men of 2/16 Bn with Lieut Warburton and a Pl of 2/27 Bn standing by ready to consolidate and if possible exploit.	
		1210	Attack made; objective gained; casualties Lieut Hicks and 8 OR all wounded; One wounded Jap taken prisoner, many other Japs killed; posn consolidated; Lieut Pickering 2/27 Bn killed by stray shot	
		1400	Capt Johnson 2/27 Bn reported to Bde to give an account of the present situation. Ascertained that 21 Bde moving EAST on SANANANDRA with 2/14 Bn and 39 Bn and that the combined 2/16 Bn and 2/27 Bn came under comd 25 Bde at 1400 hrs.	
		1500	Col Caro 2/16 Bn reported to take comd and balance 2/16 Bn would arrive that evening, strength approx 70. 2/27 Bn reorganized as follows :- One rifle Coy under comd Capt Sims, strength 3-87 comprising 4 Pls embodying balance of original rifle Coy pers and 20 pers from HQ Coy. Remainder of Bn comprised Bn HQ, Sig and Mor pers.	<i>[Signature]</i>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 3 Dec To 0600 hrs 4 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	3 Dec 42	0600	<p>Partial change over to 2/16 Bn. Lt Col Caro in comd. Capt Johnson, Capt Katekar and RSM (WO1 H A Lyndon) return to B Ech for rest. 2/27 Bn RAP relieved by 2/16 RAP and majority of Sigs also change over. Sigs take up posn in defence at rear of Bn HQ. RAP staff return to B Ech. Lull in fighting.</p>	<p><i>See phase 2 attached</i></p>
		0900	<p>Beaufighters strafe HULK offshore, also SANANANDA-GONA track.</p>	
		1115	<p>Mortar shoot carried out on enemy area to try and discover posns and movement. No results visible.</p>	
		1315	<p>Forty five 3" MOR bombs fired at target in enemy area. Bombs fell all round and shattered old car. While shoot was in progress CAMERON (3 Bn) fired diversionary shots to bring Jap heads up. The ruse was successful and Japs kept firing at us even whilst the bombs were bursting so close. No results of importance visible.</p>	
		1400	<p>Mr Ian Morrison, War Correspondent for the London Times, and Mr George Silk (Depy of Information) visited Comd Post to review the front line situation. Infm as to our successes was supplied by Col Caro; also the posn of our forces as far as was possible. Mr Silk requires photos of heaped Japanese dead - in their defense and firing posns. He was assured of this when GONA fell.</p>	
			<p>It is reported that WAIROPE Japs are being evacuated at night by boat from AMBOGA River, approx 2 miles WEST of GONA.</p>	<p><i>[Signature]</i></p>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 3 Dec To 0600 hrs 4 Dec 42 (Sheet 2)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	3 Dec 42	1515	3 Bn firing a belt of MMG amm on enemy tree tops to quieten snipers.	
			The rest of the afternoon was fairly quiet, although a sharp watch was kept for any enemy movement and fresh targets	<i>Phase 2 attached</i>
		1715	Hot tea brought forward from B Ech.	
		1915	Burial party for three of our tps killed earlier in the fighting; their remains now in a reasonably safe area for evacuating under cover of darkness.	
		2030	Fighting patrols under Lieut Haddy and Sjt Roach sent out to locate if possible and destroy enemy posts. Sjt Roach's patrol contacted post covering beach and palms and was able to pinpoint several section posts. During sharp engagement with enemy he considers listening post on RIGHT was destroyed. No casualties to our patrol.	
		2200	Lieut Haddy attacked one post which was unoccupied; went on to another, attacked again with gren. Squeals from Japs told of success. Patrol then returned, with no casualties.	
			Lights and flares were seen out to sea all through the night.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 4 Dec To 0600 hrs 5 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	4 Dec 42	0700	Hot biscuits and milk brought fwd from B Ech. This is a favourite breakfast among the tps, but owing to meagre supplies of milk and sugar was not possible every morning.	
		0730	Several Jap diaries recovered from Jap dead under cover of darkness sent back to Bde for translating. One appears to be originally Dutch, probably procured from a previous war theatre. Lull in fighting.	<i>Phase 2 attached.</i>
		1200	MOR fire on beach posns for harassing purposes.	
		1315	Fifteen 3" MOR bombs on fresh target near red hut. Several direct hits.	
		1340	Infm received from HQ 25 Aust Inf Bde (in response to our request for dropping of surrender pamphlets over GONA) that pamphlets are going to be dropped there TODAY and that HULK at sea is also going to be bombed at approx 1345. These Air ops did not take place. No reason given.	
		1400	This force, 2/16 Bn and 2/27 Bn, under comd Col Caro reverting to comd 21 Bde at 1500 hrs.	
		1500	Coconut party brought in nuts for fwd tps.	<i>Mm</i>
		1730	ARTY endeavour to shell HULK. No hits. 39 Bn relieve 3 Bn.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 4 Dec To 0600 hrs 5 Dec 42 (Sheet 2)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	4 Dec 42	1730	Hot tea for all tps. Hot meals at night usually consisted of rice and bully beef stew, stewed apples in milk, and tea.	
		1745	MOR shoot carried out on various enemy targets in an effort to blast posns. Twenty rds fired.	
		1830	Similiar shoot as at 1745. No results visible. One mortarman killed by sniper - probably aiming at Mortar and smoke. Mortar posn now barricaded with sandbags.	
		2100	Fighting patrol under Lieut Warburton struck opposition after throwing a few gren and had to return. No casualties.	
		2400	Fighting patrol under Lieut Inkpen (6 OR) met with no success, too much fire from IMG's.	
	5 Dec 42	0300	Fighting patrol of 6 men under Lieut White worked around enemy's RIGHT flank, threw gren and obviously surprised him, as Jap commenced firing and gren throwing in opposite direction. Lieut White considers he could have captured post if he had had 6 more men. Estimates 3 or 4 Japs killed.	<i>See phase 3 attached.</i>

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 5 Dec 42 0600 hrs 6 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	5 Dec 42	0730	3" MOR shoot carried out on red hut and old car. Direct hits on both targets. Intermittent 2" and 3" MOR shoots on small scale until 1200 hrs. Lull in fighting.	
		1000	Capt Johnson relieved Capt Sims who returned to B Ech for a rest.	<i>Phase 3 attached</i>
		1200	CHAFORCE relieve 2/14 Bn EAST of creek ref BUNA (Provisional) 1" to 1 mile 175286. 2/14 Bn now in reserve.	
		1300-1500	Slow 2" MOR fire on enemy posns for harassing purposes.	
		1530	3" MOR shoot on red hut. No results visible. There was very little movement in enemy lines all day.	
		1640	Brig Dougherty arrives and lays out plan for concerted attack on Jap posns tomorrow morning.	
		1830	MMG opens up on launch containing approx 16 men (presumably Japs) about two miles offshore from GONA. Distance precluded observation of shoot, but launch (or barge) hastily retreated WEST and shorewards.	
		1840	3" MOR opens up harassing fire on village. Hot tea brought forward for all tps.	
		2100	Patrol from 2/27 Bn under Sjt Roach entered village, threw a few gren but observed no movement.	<i>mm</i>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 21/8
(adjusted)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 5 Dec To 0600 hrs 6 Dec 42 (Sheet 2)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	6 Dec 42	0430	Stand to for attack. <u>Plan for attack</u> Lieut White's Pl to take first post along beach and consolidate. Lieut Warburton then to take second post and consolidate. At the same time 39 Bn to attack SOUTH of village. All objectives to be gained at all costs. MOR support.	Phase 3
		0530	Zero hour. Attack commences with 60 rds 3" MOR on village. Lieut White's Pl adv to within 10 yds of objective, threw in gren and opened up with Tommy guns. He then took one Sec round Jap flank, but was wounded in leg. While being dragged to safety he was mortally wounded and had to be left. At this stage Lieut Hewitt was ordered to assist the fwd patrol, but heavy LMG fire and snipers prevented his doing so. Smoke bombs were used to try and recover Lieut White's body without success. Tps were then withdrawn to original posns after an attack lasting one hour. On SOUTH of village 39 Bn adv 50 yds into kuni grass and are consolidating. One Sec entered village but were forced to retire owing to danger from their own Mortars. Casualties 2/27 Bn 3 WIA 2/16 Bn 1 Offr believed KIA 5 OR WIA	
				<i>mm</i>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 6 Dec 42 to 0600 hrs 7 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	6 Dec 42	0830	Hot breakfast for all tps.	
		0930	OP reports signalling light on HULK sig to GONA. There seems to be some doubt as to observed light being signal.	
		0950	Engr Offr arrives to discuss plans for blasting Jap posts on beach.	
		1000	ARTY shoot on HULK. Several hits on sides but none on posn from where signalling was reported.	
		1030	Seven 2/27 Bn sigs move to CHAFORCE.	Phase 3
			2/16 Bn casualties to date 90. 13 KIA 77 WIA or evac sick.	
		1200	2" MOR shoot on nearest Jap beach post. Bombs fell all round target but no results visible.	
		1330	Fifteen enemy bombers escorted by 20 Zero passed overhead travelling SW. Later reported bombed POPONDETTA, but no damage was caused. All bombs fell in jungle.	
		1500	Jap Mountain Gun arrived at HQ 21 Aust Inf Bde for use against enemy in this area.	
		1545	3" MOR shoot on village.	
		1600	Party working on beached Jap barge opposite Cemetery. Object to refloat, mount Jap BN gun and move up closer to Jap posns to use on strong three posts.	
			Lull in fighting.	
		1800	Hot tea for all tps.	<i>MP</i>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 7 Dec To 0600 hrs 8 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	7 Dec 42	0800	B17 dropped 8 hy bombs but only scored near misses.	
		0830	Snipers placed in posn this area and close watch kept for signs of enemy movement.	
			Last night heavy rain fell and filled all slit trenches and dugouts with water. However, we are able to move round (under cover of trees and kuni grass, but Jap must be uncomfortable as he is out in the open in many places and probably waist deep in water all day).	<i>Phase 3 attached</i>
			Lull in fighting during morning.	
		1200	Dogfight - 1 Zero crashed into sea several miles out, amid loud cheers from our tps.	
		1315	18 enemy bombers escorted by 20 fighters come in from sea, and move down coast towards BUNA. Bombs appeared to be jettisoned into sea as our fighters split the formation. One bomber shot down for certain, probably three fighters.	
			Eight Wirraways divebomb enemy posns GONA village. 39 Bn were to have attacked after bombing, but comd considered it was not heavy nor effective enough. Attack postponed.	
			Intermittent firing heard in direction WEST of GONA, probably 2/14 Bn patrol in contact with Japs from AMBOGA River. Otherwise quiet afternoon, except for slight activity by our snipers.	
		1745	OP reports 2 Japs in old car; possibly endeavouring to observe our movement and intentions. Enemy at this stage appears very nervous. Ten 3% MOR bombs sent over and although several landed close no Japs were observed to leave it.	<i>mm</i>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Bn Rear Details Date and Time.—From 0600 7 Dec 42 To 0600 8 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
6 mile Valley				
moresby.	7 Dec.	0900.	} all day route march	
		1630		
			Lieuts Trennery Trennery and Sutton	
			rejoined & marched in.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 8 Dec 42 to 0600 hrs 9 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	8 Dec 42	0600	Raft sighted well out to sea off GONA. No further infm obtainable.	
		0700	Plans being formed for further attack on enemy.	
		1000	Capt Sims and Capt Katekar report to Maj Sublet who assumes comd of combined units. Lull in fighting.	
		1030	Col Caro returned to Bde.	See Phase 3
		1100	Four Lockheed Lightnings bomb indistinguishable target beyond HULK, possibly raft sighted at 0600.	attached
		1230	<u>Plan of attack</u> under Maj Sublet ARTY barrage of 250 rds will be followed by 39 Bn attack in 3 phases. At the end of third phase their line should extend across village running from EAST to WEST. If this eventuates 2/16 Bn and 2/27 Bn will stage attacks on enemy beach posts. During 39 Bn attack 2/16 Bn and 2/27 Bn will keep up heavy SAA fire and MOR barrage so that enemy will be kept engaged on this front.	
		1230	ARTY barrage commences.	
		1245	VICKERS from Capt Madigan's posns give covering fire for first phase of 39 Bn attack.	
		1345	One Sec of 39 Bn adv across open ground by rec hut, but are forced to go to ground.	
		1420	2/16 Bn and 2/27 Bn with two Coys attack beach posts strongly, drove enemy from under first big tree, but ran out of TSMG amm and gren and were forced to withdraw.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 8 Dec To 0600 hrs 9 Dec 42 (Sheet 2)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.	
GONA	8 Dec 42	1420	More gren were sent up later in case of further attempt. Capt Johnson and Lieut Hewitt among those wounded.		
		1445	3" MOR score direct hits on enemy under tree beach posts.		
		1450	Sec of 39 Bn in open ground by red hut withdrawn under cover of smoke.		
		1500	25 CHAFORCE brought in to assist and take up posns in the event of Jap counter attack.		
		1600	Ann dump moved 100 yds further fwd. 39 Bn have made slight adv towards village and are consolidating ground gained in preparation for further attack. They have captured 2 LMG's and one MMG.		
		1800	Lull in fighting; attacks postponed; consolidating ground gained. Hot tea brought fwd to all tps with the exception of extreme fwd few		
		2300	Reported over L/T from fwd beach post that approx 30 Japs are moving about in an attempt to break through our lines and escape. All tps in area stand to and are ready for any Jap who comes along. For two or three hours everyone was very occupied shooting Japs as they attempted escape. Several tried to break through BnHQ and RAP area and gren were used freely. In the morning it was reckoned that some of the enemy must have got through and are even still lying in hiding in the kuni grass. Finding difficulty in passing our beach posts a number broke back and made SOUTH through 39 Bn lines. Little if any Jap firing was heard after 0200 9 Dec 42.		

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 9 Dec To 0600 hrs 10 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.	
GONA	9 Dec 42	0800	2/27 Bn moved along beach posts mopping up and were followed by balance of 2/27 Bn who consolidated posn.		
		0830	Jap bodies searched for useful documentary evidence and maps and two sugar bags full were sent back to Bde. Some of the Japs were hospital wounded and it is certain that all of them had had enough fighting and were attempting a breakaway, possibly to SANANANDA	<i>See phase 3 attached</i>	
		1200	Final enemy resistance in beach posts overcome. This was from one or two who were too badly wounded to escape. 2/27 Bn suffered 2 or 3 casualties (wounded)		
		1300	Ten Jap prisoners, mostly weak and wounded, were sent to Bde under escort, obviously amazed at our good treatment. Mr. Ian Morrison (who speaks Japanese) questioned one of the Japs at the RAP, who fervently expressed his hatred of war!		
		1600	39 Bn were slowly cleaning up small pockets of enemy resistance and a few stragglers SW of village. Our tps were kept busy burying dead and locating our own "Missing".		
		1700	Jap posts in whole area are a grim sight. The dead are piled, many in advanced stages of decay. Little effort was apparently made to bury their own dead and in many cases dead bodies were used as fire steps. The village area is a shambles, shattered by our continuous bombing and MOR fire. Food and amm was plentiful, so probable reason for attempted escape was their hopeless posn and reduced numbers.	<i>[Signature]</i>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2/18
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 10 Dec To 0600 hrs 11 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	10 Dec 42	0600	Reorganisation of 2/16 and 2/27 Bns under one comd Maj Sublet 2/16 Bn. 2/27 Bn Bn HQ Capt Katekar, WO1 Lyndon, I Sec, RAP, RMP, Hygiene, QM staff and one Coy of 3 Pls under comd Capt Sims; 2 i/c Lieut Warburton; Pl Comds Sjts Underwood, Roach and James; CSM WO11 Smith Total strength 3-89 Tasks beach defence of area between two creeks approx 1000 yds (CHAFORCE on either side of creeks). Salvage of enemy and our own eqpt Organised burying parties with assistance of natives. Cleaning of area and establishment of hygiene conditions.	
		1530	U/i bombers 20 fighters seen heading NORTHWARDS. Slight movt of Jap stragglers during night and a few shots fired.	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 218
(Adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 11 Dec To 0600 hrs 12 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.				
GONA	11 Dec 42	0600	2/27 Bn Cemetery map ref GONA locality 4" to 1 mile 167287 180 yds WEST of creek 30 yds from sea.	Ref map GONA LOCALITY <u>(Revised) 4" : 1 mile</u> <u>M.R. 134313</u>				
			<u>2/27 Bn Casualties up to 9 Dec 42</u>					
			KIA		6	39	6	39
			DW		1	3	1	3
			Missing believed KIA		0	2	-	2
			WIA		9	121	9	119
			less retd from hosp =		2	9	9	119
			Missing		-	11	-	11
			WIA remaining on duty		-	3	-	-
			Evac sick		-	36	-	-
less retd from hosp =	5	-	-	31				
Marched out to Chaforce	-	-	1	10				
" " " 21 Bde	-	-	-	1				
		1200	Recommendations for Awards submitted, but list not considered complete until wounded interrogated. Two persons recommended for DCM and four for MM (immediate awards). Padre Begbie recommended for Periodic Award of MBE.					
		1600	B Ech estab in GONA village.					
		1615	Maj Gen Vasey visits scene of ops.					

*See plan of
Cemetery attached.*

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2.18
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 13 Dec To 0600 hrs 14 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	13 Dec 42	1000	Memorial Service conducted by Padre Begbie at 2/27 Bn Cemetery	Diagram showing layout of graves att
			Mild	<i>by 2/27 Bn</i>
			Flowers gathered from ruined Mission in GONA placed on graves as mark of respect.	<i>2/27 Bn</i>
			RMO 2/16 Bn took several photographs of graves.	
		1100	Efforts continued to launch Jap MLC. Engine functioning well.	
			<i>no further work done on MLC</i>	
			<i>area</i>	
			<i>Efforts continued to launch Jap MLC</i>	
			<i>Engine functioning well</i>	
				<i>MM</i>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 14 Dec To 0600 hrs 15 Dec 42

H. 100M

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	14 Dec 42	0900-1200	Engrs carry out demolition of unexploded bombs in village.	
		1700	Barge launched but instn NOT to be used.	
		Mild		
			Two small palm trees and ornamental shrubs planted in cemetery.	
				M

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Bn Rear Details

Date and Time.—From 0600 16 Dec To 0600 17 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
6 mile Valley Moresby.	16 Dec.	0900-1100	Patrol exercises.	
		1100-1200	Booby traps	
			9 Reinforcement ORs. marched in	
		1400	Pte R. Marks buried BOMANA cemetery - head knocker i/c firing party.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adopted.)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Bn Rear details Date and Time.—From 0600 17 Dec To 0600 18 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
<u>6 mile Valley.</u>				
<u>Moresby.</u>	<u>17 Dec</u>	<u>0900</u>	<u>Route march.</u>	
		<u>- 1200</u>		
		<u>1200</u>	<u>Training - patrols.</u>	
		<u>- 1430</u>		
			<u>1 O.R. reinforcement marched in.</u>	
		<u>2000</u>	<u>Recece patrols.</u>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aus Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 19 Dec To 0600 20 Dec. 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	Dec 19		Bn moved to village 2 miles west of GONA captured by 39 Bn yesterday. 39 Bn occupying our present positions.	See phase 4 attached.
		1200	Change over commences (as above).	
		1400	Change over completed.	
		1800	B.H.Q (composite 2/16, 2/27 + Fred Beck) dig beach defences 300+yds east of village, linking up with 2/16 Bn defensive posns. (A Coy) 3 fighting patrols sent out (2 21 st and 1 16 th).	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 20 Dec To 0600 21 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	20 Dec.		Sunday.	
		0200	3 barges sighted well out to sea, appear to be travelling from SANANANDRA direction towards AMBOGA mouth.	
		1000	Cpl Clark & 14 ORs sent out to probe Jap left flank and rear & to inflict casualties.	
		1800	Patrol returned - unsuccessful owing to heavy undergrowth & swamps.	Phase 4
		1830	Japs seen on beach west of Z creek about 2000 yds away. Vickers opened up with no effect.	
		2330	Jap fighting patrol 1 officer & 14 ORs attacked 2/16 standing patrol, killing one & wounding 1. Jap officer & 1 N.C.O. killed.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aus Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 21 Dec To 0600 22 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	21 Dec			
		1100	Sgt. Harvey + 9 ORs crossed 2 ch. at estuary, by raft. advanced 200 yds to a small hut. 4 Japs were killed in dug-out beneath hut by T.S.M.G. fire. Post silenced. Discharger cap captured. Continued adv. to second hut, killed 1 Jap, wounded 1.	See phase 4 attached.
		1145	Patrol returned; 1 casualty (Pte Dickenson) wounded.	
			afternoon quiet.	
			Tanks reported to be in action BUNA front (2 man U.S.A. tank)	
			Weather fine.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2418
(adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 2/27 Aus Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 22 Dec To 0600 23 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	22 Dec		Strength of Bn now 4 officers 103 ORs	
			Rifle Coy strength 1 and 52.	
		0935	A 20, bombed & strafed enemy positions west of AMBOGA mouth.	
		1300	2/27 (B Coy) changed position with 2/16 (A Coy) & occupied village posts (see sketch attached 19 Dec).	
			Enemy observed in village across Z ch. and in larger numbers (up to 50) 1½ miles west.	
			Heavy rain during night 22/23 Dec.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M 2/42

Unit 227 Aus Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 23 Dec To 0600 24 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	23 Dec	0600	Enemy troops observed swimming in cks 1 1/2 miles west along coast	
		0730	Hot breakfast - biscuits & milk. The midday meal usually consisted of either cheese or jam, bully beef & tea. Night meal usually bully & rice stew dehydrated potatoes, apples, & rice.	Phase 4 attacked.
		1100	Capt. Madigan (2/16 Bn) with patrol crossed 2 cks to locate tracks, enemy positions etc. Unsuccessful.	
		1630.	Rece patrol of 2 men sent out to ascertain if Jap outpost still occupied. On reaching vicinity patrol was fired on so returned. m.3" & Vickers unsuccessfully engaged target.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2117
(adapted)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aus Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 24 Dec To 0600 25 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	24 Dec	0615	M.M.G & M3" opened up on gap movement. No visible result.	
		0930	Comforto fund issue. 20gs tobacco, tinned boiled sweets, cig papers & matches. Issue much appreciated.	Phase 4
		1030	Fwd patrol reported 3 gaps in kunai across ck.	
		1045	Patrol sent out to investigate. No success.	
		2350	Shots heard in GONA direction	
			Quiet night. Slight rain.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2113
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Bn Rear Details Date and Time.—From 0600 25 Dec To 0600 26 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
6 mile Valley.			Xmas Day.	
Moresby.	25 Dec.	1000	Bde Church Parade - Padre Whereat - 2/16 Band.	
		1300	Special dinner.	
		1400	Cricket match Officers v. Balmen (won by Balmen).	
		1900	Concert arranged by Pte J. Pick. music by 2/16 Band. Programme attached. Bde invited, also Americans.	Programme attached.
			Lt Col Buss ^{W.F.} died - Scrub typhus - 2/9 A.G.H. Buried same day.	
			Capt Oldham marched in from 2/16 Fd. Amb. as Bde M.O.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 25 Dec To 1200 ²⁶ 25 Dec 42.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	25 Dec.		XMAS DAY.	
		0700	12 rounds M3" on gap outpost.	
		0800	Padre Begbie conducted area Xmas communion service	
		0900	Rece patrol 6 ORs & 1 Sec sent out to traverse tracks.	
			mail, Xmas telegrams & small parcels arrived by air	
			Red Cross forward 4 parcels (18 men per parcel)	
			(cont. over)	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From ~~0600~~¹²⁰⁰ hrs 25 Dec To 0600 hrs 26 Dec 42 (Sheet)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	25 Dec 42	1200	CHRISTMAS DINNER 1942 was, considering circumstances, and location, good. All tps tasted bread for the first time since Nov 27. In addition each man received a share of preserved peaches, meat loaf, cheese, and tinned milk.	
			The afternoon was quiet, although the usual careful watch was maintained.	
			A hot calm day.	<i>Phase 4 attached.</i>
		1700	Coffee (for the first time over this side) veg stew, rice and apples.	
		2030	Signalling light from HULK, apparently to AMBOGA or KUMUSI. Reported and at 2340 HULK was bombed by u/i A/C and one direct hit scored.	
	26 Dec 42	0415	Fwd post fired on figure in sea on our beach front, presumably Jap, who swam further out and disappeared in darkness.	
		0530	Stand to.	
				<i>[Signature]</i>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C 2118
(adapted)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 26 Dec To 0600 hrs 27 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
		0730	Two natives swam in to B Ech from HULK. Say no supplies or serviceable guns or Japs on board.	
GONA	26 Dec 42	1115	Enemy A/C, probably Zero, shot down into sea opp B Ech by WIRRAWAY, WEST of GONA Mission Area 1000 yds. Sank about 200 yds offshore immediately and left large patch of burning oil and petrol.	
		1730	Quiet afternoon. No enemy movt observed at OUTPOST. Weather fine and clear. No rain.	
			Letter received from OC Rear Details PORT MORESBY stating that :-	
			(1) Regular distribution of comforts purchased from Regtl Funds being made to wounded and sick in hospitals.	
			(2) All wounded progressing favourably; 70-80 so far had been sent to Aust for further treatment.	
			(3) Further draft of reinfts, strength 4 offrns and 80 OR, had been marched in ex AMF - not very impressive types.	
			(4) Previous draft of 130 OR, which arrived on 26 NOV, was undergoing intensive tng. Appeared to be very good material, responding well.	
			(5) Strength of Rear Details now 14 Offrs 317 OR.	
		2130	Moon rises	<i>mm</i>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form Q 2118
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Bn Rear Details Date and Time.—From 0600 27 Dec To 0600 28 Dec 42.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
6 mile Valley. Moresby	27 Dec.		Free Day. Lieuts Lloyd Saunders and Stephenson marched out to 18 Bde.	
			Lieut Twist marched in.	
			5 Qx ORs marched out to 2/9 Bn.	
			Pte Gare V.C. died - scrub typhus - 9 A.G.H. buried at BOMANA cemetery. Firing & burial party - Lieut Reddin.	
			Lt Col Newman died - scrub typhus - 9 A.G.H.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 28 Dec To 0600 hrs 29 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	28 Dec 42	0730	Hot breakfast, porridge and pork and beans.	
		1100	Four BEAUFIGHTERS strafe AMBOGA mouth and enemy concentrations.	
		1200	Issue per man of US Army Ration C containing biscuits, confectionery, sugar and coffee. Also tobacco and two razor blades.	
			Tps still being evacuated sick with fever.	
			Strength now 3 Offrs 76 OR.	
		1730	Quiet afternoon. No enemy movement in OUTPOST.	
			Quiet night.	
	29 Dec 42	0530	Stand to.	
			Rain fell during the night, wetting all tps not under shelters	
				<i>MJM</i>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Bn Rear Details Date and Time.—From 0600 28 Dec To 0600 29 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
6 mile Valley Moresby.	28 Dec.	0900 - 1200	Route march	
		1400-1630	Weapon frgy.	
			Pte Wallin marched out to fwd areas with camera to photograph unit graves.	
			Pte Betno died 9 A.G.H (scrub typhus). Ptes Betno and Lt Plt Newman both buried at BOMANA cemetery. Parties in charge of Lieuts Madigan and Crocker.	
			3 OX Oks marched out to 2/9 Bn.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 3
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf. Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 29 Dec To 0600 hrs 30 Dec 42 (Sheet 2)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	29 Dec 42	1730	<p>As a result of ops at GONA the following recommendations for awards have been submitted:-</p> <p>1. <u>Immediate</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) <u>For DCM.</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">Sjt R E Roach Pte J Breakey</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) <u>For MM</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">WO1 J W Burnett Cpl A J Atkinson Cpl G J Smallacombe Pte K L W Brown Pte F A Dickenson</p> <p>2. <u>Periodic</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) <u>For DCM</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">Cpl J H Burns</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) <u>For MBE</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">Padre A E S Begbie</p>	

me

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 29 Dec To 0600 hrs 30 Dec 42 (Sheet 3)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONE	29 Dec 42	1730	(c) <u>For MID</u>	
			1. Capt J C Cuming (KIA)	
			2. Lieut R Applebee (")	
			3. Capt J W Skipper (")	
			4. WO1 H A Lyndon	
			5. Sjt P R Robertson (KIA)	
			6. Capt C A W Sims MC	
			7. WO1 F R Halligan (KIA)	
			8. L/Cpl H G Anderson (")	
			9. Capt J D Lee	
			10. Pte W J Harris	
			11. Sjt D E Coombe	
			12. Pte D H Roach	
			13. Pte R M Wiesman (KIA)	
			14. Pte A G Horne (")	
			15. Cpl D G Parsons	
			16. Sjt R L Smith	
			17. WO1 G R Smith	
			18. Pte R G Noble	
			19. Cpl A L Stevens (KIA)	
			20. Pte G K Goed	
			21. Pte R J Wise	
			22. Pte J H Murdoch	
				<i>Mu</i>

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C 18
(adapted,)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 hrs 29 Dec To 0600 hrs 30 Dec 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.	
GONA AREA	29 Dec 42	0730	Hot breakfast. Biscuits and milk and sausages.		
		1200	US coffee ration in lieu of tea. Quite good.		
		1630	Cpl Brown and Pte Parnell sent out on recce patrol. <u>Object</u> To find out if enemy OUTPOST (furthest hut on beach) is occupied.	<i>See phase 4 attached.</i>	
			Crossed creek on raft and approached OUTPOST from left flank across village. About fifteen yds from objective two Japs appeared - head and shoulders only. Patrol fired Tommy Gun bursts and withdrew. No casualties observed on enemy and patrol returned safely, having accomplished object.		
		1645	Short 3" MOR shoot carried out but no results observed.		
			1730	Hot tea.	
				<i>Rained during night 29/30 Dec.</i>	
	30 Dec	0530	Stand to. Flares seen in BONA direction, also KUMUSI mouth		
				<i>MP</i>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form 118
(adapted)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Avst Inf Bn Date and Time.—From 0600 30 Dec To 0600 31 Dec 42.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	30 Dec.	1100	P 395 made one strafing run on HULK.	
		1600	2 gaps observed on beach - AMBOGA area.	
		1700	mail arrived for troops.	
			Hot meals and U.S. coffee made life happier.	
			Heavy rain during night.	
	31 Dec	0530	Stand to.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted)

(Erase heading not required).

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Bn Rear Details Date and Time.—From 0600 30 Dec To 0600 31 Dec 42.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
6 mile Valley. Moresby	30 Dec.	0900.	Weapon Trng. Firing grenades and 3" mortar on range	
		1400.	Swimming. Route march to beach.	
		1930	Picture Show.	
			Pte M. R. White died 9A9H (scrub typhus) Buried at BOMANA cemetery - Lieut Madigan c/c firing & burial party.	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118
(adapted.)

H. 100M

Unit 2/27 Aus Inf Bn

Date and Time.—From 0600 31 Dec⁴² To 0600 1 Jan 43

Place	Date 1942	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
GONA	31 Dec	0900	Comforts Fund issue - tobacco & papers clothing issue - shirts, shorts, KDs, bootlaces boots, toothbrushes.	
			Pte Whalland arrives from Rear Details to photograph 2/27 graves & op. areas	
			Weather fine & clear.	
	1943		NEW YEARS DAY.	
	1 Jan	0530	Stand to.	

BY

CAPT W.K. MUSSARED

O.C.

IN THE FIELD

2/27 AUST INF BN REAR DETAILS.

20 Dec 42.

No. 1

1. CANTEEN
Hours for canteen are as follows:-
1300-1400 hrs 1600-1700 hrs 1745-1930 hrs.
No troops will be served at any other period.
2. POST OFFICE
All enquiries for mail will be made at Coy Ord Rooms.
Coy Ord Cpls will collect mail from P.O. daily at 1100 and 1500 hrs.
3. SENTRIES
Slackness of sentries has been noticed throughout the area.
When on beat sentries will ensure that they are fully conversant
with their duties before mounting, and carry them out correctly.
4. BN DUTIES.
In future Bn duties will comprise of B.O.O., B.O. N.C.O. and runner.
Names of B.O.O. and B.O. N.C.O. to be handed to BHQ day prior to
mounting.
5. RETURNS
Parade State to be handed to BHQ by 0800 hrs daily.
6. WEAPON FIRING
No man will fire on ranges without permission.
7. KIT LAYOUTS
Kit layouts to be uniform in Coys.

Lieut
A/Adjt 2/27 Aust Inf Bn
Rear Details.

2/16 and 2/27 AUST INF BNS OP INSTN No. 2

Red Map GONA (Revised) 4" to 1 mile

1. INFM

- (a) In the event of overwhelming enemy superiority on the GONA DEF area a withdrawal may be ordered.
- (b) The order for withdrawal will be given by MAJ SUBLETT only.
- (c) In this event the following instn will apply.

2. INTENTION

- (a) 16/27 Unit will withdraw to a holding posn astride the track GONA-JUMBORA at 134266.

3. METHOD(a) Line of withdrawal :-

- (i) B Coy along EAST track to Coy assembly area no further SOUTH than 129283. Thence along main GONA-JUMBORA track to holding posn.
- (ii) A Coy along main GONA-JUMBORA track to Coy assembly area no further SOUTH than 129283. Thence to holding posn.
- (iii) Bn HQ along EAST track to holding posn.
- (iv) 3" MOR will cover withdrawal until ordered to move back.

(b) Holding posn.

- (i) B Coy will hold at 134266 track incl to right along edge of timber for distance of approx 200 yds. Standing patrol will be placed on RIGHT flank to prevent infiltration.
- (ii) A Coy will hold at 134266 left of track excl, along edge of timber for approx 300 yds. Standing patrol will be placed on left flank to prevent infiltration.
- (iii) Bn HQ will hold on track in rear of 134266 to give depth to def.
- (iv) 3" MOR will occupy previously recced posns SOUTH of FDLs and be able to bring down fire on kuni fwd of FDLs.
- (v) Lanes of fire will be beaten down in kuni.

4. INTER-COMM

- (a) Order for withdrawal will be given by telephone.

5. ADM(a) Weapons and amm

- (i) No automatic weapons will be left and as much amm as possible will be carried back and remainder destroyed.
- (ii) Bn res with RSM at Bn HQ

2/16 and 2/27 AUST INF BNS CO No 1

Ref Map GONA (Revised) 4" to 1 mile

1. INFM

- (a) Enemy forces of unknown strength have been landed near mouth of KUMUSI and AMBOGA RIVERS approx 15 miles and 4 miles respectively NW of GONA.
- (b) It is believed that these tps intend to reinforce BUNA SANANANDA and possibly GONA areas.
- (c) 16/27 Units hold def posns in GONA area with 2/14 Bn approx 1800 yds WEST and CHAFORCE patrols operating up to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles EAST.

2. INTENTION

- (a) 16/27 Unit will defend GONA against enemy landing from the sea and against enemy infiltration from the WEST.

3. METHOD

- (a) See att sketch (appendix A).
- (b) B Coy (2/27 Aust Inf Bn) resp for defence of right sector with posts in depth and Coy mobile reserves for immediate counter attack in own Coy area.
- (c) A Coy (2/16 Aust Inf Bn) resp for defence of left sector with posts in depth and Coy mobile reserves for immediate counter attack in own Coy area.
- (d) Coys will construct weapon pits for allround def, and each post will be sited for mutual support, and counter attacks will be rehearsed so that every soldier knows his part.
- (e) Beach def will be based on enfilade fire from MMGs and LMGs.
- (f) 3" MOR will fire on previously ranged areas between MG posts with the object of destroying incoming landing craft.
- (g) 3" MOR will be in support of Coys.
- (h) 2" Mortars will be used by Coys to fire on beach between MG posts.
- (i) Boyes rifles will be sited to fire seawards against incoming landing craft.
- (j) Flares will be used when necessary to illuminate beyond water line.

4. INTER-COMM

- (a) SOS two green signals. To be originated by Coy OPs. Each Coy will man a beach OP to be in line comm with Bn HQ.

5. ADM

- (a) Beach posts will maintain amm res equal to front line holdings. Bn res at Bn HQ under RSM.
- (b) RAP - If an attack is imminent RAP will move to posn NORTHERN edge of timber SOUTH of B Coy's HQ. Evacs by EASTERN track.

6. ACK

Signed at hrs
 Issued through Sigs
DISTRIBUTION

(H J Katekar) Capt
 Adjnt 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

(b) RAP will be established at rear of Bn HQ.

(c) RECCE OF HOLDING POSN

- (i) Coy 2 i/cs and mor offr will recce Coy posns AM 16 Dec 42.
- (ii) As soon as possible after recce withdrawal will be conducted as a TEWT with Pl comds.

6/ ACK

Signed at 1515 hrs
Issued through Sigs

(H J Katekar) Capt
Adjnt 2/27 Aust Inf Bn

DISTRIBUTION

DECEMBER 1942

The feature of this month was the part played by this Unit in the attacks made on the Jap garrison at GONA, commencing on the 29th November and concluding on the 9th Dec. 42.

1. OPERATIONS.

The details of the Units activities at GONA are clearly set out in the daily summary. The strength of the enemy garrison turned out to be 550. The area held by them was comparatively small - approx 250 yds square. They were very strongly entrenched with a fire plan which covered the whole of their front. It proved necessary to launch attack after attack supported by aerial bombing and strafing, arty and mortar concentration and to reduce the garrison post by post. The factors which made our attack so costly were. 1. all the enemy in each post had to be killed before any post could be taken. 2. The attacking force had insufficient troops with which to attack the garrison on all fronts at the one time. 3. The enemy posts were well hidden and difficult to locate. 4. Our attacks, although over very short distances were over ground affording very little cover. 5. Enemy snipers took heavy toll of our wounded and other troops forced to remain in No Mans Land.

In the attacks carried out by the Bn on the 29 and 30 Nov and 1 Dec, our casualties amongst Officers NCOs and men were heavy and little ground was gained, although a heavy toll was taken on the enemy, particularly in the series of posts which he was holding along the beach. The Bn pressed numerous attacks against beach posts and during these first few days in 75 yards of beach posts taken, 50 Jap dead were counted. After the first day, one Coy of the 2/16 Bn came under Comd, and by 2nd Dec, the rest of the second 16th Bn had been committed. On the 1st Dec during a dawn attack our C.O. was wounded and Major Hearman 2 i/c 2/16 Bn assumed command of the combined Units. Until he was replaced by Lt-Col Caro C.O. 2/16 Bn during the afternoon 2nd Dec.

By this time owing to the greatly reduced strength of the combined Units the policy of launching full scale attacks on the eastern front of the enemy had to be dispensed with and during the succeeding days activities were confined to small raiding parties on foremost beach posts, and to patrolling. Between the 4th and 8th Dec there was a decided lull in the fighting on this front, limited mainly to harassing fire by us and limited but effective sniping by the enemy. On 8 Dec our troops made a two company attack on several beach posts but failed to take their objectives. That night the enemy apparently demoralised by continuous bombing and shelling and by the non-arrival of expected reinforcements and exhausted by lack of food attempted to break through our besieging forces. About 100 Japs were killed with the result that on 9 Dec our troops were able to press fwd. mop up and consolidate. From 9 until 19 Dec 2/27 Bn strength 3 Officers 89 ORs still linked with 2/16 Bn under comd Major Sublet, who had assumed Comd on 6 Dec., remained in the GONA mission area primarily in a role of Beach Defence. During this time much time was spent salvaging our own and enemy equipment and in burying our own and enemy dead. A cemetery containing mainly this Unit's dead was laid out in this area. From 19 Dec combined Units moved West approx 1½ miles and relieved 2/14 Bn and 39 Bn who on the previous day had overcome enemy resistance as far west as the Z Creek. From 19 Dec until the end of the month combined Units was employed in this area on Beach Defence and Standing Patrols. Enemy were occupying area West of Z Creek as far back as the Amboga mouth area and various recon patrols and one fighting patrol was sent out across Z creek. During this period enemy outposts in the village on the opposite side of the creek and Jap concentrations at the Mouth were harassed by our Mortar and MMG fire and by aerial bombing and strafing

PHASES 1, 2 and 3 and 4
appendices.

cont over.

DECEMBER (Cont)

2. PERSONNEL

1 Strength at start of Ops on 28th Nov was 21 officers and 353 ORs. By 9th Dec this had been reduced by battle casualties and sickness to a strength in the forward area of 3 Officers 89 ORs. and by the end of the month by further sickness and casualties to 3 Officers and 69 ORs.

2 Casualties sustained by the Unit during the months were- KIA 6 Officers 54 ORs DOW 1 Officer 5 ORs WIA 10 Officers 126 ORs sick 1 Officer 86 ORs. These figures exclude the battle figures sustained by Charforce, namely KIA 1 officer 21 ORs WIA 0 officer 28 ORs. The names of Officer casualties are-

Killed in Action Capt J C Cuming Capt E W Best
 Capt J W Skipper Lieut R Applebee Lieut A G Pickering
 Lieut H G Inglis Lieut J O Flight Lieut J E Bennie.
 Wounded in Action - Lt-Col G D T Cooper Capt R L Johnson
 Capt T F Gill Lieut E M Caddy, Lieut S G Hewitt Lieut R D Johns
 Lieut A B Sherwin Lieut G D MacDonald Lieut L F Twist.

Of the wounded approximately 80 were evacuated to Aust for further treatment, including the following officers - Lt Col Cooper Capts Johnson and Gill, Lieuts Hewitt, Johns Sherwin and MacDonald. The remainder of our sick and wounded were evacuated to and treated in hospital at Port Moresby.

3. ~~OFFICERS~~ Officers the following officers took part in the Campaign at GONA- BHQ- LtCol Cooper, Capt Johnson 2 i/c
 Capt Katekar Adj. Capt Wilson RMO, Capt Begbie Padre.
 HQ Coy Lieut Smythe, Clampett Twist, Pickering Capt J D Lee
 A Coy Capt Sims Capt Best Lieut Flight Johns Sherwin
 B Coy Capt Skipper Lieut Inglis

C Coy Capt Cuming Lieuts Caddy and Benny
 D Coy Capt Gill. Lieuts Hewitt MacDonald and Warburton.

The Charforce officer in action at GONA were-
 Capt A J Lee Capt H H Kimber Lieut T R S Kimber, R Applebee.
 Capt K Viner Smith was transferred to 9 A G H

Padre Norman was absent in Aust.
 Promotions. WO 11 W N Macpherson and Sjt R Paine were appointed Acting Lieuts.

4. Recommendations and awards. As a result of ops at GONA the following recommendations for awards were submitted -

A. Immediated 1. DCM Sjt R E Roack and Pte J Breakey
 2. MM WO 1 J S O Burnett and Cpl. A J Atkinson,
 Cpl G J Smalla combe Pte K L W Brown
 Pte F A Dickeson.

B Periodic 1. DCM Cpl J H Burns
 2/ MBE Padre A E S Begbie
 3. MID Capt Cuming (KIA) Lieut Applebee (KIA)
 Capt Skipper (KIA) WO 1 H A Lyndon Sjt P R Robinson (KIA)
 Capt C A W Sims MC WO 1 F R Halligan (KIA) L.Cpl H G Anderson
 (KIA) Capt J D Lee, Pte W J Harris, Sjt D C Coombe,
 Pte D H Roach, Pte R M Wiseman (KIA) Pte A G Horne,
 Cpl D G Parson, Sjt R L Smith WO 1 G F Smith Pte R G Noble
 Cpl A S Stephens Pte G K Goed, Pte R J Wise Pte J H Murdoch.

5 Rear Details During the month as the strength of the Unit in the Gona area had been reduced by casualties and sickness so the strength of Rear Details at Moresby increased by the influx of X list men from the Hospitals. In addition strength of Rear Details was increased by taking on strength a draft of reinforcements (1 officer Lt Robilliard and 80 ORs) so that at the end of the months strength of Rear Details was approx. 17 officers and 315 ORs At this stage the officers who were Capt Mussared Capt A J Lee Capt H R R Kimber Lieut Warburton Beare Reddin Madigan Caddy Martin Trenerry King Crocker Sutton Cook Robilliard T R S Kimber and G L Garre Garrett. The Officers in the Gona area were Capt Sims Katekar J D Lee Lieut Clampett and Smythe. During the month rear details were under frequent notice to move by air to POPENDETTA. In spite of this a fair amount of useful training was carried out especially for the

DECEMBER 42

the reinforcements. NCOs school was conducted. See Rear Details war diary for full particulars

3. GENERAL Weather. Generally the weather in Gona area was hot and humid during the day and wet at night. This made the conditions particularly trying for troops who because of ops were forced to be out in the sun during the day and in the rain on sentry duty at night.

Medical. Most of our wounded made rapid recovery from their wounds. This mainly due to the fact that the evacuation from the battle field was very speedy. Native bearers carried them to an ADS fwd thence to MDS at SOPUTA thence by Jeep to Popenetta and from there to hospital at Moresby. Speed of evacuations in this campaign was in direct contrast to the slow evacuation during the Owen Stanley campaign, where it took at least one week and in some cases two months before wounded reached hospital. A high rate of sickness prevailed amongst the troops. 1 Officer and 94 ORs from the Bn proper were and 5 officers and 93 ORs from Charforce being evacuated.

The main ailment was malaria.

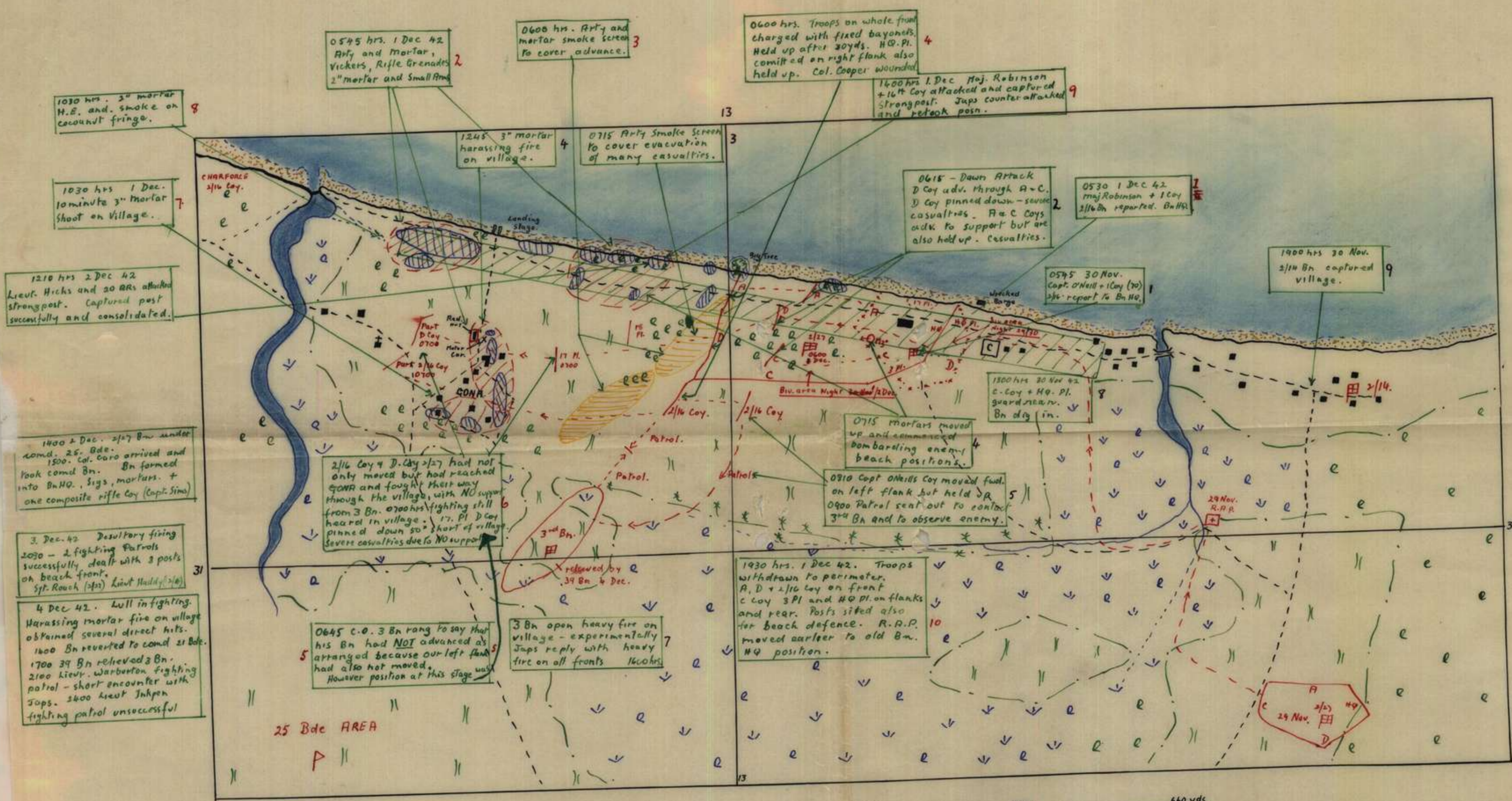
~~xThe~~ Because of shortage of troops in the area many men were kept on their feet by being given overdose of quinine. At one stage men were not evacuated until their temperatures reached over 103 degrees. Almost every man who remained at GONA for more than a week developed a fever of some sort, A few cases of scrub typhus occurred resulting in 5 deaths.

Amenities. The troops at GONA received very little in the way of amenities. Generally the main items of ration were bullybeef rice biscuits dried apples and to a lesser extent butter cheese and M and V. On Xmas Day Sick men received a tin of boiled sweets and some fruit. Few issues of chocolate were received. At Moresby the troops had excellent fare.

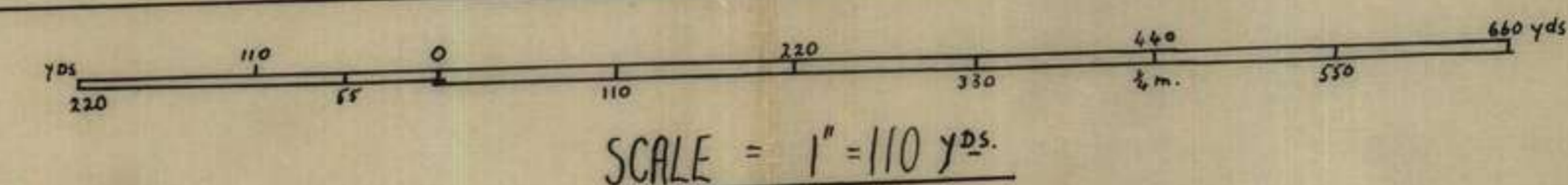
2/27 Aust Int Bn GONA Ops 0300hrs 30 Nov 42 - 2400 4 Dec 42

PHASE 2

Enlarged from GONA LOCALITY (Revised) 4" : 1 mile.



- LEGEND —
- Thick Scrub and Swamp:
 - 3'-6' high KUNJI Grass:
 - Palm Trees:
 - Cocoanut Plantation:
 - Enemy Strongpoints:



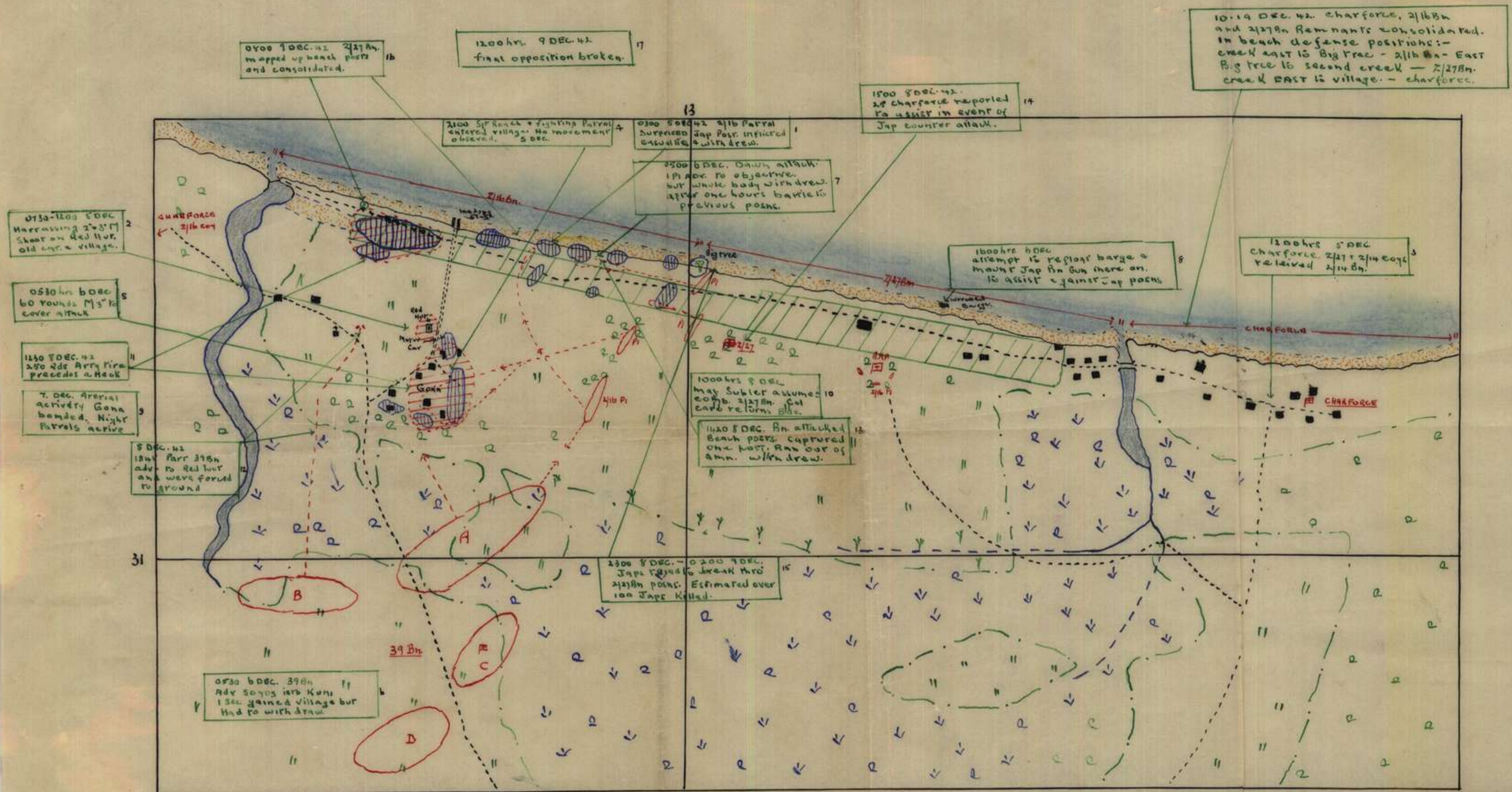
2/27 Bn. Int. Sec 25 Jan 43.

2/27 Bn GONA OPS.

From 0300 5 DEC - 19 DEC 42

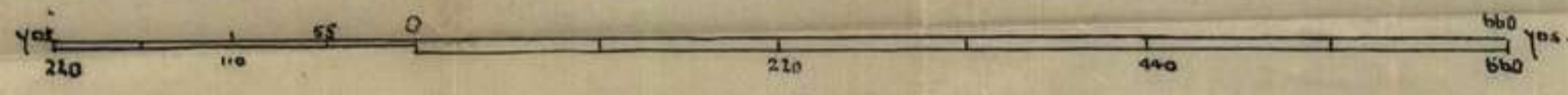
PHASE 3

Enlarged from GONA Locality (Revised) 4" : 1 mile



- LEGEND -

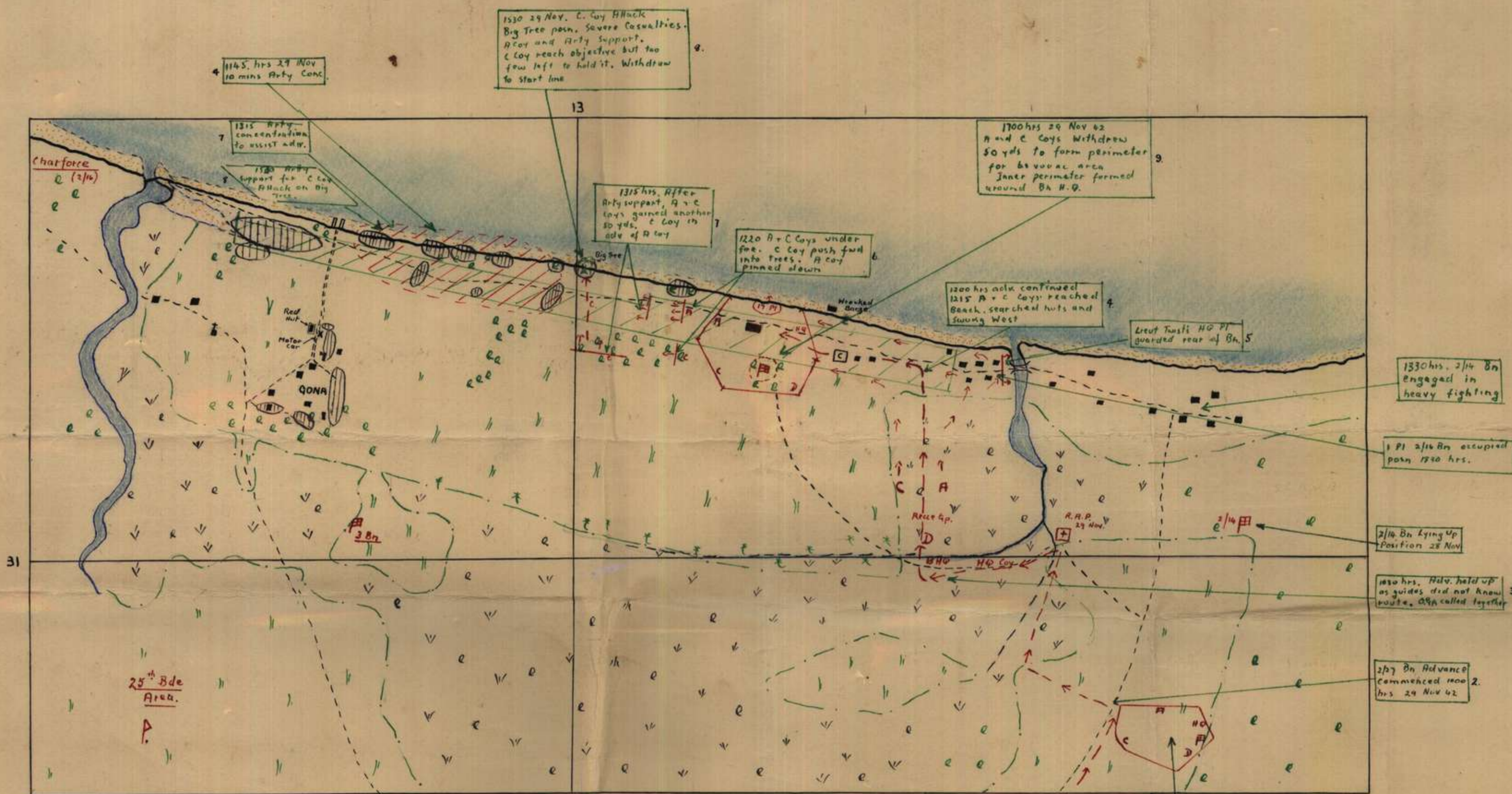
Thick Sedge and Swamp	
2'-6" high Kral grass	
Palm Trees	
Coconut Plantation	
Enemy Strong Points	



2/27 Aust. Inf. Bn. GONA Ops. 1700hrs 28 Nov. - 2300 29 Nov.

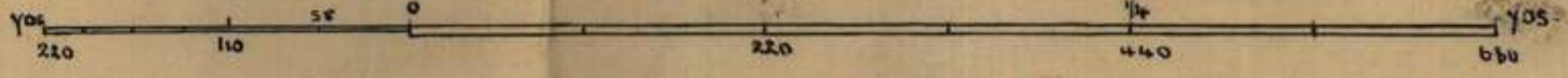
Enlarged from GONA LOCALITY (Revised) 4" : 1 mile.

PHASE 1



— LEGEND —

- Thick SCRUB and Swamp.
- 3'-6' high KUNI Grass.
- PALM TREES.
- Coconut Plantation.
- Enemy Strongpoints.



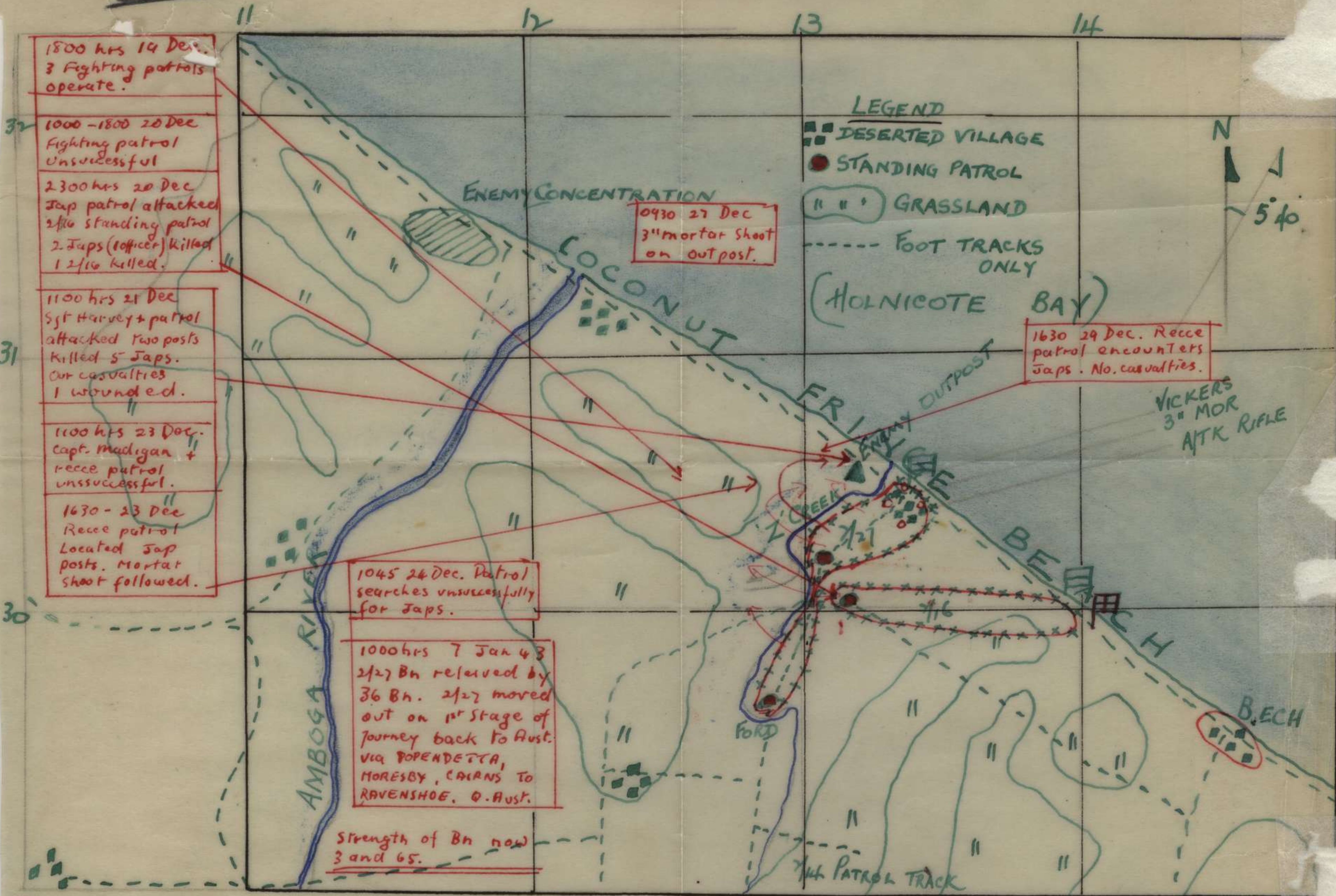
2/27 Bn. Int. Sec. 25 Jan 43.

ENLARGEMENT PORTION BUNA (SECOND EDITION) (PROVISIONAL)

1" rep 1 mile

PHASE 4

2/27 Bn Ops. 19 Dec 42 - 7 Jan 43



1800 hrs 14 Dec.
3 Fighting patrols
operate.

1000-1800 20 Dec
Fighting patrol
unsuccessful

2300 hrs 20 Dec
Jap patrol attacked
2/16 standing patrol
2 Japs (officer) killed
12/16 killed.

1100 hrs 21 Dec
Sgt Harvey + patrol
attacked two posts
killed 5 Japs.
Our casualties
1 wounded.

1100 hrs 23 Dec.
Capt. Madigan +
recc patrol
unsuccessful.

1630-23 Dec
Recc patrol
located Jap
posts. Mortar
shoot followed.

1045 24 Dec. Patrol
searches unsuccessfully
for Japs.

1000 hrs 7 Jan 43
2/27 Bn relieved by
36 Bn. 2/27 moved
out on 1st stage of
journey back to Aust.
via POPENDETTA,
MORESBY, CAIRNS TO
RAVENSHOE, Q. AUST.

Strength of Bn now
3 and 65.

0930 27 Dec
3" mortar shoot
on outpost.

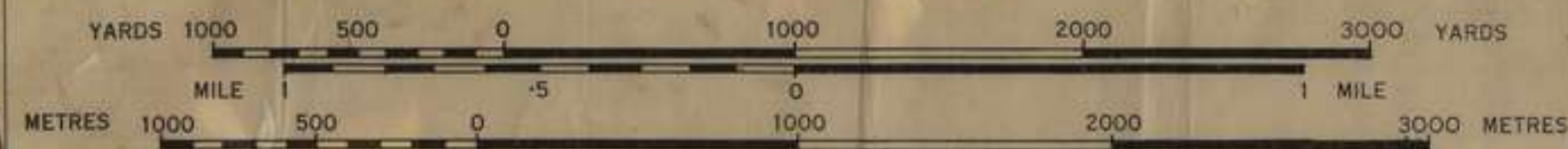
1630 29 Dec. Recce
patrol encounters
Japs. No casualties.

29

28/12/42

GONA LOCALITY (Revised)

Scale: 4 Inches to 1 Mile

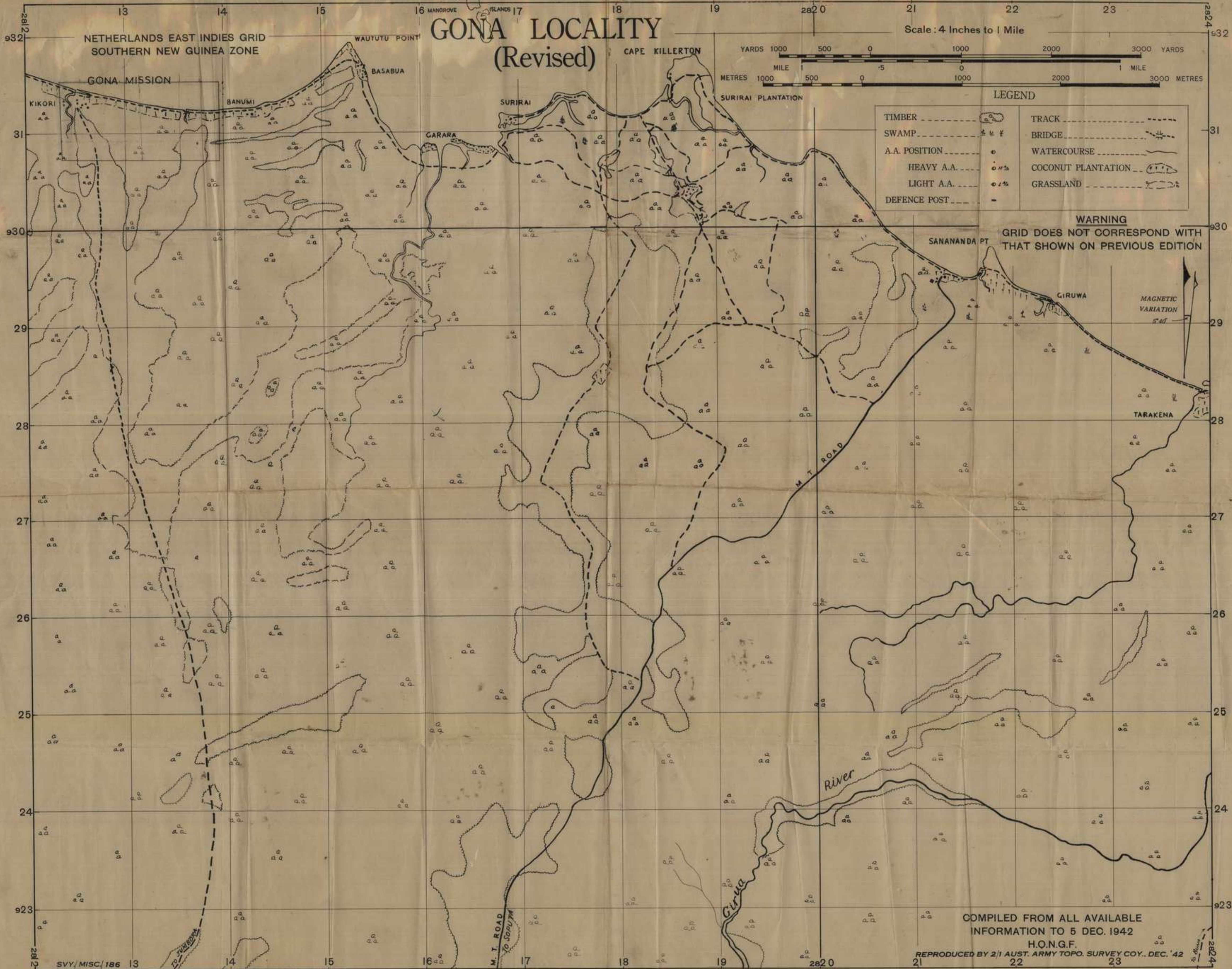


LEGEND

TIMBER	--- (wavy line)	TRACK	--- (dashed line)
SWAMP	--- (wavy line with dots)	BRIDGE	--- (dashed line with cross-ticks)
A.A. POSITION	o	WATERCOURSE	--- (solid line)
HEAVY A.A.	o 1/2	COCONUT PLANTATION	--- (dashed line with circles)
LIGHT A.A.	o 1/4	GRASSLAND	--- (dashed line with horizontal lines)
DEFENCE POST	-		

WARNING
GRID DOES NOT CORRESPOND WITH
THAT SHOWN ON PREVIOUS EDITION

MAGNETIC
VARIATION
5.40'



COMPILED FROM ALL AVAILABLE
INFORMATION TO 5 DEC. 1942

H.O.N.G.F.

REPRODUCED BY 2/1 AUST. ARMY TOPO. SURVEY COY., DEC. '42

SVY/MISC/186 13