

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

Item number: 8/2/15

15 Infantry Brigade

May 1945

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
(Adap)

Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 1 May 45 To 1 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and reference to Appendices, Diaries, &c.																																				
	1 May 45		OOB and unit strengths as at 1 May 45 are as follows:																																					
			<table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>OOB</u></th> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><u>STRENGTHS</u></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Offrs</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>OR</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde</td> <td style="text-align: center;">13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14 pl 2/1 Aust Gd Regt</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24 Aust Inf Bn</td> <td style="text-align: center;">29</td> <td style="text-align: center;">618</td> </tr> <tr> <td>57/60 Aust Inf Bn</td> <td style="text-align: center;">38</td> <td style="text-align: center;">630</td> </tr> <tr> <td>58/59 Aust Inf Bn</td> <td style="text-align: center;">38</td> <td style="text-align: center;">681</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15 Aust Inf Bde Flamethrower Pl</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>det 3 Aust Div Pro Coy</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>266 Aust LAD</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15 Aust Inf Bde LOB Gp</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">77</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>OOB</u>	<u>STRENGTHS</u>			<u>Offrs</u>	<u>OR</u>	HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde	13	59	15 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec	1	31	14 pl 2/1 Aust Gd Regt	1	32	24 Aust Inf Bn	29	618	57/60 Aust Inf Bn	38	630	58/59 Aust Inf Bn	38	681	15 Aust Inf Bde Flamethrower Pl	1	22	det 3 Aust Div Pro Coy	1	14	266 Aust LAD	1	22	15 Aust Inf Bde LOB Gp	6	77	
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(Adapted)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 1 May 45 To 1 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	1 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Fine and hot.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> Active patrolling was again carried out by all units. Two patrols of 24 Aust Inf Bn reached the HONGORAI river and reported on enemy positions although they were unable to get close enough to determine strength owing to the vigilance of enemy sentries. An enemy party was observed on the BUIN road carrying what appeared to be mortar bombs.</p> <p>For the first time in the SOUTH BOUGAINVILLE operations the FELO front line broadcasting unit made a surrender broadcast from the forward company of 24 Aust Inf Bn in the direction of a known enemy concentration. The propaganda broadcast was confined to matters relevant to the local situation, contained assurances of good food and good treatment and was entirely devoid of threats of any kind. This marks the beginning of what will be a long campaign to defeat the Japanese anti-surrender propaganda and break down the enemy morale. No immediate results are expected from these broadcasts but as opportunities present themselves the propaganda will be intensified and it is considered that the propaganda broadcasting unit will be an effective supporting weapon in destroying the enemy.</p> <p>Patrols from 57/60 and 58/59 Aust Inf Bns made minor contacts with the enemy. A runner going from A Coy to BN HQ 58/59 Aust Inf Bn was fired on by an enemy scout when only a few hundred yards from Bn HQ. Investigation patrols were unable to locate the enemy.</p>	


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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 1 May 45 To 2 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	1 May 45		<p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>The Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, accompanied by the BM, Maj H G ROBSON, visited all units today and discussed future operations with all commanding officers. The GSO III (Air) 3 Aust Div, Capt F PERCIVAL, visited the Bde Comd this afternoon, and the Commander outlined his policy for the future employment of aircraft. Where targets present themselves for close support by aircraft, the maximum craft available will be employed in order to enable the advance of the infantry to proceed with the minimum of casualties.</p>	
	2 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u></p> <p>Fine and hot.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u></p> <p>This morning B Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn supported by 8 tp B Sqn 2/4 Aust Armd Regt made a further adv of approx 1000 yds along BUIN road from KEKRO creek. At one point during the advance the tanks were held up by a minor obstacle and the company continued the advance without them, leaving only a protecting party. The bulldozer team operating with the tanks speedily constructed a crossing over the obstacle and the tanks moved forward and caught up with the company just as they reached their objective. No enemy opposition was encountered during the advance.</p> <p>Immediately following B Coy's advance A Coy moved forward to occupy a position forward of KEKRO creek in readiness to continue the next phase of the advance. Protective patrols which were operating on both flanks during this move contacted</p>	

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 2 May 45 To 2 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	2 May 45		<p>small enemy parties and dispersed them. Several areas showing signs of very recent enemy activity were found NORTH of BUIN road. Patrols to the log crossing over the HONGORAI river SOUTH of BUIN road reported the bombing of this crossing to have been extremely accurate. No signs of enemy were found in the area. An enemy ammunition dump containing 70 mm shells and .256 ammunition was found. One dead enemy found was completely clothed in Australian clothing including beret. His boots had been removed.</p> <p>Today the relief of 9 Aust Inf Bn by 57/60 Aust Inf Bn commenced in the RUMIKI area. Temporarily 57/60 Aust Inf Bn is taking over the dispositions vacated by 9 Aust Inf Bn but a readjustment will be made when the relief is completed.</p> <p>During the night an enemy 75 mm gun shelled 57/60 Aust Inf Bn area but did not cause any damage or inflict any casualties.</p> <p>58/59 Aust Inf Bn continued their aggressive patrolling throughout the day but did not make any contact with the enemy.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>Today the DDMI LHQ, Col E MANDER JONES, visited the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER. Accompanied by the Bde IO, Capt N S DUN, Col MANDER JONES visited 24 and 58/59 Aust Inf Bns. An inspection was made of battalion intelligence offices at each unit and at 24 Aust Inf Bn Col MANDER JONES went to the forward company to the CO, Lt Col A J ANDERSON. Intelligence generally was discussed and in particular, shortages of</p>	


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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 2 May 45 To 3 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	2 May 45		<p>intelligence equipment. From all IOs Col MANDER-JONES noted any suggestions they had to offer regarding subjects for inclusion in the syllabus at the School of MI and also subjects which require particular attention by intelligence personnel training for operations in jungle.</p> <p>Capt N W GIDDINGS, Acting DAQMG 3 Aust Div, visited Bde HQ and with the SC, Capt F D H WRAY, visited the brigade administrative installations. The object of the visit was to ensure close co-operation between Division and Brigade HQ in overcoming the many administrative problems associated with this operation.</p>	
	3 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Overcast during morning. Heavy rain in afternoon.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> Today 24 Aust Inf Bn sent forward fighting patrols to probe out enemy positions between B Coy and the HONGORAI river. Many contacts were made but no large concentrations of enemy were encountered. One B Coy patrol went forward with a mortar OP. The patrol located enemy in a dug in position astride BUIN road and, employing their mortars, cleared the position. 1 enemy was killed by the mortar fire. During the afternoon a party of approximately 15 enemy made a daring attack on B Coy locality from the SOUTH. The attack lasted almost half an hour before the enemy were forced, by withering fire from infantry and tank automatic weapons, to abandon their attack. Immediately following the attack, an ambush party moved forward from B Coy to set an ambush on the track along which the</p>	

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Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	3 May 45		<p>attacking party had fled.</p> <p>An escort party moving from D Coy forward to B Coy disturbed an enemy party laying mines on BUIN road. Apparently the enemy party heard the escorting party coming as there were signs of hurried departure and 75 mm shells which were to have constituted the mines were left on the road. An investigating patrol was unable to locate the enemy party. Later in the afternoon a small enemy party concealed on the side of the BUIN road fired on a jeep train but caused no casualties.</p> <p>58/59 Aust Inf Bn patrols did not make any contact with the enemy today. An enemy 75 mm gun fired 18 shells into the battalion area but caused no damage.</p> <p>The relief of 9 Aust Inf Bn by 57/60 Aust Inf Bn was completed today and the responsibilities held by 57/60 Aust Inf Bn on the HATAI track have been taken over by 47 Aust Inf Bn, the first unit of 29 Aust Inf Bde to move into the area.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>This morning the GSO I 3 Aust Div, Lt-Col F G HASSETT, visited the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, and discussed the plan of future operations. During the afternoon the Bde Comd visited 15 Aust Inf Bde Rest Camp which is now ready to function and the first intake of personnel will arrive tomorrow. The Rest Camp was constructed by Capt A E LEFFERS, Brigade Hygiene Officer and the Brigade Education Officer, Lt N A CHETTLER has taken over the running of the camp. On inspection by the Comd the camp was found to be most satisfactory and every possible facility for rest and recreation has been installed.</p>	


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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 3 May 45 To 4 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	3 May 45		The atmosphere of the camp is such that it will take the minds of the resting men entirely away from their previous surroundings.	
	4 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Overcast and sultry.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> An armoured patrol consisting of a platoon of D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn with two tanks and bulldozer teams commenced an advance along BUIN road. After moving approx 400 yards the patrol contacted a strong enemy position well dug in with pillboxes astride BUIN road and extending for 200 yards NORTH of the road. A 75 mm gun was sited in a tank attack role on the side of BUIN road in a well camouflaged position and fired one shell at the leading tank, scoring a direct hit before it was observed. The tank immediately engaged the gun with Besa and 3 inch howitzer fire and knocked it out before it could fire a second shot. The gun crew of three were killed; among them a Warrant Officer who had been acting as Bty Comd of 9 Bty 6 Fd Arty Regt. Artillery fire was then brought down on the main enemy position and tanks and infantry attacked following the artillery concentration and found that the enemy had abandoned the position in face of extremely accurate artillery fire and the fire from the tank weapons. A search of the position revealed that the enemy strength had been approximately 130. Captured equipment included one 75 mm gun, 2 rifles and a quantity of JUKI and small arms ammunition also 5 OSMG magazines.</p> <p>An ambush position set forward of B Coy observed 30 enemy</p>	

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 4 May 45 To 4 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	4 May 45		<p>approaching from the EAST and after killing 1 were in danger of encirclement and returned to B Coy. One enemy type 93 land mine damaged a jeep moving along BUIN road between B and D Coys 24 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols made several other minor contacts with the enemy and there is considerable indication of increased enemy activity in the area between B Coy and the HONGORAI river.</p> <p>An enemy 150 mm gun fired 81 shells into 24 Aust Inf Bn area without causing an damage.</p> <p>58/59 Aust Inf Bn patrols did not make contact with the enemy today but verified the accuracy of our artillery and mortars on previously occupied enemy positions and continued their task of protecting the flanks of 24 Aust Inf Bn.</p> <p>In the RUMIKI area 57/60 Aust Inf Bn patrols made several contacts with small enemy parties moving in the area SOUTH of Number 2 Government Road and other enemy parties were observed working in gardens along the western bank of the HONGORAI river.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>The AA & QMG 3 Aust Div, Lt-Col WINCHESTER, visited the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER today and discussed administrative difficulties arising in the operations; also the policy regarding provision of picture shows for troops in the forward areas was discussed. The Comd expressed his policy of providing amenities wherever possible for the troops in forward areas, making due consideration for security and protection. It was agreed that a picture circuit would be made available</p>	

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 4 May 45 To 5 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	4 May 45		<p>in suitable areas so that at least a percentage of troops from the forward units would be able to attend.</p> <p>The DAQMG 3 Aust Div, Capt N W GIDDINGS and F/Lt LIVINGSTONE from 84 AC Wing RAAF, Air Adviser to 3 Aust Div accompanied by the SC, Capt F D H WRAY, made an inspection of the new dropping zone opened at KEKRO creek. This dropping zone has been named JOYCE DZ in honour of Lt JOYCE of 24 Aust Inf Bn who was killed in a patrol action in this area.</p> <p>Owing to the fact that 113 Aust Bde Wksp has been delayed in its move forward from TOROKINA there have been some delays in the repair of equipment. At present all workshop repairs have to be sent back to MAWARAKA.</p> <p>CEME 3 Aust Div, Lt-Col BURLING, visited the Bde Comd and discussed the situation.</p> <p>Today a seven day school commenced at Bde HQ to train reserve personnel for the Brigade Flamethrower Platoon.</p> <p>A warning order for the continuation of the advance to the HONGORAI river was issued today and is attached as appendix.</p>	
	5 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Fine and hot.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> Following the success of yesterday's armoured patrol D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn made a general advance along the line of BUIN road with one troop tanks and bulldozer team in support. After an advance of 650 yards a strong enemy position was contacted. Tanks and infantry engaged the position and just as the Besa gun on the leading tank jammed an enemy 75 mm gun</p>	Appx /

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 5 May 45 To 5 May 45

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	5 May 45		<p>fired at point blank range from a well concealed position on the side of the road. The shell scored a direct hit on the turret of the tank and shrapnel penetrated the open gun loeuvres and wounded the Besa gunner who was in the process of repairing his gun. The 3 inch howitzer was undamaged and the tank immediately engaged the gun position with assistance from infantry weapons and destroyed the gun. While one platoon maintained contact with the enemy, patrols commenced to move to the flanks to probe the enemy position and determine his flanks. Artillery and mortar concentrations were brought down on the position and D Coy again pushed forward. The enemy resisted fiercely and after a further 30 minutes heavy fighting was driven back a further 150 yards. The company then consolidated in a strong defensive locality for the night, while still under fire from enemy positions further EAST along BUIN road. The last 150 yards advance was through a succession of well dug in positions from which the enemy fought with a fanatical determination until finally blasted from his foxholes by withering fire from tank and infantry weapons. The remainder of the battalion continued protective patrolling and reconnaissance patrols were sent out to select possible company localities for the assault on the HONGORAI river.</p> <p>58/59 Aust Inf Bn patrols were again active today and made contacts with the enemy in the HATAI triangle. Enemy activity in this area is much decreased and there appears to be no more than two enemy parties, strength approximately 20, operating in the area and information was obtained from a PW that one of</p>	

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	5 May 45		<p>them was about to withdraw EAST of the HONGORAI. The battle of the Triangle which has played such a big part in the confusion of the enemy and the frustration of his plans is now almost over.</p> <p>57/60 Aust Inf Bn on the Number 2 Government Road axis patrolled EAST of the HONGORAI to probe out enemy defences and made several contacts. One enemy carrying a JUKI was killed. Late in the evening 8 Pl crossed the HONGORAI at the main crossing under covering fire from MMGs and the remainder of A Coy established a platoon locality on the EAST bank of the HONGORAI. The platoon locality is within 300 yards of an enemy strongpoint on high ground on the EAST bank but the shape of the ground provides protection to the platoon.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>Today the GSO I 3 Aust Div, Lt-Col F G HASSETT, visited the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, to discuss plans for the assault on the HONGORAI river.</p> <p>The SC, Capt F D H WRAY, made a reconnaissance for a new Bde HQ site in the KEKRO creek area.</p> <p>13 reinforcements for the brigade arrived today and all were very poorly equipped; almost all of them being without shelter halves, ammunition, field dressings and atebirin and carrying only two sets of clothing. A report on the condition of the reinforcements has been sent to HQ 3 Aust Div for action to prevent a recurrence.</p> <p>At the request of 2 Aust Fd Regt an instruction was issued today to units emphasising the importance of hostile shelling</p>	

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 5 May 45 To 6 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	5 May 45		<p>shelling reports and the value of counter battery shooting and laying down a simple standard pro forma to be used when submitting shelling reports. The instruction is attached as an appendix.</p> <p>A list of code names and appointments codes at present operative within the division is attached as appendix.</p>	Appx 2
	6 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u></p> <p>Overcast and sultry.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u></p> <p>Between 0500 and 0600 hrs this morning enemy artillery fired approximately 160 shells from at least 2 150 mm guns firing at long range. The shells fell generally in D Coy locality and although they caused no casualties, they damaged 1 MMG, 1 Bren, 1 Owen, 2 rifles and approximately 100 shelter halves.</p> <p>At 0700 hrs a small enemy party attacked the D Coy locality from the front and flanks. Owing to very dense vegetation our troops could not observe the enemy but heavy fire from automatic weapons and mortars broke up the attack. This attack together with the reorganisation necessary after the shelling delayed the beginning of the D Coy advance. At 0855 hrs the company was just about to resume its advance when a strong enemy force attacked the coy locality from the NORTH, the company immediately resumed its defensive position and engaged the enemy. On contact with D Coy part of the enemy force attempted an outflanking movement to the WEST to cut the road behind the company. This force ran straight into A Coy</p>	Appx 3

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	6 May 45		<p>who were moving along BUIN road to occupy the position which was to have been vacated by D Coy. A Coy immediately went to ground and engaged this enemy force. A furious battle raged for approximately 2½ hours during which time the enemy made numerous fanatical assaults on D Coy. A Coy managed to fight its way forward and linked up with D Coy and the two companies formed a joint company locality. Eventually the intense fire from tank and infantry weapons forced the enemy to withdraw and reorganise his force. It is considered that the enemy force which made the attack was well over 100 strong and after the action 58 enemy dead were counted piled up outside the joint company locality, some of the bodies were within 10 feet of D Coy's wire. By 1130 hrs all enemy opposition had been cleared with the exception of a few tree-snipers who continued to harass the company locality. Patrols rapidly dispersed these and while making an inspection of the battlefield found considerable evidence of many more casualties than those actually counted. Bloodstains on bushes and other evidence indicated where many bodies of either dead or wounded men had been dragged away through the dense undergrowth. Additional tanks moved forward to join A Coy and a D Coy patrol followed up the line of withdrawal of the enemy force. Other patrols to the HONGORAI river made minor contacts with the enemy and enemy parties were found to be still in occupation of positions astride BUIN road forward of D Coy but showed no signs of renewing their offensive.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">During the night 6/7 May an enemy 150 mm gun brought down</p>	

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 6 May 45 To 7 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	6 May 45		<p>harassing fire on A and D Coy localities without effect.</p> <p>58/59 Aust Inf Bn patrols also reached the HONGORAI river and brought back valuable topographical and enemy information. No contacts were made but many signs of enemy activity were observed.</p> <p>A 57/60 Aust Inf Bn patrol operating EAST of the HONGORAI came upon 4 Japs preparing breakfast and sighted others in huts at rear. Patrol engaged killing 4 and wounding 2 and when heavy fire was returned from the enemy position indicating considerable strength there, the patrol moved back and brought down artillery fire on the position. A further patrol ambushed and killed 3 enemy moving on the COMMANDO road.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>This afternoon Brig J FIELD, Comd 7 Aust Inf Bde, visited the brigade commander, Brig H H HAMMER, and discussed future operations. Brig FIELD is Adm Comd 3 Aust Div during the temporary absence of Maj-Gen W BRIDGEFORD.</p> <p>A further 36 reinforcements for the brigade arrived today and these also were very poorly equipped.</p> <p>A congratulatory message was sent by the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, to all ranks of 24 Aust Inf Bn for their excellent performance in the action of today. A copy of the message is attached as appendix.</p>	
	7 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u></p> <p>Overcast and sultry. Frequent showers during day.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u></p> <p>After several weeks of continuous action involving large-</p>	Appx 4

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Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	7 May 45		<p>scale patrolling and a series of drives along BUIN road our troops today reached the HONGORAI river, the first objective laid down for the brigade in SOUTH BOUGAINVILLE operations. Throughout these actions the maximum use has been made of all available support; including air, artillery, tanks and mortars and the successful employment of this support has meant that this first objective has been gained with very small cost to our own troops particularly as our advance has been resisted throughout by a determined enemy well organised and well equipped. The final drive commenced this morning when A Coy, preceded by an artillery concentration and with tank support, advanced through D Coy along BUIN road and after dispersing isolated enemy points of resistance along the road reached the HONGORAI river at 1215 hrs and established a company locality on high ground on the WEST bank of the river overlooking the main crossing. During the advance several hastily constructed tank obstacles were encountered, but engineers with their bulldozer rapidly cleared these and the advance was not held up to any extent. One tank slipped into a bomb crater which was very close to the road but was extricated without difficulty. The remainder of 24 Aust Inf Bn carried out general reorganisation and companies shuffled forward along BUIN road to form a solid battalion defence WEST of the HONGORAI. Contact and security patrols throughout the movement kept a strict watch for any enemy activities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">58/59 Aust Inf Bn also reorganised and moved its companies forward to occupy those areas vacated by the previously rear</p>	

Kalman
6/5/45

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 7 May 45 To May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	7 May 45		<p>companies of 24 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols found many vacated enemy positions and two vacated gun positions.</p> <p>Simultaneously with the drive of 24 Aust Inf Bn to the HONGORAI river, 57/60 Aust Inf Bn forced a crossing of the HONGORAI with D Coy and now have a firm company locality established EAST of the river. The crossing was made against heavy enemy opposition and without loss. Patrols operating EAST of the HONGORAI reported hearing the noise of a 4 cylinder motor operating further EAST along Number 2 Government Road. Contact was made today with 2/8 Aust Cdo Sqn patrols.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>This morning the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, with the CCRA 2 Aust Corps, Brig K D CHALMERS, and the CRA 3 Aust Div, Brig K E O'CONNELL, visited forward units. Enroute the party stopped at 15 Aust Fd Amb ADS where a runner carrying captured documents taken from an enemy messenger crossing the HONGORAI this morning was spot translated. The information in them had only been written that same morning and was a situation report from one of the forward sub-unit commanders to his CO.</p> <p>Shelter halves are now reported to be in short supply and difficulty is being experienced in replacing those damaged by enemy shelling. Shelter halves held by HQ units are being withdrawn and issued to personnel of forward units.</p> <p>A district court martial sat at Bde HQ today.</p> <p>Standing Orders for 15 Aust Inf Bde Rest Camp were issued today and are attached as appendix.</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 8 May 45 To 8 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	8 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Fine and hot.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> Today 24 Aust Inf Bn carried out general reorganisation of their companies on the HONGORAI river. B Coy has moved SOUTH of A Coy and has taken up a position on the WEST bank of the HONGORAI approximately 600 yards SOUTH of the main crossing. During 7/8 May two enemy carrying a lantern attempted to cross the HONGORAI river at the main ford. A grenade thrown at the enemy dispersed them and at first light a large wicker basket was found containing documents which proved to be messages being sent forward to enemy units WEST of the HONGORAI. From this it is evident that at least some enemy units were unaware of the fact that we had occupied the main ford. Offensive patrols operated EAST of the HONGORAI to determine enemy locations and security patrols operated on the flanks. One patrol to the NORTH contacted a strong enemy position dug-in. Enemy out-flanked the patrol who found themselves surrounded. A second patrol sent to their assistance found by the time they got there the original patrol had fought their way out. One 37 mm gun and a quantity of ammunition was captured. Just before dark enemy artillery opened up and 16 150 mm shells fell in A Coy area. The extreme accuracy of the shelling made it obvious that the enemy was using forward observers to direct his fire. 2 flamethrowers were damaged, also 1 Bren, 2 rifles, 6 shelter halves and a quantity of packs and equipment. The majority of the damage was caused by tree bursts.</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 8 May 45 To 9 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	8 May 45		<p>58/59 Aust Inf Bn patrols operated EAST of the HONGORAI and located the AITARA track. The track showed signs of recent movement by small enemy parties. Minor contacts were made by patrols operating SOUTH of BUIN road and WEST of the HONGORAI.</p> <p>57/60 Aust Inf Bn patrols again made contacts with small enemy forces moving about in the garden areas on the WEST bank of the HONGORAI and SOUTH of COMMANDO road. An old enemy bivouac site in the vicinity of Bn HQ was investigated and 9 dead enemy, 4 grenades, 1 carbine and 6 rifles were found.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>Owing to operation requirements the arrival of the first batch of personnel for the Brigade Rest Camp was delayed until today. Preference was given to personnel of 24 Aust Inf Bn who could be spared from their companies.</p> <p>Today the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, with the CCRA 2 Aust Corps, Brig K D CHALMERS, and the CRA 3 Aust Div, Brig K E O'CONNELL again visited the forward units.</p> <p>This evening the Bde Comd visited the GOC 3 Aust Div, Maj-Gen W BRIDGEFORD, at HQ 3 Aust Div. The next phase of operations was discussed.</p> <p>15 Aust Inf Bde GS Instr 2/45 dealing with lost and captured equipment is attached as appendix.</p>	
	9 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u></p> <p>Fine and hot.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u></p> <p>Reorganisation and redistribution of units continued today and stores were brought forward and L of C organised.</p>	Appx. 6

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 9 May 45 To 9 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	9 May 45		<p>Patrolling commenced across the HONGORAI river to determine enemy locations and intentions.</p> <p>24 Aust Inf Bn patrols made many contacts with enemy parties and there were several fierce patrol clashes along the EAST bank of the HONGORAI. Enemy patrols were active and movement around the company localities was reported. Patrols moving NORTH to recce the area of MARTINS CROSSING where the main Japanese L of C, previously known as the HATAI SECRET TRACK, crosses the HONGORAI found signs of considerable enemy movement. On enemy party of approximately 40 was observed moving SOUTH along the WEST bank of the HONGORAI. The patrol reported that yesterday's airstrike on an island in the HONGORAI near MARTINS CROSSING on which tactical reconnaissance aircraft had reported enemy activity was very accurate and the enemy had been driven out of their positions. Large scale enemy activity indicating the construction of extensive positions is reported in the area between the HONGORAI and POROREI rivers along the axis of BUIN road.</p> <p>The FELO front line broadcasting unit again broadcast surrender propaganda to the enemy from the WEST bank of the HONGORAI.</p> <p>58/59 Aust Inf Bn carried out security patrols to both flanks and moved across the HONGORAI river to set ambushes on the AITARA track. Minor contacts with the enemy were made and signs found of very recent movement of small enemy parties SOUTH of BUIN road and WEST of the HONGORAI.</p> <p>A 57/60 Aust Inf Bn ambush set on COMMANDO road EAST of the HONGORAI collected an enemy party of four. The party</p>	

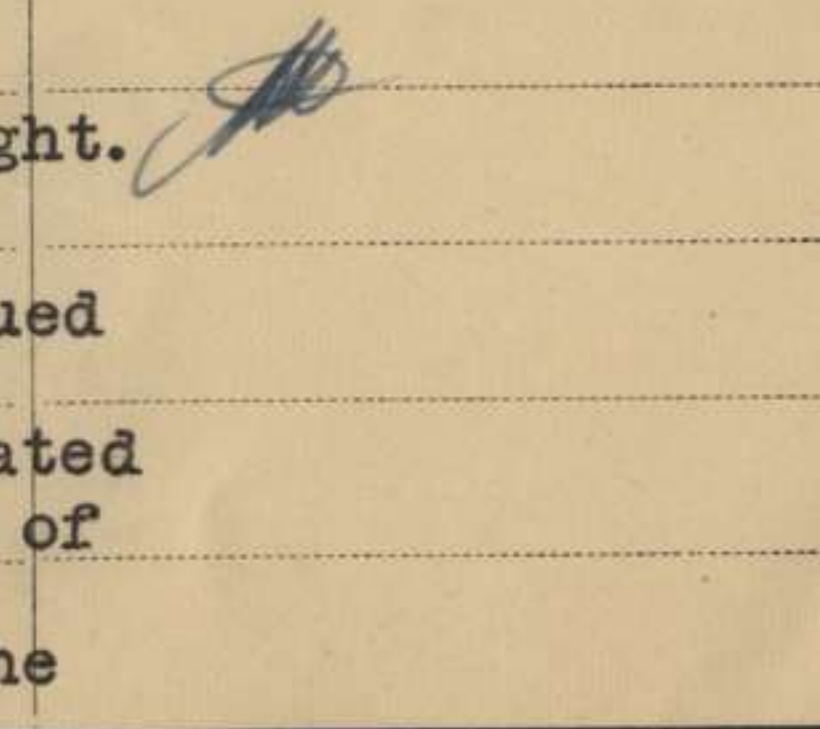
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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 9 May 45 To 10 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	9 May 45		<p>was killed before they realised they were in the ambush. Other patrols contacted small enemy parties in the area SOUTH of RUMIKI and on the WEST bank of the HONGORAI. It is considered that enemy parties are being sent to gardens in this area for food for the force at present disposed on COMMANDO road.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>Today the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, accompanied by the CRA 3 Aust Div, Brig K E ?'CONNELL, and the LO I, Capt V PASSLOW, visited 57/60 Aust Inf Bn and remained overnight.</p> <p>It was announced today by CEME 3 Aust Div that there would be at least one week's delay between the departure of 104 Aust Bde Wksp from the area and the arrival of 113 Aust Bde Wksp from TOROKINA. Efforts had been made to avoid this delay, but without avail.</p> <p>OC 266 Aust LAD, Capt L J BRENCHLEY, has made arrangements for the LAD to improvise with their present equipment and carry out any urgent 3rd line repairs until such time as the workshop is established.</p>	
	10 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u></p> <p>Fine and hot during day; frequent showers through the night.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u></p> <p>Patrolling EAST of the HONGORAI by 24 Aust Inf Bn continued today and there were many contacts with enemy parties. The results of two airstrikes carried out yesterday were investigated by patrols who reported the bombing most accurate and no sign of enemy activity in the area.</p> <p>Artillery and mortars were extensively employed during the</p>	

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 10 May 45 To 10 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	10 May 45		<p>day by forward observation officers moving with patrols and enemy strongpoints located by the patrols were subjected to concentrations. One patrol crossed the HONGORAI and proceeded NORTH to the BUIN road between the HONGORAI and POROREI rivers. The patrol commander hit under a Japanese truck parked in a vehicle bay on the SOUTH side of the road and observed enemy movement along the road for 30 minutes. During that period 2 enemy parties passed moving EAST well equipped and one party was carrying what appeared to be mortar ammunition. The vehicle was in a well camouflaged bay and was in good condition but had not been used for some time. Enemy patrols were again active and company outposts were fired on several times during the day.</p> <p>A 58/59 Aust Inf Bn ambush party returned from the AITARA track reporting no enemy moving on the track during the day. However, they found a 47 mm tank attack gun in good condition on the western side of the track. The patrol attempted to demolish the gun before returning. There were recent footprints of 2 enemy on the AITARA track which the patrol attempted to follow without success. In the early hours of the morning two mules wearing harness approached the EAST bank of the HONGORAI river. No enemy were seen with the mules.</p> <p>57/60 Aust Inf Bn patrols were again active EAST of the HONGORAI. No major contacts were made but an ambush party operating near the HUDA river on the COMMANDO road sighted one enemy coming down to the river for a bath. They kept him under observation for some period in the hope that more would</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 10 May 45 To 11 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	10 May 45		<p>arrive. Finally the patrol commander decided to capture the enemy and two natives operating with the patrol moved forward to the river and jumped on the Jap and subdued him with several blows on the head with a stone. Later, while his wounds were being dressed, the Jap attempted to escape but was tackled and recaptured by the patrol commander. After some food and medical attention the PW recovered from his rather severe fright and became quite co-operative. He gave very valuable information regarding the strengths, dispositions and intentions of the enemy forces on COMMANDO road, and also gave details of a ration party that was due to leave his unit for the RUNAI ration dump early tomorrow morning. Efforts will be made by 57/60 Aust Inf Bn to ambush this party on its return journey.</p> <p>Today a flying fox was constructed over the HONGORAI river to the position on the eastern bank.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>The Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, returned this afternoon from 57/60 Aust Inf Bn after a thorough inspection of the area of operations and discussions with the CO, Lt-Col P G C WEBSTER, concerning future operations.</p> <p>Today the SC, Capt F D H WRAY, visited unit adjutants and quartermasters to ensure that unit stores were moving forward satisfactorily and to inspect the new unit B Echelons. Particular attention is being paid at this stage to the rapid moving forward of stores and ammunition ready for the next phase of operations.</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 11 May 45 To 11 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	11 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Overcast and sultry; frequent showers throughout the day.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> Today was a further day of extensive patrolling for all units.</p> <p>24 Aust Inf Bn patrols were again active in the area between the HONGORAI and POROREI rivers SOUTH of BUIN road. One patrol approached very close to the BUIN road but could not get right onto the road owing to extensive enemy activity in the area. A vehicle was heard moving on the road but the patrol was unable to find out what type of vehicle or what duty it was performing. A number of ambushes were set on enemy tracks which approach our company localities and one ambush party killed three enemy who walked into their trap. Two patrols report having observed enemy casually eating lunch or cooking meals and it was obvious the enemy had no idea the patrol was anywhere in the area and also obvious that the enemy was not expecting to be disturbed in such rear areas and had not even taken the trouble to post sentries.</p> <p>58/59 Aust Inf Bn patrols again visited the AITARA track and one patrol observed seven enemy moving NORTH along the track laughing and joking to one another also under the impression that they were well beyond the reach of our patrols.</p> <p>A D Coy patrol from 58/59 Aust Inf Bn operating further SOUTH along the track captured a PW who was walking alone on the track. He was a messenger from the coast watching point at AITARA going to RUNAI with a request for rations. His</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE Date and Time.—From 11 May 45 To 11 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	11 May 45		<p>information proved very valuable as he was able to give exact details of what was at AITARA and also of a signal relaying station along the track where there were four signallers operating a telephone back to HQ 23 Inf Regt from the coast watching point.</p> <p>57/60 Aust Inf Bn patrols again combed the area SOUTH of their positions and on the WEST bank of the HONGORAI and report that the area is now clear of the enemy. Patrols across the HONGORAI made minor contacts only. Artillery harassing fire was employed on enemy positions located by patrols. Enemy artillery was again active and a 150 mm gun fired 27 rounds into 24 Aust Inf Bn area. The shelling was very accurate and caused casualties and damage. It is considered that the enemy employed a tree observation post to direct the shooting.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>Today the GOC First Aust Army, Lt-Gen V A H STURDEE, accompanied by the GOC 2 Aust Corps, Lt-Gen S G SAVIGE, and the GOC 3 Aust Div, Maj-Gen W BRIDGEFORD, visited the brigade area and with the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, moved forward to vicinity ANDERSONS JUNCTION where they made an inspection of recently vacated enemy defensive positions. The party returned to Bde HQ for lunch and the Army Comd discussed the conduct of the operations.</p> <p>This afternoon the Bde Comd visited the Brigade Rest Camp and addressed the occupants on the future role of the brigade and on the part they had played in the already decisive actions which would lead up to the ultimate destruction of Japanese forces on SOUTH BOUGAINVILLE.</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 12 May 45 To 12 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	12 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Overcast with occasional showers.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> 24 Aust Inf Bn today reorganised their company locations and moved A Coy NORTH to establish a company locality on the WEST bank of the HONGORAI approximately 1000 yards NORTH of BUIN road. They now have three companies in position on the WEST bank of the river; C Coy having moved into the position vacated by A Coy. Patrols again crossed the HONGORAI to obtain the latest information of the enemy's activities and to investigate the result of air strikes on the known enemy positions astride the BUIN road between the HONGORAI and POROREI rivers. One patrol moved forward with a mortar officer who used Auster aircraft to range his mortars accurately onto the enemy positions. Today patrols made more contacts with the enemy than on any previous day's patrolling. Almost every patrol that crossed the HONGORAI river made a contact either with an enemy position or an enemy patrol. All indications are that the enemy is moving additional troops forward to reinforce present forces on the HONGORAI and are feverishly preparing defensive positions before our troops cross the river. Patrols report enemy positions astride BUIN road accurately bombed and shelled but enemy are still in position in strength in astride BUIN road on top of a high feature approximately 800 yards from the HONGORAI ford. One recon patrol took up a position in dense undergrowth from which they could observe BUIN road and spent the night there. In the early hours</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 12 May 45 To 12 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	12 May 45		<p>of the morning they observed a party of 20 enemy moving WEST along the road. It was after daylight but the enemy were moving two abreast and taking no precautions against attack. One soldier of 24 Aust Inf Bn who had been missing for 3 days following a patrol clash in the MARTINS CROSSING area was found today by a 58/59 Aust Inf Bn patrol. He had been wounded in the leg during the patrol clash and had managed to crawl away. Four enemy followed him and he killed three of them. Using his Owen gun as a crutch he slowly made his way through the jungle until finally picked up by the patrol.</p> <p>58/59 Aust Inf Bn patrol to AITARA established a patrol nase from which they will operate against the AITARA coast watching point and signal station in accordance with the information supplied by PW. In an abandoned position seven graves were found less than one week old.</p> <p>The 57/60 Aust Inf Bn patrol that moved out acting on PW information to set an ambush for a ration party due to return today from RUNAI took up a position astride COMMANDO road where they spent last night and waited through the morning until 1145 hrs when a party of 11 enemy carrying heavy packs walked into the ambush. The patrol opened fire killing 9 of the 11. The enemy fired only two shots in reply.</p> <p>Periodical artillery harassing fire was put down throughout the night on known enemy positions and two airstrikes were made against the main enemy locations.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>The GSO I 3 Aust Div, Lt-Col F G HASSETT and the AA & QMG,</p>	


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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 12 May 45 To 13 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	12 May 45		<p>Lt-Col T H WINCHESTER, visited the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER today. The Bde Comd outlined his plans for the crossing of the HONGORAI river and discussed tactical and administrative problems with the divisional staff officers. The main features of the tactical plan were to hit hard with all available support once patrols had determined exactly where the enemy strong points were. The vigorous patrolling of the last few days will continue.</p>	
	13 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Overcast and sultry; occasional showers.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> The first crossing of the HONGORAI river on the main axis occurred today when D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn, with covering fire from C Coy locality on the western bank, crossed the river and established a company locality on the EAST bank without encountering opposition. Prior to the advance artillery carried out a softening up programme in the area. Immediately on establishment of the company locality patrols pushed forward to locate the enemy. Contact was made by two patrols one operating each side of BUIN road. The enemy was found to be in a strong and extensive position on the top of a high ridge. Heavy fire was brought to bear on both patrols when they tried to approach close to the enemy position. Patrols today report much increase in enemy activity generally. Contacts were made with several large forces and there were fierce clashes and on two occasions, one of our patrols had to fight its way out after being encircled by a large enemy party.</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 13 May 45 To 13 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	13 May 45		<p>This afternoon two enemy guns shelled D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn locality without causing casualties or damage. During the late afternoon enemy patrols were active around our company localities but dispersed when fired on.</p> <p>Patrolling of the MARTINS CROSSING area was carried out today by 58/59 Aust Inf Bn. Their patrol reported the crossing clear and no sign of recent enemy movement in the area. D Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn moved forward and occupied the position vacated by D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn. No contacts were made today by 58/59 Aust Inf Bn patrols but many reports were received of recently vacated enemy positions and signs of recent movement SOUTH of BUIN road on both sides of the HONGORAI. A further five enemy were seen moving south along the AITARA track. No report has yet been received from a patrol despatched this morning to investigate the information supplied by the PW yesterday and to attack the coast watching point at AITARA and the signal station on the track.</p> <p>57/60 Aust Inf Bn patrols today went further afield on the eastern side of the HONGORAI. One patrol contacted a strong enemy force in the vicinity of the HUDA river and after a fierce engagement returned to the battalion. A further patrol operating in the same area found that the enemy had vacated their position and found one badly wounded enemy at the scene of the patrol clash. He was captured and taken to MDS for medical treatment. Two main enemy positions have been located on COMMANDO road by patrols and both have been subjected to heavy artillery concentrations. One patrol, while returning to</p>	


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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AID) Date and Time.—From 13 May 45 To 14 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	13 May 45		<p>company, sighted 8 enemy sheltering from rain in a hut. The patrol carefully took up a fire position then opened fire killing the whole 8.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>Today the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, visited the GOC 3 Aust Div, Maj-Gen W BRIDGEFORD, at divisional HQ. During the afternoon the DA & QMG 2 Aust Corps, Brig B W PULVER, visited the Bde Comd and introduced his successor, Brig S F LEGGE. The Bde Comd outlined his policy of administration and supply during the present campaign and his intentions for future actions. Particular emphasis was laid on the policy of constructing dropping grounds as far forward as possible and continuously moving supply installations forward to reduce transport problems.</p>	
	14 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u></p> <p>Fine and hot.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u></p> <p>As a preliminary softening up of enemy positions forward of 24 Aust Inf Bn 64 Corsairs today attacked known enemy positions on EGANS RIDGE and EAST of the POROREI ford. Immediately following the air strikes, 24 Aust Inf Bn patrols moved out to investigate the effect of the bombing. Under cover of a mortar bombardment, an armoured patrol moved forward from D Coy and made contact with the enemy still in position on EGANS RIDGE. The patrol observed that the enemy were extremely well dug in and had tunnelled into the ridge to construct their positions. One tank became bogged and while</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 14 May 45 To 14 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	14 May 45		<p>it was being extricated the enemy attacked the armoured patrol. Withering fire from tank and infantry weapons drove off the attack and the tank was extricated. The enemy then shelled the area and one shell fell on the open turret of the tank. The enemy shelling was extremely accurate and obviously controlled from a forward observation post. The patrol returned to D Coy locality and the enemy continued to shell the company area. Other patrols contacted the enemy still in occupation of their positions in the vicinity of the POROREI ford.</p> <p>The front line broadcasting unit made another surrender broadcast to the enemy in position on EGANS RIDGE.</p> <p>Acting on the information supplied by the PW captured on 11 May, 58/59 Aust Inf Bn patrol attacked the signal station on the AITARA track and killed the three signallers who were found there. Also, a telephone was captured. The other portion of the patrol which had moved to the coast at AITARA failed to locate the coast watching point as described by the PW and returned reporting the AITARA area to be clear of enemy.</p> <p>Routine patrolling by 57/60 Aust Inf Bn continued in the RUMIKI area and artillery and mortar concentrations were brought down on known enemy positions also as part of the general softening up programme EAST of the HONGORAI.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u> This morning the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, was visited by the GSO I 3 Aust Div, Lt-Col F G HASSETT, for a further discussion of plans for the crossing of the HONGORAI. This is</p>	


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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 14 May 45 To 15 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	14 May 45		<p>considered a very vital phase of the operation and the Bde Comd emphasised the need for the maximum amount of artillery and air support to be made available for the preliminary softening-up programme.</p> <p>The Bde Comd called a conference of unit COs at which CO 24 Aust Inf Bn, Lt-Col A J ANDERSON; CO 57/60 Aust Inf Bn Lt-Col P G C WEBSTER; CO 58/59 Aust Inf Bn, Lt-Col W M MAYBERRY; OC B Sqn 2/4 Aust Armd Regt, Maj K M ARNOTT; and the BM, Maj H G ROBSON, attended. The Bde Comd outlined his plan and gave a detailed review of enemy and topographical information relevant to the operations. The Commanding Officers then studied all available maps and air photographs of the area and made all necessary arrangements for complete co-ordination between units and between infantry and tanks. Administrative and supply problems were also discussed.</p>	
	15 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Fine in the morning; heavy showers during afternoon.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> Engineers of 15 Aust Fd Coy have commenced work on the task of construction of an L of C from which the infantry battalions can make their outflanking move and assault on enemy positions EAST of the POROREI river. Assisted by unit pioneer platoons the engineers are cutting a road for tanks and jeeps through dense jungle and over innumerable small watercourses to a point SOUTH of the junction of the HONGORAI and POROREI rivers where a crossing will be constructed. While this task is proceeding aircraft and artillery continue</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 15 May 45 To 15 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	15 May 45		<p>with the large scale softening-up programme including the ceaseless pounding of EGANS RIDGE by bombers, artillery and mortars. Fighting patrols from both units are active and continue to follow up each airstrike or artillery bombardment and report if the enemy is still in position. The enemy on EGANS RIDGE is holding out stubbornly and our patrols come under heavy fire immediately they approach the position.</p> <p>The AITARA patrol returned to 58/59 Aust Inf Bn bringing with it a captured JUKI, 3 rifles, a telephone and a quantity of documents. During its return the patrol ambushed two small enemy parties.</p> <p>Today 57/60 Aust Inf Bn D Coy made an encircling move to the NORTH and, without encountering any enemy opposition, established a company locality on the WEST bank of the HONGORAI at DURHAMS CROSSING. An A Coy patrol to determine whether enemy are still in occupation of the position astride COMMANDO road on the EAST bank of the HONGORAI found that the outer line of defences had been vacated but the enemy were still in occupation of the inner defences. The position had been devastated by our bombing and shelling.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>The GOC 3 Aust Div, Maj-Gen W BRIDGEFORD, accompanied by Comd 29 Aust Inf Bde, Brig N W SIMPSON, visited the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER and after preliminary discussions at Bde HQ the party moved forward to inspect preparations being made for the assault on the HONGORAI river.</p> <p>Further representations were made today to HQ 3 Aust Div</p>	


Malcolm Coyt

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 15 May 45 To 16 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	15 May 45		<p>for action to be taken to remedy the shortages of stationery required for intelligence purposes. The previously acute shortage of dyeline and other reproductive materials has eased a little but a good standard black ink is still unprocurable also chinagraph pencils and talc. The necessity for improvising has unduly increased the work of draughtsmen in the brigade.</p>	
	16 May 45		<p><u>WEAPONS</u> Fine and hot.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> 24 and 58/59 Aust Inf Bns both carried out intensive patrolling programmes today to keep the enemy occupied while construction of the tracks SOUTH from BUIN road to the crossing of the HONGORAI proceeded. Many contacts were made in widely dispersed areas which kept the enemy guessing as to our intentions.</p> <p>Deep patrols from 24 Aust Inf Bn cut enemy signal lines well behind their forward positions.</p> <p>The softening up programme with artillery, air and mortars continued today and once again bombers pounded the enemy positions on EGANS RIDGE. These enemy positions are particularly well constructed and have withstood shelling and mortaring continuously for several days. Patrols to the position again today found the enemy still in occupation.</p> <p>58/59 Aust Inf Bn patrols were again operating from their patrol base SOUTH of the HONGORAI POROREI river fork towards the AITARA track.</p> <p>Detailed reconnaissances of the areas over which the</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 16 May 45 To 16 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	16 May 45		<p>forthcoming operation will be conducted were made by company commanders of 24 and 58/59 Aust Inf Bns.</p> <p>Today 57/60 Aust Inf Bn continued patrolling EAST of the HONGORAI and the softening up of known enemy positions.</p> <p>All units are concentrating on reorganisation of their B Echelons and the movement forward of all necessary stores to accompany the battalions on their cross country moves.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>The GOC 3 Aust Div, Maj-Gen W BRIDGEFORD, accompanied by the AA & QMG 3 Aust Div, Lt-Col WINCHESTER, visited the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER and then with the Bde Comd continued their inspection of the forward units by visiting 57/60 Aust Inf Bn to observe the preparations being made for the large scale advance planned in the COMMANDO road area.</p> <p>This afternoon the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, paid another visit to the 15 Aust Inf Bde Rest Camp and had a talk with the men who are resting. He outlined the part the brigade had played in the SOUTH BOUGAINVILLE campaign and how vital the work of the men of the brigade had been.</p> <p>To mark the commencement to-morrow of another major phase in the operation the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, issued an Order of the Day to all ranks of the brigade group. A copy of the Order is attached as appendix.</p>	
	17 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u></p> <p>Fine and hot; rain during the night.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u></p> <p>As a result of excellent planning based on information</p>	<p>Appx. 7 </p>

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 17 May 45 To 17 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	17 May 45		<p>obtained from extensive reconnaissance and from interrogation of prisoners of war, 57/60 Aust Inf Bn made a spectacular advance of approximately 4000 yards along COMMANDO road within striking distance of the important OSO track junction. The advance was preceded by an airstrike of 32 aircraft and an extensive artillery programme covering all known enemy positions. As a result of the employment of this firepower the enemy were forced to abandon their strong positions and only slight opposition met the battalion as it advanced. The HONGORAI river proved an insurmountable barrier to tanks and also the HUDA river with its 60 feet sheer banks rendered the employment of tanks in the operation impossible. By 1700 hrs D Coy was established on its ultimate objective the TOROBIRU river following a wide outflanking move to the NORTH. The other companies have cleared the enemy from the positions they previously occupied astride BUIN road and the battalion's task is completed.</p> <p>On the BUIN road axis 24 and 58/59 Aust Inf Bns continue their extensive patrolling to obtain additional information and to keep the enemy occupied while engineers are making rapid progress with the mammoth task of constructing tank and jeep tracks through the heart of the jungle to an assembly areas across the HONGORAI river from which both battalions can assault the enemy strong points from the flanks and rear. Many contacts with the enemy were made but not major actions have been reported. Enemy artillery was active again and 24 Aust Inf Bn area was shelled this afternoon by an enemy 150 mm gun. No damage was caused and no casualties inflicted.</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 17 May 45 To 17 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	17 May 45		<p>8 enemy walked into a 58/59 Aust Inf Bn ambush but owing to the Bren jamming when the ambush was sprung, 6 of the enemy got away. Small parties of enemy have frequently appeared along the track behind the forward battalions apparently with the intention of disrupting the L of C. So far all their efforts have been unsuccessful. On several occasions they have fired on jeep trains but apart from damaging the wheel of one jeep trailer have not achieved anything.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>The Bde HQ today moved from GALVINS CROSSING and occupied a new site at KEKRO creek from which it will operate for the HONGORAI operation. The site has been prepared by an advance party under the command of Capt A E LEFFERS, Bde Hyg Officer and was ready for occupation by the command group by 1500 hrs today.</p> <p>During the move of the HQ the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, visited the MDS at TOKO for lunch and visited the men of the Brigade who are at present in the MDS.</p> <p>During the afternoon the Bde Comd went to 58/59 Aust Inf Bn and inspected the progress made in the preparation for the outflanking move and assault on the HONGORAI.</p> <p>The OC 15 Aust Fd Coy, Maj J G NEEDHAM, made a detailed report to the Bde Comd this afternoon concerning the progress made in the construction of the roads to the battalion assembly areas and on the progress in the main L of C road.</p>	

Needham
Capt

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(Adapted)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 18 May 45 To 18 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	18 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Fine and hot.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> 58/59 Aust Inf Bn made the first move of their outflanking operation today when the road to their assembly areas on the WEST bank of the HONGORAI was completed. The whole unit moved from the company localities on BUIN road and at the conclusion of the day the battalion less C Coy was concentrated in the assembly area. Protective patrols operated ahead of the battalion and the move was made without any contact with the enemy indicated that the preparations over the past several had been carried out without the enemy's knowledge. C Coy continued to move forward across the HONGORAI and established a company locality astride the AITARA track. Patrols from C Coy moved SOUTH along the AITARA track and in addition to ambushing an enemy party of seven moving NORTH, the patrol contacted a strong enemy position astride the track. The position was registered by a mortar OP with the patrol and then the patrol moved to a flank to attack. While doing so, a further enemy strong point was encountered and the patrol withdrew to allow an artillery forward observation officer to engage the position.</p> <p>The 57/60 Aust Inf Bn carried out consolidation and reorganisation following their spectacular advance along COMMANDO road and moved their companies forward to consolidate in a strong battalion defensive locality in the vicinity of TOROBIRU river. Today the enemy were much more active and as</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 18 May 45 To 18 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	18 May 45		<p>B Coy commenced to move forward a strong counter attack was launched. After repelling the counter attack B Coy moved forward and encountered a strong enemy defensive position which had been established astride the road between B And D Coy. An intensive bombardment with mortars forced the enemy to abandon this position and withdraw to positions on high ground on the NORTH side of COMMANDO road. The enemy was still in position when B Coy dug in for the night. By the end of the day D Coy was complete on the TOROBIRU river and C Coy had moved forward and occupied the position vacated by D Coy.</p> <p>24 Aust Inf Bn carried out an extensive patrol programme during the day to divert the enemy's attention from the moves of 58/59 Aust Inf Bn. Patrols operating EAST of the HONGORAI made several contacts with strong enemy patrols and one patrol contacted a very strong horseshoe shaped enemy position and had to fight their way out when in danger of being surrounded. This position is considered to be the northern limit of the enemy's EGANS RIDGE defences, and is reported to be tunnelled into the side of the escarpment. The patrol reported a heavy stench of enemy dead around the position probably due to some enemy being buried in their positions during the heavy air bombardments. A patrol to investigate the result of an air strike on MARTINS CROSSING reported the strike very accurate and that the enemy had abandoned the area. Signs of recent movement EAST were seen.</p>	

Palmer
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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 18 May 45 To 19 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	18 May 45		<p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>Lt-Col CHALLEN, LO 1 2 Aust Corps, arrived at Bde HQ this morning to spend two days and observe the operations. The Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER outlined the scheme for the assault on the HONGORAI and Lt-Col CHALLEN visited 24 and 58/59 Aust Inf Bns.</p> <p>Maj GROVER from MGO Branch LHQ visited the BM, Maj H G ROBSON, and the SC, Capt F D H WRAY, and discussed the position regarding the weapons and equipment and asked for any suggestions arising out of present operations. Accompanied by the LO I, Capt V PASSLOW, Maj GROVER visited each of the infantry battalions where various suggestions were made for improvements or additions to equipment.</p> <p>During the afternoon the GSO I, Lt-Col F G HASSETT and the AA & QMG, Lt-Col T H WINCHESTER, visited the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER for final discussions on the HONGORAI river operations.</p> <p>The OC 266 Aust LAD, Capt L J BRENCHLEY, reported that considerable difficulty was being experienced in obtaining certain items of ordnance expense stores. In particular, materials needed for the repair of hydra burners was in very short supply and in most cases some form of improvisation was necessary in order to get the burners at least temporarily functioning. This has caused considerable delay to units in effecting repair of their burners.</p> <p>15 Aust Inf Bde OO 6 for the crossing of the HONGORAI river was issued today and is attached as appendix.</p>	

Appx 8

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Cpt*

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 19 May 45 To 19 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	19 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Fine and hot.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> Today marked the second stage of the HONGORAI river operations when 24 Aust Inf Bn moved to its assembly areas in the fork between the HONGORAI and POROREI rivers. Once again the move was made without any enemy opposition and the surprise element is still being maintained. Simultaneous with this move an armoured patrol from 24 Aust Inf Bn moved to MARTINS CROSSING and there staged a mock attack to create a diversion and to mislead the enemy as to our intentions. The infantry and tanks made full use of their firepower to create the impression that a large force had been operating in the area.</p> <p>58/59 Aust Inf Bn reached another stage in their preliminary moves when they completed the tank crossing over the HONGORAI river and moved the companies with their tanks to fresh assembly areas EAST of the HONGORAI river. C Coy operating on the AITARA track continued to engage enemy parties and cover the main moves of the main body of the battalion.</p> <p>The result of these two moves is that both units are now in their assembly areas and ready for the assault on the BUIN road from the SOUTH. Credit must be given to the engineers and the unit pioneer platoons for their work in the construction of tracks through very difficult country which made these moves possible.</p> <p>The patrol from 57/60 Aust Inf Bn which had moved SOUTH</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 19 May 45 To 19 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	19 May 45		<p>along LITTLES track to assist in the diversionary measures of 24 Aust Inf Bn reached TIGER road and following the air strike in that area moved in to engage any enemy forces that might be operating there. The concentration of 57/60 Aust Inf Bn on the TOROBIRU river is now complete. Bn HQ has moved forward and the battalion is reformed for the next advance. Minor counter attacks and nuisance raids were made by the enemy against company localities on the TOROBIRU river.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>Today the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, visited 24 Aust Inf Bn and 58/59 Aust Inf Bn in their assembly areas and inspected the preparations that had been made for the attack tomorrow.</p> <p>The DDMS 2 Aust Corps, Brig A L DAWKINS, and the ADMS 3 Aust Div, Col F K WALLACE, visited the Bde Comd and discussed tropical disease and general medical problems arising in the present operations. The Bde Comd again outlined his policy for control of all forms of sickness during the early stages of a campaign and attributed the present low sickness rate in the brigade to strict anti-malarial discipline and continuous inspections and compulsory treatment to guard against skin diseases. The main essentials are discipline, good man management and a supply system that ensures a sufficient supply of good foods.</p> <p>This afternoon the GSO III (ops) Capt C GUEST, and the GSO III (Int) Capt A M D McMICHAEL from 3 Aust Div visited the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER to discuss problems which had arisen over the interpretation of sitreps. At the conclusion of the conference the two divisional staff officers were fully conversant with the Bde Comd's policy with regard to sitreps and there is not likely to be any further misunderstanding.</p>	

H. H. Hammer
Capt

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 20 May 45 To 20 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	20 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Overcast and hot; rain during late afternoon.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS.</u> As a sequel to extensive softening up of enemy defences, large scale protective patrolling and thorough reconnaissance 24 Aust Inf Bn, preceded by an air strike, artillery and mortar concentrations and with tank support, made an assault from their assembly areas onto BUIN road from excluding EGANS RIDGE to including POROREI ford. All companies except A Coy reached their objectives without encountering any enemy opposition. During the advance to the objectives full use was made of the covering artillery fire and once again correct use of supporting arms enabled objectives to be secured without casualties. The lack of organised opposition was a clear indication that the attack came as a complete surprise to the enemy and it was not until the companies had secured their objectives that he seemed to be aware of what was happening and lodged a series of desperate counter attacks which were speedily repulsed by our superior fire power. A Coy moved across the POROREI and advanced NORTH along the EAST bank to secure the EAST side of the POROREI ford. During this move the company had to negotiate a very difficult 70 feet escarpment and when approaching their objective on BUIN road were fired on by a strong enemy force well dug in NORTH of the road. Simultaneously the company came under heavy enemy artillery fire and were forced to take up a defensive position on high ground overlooking their objective. Our mortar and artillery fire</p>	

K. D. ... Capt

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 20 May 45 To 20 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			<p>was brought down on the enemy position. D Coy on the WEST side of the ford came under fire from the same enemy force. Inter company contact patrols cleared the road from B Coy just EAST of EGANS RIDGE through to D Coy on the WEST bank of the POROREI river.</p>	
			<p>58/59 Aust Inf Bn remained in their assembly areas while the 24 Aust Inf Bn operations was carried out and sent out protective and harassing patrols. One platoon moved SOUTH along the AITARA track and reached AITARA. The areas was found to be clear of enemy.</p>	
			<p>57/60 Aust Inf Bn patrolled extensively from their positions on COMMANDO road and the patrol in the TIGER road area contacted several small enemy parties and carried out the diversionary role allotted to it. One patrol penetrated the area where the enemy 6 Div HQ was reported and sighted what appeared to be a party of enemy staff officers carrying highly polished leather brief cases and escorted by a party of 10. The patrol engaged killing what appeared to be the senior officer of the group and four of the escort.</p>	
			<p>Immediately there were sounds of a large force standing to, whistles were blowing and there were sounds of sudden activity. The patrol made its escape and returned to its company.</p>	
			<p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>The GOC 3 Aust Div, Maj-Gen W BRIDGEFORD, accompanied by the GSO 1, Lt-Col F G HASSETT, visited the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, and congratulated him on the success of the first phase of the HONGORAI operation. Everything had gone</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 20 May 45 To 21 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	20 May 45		<p>according to plan and the operation was a tribute to the good planning, preparation and administration and to the determined fighting of the troops. The GSO I remained overnight at Bde HQ and will move out early tomorrow morning to move with 58/59 Aust Inf Bn when they make their attack.</p>	
	21 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Fine and hot; heavy rain during late afternoon.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> While 24 Aust Inf Bn were consolidating in their positions gained yesterday and engaging enemy forces in the POROREI ford area, a further surprise blow was delivered when 58/59 Aust Inf Bn moved NORTH from their assembly areas preceded by artillery concentrations and secured their objectives along BUIN road from excluding the POROREI ford to including the AITARA track junction. C Coy moving on the western flank after overcoming several tank obstacles struck a strong enemy party on the SOUTH side of BUIN road. After overcoming their initial surprise at being attacked from the SOUTH the enemy force resisted fiercely against the attack. After several attempts to outflank and two hours hard fighting C Coy secured its objective. The remaining companies reached their objectives without opposition, but A Coy was strongly attacked from the NORTH soon as they had reached the objective. Contact patrols then operated along BUIN road and struck a strong enemy position between A and D Coys. This was attacked by an A Coy patrol supported by intense fire from tanks moving along the road. After heavy fighting the enemy were driven</p>	

Adams
Capt

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 21 May 45 To 21 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	21 May 45		<p>from this position and the road was cleared between the company localities. Captured equipment during the day's operations included 1 70 mm battalion gun with 100 rounds ammunition, 1 double barrelled HMG with 7 boxes ammunition, 7 rifles and many maps and documents.</p> <p>With covering fire from D Coy and the tanks A Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn continued the advance to clear the enemy from their position on the NORTH side of BUIN road on the eastern side of the POROREI river. The enemy position consisted of approximately 30 pillboxes and the resistance was very strong. By the end of the day after very hard fighting the company succeeded in forcing the enemy to withdraw and secured the company objective. An armoured patrol moving from B Coy along BUIN road towards EGANS ridge was held up by a large tank ditch across the road. After negotiating the ditch the patrol was savagely attacked by the enemy. This attack was quickly repulsed and the advance continued. After proceeding a further 30 yards the leading tank exploded a land mine consisting of three 75 mm shells. One track of the tank was broken but was repaired on the spot. Engineers with mine detectors found many more improvised mines which were destroyed. Throughout the day tree snipers were very active and during the late afternoon enemy artillery fired into several company localities. Again the accuracy of the fire indicated the use of tree observers with communications to the guns.</p> <p>57/60 Aust Inf Bn was limited to patrol activity today. Several contacts were made in the KOPINKO area and FOOs brought down artillery concentrations on enemy located by patrols.</p>	


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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 21 May 45 To 22 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	21 May 45		<p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>The ADMS 3 Aust Div, Col WALLACE, visited the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, then proceeded to 58/59 Aust Inf Bn where he met the GSO I, Lt-Col F G HASSETT.</p> <p>The CCRE, Brig J E MANN, with the CRE 3 Aust Div, Lt-Col G T COLEBATCH, visited the Bde Comd and discussed the progress of the three ton road construction WEST of the HONGORAI and what the policy for road construction would be EAST of the HONGORAI. Owing to the much improved condition of BUIN road the policy decided on was to widen the existing road EAST of the POROREI to three ton standard.</p>	
	22 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u></p> <p>Overcast and showery.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u></p> <p>At this stage the only remaining enemy strong point in the vicinity of the HONGORAI river was cleared. After another heavy air strike and after almost ceaseless pounding for three days by artillery and mortars, an armoured patrol from C Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn advanced along BUIN road and occupied EGANS RIDGE. The enemy positions had been practically obliterated and the whole areas was littered with fallen trees and debris. In the last airstrike on this position SAP bombs were used and these caused terrific craters which exposed the positions the enemy had tunnelled into the face of the escarpment. There was a strong stench of enemy dead around the position but owing to the state of devastation and the fact that the majority of the positions were buried it was</p>	

M. Durr
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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 22 May 45 To 22 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	22 May 45		<p>not possible to search the positions for bodies or equipment which may have been buried there. Having cleared this position the battalion continued consolidation on its objectives and on opening the BUIN road through from the HONGORAI to the POROREI. A Coy crossed BUIN road and occupied the enemy position on the NORTH side that had opposed their advance for two days. Enemy artillery fired intermittently throughout the day without causing any damage or casualties. While a tractor train was moving stores forward from the 58/59 Aust Inf Bn assembly areas to their new positions on BUIN road an enemy party with a 47 mm tank attack gun attacked the tractor which was damaged by a hit from the 47 mm gun. A patrol from the tank attack platoon attacked and dispersed the enemy force and captured the 47 mm gun. The clearing on BUIN road continued today and many more mines and booby traps were detected. Protective patrols covering the consolidation operations made several contacts with small enemy parties.</p> <p>57/60 Aust Inf Bn continued patrolling in the OSO and TONNU areas with minor contacts. 17 Platoon preceded by mortar concentrations advanced along COMMANDO road to contact the enemy position confronting D Coy. Contact was established and the platoon tried to outflank without success. Artillery concentration was brought down on the position and the platoon again engaged. After fierce fighting the platoon broke contact and returned to D Coy having inflicted casualties on the enemy.</p> <p>Three PW were captured during the day; 2 by 58/59 Aust Inf Bn and 1 by 57/60 Aust Inf Bn.</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 22 May 45 To 23 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	22 May 45		<p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>The GOC 3 Aust Div, Maj-Gen W BRIDGEFORD, paid another visit to the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, and after a discussion on the successful HONGORAI operations, the GOC and Bde Comd proceeded to 24 Aust Inf Bn. Enroute the GOC inspected enemy positions on EGANS RIDGE.</p> <p>During the day the AQMG 2 Aust Corps, Lt-Col COURT, accompanied by the A/DAQMG 3 Aust Div, Capt N W GIDDINGS, visited the Bde HQ and later inspected maintenance and supply installations in the area.</p> <p>Copy of signal sent to all units laying down operational tasks to be commenced today is attached as appendix.</p>	
	23 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u></p> <p>Overcast and showery.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u></p> <p>As a result of general reorganisation of 58/59 Aust Inf Bn today the southern end of the OSO USO track is now secured. Two companies moved to new locations to the NORTH side of the road. Patrols moved EAST along BUIN road without any major contacts and engineer parties worked thoroughly through the battalion area clearing many mines and booby traps which still remained on the side of the road. In the late afternoon enemy artillery fired 15 150 mm shells in the battalion area cutting communications to brigade HQ. During the night sounds were heard of an enemy prime mover moving along the AITARA.</p> <p>24 Aust Inf Bn continued with a thorough search of their battalion area and found 2 75 mm gun positions with quantity</p>	Appx 9

McDermott
Capt

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 23 May 45 To 23 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	23 May 45		<p>of ammunition left in each. Additional mines and booby traps were found in the area and a jeep crossing over the POROREI river was completed. Throughout the night enemy harassing fire fell in A and D Coy areas in the vicinity of POROREI ford but no damage was caused.</p> <p>57/60 Aust Inf Bn continued their extensive patrolling programme in the KOPINKO - OSO area with only minor contacts. So far there have been no indications of any large enemy forces operating on the axis of COMMANDO road. Further attempts were made to investigate the area of 6 Div HQ and investigate the result of yesterday's patrol action, but patrols were unable to reach the area.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>The CRA 3 Aust Div, Brig K E O'CONNELL, visited the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, and discussed employment of artillery generally. It was arranged that on the next move of the brigade HQ the complete Fd Regt HQ would move into the same area so as to be available on the spot for close liaison. At present the CO 2 Aust Fd Regt, Lt Col PARKER, has a command group at Bde HQ.</p> <p>This afternoon, Lt-Col W M. CHALLEN, LO I 2 Aust Corps, called at Bde HQ before returning to HQ 2 Aust Corps. Lt-Col CHALLEN witnessed the whole of the HONGORAI operations of 24 and 58/59 Aust Inf Bns.</p> <p>Attached as appendix is warning order issued to the brigade group for the movement of D Coy PIB to in support 58/59 Aust Inf Bn and for operations to secure the OSO USO track. Patrol responsibilities for units were also laid down.</p>	Appx 10

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form G:2118.
(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 24 May 45 To 24 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	23 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Fine and hot.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> Thorough examination has now been made by 24 Aust Inf Bn of the enemy positions on EGANS RIDGE. Following this examination it is easy to understand how the enemy held out for so long in face of the intense bombardment by bombers, artillery and mortars. The positions were very strongly constructed with solid overhead cover and in many cases tunnelled in deep under the ground giving almost complete immunity from normal bombing and shelling. Apart from normal protective patrolling the battalion spent the day resting and reorganising.</p> <p>58/59 Aust Inf Bn continued aggressive patrolling against enemy forces still operating in the TOHU area. Several enemy harassing parties have been active against the company localities and our patrols are combing the area to endeavour to locate them. There were two patrol clashes during the day and in one of them a PW was taken. As from yesterday D Coy 1 PIB came under command of the brigade and will resume the role previously carried out by A Coy NGIB. Today the company commenced its first two patrol tasks, one of which was to move via TIGER road and search the OSO area, particularly to ascertain if 6 Div HQ is still in the area and the second to move SOUTH of BUIN road through 58/59 Aust Inf Bn to the MAMAGOTA track thence NORTH to the general areas of TAITAI junction and MONOITU mission.</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 24 May 45 To 24 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	24 May 45		<p style="text-align: center;">57/60 Aust Inf Bn continued with patrol plans in the OSO KOPINKO and RABAUl areas, which included thorough reconnaissance of the OSO USO track junction and on the northern end of the track with a view to occupation. Minor contacts only were made with the enemy.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u> Following the move of A Sqn 2/4 Aust Armd Regt into the 3 Div areas as reserve for B Sqn now in operations, Regt HQ has also moved into the area and the CO 2/4 Aust Armd Regt Lt-Col T MILLS visited the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, to discuss employment of tanks in the present operation. The Bde Comd stated he was more than satisfied with the present work being done by B Sqn under Maj K H M ARNOTT.</p> <p>Over the past week there has been a considerable increase in the number of PW taken and the majority of these have surrendered. This is attributed to the steady propaganda campaign which has been conducted by the FELO Front Line Broadcasting Unit and by leaflet dropping. All PW are interrogated as to their reactions to our propaganda and all state that it is beginning to have some effect and is not now being peremptorily discarded as was the case previously. Only severe discipline and continuous supervision by the officers is keeping the desertion rate as low as it is. Many men are still afraid to surrender owing to fear of ill treatment but our propaganda is slowly overcoming this fear.</p> <p>Attached as appendix is letter from the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER to all commanders of 15 Aust Inf Bde Gp complimenting them on the splendid work done in the HONGRAI operations.</p>	
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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 25 May 45 To 25 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	25 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Fine and hot.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> 24 Aust Inf Bn continued with their thorough patrolling of the area NORTH and SOUTH of their battalion locality and searched very thoroughly the area in between the HONGORAI and POROREI rivers to as far NORTH as TIGER road. In this area many vacated enemy positions were found and also many positions which had been prepared and never occupied. This is further evidence that the enemy did not have time to organise the full force that was intended for the defence of the HONGORAI and was forced to fight on that river earlier than was anticipated. A further two 75 mm gun positions were found and also a number of booby traps were found and disarmed.</p> <p>58/59 Aust Inf Bn continued offensive patrolling SOUTH of BUIN road and again checked the AITARA track for any signs of enemy movement. An armoured patrol from A Coy pushing NORTH along the USO OSO track encountered a steep escarpment which required three hours bulldozing before the tanks could proceed. One patrol reached the MAMAGOTA road and contacted an enemy position in the area. On the way back the patrol ambushed and enemy party of 11 killing 5 and wounding 1.</p> <p>Following artillery and mortar harassing fire throughout the night and preceded by softening up from artillery and mortars and MMG, D Coy 57/60 Aust Inf Bn probed forward from the TOROBIRU river through vacated enemy positions for approximately 200 yards. Further enemy strong points were</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 25 May 45 To 25 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	25 May 45		<p>then encountered and the company halted to bring down artillery concentrations on these. Patrols found the enemy still in occupation of a strong defensive position on the NORTH side of COMMANDO road approximately 500 yards forward of the OSO junction. During the day a patrol base was established in the KOPINKO area. For the period of operations ending with the crossing of the HONGORAI casualties inflicted by the brigade on the enemy were 384 killed, 39 wounded and 13 PW.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u> The GOC 3 Aust Div, Maj-Gen W BRIDGEFORD, accompanied by the Comd 29 Aust Inf Bn, Brig N W SIMPSON, visited the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, and future operations were discussed. Following the discussion the GOC left with Brig SIMPSON to make an inspection of units of 29 Aust Inf Bde who had moved up to take over the area WEST of the HONGORAI. After his inspection the GOC returned to 15 Aust Inf Bde HQ where he spent the night.</p> <p>During the day Brig STINTO, Malarialogist from the British Army War Office, together with Lt-Col MCKERRAS, Parasitologist from LHQ, and the ADMS 3 Aust Div, Col F K WALLACE, visited the BdeComd and discussed tropical diseases and medical problems in the tropics generally. Brig STINTO was amazed at the low malarial rate within the brigade and congratulated the Bde Comd on what had been achieved by his policy of strict malarial control and good man management.</p> <p>Attached as appendix is a copy of a singal received by the Bde Comd from the GOC 3 Aust Div expressing his congratulations on the most successful HONGORAI operations.</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 25 May 45 To 25 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	25 May 45		<p>patrols moved along all tracks to locate any enemy positions in the area. No contacts were made. Enemy artillery shelled the battalion area during the afternoon but caused no damage or casualties. This morning a further air strike was employed against the enemy positions between D Coy 57/60 Aust Inf Bn and the OSO junction. Following the bomb strike patrols investigated the enemy positions and found vacated positions with accommodation for approximately 200. While searching the positions one bombdazed Jap was found and taken PW. Patrols probing further forward to locate new enemy positions captured a further PW also slightly bomb dazed. Patrols operating on the SOUTH side of COMMANDO road made several minor contacts. As a result of the patrolling, D Coy less one platoon made a further move forward and occupied the recently vacated enemy positions.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u> Following his overnight stay at Bde HQ, the GOC 3 Aust Div, Maj-Gen W BRIDGEFORD, moved out early with the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER and made an inspection of the forward areas and visited HQ 58/59 Aust Inf Bn on the AITARA track. During the GOC's visit enemy snipers were active around the HQ area. Following his inspection the GOC returned to Bde HQ and the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER returned to Div HQ with the GOC to spend the night there.</p> <p>Following the opening of the BUIN road right through to 58/59 Aust Inf Bn all units have been moving forward their B Echelons and reorganising their lines of communication.</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 26 May 45 To 26 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	26 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Overcast with considerable rain during the day.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> 24 Aust Inf Bn continued patrolling within their unit patrol boundary and found several additional vacated enemy positions but made no contacts with the enemy during the day. After small reconnaissance patrols had probed forward at first light to locate the enemy positions, B Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn commenced to advance along the axis BUIN road with one platoon moving just off the road on each side. On reaching a culvert the leading troops were fired on by enemy from positions on each side of the road and as the culvert proved to be a temporary tank obstacle the company continued the advance without tanks leaving a protective party to cover the tanks and the personnel constructing the crossing. Using mortar support the company cleared the enemy from both sides of the road and occupied their objective in a small garden on the SOUTH side of the road. During the final stages of the advance the platoon moving on the NORTH side of the road exploded a ring of enemy booby traps causing 12 casualties in the platoon including one officer killed. The crossing over the culvert was completed in time for the tanks to move forward and assist in the consolidation by the company. During this advance other companies were carrying out their normal patrol programme and the A Coy armoured patrol was pushing NORTH along the OSO track. The patrol established a base at the track junction where the track forks to USO and OSO and from there reconnaissance</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form G.2118.
(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 26 May 45 To 27 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	26 May 45		The LO 2, Lt R H MATHAMS, has been made responsible for supervision of road construction forward of the HONGORAI river and has been constructing a better jeep crossing over the POROREI which is very fast flowing and vehicles have been experiencing some difficulty in crossing.	
	27 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Overcast and sultry with intermittent showers.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> Long range patrols from 58/59 Aust Inf Bn with PIB personnel attached moved into SIROI and TOMOI river areas and established a patrol base. From the base reconnaissance patrols operated SOUTH towards BUIN road and reported many enemy positions either occupied or in the course of construction along the road between RUNAI and MAMAGOTA junction. When wireless communications failed the FOO with the patrol sent in a message by pigeon which enabled the artillery to engage an enemy concentration located by the patrol. PIB raiding parties attacked two enemy parties and inflicted heavy casualties in short engagements. One large party operating in the TOMOI river area was sighted and followed by a large enemy party. When the party appeared to be evading the enemy an attempt was made to halt the patrol by shelling and 3 rounds 150 mm were brought down in front of the patrol. However, the patrol managed to outwit the enemy and escaped. During the night following intermittent shelling the enemy launched a strong attack against B Coy locality using JUKIs, LMGs and rifles. After a fierce fire fight the enemy was driven off</p>	/s/

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 27 May 45 To 27 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
			<p>by intense fire from tqnk and infantry automatic weapons and by grenades. During the night the enemy cut communications to A and C Coys.</p> <p>Following a further air strike and series of artillery concentrations on the known enemy positions, 57/60 Aust Inf Bn made a further advance along COMMANDO road and without opposition secured the OSO junction. Both ends of the USO OSO road are now occupied. All enemy positions in the junction area had been accurately shelled and there were signs of a very hasty withdrawal. Extensive patrolling was carried out through the day and many vacated enemy positions and one large HQ area were found. One patrol sighted approximately 100 enemy constructing positions SOUTH of the KUTANA river. Owing to enemy interference on the frequency the FOO with the patrol was unable to engage the party.</p> <p>24 Aust Inf Bn carried out limited patrolling during the day without result except for the location of some additional enemy booby traps. As much rest as possible is now being given to 24 Aust Inf Bn personnel.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u> Following his visit to HQ 3 Aust Div, The Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, visited the 15 Aust Inf Bde Rest Camp and then 109 Aust CCS at MOTUPENA POINT. There the Bde Comd visited the wounded from the brigade who were still at the CCS.</p> <p>The DAAG 3 Aust Div, Maj R TOMKINS, visited the Bde Comd to discuss officer promotions throughout the units in preparation</p>	


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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form G.2118.
(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 27 May 45 To 28 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	27 May 45		<p>for a visit by the Military Secretary, Brig A R BAXTER-COX.</p> <p>Following the interrogation of a number of PW captured during the past two weeks it has become evident that our operations have been inflicting far more casualties on the enemy than our records shown, and also the intense bombing and shelling of known positions is breaking down the morale and the will to fight. Two of three PW captured on the COMMANDO road recently were bomb happy, one so much so that he never regained normality and died while still in a completely dazed state.</p>	
	28 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u></p> <p>Fine and hot.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u></p> <p>Feature of today's operations was the opening of the OSO USO road now named HAMMER road. The armoured patrol of 58/59 Aust Inf Bn that was located last night at the USO junction continued to move NE with a bulldozer team. At the URURUR river the patrol linked with a patrol of 57/60 Aust Inf Bn, which was the first link along HAMMER road. This lateral road when opened will replace the HATAI track as the L of C joining the northern and southern axes of advance. The armoured patrol continued to 57/60 Aust Inf Bn at OSO junction and then returned to A Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn. During the return trip the patrol exploded 4 recently laid booby traps on HAMMER road.</p> <p>In addition to extensive patrols SE along BUIN road towards MAMAGOTA junction, 58/59 Aust Inf Bn despatched a patrol along</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form G.2118.
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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 28 May 45 To 28 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	28 May 45		<p>the coast from AITARA to MAMAGOTA. During the coastal patrol a Corsair was observed to make a forced landing on the sea and the patrol kept the pilot under observation until he was rescued by a barge.</p> <p>Reconnaissance patrols of 57/60 Aust Inf Bn pushing forward from OSO junction found the enemy still in occupation of the positions in the vicinity of the URURUR river. A mortar concentration was then brought down on the positions and 9 Platoon commenced to push forward from A Coy locality.</p> <p>The enemy resisted fiercely and 9 pl had to fight every inch of the way to gain their objective. When the pl had consolidated enemy artillery shelled the area. Following this action a strong enemy party crossed the URURUR river and attacked 7 platoon locality but were dispersed with grenades. 7 pl followed up this attack and with mortar support launched a counter attack against the enemy position SE of their locality. Again resistance was very stubborn and after hard fighting 7 pl drove the enemy out of their position. Isolated enemy pockets along the URURUR river were then cleaned out. Enemy harassing fire against A Coy localities continued for three hours but failed to achieve any results. During patrol activities today the enemy again jammed the wireless frequency on which the FOO was operating and prevented fire from being brought down on an enemy position located by the patrol.</p> <p>24 Aust Inf Bn carried out routine patrolling in the HONGORAI POROREI river area and continued the search of all vacated enemy</p>	


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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 28 May 45 To 29 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	28 May 45		<p>positions for equipment or documents. Several gardens were found showing signs of very recent use by the enemy.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>A further 36 reinforcements for the brigade arrived today. They were better clothed and equipped than the previous batches and were posted to the infantry battalions. Following the arrival of these reinforcements the brigade is deficient 310 OR on posted strength.</p> <p>The CRA 3 Aust Div, Brig K E O'CONNELL, visited the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, this afternoon. Very close liaison with the artillery is being maintained throughout the operations resulting in excellent co-operation and a thorough understanding by each service of the problems and requirements of the other.</p>	
	29 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u></p> <p>Fine and hot; showers during the late afternoon.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u></p> <p>Following the captured of a Japanese track map which was translated and reproduced, 58/59 Aust Inf Bn despatched a number of patrols using this map to follow up the tracks shown on the map as being used by the enemy. This map proved to be invaluable for the patrols and it was very easy to follow. One patrol followed up the enemy "C" road which is a main track running parallel to and SOUTH of BUIN road and has been used extensively by the enemy as part of their L of C. While following this road small enemy parties were sighted but the patrol avoided contact so as not to disclose</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 29 May 45 To 29 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	29 May 45		<p>our knowledge of the track. A PIB patrol reached the MAMAGOTA track and reported that it showed signs of very little use by the enemy.</p> <p>Bn HQ 57/60 Aust Inf Bn moved forward to the OSO junction and the reorganisation of the battalion in this area is now complete. Work continues on the opening of HAMMER road and following the linking of patrols work has commenced on the corduroying of the track from the southern end. Several enemy booby traps were found by 57/60 Aust Inf Bn while searching their new areas, and also during the day enemy artillery became more active than they had ever been previously against troops active on the COMMANDO road axis. During the afternoon several concentrations fell in between the company localities but failed to cause any damage or casualties.</p> <p>To relieve 58/59 Aust Inf Bn of the responsibility of opening and maintaining HAMMER road, 24 Aust Inf Bn moved two companies NORTH of BUIN road to take up positions along HAMMER road and relieve A Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn who moved onto BUIN road. 24 Aust Inf Bn will now be responsible for the construction of HAMMER road to link up with 57/60 Aust Inf Bn.</p> <p>D Coy PIB also moved onto HAMMER road today.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>Today the CRE 3 Aust Div, Lt-Col G T COLEBATCH, and the AA & QMG, Lt-Col WINCHESTER, visited the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER to discuss L of C problems and division of responsibility for maintenance of L of C and traffic control between 15 and 29 Aust Inf Bdes.</p>	


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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 29 May 45 To 30 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	29 May 45		<p style="text-indent: 40px;">During recent operations particularly good service has been rendered by 17 Air OP Flight who operate the Auster aircraft for Tac R, Arty R or Mortar R as required. Recently sketches drawn by the pilots while flying over enemy positions have proved most valuable to the troops operating on the ground and give a far better indication of the extent and exact shape of enemy positions than any ground patrol could obtain. A letter of appreciation has been sent to Auster Ops by the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER.</p> <p style="text-indent: 40px;">This afternoon, Lt-Col W M MAYBERRY, visited the Bde Comd and discussed a proposed aerial reconnaissance by Auster the following morning of the area from 58/59 Aust Inf Bn forward to MAMAGOTA road.</p>	
	30 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Fine and hot.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> Two airstrikes were carried out today in close support of 58/59 Aust Inf Bn against the enemy positions astride BUIN road forward of B Coy locality. On the first strike the target was not indicated by smoke so as to achieve the maximum of surprise. When the strike came in there was apparently some error by the aircraft leading the third flight and instead of bombing the target the bombs were dropped between B Coy and Bn HQ. Two bombs which landed right on B Coy's wire were blinks. No casualties to our own troops were caused by the bombing. When the leading aircraft of the third flight came in for the strafing run another mistake was made and the</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 30 May 45 To 30 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	30 May 45		<p>aircraft strafed through the Bn HQ area killing the Bn IO, Lt A B WHEELER and wounding the adjutant, Cpat R L MATHEWS and also wounding 3 OR of Bn HQ. Ground control station immediately cancelled the strike. The second strike later in the morning was against enemy positions further EAST along the BUIN road and carried out without a hitch. Both strikes with the exception of the one flight in the first strike were reported to be very accurate and the bombs landed right on the enemy positions.</p> <p>The coast patrol from AITARA to MAMAGOTA returned today and reported that the track from MAMAGOTA to AITARA had not been used for some considerable time and that the coast watching points along the track had been abandoned. The patrol did not reach right into the MAMAGOTA area but were stopped just NORTH of the area by extensive swamps. Patrols made minor contacts in the area SOUTH of BUIN road.</p> <p>Extensive enemy shelling of 57/60 Aust Inf Bn localities was reported today and on one occasion the battalion HQ area at OSO junction was heavily shelled causing casualties of 2 killed and 7 wounded. Following this shelling Bn HQ changed its position to approximately 400 yards further WEST along COMMANDO road from the OSO junction. Enemy confronting A Coy were active today and patrols probing forward made contact with strong forces. An attempt at a surprise flank attack on A Coy was made but the attack was abandoned when it was prematurely discovered by our troops. One patrol located a probable 75 mm gun position which was engaged by Arty R.</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 30 May 45 To 31 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	30 May 45		<p style="text-align: center;">24 Aust Inf Bn sent contact patrols along HAMMER road to contact 57/60 Aust Inf Bn and continued work on the corduroying of the track.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u> This morning the GSO I 3 Aust Div, Lt-Col F G HASSETT, and the GSO III (AIR) Capt F D PERCIVAL, visited the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER for a discussion on the future policy for air support. It was stated that two additional squadrons of Corsairs were arriving at TOROKINA and that much more air support would be available. The Bde Comd explained his policy of extensive patrolling to both flanks of the main axis to concentrate the enemy in main positions and then employ the maximum support in the form of air or artillery as was available. It was when these locations were located that the maximum air support would be requested. The GSO I agreed that when such targets were available close support missions should have priority over strategical targets in the allotment of aircraft.</p> <p>The CO 58/59 Aust Inf Bn, Lt-Col WM MAYBERRY, visited the Bde Comd on his return from his aerial reconnaissance and also discussed the reorganisation of his Bn HQ following the loss of the adjutant and intelligence officer.</p>	
	31 May 45		<p><u>WEATHER</u> Fine and hot.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS</u> Today and outflanking move on the NORTH side of BUIN road was made by C and D Coys of 58/59 Aust Inf Bn to gain a further</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 31 May 45 To 31 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	31 May 45		<p>1500 yards along BUIN road. Once again the move took the enemy by surprise and no opposition was encountered until the company objectives were gained. A Coy moving from HAMMER road took over the company locality vacated by D Coy. Both companies commenced patrolling immediately they were consolidated in their positions and report many vacated enemy positions along BUIN road forward of B Coy locality all of which had been very recently occupied. Several positions were found to be heavily booby trapped but in one position a prime mover was found also booby trapped but in working order. A jeep train moving along HAMMER road struck an enemy mine consisting of a 75 mm shell with pull wire attachment. The mine was detonated by one enemy hiding in a hole on the side of the road just as the jeep passed over it. The jeep was damaged but is repairable and the enemy who operated the mine was sighted and killed.</p> <p>Today B Coy 57/60 Aust Inf Bn moved SW along HAMMER road and established a company locality 1000 yards SW from OSC junction. The company will assist in the opening and construction of HAMMER road. Patrols operating from the remaining companies made minor contacts with the enemy but no strong enemy positions were contacted. One patrol reported sighting a small enemy party digging in on a newly cut track along which trees were marked with phosphorous.</p> <p>During the move of B Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn onto HAMMER road to take over the company locality vacated by A Coy 58/59 Aust Inf Bn one jeep exploded an enemy mine. No casualties were caused and only very minor damage done to the jeep.</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

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Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 31 May 45 To 31 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	31 May 45		<p>Further very large vacated enemy positions were found by 24 Aust Inf Bn patrols operating in the area NORTH of BUIN road. Parts of a 75 mm gun very badly rusted were found in one position.</p> <p>Enemy artillery fired several concentrations during the day, the majority of the rounds falling in the 57/60 Aust Inf Bn area. An increase in the number of blinds fired by enemy 75 mm guns has been noticed recently, but with 150 mm guns the percentage of blinds still remains very small.</p> <p><u>GENERAL</u></p> <p>Today the Military Secretary, Brig A R BAXTER-COX, visited the Bde Comd, Brig H H HAMMER, and discussed the officer position within the brigade, officer promotions and the problems generally regarding the posting of officers.</p> <p>Later in the morning the Bde Comd and the Military Secretary visited 58/59 Aust Inf Bn where there was a similar discussion with the CO, Lt-Col W M MAYBERRY.</p> <p>In order to keep up with the continuous forward movement of the infantry battalions a new dropping zone has been opened at the POROREI river, and also 15 Aust Fd Amb has moved its ADS forward to the same area. Also as part of the general forward movement, two batteries of 2/11 Aust Fd Regt are in the process of moving forward to the vicinity of the POROREI river which enables them to bring down fire onto the areas where our deep patrols are operating.</p>	

Adams
Capt

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 31 May 45 To 31 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	31 May 45		OOB and unit strengths as at 31 May 45 are as follows:	
			OOB	
			Strengths	
			Offrs OR	
			HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) 19 100	
			15 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec (AIF) 2 47	
			14 pl 2/1 Aust Gd Regt 1 28	
			24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) 27 579	
			57/60 Aust Inf Bn 36 611	
			58/59 Aust Inf Bn 31 620	
			B Sqn 2/4 Aust Armd Regt 14 99	
			15 Aust Inf Bde Flamethrower Pl 1 18	
			Det 3 Aust Div Pro Coy (AIF) 1 14	
			D Coy 1 PIB 5 121	
			266 Aust LAD (AIF) 1 20	
			15 Aust Inf Bde LOB Gp 6 74	

[Handwritten Signature]
Capt

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 31 May 45 To 31 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	31 May 45		<u>COMMAND AND STAFF - 15 AUST INF BDE</u>	
			<u>HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde</u>	
			Comd Brig H H HAMMER	
			BM Maj H G ROBSON	
			BM(L) Capt F D H WRAY	
			SC Capt S W HOSKING	
			SC(L) Lt N D ANDERSON	
			IO Capt N S DUN	
			LO Capt V PASSLOW	
			LO Lt R H MATHAMS	
			LO Lt F J NORRIE	
			BASCO Capt F G FORD	
			Legal Capt F B TREATT	
			Edn Lt N A CHETTLER	
			Amenities Lt D M WHITE	
			Hyg Offr Capt A E LEFFERS	
			<u>24 Aust Inf Bn</u>	
			CO Lt-Col A J ANDERSON	
			2IC Maj W A CRONK	
			Adjt Capt A W C BUNSELL	
			IO Lt F P CONNOR	
			QM Lt D G DENT	

*Edmund
Capt*

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C.2118.
(Adapted.)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit HQ 15 AUST INF BDE (AIF) Date and Time.—From 31 May 45 To 31 May 45

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
	31 May 45		<u>57/60 Aust Inf Bn</u>	
			CO Lt-Col P G C WEBSTER	
			2IC Maj D D PITT	
			Adjt Capt R M MARTIN	
			IO Lt A P HAMILTON	
			QM Capt D L THOMAS	
			<u>58/59 Aust Inf Bn</u>	
			CO Lt-Col W M MAYBERRY	
			2IC Maj H G SWEET	
			Adjt Capt H J SHROSBREE	
			IO Lt J R ROE	
			QM Capt N D DEMPSTER.	
			Attached also are the following documents covering the month of May 45:	
			15 Aust Inf Bde Intelligence Summaries	Appx
			15 Aust Inf Bde Intreps	Appx
			15 Aust Inf Bde Routine Orders	Appx
			AF W3008	Appx

[Handwritten Signature]
Capt

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

16/45 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 5/5/1945 **HQ 15 Aust 51st Bde (AIF)** (Unit)

W.E. 11/2/4 OFFRS. 19 O.R's. 66 + OFFRS. O.R's. ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
1 Rein'ts Required.	2 Deficient W.E.	3 Surplus to W.E.	4 Posted Strength.		6 Arm or Corps.	7 Posted Strength.	8 Surplus to W.E.	9 Deficient W.E.	10 Rein'ts Required.
1			1	Brigadier					
			1	Lieut.-Colonels					
2	1		1	Majors					
10	2	1	10	Captains					
6	1	2	6	Lieutenants					
				Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
19	4	3	18						

DETAIL.	A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL.
A.	18									18
E.(1)										
E.(2)										

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
NIL					

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
NIL					

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. / /194

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
NIL			

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 5 5 /194 5 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
Col (T/Brig)	VX24325	HANSEN	H H	COMD	YES		
T/Maj	VX6440	ROBSON	H O	BM	"		
Capt	VX3367	GRAY	F D H	BM(L)	"		
Lt	VX838	HOSKING	S W	SC	"		
Lt	VX104065	ANDERSON	N D	SC(L)	"		
Capt	VX161551	LUN	NS	IO	"		
Capt	VX102652	FRASER	R J W	TO	"		
Lt	OX33921	MATHIAS	R H	LO	"		
Lt	HX114337	MORRIS	F J	LO	"		
Lt	HX76326	PASSLOW	V	LO	"		
Chaplain 4th Class	EX9912	MEYER	V F	Padre No		Duty 57/60 Bn	6/10/44
"	HX174886	MCCOOKER	J F	"	"	" 24 Bn	20/3/45
"	VX114251	SMITHSON	H T	"	"	" 58/59 Bn	16/2/44
Capt	HX12028	FORD	F G	BASCO	Yes		
"	HX131713	TRENT	F B	Legal	"		
Lt	HX58415	CHASTLE	N A	EDN	"		
Lt	VX51 950	WHITE	D H	ANEN	"		
Capt	VX108849	LEFFERS	A B	Ryg	"		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
Lt	HX17238	BOGALY G R	2 Pd Regt	14/4/45	duty
B2/44	MF	ANDERSON A F	Pub Rel	16/4/45	Accredited War Correspondent
MF	B3/365	BOULDERCROFT V A	"	"	"
MF	B3/404	MATHERS A J	"	"	"
MF	B3/417	NELSON R J	"	20/4/45	"
Capt	EX25464	PLUNGER A P	E Sec 63	26/3/45	duty

ADU

5 May 45
Date of Despatch

J. W. Hosking Capt
Signature of Commander

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

18 / 45 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 5 / 5 / 1945 ^{1st 15 Aust} ^{5th Div (AIF)} (Unit)

W.E. 11 / 2 / 4 . OFFRS. 19 O.R's. 66 + OFFRS. O.R's. ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
WE	Rein'ts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'ts Required.
1				1	Brigadier					
2		1		1	Lieut.-Colonels					
10		2	1	10	Majors					
6		1	2	6	Captains					
					Lieutenants					
					Quarter-masters					
					A.A.N.S and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
					Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
19		4	3	18						

	DETAIL.	A.I.P.	C.M.P.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	••	TOTAL.
Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).	A.	18									18
	E.(1)										
	E.(2)										

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
 ** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
			NIL		

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
			NIL		

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. / / 1945

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
			NIL

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 5 5 /194 5 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
Col (T/Brig)	VX24325	HARRIS	H H	COND	YRS		
T/Maj	VX6440	ROBINSON	H O	BN	"		
Capt	VX3367	GRAY	F D H	BN(L)	"		
Lt	VX838	HASKING	S W	SC	"		
Lt	VX104065	ANDERSON	H D	SC(L)	"		
Capt	VX101551	DUN	NS	IO	"		
Capt	VX102652	FRASER	R J W	TC	"		
Lt	OX33921	MATHIAS	R H	LO	"		
Lt	VX114337	MORRIS	F J	LO	"		
Lt	VX76326	PASLOW	V	LO	"		
Chaplain 4th Class	EX9912	MEYER	V F	Padre No		Duty 57/60 Bn	6/10/44
"	VX174886	McCOCKER	J F	"	"	" 24 Bn	20/3/45
"	VX114251	SMITH	H T	"	"	" 58/59 Bn	16/2/44
Capt	VX12028	FORD	F O	BASCO	Yes		
"	VX131713	SMITH	F B	Legal	"		
Lt	VX58415	CHESTER	N A	Edn	"		
Lt	VX51 950	WHITE	D H	Arms	"		
Capt	VX108249	LEFFERS	A B	Hyg	"		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
Lt	VX17238	MAGUIRE G R	2nd Pd Regt	14/4/45	duty
B2/444	EX	ANDERSON A F	Pub Rel	16/4/45	Accredited War Correspondent
MP	B3/365	HOULDRIFT V A	"	"	"
MP	B3/404	HARRIS A J	"	"	"
MP	B3/437	HARRIS R J	"	20/4/45	"
Capt	EX29484	PLUMMER A P	Sec 63	26/3/45	duty

5 May 45

Date of Despatch

Truth—7/43.

S. W. Hasking
Signature of Commander

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

19 45 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 12 / 5 / 194 5 HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) (Unit)

W.E. 11 / 2 / 4 OFFRS. 19 O.R's. 88 + OFFRS. - O.R's. - ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.					
Rein'ts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'ts Required.	
WE										
1			1	Brigadier						
2	1		1	Lieut.-Colonels						
10	2	1	10	Majors						
6	1	2	6	Captains						
				Lieutenants						
				Quarter-masters						
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.						
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.						
19	4	3	18							
				DETAIL.	A	B				TOTAL.
				A.	18	-				18
				E.(1)						
				E.(2)						

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
NIL					

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
NIL					

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. / / 194

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
NIL			

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 12/5/1945 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (Insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
Col (Trig)	VX24325	HAMMER	H H	Comd	Yes		
Capt (T Maj)	WX6440	ROBSON	H G	EM	"		
Capt	VX3367	WRAY	F D H	EM(L)	"		
Lt (T Capt)	DX838	HOSKING	S W	SC	"		
Lt	VX104065	ANDERSON	N D	SC(L)	"		
Capt	NX101551	DUN	H S	IO	"		
Capt	VX102652	FRASER	R J W	TO	No	MDS	5/5/45
Lt	NX76326	PASSLOW	V	LO	Yes		
Lt	QX33921	BATHAMS	R H	LO	"		
Lt	NX114337	NORRIE	F J	LO	"		
Chaplain 4th class	SX9912	MEYER	V F	Padre	No	Duty 57/60 Bn	6/10/44
"	NX174886	MCCOSKER	J F	"	"	" 24 Bn	20/3/45
"	VX114251	SHOTTON	H T	"	"	" 58/59 Bn	16/2/44
Capt	WX12028	FORD	F O	BASCO	Yes		
Capt	NX131713	TREATT	F B	Legal	"		
Lt	NX58415	CHETTLE	N A	Edn	"		
Lt	VX31950	WHITE	D M	Amer	"		
Capt	VX108249	LEPPERS	A E	Hygiene	"		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
Lt	NX17238	MCCAULY G R	2nd Regt	14/4/45	Duty
Capt	SX25464	PLUMMER A P	63 Dental	26/3/45	"
MP	B3/444	ANDERSON A P	Public	16/4/45	Accredited War Correspondent
MP	B3/404	BATHERS A J	Regt	"	"
MP	B3/417	NELSON R J	"	20/4/45	"
Lt	SX23588	FARRELL T.H	PUBLIC RELATIONS	16/4/45	"

May 45
Date of Despatch

J. W. Hosking
15 Aust Inf Bde
Signature of Commander

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

19 / 45 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 12 / 5 / 1945 . HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) (Unit)

W.E. 11 / 2 / 4 . OFFRS. 19 O.R's. 66 + OFFRS. - O.R's. - ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
	Rein'ts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'ts Required.
WE										
1				1	Brigadier					
2		1		1	Lieut.-Colonels					
10		2	1	10	Majors					
6		1	2	6	Captains					
					Lieutenants					
					Quarter-masters					
					A.A.N.S and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
					Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
19		4	3	19						

	DETAIL.	A	A.I.P.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	••	TOTAL.
	Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).	A.	19									
	E.(1)											
	E.(2)											

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
 ** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
		NIL			

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
		NIL			

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. / / 194

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
		NIL	

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 12/5/1945 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
Col (T Brig)	VX24325	HANMER	H H	Comd	Yes		
Capt (T Maj)	WX6440	ROBSON	H G	EM	"		
Capt	VX3367	WRAY	F D H	EM(L)	"		
Lt (T Capt)	DX833	ROSKING	S W	SC	"		
Lt	VX104065	ANDERSON	N D	SC(L)	"		
Capt	NX101551	DUN	H S	IO	"		
Capt	VX102652	FRASER	R J W	TO	No	WDS	5/5/45
Lt	NY76326	PASSLOW	V	LO	Yes		
Lt	QX33921	WATHAMS	R H	LO	"		
Lt	NX114337	MORRIS	F J	LO	"		
Chaplain 4th Class	SY9912	MEYER	V F	Padre	No	Duty 57/60 Bn	6/10/44
"	NX174886	McCOSKER	J F	"	"	" 24 Bn	20/3/45
"	VX114251	SMOTTON	H T	"	"	" 58/59 Bn	16/2/44
Capt	NX12028	FORD	F O	BASCO	Yes		
Capt	NX131713	TREATT	F B	Legal	"		
Lt	NX58415	CHITTLE	N A	Edn	"		
Lt	VX31950	WHITE	D H	Amen	"		
Capt	VX108249	LEFFERS	A E	Hygiene	"		

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
Lt	NX17338	MCCAULY G R	2nd Regt	14/4/45	Duty
Capt	SY25464	PLUMMER A P	63 Dental	26/3/45	"
MP	52/444	ANDERSON A F	Public	16/4/45	Accredited War Correspondent
MP	53/404	MATHERS A J	Regt	"	"
MP	53/417	NELSON H J	"	20/4/45	"
Rt	SX23588	FARRELL T.H	PUBLIC RELATIONS	16/4/45	

J. W. Heskling Capt
15 Aust Inf Bde
Signature of Commander

May 45
Date of Despatch

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

20 43
...../.....(Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 19/ 5 /194 5 ^{20 15 Aug 45} Inf Bde (AIF) (Unit)

W.E. 11 / 2 / 4 OFFRS. 19 O.R's. 68 + OFFRS. - O.R's. - ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Rein'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required.
1			1	Brigadier.					
2	1		1	Lieut.-Colonels					
10	2	1	10	Majors					
6	1	1	5	Captains					
				Lieutenants					
				Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
19	4	2	17						

DETAIL.	A	A.I.F.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL
A.	17	-									17
E.(1)											
E.(2)											

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
			N I L		

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
VX102652	Capt	FRASER R J W	2/1 AGH	13/5/45	Shrapnel wound Right leg

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. / /194

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
		N I L	

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 19 5 / 194 5 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
Col (TPrig)	VX34326	HARMER	H H	Comd	Yes		
Capt (TMaj)	WX3440	ROBSON	H G	EM	"		
Capt	VX3367	FRAY	F D H	EM(L)	"		
Lt (T Capt)	DX333	HOSKING	B W	SC	"		
Lt	VX104055	ANDERSON	H D	SC(L)	"		
Capt	HX101551	DUN	H S	IO	"		
Lt (T Capt)	HX73325	PASSLOW	V	IO	"		
Lt	QX33921	MATRANS	R H	LO	"		
Lt	HX114537	MORRIS	F J	LO	"		
Chaplain 4th Class	SX9312	MRYER	V F	Padre	No	Duty 57/60 Bn	6/10/44
"	HX174086	MCCOSKER	J F	"	"	" 24 Bn	20/3/45
"	VX114251	SHOTTON	H T	"	"	" 58/59 Bn	16/2/46
Capt	WX12026	FORD	P G	BASCO	Yes		
"	HX131713	TREATT	F B	Legal	"		
Lt	HX35415	CHITTLE	N A	Edn	"		
"	VX31950	WHITE	D M	Amen	"		
Capt	VX103249	LEFFERS	A R	Hyg	"		
Capt	VX102658	FRASER	R J W	TO		X List	

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
Lt	NX17238	MCGAULY G R	2 Bn	14/4/45	Duty
Lt	SX23533	FARRELL T H	Public	16/4/45	
Maj	B3/417	NELSON R J	"	20/4/45	Accredited War Correspondent
Lt	NX23634	MacLEAN I	24 Bn	23/3/45	15 Bn - Flamethrower Pl
Capt	SX25464	PLIMMER A P	E Sec	25/3/45	Duty
Lt	NX104985	HIGGINS F J	3 Div	30/3/45	Duty

19 May 45
Date of Despatch

S. W. Hocking Capt
HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde
Signature of Commander

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

Army Form W.3008
(Adapted) (Page 1)
(Revised Jan., 1943)

20 45
...../..... (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 19 / 5 / 1945 ^{HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)} (Unit)

W.E. 11 / 2 / 4 OFFRS. 19 O.R.'s. 68 + OFFRS. - O.R.'s. - ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
WE	Rein'ts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'ts Required.
1				1	Brigadier.					
2		1		1	Lieut.-Colonels					
10		2	1	10	Majors					
6		1	1	5	Captains					
					Lieutenants					
					Quarter-masters					
					A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
					Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
19	4		2	17						

	DETAIL.	A	A.I.F.	B	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL.
Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for completion of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).	A.	17											17
	E.(1)												
	E.(2)												

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
 ** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
NIL					

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
VX102652	Capt	FRASER R J W	2/1 AGH	13/5/45	Shrapnel wound Right Leg

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. / / 194

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
NIL			

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) Unit

20 25 (Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 19 / 5 / 1945 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
Col (TBrig)	VX24326	HARNER	H H	Comd	Yes		
Capt (TMAJ)	WA6440	ROBSON	H G	EM	"		
Capt	VX3367	WRAY	F D H	EM(L)	"		
Lt (T Capt)	DX553	HOSKING	S W	SC	"		
Lt	VX104065	ANDERSON	H D	SC(L)	"		
Capt	NX101551	DUN	H S	IO	"		
Lt (T Capt)	HA76326	PASSLOW	V	LO	"		
Lt	QX33921	MATHIAS	R H	LO	"		
Lt	NX114337	MORRIS	F J	LO	"		
Chaplain 4th Class	SX9012	MEYER	V F	Padre	No	Duty 57/60 Bn	6/10/44
"	NX174386	MCCOSKER	J P	"	"	" 24 Bn	20/3/45
"	VX114251	STOTTON	H T	"	"	" 58/59 Bn	16/2/46
Capt	WX12028	FORD	F G	BASCO	Yes		
"	NX131713	TREATT	F B	Legal	"		
Lt	NX58415	CHESTER	N A	Edn	"		
"	VX31950	WHITE	D M	Amen	"		
Capt	VX108249	LEFFERS	A E	Hys	"		
Capt	VX102652	FRASER	R J W	TO		X List	

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
Lt	NX17238	MCCARTHY G R	2 Fd Regt	14/4/45	Duty
Lt	SX23583	FARRELL T H	Public Rel	16/4/45	
Mr	BS/417	NELSON R J	"	20/4/45	Accredited War Corres
Lt	NX23634	MacLEAN I	24 Bn	23/3/45	15 Bde Flamethrower Pl
Capt	SX25484	PLIMMER A P	E Sec	26/3/45	Duty
Lt	NX104985	HUGGINS F J	63 ADU 3 Div Pro	30/3/45	Duty

19 May 45
Date of Despatch

D. W. Hosking
Signature of Commander
30 15 Aust Inf Bde

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

... 21/1/45 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 26/5/1945 ^{Inf Bde (ATP)} (Unit)

W.E. 11/2/4 OFFRS. 19 O.R's. 66 + OFFRS. - O.R's. - ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Rein'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required.
			1	Brigadier					
				Lieut.-Colonels					
	1		1	Majors					
10	2	1	10	Captains					
6	1	1	5	Lieutenants					
				Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
19	4	2	17						

DETAIL.	A	A.I.P.	O.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	**	TOTAL
A.	17	-									17
E.(1)											
E.(2)											

Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.E. Forces

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
			NIL		

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
			NIL		

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. / / 194

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
			NIL

SC 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF) Unit

21 45
.....(Serial No.)

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 26/5/1945 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
Col (TM-1g)	WX24325	HARRIS	H H	Comd	Yes		
Capt (TM-1j)	WX6440	ROBSON	H G	BM	"		
Capt	VX3367	FRAY	F D H	BM(L)	"		
Lt (TCapt)	WX838	HOSKING	S W	SC	"		
Lt	VX104063	ANDERSON	H D	OC(L)	"		
Capt	WX101551	DUN	H S	IO	"		
Lt (TCapt)	WX76326	PASSLOFF	V	LO	"		
Lt	OX33921	MATHIAS	R H	LO	"		
Lt	WX114337	HARRIS	F J	LO	"		
Chaplain	WX9912	MEYER	V P	Padre	No	Duty 57/60 Bn	6/10/44
4th class	WX174886	McCOSKER	J P	"	"	" 24 Bn	20/3/45
"	VX114251	SHYPTON	H T	"	"	" 58/59 Bn	16/2/44
Capt	WX12028	POPE	P G	BASCO	Yes		
"	WX131713	TREATH	F B	Legal	"		
Lt	WX58415	CHITTLE	H A	Edn	"		
"	VX31950	WHITE	D M	Amn	"		
Capt	VX108269	LEFFERS	A B	IVS	"		
Capt	VX102652	FRASER	R J W	TO	No	X Listed (Hospital)	

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
MP	WX123	OTRAWAY H L	Pub Rel	18/5/45	Accredited War Corres
Lt	WX104985	HUGHES P J	3 Div	30/3/45	Duty
Lt	WX23634	McLENNAN I	24 Bn	23/3/45	OC 15 Bde Flamethrower Pl
Capt	WX202098	MCDONOUGH H	63 ADJ	23/5/45	Duty

26 May 45
Date of Despatch

J. W. Hosking Capt
SC 15 Aust Inf Bde
Signature of Commander

FIELD RETURN OF OFFICERS

21/45 (Serial No.)

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 26/5/1945 ^{1st 15 Augst} ^{Inf Bde (ATP)} (Unit)

W.E. 11/2 / 4 . OFFRS. 19 O.R's. 66 + OFFRS. - O.R's. - ATT. BY W.E.

PART A.—POSTED STRENGTH, SURPLUS OR REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W.E. EXCLUDING ATTACHED.				DETAIL.	ATTACHED ALLOWED BY W.E.				
Rein'fts Required.	Deficient W.E.	Surplus to W.E.	Posted Strength.		Arm or Corps.	Posted Strength.	Surplus to W.E.	Deficient W.E.	Rein'fts Required.
			1	Brigadier					
				Lieut.-Colonels					
	1		1	Majors					
	2		10	Captains					
	1	1	5	Lieutenants					
				Quarter-masters					
				A.A.N.S. and A.A.M.W.S. Offrs.					
				Civilians Counting as Offrs.					
			17						

WB
1
2
10
6
19

	DETAIL.	A.I.P.	C.M.F.	A.W.A.S.	A.A.N.S.	A.A.M.W.S.	CIVIL.	R.A.N.	R.A.A.F.	..	TOTAL.
Analysis of Part A to be shown here by ALL units. Only units notified in para. 10 of instructions for compilation of form will complete Part E(1) & E(2).	A.	17	-								17
	E. (1)										
	E. (2)										

* Insert detail of higher ranks as necessary.
** Personnel belonging to a category not provided for in the analysis will be shown in this Col. Particulars will be shown, e.g., 20 U.K. Forces; 10 N.Z. Forces

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

OFFICERS JOINED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit From.	Date.	CAUSE.
			NIL		

OFFICERS QUITTED DURING WEEK.

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	Unit To.	Date.	CAUSE.
			NIL		

PART C.—DESCRIPTION OF OFFICERS WHOSE RETURN TO (Unit) IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED. / / 194

Army No.	Rank.	Name and Initials.	REMARKS (e.g., present whereabouts if known).
			NIL

PART D.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ON POSTED STRENGTH

At 0600 Hrs. Saturday 26/5/1945 (Total to agree with Columns 4 and 7 of Part A.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank if Held.	Army Number.	Surname.	Initials.	Posting.	Whether present with Unit (insert Yes or No)	If not present with Unit, state how employed.	Date of Detachment.
Col (TA-1g)	VX24325	HAMMER	H H	Comd	Yes		
Capt (TA-1)	VX6440	ROBSON	H G	BM	"		
Capt	VX3367	WRAY	F D H	BM(L)	"		
Lt (TCapt)	DX838	HOSKING	S W	SC	"		
Lt	VX104065	ANDERSON	H D	SC(L)	"		
Capt	HX101551	DUE	H S	IO	"		
Lt (TCapt)	HX76326	PASJLOH	V	IO	"		
Lt	QX33921	MATHIAS	R H	IO	"		
Lt	HX114337	HORRIS	F J	IO	"		
Chaplain 4th class	GX9912	MEYER	V P	padre	No	Duty 57/58 Bn	6/10/44
"	HX174886	McCORKER	J P	"	"	" 24 Bn	20/3/45
"	VX114251	SHYPTON	H T	"	"	" 58/59 Bn	16/2/44
Capt	VX12028	FORD	F G	MAOCC	Yes		
"	HX131713	TREATT	F B	Legal	"		
Lt	HX58415	CHEFFIE	B A	Edn	"		
"	VX31950	WHITE	D H	Amn	"		
Capt	VX108269	LEPPERS	A B	HYE	"		
Capt	VX102652	Fraser	R J W	TO	No	X Listed, (Hospital)	

PART E.—NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS ATTACHED FROM OTHER UNITS.

Substantive Rank and Higher Temporary Rank, if Held.	Army Number.	Name and Initials.	Unit.	Date of Attachment.	Nature of Attachment.
Mr	WC123	OTRAWAY H L	Pub Rel	18/5/45	Accredited War Corres
Lt	HX104985	HUGGINS F J	3 Div	30/3/45	Duty
Lt	HX23634	MOLAN I	24 Bn	23/3/45	OC 15 Bde Flamethrower Pl
Capt	HX202098	McDONOUGH H	C Sec 63 ADJ	23/3/45	Duty

26 May 45
Date of Despatch

J. W. Hosking Capt
83 15 Aust Inf Bde
Signature of Commander

War diary

MESSAGE FORM

04-310 L

FROM: 15 inf bde
 TO: 24 inf bn 58/59 inf bn 6 tp B sqn 2/4 armd regt
 8 tp B sqn 2/4 Armd regt
 INFO: 57/60 inf bn 2 fa regt 15 inf bde sig sec B sqn 2/4
 armd regt 15 fa coy 11 fa amb det ANGAU 3 div
 29 inf bde

COPIES: COMD SC file War Diary

GS 268 . SECRET . WARNING ORDER . 24 inf bn and 58/59 inf bn will prepare to continue adv to HONGORAI crossing 943433 . on completion of following ops rear bdy 58/59 inf bn will probably be a NE SW line through 905452 . arty are to occupy areas THOMAS and DICKIE clearings commencing 7 may . 24 inf bn . one . adv one coy 1000 yds fwd of present FDL on 5 may with in sp one tp tks . two . one tp tks will move from 58/59 inf bn to A coy 24 inf bn tks may be used to patrol fwd to most fwd coy . three . on 6 may bn adv to line of HONGORAI river at crossing 943433 with air arty and tk sp . four . in accordance with situation after 6 may move one coy to each flank NORTH and SOUTH of HONGORAI crossing on WEST bank of river forming a strong bn def locality as a base for further ops and patrolling to EAST of HONGORAI . if suitable this op may commence on 7 may . 58/59 inf bn . one . as coy areas 24 inf bn become vacant occupy with coys 58/59 inf bn . two . NORTH flank coys at THOMAS and DICKIE clearings will NOT be moved until ordered by this HQ . if situation changes above orders may be varied by mutual arrangement of units and this HQ .

ALL ACK all infm

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

Originator's instrs
 Degree of Priority

IMPORTANT
to a/c command
addresses.

Signed

A. Anderson

Lt

15 AUST INF BDE GS INST. 1/45

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)

5 May 45

HOSTILE SHELLING REPORTS

- 1 Hostile shelling in some form has been experienced practically every day since operations commenced but very little information of value has been submitted by units.
- 2 To enable rapid and accurate counter battery fire to be brought down, units should endeavour to submit as many shelling reports as possible from different points and so assist the artillery in pinpointing enemy guns. The more widely dispersed are the reporting points the better is the intersection of bearings.
- 3 Bearings may be obtained from groove, flash or sound. The groove bearing is one taken along the groove made in the ground by an unexploded shell and is usually a very reliable bearing.
- 4 To simplify submission of these reports, a specimen pro forma is attached and also a specimen signal which shows how the pro forma is used for submission by signal.
- 5 Shelling reports should be signalled direct to 2 Aust Fd Regt on immediate priority and repeated to this HQ for information.
- 6 All companies should be informed of the value of shelling reports and encouraged to submit them regularly. In many cases in the past, speedy and accurate counter battery fire has been successful in silencing enemy guns, and it is considered that the full co-operation between infantry and artillery will do much to reduce hostile shelling to a minimum.

[Signature]
Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)	(7)
57/60 Aust Inf Bn	(7)
58/59 Aust Inf Bn	(7)
2 Aust Fd Regt	
RAA 3 Aust Div	
File	(2)
War Diary	(2)

HOSTILE SHELLING REPORT

A Time from
B Time to
C Map ref of observer
D Area shelled
E Number and nature of guns
F Number of rounds
G Damage done
H Bearing (flash, sound or groove)
I Nature of fire

If answer to some items cannot be supplied, state 'unknown'.

SPECIMEN ONLY

MESSAGE FORM

FROM inf bn TOO 252346L
TO 2 fd regt
INFO 15 inf bde

GI999. CONFIDENTIAL. hostile shelling. A 252310L. B 252345L.
C 845406. D sq 8340. E 150 mm 2 guns. F approx 40 rounds.
G nil. H sound 175 degrees mag. I unknown

If liable to be intercepted or
fall into enemy hands, this msg
must be sent in CIPHER

Originator's instrs
Degree of Priority

IMMEDIATE

Wardian

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: APPOINTMENTS AND UNIT CODE NAMES

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
G824
5 May 45

1 Subtended is list of code names at present operative within 3 Aust Div.

2 Appointments

CODE NAME	APPOINTMENT		
	Bde, etc	Bn, regt, etc	Bty, Coy, etc
SUNRAY	Comd	CO	OC
SUNRAY MINOR		2IC	2IC
SEAGULL	BM	Adjnt	
SEAGULL MINOR	BM(L)	A/Adjnt	
MOLAR	SC	QM	QMS
MOLAR MINOR	SC(L)		
ACORN	IO	IO	
PRONTO	Sig offr	Sig offr	
PLAYTIME	BASCO		
RICKSHAW	BOWO		

All other officers will answer by name.

3 Units

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

CODE NAME	UNIT
BULLDOG	HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde
GREYHOUND	24 Aust Inf Bn
REINDEER	57/60 Aust Inf Bn
STALLION	58/59 Aust Inf Bn
TOMCAT	14 pl D Coy 2/1 Aust Gd Regt
TORTOISE	15 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec
SNOWDROP	15 Aust Fd Amb
RAMROD	266 Aust LAD
ROVER	A Coy 1 NG Inf Bn

(b) 29 Aust Inf Bde

CODE NAME	UNIT
BATTLEAXE	HQ 29 Aust Inf Bde
THUNDERBOLT	15 Aust Inf Bn
HURRICANE	47 Aust Inf Bn
CYCLONE	42 Aust Inf Bn 61 Aust Inf Bn
BUCKINGHAM	15 pl 2/1 Aust Gd Regt
ROCKET	29 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec
AVALANC	7 Aust Fd Amb
BLUEBELL	2/1 Aust LAD

All other units will answer in clear.

(c) Div Troops

CODE NAME	UNIT
S..INT	2/8 Aust Cdo Sqn
BISCUITS	B Sqn 2/4 Aust Armd Regt
SHELDRAKE	2 Aust Fd Regt
VULCAN	U Aust Hy Bty
MENDER	5 Aust Fd Coy
SHIFTER	11 Aust Fd Coy
BUILDER	15 Aust Fd Coy
WRECKER	23 Aust Fd Coy

Anderson Lt
for Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

- 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)
- 57/60 Aust Inf Bn
- 58/59 Aust Inf Bn
- 15 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec (AIF)
- 14 pl 2/1 Aust Gd Regt
- 15 Aust Fd Amb (AIF)
- Comd
- BM
- SC
- IO
- TO
- LO (3)
- B.SCO
- File (2)
- War Diary (2) ✓

War Diary

15 AUST INF BDE REST CAMP STANDING ORDERS

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)

7 May 45

1 OBJECT

This camp has been opened with the object of providing relaxation and rest from operational conditions for personnel from forward units for a few days and to give them a break from normal routine.

2 DAILY TIME TABLE

Reveille	0715 hrs
Breakfast	0745 "
Administration parade	0830 "
Lunch	1230 "
Evening meal	1730 "
Atebrin parade	1805 "

3 SECURITY

- (a) Between 1900 hrs and 0700 hrs a picquet of 2 men will patrol the area.
- (b) Duration of picquet - 2 hours.
- (c) Picquets will be armed, if possible, with OSMGs.
- (d) Magazines will be charged but the weapons will NOT be loaded.
- (e) Troops proceeding outside the camp boundaries will do so in NOT less than parties of 3, all of whom will be armed. Magazines will be charged but the weapons will not be loaded.

4 DRESS

- (a) Between the hours of sunrise and sunset dress will be optional with the exception of parades when trousers, shirts and hats will be worn.
- (b) Between the hours of sunset and sunrise all malarial precautions will be observed.

5 LINES

- (a) An orderly kit lay-out will be carried out and lines must be kept clean and tidy.
- (b) Camp inspection will be made at 1000 hrs daily.

6 SWIMMING

OC Rest Camp will arrange for personnel to swim in parties of NOT less than 3, and if possible will have two competent swimmers available for rescue work.

7 MALARIAL PRECAUTIONS

- (a) The normal malarial precautions will be observed.
- (b) Troops will apply mosquito repellent at 2 hourly intervals between the hours of sunset and sunrise unless under mosquito nets.

(c) Nets will be erected and tucked in by 1730 hrs daily.

8 RAP

Hours 0900 to 0930 hrs
1600 to 1630 hrs

9 POSTAL

(a) Mail will be placed in the orderly room for censoring by 0830 hrs daily.

(b) Stamps may be purchased at the canteen.

(c) Telegram forms are available from the orderly room.

10 CANTEEN

Hours 1030 to 1100 hrs
1630 to 1700 hrs

11 HAIRDRESSER

(a) Hours 0900 to 1600 hrs.

(b) NO charge will be made.

12 Q STORE

(a) Any unserviceable clothing may be exchanged at the Q store between 0900 and 1000 hrs daily.

(b) Soap, kerosene etc can be obtained between same hours.

13 ADMINISTRATION PARADE

(a) Dress as laid down above. Weapons will be carried.

(b) Troops and weapons will be inspected.

(c) Overseas and local news will be read out.

(d) Sport will be arranged for the day.

14 EDUCATION SERVICE

(a) Talks will be given at which attendance is voluntary.

(b) A library of 200 books is provided. Troops will not remove books from the camp.

15 AMENITIES SERVICE

(a) Quantities of sporting gear and fishing gear will be available on application at orderly room.

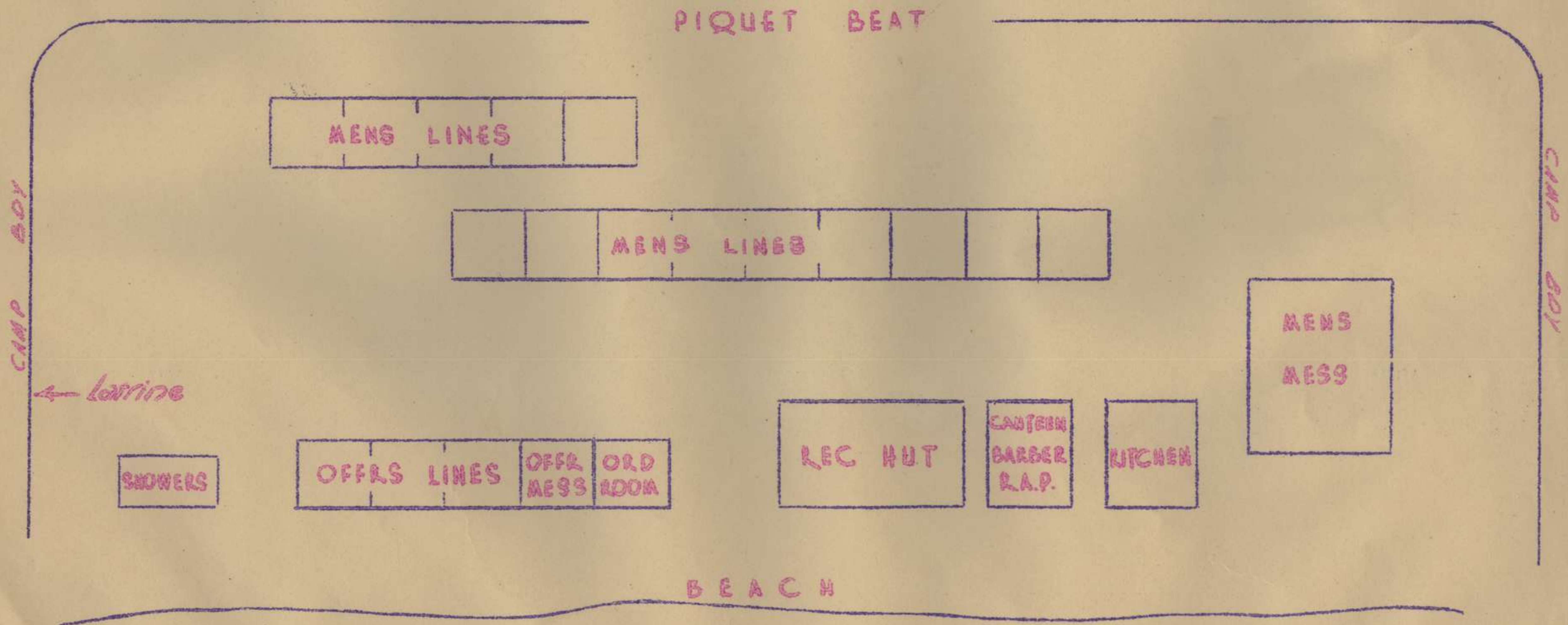
(b) The Amenities Officer is responsible for sporting and amenities equipment. He will pay frequent visits to the Brigade Rest Camp to ensure they are provided.

[Signature]
Capt
SC 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)	Comd
57/60 Aust Inf Bn	BM
58/59 Aust Inf Bn	SC
Rest Camp	(12) File
	War Diary (2)

SKETCH of REST AREA



War Diary

15 AUST INF BDE GS INSTR 2/45

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)

8 May 45

LOST AND CAPTURED EQUIPMENT

1 LOST EQUIPMENT

- (a) Recent translations of enemy documents indicate that he has captured, and is using, a considerable number of automatic weapons and other equipment captured from our troops.
- (b) In future the loss in action of the following stores will be signalled to reach this HQ immediately the loss is known:
- (i) automatic weapons;
 - (ii) artillery weapons;
 - (iii) wireless and technical equipment;
 - (iv) vehicles.

2 CAPTURED ENEMY EQUIPMENT

- (a) It must be borne in mind that captured equipment is NOT automatically the property of the unit capturing it. All such equipment which is serviceable and capable of use in the field must be disposed of in accordance with established procedure. Such procedure permits issues to units when necessary.
- (b) Units will, in future, submit by signal a return of enemy equipment captured the preceding month to reach this HQ by the 2nd of each month.

[Signature]
Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)
57/60 Aust Inf Bn
58/59 Aust Inf Bn
15 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec (AIF)
266 Aust LAD (AIF)
det ANGAU
Comd
SC
File
War Diary (2) ✓

War Diary

ORDER OF THE DAY

by

BRIGADIER H H HAMMER

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
16 May 45

TO ALL RANKS
15 AUST INF BDE GROUP

Thursday, 17 May 45, marks the opening of the Brigade offensive against the Japs between the HONGORAI and HARI rivers. It is the second phase of our attack to destroy the enemy. Already you have inflicted very heavy casualties against the Jap with more effect than most of you realise. You have won the patrol battle and you have herded the enemy into areas where our firepower - tanks, bombers and artillery - can do most damage and we must continue to do this to achieve the best and quickest results.

Your fighting to date has been marked with great gallantry courage and determination. I have never before, in this war, seen such comradeship and the spirit of self-sacrifice to help one another as you have displayed. Not only have you my undying admiration and praise but you have the admiration of everyone who has worked with you, seen you and heard of you.

Such a spirit marks you as men of character and quality who, as well as being a dominant factor in war, will be a great influence on the Australian community in peace.

The whole Brigade will play its part in the forthcoming battle. The next few weeks may see the major defeat of the Japs in SOUTH BOUGAINVILLE and the next few days will be the real testing time. It will be hard but your determination, courage and comradeship will carry you through most successfully.

The Air Force, Artillery, Tanks, . . . Engineers and Supply units are supporting you to the utmost limit and you can be sure I will leave nothing undone to ensure that every support possible is given to you.

You are all now experienced soldiers. Fight wisely; use all your ingenuity in battle; strike hard when you get the opportunity; resist together when things are tough and follow up every advantage you gain. My extreme confidence in you is based on my intimate knowledge of your character, your training and your fighting ability to defeat the Japanese.

Go to battle as you have done in the last month and no enemy can withstand you.

H. H. Hammer
Brig
Comd 15 Aust Inf Bde

WD

SECRET

33

15 AUST INF BDE OO 6

Copy No.

18 May 45

Ref Maps: 1/25000 series
1/63360 series

INFM

- 1 Enemy strs and disposns
 - 2 Likely enemy action
 - 3 Own tps
 - 4 Additional Tps
- } Att as Appx A

B Sqn 2/4 Aust Arm'd Regt came under comd 15 Aust Inf Bde
141800L

5 Air

Maximum aircraft available are bombing selected targets vide
Bombing Task Table att as Appx C.

6 Inter-bde Bdy

Line of HONGORAI river incl to 29 Aust Inf Bde.

INTENTION

- 7 15 Aust Inf Bde will continue the adv in the direction of the
HARI river and will destroy the enemy.

METHOD

8 Summary

- (a) The adv of 15 Aust Inf Bde across the HONGORAI river preceded
by a two day aerial bombardment will be made on a two bn front
on the following axis:
 - (i) RIGHT -- BUIN rd -- 24 and 58/59 Aust Inf Bns
 - (ii) LEFT -- COMMANDO rd -- 57/60 Aust Inf Bn
- (b) A diversion created by advs of 57/60 Aust Inf Bn and bombing
of MARTINS crossing area is hoped to draw enemy forces NORTH to
enable 24 and 58/59 Aust Inf Bns to become firmly est on their
respective objectives without excessive enemy opposn.

9 Sequence of Events

Att as Appx B. This may be varied as the situation changes.

10 24 Aust Inf Bn with in sp

Two tps B Sqn 2/4 Aust Arm'd Regt
15 Aust Inf Bde Flamethrower Pl
One sec 15 Aust Fd Coy

(a) Objective - D plus 5

Attack and capture area BUIN rd from excl ARNOTTS crossing
938430 to incl POROREI ford 955420.

(b) Additional tasks

- (i) D plus 3 - patrol NORTH to MARTINS crossing as a preliminary to deception attack on D plus 4.
- (ii) D plus 4 - patrol in str WEST of HONGORAI river to MARTINS crossing area to deceive enemy regarding intentions on D plus 5.
- (iii) D plus 4 - send covering patrols SOUTH of BUIN rd to area of coy objectives between HONGORAI and POROREI rivers to remain overnight.
- (iv) D plus 6 - on capture of objective open sup route along BUIN rd to junc with 58/59 Aust Inf Bn.
- (v) D plus 6 - sp 58/59 Aust Inf Bn ops by patrolling to NORTH and SOUTH flanks.

(c) Axis of Adv

EAST along gen line BUIN rd.

11 58/59 Aust Inf Bn with in sp

Two tps B Sqn 2/4 Aust Arm'd Regt
One sec 15 Aust Fd Coy

(a) Objective - D plus 6

Attack and capture area BUIN rd from excl POROREI ford to incl BUIN rd river crossing at 962410.

(b) Mov

- (i) D plus 4 - commence mov from present posn to bn assembly area EAST of HONGORAI river in vicinity 945411.
- (ii) D plus 5 - complete cone EAST of HONGORAI river.

(b) Axis of Adv

As arranged by 58/59 Aust Inf Bn from present area SE to HONGORAI crossing 943410, thence by selected routes to objective.

12 57/60 Aust Inf Bn with in sp

One tp B Sqn 2/4 Aust Arm'd Regt
One sec 15 Aust Fd Coy

(a) Objective - D plus 2

Attack and capture area COMMANDO rd from HONGORAI river to incl TORIPERU river crossing at 979462.

(b) Additional tasks

- (i) Exploit at very earliest to the line of the TORIPERU river.
- (ii) Op vigorously and offensively EAST down COMMANDO rd and SOUTH in direction of KINDAI - USO area in sqs 9642, 9643.
- (iii) On D plus 3 send strong harassing force to TIGER rd area via LITTLE'S track to follow up air strike of D plus 4 and remain out a minimum of 3 days.

(c) Axis of Adv

SE along gen line COMMANDO rd

13 Inter-bn bdy

Inter bn bdy will be adjusted as ops progress and be notified separately.

14 Re-org

Re-org will, in all instances, be rapid against immediate counter-attack.

15 Tks

One tp to remain as bde res at adv HQ B Sqn 2/4 Aust Armd Regt.

16 Arty

(a) RAA 3 Aust Div are supporting 15 Aust Inf Bde ops as follows:

- (i) 2 Aust Fd Regt - RIGHT axis
- (ii) 2/11 Aust Fd Regt - LEFT axis

(b) LOs and FOOs will be supplied by respective fd regts as required by units.

(c) LOs will NOT be relieved without concurrence of Bde Comd.

17 Engrs

Det 15 Aust Fd Coy and bulldozer team will move with tks in sp each unit.

18 Air

(a) Bombing Task Table for period 15 to 21 May, both incl, is att as Appx G. This may be varied in accordance with the situation.

(b) Tac R, arty R and mortar R are available on request this HQ.

19 Det ANGAU

Guides and patrols will be supplied at the request of units.

ADM

20 Water

Units will est own WPs.

21 Amn

(a) First line amn will be carried plus additional authorised res.

(b) Replenishment

- (i) 24 Aust Inf Bn } DID JOYCE DZ 920440
- 58/59 Aust Inf Bn }
- (ii) 57/60 Aust Inf Bn - Air drop DZ 966485. Emergency replacement DID LONGHURST DZ 894464.

22 POL and Sups

(a) 7 days res POL; 5 days SWPA res rations and 2 days FOR will be maintained by 24 and 57/60 Aust Inf Bns. 58/59 Aust Inf Bn will maintain 3 days SWPA res and 2 days FOR res.

(b) Maint

- (i) 24 Aust Inf Bn } DID JOYOE DZ 920440
- 58/59 Aust Inf Bn }
- (ii) 57/60 Aust Inf Bn - air drop DZ 966485.

23 Med

- (a) MDS TOKO
- (b) ADS SHINRU creek 884469
- (c) Lt Sec KEKRO creek 920442
- (d) Lt Sec B Ech 57/60 Aust Inf Bn
- (e) Native-SBs
 - (i) 24 Aust Inf Bn - 16 from 0730L D Day.
 - (ii) 57/60 Aust Inf Bn - own resources
 - (iii) 58/59 Aust Inf Bn - 32 from 0730L D plus 4
 - (iv) Lt Sec KEKRO creek - 32 from 0730L D plus 5 for evac to ADS

(f) Car posts

- (i) Lt Sec KEKRO creek - two amb jeeps on call to 24 and 58/59 Aust Inf Bns from 0800L D plus 4.
- (ii) ANDERSONS junc 892463.

24 Repair and Rec

- (a) 113 Aust Bde Wksp } 850481
- 113 Aust Bde Ord Fd Pk }
- (b) 266 Aust IAD KEKRO creek 919441 from 1000L 17 May 45.
- (c) One sec 266 Aust IAD att each bn.

25 Allocation of tpt

- (a) 24 Aust Inf Bn - one tractor to report 1200L D plus 4.
- (b) 58/59 Aust Inf Bn - two tractors to report 0800L D plus 3.
- (c) Additional demands for tpt will be advised by 1600L daily.

26 Native lab

Requirements for native lab to be advised by 1600L daily.

27 Ord

- (a) 3 Aust Div Ord Dump 818454.
- (b) 15 Aust Inf Bde Ord Dump KEKRO creek 991441.

28 TC

(a) Ptmen

- (i) SINDOU creek 898451 from D day.
- (ii) two KEKRO creek 919441 from D day.
- (iii) southern track - BUIN rd junc 0730L D plus 2.
- (iv) two HONGORAI - BUIN rd crossing 0730L D plus 4.

(b) Rd patrols

KEKRO creek to HONGORAI - BUIN rd crossing.

29 PW

PW cage closes present location 1000L 17 May 45 and opens KEKRO creek 919441.

30 Engr Stores

Dump - 53 Aust Fd Pk Coy - TOKO.

31 Burials

(a) Own dead

Graves will be clearly marked and, where possible, located in gps near tracks. Exact locations will be notified on AF W3314 with sketch of locality att.

(b) Enemy dead

Burials to take place as soon as possible.

INTERCOMN

32 Location Bde HQ

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde closes present location 171000L and re-opens 918442 same time.

33 LT

Present line circuits to bns will be maintained to bns with, in addition, one earth return circuit to 58/59 Aust Inf Bn.

34 WT

No 11 set will move and remain with bns.

35 DRLS

Time of departure DRLS will remain at 0900L daily. Alterations to times of arrival at bns will be advised on completion of first run from Bde HQ.

36 D Day

15 May 45.

ACK

Signed at

6/18 0800L

Issued by

LD ~~0800L~~ DRLS

Sgt Robson

Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION - over

DISTRIBUTION

	<u>OO</u>	<u>COPY NUMBERS</u>		
		<u>Appx A</u>	<u>Appx B</u>	<u>Appx C</u>
24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)	1	1	1	1
57/60 Aust Inf Bn	2	2	2	2
58/59 Aust Inf Bn	3	3	3	3
B Sqn 2/4 Aust Armd Regt	4 - 10	4 - 10	4 - 10	4 - 10
15 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec (AIF)	11	11	11	11
14 pl 2/1 Aust Gd Regt	12	12	12	12
15 Aust Inf Bde Flamethrower Pl	13	13	13	13
266 Aust LAD	14	14	14	14
Det 3 Aust Div Pro Coy	15	15	15	15
Det ANGAU	16	16	16	16
ANGAU Lab Det	17	17	17	17
Comd	18	18	18	18
BM	19	19	19	19
SC	20	20	20	20
17 Air Ops RAAF	21	21	21	21
29 Aust Inf Bde	22	22	22	22
2/11 Aust Fd Regt	23	23	23	23
2 Aust Fd Regt	24	24	24	24
U Aust Hy Bty	25	25	25	25
15 Aust Fd Coy RAE	26 - 29	26 - 29	26 - 29	26 - 29
15 Aust Fd Amb	30	30	30	30
File	31 - 32	31 - 32	31 - 32	31 - 32
War Diary	33 - 34	33 - 34	33 - 34	33 - 34

SECRET

APPENDIX A
to 15 Aust Inf Bde
OO 6
of 18 May 45

Copy No 33 . . .

1 ENEMY STR AND DISPOSNS

COMMANDO rd between HONGORAI and POROREI rivers approx 150.
HONGORAI river between MARTINS crossing and COMMANDO rd
approx 100.

HONGORAI - POROREI river from incl TIGER rd to incl BUIN rd
and incl TOHU approx 700.

BUIN rd from incl RUNAI to incl MONOITU and MAMAGATA track
approx 550.

USO - OSO track from incl USO to incl KOPINKO approx 250.

TAITAI - KAPANA area approx 300.

RUSEI area approx 500.

MAMAGATA area approx 50

Total str HONGORAI - HARI river areas 2100

Rfts at RUSEI 500.

2 LIKELY ENEMY ACTION

- (a) Hold the line of the HONGORAI in an attempt to prevent our gaining control of the vital garden and dump areas WEST of the HARI river.
- (b) Attack WEST of the HONGORAI river, probably in the MARTINS crossing area, in order to delay our adv and disrupt our L of C.
- (c) A combination of (a) and (b).
- (d) Counter-attack any penetration by our forces EAST of HONGORAI river.
- (e) Fight stubborn delaying actions to make our adv too costly to continue.

3 OWN TPS

(a) 2/8 Aust Qd Sqdn

The following tasks have been allotted to 2/8 Aust Qd Sqdn:

- (i) Recce of the RUNAI - UNANAI rd
- (ii) Recce of the USO - OSO track
- (iii) Recce area sqs 9939, 9934, 0039, 0038
- (iv) Recce rd UNANAI - TAITAI
- (v) Recce COMMANDO rd to ascertain if enemy intends to reinforce in this area.
- (vi) Qdn harassing of enemy by raids and ambushes.

(b) 29 Aust Inf Bde

- (i) 29 Aust Inf Bde will provide op and adm sp for 15 Aust Inf Bde and will be responsible for protection of the L of C WEST of the inter bde bdy.
- (ii) 29 Aust Inf Bde will occupy the areas vacated by 24 and 57/60 Aust Inf Bns when the three bns of 15 Aust Inf Bde have crossed the HONGORAI

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS - OUTLINE PLAN - 15 AUST INF BDE

D DAY - TUESDAY, 15 MAY 45

APPENDIX B SECRET

to 15 Aust Inf Bde CO 6

of 18 May 45

Copy No. 33

DAY	UNIT	EVENT	AIR	ARTY	MCRTARS	TKS	REMARKS
1 D Day Tue 15	24 Aust Inf Bn area	Bomb BUIN rd to POROREI ford as per Bombing Task Table Task 1	Bombing and strafing targets smoked	Smoke targets for bombers	Concs along BUIN rd to incl POROREI ford		Details c 14 May 45 Maximum strike
2 D plus 1 Wed 16	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
3 D plus 2 Thu 17	57/60 Aust Inf Bn area	(a) Bomb targets as for Bombing task 2 (b) Attack by 57/60 Bn to TORIPERU river - exploit to TORIBIRU area. It is hoped this attack will draw enemy attent- ion from SOUTH	Bombing vide Task 2	Concs as ordered by 57/60 Bn	(a) Smoke targets for bombers (b) As ordered by 57/60 Bn	(b) One tp as ordered by 57/60 Bn	
D plus 3 Fri 18	(a) 24 Aust Inf Bn area (b) 57/60 Aust Inf Bn	(a) Patrol NORTH to MARTINS crossing area as a preliminary to deception attack on D plus 4 (b) Send strong harassing force to TIGER rd area via LITTLES track to follow up air strike on D plus 4. Biv clear of air strike areas D plus 3. Remain out 3 days minimum		At call	At call		Preparation for crossing HONGORAI river on D plus 5
			Bombing and strafing vide Task 3 Maximum aircraft				

SERIAL	DAY	UNIT	EVENT	AIR	ARTY	MORTARS	TKS	REMARKS
5	D plus 4 Sat 19	24 Aust Inf Bn	(a) Patrol in str WEST of HONGORAI to MARTINS crossing area as deception to draw enemy to TIGER track - MARTINS crossing area from SOUTH (b) Covering patrols SOUTH of BUIN rd to coy objectives between HONGORAI and POROREI rivers. No mov closer than 200 yds of objectives. Remain overnight on coy routes to objectives	Bombing and strafing as for Task 4	Smoke targets for bombing. At call for 24 Bn	Concs prior to deceptive attack	One tp available for deceptive attack. Two tps prepare for crossing HONGORAI river on D plus 5	
		58/59 Aust Inf Bn	Mov to bn assembly areas EAST of HONGORAI river for attack on D plus 6. Objective BUIN rd from POROREI ford excl to creek at 962410		At call if attacked	As ordered by CO 58/59 Bn	Two tps under orders 58/59 Bn	
		42 Aust Inf Bn	Anticipate 42 Bn to occupy 58/59 Bn area as vacated.					
6	D plus 5 Sun 20	24 Aust Inf Bn	Attack and capture area along BUIN rd between HONGORAI river excl to POROREI river incl	Planes on standby for task at 0700L if required Bombing task 5	At call for smoke target for bombing and sp 24 Bn	At call	Two tps move with 24 Bn initially. Third tp at call remain WEST of HONGORAI	

SERIAL	DAY	UNIT	EVENT	AIR	ARTY	MORTARS	TKS	REMARKS
6	D plus 5 Sun 20	58/59 Aust Inf Bn	Complete conc EAST of HONGORAI river ready for attack on objective D plus 6		At call	As ordered by CO 58/59 Bn	Two tks with 58/59 Bn	
		42 Aust Inf Bn	Anticipate 42 Bn to occupy coy areas WEST of HONGORAI ford					
7	D plus 6 Mon 21	58/59 Aust Inf Bn	Attack and capture objective along BUIN rd from POROREI ford excl to creek at 962410. Re-org rapidly against immediate counter-attacks	Bombing Task 6 Max planes on (a) standby to sp attack in objective area. (b) (i) secondary task bomb RUNEI area to harass enemy rft. (ii) USO area where USO rd crosses SUNIN river 963423 to harass enemy rft	At call	As ordered by CO 58/59 Bn	In sp 58/59 Bn	
		24 Aust Inf Bn	(a) Open sup route along BUIN rd to junc with 58/59 Bn. (b) Sp 58/59 Bn ops by patrolling to the NORTH and SOUTH flanks (c) Be prepared to exploit along BUIN rd with tks to close gaps between 24 and 58/59 Bns					

BOMBING TASK TABLE - OUTLINE PLAN - 15 AUST INF BDE
D DAY - TUESDAY, 15 May 45

APPENDIX C SECRET
to 15 Aust Inf Bde OC 6
of 18 May 45
Copy No. 33

DAY	UNIT	NUMBER OF TASK	TARGET	WHETHER IN SP GROUND TPS	PURPOSE OF TASK	DURATION OF STRIKE	ENEMY INFM
Tue 15 D Day to D. plus 1 Wed 16	15 Aust Inf Bde 24 Aust Inf Bn area	1	(a) Ridge astride BUIN rd at 946429. (b) 300 yds each side POROREI ford 955420 (c) TCHU or junc AITARA - BUIN track 961414 (d) USO area 961431		Soften up area as a preliminary to attack on these areas on D plus 5	Throughout both days	
D plus 2 Thu 17	15 Aust Inf Bde 57/60 Aust Inf Bn area 24 Aust Inf Bn area	2	13 Regt HQ 968473 Junc POROREI river TIGER rd 958430	Yes	Preliminary bombardment to attack by ground tps same day to capture TORIPIRU river and exploit to TORIBIRU river	Task (a) 1100L - 1130L Task (b) 0800L - 0830L	
D plus 3 Fri 18	24 Aust Inf Bn	3	MARTINS crossing EAST along TIGER rd and WEST of MARTINS crossing	Yes. Ground tps demonstrate as deception MARTINS crossing	Bomb known enemy localities as deception to main attack BUIN rd	All day	
D plus 4 Sat 19	15 Aust Inf Bde 24 Aust Inf Bn area	4	(a) Enemy posns WEST of MARTINS crossing 939445 943447. (b) Astride MARTINS crossing 941446 (c) EAST of MARTINS crossing along TIGER rd from 941446 to POROREI ford	Yes. Ground tps demonstrate as deception MARTINS crossing	Bomb known enemy localities and main enemy southern route as deception to main attack on BUIN rd to POROREI river	0700L to 1400L	

Waiary

FROM 15 inf bde 220015L
TO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn
INFO D coy 1 PIB

GS309. CONFIDENTIAL. ops 22 may. part one. one. 24 and 58/59 inf bns in respective bn areas will clear the line of the BUIN rd WEST along the rd from culvert 962410 to ARNOTTS CROSSING 939430. two. mutual contact between 24 and 58/59 inf bns will be est and rd opened up. part two. 24 inf bn. one. will open up the POROREI FORD for traffic. two. will patrol NORTH to TIGER rd along the bn northern front. part three. 57/60 inf bn. one. will patrol track from 978457 to across POROREI river for track recce to est possible lateral track. two. will continue aggressive patrolling astride the USO OSO rd. four. will consider ops to occupy OSO track junc and report this HQ earliest. part four. 58/59 inf bn. one. patrol plan for 22 may approved. two. will prepare for ops to capture northern objectives at 962420 and 964416.

FROM

15 inf bde

232250L

TO

24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn D coy 1 PIB

INFO

B sqn 2/4 armd regt det ANGAU 2/11 fd regt 2 fd regt 3 div
15 fd coy 15 fd amb

GS314. SECRE. T WARNING ORDER. INFM. likely enemy action, one. withdraw from line USO OSO rd EAST in direction of HARI river. two. op from HARI river area WEST towards our forces with guerrilla warfare tactics and strong raiding parties. own tps. one. with the exception of minor adjustments of bn areas and coy localities there will be no move EAST of present locations until ordered. two. D coy 1 PIB will move to in sp 58/59 inf bn from present locality to an area selected in the vicinity of POROREI ford 955420. INTENTION. 15 inf bde gp will secure the line of USO OSO track and clear EAST to the line RUNAI TONNU. METHOD. one. strong patrols up to pl str and if warranted coy str will op EAST to the line of the HARI river. two. in patrols to remain out for several days will be organised. three. patrol bdys. one. 24 inf bn area EAST HONGORAI river 945406 to 945455 to 972442 972434 974432 to NORTH end plantation 963425 to 945406. two. 57/60 inf bn. area between HONGORAI and HARI rivers NORTH of the line from 945455 972442 972434 005417 to 020403. three. 58/59 inf bn. AITARA via HONGORAI to 945406 to 963425 974432 005417 020403 thence via HARI river to MAMAGATA. this instr will take effect as from 25 may 45. ACK.

24 May 45

To All Commanders

From Brigadier H H HAMMER

Please convey the following to all ranks.

The brigade attack across the HONGORAI and POROREI rivers has been a great success. It is all due to your careful preparation, skill and determination to get on with the job.

Against great opposition you have put the Jap to flight, inflicted heavy casualties, reduced the Jap morale and further impaired his fighting efficiency.

This is really the first brigade attack in which all three battalions were employed and I am very proud of your achievements. The Jap has been clearly shown that the Fifteenth Brigade is a powerful striking force more skilful and efficient than the Jap in battle.

Our sincere thanks for their fine co-operation and support go to the air force, artillery, tanks, engineers, supply and transport, medical and all other supporting units. Their support made the HONGORAI battle an easier task.

I congratulate you all on your sterling fighting and the fine spirit of co-operation that exists in the brigade. We must continue to hit the Jap hard with all our united strength whenever we get the opportunity either in attack or aggressive defence.

H. H. Hammer
Brig
Comd 15 Aust. Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF)
57/60 Aust Inf Bn
58/59 Aust Inf Bn
B Sqn 2/4 Aust Arm'd Regt
15 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec (AIF)
14 pl 2/1 Aust Gd Regt
15 Aust Inf Bde Flamethrower Pl
266 Aust LAD (AIF)
Det 3 Aust Div Pro Coy
Det ANGAU

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2/11 Aust Fd Regt
2 Aust Fd Regt
15 Aust Fd Coy RAE (AIF)
3 Aust Sup Dep Pl (AIF)
4 Aust Sup Dep Pl (AIF)
15 Aust Fd Amb (AIF)
5 Tac R Sqn RAAF
COM ZE AIRTAF
17 Air Op Flt RAAF
File
War Diary (2)

MESSAGE FORM

FROM 15 inf bde 25 ~~2.00~~ D
TO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B sqn 2/4 arm'd regt
15 inf bde sig sec 14 pl 2/1 ga regt 15 inf bde
flamethrower pl 266 LAD det 3 div pro coy
INFO 2/11 fd regt 2 fd regt 15 fd coy 3 sup dep pl 4 sup dep pl
15 fd amb 5 tac R sqn RAAF CSM
COPIES COMD BM file war diary (2) ✓

AG639. CONFIDENTIAL. the following msg has been received from GOC 3 div.
quote. for Brig HAMMER from BRIDGEFORD. my congratulations on the
recent success achieved by your bde culminating in the very fine
effort in crossing the HONGORAI. wish to convey to you and all ranks
of your bde my appreciation of the excellent work being done. unquote.
please convey to all ranks all infm

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

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

J. W. Hastings

Capt

WD
Subject:

THE EMPLOYMENT OF HEAVY BOMBING TO CLEAR TIMBER
AND UNDERGROWTH ASTRIDE THE AXIS OF ADVANCE
ALONG THE BUIN ROAD - SOUTH BOUGAINVILLE
APRIL 1945

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)

30 May 45

1 INTRODUCTION

- (a) The nature of the country astride the BUIN road was such that visibility was restricted to a few yards. Contact with the Japs by our troops was at 3 - 5 yards. Tanks were very restricted in their support as they could not see the enemy or enemy positions. The heavy timber restricted manoeuvre of tanks off the track to support the infantry
- (b) It was felt that some method should be tried to open up the country along the axis of advance. In the same way as the machete and axe is employed by the infantry to clear tracks, defensive positions and fields of fire, it was thought that bombs may be employed ahead of the infantry for that purpose as an additional role to the destruction by bombing of known enemy localities.
- (c) Since these tests have been made it has been found that on advancing into heavily bombed areas the fighting has been easier, mainly because increased visibility permitted accurate fire support by supporting arms and battalion weapons.

2 OBJECT

It was hoped, by the employment of heavy bombing using 1000 lbs "daisy cutters" and 325 - 650 lbs depth charges, to clear timber and undergrowth to increase visibility as well as to have a destructive effect on enemy positions and morale.

3 RESULT

- (a) Visibility was greatly increased both for troops and tanks. Little cratering to the track was caused mainly due to accurate bombing astride the BUIN road.
- (b) Manoeuvrability of tanks was very little affected. Any trees felled by the bombing were either removed by the bulldozer or blasted through with the tank 3 inch howitzer. Troops moved around the edges of the cleared areas with the tanks in the centre along the axis of the track.
- (c) The increased visibility permitted better and more accurate fire support by tanks on any remaining enemy positions.
- (d) Artillery fire effect with concentrations on known enemy positions was greatly increased due to the clearing by bombing.
- (e) The whole general effect was that our troops were able to gain objectives on the advance with ease and with few casualties. The smashing effect on enemy morale when bombing in depth along an axis held by the enemy in a series of defended localities in depth was a great help to immediate future operations.

4 DETAIL OF EFFECT OF BOMBING

- (a) Part I - Gives the detailed examination of the area after the bombing
- (b) Part II - Report on rates of advance in thick jungle and jungle cleared by bombing.

PART I - AERIAL BOMBING - REPORT BY 24 AUST INF BN

- (a) The effect of aerial bombing along the axis of BUIN road between SINDOU river and BIAGU THREE FORK junction, 'SOUTH BOUGAINVILLE' in April 1945, is outlined hereunder:
- (i) Single bomb blast effect in close proximity to the track cleared an area of 40 square yards of practically all undergrowth, the only vegetation left standing was trunks of trees.
 - (ii) Secondary undergrowth was literally pushed back into the jungle but this in itself presented a much more difficult obstacle to advancing infantry. On the other hand, infantry can easily move around this tangled mass to either flank.
 - (iii) Visibility across the bomb blasted area was very good.
 - (iv) In the case of two bombs landing in close proximity to one another, one on either side of the road, the area cleared was 100 yards square.
 - (v) Invariably, trees up to 10 and 12 inches in diameter were knocked down and presented a slight obstacle but it does not take infantry long to scramble over these logs.
 - (vi) In the case of trees falling across the road, difficulty was experienced in clearing the road for the passage of tanks; an engineer team with bulldozer is essential to cope with any eventuality as outlined above.
- (b) In regard to different types of vegetation experienced along the axis of advance, comparison can be drawn, as with lawyer vine and wait-a-while a definite obstacle presents itself because the bomb blast **although** clearing an area simply makes the immediate surrounding jungle an absolute tangled mass of prickly vine, but with dense to light secondary undergrowth it is just blasted out of the way and does not tangle nearly so badly with the surrounding jungle.
- (c) Visibility for tanks across bomb blasted areas is very good and the tactics employed are for tanks to move along the road observing to right and left and infantry to move around the edge of the blasted area. Control is always from centre to right and left and the troop commander can direct his tank fire on to any target located on the opposite side of the blasted area with the 536B wireless.
- (d) Artillery shelling along the sides of the road was quite effective, but in some cases difficulty was experienced by advancing troops in that trees felled by artillery fire tangled badly with the existing undergrowth. This affected, to some degree, control of troops advancing and frequent checks had to be made to ensure that control was maintained.
- (e) The effect of bombing and shelling during the advance helped considerably, as since the occupation of the UMAMU creek line and BIAGU THREE FORK junction patrols to front and flanks have located several large well-developed Japanese defensive positions recently occupied and vacated by the enemy.
- (f) Tests for the advance of infantry through different types of undergrowth on a broad front are being held in this area and this will bring out many very important and valuable points especially the rate of advance and the co-ordination of times in respect to an artillery barrage or a series of timed concentrations.

PART II - RATES OF ADVANCE IN THE JUNGLE - REPORT BY 24 AUST INF BN

(a) Object

To test the rate of advance of infantry moving through different types of jungle.

(b) Summary

(i) Tests were carried out in this area during the past week in measured distances up to 300 yards in different types of terrain.

(ii) The preliminary arrangements were as follows: 100 yards were paced out and a length of signal cable 100 yards in length was laid to check the distance. Later 300 yards of cable was laid out and this distance was also paced.

(iii) The types of terrain covered were:

virgin jungle with thick secondary growth,
lawyer vine intermingled with undergrowth;

an area which had just been subjected to
artillery shelling;

an area which had been blasted by 1000 lbs
bombs and depth charges.

(iv) The strength of the force used was a rifle platoon and the formation adopted was two sections up and one in reserve moving from 10 paces of the road up to 60 in the jungle.

(c) Results

Distance	Type of terrain	Time taken	Remarks
100 yards	Thick jungle, heavy secondary growth with frequent small re-entrants and marshy patches, visibility 10 - 15 yards	6 mins 30 secs	Control difficult, contact lost on some occasions
100 yards	as above	5 mins 10 secs	as above
100 yards	Jungle thinned by extensive shelling	5 mins	
100 yards	Jungle lightly shelled	6 mins	Control difficult on account of trees knocked down and which caused a tangled mass of vegetation. Short halts necessary.
100 yards	Area blasted by bombs and depth charges	10 mins 35 secs	Visibility was good across the area, but in test troops moved around the edge and consequently took longer than if they had moved straight across

Distance	Type of terrain	Time taken	Remarks
300 yards	A combination of the above mentioned types of terrain	18 mins 30 secs	Average 6 mins 10 secs
300 yards	as above	17 mins	Average 5 mins 40 secs
300 yards	As above but on the opposite side of the road	16 mins	Average 5 mins 20 secs

(d) General

(i) The difficulties experienced moving on a broad front are caused by the undulations in the ground and minor creeks which invariably are encountered. It also creates a problem for control by sub-unit commanders, but this can easily be overcome if all ranks practice the lessons they have previously been taught in training. Another important point is the use of voice control and section leaders and platoon commanders must shout out instructions and orders; after all, if there is artillery shelling and the noise of tanks moving in close proximity to advancing troops, a few burly voices doesn't make a great deal of difference to any surprise effect on the enemy but it does assist control.

(ii) The speed of tanks has also to be considered closely and their ability to move along a jungle track without experiencing any difficulties. It has been found in practice that very careful driving is necessary if the tanks are to remain mobile; the slightest slip in driving has in cases left the tank bogged down in drain holes dug in close to the sides of the road. This, in itself, should not hold up advancing infantry as the tank, once out of the bog, can quickly catch up to the infantry.

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 103

Infm to 010900L

1 May 45

1 OPS -- LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde
BIAGU - KINDARA AREA
24 Aust Inf Bn

A patrol reached 917437 and after establishing its posn by arty registration, reced the area to locate the rd but an old overgrown track was all that could be found. An old biv area with 3 huts and accn for 15 men was located at 925438. Tracks in the area had not been used for some time. At 927439 the patrol contacted the rd, at which pt is was 20 ft wide, corduroyed and drained and had not been used by MT for some time. A footpad runs along the centre of the rd. A suspected old Jap HQ posn found at 927440 consisted of 12 huts and some air raid shelters and extended for approx 500 yds. During the day D Coy moved fwd to 921442 representing an adv of 1000 yds from our fwd posns on the previous day. Ambush posns were est at 919440 and 922442.

An A Coy recce patrol reached 942444 where the enemy was heard to the east. A well worn Jap track runs north-south at 941444. The patrol moved to 942447 where a further well used track runs north and south, and while examining this track the patrol was fired on by the enemy and the patrol then returned to Coy HQ. ^{Our cas 1 wounded} A patrol from B Coy was ambushed by approx 10 enemy in the vicinity of 930428. The patrol broke contact and returned to Coy HQ, our cas being 2 wounded incl the patrol comd and 1 FOO missing. At 907442 a patrol found an unoccupied enemy posn containing lean-tos and weapon pits and capable of accommodating 100 men. 41 70 mm shells, Aust 3 in mortar secondary charges, quantities of Aust and Jap eqpt, water bottles and haversacks were found. There were signs indicating that bodies had been buried in the area. All other patrols reported NMS.

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

Disposns: Bn HQ 906476; A Coy 898469; B Coy less 10 pl 906476; 10 pl DARARA; C Coy 911480; D Coy 908478; B Ech 895468.

An A Coy patrol located an old Jap biv area at 910487 which had been used approx 48 hrs ago. 1 dead enemy was found at 914466. All other patrols reported NMS.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

At 301000L footprints of 2 enemy, approx 24 hrs old, were found leading north from 893475. A patrol endeavoured to follow the tracks but was unsuccessful. An enemy biv area at 886455 with accn for 100 was searched and documents found. At 010400L 30 75 mm shells fell in the gen area 901460 without causing cas.

A Coy 1 NG Inf Bn

010900L A Coy est vicinity ANGAU camp TOKO under comd 3 Aust Div.

(b) 7 Aust Inf Bde
HATAI - RUMIKI AREA
9 Aust Inf Bn

Well defined tracks were crossed at 932479 and 940475 and showed signs of recent use. A patrol from C Coy contacted approx 30 enemy on a small 20 ft feature at 951477, wounding 1. The enemy used a HMG, grenades, rifles and probably 2 OSMGs. There is a worn enemy track running NE and SW at 943461.

2 TOPOGRAPHICAL
Engr progress

2384 yds of corduroy completed on the HATAI trac,

DISTRIBUTION

for BM 15 Aust Inf Bde
Maj

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 104

Infm to 020900L

2 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde
BIAGU - KINDARA AREA
24 Aust Inf Bn

At 010915L 6 enemy when observed 300 yds east of D Coy locality 921442 moved south and contacted one of our local patrols at 921441. Functioning for the first time since the commencement of this current campaign the FLELO Unit broadcast surrender propaganada to this enemy party but without result.

At 010700L 2 enemy 75 mm shells fell in the vicinity of 912457 without causing cas.

A patrol reached the HONGORAI river at 947452 where a large enemy def posn was observed but the patrol was unable to estimate the str. 6 enemy were observed carrying amm, believed to be mortar bombs. At 1805L an ambush party returning from 928444 reported the presence of a newly dug unoccupied enemy def posn at 923442. A patrol ambushed and killed 1 enemy on the BUIN rd at 925440, but no identification or documents were obtained. An ambush posn has been est at 918455. The pillboxes reported by Tac R to be at 910440 could not be located by a patrol.

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

At 1030L 3 enemy were observed at 917471 and at 1145L a patrol to est an ambush posn at 915465 was fired on by the enemy in unknown str at this posn. Our cas were nil. The enemy used a Bren, Owen and grenades.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

At 010730L a runner op between A Coy 907458 and Bn H, was wounded at 900456 by 1 enemy. At 1130L the enemy in unknown str using 2 LMGs and an estimated 2 OSIGs was contacted at 914465, our cas being 1 offr killed 2 OR missing and 1 OR wounded and enemy 1 known killed.

(b) 7 Aust Inf Bde
HATAI RUMIKI AREA
9 Aust Inf Bn

The area 951477 is now clear of enemy. A grave, 1 week old, was found at 947500.

Anderson Lt
for Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION
As per Summary 99

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 105

Infm to 030900 L

3 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

KEKRO CREEK - KINDARA - HATAI AREA - 24 Aust Inf Bn

On the morning of 2 May, B Coy, supported by 8 tp 2/4 Aust Armd Regt, adv through D Coy along the BUIN rd and at 1400L reached 926438 without encountering opposition. The tks were temporarily delayed by the creek crossing at 912442 but had rejoined the coy before reaching its objective. 1 freshly dug foxhole was found on the north side of the rd at 924441. Following B Coy's adv A Coy moved into posn at 912445. At 907427 a patrol observed signs of recent mov, 2 lean-tos, 2 pillboxes and a stream 16 ft wide. A patrol sighted 6 enemy in a dug in posn at 917438 and when encountered, the enemy fled. A recce patrol to the HONGORAI river observed an enemy posn of a str of 8 at 922453 and 4 enemy in posn at 928453. Many trees, 4 to 10 ins in diameter, had been cut on the morning of 1 May in the area between 948452 and 948458 and a large number of footprints/leading to and from the area. Two large bombed areas were found at 925454 and 930454. A recce patrol reported a vacated enemy posn at 934435 consisting of 2 pillboxes with cut fire lanes covering the BUIN rd. A track running south from 930442 showed signs of recent use. At 1230L a patrol from C Coy, observed an enemy patrol of 15 men ^{and} an ambush but no contact was made. An enemy def posn with a str of 15 was observed in the garden area at 918436 and 1 Jap moving along the track towards the posn was killed. At 935436 A D Coy patrol located an enemy biv area accommodating 30 men who were engaged in preparing cam and new frames for huts. The bombing of the log crossing at 943421 was reported to have been accurate. A Jap amm dump found at 915435 contained 60 70 mm shells in a pillbox and 3000 rounds of 256 amm in a hut. New defs in the area were probably dug on the morning of 2 May. One dead Jap found at 914453 was completely dressed in Aust clothing, incl a beret, but the boots had been removed.

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

On 2 May the relief of 9 Aust Inf Bn by 57/60 Aust Inf Bn commenced and B Coy moved to 924484 and C Coy to 947484. A patrol to investigate the enemy posn at 917477 reached the posn and fired shots into it but when the fire was not returned and mortars had fired on the area the patrol occupied the posn and found 4 dead Aust personnel, one of whom was identified as the 57/60 Aust Inf Bn soldier reported missing from the contact on 28 Apr and the other three as the 1 killed and 2 missing from 58/59 Aust Inf Bn patrol clash on 1 May. 4 enemy later approached the posn and when fired on they dispersed. The patrol is remaining in the posn for night 2/3 May.

From 030415L to 030445L approx 20 75 mm shells incl 6 blinds fell at approx 908480. At 030555L further shells fell in the area of sq 8946.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

B Coy moved to 917452 and 16 pl to 894464. A patrol to est ambushes at 881432 and 878426 reached 874425 at 1320L. A patrol is moving on to investigate the track junc at 872422 and the river and track junc at 869423. An old enemy def posn consisting of 30 foxholes and 30 shelters was found at 871423.

From 030415L approx 140 rounds of 75 mm shells fell in the gen area of sqs 8945 and 9045 without causing cas.

(b) 7 Aust Inf Bde

HATAI - RUMIKI AREA

9 Aust Inf Bn

Our patrol contacted an enemy patrol of an estimated str of 20 using a HMG, 2 LMGs, rifles and grenades at 954483.

Our cas - nil; enemy - 3 killed. Enemy withdrew to the east. B and C Coys after having been relieved by 57/60 Aust Inf Bn moved to MOTUPENA PT where they staged night 2/3 May.

(c) 29 Aust Inf Bde

At 030800L comd gp 29 Aust Inf Bde closed TOROKINA and opened at 843480.

KINDARA AREA

47 Aust Inf Bn

Tactical Bn HQ 907478; C Coy 907478; D Coy 912481.

for [Signature] Capt
EM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

As per Summary 99

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 106

Infm to 040900L

4 May 45

1 OPS - LAND(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

Gen review of ops - 3 May

Patrolling swa of our posns astride the BUIH rd has revealed considerable enemy mov in the vicinity though no hy concs are located.

(i) KEKRO CREEK AREA24 Aust Inf Bn

At 030600L our mortars engaged a reported enemy posn at 915435 and a patrol moved out to set an ambush vicinity of 911437.

030915L B Coy protective patrol with mortar OP sighted 10 enemy astride the rd at 928438. A fighting patrol engaged the enemy, who used 4 LMG and rifles, and brought down mortar fire which cleared the posn. 1 enemy was killed. Our cas nil. 030930L a D Coy patrol engaged 5 more enemy at 921442 and dispersed them without loss to our patrol. From 030955L to 031010L the FELO unit broadcast surrender propoganda in this area without results.

The Jap amn dump, located on 2 May at 915435, was shelled by our arty, a direct hit being scored on one hut.

At 031500L a patrol moving along the track from 926439 contacted 8 to 10 enemy at 929445. After an exchange of fire, the enemy dispersed, nil cas. The FOO reported missing after the patrol clash 30 Apr has now been confirmed killed. A patrol has buried his body after it had been located by natives at 916436. Boots, belt and beret had been removed.

Meanwhile a patrol had located a freshly dug pillbox on the south side of the track at 928428. One enemy seen moving near the pillbox was killed.

At 031615L, approx 15 enemy made a daring attack from the left flank on the B Coy locality 926438, lasting almost half-an-hr, and only desisting after having been engaged by tk and SA fire and an arty DF task being brought down. Immediately afterwards, an ambush was set at 927440 to be maintained overnight. Once again the FELO units broadcast surrender propoganda.

The enemy in str of approx 20 were found by a D Coy patrol towards the gardens in sq 9041 strongly est in dug in posns extending from 902430 to 905433.

Another escort patrol between D and B Coys disturbed an enemy party busily engaged in laying a booby trap across the rd with 2 75 mm shells as the explosive charge. Apparently the Japs had heard the jeep and moved quickly into the safety of the jungle leaving the evidence behind, unset. Nearby were 3 newly dug foxholes. Later, at 031730L, our jeep train was fired on by hidden enemy at 924440 without loss.

The standing patrols at 911434 (first reported as 914437) and 923439 reported NMS.

(ii) POKINOHU AREA58/59 Aust Inf Bn

All patrols returned having completed tasks, NMS, and contacted standing patrols at 914456 and 913463, the latter being manned by a 47 Aust Inf Bn patrol.

The ambushes est overnight in the MOMUKO river area in sq 8742 returned, NMS.

032000L enemy fired 18 75 mm shells into gen area sqs 9045 9046 without causing cas or damage.

(iii) HATAI - RUMIKI AREA57/60 Aust Inf Bn

The relief of 9 Aust Inf Bn has now been completed and 57/60 Aust Inf Bn standing patrols have been taken over by 47 Aust Inf Bn.

Disposns: Bn HQ 10 tp B Sqn 2/i; Aust Armd Regt 934485; A Coy 967483; B Coy 926485; C Coy 947485; D Coy 953489. A security patrol found deserted Jap huts and 6 graves 954484.

(b) 7 Aust Inf Bde
TOROKINA AREA
HQ 7 Aust Inf Bde now est 602963.

(c) 29 Aust Inf Bde
47 Aust Inf Bn - KINDARA AREA
Disposns: Bn HQ and HQ F Tp 2/4 Aust Arm'd Regt 907478;
A Coy 898470; B Coy 910480; C Coy 907478; D Coy 912481.
A patrol was fired on by enemy in unknown str armed with
HMG and LMG at 917472 - cas, own 1 wounded, soon after the
relief of 57/60 Aust Inf Bn ambush party at this posn.

(d) 11 Aust Inf Bde
SORAKEN AREA
55/60 Aust Inf Bn
At 301300L Bn HQ closed 259585 and reopened at 275610.
A Coy has now moved north of PORA PORA and has struck a main
track (probably to RATSUA) at 306654. No contact has been
made since 1 Jap was killed at 306653, 300 yds east of PORA
PORA.
B Coy after arriving at the LAVELLE river crossing in
vicinity of 297646 reported the hill country south of the
river free of enemy and is now est approx 302631 with a pl
at 306640. C Coy also crossed this river and patrolled 1000
yds to the NE (almost to PORA PORA) NMS though 3 dead Japs
were found. D Coy less 16 pl 270608 with 16 pl at 276612.
The enemy continues shelling the SORAKEN peninsula
and around HORSESHOE KNOLL with at least 4 75 mm guns,
mortars or bn guns, and 1 105 mm gun. During the night at
least 15 beachings of barges in the RATSUA inlet were heard.
(29/30 Apr)

(e) 23 Aust Inf Bde
(1) PIATERAPATA AREA
27 Aust Inf Bn
A patrol to TOKUA area reports 25/30 Japs there. It is
is also reported that, as a result of the Jap - NGIB clash at
MAPIA on 23 Apr, 8 Japs were killed and many wounded when a
force of 30 to 40 enemy attacked their posn.
40 to 50 enemy reported by a patrol between 683145 and
684151.
(11) GREEN ISLAND
8 Aust Inf Bn
Further reports indicate the presence of at least 2 Japs
on the island night 30 Apr/1 May. An extensive search of the
area is being made.

2 ENEMY INFM
Enemy munitions

2 demolition blast charges were found in posn 800 yds fwd of
SINDOU creek, one initiated by a type 97 hand grenade and the
other by a 75 mm nose fuze improvised as a trip mechanism.

3 SUMMARY OF PATROL REPORTS

Natives report that, in the BUIN area, the latest Jap propaga-
anda to natives states that "the Americans are not too strong
and the Germans will arrive soon and defeat them.

As a result of native action against enemy tele lines in the
AKU area, the enemy has now removed all lines on the EAST-WEST
trail between AKU and MIBO ford. Before doing this 1 more Jap
was killed in a tele line tug-o-war between Japs and natives.

A report graded B2 states that considerable eastward enemy
mov is taking place along the EAST-WEST trail in the AKU - QAMAI
river area. Handcarts are being used to tpt baggage.

On 30 Apr 4 Japs were killed on the EAST WEST trail near
MUSHIMINOI (approx 60360) as a result of a native booby trap.
46 Japs later appeared and carried the bodies westward on two
handcarts.

DISTRIBUTION

[Signature]
Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 107

Infm to 050900L

5 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

(i) KEKPO CREEK AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

At 041030L a D Coy patrol of pl str sp by two tks and a bulldozer team adv along the BUIN rd through B Coy and at 1100L contacted an enemy force of an estimated str of one coy in a prepared def posn incl pillboxes and extending for 200 yds north from the BUIN rd at 928438. A 75 mm gun sited on the rd for tk A purposes fired 1 round on our leading tk which missed and the tk immediately engaged the enemy gun with BESA and 3 in how fire scoring a direct hit and killing the crew of 3. The tk then engaged the enemy and after mortar and arty fire had been brought down the pl overran the posn, and found that the enemy had been dispersed by the hy fire and the posn abandoned. As the enemy fled to the NE arty fire was directed on them. The posn, estimated to be capable of accommodating 130 tps, was thoroughly searched and a quantity of documents recovered. Total known enemy cas for the action were 4 killed incl an offr and a sjt. Incl in the eqpt captured was 1 type 94 75 mm gun complete, 2 rifles, 2 cases of JUKI amm and 5 OSMG mags.

At 040530L approx 30 enemy carrying packs, LMGs and rifles approached our ambush posn at 927440 and after killing 1 enemy our tps returned to B Coy locality to avoid encirclement.

At 0800L an enemy ambush located on the BUIN rd at 924441 was engaged by our mortars and at 1015L the rd was reported clear to B Coy. At 1145L a trailer from a jeep train returning from B to D Coy exploded a type 93 land mine damaging the trailer. 2 sig personnel returning from the action at 928438 to B Coy also exploded what is believed to have been a 75 mm shell booby trap. Both men were wounded.

An A Coy patrol to 926444 fired on 10 enemy killing 1 and on hearing a further 10 enemy moving in the vicinity of 928444 the patrol attempted to encircle them but lost contact. A further patrol reached 943447 and reported 5 deserted huts on the west bank of the ford and while arty was registering the area an enemy patrol of 5 men which approached from the NE was engaged by our patrol killing 1 and wounding 1 of the enemy while our cas were nil. A patrol enroute 943433 killed 1 enemy at 941433 but was unable to reach the HONGORAI ford due to considerable enemy activity. At 1430L a patrol observed 4 armed enemy wearing hy packs moving east along the BUIN rd at 939434.

The area from 931435 to 935433 was reported as having been well covered by the airstrike on 3 May.

From 041800L to 041920L 81 enemy shells estimated to have been fired from 2 150 mm guns fell in the area 909446 without causing cas.

(ii) TOKINOPU AREA

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

A newly dug enemy def posn with a capacity for 8 men and used on 3 May was found at 918465. The posn had been accurately engaged by our 3 in mortars. There were footprints leading east from the area which were not more than 12 hrs old.

(iii) HATAI - RUMIKI AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

At 040830L a patrol from B Coy was fired on by an enemy party at 932482, 1 offr being wounded and 1 OR killed. The patrol returned fire killing 1 enemy and in an attempt to reach the body of the first OR killed another was killed and the patrol comd again wounded. The patrol broke contact and while being carried back the comd died of wounds; making our total cas for the encounter 3 killed and enemy 1 killed.

A patrol heard sounds of chopping at 968478. 1 enemy

observed near A Coy locality escaped; fresh enemy footprints were observed at 948485, 950485 and 951485. Voices heard at 953477 were investigated but no enemy could be found. At 953476 there is approx 4 acres of well kept garden where 4 enemy were observed working. A patrol reports a hill 60 ft high with a tree OP on the east bank of the HONGORAI river opposite 953476.
10 tp 2/4 Aust Arm'd Regt now with C Coy 947485.

(b) 29 Aust Inf Bde
(i) KINDARA AREA

47 Aust Inf Bn

Standing patrols have been est at 904468 and 918474. 9 pl is now at 885468. All patrols reported NMS.

(ii) TOKO AREA

61 Aust Inf Bn

Patrol to coconuts 867460 reported NMS.

2 AIR - OWN

3 May

Commencing at 0820L, 13 Corsairs bombed and strafed the track from 940422 to 938422. Bombing was accurate, and as a result of 1 bomb burst 5 Japs were seen blown high into the air.

[Handwritten Signature]
Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

as per Summary 99

CONFIDENTIAL

15 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTAL INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 108

Infm to 060900L

6 May 45

1 OPS -- LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

On 5 May one coy of 24 Aust Inf Bn supported by tks made a further successful adv along the gen axis of the BUIN rd and after extensive and bitter fighting, during which an enemy 75 mm gun was destroyed, the coy had est a posn within approx 1000 yds of the HONGORAI river, having cleared the rd fwd to this pt. At the same time one patrol from 24 Aust Inf Bn reached the HONGORAI 1000 yds south of the rd and three patrols from 57/60 Aust Inf Bn crossed the river SE of RUMIKI where the enemy was contacted. In the central area between these two bns a patrol from 58/59 Aust Inf Bn also contacted the enemy.

(i) KEKRO CREEK AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

At 051030L D Coy commenced an adv along the BUIN rd supported by 2 tks leading the adv, and after having moved 650 yds beyond B Coy, an enemy dug in posn of unestimated str was encountered. The tks and inf engaged the enemy and during the encounter the Besa gun on the leading tk jammed. A 75 mm shell scored a direct hit on the tk wounding 1 of the crew. After severe fighting the enemy was forced to abandon the posn and our adv continued for a further 30 yds when a very solid enemy posn with an extensive pillbox and trench system was encountered at 931437. The tks moved fwd to engage the posn and an enemy 75 mm gun fired at the leading tk scoring a direct hit and putting the Besa gun out of action, but the tk, using 3 in how fire, engaged and destroyed the 75 mm gun. Our tps were being subjected to hy LMG and rifle fire from the enemy posn but maintained contact while patrols endeavoured to locate the flanks of the posn. At 1600L following an arty and mortar conc on the enemy posn at 931437 D Coy continued the adv against fierce enemy resistance and by 1625L, after bitter fighting, had driven the enemy back a further 120 yds and est and consolidated on their objective at 932436. The coy was still being subjected to hy enemy fire from posns further east along the BUIN rd. Total definite cas for the day's action were: enemy 1 known killed and own 3 wounded.

The last 120 yds of the coy adv was through a succession of dug in posns from each of which the enemy was driven by withering fire from tks and inf weapons.

A patrol from B Coy located numerous foxholes, weapon pits and 9 huts at 928443. A further patrol reached the HONGORAI river at 945423 and recced for 300 yds south along the river but was unable to locate the log crossing at 944421.

The gen area in the vicinity of 944420 shows effects of hy bombing. A prospective coy locality exists at 943429. 4 enemy were observed moving south along the river at 944421.

C Coy now located at 919442.

From 051645L to 051657L 19 rounds from an estimated 75 mm gun fell in the area 909457 wounding 1 offr, and at 060500L over 100 rounds of unknown calibre landed in D Coy locality causing damage to shelter halves, coy stores and comms. The enemy shelling was very accurate but did not cause any cas.

(ii) TOKINOTU AREA

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

A patrol was unable to contact the 47 Aust Inf Bn ambush at 908472 due to mortar fire from that bn. A patrol contacted the enemy in unknown str using a LMG in a partly prepared posn at 920464, 40 yds north of the track. 3 members of the patrol were within 5 yds of the enemy posn before it was observed and the remainder of the patrol covered the withdrawal of these men and then engaged the posn. After a fierce fire fight contact was lost. Our cas were nil and enemy unknown. D Coy now at 907440.

(iii) RUMIKI AREA
57/60 Aust Inf Bn

A patrol from this bn crossed the HONGORAI river at 967483 and reported the NUMBER 2 GOVERNMENT rd clear for 200 yds on the east of the river. The patrol located and occupied an enemy posn on the north side of the rd which had been vacated within the last 24 hrs. At 1130L 3 enemy whilst carrying a JUKI to a weapon pit were fired on, 1 of whom was killed. A further patrol crossed the HONGORAI at 967483 and located a hut inside which were 2 enemy. When approaching the hut the patrol was fired on by a LMG from 965481. Patrol moved north to the river and thence east to NUMBER 2 GOVERNMENT rd and were again fired on at 967482. Our cas was 1 wounded; enemy unknown. At 932481 on a 20 ft knoll a patrol found an extensive new unoccupied posn with well cam foxholes and 5 hew huts. Posn was capable of accommodating 100 men. All patrols returned to their coy localities. 8 pl later crossed the river at the same pt as the previous patrols and dug in.

[Handwritten Signature]
Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

As per Summary 99

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 109

Infm to 070900L

7 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

On 5 May a large enemy force attacked the two fwd coy localities of 24 Aust Inf Bn and after bitter fighting which lasted for 2 1/2 hrs the enemy was forced to withdraw leaving an estimated 58 dead. The determination of the enemy attack was evidenced by the fact that some enemy were within 11 ft of our fwd tps before being killed.

(1) KEKRO GREEK AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

Further infm of the shelling from 060400L to 060500L reveals that approx 160 rounds of estimated 150 mm calibre fell in D Coy locality damaging 1 MMG, 1 Bren, 1 Owen, 2 rifles and approx 100 shelter halves were rendered US. The guns were firing from a long range from the east of the HONGORAI river.

At 060700L a small enemy party attacked D Coy locality from the front and flanks; due to very dense vegetation our tps could not observe the enemy but by fire from inf weapons and mortars broke up the attack. D Coy then commenced preparations to move fwd towards the HONGORAI, considerable re-org being necessary due to damage caused by the shelling. At 0855L when the coy was ready to commence the adv a strong enemy force attacked the coy locality from the north. At this time A Coy, while moving fwd to occupy the posn to be vacated by D Coy, reached 930437 and was also attacked from the northern flank and rear by a strong enemy force. The enemy attacked furiously and attempted to encircle A Coy but after a fierce fire fight the coy fought its way fwd and joined D Coy. Due to the dense undergrowth the enemy fire was the only indication of their movs. The enemy continued the fierce attack against the joint coy locality and our tks moved to the fwd edge of the coy and concentrated by fire from Besa and 2 pr guns on the enemy. The attacks continued with increased ferocity until 1030L when the enemy withdrew a short distance apparently to re-org in preparation for a further asit. A Coy had now est a strong coy locality 200 yds west of D Coy. It is estimated that, during the action which lasted for 2 1/2 hrs, 58 enemy were killed; while our cas were 1 killed 5 wounded. Some enemy were within 11 ft of D Coy posns. Captured eqpt incl 23 rifles, 2 LMGs, 3 swords, 1 pistol and the tks claim to have destroyed 1 JUKI. The str of the enemy force was estimated to have been at least 100. During the action 1 Bren gunner killed 13 enemy incl 6 with 1 burst. By 1130L all enemy had withdrawn with the exception of occasional tree snipers who were harassing our tps and by 1200L these had been cleared. A fighting patrol later moved to the northern flank to follow the line of the enemy withdrawal and recce patrols to the southern flank to ensure that the area was clear of the enemy.

2 tks from 8 tp moved fwd to join A Coy and carried fwd additional amn. During the adv of A Coy 6 additional enemy dead were found at 928438 as a result of the action on 4 May.

The patrol to the HONGORAI river on 5 May reached 941436 and moved to 941432 where a party of 15 enemy was observed moving south, who, when fired on, dispersed. Patrol then moved to 943445 from where the HONGORAI ford was observed from a 40 ft cliff. At this pt 4 enemy moving south along a footpad were engaged and 2 killed.

A B Coy patrol to 928438 engaged 5 enemy killing 1. A reconce patrol to 928434 heard mov of an estimated 10 enemy but was unable to make contact. At 1510L a reconce patrol from D Coy located a dug in enemy posn, str 10, at 932439. After mortar fire had been concentrated on the posn an investigating patrol reported the enemy still in the posn. At 1755L a reconce patrol moved south of the BUIN rd to 935435 where enemy mov was heard on the front and both flanks. Very dense jungle restricted visibility to 3 yds and the patrol avoided contact and returned to the Coy. A tree sniper who had been firing on D Coy locality by engaged by a LMG and killed.

From 062000 to 070615L 16 shells incl 3 blinds estimated to be 150 mm fell in the area 933435. The shells were fired from a long range and at approx half hr intervals.

(ii) TOKINOTU AREA

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

A patrol from B Coy reached the HONGORAI at 934396 and a small reconce party moved north along the river. Patrol is remaining for night 6/7 May at 934396. An old Jap posn consisting of foxholes with acn for 20 was observed at 920453 and a further extensive posn with acn for 100 was located at 927463 on a well worn track running east. The sig wire near the posn was cut by the patrol.

(iii) RUMIKI AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

At 060715L a patrol located 4 Japs preparing breakfast and more enemy at the rear of huts at 953476. The patrol attacked the enemy killing 4 and wounding 2. Hy fire was immediately returned from the posn and after a fierce fire fight arty was concentrated on the posn. Patrol was unable to investigate the effect of the shelling but it is considered that additional cas were inflicted. A patrol found a well defined track from 972487 leading towards A Coy posn which ran through an old Jap camp area at 968484 capable of accommodating two coys. Posn is considered to have been unoccupied for at least 2 weeks. A further patrol crossed the HONGORAI and moved north of Number 2 GOVERNMENT rd to 969478. 3 enemy appeared on the rd - all of whom were killed. Another patrol at 953481 observed mov in the thick undergrowth 3 yds away. Patrol opened fm and heard further mov on the flanks and appeared to be surrounded by approx 10 enemy. Patrol fought its way out without loss and killed 1 enemy. 14 pl now 957482; D Coy 972487.

2

GEN

The following is an extract from observations made by a patrol leader on 3 May who had to contact various standing patrols:

"The practice of moving off the tracks is slow but it enabled us to see the 47 Aust Inf Bn ambush at 914463 before they saw us."

BM 15 Aust Inf Bde
May

DISTRIBUTION

As per Summary 99

War Diary

CONFIDENTIAL

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 110

Infm to 080900L

8 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

After several weeks of continuous action during which a series of drives have been made along the BUIN rd, HATAI track and RUMIKI areas, our tps on 7 May successfully concluded the first phase of the op when the HONGORAI river was reached at the main BUIN rd crossing, and in the northern sector when our forces crossed the HONGORAI SE of RUMIKI. During these advs valuable sp has been rendered by tks, arty and airstrikes thus assisting the inf in clearing the enemy from the area west of the HONGORAI and inflicting by cas on a determined foe.

KEKRO CREEK - HONGORAI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

At 070900L following an arty barrage fwd of D Coy locality A Coy supported by one tp of tks commenced an adv along the BUIN rd and at 0930L after having moved through D Coy a small enemy party was sighted on the north side of the track. The leading tk engaged with Besa fire and the enemy rapidly dispersed. The adv continued without further opposition and at 1215L A Coy had reached its objective, the HONGORAI river, and est a coy locality at 942434 covering the BUIN rd crossing, with 7 pl at 943433 on a 60 ft feature dominating the ford. During the adv several obstacles on the rd delayed the progress of the tks but these were quickly cleared by the bulldozer team moving with the tks. One tk slipped into a bomb crater at approx 936435, but was soon extricated and is temporarily out of action. The rate of adv of the inf was very slow due to extremely thick undergrowth lining the track. The rd is in bad condition due to rotted corduroy and bomb craters. While A Coy was consolidating at 942434 contact patrols were despatched to C and D Coys and to the flanks to locate the enemy.

A patrol north from D Coy located approx 30 enemy in a biv area at 941444. The patrol was in posn before the enemy was sighted but remained still for approx 1/2 hr and on being unable to obtain more infm without revealing their presence, the patrol moved from the posn. 50 yds south of the biv area patrol sighted 3 enemy washing in a creek. 2 of whom were killed. Patrol returned to D Coy. At 932439 a local patrol found an enemy biv area containing 20 37 mm tk A shells, 7 JUKI amn and fencing wire. The posn was last used on night 5/6 May. A recce patrol moving north from A Coy contacted an enemy patrol str 16 at 942437 and after an encounter during which 1 enemy was killed, the patrol broke contact and returned to A Coy locality. After mortar and arty fire had been concentrated on the posn an investigating patrol reported that the fire had been accurate and the enemy had dispersed.

Disposns: Bn HQ 910446; A Coy 942434; B Coy 928438; C Coy 932436; D Coy 934435; 6 tp tks with A Coy and HQ F tp with B Coy.

(ii) TOKINOTU AREA

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

2 vacated 75 mm gun posns each well cam, were located at 918453 and 922453. At least 10 weapon pits and 100 empty shell cases were found around each gun posn. A small recce party from the patrol at 934396 crossed the HONGORAI before first lt on 7 May to recce the garden area at 943398. A patrol at 905444 located 2 booby traps constructed from 75 mm shells which the patrol exploded from behind cover. Patrol to the enemy def posn at 920464 reported that it had been occupied on 5 May. Footprints of 4 enemy were observed on the track running east from 915465. A patrol from D Coy reached 927464 and cut the enemy sig lins and est an ambush.

Disposns: Bn HQ 899454; A Coy 920442; B Coy 917452; C Coy 912446; D Coy 907448.

(iii) RUMIKI AREA
57/60 Aust Inf Bn

On 7 May the bn made a gen adv and have D Coy est across the HONGORAI river. At 1330L an A Coy patrol observed 2 enemy at 969477 both of whom were killed with a grenade. A native reports at least 10 enemy in the area approx 969478. On night 6/7 May a patrol base at 982477 heard sounds of a mot running on Number 2 GOVERNMENT rd at approx 977472 moving from west to east. The sound which was heard for approx 3 mins from 061840L is considered to have been that of a 4 cylinder mot. "Enemy mov was heard at 978472. Patrol returned to coy on 7 May. A patrol to 975474 contacted a 2/8 Aust Cdo Sqn patrol recce-ing the same area. A native guide observed 1 enemy moving NW towards the def posn at 975474.

Disposns: Bn HQ 948486; A Coy 966484; B Coy less two pls 925484; 10 and 12 pls 936486; C Coy plus 10 tp tks 956492; D Coy 972488; 5 pl 946485.

[Handwritten signature]
Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

- 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) (7)
- 57/60 Aust Inf Bn (6)
- 58/59 Aust Inf Bn (6)
- 15 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec (AIF)
- 14 pl 2/1 Aust Gd Regt
- 15 Aust Inf Bde Flamethrower Pl
- 15 Aust Fd Amb (AIF)
- E Sec 63 ADU
- 266 Aust LAD (AIF)
- Det 3 Aust Div Pro Coy
- Det ANGAU
- B Sqn 2/4 Aust Armd Regt
- 2 Aust Fd Regt
- 15 Aust Fd Coy RAE (AIF)
- A Coy 15 Aust Fd Amb
- 53 Aust Tpt Pl (TS)
- 3 Aust Sup Dep Pl (AIF)
- 4 Aust Sup Dep Pl (AIF)
- 129 Aust Bde Ord Fd Pl (AIF)
- 129 Aust Bde Wksp (AIF)
- Comd
- BM
- SC
- Edn Offr
- CSM
- 15 Aust Inf Bde LOB Gp
- File
- War Diary (2)

War Diary

CONFIDENTIAL

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 111

Infm to 090900L

9 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

(i) KEKRO CREEK - HONGORAI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

At 080220L 2 enemy carrying a lantern crossed the HONGORAI river fwd of A Coy posn from east to west. When the enemy were almost to the coy posn our sentry threw a grenade and an investigation at first lt disclosed a large wicker basket containing documents. At 0840L a D Coy outpost exchanged fire with 2 enemy scouts moving on the southern flank. The enemy fled and a patrol to investigate later reported NMS. At 0945L an enemy grenade was thrown at the outpost.

At 1445L 1 jeep moving 100 yds fwd of a jeep train was fired on when 80 yds west of B Coy. Our tps in the rear jeep returned the fire and the enemy fled. Our cas was 1 killed and enemy unknown. A patrol later despatched to investigate the ambush reported that the str of the enemy party was 5.

A B Coy patrol located an occupied enemy posn on an island on the HONGORAI at 944448, estimated to be capable of accommodating 100 tps and consisting of well built huts and pillboxes which commanded a good fd of fire. The patrol moved back and heard further enemy mov at 941443 and thence moved to 940438 where 30 enemy were encountered. After a fire fight the patrol broke contact and returned to B Coy. Our cas was 1 killed and enemy unknown. A patrol from C Coy located enemy posns 931438 and 933438. At biv area 933438 an old 37 mm tk A gun and a quantity of amm and eqpt were found. The posn is capable of accommodat- ing 100 men and was probably used on night 5/6 May. At 932442 patrol contacted the enemy in unknown str in a well prepared posn with foxholes and pillboxes and using a LMG, rifles and grenades. The enemy outflanked the patrol and after fierce fighting our tps eventually fought their way out of the posn before an additional patrol arrived which had been sent to their assistance. Our cas were 3 wounded 1 missing; enemy unknown. From 081805L to 081825L 16 150 mm shells incl 4 blinds fell in the area 939434 damaging 2 flamethrowers, incl 1 completely unserviceable, 1 Bren, 2 rifles, 6 shelter halves and a quantity of packs and eqpt. Our cas were 2 wounded.

(ii) TOKINOTU AREA

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

At 080700L an ambush at 927464 fired on 2 enemy armed with rifles while moving from the East. The enemy fled; nil cas. A patrol to 935396 crossed the river at 935405. The AITARA track was located at 943397 and the enemy sig wire on the west of the track was cut. Footprints of 4 enemy leading both north and south were observed, which were estimated to be 2 hrs old. A working party at 924440 observed 1 enemy and an investigating patrol reported signs of a hasty enemy withdrawal.

(iii) RUMIKI AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

At 081030L a patrol moved east from the clearing 949485, crossed a small creek and found an old Jap biv site 200 yds from Bn HQ, containing 9 dead Japs, 3 enemy and 1 Aust grenades, 1 carbine and 6 rifles. A search is being continued by FSS personnel. A patrol crossed the river at 967483 and encountered rifle fire from an estimated 6 enemy on high ground 50 yds fwd of the river. A patrol with mortar and MMG sp departed to clear the posn. Natives reported having seen 2 enemy crawling through the jungle to a WP at 957494 and a patrol to investigate reported NMS. B Coy less 12 pl now 936486, 12 pl 947485. A patrol reports the shelling of the garden area 952475 to have been accurate.

[Signature]
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 112

Infm to 100900L

10 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

(1) KMKRO CREEK - HONGORAI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

An A Coy recce patrol in 091025L reported having observed an enemy patrol str 15 moving NW from 942431 in gps of 3 without, however, engaging them. FELO unit broadcast in direction of this patrol with nil results. B Coy/091115L were est 943425 on a small feature dominating the east bank of the river. Enemy cas for patrol clash 932442 on 8 May now stated to be 7 killed 2 wounded.

A D Coy patrol found signs of 5 enemy moving from 959431 to 926434 whilst, on a footpad at 941428, there were signs of 10 enemy moving south about 8 May.

091300L another D Coy patrol contacted 20 enemy moving south at 935438. When enemy attempted encirclement, patrol broke contact and returned to coy locality without loss.

An A Coy patrol to investigate results of the airstrike on enemy island posn 944447 on morning 9 May contacted a strong enemy party of possibly 40 moving south at 943437. FOO with our patrol brought down arty fire causing enemy to disperse. The long range B Coy patrol which left on 8 May returned at 1545L and reported having successfully moved down west bank of the HONGORAI, crossing at 946416, proceeding via 950417 and along the west bank of the FOROREI to 956422, just 200 yds from the rd river junc, where, it was estimated, from the chopping and large scale mov, about 50 enemy were at work. Following the axis of the BUIN rd westwards at a distance of 200 yds to the south, the patrol moved to 952426, crossing at 953424 a well used track running NE SW showing recent footprints of about 10 enemy wearing leather boots. At 952426, the patrol moved SW to 945426 from which pt a small recce party moved up east bank of the HONGORAI for 300 yds and returned. The patrol crossed at 945426 and returned to coy locality without seeing any enemy mov, valuable topographical infm was obtained.

At 091505L approx 10 enemy seen moving to the north flank of C Coy and a patrol sent out to investigate reported NMS. 2 1/2 hrs later enemy mov on north and south flanks of the same coy was engaged by 2 pr HE and BESA fire. 1 enemy was seen crawling to the wire on the right flank and engaged. At 091810L, more mov on the south flank. No further mov has since been heard.

A D Coy patrol reported having crossed the HONGORAI to the south at 944427 and moved along the HONGORAI to 945427 from where they struck east to the BUIN rd at 951428 where shouting and chopping was heard 200 yds to the east from an estimated 20 - 30 Japs. Patrol cautiously moved to 956421 where a party of about 20 enemy was heard cutting a track in a SW direction. At 952421 footprints only 3 hrs old on a well worn track were found. Patrol continued on to 952420 and followed the FOROREI down to the junc with the HONGORAI river and returned along WEST bank of HONGORAI. They located at 945427 an old enemy posn accommodating 30 with 7 dugouts on a bank 40 ft in height and, at 949428, 12 partly demolished huts in a heavily bombed area. It is suspected that a new enemy posn is under constr at 953428 although patrol was unable to get close enough to estimate str or extent.

Disposns: Bn HQ 938434; A Coy 6 tp 2/4 Aust Armd Regt 942434; B Coy 943425; C Coy 932436; D Coy with HQ F tp 934435.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

A Coy less 8 pl now at 926439 with 8 pl at 920442; Bn HQ with HQ Coy opened at 925440 at 091000L. Patrols throughout the day located evidence of enemy mov in many areas north and south of the BUIN rd. An old Jap garden at 942419 much overgrown with a well defined track running north along the river; footprints of 3 enemy moving east only an hr previously on a track to the east from garden 911429; footprints 24 hrs old of 2 enemy going

east at 925445; whilst another patrol sighted more footprints about 24 hrs old of 4 enemy on an east-west track at 906430 were found during the day. The overnight ambush est at 924464 on the newly found track running east from AMBUSH TRACK at approx 914466 returned and reported one enemy was wounded when the ambush was sprung at 090700L. This patrol discovered a well defined east west track at 923460 with a new sig line following the track 40 yds to the north side. Sig wire was tied off the ground and, when the patrol leader cut the wire, he received a slight electric shock testifying to its use. A 15 yd sec of the wire was removed.

Disposns: Bn HQ 925440; A Coy less 8 pl 926439; 8 pl 920442; B Coy 917454; C Coy 912446; D Coy 907448.

(ii) RUMIKI AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

The A Coy patrol which set out for the HUDA area on 8 May set an ambush on Number 2 GOVERNMENT rd at 973475. At 090915L 4 enemy, 2 armed with short carbines and the other 2 unarmed, moving north were allowed to enter ambush where all were killed. Patrol then returned to coy keeping south of the rd. At 091130L under covering fire from A Coy locality a standing patrol crossed the HONGORAI at 967483 despite hy enemy fire from an estimated JUKI, 5 LMGs and small arms. The standing patrol, without loss, is now est on south bank at 967483. A vacated enemy posn was located at 932478 by another patrol but no signs of recent occupation noticeable. 2 enemy, of whom 1 was killed, were sighted at 933473 where the patrol was examining an old native village. At 932474 30 yds was cut out of sig wire running NE SW whilst 2 sets of fresh enemy footprints were seen at 957488. At 955483 a small vacated enemy posn accommodating 7, possibly used night 8/9 May was found. A native with one patrol heard 1 Jap moving at the creek rd junc 977472.

Disposns: Bn HQ with 10 tp tks 948486; A Coy less 8 pl 966484; 8 pl 967482; B Coy less 12 pl 936486; 12 pl 947485; C Coy 956492; D Coy 972488.

091730L 2 shots fired at patrol escorting tk cpl across HONGORAI at 967483 to recce tkability of rd with nil cas. 3 Japs seen carrying 2 LMGs to a posn 50 yds from south bank at 965482. 092050L an arty DF task was fired on posn 968481.

(b) 29 Aust Inf Bde

(i) MAWARAKA AREA


15 Aust Inf Bn

Disposns ref map PURIATA river 1 in series: Bn HQ 764624; HQ coy less 5 pl 765620; 5 pl 778680; A Coy 778793; B Coy less 11 pl 778660; 11 pl 854592; C Coy 784624; D Coy 772648; 5 pl 42 Aust Inf Bn 778692.

(ii) BARARA AREA

42 Aust Inf Bn

Adv party and one pl 839479; D Coy less 18 pl 879474; 18 pl 885466.


Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

As per Summary 110

CONFIDENTIAL

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 113

Infm to 111500L

11 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

(1) KEKRO CREEK - HONGORAI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

At 100630L 2 mules, 1 wearing harness, wandered down the EAST bank of the HONGORAI river at 944434. 1 was killed and the other wounded. Mov of an unknown number of enemy was observed at 941441 and 3 enemy, when observed at 927450, fled. A B Coy patrol crossed the HONGORAI river at 944426, moved SOUTH along the EAST bank to 944421 and reported that the log crossing had been demolished by bombing. A patrol from D Coy enroute to the HONGORAI river was unable to cross the hy swamp at 940441. Mortar fire was directed on the enemy posn 941442 but, on investigation, no mov was observed.

An A Coy patrol reached 928449 where 3 enemy, believed to be op as a listening post, were sighted and on the approach of the patrol they fled.

At 928452 1 enemy was sighted and considerable mov, by an estimated 20 enemy, was heard in the undergrowth. Further mov of approx 40 enemy was heard on the flank of a patrol at 931450, from where a well worn track showing signs of recent hy use leads SOUTH. The enemy attempted to encircle the patrol which then returned to A Coy. A patrol from C Coy reports a br over the POROREI river at 956423 but was unable to observe details of structure due to enemy activity. After having observed 10 enemy chopping trees on the EAST bank of the POROREI the patrol moved through hy secondary growth and, on reaching the BUIN rd at 955424, the patrol comd crawled under a Jap veh and observed enemy mov for 30 mins. At 101515L 2 enemy parties, each of 30 men and carrying 2 TAISHO LMGs, were observed moving WEST along the BUIN rd at 955424 and further forces were heard moving behind. The patrol comd considers that approx 100 enemy moved along the BUIN rd during the presence of his patrol in the area. The veh from under which the observations were made was a Chevrolat 30 cwt truck parked in a cut in bay on the SOUTH side of the rd with well cam overhead cover. The veh appeared to be in good repair but had not been recently used.

An unoccupied enemy def posn with accn for 30 tps and not used for 1 month was located on the bank of the river at 946419.

A patrol from D Coy found enemy sig wire running EAST WEST at 944436, an old Jap posn with accn for 30 and not used for 1 week at 944437, and a well worn track running EAST WEST at 943441 from where enemy mov was observed on the patrol's EAST flank.

A freshly dug enemy posn capable of accomodating 15 men and used 1 hr before the arrival of the patrol was located at 943445.

Well worn tracks led EAST and WEST through the area. Further enemy mov was heard and patrol returned to D Coy. At 931443 a patrol found a freshly dug enemy posn and, while investigating, was fired on by an enemy LMG. An enemy posn for a str of 30 tps with cam on pits 3 days old was located at 921439.

At 101705L a listening post on the northern edge of C Coy locality was fired on by an enemy LMG. Nil cas.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

At 101200L the B Coy ambush returned from 924444 and reported NMS.

A patrol found a 37 mm tk A gun less the barrel and breech block at 904450. 1 enemy sighted at 907448 was wounded but escaped.

At 101530L 3 combined long range patrols to the EAST of the HONGORAI river reached 943425. 2 enemy footprints 24 hrs old leading SE were observed on the track at 925430 but attempts to follow the tracks proved unsuccessful as the tracks disappeared in the scrub.

(ii) RUMIKI AREA
57/60 Aust Inf Bn

At 101400L 8 pl was fired on by a LMG and rifles from an enemy posn at 966482 without causing cas. A patrol to investigate the WEST flank of the enemy posn reported NMS. A flying fox over DURHAMS CROSSING is now in op. A C Coy patrol reached 950475, crossed the HONGORAI at 962483, followed swamp to 963479 thence SE to 968476. NMS. An ambush est at 977472 on the EAST side of the GOVERNMENT rd heard sounds of chopping to the NORTH. 1 Jap, while washing in the river, was attacked by the native guide. The Jap commenced screaming and the native battered his head with a stone. While his head was being dressed, the Jap broke loose but was soon tackled and recaptured by the patrol comd.

M. J. H.
Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

As per Summary 110
plus Area Comd MOTUPENA
AUSTER Ops OXLEY FD

ND

CONFIDENTIAL

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 114

12 May 45

Infm to 121500L

1 OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

(1) KEKRO CREEK - HONGORAI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

At 111200L an A Coy patrol reached 939439 where an enemy posn 3 days old consisting of 5 foxholes and 6 leantos was found. The body of the OR reported missing on 8 May was recovered at 932440. The body had not been disturbed and no eqpt had been removed. A well worn footpad runs EAST WEST at 934431. A patrol reported an enemy posn at 941437, 3 days old, and capable of accommodating 20 tps. A patrol observed enemy mov on top of an escarpment at 941444 and of 3 Japs who approached the patrol posn, 2 were killed and 1 wounded. An ambush has been est at 940439. A patrol from B Coy heard sounds of chopping and could smell food cooking at 949432 but was unable to estimate the enemy str. At 952430 1 veh was heard moving on the BUIN rd but the direction of mov or the type of veh is unknown. The garden area at 955423 is overgrown and 15 enemy were observed sitting on the BUIN rd on the northern edge of the garden. A patrol to 943409 observed 10 enemy eating lunch. Red sig cable runs along the side of a track from 947408 to 943420. At 111725L enemy mov was heard on the northern flank of C Coy locality.

From 111805L to 111835L 27 rounds incl 6 blinds estimated to have been fired from a 150 mm and a 105 mm gun fell in BN HQ and A Coy localities causing considerable damage to stores and eqpt. Our cas resulting from the shelling were 2 killed and 7 wounded.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

On 11 May fresh footprints of 3 enemy were found on the track leading NW at 936452.

A patrol reached 957414 and sighted 7 enemy moving NORTH along the AITARA track. Patrol now at base 944413. A patrol from D Coy captured a PW at 934390 who was returned to Bde HQ and on interrogation the PW disclosed considerable infm. A patrol at 923437 found footprints, 48 hrs old, of an enemy party of 8 men moving WEST. The footprints were followed to the garden at 914436 where they terminated. 7 boxes of HMG amm were found at 924452 in an old biv area with accn for 40 men and not used for 6 days. A vacated enemy ambush posn with accn for 8 and occupied 12 hrs previously was located at 934452. An enemy def posn at 936452 consists of 40 weapon pits without overhead cover and numerous leanto shelters. An enemy track with many vacated foxholes on either side runs from 936452 to 934444.

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

RUMIKI AREA

At 110645L arty HF was directed on enemy posns at 968481. A B Coy patrol reached the enemy posn 953476 and reported the area which consists of 9 huts and extensive def posns, unoccupied. 7 pl relieved 8 pl at 967483 and the latter returned to A Coy at 966484. A patrol to investigate the result of the airstrike on 11 May was fired on from 968482. Following on arty conc at 111445L a sec patrol moved to the SOUTH flank to investigate the posn and approached to within 50 yds, heard talking and chattering which ceased and the enemy then opened fire with rifles. The patrol returned to coy HQ without suffering cas. A patrol to 953476 found several rounds with the projectiles reversed. A patrol est an ambush at 978471. At 111830L arty laid HF on enemy posn 968481.

DISTRIBUTION

As per Summary 113

[Signature]
Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 115

Infm to 131800L

13 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

(1) KEKRO CREEK - HONGORAI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

At 121100L A Coy moved NORTH from the BUIW Rd and est at 936438 and C Coy moved fwd to A Coy's vacated posn. Three coys of the Bn are now est along the western side of the HONGORAI river; C Coy astride the rd, A Coy to the NORTH and B Coy to the SOUTH.

A patrol from B Coy crossed the HONGORAI River, moved SOUTH to a creek at 943427 and while moving along the creek towards the river, 3 enemy were observed sitting on the bank all of whom were killed and 3 rifles and a document were recovered from the bodies. A further enemy party of an estimated str of 12 was heard approaching from the north and the patrol returned to the Coy locality. A patrol located an enemy posn at 935439 consisting of 4 weapon pits with vines connecting the pits. An ambush has been est at 935442. The track at this pt shows signs of recent mov of 7 to 10 enemy in a NE direction 4 to 5 hrs old. From 121000L to 121130L mortars with an AUSTER OP ranged for future targets along the BUIW Rd to the POROREI ford.

At 935461 a patrol found footprints 2 days old of 15 enemy, leading both NORTH and SOUTH. At 944461 a track runs NORTH-SOUTH which had been used by 20 enemy on 10 May.

A further well defined track running in the same direction has been extensively used by large enemy parties. At 934441 a track running NE-SW showed recent footprints leading in both directions. A vacated enemy posn with accn for 60 tps consisting of foxholes and shelters was located at 931440. A well oiled Aust .303 rifle, 1 pr of boots and gaiters, haversack, water bottle and mosquito net were found in the posn. A freshly dug enemy posn with accn for 10 was found at 932441 and a posn 3 days old with a barbed wire perimeter was located at 931443. Mov was heard at 931444 and an ambush was est without result. At 933422 a patrol observed 8 enemy moving WEST and at 936441, signs were observed of considerable enemy mov through thick vegetation.

Dispositions: Bn HQ 936432, A Coy 936438, B Coy 939424, C Coy 938431, D Coy 934433. 2 tks from 6 Tp now with D Coy.

At 130600L a patrol whilst in its biv site at 952421 was attacked by approx 20 enemy. The patrol killed 3 enemy and then returned to the coy locality to avoid encirclement.

At 1100L a fighting patrol departed from B Coy to contact the enemy.

At 0930L a patrol observed 15/20 enemy at 935441 and on being unable to outflank the posn, the patrol returned.

At 1015L 2 patrols contacted at 935441 and were both attacked by an enemy force of an estimated str of 50 using grenade dischargers, knee mortars, LMGs and rifles. The patrol cmd and 2 men from one patrol were pinned down and the remainder could not reach them due to intense enemy LMG fire. Superior numbers and fire power forced our patrols to break contact and the patrol cmd and 2 men eventually fought their way out and all returned to A Coy. Our cas were 3 wounded, 1 missing, enemy 3 known killed. At 1415L a fighting patrol left A Coy to locate the missing man. On 12 May a patrol from B Coy to the garden at 953420 reported that the area had been heavily bombed with large bomb craters in the centre of the rd. Patrol then moved to POROREI ford 954410

which showed signs of recent bombing; 5 enemy were observed washing in the river and when the patrol moved fwd to engage, a further 6 enemy, armed, appeared on the EAST bank of the river, and the patrol returned to 952423 where they spent night 12/13 May. At 130700L the patrol observed 20 enemy armed with rifles moving 2 abreast SE along the BUIN rd; patrol returned to the Coy locality via log crossing 941-18.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

On 12 May a patrol located an old 75MM gun posn at 924450 with 40 expended shells in the area. Patrol moved to 933418 when the soldier reported missing from 24 Aust Inf Bn on 8 May was found. The soldier had been wounded in the left leg during a patrol clash and had crawled away from the scene of action. Of 4 enemy who were searching for him, he killed 3 and the other fled.

7 enemy graves 4 weeks old were found at 926433 and an enemy biv area with accn for 8 and not occupied for 4 days was located at 924431. The patrol en route AITARA reached the patrol base 942408 at 121140L.

Disposns: Bn HQ 925436, A Coy less 8 pl 928434, 8 pl 920441, B Coy 913451, C Coy 916443, D Coy 905447.

13 May

While investigating a small track at 913438, a patrol exploded an enemy booby trap which wounded 2 of our tps. The trap, believed to have been a 75MM shell, had a delayed fuze of approx 2 seconds. A further patrol located 2 old huts at 898442 in which were freshly cut leaves where one enemy had slept on night 12/13 May. Footprints were observed on a track leading WEST from the hut. At 1030L 11 Pl relieved 14 pl at 941408.

(ii) RUMIKI AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

From 120755L to 121230L the enemy posn at 969480 was subjected to 2 airstrikes, arty and mortar HF. Periodical arty and mortar fire continued throughout the day and night 12/13 May. Acting on infm supplied by PW, a patrol from D Coy est an ambush on the COMMANDO Rd at 975468 to ambush a ration party due to return from RUNAI on 12 May. At 121145L 11 enemy, armed and wearing eqpt and packs, walked into the ambush posn and our tps opened fire killing 9. The enemy fired only 2 shots but caused no cas to our patrol. A suitable tk crossing across the HONGORAI was found at 959483.

Disposns: Bn HQ 966484, 4 pl and B Ech 950485, A Coy less 9 pl plus 10 Tp tks 968482, 9 pl 968481, B Coy 964485, C Coy 958489, D Coy 973487.

(b) 11 Aust Inf Bde (infm to 111800L May)

(b) SORAKEN AREA

26 Aust Inf Bn

C Coy made an unopposed landing on TOROKORI IS on 6 May and reported the island clear despite the use of a suspected 37MM gun from there in the preceding weeks. The Coy has now returned to SORAKEN peninsular, leaving an OP party.

55/53 Aust Inf Bn

A and B Coys are converging on RURI BAY, the former est within 1500 yds of RURI BAY on the SIAR rd, and patrolling NORTH and EAST NMS, whilst B Coy, in posn near the SIAR track junc, ambushed a party of Jap Naval tps, killing 2 and capturing a new type 99 rifle. C Coy is moving from RATSUA towards BUHO ptn and patrols have penetrated to the coast in sq 2669. A party of 7 Japs moving SOUTH was ambushed on the main track 1000 yds NW of RATSUA. A Jap Naval tp was killed. D Coy has occupied the RATAUA track junc area. 2 LCAs have succeeded in carrying stores and pers to the recently captured RATAUA jetty. A Jap engr dump with a staff car and a damaged 6 wheeler truck nearby was found in this area.

A gun was observed on 10 May firing from SOHANA IS. Natives report 6 Japs and a 75MM gun on MADEHAS IS at 127753.

- (c) 23 Aust Inf Bde
PIATERAPAIA AREA
27 Aust Inf Bn

On 10 May, following bombing and strafing by 12 Corsairs of LITTLE HUNTS HILL, a fighting patrol occupied the feature killing 1 Jap and wounding 2. The remaining 8 withdrew to BERRYS HILL. Captured eqpt included 1 LMG, 5 rifles, 1 sword, 1 Aust OSMG and Mags and documents. A dixie of fresh meat thought by medical officers to be the flesh of a human being, was found. The following day this was corroborated by the discovery of a partially buried Jap body from the calf and thigh of which large pieces of flesh had been cut. Patrols fwd of LITTLE HUNTS HILL on 10 May killed 1 Jap whilst on 11 May, erratic Jap rifle fire from BERRYS HILL was directed at LITTLE HUNTS HILL. Patrols to SISIVIE killed 3 Japs and wounded 3 on 10 May.

- (d) Other Fronts

From the AITAPE area, it is reported that a patrol captured a complete enemy force of 41, incl a Lt-Col and 4 other officers.

BORNEO - TARAKAN

Progress has been slowed down in all sectors as enemy opposition stiffens. On the right flank, 2/3 Pnr Bn made some progress towards AMAL, and in the centre, patrols from the 2/4 Cdo Sqn and 2/43 Bn have been active NORTH of the town. Enemy infiltration parties have harassed our tps.

On the left, A Coy of the 2/23 Bn with tk sp has struck further opposition in the MT API area but elements of the 2/24 Bn have reached the outskirts of the DJOEATA oilfields EAST of the main rd.

Enemy cas to 070600 (I Time) - 286 killed.

2. SUMMARY OF PATROL REPORTS

Native scouts reported on 8 May that the enemy had evacuated the BANIU BAY area. 104 Japs have been counted at TENDOO in this area, nearly all having come from areas WEST of CHINDPATS. Unom, RURI and SIAR areas are also practically clear of enemy.

8 May natives killed 8 Japs in an attack on an enemy posn in the BOVO RIVER area, whilst on 10 May, they killed 14 of 16 Japs at the mouth of the URUAI River. At KOVIDAU, a vigorous attack was made on Japanese houses 10 May. One house was set alight and it is claimed that 22 Japs were killed although 40 more enemy are believed still in the area.

3 trucks are reported to be hidden between the BUIN Rd and SIRAHUNO 046412. These trucks RV at the BUIN Rd at 1800 hrs daily, either near HARI 1 or HARI 2, pick up 3 estimated 105MM guns and then proceed towards TAITAI using lights. The trucks withdraw before daylight - report graded B1.

3. ENEMY INFM

The patrol which observed the 7 enemy moving NORTH along the AITARA track, reported that the Japs, who were well dressed and in good condition, were talking and joking and were not carrying out any protective precautions during their mov along the track. As the large parties of enemy observed moving along the BUIN rd between the HONGORAI and POROREI rivers on 10 May were adopting the same attitude, it would appear that the enemy in these areas are in excellent spirit, well fed and are completely unaware of the presence of our patrols in the area.

Acting on the infm supplied by the PW captured by 57/60 Aust Inf Bn on 10 May, that an enemy ration party would be moving along COMMANDO rd to the enemy fwd tps on 11 or 12 May, an ambush was est on the rd at 975468, and at 121145L 11 enemy moved north along the rd. The patrol waited for the party to move into the ambush

and then opened fire killing 9 of the 11. The enemy only fired 2 shots. One Jap was completely cut in half by fire from a Bren gun. The enemy were armed, carrying full eqpt, well dressed, in good condition and all were big men. These enemy may have been the ration party mentioned by the PW, or, as they were carrying full eqpt it is possible that they may have been rfts which PW had stated were expected to arrive. This successful encounter stresses the importance of capturing PW, and is an example of how decisive action can be taken on infm supplied by them.

[Signature]
Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

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As per Summary 113

War Diary

CONFIDENTIAL

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 116

Infm to 141800L

14 May 45

1. OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

(i) KEKRO CREEK - HONGORAI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

On 13 May one pl from D Coysp by covering fire from C Coy crossed the HONGORAI River at the main ford and by 1750L had consolidated on its objective at 940430 on the EAST of the river without having encountered any opposition.

A patrol to investigate the enemy posn at 935441 heard talking and mov in the area but was unable to locate the enemy. A patrol from B Coy heard voices near the BUIN rd at 951422 but our mortar fire prevented the patrol from moving towards the rd. At 140715L D Coy adv through C Coy, crossed the HONGORAI river and est a Coy locality at 940430 without encountering opposition. At 1000L an A Coy patrol observed enemy mov at 938438 and the patrol comd crawled fwd and observed an enemy party of 8 to 10 moving NORTH. A further 2 patrols were observed on the northern and eastern flanks but their str could not be estimated.

Patrol then returned to Coy locality. At 1045L a D Coy patrol while at 942433 was fired on by an enemy LMG from the northern end of the garden. A well worn track runs from the HONGORAI at 941432 to the enemy posn at 943431. A further patrol located an extensive enemy posn with a frontage of 100 yds on a 7 ft high feature running NW - SE at 943431. Sounds of chopping were heard and 2 enemy, one of whom was wearing Aust eqpt, were observed. Natives report that 2 enemy moved WEST along the BUIN rd to the posn on night 13/14 May. At 0945L a patrol reached 937439 and observed considerable enemy mov on both flanks. Patrol then moved and est a base at 935442 from where 2 recce patrols left to ascertain the enemy flanks; at 935443 an enemy posn with a 30 yd front and of an estimated str of 50 was observed. The enemy saw our patrol and attempted an outflanking mov. Patrol registered the posn with arty and thence returned to the Coy locality without suffering cas. A patrol reached 951420, the scene of the patrol clash at 130600L, and found one enemy dead, and the posn from where the enemy LMG fired on our tps had blood stains in the vic, indicating that the gunner had been wounded. The patrol then moved to 945420 and biv night 13/14 May. At 140800 an ambush posn was est on the track at 946419 without result and patrol then returned to its Coy Locality. A patrol from C Coy contacted an estimated 50 enemy in a well prepared cam posn at 955436 and when within 10 yds of the posn, our patrol was subjected to intensive fire from LMG, rifles and grenades, wounding 2 of our tps. After 30 mins fighting the enemy attempted an outflanking and encircling mov and our patrol broke contact and returned to Coy HQ. Enemy cas were 3 killed 1 wounded. The enemy were well clothed and in good condition. A patrol from D Coy est an ambush posn at 935458 and 2 enemy who approached were killed. Our cas was 1 wounded. From 141530L to 141550L 36 shells from 2 75mm and 1 105mm guns fell in D Coy area wounding 1 of our tps. An enemy party of 10 to 15 using an LMG attacked the northern flank of the Coy locality without causing cas. Enemy cas are unknown. A patrol found 3 enemy bodies at 943427 as a result of the action on 12 May. 4 foxholes approx 2 weeks old were found at 944430. Much mov was heard at 948429 and 949424.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

On 13 May a patrol reached MARTINS CROSSING at 940445 and reported it clear of enemy and no sign of recent mov was observed.

At 141000L D Coy moved fwd and occupied the posn 934433 which had been vacated by D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn.

On 14 May a patrol sighted enemy def posns, 4 fresh weapon pits and heard enemy talking at 938442. A patrol found an old enemy posn at 903444 consisting of foxholes and several pillboxes and capable of accn 40 men. Posn had not been occupied for at least 7 days. 9 old huts were found in the area. A further patrol reported that, at 1230L, 5 enemy armed with rifles were observed moving SOUTH along the AITARA track at 945402.

(11) RUMIKI AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

On 13 May a patrol reached the HUDA river at 972480 which was followed to the junc of the river and COMMANDO rd at 968475 and a recce 400 yds SE along the rd, reported NMS. New foxholes were found SOUTH of 969475 but was not a prepared posn. At 1700L 2 enemy crawled up to a log within 10 yds of the wire around 9 pl locality and fired on the pl wounding 1 of our tps. The pl opened fire but the enemy escaped. A patrol from B Coy est an ambush at 943454 for night 13/14 May. The gardens and huts at 954476 are now vacated and there was no sign of use for several days.

On 14 May a patrol from A Coy moved round the left flank of the enemy posn vic 968480 and when 30 yds from the enemy line of def, encountered rifle fire from the posn. Our patrol replied with LMG fire and returned to the Coy locality. Own cas nil, enemy unknown. A patrol to the HUDA river returned with a badly injured PW found in the vic of 970479. PW is believed to have been wounded during the action at 968480. Arty laid HF on the enemy posn during the day. Patrols to the COMMANDO rd at the rear of the enemy posn 968480 reported that the bombing at the crossing 967475 was extremely accurate. The patrols cut the sig wire along the rd. At 1400L a further patrol found 8 enemy sheltering from the rain in a lean to at 927454. The patrol engaged with SA fire and grenades killing all 8 of the enemy.

(b) 11 Aust Inf Bde

(1) RATSUA - RURI BAY AREA

55/58 Aust Inf Bn

Patrols SW of SIAR and 2500 yds NORTH of RATSUA NMS. At 121600L the 10 pl posn at the SIAR track junc was attacked by 10 Japs supported by a light mortar; 3 of the enemy were killed. A pl of Japs with 3 LMGs were encountered by a C Coy patrol at the NE corner of BUOI ptn and one Jap was killed. A 105mm gun with a burst barrel was found on the RURI BAY track. Bn HQ 300681.

(c) OTHER FRONTS - TARAKAN IS

Two NEI Coys are now within 2000 yds of KAROENGANG in their drive into the SE corner of the island. NORTH of the town, elements of the 2/4 Cdo Sqn and 2/48 Bn have linked and are continuing their drive. On the left, 2/23 Bn has struck determined enemy resistance EAST of MT API, but a pl of 2/24 Bn further NORTH has succeeded in penetrating the DJOETA oiafields. The enemy has withdrawn to an extensive tunnel system on the outskirts of the village. Enemy cas to 090600I; counted dead 335 PW 4.

2. SUMMARY OF PATROL REPORTS

19 Japs were killed by booby traps on the BUIN rd near RUSEI 060355 and HARI river area. MT westerly mov is reported on the BUIN rd at night and scouts report having observed 50/100 Japs moving WEST. These tps wore 6 Div colour patches and their clothing appeared to be new. Near MUSHIMINOI (030360) 21 enemy incl a Capt were killed and possibly another 20 killed by shrapnel mines and grenades.

Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

As per Summary 113 plus

2/11 Aust Inf Bde

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CONFIDENTIAL

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 117

Infm to 157300L

15 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

As a preliminary softening up of enemy posns fwd of 24 Aust Inf Bn a total of 64 Corsairs today attacked enemy targets on the ridge astride the BUIN rd at 944430, 300 yds on either side of the POROREI ford at 955420, the junc of AITARA track and BUIN rd and the USO area.

(i) KEKRO CREEK - HONGORAI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

Following bombing and strafing of the enemy posn 944430 fwd of D Coy from 1200L to 1245L, an enemy patrol of estimated str of 15 engaged the left flank of the coy locality with LMG and rifle fire and after an exchange of fire the enemy withdrew.

At 1257L mortars commenced engaging the enemy posn 944430 and at 1300L a fighting patrol of pl str supported by two tks adv along the axis of the BUIN rd and after 35 mins encountered a log obstacle across the rd at 942430 which was destroyed by 3 in how fire. After advancing a further 20 yds the surface of the rd became very soft and the fwd tk bogged. The bulldozer and res tk were brought fwd and, while attempting to extricate the tk, bulldozer also bogged. One sec of pns then moved up to assist the vehs. The pl est a def locality and two small patrols moved fwd to recce the enemy posn, one of which contacted a strong enemy posn on the SOUTH side of the rd at 944430.

At 1635L an estimated 105 mm gun shelled D Coy locality, one shell exploded on the turret of a tk causing cas to the complete crew and rendering the tk US. Immediately following the shelling an estimated 20 enemy attacked the patrol and by fire from our tps forced the enemy to withdraw. At 1650L the patrol returned to Coy HQ. Enemy cas were 2 killed.

From 1700L to 1705L 4 105 mm shells fell in the area 942431. Total cas from enemy shelling were 2 killed, 8 wounded, incl 2 killed and 3 wounded from the tk personnel att to the coy. A patrol from C Coy observed the footprints of 2 enemy leading NORTH at 939439 and located an old enemy posn consisting of 4 pillboxes and foxholes sited on an 8 ft feature at 943443. Posn was capable of accommodating 50 men and had not been used for one week. A track 3 ft wide at 945443 had been used by a party of 20 enemy on 14 May. A patrol from A Coy located a listening post of an estimated str of 15 at 935443 and mortar fire was directed on the posn.

The FELO unit broadcast from A Coy with nil results.

A patrol engaged an unknown number of enemy at 935438. Nil cas.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

At 1700L the AITARA patrol acting on infm supplied by the PW captured on 11 May attacked the enemy sig hut at 932389 killing the 3 enemy and capturing 3 rifles. AITARA was reported clear of enemy. One set of enemy footprints, 24 hrs old, was found leading WEST at 926434 and an attempt to follow the prints was unsuccessful.

(ii) RUMIKI AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

Arty and mortars fired on the junc of the COMMANDO rd and the POROREI river. A patrol from B Coy reached 971473 where a native reported that there were many enemy. Native also stated that the enemy had est an ambush posn at 969473. A C Coy patrol which bivouacked night 14/15 May at 954453 reported that there were no recent signs of enemy mov on LITTLES track at 955450 and 965465. A patrol found the bodies of 5 enemy at 968476 at least two days old, which it is considered had probably been killed by bombing.

(b) 11 Aust Inf Bde

RATSUA - RURI BAY AREA

25/53 Aust Inf Bn

121800L the enemy again unsuccessfully attacked 10 pl, losing 1 killed. 10 pl has rejoined B Coy whilst C and D Coys have exchanged posns.

Disposns: C Coy less 15 pl 309682; 15 pl 309692; D Coy less 16 pl 268690; 16 pl 289688. A sup train escort was ambushed 800 yds NORTH of RATSUA.

(c) 23 Aust Inf Bde

PIATERAPALA AREA

27 Aust Inf Bn

After a strike by 12 Corsairs, a patrol moved out to BERRYS HILL and, finding the feature occupied by 30/35 Japs with 4 LMGs, killed two enemy before withdrawing. 25/30 Japs are at

BURITSISTORARA (native report) and increased use of the ASITAVI - PIPIPAIA - BURITSISTORARA L of C is reported.

MAPIA 664228 and AVIENG 675228 occupied only by natives - another MAPIA is reported at 743153.

One Jap was killed by a patrol enroute SISIVIE.

(c) Extract from First Aust Army Int Summary

"Aust tps are now within 3/4 mile of RURI BAY in their adv across the base of the BONIS peninsula; whilst, to the WEST, fwd elements have occupied the southern sec of BUOI plantation. There are persistent reports of evac towards NUMA NUMA but it is considered that these refer to the mov of Army tps only and that a sizeable force of Naval tps will be cut off in the BONIS peninsula - BUKA PASSAGE areas.

Def preparations on BERRYS HILL astride the trans-island track to NUMA NUMA indicate the enemy's determination to keep the EAST coast escape route open, at least temporarily, thus affording time to admit forces, known to be moving SOUTH along the coast from the TEOP BAY area, into the NUMA NUMA perimeter.

[Signature]
Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

As per Summary 116

War Diary

CONFIDENTIAL

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 118

Infm to 161800L

16 May 45

1. OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

(1) KEKRO CREEK - HONGORAI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

An A Coy patrol located an enemy posn at 938436 estimated to consist of a lean to and foxholes capable of accn 15 to 20 men. 2 enemy were observed NORTH of the posn and mov was heard to the SOUTH. The enemy fired one rifle shot and the patrol returned to the Coy and reported the location of the posn. At 1040L a fighting patrol departed to destroy the enemy but found the posn vacated. The posn was 50 ft in depth and provided for all round def. It had accn for 75 men and had not been occupied for 2 days. A patrol reported the enemy posn at 938442 to be still occupied. An enemy listening post at 939442 sighted our patrol and 2 enemy moved rapidly to the WEST. As the patrol moved WEST, a second listening post was observed and 1 Jap fled.

At 1015L 6 Tp of tks with D Coy was relieved by 9 Tp.

A recce patrol to determine the flanks of the enemy posn 944430 reached 943432 where a creek, the EAST bank of which is 20 ft high, runs SOUTH. An unestimated number of enemy are occupying the EAST side of the creek with cleared fire lanes dominating the lower ground. A well worn footpad leading to the posn from the WEST shows signs of extensive use. While returning, the patrol observed 3 separate parties each of 2 enemy, but avoided contact.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

Eqpt captured in the vic of the enemy sig hut at 932389 where the 3 Japs were killed on 14 May, incl a JUKI in good condition, 1 telephone, 3 rifles and a quantity of documents. One 37mm gun and a quantity of amn was found on the eastern side of the track and the patrol attempted to render the gun US. At 150830L a patrol from the base 942410 killed 1 of 2 enemy contacted on the AITARA track at 952407. At 954410 a patrol encountered an enemy ambush of a str of 12 men, one of whom was killed while our cas were nil. Considerable mov and talking was heard on the BUIN rd at 963407. On 16 May 12 Pl relieved 11 Pl at the patrol base 942410. At 1535L a patrol contacted 9 enemy in a dug in ambush posn at 941398 killing 1 and wounding 2 while our cas were nil.

(11) RUMIKI AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

D Coy adv to 986480 without encountering opposition. At 1345L arty laid HF on the area 968479. At 1200L the FELO unit broadcast surrender propaganda from A Coy area without results. At 1500L a patrol to ascertain if the enemy was still in occupation of the posn 968479 found the outer def unoccupied but observed 5 enemy with rifles moving towards an LMG pit. Fire was exchanged and the patrol returned. Our Cas nil, enemy unknown. A patrol reported the area from 968475 to 971472 clear of enemy.

(b) 11 Aust Inf Bde

RATSUA - RURI BAY AREA

55/53 Aust Inf Bn

A Coy has now moved to 310714, 2500 yds SW of SIAR. One of 5 Japs encountered enroute was killed. B Coy located an enemy posn immediately NORTH of the SIAR track junc. D Coy, patrolling the SOUTHERN edge of BUOI ptn NMS reported enemy activity to the SE. Arty engaged all enemy posns.

- (c) 23 Aust Inf Bde
PIATERAPAIA AREA
27 Aust Inf Bn

A patrol returned from TOKUA reports Japs in that area are developing their def posns.

- (d) OTHER FRONTS

The western half of CAPT, PASIR Peninsula has now been cleared of enemy. A 2/3 Pnr attack in the drive to AMAL was successful but our fwd tps have now drawn back to allow hy sp weapons to neutralize the area.

More enemy pockets have been destroyed NORTH of MT API. Enemy cas to 130900I - counted dead 393, probably killed 68, PW 5.

2. SUMMARY PATROL REPORTS

Scouts report abandoned Jap houses and eqpt, a light tk, large truck and trailer in the vic of UMUM GORGE.

25 Japs at least killed, 6 huts destroyed in an airstrike on ULA on 6 May.

[Signature]
Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

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as per Summary 116

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15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 119

Infm to 180900L

18 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

15 Aust Inf Bde - Bde HQ now located 918442.

As the result of excellent planning, based on infm supplied by patrols of enemy disposns and strs, the topography of the ground and on infm obtained by the interrogation of PW, 57/60 Aust Inf Bn, after 2 days softening up of known enemy posns by planes and arty, adv over difficult terrain along the gen axis of the COMMANDO rd against scattered oppsn, and on the completion of the days op had cleared the area for over 2 miles SE along the rd from the HONGORAI river, of all organised enemy resistance. The fwd coy is now est within striking distance of the extensive Jap gardens in the OSO - TAITAI area. In the central sector of the bde front 24 Aust Inf Bn is continuing the vigorous patrolling of the gen area on both flanks of the BUIN rd between the HONGORAI and POROREI rivers while, in the southern sector, over the past few days, extensive long range patrols from 58/59 Aust Inf Bn have penetrated to the coast at AITARA and have hit the enemy in several areas along the AITARA track.

By this patrolling, all three bns have obtained essential and valuable infm of enemy disposns, strs and of the topography of the area fronting the bde, thus rendering valuable assistance for the planning of future ops.

Our aircraft are continuing the softening up of enemy posns along the BUIN rd between the HONGORAI and POROREI rivers.

(a) COMMANDO RD

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

On 17 May, following an airstrike by 32 Corsairs, on the enemy strong pt at 973471; the bn commenced a large scale adv along the COMMANDO rd with the object of securing the line of the TOROBIRU river at 986453. At 0745L A Coy supported by 10 Tp tks moved to CARRS crossing 969484 but, as the tks were unable to cross the HONGORAI river, the coy continued the adv to attack the enemy posn 965479. Slight resistance was encountered but when the attack was pressed the enemy fled to the SOUTH and at 1135L A Coy moved in to occupy the posn. C Coy then moved through A Coy and est a posn on the KOYA crossing 969474. A Coy then adv to the HUDA crossing 968476. B Coy made a wide outflanking mov and at 1030L est a posn at 978476 in readiness to attack the enemy posn 973471 following an airstrike scheduled for 1215L. D Coy moved SOUTH to 980464 and at 1050L est a posn covering COMMANDO rd with the object of cutting off any enemy withdrawing from the B Coy attack. At 1500L one pl from D Coy adv along the rd to the TOROBIRU river at 986453. The B Coy attack then proceeded against the enemy posn 973471 and the first oppsn encountered was by 11 pl at 973472 against the enemy in unknown str firing rifles. The pl continued the attack and the enemy fled. B Coy then consolidated on its objective 973471.

D Coy less 18 pl is now est at 987453, thus completing an adv of 3700 yds for the day. Our only cas for the op was 1 wounded by shrapnel during bombing; enemy cas unknown.

All bombing and shelling was reported to have been very accurate. The COMMANDO rd is clear to D Coy. At 1830L C Coy moved to 978461.

Disposns: A Coy less 9 pl 968476; 9 pl 965479; B Coy 973471; D Coy less 18 pl 987453; 18 pl 979462; C Coy 978461.

At 1735L 5 enemy with rifles fired on C Coy ration party at 971473. A patrol departed to investigate but the enemy had dispersed.

5 enemy graves were found at 978463.

(b) KEKRO CREEK - HONGORAI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

On 16 May an A Coy patrol, while at 943419, was fired on by the enemy. Patrol moved to 943418 where 2 enemy were observed moving NW. At 1500L 15 enemy with rifles were observed moving NORTH from the POROREI ford. At 941431 a Jap sig wire running NE - SW through the bush laid on 12 May was cut by a patrol. A recce patrol to 951422 observed an enemy party of 12 but no contact was made.

A patrol to the suspected enemy posn at 945428 reported the area bombed and unoccupied. An enemy def posn capable of accommodating 50 men and used by 2 enemy on 16 May was located on the WEST bank of the ford at 939443. At 941442 the enemy cut 40 yds from our sig line. A patrol from D Coy to the SOUTH flank of the enemy posn reached 944427 and was fired on by 1 LMG and 4 rifles from the southern end of the feature.

An A Coy patrol reported the enemy posn 935443 unoccupied and that our shelling of the posn had been very accurate. A patrol from D Coy contacted 30 enemy using 2 LMGs and rifles in a posn on the reverse slope of a 50 ft ridge running NORTH - SOUTH at 945425. The patrol was moving up the slope to cross the ridge when 1 enemy was observed. The enemy opened fire from the main posn and after a short encounter our patrol broke contact. Enemy cas were 2 known killed; own nil.

A patrol from C Coy observed 2 enemy digging in on a ridge at 945428 with 1 Jap in a listening post on the fwd slope of the ridge. At 1330L, while at 946428, the patrol was fired on by 5 enemy using an OSMG and 4 rifles from a prepared posn, but the patrol avoided contact. A patrol heard chopping from the WEST bank of the creek at 944428, observed 6 enemy and a further 1 washing dixies in the creek. The creek from 943427 to culvert 946429 is a tk obstacle.

A patrol from D Coy to 945431 observed 9 enemy digging in and cutting firelanes. The patrol watched the posn while a small party moved back to direct mortar fire on the posn. This party, while enroute to rejoin the patrol, was fired on by 7 enemy from 943431. The balance of the patrol at 945431 heard the firing, killed 3 enemy in the posn which they were observing and then moved to rejoin the remainder of the patrol 944431, and while enroute killed a further 3 enemy. Patrol then returned to D Coy without suffering cas.

A patrol which reached the POROREI ford at 955419 observed 4 enemy bathing in the river and much mov on the WEST bank. 2
From 171740L to 171750L 18 rounds from an estimated 150 mm guns fell in the area 944429. During night 17/18 May our mortars laid HF on the POROREI ford and 945431.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

One pl moved from the patrol base 942410 to join 14 pl at 942397 and while enroute contacted 5 enemy at 938404 killing 3 and wounding 1 while our cas were nil. At 1330L 14 pl at 942397 ambushed 8 enemy moving SOUTH. Our LMG failed to fire but 2 enemy were killed and 1 wounded and the remainder fled. An LMG and a rifle were captured. C Coy less 13 pl now in posn at 942397. Part of 13 pl is enroute to AITARA river at 889375 and the remainder is moving from 925386 to join C Coy.

2 ENEMY INFM

(Infm from 2 Aust Corps PW Interrogation Report)

Tactical infm

(a) 6 Div HQ pinpointed on air phs at 982435. RUNAI - OSO rd crossed a small river at 980435 and about 50 metres to the NORTH of this crossing there was a clearing about 50 yds sq in which several sps and portion of the roof of an old mission could be seen. Entrance to 6 Div HQ was about 150 yds SOUTH of this crossing. PW had not been into 6 Div HQ itself but had passed entrance twice and from sounds of activity he judged that it was at a distance of about 100 to 150 yds on left hand side of rd facing RUNAI. Latest date on which PW was in this area was 1 May 45.

(b) Tele line ran from 6 Div HQ in RUNAI direction.

(c) Topographical

RUNAI pinpointed air ph at 957417.
OSO " " 995446
KOPINKO " " 010459

RUNAI - OSO rd PW recognised coconut trees across rd at 956419. With this as landmark he confirmed commencement of rd to CSO at 957417. PW followed rd by means of air phs and confirmed gen

course. Two rivers crossed rd - one at 980436 which was 6 ft wide and shallow; the other at 963422 which was shallow and 20 ft wide. Both rivers could be crossed by tks.

- (d) Dumps
RUMAI food dump - confirmed by PW at 957416. Owing to recent bombing in this area, most of food had been distributed.

W. H. ...
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

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15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 120

Infm to 190900L

19 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

On 18 May, in the northern sector, 57/60 Aust Inf Bn, continuing the adv along the COMMANDO rd, encountered several strong enemy posns and an attack launched on one coy was repulsed with cas being inflicted on the enemy. Patrols were active in adv of the fwd coy with the object of recceing the location and str of enemy posns and a force exploited SW along LITTLES track leading to the TIGER rd. Along the BUIN rd fwd of the HONGORAI river patrols from 24 Aust Inf Bn est contact with strong enemy posns and a further patrol exploited NORTH along the HONGORAI river to MARTINS crossing. On the southern flank, 58/59 Aust Inf Bn moved from the BUIN rd and assembled in the vicinity of the HONGORAI - POROREI river fork. Patrols from this bn penetrated to the BUIN rd SOUTH of TOHU and SW along the AITARA track. A total of 25 enemy were killed by all three bns during the day's ops.

Patrols from 24 Aust Inf Bn have reported a hy smell of enemy dead around the posn 944429 which, together with the fact that the enemy has been forced to tunnel underground to obtain protection, is ample evidence of the effect of sustained bombing shelling and mortaring of known enemy cones.

(i) HONGORIA RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

A patrol from B Coy moved through D Coy and at 0915L est an ambush on the track at 943433. At 1220L 3 enemy approached from the eastern edge of the gardens at 942433 and on reaching the ambush all three were killed. On further enemy mov being heard on both flanks the patrol moved to 942432 where a further 3 enemy were observed, who immediately broke bush to the EAST. All enemy were in good condition and were carrying full packs. Further ambushes have been est at 942432 and 943431.

A patrol from C Coy to recce the known enemy posn 944429 reached 945431 where a partly wired horseshoe shaped posn was contacted. The enemy str is known to be at least 40 with 2 LMGs and a grenade discharger. Our patrol engaged and a fire fight ensued after which the enemy attempted an encircling mov, but after a fierce encounter our patrol eventually fought its way out of the enemy posn and re-organised. Enemy cas were 12 killed - while our own cas were only 2 wounded. The enemy posn is well cam and consists of pillboxes and foxholes with connecting tunnels and dominates the approaches from the EAST, SOUTH and WEST. 40 yds to the NORTH is an old enemy posn with accn for 40, which has been heavily bombed and was last used on 12 May. A patrol from D Coy to the southern flank of the enemy posn contacted approx 30 enemy at 945428 and observed 15 enemy digging in on a ridge running NORTH - SOUTH. The enemy sighted our patrol and attempted an encircling mov but the patrol avoided contact and returned to Coy HQ.

An A Coy patrol found a leanto at 929448 showing signs of occupation by 2 enemy on 16 May. A freshly dug enemy posn consisting of weapon pits and with accn for 60 to 80 men has never been occupied. 3 x 150 mm shells, a steel case and a nose fuze were located in a lean to. Footprints, 2 days old, were found leading NORTH at 925447. An old def posn with accn for 35 men and last used on night 15/16 May was located in the area. 1 sword was also found.

While at 949415 a patrol heard an enemy party of 10 moving EAST and at 945425 sighted 6 enemy in a fire posn. The patrol engaged killing 2 and wounding 1 while our cas were nil. A patrol from B Coy to MARTINS crossing reported that the airstrike on 18 May landed 80 yds WEST of the ford and 200 yds NORTH of the TIGER rd on the EAST of the ford. Evidence was found of

of 20/30 enemy having moved EAST along the TIGER rd on the morning of 18 May.

Mortars fired 275 rounds on the enemy posns 945431 and 945428.
58/59 Aust Inf Bn

On 18 May the bn made a gen outflanking mov from the BUIN rd to the SOUTH of the HONGORAI - POROREI river fork and by 1500L was disposed with Bn HQ 942409; A Coy 942408; B Coy less 11 pl 941407; 11 pl 942410; D Coy 943407. C Coy moving SOUTH along the AITARA track reached 943390 at 1445L.

A patrol reached the garden 961408 and heard voices of an estimated 5 enemy from the eastern end. The patrol moved to the BUIN rd at 961412 where an area 100 yds sq had been cleared by bombing. During 20 mins observation, an LMG and a rifle was heard firing from the NORTH of the rd and 1 enemy moved SE along the rd. The patrol then returned to the AITARA track at 958414 where 7 enemy were observed moving quickly in a northerly direction. At 1530L C Coy less 13 pl contacted at least 12 enemy in a posn 932388. The area was registered with mortars and the coy outflanked to attack but no further report has yet been received. An ambush at 947404 fired on 1 enemy moving SOUTH along the track. Portion of 13 pl est an ambush at 926387 where an additional enemy dead was found as a result of the action on 17 May. At 1100L a patrol from 13 pl departed for 926387.

(ii) COMMANDO RD AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

At 180900L A Coy less 8 pl moved to the KOYA river at 969473 and at 0935L 8 pl departed as a harassing patrol along LITTLES track to TIGER rd. B Coy commenced to move SE from 973471 when approx 30 enemy attacked and after a fierce encounter the attack was repulsed, the enemy suffering 5 killed and our cas were 1 killed and 5 wounded. At 1400L A Coy less 8 pl reached 973472 and occupied the vacated enemy posn immediately in the rear of B Coy. Following accurate and hy mortar fire, B Coy attacked the enemy posn 974470 but the mortar fire had forced the enemy to abandon the posn and the coy consolidated. 2 additional enemy dead were found blown to pieces by a direct hit from our mortar. Total cas for both actions by B Coy were: own - 1 killed 7 wounded; and enemy 7 killed. One knee mortar and a rifle was captured. D Coy commenced a move SE from 987453 and reached 990451 where an enemy force of 50 was contacted.

Patrols departed to fix the enemy posn and arty and mortar fire was brought down. The coy moved to 989451 and is digging in on the high ground. A patrol reports that the enemy is in a prepared posn on the NORTH side of the rd and extending from 991451 to track junc 996446. The str is unknown but much chattering was heard.

C Coy moved to 987453 and occupied the posn vacated by D Coy. At 1900L B Coy reached 978461. A Coy moved to 973471. At 1600L 8 pl sighted 2 enemy at the river junc 965465 one of whom was killed and the other escaped. Documents were recovered from the body believed to be an offr.

(b) 11 Aust Inf Bde

RATSUA - RURI BAY AREA

Considerable barge activity in BUKA PASSAGE has been observed 16/17 May and enemy arty firing from TARLENA plantation have been accurately engaged by our arty.

26 Aust Inf Bn

C Coy has moved to the RATSUA area for L of G security duties. Locations: Coy HQ and 13 pl 308688; 14 pl 309682; 15 pl 309692.

55/53 Aust Inf Bn

A Coy patrols have been op in area 2000 yds EAST of SIAR, killing 1 of several single Japs sighted. 11 pl moved 150730L to the outskirts of SIAR while 12 pl engaged an estimated 30 enemy 200 yds further SOUTH on the coast rd, killing 2. At 151600L 11 pl approached the village from the SE killing 3 enemy. B Coy less 330719; 11 pl 330723. At 332718 (RURI BAY area) patrols found a

med tk, which appears to be a variation of the M2597 (1937) but mounting a 57 mm short barrelled gun as in the original model. The tk appears undamaged but has not been moved for some time and was not dug in. Bomb craters were found nearby. D Coy ambushed 16 Japs and 1 native at 296691 (BUOI plantation area) on 15 May, killing 4 and wounding 3 of the enemy; whilst on 16 May, another D Coy patrol penetrated 1000 yds NE of the northern edge of the plantation. NMS.

(c) 23 Aust Inf Bde
PIATERAPAIA AREA
27 Aust Inf Bn

15 May, BERRYS HILL has now been occupied by 10 pl, the enemy withdrawing to BASE PT 3, which was later harassed by our arty fire. On 16 May enemy were again seen in BERRYS HILL area. At 140800L LIVERIPAIA was evac by the Japs who moved NORTH towards the NUMA NUMA trail. Our patrol destroyed all structures in the area.

2 SUMMARY OF PATROL REPORTS

Scouts op on the BUIN rd between the MIBO and OAMAI rivers report one lorry is still op in this area. They killed 6 Japs who were moving EAST.

3 OTHER FRONTS -- TARAKAN

2/3 Aust Pnr Bn with air and naval sp have pushed further fwd towards AMAL on the EAST coast. To the NORTH an enemy party counter attacked the 2/4 Aust Cdo Sqn. Enemy cas to 140900. I counted dead -- 409; probably killed 84; PW 5.

Handwritten signature
Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

- 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) (6)
- 57/60 Aust Inf Bn (6)
- 58/59 Aust Inf Bn (6)
- B Sqn 2/4 Aust Armd Regt
- 15 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec (AIF)
- 14 pl 2/1 Aust Gd Regt
- 15 Aust Inf Bde Flamethrower Pl
- 15 Aust Fd Amb (AIF)
- ADS DAWE CREEK
- ADS KEKRO CREEK
- E Sec 63 ADU
- 266 Aust LAD (AIF)
- Det 3 Aust Div Pro Coy
- Det ANGAU
- 2/11 Aust Fd Regt
- 2 Aust Fd Regt
- 15 Aust Fd Coy RAE (AIF)
- Area Comd MOTUPENA PT
- 17 AIR OP FLT OXLEY FD
- 53 Aust Tpt Pl (TS)
- 3 Aust Sup Dep Pl (AIF)
- 4 Aust Sup Dep Pl (AIF)
- 129 Aust Bde Ord Fd Pk (AIF)
- 129 Aust Bde Wksp (AIF)
- COMD
- BM 15 Aust Inf Bde Rest Camp (2)
- SC 15 Aust Inf Bde LOB Gp
- Edn Offr File
- GSM War Diary (2)

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15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 121

Infm to 200900L

20 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

(1) HONGORAI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

On 19 May the bn moved to the assembly areas in preparation for the forthcoming op and at 1400L was disposed with adv Bn HQ 943416; rear Bn HQ 936432; A Coy 944415; B Coy 945418; C Coy 940430; D Coy 944417. 6 tp of the tks is with C Coy and 9 and HQ F tps are enroute to their new locations.

At 190730L an armed patrol consisting of one pl, 2 tks and a bulldozer proceeded from 936432 to MARTINS crossing acting as a deception force to lead the enemy to believe that an attack was developing in that area. The patrol reached MARTINS crossing without encountering the enemy. The inf and tks made full use of their firepower and cut down timber and undergrowth to create the impression that a large force was op in the area. At 1305L the patrol returned.

D Coy est a standing patrol at 947421 for night 19/20 May. From 1645L to 1655L approx 30 rounds from at least 2 150 mm guns fell in the area 940430 without causing cas or damage.

Using a bulldozer team and inf working parties the bn has constructed a jeepable and tkable track from the BUIN rd at 937431 SOUTH to the HONGORAI at 942417, where a crossing has been prepared.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

At 1000L C Coy less 10 pl outflanked the enemy posn 932388 contacted on 18 May, and while approaching the posn from the SOUTH was fired on by 20 enemy at 929387 using 2 LMGs. Our cas were 1 killed and 1 missing; enemy unknown. During the action the coy comms were cut by the enemy. C Coy then moved to 940395 and re-est comm. The ambush party from 925385 rejoined C Coy and one pl with an arty FOO moved out to regain contact with the enemy.

A bulldozer team has completed the constr of a crossing at 946407 and three coys and one tp of tks have moved across to assembly areas EAST of the HONGORAI. Disposns: Bn HQ 942409; A Coy less 9 pl 947406; 9 pl 945406; B Coy 947405; C Coy 940395; D Coy less 16 and 17 pls 947407; 16 pl 946407; 17 pl 952407. A patrol from B Coy to 951406 killed 1 enemy and captured a rifle and bayonet. At 1015L a C Coy standing patrol at 947404 fired on 5 enemy moving SOUTH. Enemy cas unknown - 1 enemy dead resulting from this action was later found. Patrols report that the AITARA track joins the BUIN rd at 961414. 2 freshly dug enemy posns were located on the SOUTH side of the rd at 958416, and while a patrol was investigating posn, 3 enemy moving SOUTH of the rd walked right up to the patrol. Our tps attempted to avoid contact but were forced to fire. 2 enemy were killed and 1 wounded; while our cas were nil. At 1815L an enemy party of unknown str, crawled SOUTH along the AITARA track and engaged 17 pl with LMG and rifle fire. The fire was returned and the enemy dispersed. Own cas nil; enemy unknown.

(ii) COMMANDO RD - OSO AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

At 1030L the 8 pl patrol enroute TIGER rd reached 956456 without further contact. The patrol is awaiting the conclusion of the airstrike on TIGER rd at 953443 and 955436 after which it will follow up and investigate the results.

The conc of the bn in the TOROBIRU river area is now complete. Disposns: Bn HQ 985453; A Coy 991456; B Coy 984448; C Coy 985453; D Coy 989451; 5 pl 968476. The patrol to the USO area moved WEST of the OSO - USO rd contacting the rd at 988442, 978434 and 975429. On sighting an enemy party of 7 moving from 976428 the patrol est a posn on the NORTH side of the track. 1 enemy who approached was allowed to pass through and 3 enemy later

approached from 976428; the patrol opened fire killing all 3. Before the patrol had time to move the enemy brought down intense DF fire from an estimated 3 or 4 in mortar, 5 LMGs or HMGs. 1 member of the patrol was dazed for half an hr by a mortar blast. Patrol returned to Coy HQ. A patrol SOUTH along the TOROBIRU river reached 976442 but was unable to proceed beyond the pt due to very difficult terrain and extremely dense undergrowth.

(b) 29 Aust Inf Bde

(i) HIRU HIRU AREA

42 Aust Inf Bn

Disposns: Bn HQ 932433; A Coy 937438; B Coy 934433; D Coy 937430.

(ii) HATAI - RUMIKI AREA

47 Aust Inf Bn

Disposns: Bn HQ 907476; A Coy 967483; B Coy 964485; C Coy 906475
D Coy 925483.

for *BM 15 Aust Inf Bde* *60ft*
Maj

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15 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTAL INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 122

Infm to 210900L

21 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

Following a period of airstrikes on known enemy posns and extensive patrolling in the area flanking the BUIN rd bounded by the HONGORAI and POROREI rivers, during which valuable infm was obtained of enemy disposns, strcs and terrain, 24 Aust Inf Bn with tks in sp, preceded by an air attack by 44 Corsairs, arty and mortar concs, adv from the assembly area in the vicinity of the HONGORAI - POROREI river junc and secured the BUIN rd on either side of the POROREI ford. Immediately after the occupation of the area our forces were subjected to attacks and by enemy fire, neither of which was successful in dislodging our tps. In the northern sector, 57/60 Aust Inf Bn patrols contacted and observed large enemy parties in the TIGER rd, OSO and KINDAI areas.

A patrol from 58/59 Aust Inf Bn penetrated SW to AITARA and found the area unoccupied.

(i) HONGORAI - POROREI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

Following an air strike, mortar and arty concs and with MMG covering fire, the bn lodged an attack against known enemy strong pts on the BUIN rd extending from 950424 to EAST of the POROREI ford at 954420. During the adv full use was made of the supporting fire and the coys moved as close as possible to their objectives before the fire was lifted. This enabled the attacking tps to seize their objectives before the enemy could re-occupy the posns which they had been forced to vacate due to the intensity of the bombing, shelling and mortaring. From the lack of opposn at any stage during our adv and attack from the SOUTH it is evident that the attack was a complete surprise to the enemy and that the diversionary tactics of the past 2 days had produced results.

B Coy with HQ F tp of tks consolidated on a dominating ridge astride the BUIN rd at 949424 and at 1135L an enemy party of 12 lodged a counter attack from the NORTH. The attack was driven off, the enemy suffering 2 killed and our cas being 2 wounded by our arty. D Coy with 9 tp tks consolidated on the high ground astride the BUIN rd at 953421 overlooking the POROREI ford. Shortly after the occupation the coy was subjected to fire from a strong enemy force on the higher ground EAST of the ford. The enemy str is unknown but they have 1 JUKI, 8 LMGs, 1 75 mm and 1 47 mm tk A gun.

A Coy moving EAST of the POROREI to reach its objective negotiated a 70 ft escarpment at 956417 and had just reached a posn at 957418 overlooking the BUIN rd when the coy was fired on by the enemy force at 955420 contacted by D Coy. Enemy arty immediately opened up and the coy had insufficient time to dig in. The fire, estimated to have been 105 mm, was very accurate. Our cas were 4 killed and 5 wounded. The coy was forced to move back to higher ground at 956416 where they are digging in and continuing to engage the enemy. B Coy located a tk trap covered with banana leaves on the BUIN rd at 950424 in front of a wired in posn.

The enemy posn at 955420 contains at least 1 pillbox and enemy tree snipers were used against A Coy. There is a probable enemy arty OP at 954420.

At 1400L a contact patrol from B Coy to D Coy reported the rd clear. At 1430L a patrol from C Coy to 945431 reported the enemy still in occupation of the posn on the ridge. At 1330L the enemy at 955420 fired on D Coy with a JUKI, a LMG and rifles supported by a 47 mm gun which fired 6 shells without causing gas or damage.

From 1313L to 1425L 39 105 mm shells fell in the area 953421 and at 1555L a further 12 shells fell at 953421. Nil damage or cas. At 1518L a contact patrol from B Coy to C Coy was fired on by 12 to 15 enemy at 949428. Nil cas. At 1330L our tks engaged the enemy posn 955420 on the EAST bank of the POROREI with 2 pr, 3 in how and Besa fire. Enemy cas 2 known killed, own nil. At 2000L an enemy party of 15 firing rifles and throwing grenades raided B Coy locality from outside the wire. The fire was returned by Besa guns. Own cas nil; enemy unknown. At 2010L 12 105 mm shells landed in D Coy locality hitting 1 tk but damage is not yet known.

One sec 15 Aust Inf Bde Flamethrower pl now with D Coy. The jeep rd is now completed from 943416 to 954420.

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

* patrol to the AITARA river was fired on by an enemy ambush at 954406. Our cas were 2 wounded, enemy unknown. The patrol outflanked the enemy posn and continued to the AITARA river at 889374 and found the enemy posn vacated. No signs were observed of occupation for 4 days. 3 75 mm shell booby traps were found on a sand bar at the river mouth. The AITARA track is reported jeepable and the beach at 898362 is suitable for lbg craft. C Coy now 947404.

The org in the assembly area is now complete. The jeep and tk track from MAYBERRYS crossing 945407 to the AITARA track is completed.

(ii) COMMANDO RD - OSO AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

At 1200L the patrol to the TIGER rd reached 954441 and thence moved to the junc of LITTLES track at 952444. The bomb craters were observed on both sides of the rd. An enemy party of 9 observed moving WEST along the TIGER rd were fired on by the patrol who killed 2 and wounded 1 and the remainder fled. The enemy were carrying full packs and were heavily laden. The TIGER rd shows signs of hy foot traffic moving WEST. A patrol from D Coy reached 997447 and observed 100 enemy laughing and chattering while working in the gardens. 3 enemy moving towards the area observed our patrol and all noise in the gardens ceased. The patrol returned to D Coy. A patrol reached 008459 but could not locate KOPINKO. The jungle is very thick and there were few native footpads. The gardens in the area are not in use. A patrol from B Coy was fired on by an unknown number of enemy at 992443. The patrol circled to track at 990442 and sighted many enemy in the area. The enemy appeared to be very alert and the track is extensively used in both directions. A C Coy patrol to 977434 observed a large def posn well dug in on the high ground SOUTH of the river. Posn was registered by our arty. While returning through 973438 the patrol saw an enemy party of 12 several of whom were wearing red braids. After 20 mins fierce fire fighting contact was lost and the patrol returned. Enemy cas were 5 killed, own nil. The enemy party consisted of 1 apparently high ranking officer dressed in a uniform similar to British battle dress with an open neck, red collar tabs and red bars on cap; accompanied by 3 other well dressed offrs carrying polished leather satchels and escorted by an armed party of 8. The patrol killed the high ranking offr and 4 others, but was unable to capture the satchels or badges of rank. The enemy escort immediately opened fire and sounds were heard of a large force standing to.

3 enemy following our patrol from 997447 approached D Coy standing patrol at 993449. Patrol opened fire killing 1 and wounding 1. One sword and a rifle was captured.

At 210500L a regt conc of arty was brought down on enemy posn 004452.

(b) 11 Aust Inf Bde
RATSUA - RURI BAY AREA
55/53 Aust Inf Bn

On 17 May an A Coy patrol encountered an enemy ambush at 303717, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles SW of SIAR and killed 3 of the enemy. Bodies of a further 3 naval personnel were found 600 yds further EAST, the result of the A Coy clash on 15 May. D Coy patrols observed an enemy party at 285691, SW of SIAR, whilst a native patrol moved up the coast to a pt 1000 yds SOUTH of PORTON plantation where 2 Japs were seen. TAIOP OP reports explosions and smoke on SW BUKA island. On 18 May patrols and ambushes NMS. B Coy less 11 pl 329719; 11 pl 331721. An enemy pocket is reported within 100 yds of 11 pl.

(c) 23 Aust Inf Bde
PIATERAPIA AREA
27 Aust Inf Bn

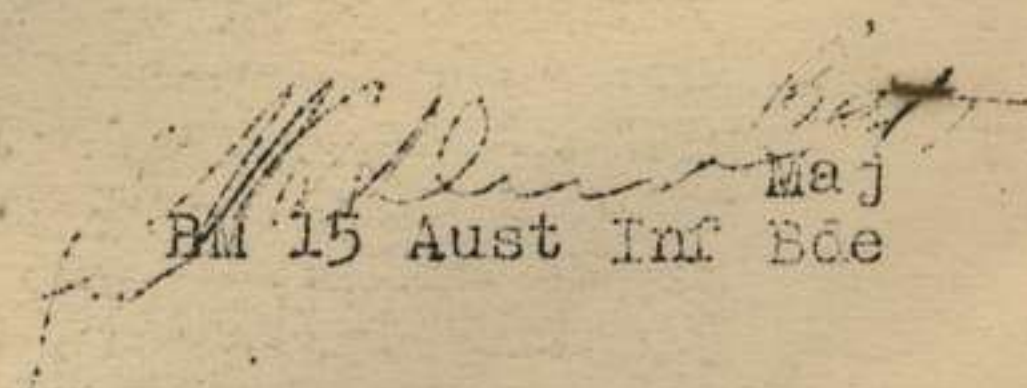
Patrols report the enemy have now evac BASE PT 3 though fresh footprints observed at 693159, 1200 yds SE of the base. A patrol to 721154, NE of LIVIRIPAIA NMS. 40/50 Japs engaged at 679162 WEST of WEARNES HILL. 8 were killed and the action was still proceeding 18 May. 1000 yds to the EAST at 689162, another patrol engaged 15/20 enemy digging in, killing 7 and wounding 2. A native scout patrol reports a Jap HQ at 795254, in the BASE PT 1 area on the southern edge of NUA NUA plantation with a sig sta and amm dump in the same area SW along the trail.

2 SUMMARY OF PATROL REPORTS

Scouts report 7 Japs and 12 AA guns were destroyed in our strike at MAMAMANINO 299340 on 5 May. It is reported that all the Japs at POROPORA (CHOISEUL) are ready to evac; two barges are standing by. 8 japs incl an army offr are reported to have been killed by natives at KANAURA 235356 (ref map KARA 1/63360).

3 OTHER FRONTS
TARAKAN ISLAND

17 May -- on the left flank the enemy has been found in str WEST of MTAPI. Further NORTH elements of 2/24 Aust Inf Bn have captured a knoll SOUTH of DJOETA but the enemy is mining the rd in the area. 18 May -- on the right flank tps of 2/3 Aust Pnr Bn have reached the EAST coast of the island beyond AMAL. Progress has also been made by the same unit NE of the PAMOESIAN oil fds. Patrols from 2/4 Aust Cdo Sqn and 2/48 Aust Inf Bn report enemy opposn NORTH of the town of TARAKAN. EAST of MTAPI one coy of 2/24 Aust Inf Bn moved fwd after an airstrike and has gained further important ground on the 105 feature. Enemy cas to 170900L: killed - 479; probable killed - 93; PW - 5.


Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

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15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 123

Infm to 220900L

22 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

After diversionary attacks and patrolling by both 24 and 57/60 Aust Inf Bns, several days of hy air attacks and arty concs on enemy posns astride the BUIN rd SE of the POROREI ford, vigorous patrolling throughout the area; 58/59 Aust Inf Bn with tk sp adv from the vicinity of the HONGORAI - POROREI river junc against continuous and determined enemy resistance and after a series of fierce encounters the bn occupied the BUIN rd for over 1000 yds SE of the POROREI ford and SW to the AITARA track. On the occupation of the area contact patrols operated between the coys along the rd.

In the area bounded by the HONGORAI and POROREI rivers, forces from 24 Aust Inf Bn continued the clearing of enemy posns on either side of the BUIN rd where hy and bitter enemy resistance is being encountered.

Patrols from 57/60 Aust Inf Bn in the COMMANDO rd area operated fwd along the rd, NE to KOPINKO and SW to the KINDAI area where a PW was captured.

(i) POROREI RIVER - TOHU AREA

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

Following an airstrike and arty conc on enemy posns SE along the BUIN rd from the POROREI ford, the bn, advancing against continuous opposn, attacked and occupied posns astride the BUIN rd and SW towards the AITARA track. At 0820L C Coy, advancing NE from the HONGORAI river, contacted strong opposn from 4 LMGs and approx 40 rifles at 957409. The tks were held up by a creek obstacle 250 yds in the rear of the coy. C Coy outflanked the posn but was again held up at 0915L and 10 mins later the tks arrived after having been extricated by a bulldozer team.

A and D Coys moved through to secure their objectives. At 0830L 8 75 mm shells fell on D Coy area while advancing; our cas being 1 killed and 6 wounded. C Coy continued to press on to the objective 958411 which was occupied at 1040L after fierce fighting. Our cas were 1 killed and 2 wounded; enemy 7 killed.

A LMG, 4 rifles, 1 sword, 1 pistol and a large quantity of documents were captured. On C Coy's success, B Coy moved through and secured their objective 962411 without further opposn. At 1130L A Coy reached objective 961414 and was immediately fired on by an unknown number of enemy from a posn 200 yds NORTH of the BUIN rd. The enemy fire was silenced by the coy which commenced digging in. D Coy reached objective 958417 without opposn. Bn HQ moved to 956409 and 5 pl to 943407.

An armed patrol with tks and tractor trains moved from C Coy and reached B and thence A Coy but was unable to proceed further due to bomb craters on the rd. A recce patrol with a tk offr moved fwd and were subjected to hy enemy fire from 7 pillboxes at approx 961415 on the eastern side of the rd. The tks moved fwd to the edge of the bomb craters and gave covering fire for the withdrawal of the patrol. A fighting patrol from A Coy moved fwd and attacked the posn from the WEST, completely surprising the enemy and after a fierce fire fight the enemy was forced to abandon the posn. Our cas were nil; enemy unknown.

1 70 mm regt gun with 100 rounds of amn, a double barrelled JUKI HMG with 7 boxes of amn, 7 rifles, maps and documents were captured. At 2330L 1 enemy crawled up to the wire at Bn HQ and threw a grenade into a weapon pit, killing 1 and wounding 1 of our tps. The enemy was killed.

(ii) HONGORAI - POROREI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

Following a hy arty conc A Coy adv against continuous and hy opposn from LMGs and tree snipers and at 1400L the coy was in posn at 956418 in readiness for the final aslt on the enemy

posn 955420. The enemy continued to pour hy fire into A Coy posn from 30 pillboxes at 955420. By 1720L the coy was in posn 956419. 2 rounds from a 75 mm gun fired over open sights exploded in the coy area. A 75 mm gun was located 30 yds EAST along the rd on the NORTH side.

A patrol from B Coy with 2 tks and a bulldozer team moved NW along the BUN rd and reached 948427 where a trap was located. The tks negotiated the trap and the patrol was viciously attacked by 12 enemy using rifles and grenades. The attack was repulsed by tk and inf fire and the adv continued. After moving a further 40 yds the leading tk exploded a land mine believed to have consisted of 3 75 mm shells. 1 tk track broken was repaired and at 1255L, when at 947428, a further tk trap was encountered. A trap was found at 947427 constructed from bomb craters with a 6 ft vertical wall on the EAST side. Patrol reached 945428 where part of a def posn was found vacated which consisted of pillboxes with connecting trenches, and capable of accommodating 80 men. 3 dead enemy found in the posn were considered to have been killed on 20 May. 4 packs, quantity of clothing and 1 type 93 mine were captured. At this posn a bulldozer detonated a type 93 mine with trip wire attachment. Engr personnel with a mine detector moved along the rd ahead of the bulldozer and detected 3 mines and, while disarming these, a fourth mine exploded killing 2 and wounding 1 of our tps. The bulldozer continued to clear fallen trees, caused by bombing, from the track.

A Coy patrol at 946432 contacted 35 enemy armed with rifles and considered to be a working party. Own cas nil; enemy unknown. Mortar fire was directed on enemy posn 945430 and a patrol to contact the enemy reached 942431 where they were fired on by LMGs, knee mortars and tree snipers from a ridge. During a fierce engagement 1 man was wounded and mortar smoke was used to recover him. The patrol has est a posn in a depression immediately WEST of the ridge and will remain there for night 21/22 May. The enemy str is estimated to be 70 with 40 NORTH of the rd. A patrol from D Coy crossed the POROREI at 956423 and moved to 957424 where 20 enemy were observed in a posn on a 30 ft escarpment. The patrol opened fire and after a fierce engagement the patrol broke contact and returned to the coy locality. Enemy cas 1 known killed, own nil. At 1730L the enemy in unknown str engaged 17 pl locality from a posn overlooking A Coy. 4 75 mm shells were fired on the NORTH flank of D Coy locality.

Enemy cas for A Coy's adv on 20 May now known to be 12 killed.

(iii) COMMANDO RD AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

Arty HQ was brought down during night 20/21 May on the probable enemy HQ at 977434. At 1130L a patrol contacted 47 Aust Inf Bn. An A Coy patrol to 002457 reached an old mission known to the natives as MANIKA. Natives appeared scared but after questioning, stated that the area was clear of enemy. A large mission house was located at KOPINKO. Signs were found of 6 enemy having slept at 004460 during night 20/21 May. A patrol from C Coy found a track with many fresh footprints leading NW at 964438. A native reported that there was a dead Jap behind a tree at 964437 and on investigation the patrol found the enemy alive and asleep and on searching the enemy after capture found 2 grenades, 43 rounds of .256 amn with 1 reversed round loaded in the rifle and another in an amn pouch. A patrol from D Coy to 996449 found 10 old huts and a Jap skeleton.

(b) 11 Aust Inf Bde

RATSUA - RURI BAY AREA

26 Aust Inf Bn

At 190645L this bn completed the relief of 55/53 Aust Inf Bn less A Coy 55/53 Aust Inf Bn. Locations: Bn HQ 300681; A Coy 291687; B Coy 306694; C Coy less 13 and 14 pls 308690;

13 pl 307694; 14 pl 309683; D Coy 330719; 5 pl 268689.
Contacts with enemy parties are reported at 289694, 300695
resulting in 10 Japs killed. The SIAR track junc area is
reported clear and no contact was made in patrolling the cliffs
to the EAST.

55/53 Aust Inf Bn

A Coy during 18/19 May - 2 grenades thrown into their coy area
and 11 pl were fired on SOUTH of SIAR. The bn less A Coy is
now concentrated in the SORAKEN peninsula area.

(c) 23 Aust Inf Bde
PIATERAPATA AREA

27 Aust Inf Bn

WEARNES HILL is unoccupied but enemy posns have been reported at
694162, 690155, 685165 to 690162 and at 636174. TOKUA was
engaged by our arty.

(d) OTHER FRONTS
TARAKAN ISLAND

The whole of the southern peninsula is now reported clear of the
enemy and 2 partly destroyed radio direction finders were found
at CAPE PASIR.

An enemy attack on a coy of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn EAST of MIAPI was
repulsed and a swamill in good working order was captured in the
DJOETA area.

Enemy cas to 180900I: 494 killed; 94 probably killed; 5 PW.

2 PATROL REPORTS

NATIVES have caused much damage in the KIETA area. 13 May near
KIETA a shrapnel mine killed many of a party of 35 Japs - many dead
thrown into the river and others left lying on the track. 5 Japs
killed at WIDA on 10 May and 5 more on 11 May between KIETA and
KOVIDAU.

Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

As per Summary 121

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 124

Infm to 230900L

23 May 45

1 OPS - LAND(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde(i) HONGORAI - POROREI RIVER AREA24 Aust Inf Bn

Following an airstrike and arty conc on EGANS RIDGE 945429 C Coy adv along the BUIN rd and occupied the posn at 1145L. At 0945L 12 pl moved fwd to the vicinity of EGANS RIDGE to patrol the enemy's flanks during the occupation of the posn by C Coy. A further 5 mines were found, each consisting of 3 75 mm shells att to trip wires. Enemy posns on the RIDGE were practically obliterated by direct hits from bombs, arty and mortars and the only recognisable posn remaining consisted of 6 pillboxes; the area had accn for at least 100 tps and was littered with trees and debris. The posn covered all approaches for 200 yds from the WEST and for 250 yds from the EAST. 2 rifles were captured. A patrol from D Coy located a trap at 956419 12 ft wide, 14 ins high and sited across the rd. 6 foxholes found at 957421 revealed no evidence of enemy occupation. The patrol followed a sig wire leading NORTH from 957424 to 955425 where it terminated. 50 yds NW, 3 enemy were observed moving SE followed by a further 15 to 20 but the patrol avoided contact. An A Coy patrol, on observing 6 enemy approaching our sig cable at 956416 opened fire killing at least 1 of the enemy. A Coy is now located in the vacated enemy posn 957418 from which by opposn was encountered on 20/21 May. The posn capable of accommodating 100 men consisted of numerous weapon pits with kunda guide rails extending to the area NORTH of the BUIN rd covering approaches from the ford at 955419. The def posns were partly demolished by accurate arty fire. 500 rounds of .256 amn were found but a complete inventory of the eqpt captured is not yet available. At 1515L land mines at 967419 were destroyed by tk fire. At 1600L enemy snipers were active in the area 957418 against an armd patrol to 58/59 Aust Inf Bn. HF from enemy guns throughout the day along the BUIN rd caused no cas or damage. 6 tp tks now with C Coy. The rd is now jeepable from ARNOTTS Crossing to B Coy 949424.

From 230130L to 230600L 59 75 mm shells fell in the area of the POROREI ford 954420 without causing cas or damage.

(ii) POROREI RIVER - TOHU AREA58/59 Aust Inf Bn

At 220900L a tractor, together with an escort, while moving along the AITARA track was ambushed at 950405 by an estimated 20 enemy using 2 LMGs and a 47 mm tk A gun. The track was damaged and the enemy withdrew leaving the 47 mm gun which was captured. 4 pl commenced wiring around the tractor to enable repairs to be carried out and the enemy continued harassing on the southern flank.

At 1045L an armd patrol with a bulldozer departed from C Coy to open the rd to A Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn at 957418. The patrol contacted A Coy and on return reported that 6 75 mm shells fell in the vicinity of the patrol at 957419. The patrol located and removed 2 mines on the rd and at 956418 found the tailboard of a truck, underwhich the enemy had set up 9 75 mm shells with land mines on top of them. The board was blown away by tk fire and the engrs disarmed the mines and shells. 40 yds further SE along the rd a 75 mm gun was found which was considered to have been knocked out by our shelling. At 0900L 4 75 mm shells fell in A Coy locality 961414 wounding 1 of our tps.

A patrol from D Coy, when at 957419, was fired on by the enemy using rifles and a knee mortar from the NORTH side of the rd. At 1030L a patrol from 4 pl contacted the enemy at 950404 killing 1 and wounding 1 without loss. The track junc 964417 and the

clearing 967413 are reported clear of the enemy. 2 enemy dead were found at 958416. At 1100L a PW was captured at 959411 and at 1430L a further PW was captured at 948405. From 1310L to 1330L 30 105 mm shells fell in A and B Coy localities killing 1 and wounding 6, and from 1530L to 1610L 40 75 mm shells fell in the same area killing a further 1 and wounding 6 of our tps.

An A Coy patrol was unable to locate the gardens 961421 and after proceeding 1000 yds NORTH from A Coy encountered a 50 ft escarpment believed to drop to the SUNIN river. At this pt a 4 ft track leads on a bearing of 290 degrees along which a sig line runs.

From 221900L to 230600L enemy guns fired at frequent intervals an estimated 200 shells of unknown calibre which fell in the area 957418 without causing cas or damage.

(iii) COMMANDO RD AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

At 220645L a standing patrol from D Coy was fired on by an unknown number of enemy at 992450. The patrol returned the fire and moved back to the coy locality. At 0700L a further patrol observed 2 enemy crossing the track 200 yds fwd of the Coy locality. When the enemy crossed the track for the sec time the patrol opened fire and immediately came under fire from an unknown number of enemy from the right of the track. The patrol moved back and mortar DF was directed on the posn. At 0800L arty DF was brought down along the rd to the OSO junc and with mortar sp 17 pl moved fwd to clear the known enemy posn. At 1330L the pl attacking on the right flank was unable to locate the enemy posn. The pl returned but again departed and with arty sp followed the main track for 200 yds where the enemy in unknown str was observed digging in at 991451. The pl engaged and after a fierce fire fight broke contact and returned to the coy locality having killed 4 enemy and captured a rifle and satchel of rice.

At 0930L mortar fire was directed on a suspected enemy party at 986447 and a patrol departed to investigate. A patrol captured a PW at 991451 who had been wounded in the head by our mortar fire. 10 enemy were contacted in dug in posns at 993448 and after an exchange of fire, the patrol moved back to the coy locality. Our cas nil; enemy unknown. A patrol to the TIGER rd via LITTLES track reported that the TIGER rd had not been used for 2 to 3 days.

[Signature]
Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

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W.D.

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15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 125

Infm to 240900L

24 May 45

1. OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

(i) HONGORAI - POROREI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

A patrol from D Coy located a large vacated enemy posn at 950429 with accn for 200 and consisting of 12 pillboxes, 50 rifle pits connected by crawl trenches, and 4 lean tos each capable of accn 10 men. The posn showed evidence of use within the past 24 hrs. The area 958432 has been heavily shelled and there was no sign of enemy defs. A well worn track, showing signs of recent use, runs NORTH - SOUTH at 958431. A search of C Coy posn 945429 revealed 2 75mm gun posns with 20 rounds of 75mm amm and 1 81mm mortar posn with 4 bombs. A spare parts box for the 75mm gun, 3 offrs dugouts, food, clothing, 4 OSAG mags and 6 graves with evidence of others under debris were found in the area. The total accn of the posn was 200. 6 booby traps found at 947425 consisted of an 81mm bomb with a trip wire attached. A patrol from B Coy reached the TIGER rd at 949445 and investigated the rd for 500 yds EAST and WEST from this pt without finding any signs of recent enemy mov. An old Jap biv area found at 946436 had not been used for one month. An enemy posn with accn for 100 and with 4 LMG pits was located at 945439. The posn had been vacated on approx 17 May. A track at 951426 had been used within the last 2 days by a small enemy party moving NE. At 951428 a good track runs EAST - WEST with sig wire running along it. A footpad at 955430 shows signs of recent use by small enemy parties moving NE; track crossing the TIGER rd at 949443 shows signs of much mov from NORTH to SOUTH. At 2015L sounds of a motor were heard on a bearing of 170 deg from 943416. At 1530L 10 75mm shells fell in A Coy locality. Our cas was one walking wounded. Throughout the night 23/24 May enemy HF fell in A Coy area without causing cas or damage.

(ii) POROREI RIVER - TOHU AREA

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

The Bn completed the final disposns of its coys when both A and C Coys moved NORTH of the BUIN rd to est posns at 963423 and 964419 respectively covering the SOUTHERN end of the OSO-USO Track. The BUIN rd from the HONGORAI river SE to the creek at 962410 has been cleared of all enemy pockets. All patrols during the day reported the terrific devastation caused by the bombing, shelling and mortaring of previous enemy strongpoints along the rd. All posns are completely destroyed and covered with heaps of debris which probably conceals many enemy dead. One 75mm booby trap was found on the OSO rd at 963423. An enemy posn with accn for 60 from which a sig line runs in an easterly direction was found at 963418. 60 75mm shells and new recently opened ration boxes were found in the area. An old Jap hut was found at 964417. On night 23/24 May sounds of a motor probably a prime mover or a tractor were heard in the vic of the AITARA track at 944400. When first heard by 4 pl the motor seemed to be coming closer and later appeared to be moving away. Arty fire was directed on the area and the motor could not be heard again. At 1850L 15 150mm shells fell in the area 963412 cutting comms.

(iii) COMMANDO RD AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

1 enemy is now known to have been killed during the patrol contact at 993448 on 22 May. A patrol from D Coy, on observing 7 enemy digging in and walking about in a posn at 991451, opened fire killing 1 and then returned to the coy locality. The enemy did not return the fire. At 0615L a local recce patrol, on the NORTH flank of D Coy posn, heard sounds of 4 or 5 enemy digging in at approx 993454. 12 huts found at 998454 had probably been a HQ area. Natives stated that the huts had been occupied on 20 May. A patrol crossed the KOPINKO - OSO rd at 999449. Patrol reached 999446 thence returned to 999449 and est in a bush for 1/2 hr NMS. A patrol from B Coy reached track at 983438 thence moved to 980436 where the Jap sig sire was cut. Gardens at 975434 showed no signs of recent use; 1 enemy dead found at 973439. Patrol was fired on by enemy using an OSMG. Own cas 1 wounded. At 1540L 2 enemy were observed moving SOUTH to the COMMANDO rd at 991451 and many voices were heard in the vic. A patrol to investigate the result of the arty fire on enemy posn 991451 reported the area cleared of undergrowth by accurate shelling. At 2140L 4 enemy approached A Coy locality and when engaged by our bren and grenades were forced to withdraw.

(b) 11 Aust Inf Bde

RATSUA - RURI AREA

26 Aust Inf Bn

An A Coy patrol contacted the enemy dug in near 289690 SE of BUOI ptn and moved around the posn to 288694. At 212600L the enemy vacated his posn and 1 Jap was killed. A B Coy patrol located another enemy posn at 306698 - arty was brought down, the patrol investigated and were attacked several times whilst mortar fire from the enemy fell on them. 1 Jap was killed and our arty again brought down. 331725 huts and caves occupied for several months. A D Coy patrol to SIAR killed 1 Jap but another patrol penetrated 600 yds further NORTH NMS. RURI and gardens at 325714 NMS. Locations D Coy less 17 pl 332721, 17 pl 331722, 4 pl 320707. A Coy PIB 241588, 1 pl hy mortar unit 231658, 2 pl hy mortar unit 289680.

55/53 Aust Inf Bn

A Coy has now rejoined the bn at SORAKEN peninsula.

(c) 23 Aust Inf Bde

PLATERAPALA AREA

27 Aust Inf Bn

Arty fire was accurate on BASE PT 3 and TOKUM. NMS at 616163 TOREGELLO 624161. 10 Japs occupy the feature at 636175 and 40/50 at ASITAVI. B Coy PIB have relieved A Coy PIB at 684117.

2. SUMMARY OF PATROL REPORTS

An enemy party led by armed natives surprised a party of our nativescouts at OMITARA 225438 and then occupied the area. 7 enemy were killed when trying to delouse a shrapnel mine. The enemy are using natives in front of all of his patrols. A native of NUMA NUMA is reported to have been beheaded by the Japs at IULA as he was suspected of actively assisting our forces. Following the circulation of a Jap story that the KAMUAL natives had been sent to an unnamed island to work and that all the BUIN natives would also be deported, the headman of 8 BUIN villages reported into our lines and states that 700 natives have left the Jap area and are coming into our lines. A booby trap was left in a native basket in the MUSHIMENCI area on 18 May. Attempting to investigate the basket 4 Japs were killed and 2 badly wounded. Natives report that there are many Japs in this area.

15 May 1945
15 Aust Inf Bde

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 126

Infm to 250900L

25 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

Strong, well constructed, extensive enemy posns from EGANS RIDGE SE along the BUIN rd, which have been captured by our forces during the past week's ops, were found to have been practically obliterated by the intensity and accuracy of bombing by Corsairs, arty shelling and mortar bombing.

These enemy strongpts, the majority of which were built below ground level with solid overhead cover, afforded the enemy almost complete safety from bombardments which were not directed right on the target area and consequently the consistent accuracy of our bombing, arty and mortar fire is evidenced by the present devastated condition of the posns. A strong odour prevalent around the posns indicated that a number of unclaimed enemy dead are buried under the debris strewn over and about posns.

Valuable infm, for the identification of the targets for the aircraft and arty, was rendered by ground patrols and Auster planes continually op over the enemy occupied areas.

(i) HONGOMAI - POROREI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

Disposns: Bn HQ 948425; A Coy plus 7 tp tks 957418; B Coy 952429; C Coy plus 6 tp tks 945429; D Coy 956424. H. F Tp relieved 9 tp at 953421; 9 tp enroute 962411.

A patrol to recce the plantation at 963424 located a small densely overgrown sac sac plantation in swamp at 960424. A track from 964424 showed signs of recent traffic having moved EAST. One enemy moved EAST along the track late on 25 May.

(ii) POROREI RIVER - TOHU AREA

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

A patrol to the TOHU area was fired on by 2 LMGs and rifles at 966425. 2 enemy were observed in a pillbox and 3 others moving in the area. After directing arty fire on the posn the patrol moved in and killed 1 enemy, after which further arty fire was brought down. A patrol to investigate sounds of chopping contacted an enemy listening post at 968409 killing 1 enemy. Of an enemy patrol encountered at 961409, 1 was killed and 1 wounded who was taken prisoner. A rifle and a LMG was captured. Our cas 1 wounded. A patrol contacted 3 enemy at 977416 killing 2 and wounding 1.

(iii) TIGER RD - TOMOI RIVER AREA

D Coy 1 PIB

D Coy located at 926439.

A patrol located vacated enemy posns at 950446 and 948444 which had not been used for at least 3 days, and reached the log crossing at 959439. The patrol returned at 1200L. A further patrol enroute to the MAMAGATA track junc 989381 reached 980388 beyond which the native guide would not proceed. The patrol formed a base at 970390 from where 7 enemy were observed moving WEST along the NORTH side of a track at 969389. The enemy carried rifles but no packs and had a red retriever dog. The BUIN rd at 980388 showed no signs of recent use. At 230430L an ambush was est at 971390 but NMS. Patrol later returned to D Coy.

(iv) COMMANDO RD AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

At 240305L a booby trap was sprung in D Coy locality 989451. A patrol along the SOUTH side of the COMMANDO rd heard voices and chopping at approx 991451. A patrol from D Coy was observed by 3 enemy at 993452 and after a fierce fire fight the patrol returned to the coy locality. Our cas nil; enemy unknown. A patrol to KOPINKO and thence 200 yds SOUTH along the RABAUL track reported NMS. A patrol reached the OSO - USO track at

988442 which was followed to 981434 where signs of recent hy traffic were observed. 4 new foxholes dug earlier in the day were found at 988443. A further patrol reached the track at 994445 and thence moved to 988442 where 10 sets of fresh footprints leading SW and 2 sets leading NE were found. All patrols reported the OSO - USO track trackable. A native patrol heard enemy voices and observed a sentry at 998444, 2 enemy fishing in the SUNIN river and 4 moving NE along the USO - KOPINAO track carrying a IMG and 2 rifles. On 23 May 2 enemy observed at approx 991451 were killed.

(b) 11 Aust Inf Bde
RATSUA - RURI BAY AREA

26 Aust Inf Bn

3 enemy dead wearing Aust uniforms found EAST of the BUOI plantation. At 221015L 8 and 9 pls were attacked in this area from the NORTH by a strong enemy party. The attack was beaten off; 4 enemy incl possibly an offr being killed. At 221600L A Coy joined these pls. The enemy posn at 306697 was engaged by our mortars. C Coy less 13 pl now at 309714 with 13 pl at 313698.

An ANGAU report states the Japs have collected all the CHINDAWAN SIAR natives in caves at CHINDAWAN, mines being laid on the surrounding tracks. The Japs are boasting that our tps will not take the area.

(c) 23 Aust Inf Bde
PIATERAPAIA AREA

27 Aust Inf Bn

9 buildings, incl 2 newly constructed, and 20 Japs were observed at 616163, 2000 yds SOUTH of TOKUA. Natives report that the coastal gun at 749320 has been moved to ASITAVI pt. Enemy mov towards PIPIPAIA was observed on the PIPIPAIA - IBU L of C. PIPIPAIA is a staging pt manned by 3 Japs.

2 SUMMARY OF PATROL REPORTS

On 16 May 2 mines placed on the track from AMIO 005417 to TAITAI 006407 destroyed 1 truck, killing 10 and wounding 5. 4 other trucks were stated to have been in the convoy. A booby trap placed on the EAST - WEST track between the MIBO and MOBIAI rivers approx 092399 killed 5 Japs and badly wounded 3 others. Later a truck arrived and collected them.

From CHOISEUL it is reported that all dumps of SAA and 2 pr amm have been removed from TAREKUKURA. It is estimated that 100/150 Japs have left CHOISEUL.

[Handwritten signature]
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

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War Diary

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15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 127

Infm to 260900L

26 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

15 Aust Inf Bde

Total cas inflicted on the enemy to 24 May: 384 killed, 39 wounded, 13 PW.

(a) HONGORAI - POROREI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

An old enemy def posn located at 951428 was capable of accommodating at least 80 men and consisted of 45 deep trenches with bamboo fittings and grass mats, suggesting that the posn had been a possible HQ. Sig wires led EAST and WEST through the area. A patrol to the TIGER rd returned at 1255L and reported having found a large vacated enemy posn at 961438 with accn for 350, the southern portion of which had been used by 200 enemy on approx 23 May. 2 75 mm gun posns were located on the northern flank of the posn. A well defined footpad from 961438 to 962433 to 964433 shows no signs of use within the last 36 hrs. A further 2 81 mm booby traps were found in the area 948426.

15 Aust Inf Bde Flamethrower Pl less one sec is with A Coy, one sec with bn HQ.

(b) POROREI RIVER - USO AREA

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

A patrol along the AITARA Track to 932389 reported that no signs of recent enemy occupation or of vehs having moved along the track were observed. A patrol to the garden at 962407 was fired on by an estimated 3 enemy, but on investigation the patrol was unable to locate the enemy. Mortar fire was brought down on the area. At 250715L the enemy fired 8 105 mm shells on the area 962412 without causing cas or damage.

An armed patrol from A Coy enroute 970427 encountered a steep escarpment at 964425 necessitating 3 hrs bulldozing. Meanwhile 8 pl moved fwd leaving two secs for the protection of the tks. 1 enemy was sighted at 967426. At 1730L the tks and patrol reached 970427 where 8 pl dug in for the night. Two secs of the pl and the tks returned to A Coy. A patrol to the MAMAGATA rd reached 967406, where, on observing 2 enemy sentries, the patrol was fired on after which it moved around the area and continued with its task. At 1630L a patrol ambushed 11 enemy at 973400 killing 5 and wounding 1. The enemy fled and the patrol endeavoured to regain contact.

(c) COMMANDO RD - USO - OSO RD AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

Following arty and mortar HF during night 24/25 May and preceded by arty, mortar and MMG softening up, D Coy commenced to move towards the rd junc 996446 at 250730L. The pl moving on the SOUTH side of the COMMANDO rd found vacated enemy posns with accn for 40 at approx 991450 and Jap and American amm was found in the area; our arty fire on these posns had been very accurate. The Pl on the NORTH side of the rd adv 150 yds and located 12 unoccupied pits close to the rd. Almost immediately, approx 100 enemy in a dug in posn fired on the pl. After a fierce fire fight during which a grenade was thrown into a pit containing 3 enemy, our tps returned to D Coy locality to enable arty and mortar fire to be directed on the posn. Our cas were 2 wounded, enemy unknown. During the shelling of the enemy posn 1 shell landed in B Coy posn and 1 offr 3 OR were wounded from a tree burst. At 1200L 1 enemy came to within 40 yds of the coy wire, and on our tps opening fire, the enemy disappeared.

Following an airstrike on the enemy posn 994450 a patrol found the posns at 991450 still unoccupied and signs of enemy cas from shelling were found. The enemy was found to be still in occupation of the posn 992451 but the patrol was unable to estimate the str or report on the result of the airstrike.

A patrol from B Coy, which crossed the URURUR river at 993443, reached the OSO rd at 983437 thence moved along the rd to 992443 and and thence direct to 985449, reported that the rd showed no signs of recent traffic.

At 1800L C Coy est a patrol base at 010435.

Malcolm *Boyd*
Maj
for BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION
As per Summary 121

CONFIDENTIAL

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 128

27 May 45

Infm to 270900L

1 OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

(1) HONGORAI - POROREI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

A patrol from B Coy located a well defined track, 2 ft wide, running NORTH and SOUTH at 951427. The track appeared to have been used approx 7 days ago. A further patrol found a 2 ft wide track at 946410 which appeared to have been extensively used approx 1 week ago. A patrol from D Coy located an old enemy posn at 951443 sited on a 30 ft ridge and with accn for 30.

(11) POROREI RIVER - USO AREA

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

At 260600L a B Coy patrol contacted approx 6 enemy using rifles and a LMG at the track junc 963408 killing 3 enemy. At the time of contact the leading scout exploded a 75 mm booby trap which killed 1 native and wounded 2. The patrol then returned to B Coy, reorganised and again departed to complete its original task. At 1030L B Coy adv SE along the BUIN rd and at 1045L the leading elements were fired on by an estimated 20 enemy using rifles from a posn extending over both sides of the BUIN rd. The coy maintained contact while the tks were called fwd but these were unable to cross the culvert at 962410. It was estimated that the crossing would not be completed before 1630L. With mortar sp, the coy continued the adv without the tks and by 1630L had cleared the enemy from the rd and occupied the coy objective in the garden at 963408. Our cas 1 killed 1 wounded, enemy unknown. 12 pl, moving on the NORTH of the rd, exploded 3 booby traps consisting of 75 mm shells, our cas being 1 offr killed and 11 OR wounded. At 1800L 9 tp of tks crossed the culvert at 962410 and joined the coy. Two secs of 4 pl are now with B Coy. A patrol reached 965392 and reported NMS. At 1030L 3 enemy tree snipers fired shots into bn H₂ area; our tps engaged killing 1 and the remainder withdrew. Own cas nil. At 1030L an A Coy patrol encountered 8 enemy using a LMG and rifles astride the track at 967420 and during a short engagement 1 member of the patrol was wounded and 1 accidentally wounded while the enemy cas are unknown. The patrol returned to A Coy and at 1300L again moved out with a FOO to engage the posn. The patrol reached the enemy posn, drew the enemy fire, and then engaged the posn with arty fire, following which the patrol moved fwd and observed the enemy fleeing from the posn. Own cas nil; enemy unknown. Patrol then returned to A Coy. A standing patrol occupied the old enemy posn 967426 and found freshly turned earth 100 yds WEST of the posn. On investigation 3 Jap pistols were found. At 1230L an armed patrol consisting of 7 pl, one tp tks and a FOO departed from A Coy and occupied the track junc 967426, from where patrols operated 400 yds along the USO track and for the same distance along the OSO track and to the SUNIN river at 976425. From 1100L to 1330L 12 75 mm and 8 150 mm shells fell in the area 959411 without causing cas or damage. Throughout night 26/27 May mortar HF was directed on posn 963406 and arty HF on 965401. At 1900L the line to C Coy was cut.

(111) COMMANDO RD - USO - OSO RD AREA
57/60 Aust Inf Bn

Following arty and mortar HF and an airstrike on enemy posns between 993450 and the track junc 996446, 16 pl probed fwd and approx 250 yds in adv of D Coy found extensive unoccupied enemy posns on both sides of the COMMANDO rd. The posns were well cam, capable of accommodating 200, but no firelanes or tracks were visible. 1 Jap, dazed by bombing, was captured in a trench. The bombing of the posns was extremely accurate. 4 fresh graves were found at 992451. A rifle, bayonet and a lifebelt were found. The pl attempted to recon further fwd but found the enemy still in the posns in considerable str. The Pl returned to D Coy locality. A patrol to 997445 thence WEST to the COMMANDO rd heard sounds of considerable enemy activity before reaching the rd. At 0945L 11 pl moved to the creek at 990446 where 2 enemy were observed moving NORTH; patrol to the southern flank of the enemy posn sighted 6 enemy at 994448 and heard sounds of many more in the area. The pl returned to B Coy at 1800L. A new track was found from 993448 to 993444. A Coy is now in posn 996450. A well worn track leads SW to the COMMANDO rd. A patrol down the track to the rd found extensive vacated enemy posns and 1 Aust rifle bolt. A patrol from D Coy to locate the enemy flanks found posns at 993451 vacated. At 1630L a further PW was captured at 992451. On the return of the patrol D Coy less 16 pl moved fwd and occupied vacated enemy posns 993451. 16 pl now 990453.

(b) 23 Aust Inf Bde
PIATERAPAIA AREA
27 Aust Inf Bn

One of our patrols made contact with an enemy posn at 687156, near BERRYS HILL, killing 1 Jap. Natives state that there are 50/60 Japs at IBU, and no signs of either withdrawal or rft. WEARNES HILL is reported to be occupied by 25/30 Japs. Patrol bases are being est at 683168, vicinity WEARNES HILL, and 738157, vicinity CHAMBERS HILL.

(c) 11 Aust Inf Bde
SORAKEN - RURI BAY AREA
26 Aust Inf Bn

A small enemy party was contacted by 1 of our patrols WEST of B Coy and fire was exchanged. A later patrol found that the enemy had abandoned this posn. 1 dead Jap found SE of the coy posn.

C Coy patrols report that the enemy has abandoned his posns in that area and has apparently moved to the WEST.

A PIB patrol op on the EAST coast engaged a well armed enemy party NORTH of SIAR, killing 5. Our 3 in mortars engaged the posn and the enemy withdrew, but contact was made 200 yds further NORTH and a further 2 Japs were killed. 1 dead Jap was found in a cave near SIAR.

Our arty engaged known enemy posns in the D and B Coy areas.

(d) BORNEO - TARAKAN ISLAND

Following an air strike NORTH of the town of TARAKAN, tps of 2/48 Aust Inf Bn secured portion of an important feature. Further WEST, tps of 2/23 Aust Inf Bn made some progress, pushing NE.

Enemy cas to 222400I: killed 570; probably killed 122; PW 12.

DISTRIBUTION
As per Summary 121

Les Robinson
Maj
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

W.D.

CONFIDENTIAL

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 128

Infm to 280900L

28 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

15 Aust Inf Bde

(a) POROREI RIVER - USO AREA - 58/59 Aust Inf Bn

On 25 May a patrol op in the TOMOI river area was fired on by 2 enemy in the vicinity of 964406 but avoided contact. The patrol reached the SIROI track at approx 970401 when a native scout reported that approx 100 enemy were digging in between 970401 and the BUIN rd; a small recce patrol commenced moving towards the area when 11 enemy approached from NE along the SIROI track; the patrol attempted to remain unobserved but were sighted and forced to engage the enemy party, 7 of whom were killed and 1 seriously wounded while our cas were nil. The patrol then moved NORTH to 970402 and bivouacked night 25/26 May. At 1830L and 2000L on that night booby traps around the patrol posn were sprung. Following a request by pigeon from the patrol arty HF was brought down on the enemy posn during the night. At 260700L the patrol moved EAST and located a Jap track running NW - SE at 970400, where an ambush was est for an hr but no mov was observed. Patrol reached the TOMOI river at 976396 and was fired on by 12 enemy using a LMG from the ^{so on bank of the river and by 8 on} northern flank on the NORTH side of the river; on the patrol moving NE to outflank the enemy parties, the enemy followed maintaining contact and fired 3 estimated 150 mm shells fwd of our patrol but our party cut a track NORTH and was able to evade the enemy. The area is honey-combed with Jap tracks. PIB scouts reported that the enemy was active all round the patrol and frequent attempts were made to draw our fire. The patrol returned to bn HQ at 261900L.

At 271000L enemy mov was heard on both sides of the BUIN rd 200 yds fwd of B Coy. A BD party, clearing booby traps from the coy locality, removed 23 booby traps comprising 4 150 mm and 19 75 mm shells. B Coy with 4 pl is now located at 963407 astride the BUIN rd on the southern edge of the garden. At 0900L A Coy est at 974428. At 0700L 3 75 mm shells fell in bn HQ area without causing cas but damaging several tents. A well worn track runs NE - SW at 977435 and the garden in the area is well cultivated and shows signs of considerable use 6 days ago. 6 enemy graves were found at 967427 and 11 at 968426. A patrol to 963423 sighted 12 enemy and heard sounds of enemy activity at 965423 but avoided contact. 1 enemy was sighted at 980427.

At 272215L 10 enemy shells of unknown calibre fell in B Ech area without causing cas but some tents were damaged. Immediately following this shelling B Coy was attacked from the NORTH by approx 20 enemy using a JUKI, 2 LMGs and rifles. After a sharp fire fight the enemy were driven off by Besa fire and grenades. Own cas nil; enemy unknown. During the night the comms to A Coy were cut. 1 3 ton veh was captured by B Coy. The veh was only slightly damaged and can be made serviceable.

(b) COMMANDO RD - USO - OSO RD AREA
57/60 Aust Inf Bn

Following an air strike and arty concs on known enemy posns WEST of the track junc 996446 and acting on FW infm, the bn adv to secure the track junc 996446. By 1115L A Coy had secured the junc without encountering opposn. During the exploitation one pl was fired on by the enemy in unknown str from 996444. The fire was returned killing 1 enemy while our cas was 1 wounded. The arty fire on the track junc had been very accurate. All enemy posns in the track junc area occupied on 26 May showed signs of a hasty withdrawal. B Coy moved fwd and at 1100L reached the OSO - USO rd at 991443 and patrols were immediately despatched to contact A Coy.

A patrol from C Coy located an old Jap HQ at 004449. A large quantity of eqpt was recovered incl 5 swords, 12 rifles, med sups, rugs, cosmetics and documents. D Coy adv to the high ground 994448 and was in posn at 1125L. 5 pl is now at 990453.

An A Coy patrol investigating the contact reported at 996444 found a small vacated enemy posn on the EAST side of the rd at 997444. At 1515L one sec of 7 pl moving to occupy the posn 997444 was fired on by an unknown number of enemy who had re-occupied the posns. After a fire fight which lasted for half an hr the sec broke contact to allow the arty to engage the posn. Our cas was 1 died of wounds, enemy 1 killed. At 1750L two secs of 7 pl occupied the posn 996444 for night 27/28 May. It is not known if the enemy is still in occupation of the posn 997444. A Coy less 7 and 8 pls now at 996446, 8 pl 995445. B Coy less 12 pl with A Coy at 996446. 12 pl enroute to est a posn at 997443. A patrol from C Coy contacted approx 100 enemy constructing posns SOUTH of the KUTANA river at 001433 and 002432. The patrol was unable to register with arty due to enemy interference on the wireless frequency. A further patrol located a large enemy posn at 998440 with accn for 200 and unoccupied for 3 days. Area consisted of 50 well constructed posns with overhead cover, 3 kitchens and 12 huts, one of which had been used within the last 24 hrs. 3 rifles were found and 2 sets of fresh footprints leading NE, SW were observed. 12 pl reached 997443 and heard sounds indicating that the enemy was in considerable str immediately SE of the posn. The pl returned to A Coy locality. At 2200L 1 enemy was observed crossing the URURUR river at 997445 moving towards A Coy locality.

(c) HONGORAI - POROREI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

An A Coy patrol exploded an enemy booby trap on the NORTH side of the BUIN rd at approx 958418. A patrol from C Coy found 3 75 mm shell cases and 8 75 mm shells less the fuze cap at 943437 but there was no sign of a gun posn in the area.

D Coy 1 PIB

The coy is now located at 962420.

2 ENEMY INFM

Notes from PW Interrogations

Interesting infm has been obtained from recent PW concerning the effect of our continuous bombing, shelling and mortaring of known enemy posns. Although there have been no spectacular results from any specific air strike or arty conc there is ample evidence from PW that cas are being consistently inflicted of which we would normally have no knowledge. 2 recent PW from COMMANDO rd area were very bomb happy - one to such an extent that he was totally incapable of any coherent speech or action. The other PW was normal except that he reacted violently when our guns fired during interrogation. The latter PW stated that he had seen several men evac to the rear mentally unfit because of bombing and shelling. All the men in his unit are bomb happy and morale is very low as a result. The men are now picking up our surrender leaflets and carrying them with them, whereas previously they threw them away. They have heard our surrender broadcasts and are gradually beginning to believe there may be some truth in our statements about food and good treatment. At least 3 out of 5 recent PW had reached the stage where they were so fed up with fighting and continuous defeat that they were prepared to break all known tradition and surrender. One of these PW was an offr from a combat unit. All this points to the fact that our policy of ~~killing~~ killing hard and often with our supporting fire power against the known enemy concs is gradually disorganising the enemy forces, breaking his morale and generally reducing his fighting efficiency.

DISTRIBUTION

Munden Lt
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

War Diary

CONFIDENTIAL

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 130

Infm to 290900L

29 May 45

1 OPS - LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

(i) POROREI RIVER - USO AREA

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

A patrol investigating the sig line to A Coy which had been cut on night 27/28 May found that 100 yds of the line had been removed at 968426. Signs were found of 4 enemy having slept 40 yds away on the previous night.

An armed patrol comprising 3 tks, a bulldozer, one pl of inf and a sec of engr departed from A Coy at 0930L and moved NE along the OSO track and at 1140L contacted a patrol from 57/60 Aust Inf Bn on the URURUR river at 984437 thus effecting the first contact by the two bns along the OSO - USO line. The patrol continued on and at 1600L contacted 57/60 Aust Inf Bn at 996446 and then returned to A Coy at 1800L. When at 988441 4 75 mm booby traps were exploded. A trip wire had been laid across the track and extending for 40 yds off the track. 3 dead enemy were found at this pt, presumed to have been killed by their own booby trap.

A patrol located a Jap track running NE - SW at 970418 with sig wire running along it and footprints of 1 enemy having moved SE within the last 24 hrs. The patrol moved NW to the junction 965423 thence NORTH towards the SUNIN river and when 50 yds from the junc was fired on by 7 enemy. Own cas nil; enemy 1 killed. After outflanking the enemy posn the patrol was again fired on and after a hy fire fight the patrol moved NORTH through a vacated enemy posn at 963427 consisting of 30 foxholes and not occupied within the last 48 hrs. 1 PW was captured on the EAST bank of the river at 985423.

At 1200L the MAMAGATA patrol when at 898362, observed a Corsair make a forced landing. The patrol located the pilot who was later picked up by a barge. At 1745L the patrol had reached 910354.

(ii) COMANDO RD - OSO - USO RD AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

After recce patrols had found the enemy still in occupation of the posn 997444 and following a mortar conc 9 pl attacked the posn. The enemy resisted fiercely using LMGs and rifles and after more than an hour's fighting during which our tps fought for every yd of the adv, the enemy was eventually forced to withdraw and 9 pl consolidated on its objective 997444. Own cas nil; enemy 2 known killed. On an investigation of the area 997445 where 1 enemy was fired on at 272200L signs were found of the enemy having been badly wounded and the body was located 15 yds away. During the shelling of the posn 997444 one offr was wounded by shrapnel but is remaining on duty. At 280530L 10 enemy using LMGs and rifles crossed the URURUR river at 997445 and attacked 7 pl area but were dispersed with grenades. Own cas nil. B Coy now at 997447. An enemy grenade was thrown from the SOUTH side of the track on a patrol moving SW at 994444. No enemy were sighted. The patrol moved a further 250 yds SW and was fired on by the enemy in unknown str. Own cas 1 wounded. Patrol returned to B Coy. Except for the posns at 001433, patrols report no enemy activity in sqs 0044, 0144, 0043 and 0143.

At 1435L 7 pl at 996443, on observing the enemy occupying posns 50 yds SE, attacked with accurate mortar sp and after a fierce fire fight which raged for 4 hrs against 40 enemy strongly entrenched in a posn estimated to be capable of accommodating one bn and armed with LMGs and rifles, the pl occupied the posn 996443. In all, the pl adv 300 yds, the fwd tps at times being ahead of isolated enemy pockets. The enemy resisted every yd of the adv. Known enemy cas were 4

killed, 3 wounded and 1 PW. 1 LMG, 4 rifles, amm and sups were captured. A Coy HQ now 996444, 7 pl 997443, 8 pl astride the rd on the NORTH bank of the river, 9 pl 997444. C Coy now 995444. 1 of our tps was wounded by a booby trap in the coy locality. 4 fresh graves were found at the scene of 8 pl's action at 271245L. 2 enemy were observed at 987457 but fled. From 271300L to 271700L the enemy jammed on our arty wireless freq.

At 282330L enemy HF from a 75 mm gun commenced falling in the area sq 9944 which continued for 3 hrs without causing cas or damage. At 290545L an unknown number of enemy approached NW along the COMMANDO rd and fired on 9 pl locality. Our tps returned the fire with grenades. Own cas 1 wounded later died of wounds, enemy unknown.

At 281900L while mortars were ranging on 998442 4 OR were accidentally wounded.

(iii) HONGORAI -- POROREI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

2 sets of enemy footprints leading NORTH, estimated to be 1 day old, were found at 957415. 2 81 mm mortar bombs erected as booby traps were found NORTH of A Coy locality. At 959438 a patrol found enemy posns, with accn for 100, on the EAST and WEST bank of the POROREI river connected by sig wire and used 1 week ago. Garden at 963438 showed signs of recent digging. An old enemy posn was found at 963434 and documents were recovered.

(b) 11 Aust Inf Bde

SORAKEN - RURI AREA -- 26 Aust Inf Bn

A patrol from A Coy was fired on by 2 IMGs slightly EAST of BUOI plantation. Another patrol moved to 284696 thence to the northern tip of the plantation without sighting enemy. A PIB patrol contacted an estimated 30 enemy with 1 HMG, 1 LMG at 329725 on the coastal track near RURI BAY. 2 enemy were killed and our 3 in mortar then engaged the posn. The enemy withdrew slightly and were joined by a further 20 from the NORTH. Later 2 enemy were killed and 1 probably killed. The 3 in mortar continued to engage.

(c) 23 Aust Inf Bde

PLATERAPALA AREA

27 Aust Inf Bn

Our arty destroyed 3 huts and probably destroyed 1 MG in the SISIVIE area. Later a patrol killed 1 Jap nearby. Arty fire also destroyed 2 bunker posns at BASE PT 3 and accurately engaged other posns in the same area.

(d) BORNEO -- TARAKAN ISLAND

Tps of 2/48 Aust Inf Bn repulsed a counter attack EAST of MT API, and later withdrew to enable an air strike to be made on the enemy posn. 18 aircraft were used but, although they were accurately bombed, the enemy remained in posn.

HQ 2/4 Aust Cdo Sqn also repulsed an attack by a small enemy party. To the NORTH 2/24 Aust Inf Bn unsuccessfully attacked 2 enemy posns.

2 SUMMARY OF PATROL REPORTS

A B2 report places an enemy camp at ROROVANA 150990 and 1 coastal gun at 150985.

A captured letter written in 'BUIN talk' and signed by a Jap named KEWATA called on natives of OKEMO 224471 to return with the letter. The letter also stated that natives co-op with Aust forces would be shot on sight.

Native scouts report that 5 Japs were killed near OKEMO by a shrapnel mine. The scouts also report that Japs had placed land mines on the track near OKEMO and, having destroyed their gardens, had vacated the area and withdrawn SOUT to KUMILIOGU.

ENEMY INF

(a) Cas

Total cas inflicted on the enemy by the bde since the commencement of ops to 28 May are 421 killed, 44 wounded and 17 PW.

(b) Eqpt

The following is a list of enemy eqpt captured or destroyed by units of the bde:

	<u>24 Bn</u>	<u>57/60 Bn</u>	<u>58/59 Bn</u>
75 mm regt gun	2		
70 mm bn gun			1
47 mm tk A gun			1
37 mm tk A gun	1		1
HMG JUKI			1
LMG	3	1	5 (incl 1 twin barrelled)
Pistols	3		4
Swords	4	8	4
Rifles	68	45	25
Clinometers 75 mm	1		
Landmines type 93	5		
Veh 3 ton			1

(c) Shelling

A total of 1294 enemy shells have been fired on units of the bde since the commencement of ops. This total represents the counted shells only and, in addition, there have been instances of hostile shelling in which units have not been able to give an estimate of the number of shells.

(d) Attached is a sketch of the Jap posns at 957417.

[Handwritten Signature]
 BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) | (6) | 129 Aust Bde Ord Fd Pk |
| 57/60 Aust Inf Bn | (6) | 129 Aust Bde Wksp |
| 58/59 Aust Inf Bn | (6) | COMD |
| B Sqn 2/4 Aust Armd Regt | | BM |
| 15 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec (AIF) | | SC |
| 14 pl 2/1 Aust Gd Regt | | Edn Cffr |
| 15 Aust Inf Bde Flamethrower Pl | | CSM |
| 15 Aust Fd Amb (AIF) | | File |
| ADS KEKRO CREEK | | War Diary |
| E Sec 63 ADU | | (2) |
| 266 Aust LAD (AIF) | | |
| Det 3 Aust Div Pro Coy | | |
| Det ANGAU | | |
| D Coy 1 PIB | | |
| 2/11 Aust Fd Regt | | |
| 2 Aust Fd Regt | | |
| 15 Aust Fd Coy RAE (AIF) | | |
| Area Comd MOTUPENA PT | | |
| 17 AIR OP FLT OXLEY FD | | |
| 15 Aust Inf Bde Rest Camp | (2) | |
| 15 Aust Inf Bde LOB Gp | | |
| 53 Aust Tpt Pl | | |
| 3 Aust Sup Dep pl | | |
| 4 Aust Sup Dep pl | | |

JAP DEF POSN

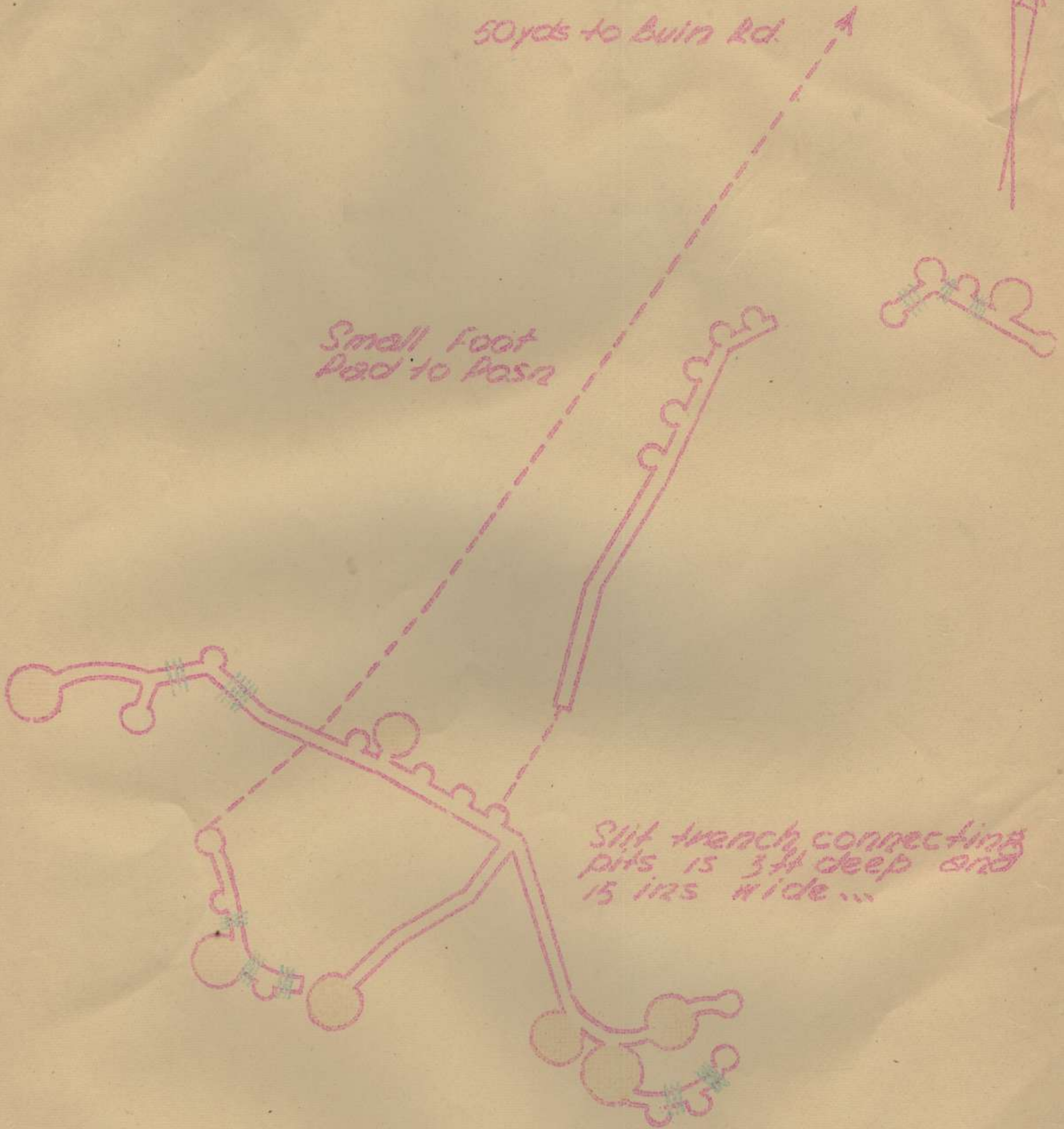
957417
Ref Map MOINDITU 1:25000

Lt. 1360

50 yds to Bulm Rd. →

Small Foot
Pad to Posn

Slit trench connecting
pits 15 3/4 deep and
15 ins wide...



— LEGEND —

- LMG PITS ○
- AIR RAID SHELTERS ○
- FIRING DAPS ≡
- LOG COVERING ≡

SCALE 1 IN TO 10 YDS

1 IN 5 FC
15 INST INF BDE

War Diary

CONFIDENTIAL

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 130

Infm to 200900L

29 May 45

1 OPS -- LAND

(a) 15 Aust Inf Bde

(i) POROREI RIVER -- USO AREA

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

A patrol investigating the sig line to A Coy which had been cut on night 27/28 May found that 100 yds of the line had been removed at 968426. Signs were found of 4 enemy having slept 40 yds away on the previous night.

An armed patrol comprising 3 tks, a bulldozer, one pl of inf and a sec of engrs departed from A Coy at 0930L and moved NE along the OSO track and at 1140L contacted a patrol from 57/60 Aust Inf Bn on the URURUR river at 984437 thus effecting the first contact by the two bns along the OSO - USO line. The patrol continued on and at 1600L contacted 57/60 Aust Inf Bn at 996446 and then returned to A Coy at 1800L. When at 988441 4 75 mm booby traps were exploded. A trip wire had been laid across the track and extending for 40 yds off the track. 3 dead enemy were found at this pt, presumed to have been killed by their own booby trap.

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(ii) COMBUDO RD -- OSO - USO RD AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

After recce patrols had found the enemy still in occupation of the posn 997444 and following a mortar conc 9 pl attacked the posn. The enemy resisted fiercely using LMGs and rifles and after more than an hour's fighting during which our tps fought for every yd of the adv, the enemy was eventually forced to withdraw and 9 pl consolidated on its objective 997444. Own cas nil; enemy 2 known killed. On an investigation of the area 997445 where 1 enemy was fired on at 272200L signs were found of the enemy having been badly wounded and the body was located 15 yds away. During the shelling of the posn 997444 one offr was wounded by shrapnel but is remaining on duty. At 280530L 10 enemy using LMGs and rifles crossed the URURUR river at 997445 and attacked 7 pl area but were dispersed with grenades. Own cas nil. B Coy now at 997447. An enemy grenade was thrown from the SOUTH side of the track on a patrol moving SW at 994444. No enemy were sighted. The patrol moved a further 250 yds SW and was fired on by the enemy in unknown str. Own cas 1 wounded. Patrol returned to B Coy. Except for the posns at 001433, patrols report no enemy activity in sqs 0044, 0144, 0043 and 0143.

At 1435L 7 pl at 996443, on observing the enemy occupying posns 50 yds SE, attacked with accurate mortar sp and after a fierce fire fight which raged for 4 hrs against 40 enemy strongly entrenched in a posn estimated to be capable of accommodating one bn and armed with LMGs and rifles, the pl occupied the posn 996443. In all, the pl adv 300 yds, the fwd tps at times being ahead of isolated enemy pockets. The enemy resisted every yd of the adv. Known enemy cas were 4

killed, 3 wounded and 1 PW. 1 LMG, 4 rifles, amm and sups were captured. A Coy HQ now 996444, 7 pl 997443, 8 pl astride the rd on the NORTH bank of the river, 9 pl 997444. C Coy now 995444. 1 of our tps was wounded by a booby trap in the coy locality. 4 fresh graves were found at the scene of 8 pl's action at 271245L. 2 enemy were observed at 987457 but fled. From 271300L to 271700L the enemy jammed on our arty wireless freq. At 282330L enemy HF from a 75 mm gun commenced falling in the area sq 9944 which continued for 3 hrs without causing cas or damage. At 290545L an unknown number of enemy approached NW along the COMMANDO rd and fired on 9 pl locality. Our tps returned the fire with grenades. Own cas 1 wounded later died of wounds, enemy unknown. At 281900L while mortars were ranging on 998442 4 OR were accidentally wounded.

(iii) HONGORAI - POROREI RIVER AREA

24 Aust Inf Bn

2 sets of enemy footprints leading NORTH, estimated to be 1 day old, were found at 957415. 2 81 mm mortar bombs erected as booby traps were found NORTH of A Coy locality. At 959438 a patrol found enemy posns, with accn for 100, on the EAST and WEST bank of the POROREI river connected by sig wire and used 1 week ago. Garden at 963438 showed signs of recent digging. An old enemy posn was found at 963434 and documents were recovered.

(b) 11 Aust Inf Bde

SORAKEN - RURI AREA - 26 Aust Inf Bn

A patrol from A Coy was fired on by 2 IMGs slightly EAST of BUOI plantation. Another patrol moved to 284696 thence to the northern tip of the plantation without sighting enemy. A PIB patrol contacted an estimated 30 enemy with 1 HMG, 1 IMG at 329725 on the coastal track near RURI BAY. 2 enemy were killed and our 3 in mortar then engaged the posn. The enemy withdrew slightly and were joined by a further 20 from the NORTH. Later 2 enemy were killed and 1 probably killed. The 3 in mortar continued to engage.

(c) 23 Aust Inf Bde

PIATERAPAIA AREA

27 Aust Inf Bn

Our arty destroyed 3 huts and probably destroyed 1 MG in the SISIVIE area. Later a patrol killed 1 Jap nearby. Arty fire also destroyed 2 bunker posns at BASE PT 3 and accurately engaged other posns in the same area.

(d) BORNEO - TAPAKAN ISLAND

Tps of 2/48 Aust Inf Bn repulsed a counter attack EAST of MT API, and later withdrew to enable an air strike to be made on the enemy posn. 18 aircraft were used but, although they were accurately bombed, the enemy remained in posn. HQ 2/4 Aust Cdo Sqn also repulsed an attack by a small enemy party. To the NORTH 2/24 Aust Inf Bn unsuccessfully attacked 2 enemy posns.

2

SUMMARY OF PATROL REPORTS

A B2 report places an enemy camp at ROROVANA 150990 and 1 coastal gun at 150985.

A captured letter written in 'BUIN talk' and signed by a Jap named YEWATTA called on natives of OKEMO 224471 to return with the letter. The letter also stated that natives co-op with Aust forces would be shot on sight.

Native scouts report that 5 Japs were killed near OKEMO by a shrapnel mine. The scouts also report that Japs had placed land mines on the track near OKEMO and, having destroyed their gardens, had vacated the area and withdrawn SOUT to KUMILIOGU.

3 ENEMY INFM

(a) Gas

Total gas inflicted on the enemy by the bde since the commencement of ops to 28 May are 421 killed, 44 wounded and 17 PW.

(b) Eqpt

The following is a list of enemy eqpt captured or destroyed by units of the bde:

	<u>24 Bn</u>	<u>57/60 Bn</u>	<u>58/59 Bn</u>
75 mm regt gun	2		
70 mm bn gun			1
47 mm tk A gun			1
37 mm tk A gun	1		1
HMG JUKI			1
LMG	3	1	5 (incl 1 twin barrelled)
Pistols	3		4
Swords	4	8	4
Rifles	68	45	25
Clinometers 75 mm	1		
Landmines type 93	5		
Veh 3 ton			1

(c) Shelling

A total of 1294 enemy shells have been fired on units of the bde since the commencement of ops. This total represents the counted shells only and, in addition, there have been instances of hostile shelling in which units have not been able to give an estimate of the number of shells.

(d) Attached is a sketch of the Jap posns at 957417.

[Handwritten Signature]
 BM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| 24 Aust Inf Bn (AIF) | (6) | 129 Aust Bde Ord FC Pk |
| 57/60 Aust Inf Bn | (6) | 129 Aust Bde Wksp |
| 58/59 Aust Inf Bn | (6) | COMD |
| B Sqn 2/4 Aust Armd Regt | | BM |
| 15 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec (AIF) | | SC |
| 14 pl 2/1 Aust GC Regt | | Eda Cffr |
| 15 Aust Inf Bde Flamethrower Pl | | CSM |
| 15 Aust Fd Amb (AIF) | | File |
| ADS KEKRO CREEK | | War Diary (2) |
| E Sec 63 ADU | | |
| 266 Aust LAD (AIF) | | |
| Det 3 Aust Div Pro Coy | | |
| Det ANGAU | | |
| D Coy 1 PIB | | |
| 2/11 Aust Fd Regt | | |
| 2 Aust Fd Regt | | |
| 15 Aust Fd Coy RAE (AIF) | | |
| Area Comd MOTUPENA PT | | |
| 17 AIR OP FLT OXLEY FD | | |
| 15 Aust Inf Bde Rest Camp | (2) | |
| 15 Aust Inf Bde LOB Gp | | |
| 53 Aust Tpt Pl | | |
| 3 Aust Sup Dep pl | | |
| 4 Aust Sup Dep pl | | |

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 131

Infm to 300900L

30 May 45

i OPS - LAND

- (a) 15 Aust Inf Bde
 (i) TOHU - USO AREA
58/59 Aust Inf Bn

At 1000L a combined recce patrol from C and D coys, when 200 yds EAST of B Coy locality, was fired on by an unknown number of enemy using a LMG and rifles. The patrol returned the fire and the enemy dispersed. The enemy were in the process of burying a Jap cpl killed by B Coy on night 27/28 May. Signs were observed of a further 2 bodies having been dragged away. A patrol from C Coy with one sec of PIB which departed on 25 May followed the AITARA track to 933389, thence along the C rd marked on the Jap map to 969381 where 1 enemy was sighted beside the track but the patrol avoided contact and proceeded to a hosp area at 984383, thence to the MAMAGATA rd at 989377. The track at this pt is 6 ft wide with a well worn 3 ft wide pad along the centre showing no signs of recent use. Patrol moved 300 yds NORTH along the WEST side of the track without observing any mov and thence returned to the large vacated hosp area at 984385, consisting of 25 huts and 8 graves. From this pt the party moved NW parallel to the BUIN rd and when at 972385 the natives fired on a Jap who escaped along a small track leading towards the BUIN rd which was followed for 100 yds where 2 freshly dug foxholes were located. The patrol again moved NW parallel to the rd to 965394, to the AITARA track at 947403 and thence to BN HQ arriving on 29 May. No further report has been received from the patrol which was last reported at 910354 at 281745L.

- (ii) COMANDO RD - USO - OSO RD AREA
57/60 Aust Inf Bn

Bn HQ now located at 995446. A patrol from 9 pl contacted the enemy 50 yds fwd of the coy locality at 996444 and after an exchange of fire during which 1 enemy was killed without loss, the patrol returned to the pl HQ. A further patrol from 8 pl also contacted the enemy in the same area, killing 1 without loss. While clearing a Coy locality 1 OR was wounded by a grenade booby trap. At 1145L 4 75 mm shells incl 1 blind fell within 100 yds of B Coy locality without causing cas or damage, and at 1400L a further 2 shells of the same calibre fell in the area 996446 during the mov of Bn HQ. At 1440L a booby trap consisting of 2 75 mm shells with trip wire att was found 2 yds from the wire at A Coy locality and while disarming the trap 1 OR was wounded. At 1400L 3 men were accidentally wounded by a grenade in D Coy locality. From 2120L to 2135L 18 75 mm shells incl 2 blinds fell in the area 997446 without causing cas or damage.

- (iii) POROREI RIVER - USO AREA
24 Aust Inf Bn

A Coy is now located at 955419 and D Coy on the USO rd at 966425. A patrol from B Coy located a vacated enemy posn capable of accommodating 40 men at 959438 which had not been used for approx 3 weeks.

- (b) 29 Aust Inf Bde
HONGORAI RIVER AREA

A patrol from 42 Aust Inf Bn sighted 3 enemy at 929397 one of whom was wounded and the remainder fled.

- (c) 11 Aust Inf Bde
SORAKEN - RURI AREA - 26 Aust Inf Bn

On the EAST coast our 3 in mortars engaged the area immediately NORTH of SIAR.

C Coy less 14 pl is now est at 310713; 14 pl is at 308777.

Two small parties of Japs were encountered NW of the coy posn; 5 Japs were killed.

In the BUOI plantation area 8 and 9 pls have est new posns at 286701. The posns were later attacked, the enemy losing 1 killed and 1 wounded.

Explosions have been heard and observed in the PORTON plantation area and SW BUKA. A small craft was observed EAST of SOHANA at 271045L and 271355L a small fast vessel moved from SOHANA into BUKA PASSAGE. 4 barges were seen anchored off the entrance to the passage.

(d) BORNEO - TARAKAN ISLAND

Small gains have been made by tps of 2/23, 2/24 and 2/48 Aust Inf Bns in the hill country NORTH of the town of TARAKAN.

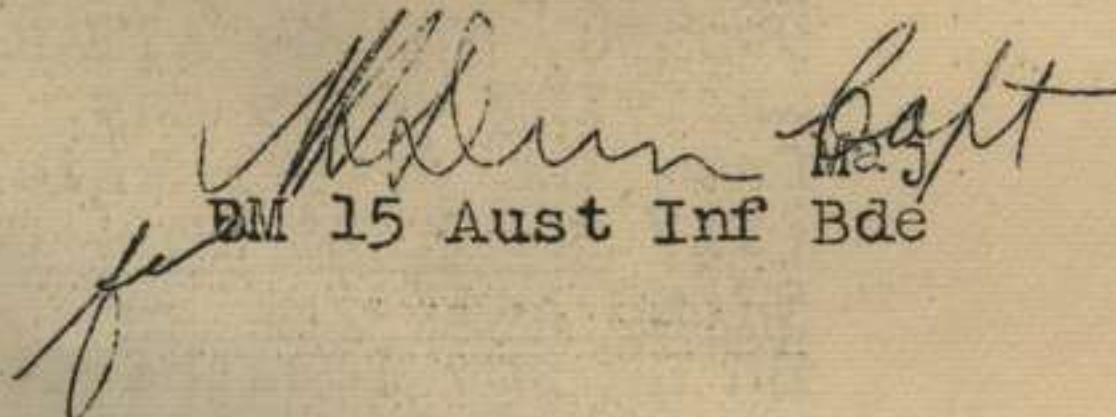
A patrol from 2/4 Aust Cdo Sqn has penetrated within 1 mile of CAPE DJOETA on the NORTH coast.

2 SUMMARY OF PATROL REPORTS

Natives have reported the following killings: WIDA 2, ISINA 15, AROPA 1.

It is reported that in our recent strike at KAINO, 4 Jap huts were destroyed.

A BI report states that our recent strike at KANAURA was very successful, and that the area is now clear of the enemy.


DM 15 Aust Inf Bde

DISTRIBUTION

As per Summary 130

Ordinary

CONFIDENTIAL

15 AUST INF BDE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY 132

Infm to 310900L

31 May 45

OPS - LAND

15 Aust Inf Bde

(a) TOHU - USO AREA

58/59 Aust Inf Bn

The MAMAGATA coastal patrol incl a sec of PIB, which departed from D Coy on 27 May returned at 301100L and reported that there were no signs of recent enemy use of the AITARA track. Enemy listening posts on the coast at 889374 were inspected but showed no signs of recent use. The patrol followed the coast to 964336 without observing any mov. A native guide stated that the enemy does not patrol the coast WEST of MAMAGATA but that there are 2 tree OPs at the village near the coast. The patrol returned via the same route and when at 951406 was fired on by 2 enemy and after a short engagement the enemy withdrew. Own cas was 1 wounded; enemy unknown. A further patrol which later departed from D Coy to engage the enemy reported NMS. A patrol reced a suitable coy locality at 967408. A small track leading SW from the area towards the BUIN rd was reced for 300 yds but no mov was observed. A patrol from C Coy found the known enemy posn at 966423 unoccupied and after remaining in the area for an hr the patrol returned. On 29 May A Coy patrol sighted 1 Jap at 971417 who fled. The patrol moved to 978417 and est an ambush, into which 3 Japs walked 2 of whom were killed and 1 wounded. An ambush est at 979419 for night 29/30 May reported NMS. At 301230L the patrol, while moving WEST from 979419 was fired on by the enemy using a LMG and rifles. The patrol returned to the creek but was again fired on, then moved NORTH, outflanked the enemy posn and returned to A Coy. Our cas were 1 offr killed 1 OR wounded and 1 missing; enemy unknown. 1 enemy when sighted by a patrol at 963401, fled. A patrol located an enemy posn at 962402 surrounded by vines and rattles. 1 Jap hut was observed and sounds of mov and talking were heard. Our first bombing mission on 30 May, evidently mistaking the target, dropped 6 bombs in the gen area of B Coy and strafed Bn HQ. 1 offr killed, 1 offr 3 OR wounded. At 1145L, during the bombing of the enemy areas fwd of B Coy, 1 PW surrendered to the coy.

Work is proceeding on the USO - OSO rd which is being developed into a corduroyed lateral track to 57/60 Aust Inf Bn.

(b) COMMANDO RD - OSO - USO RD AREA

57/60 Aust Inf Bn

A patrol from 8 pl was fired on by an unknown number of enemy using 2 LMGs from the SOUTH side of the COMMANDO rd at 997442. The patrol returned the fire killing 2 of the enemy and then returned to the coy locality. Our cas were 2 wounded.

A patrol from D Coy reached 997438 and reported that there are no defs WEST of the COMMANDO rd. Due to an estimated 20 enemy digging in and patrolling the rd, the patrol was unable to cross to the eastern side. At 1355L 4 enemy appeared on the left flank of A Coy and, on being engaged by our tps, they fled. An arty R was carried out on a probable gun posn which was bombed at 1830L.

From 300805L to 300910L 15 75 mm shells, incl 2 blinds, fell in the area 997446 without causing cas or damage. At 1700L 8 75 mm shells fell in Bn HQ area. Our cas were 2 killed incl 1 from 24 Aust Inf Bn, 7 wounded incl 2 offrs remaining on duty. At 1915L 3 150 mm shells fell in Bn HQ area and during night 30/31 May a further 3 150 mm shells and 14 75 mm shells fell in the same area without causing cas or damage.

(c) POROROI RIVER - USO AREA
24 Aust Inf Bn

A D Coy escort patrol with HQ F tp 2/4 Aust Arm'd Regt arrived at 57/60 Aust Inf Bn at 1600L. The patrol returned to D Coy at 1815L. 1 man was killed during the enemy shelling of 57/60 Aust Inf Bn at 1700L. All other patrols during the day reported NMS.

Anderson Lt
BM 15 Aust Inf Bde Maj

DISTRIBUTION
As per Summary 130.

MESSAGE FORM

FROM 15 inf bde TOO 03 08 00 L
TO 3 div
INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B sqn 2/4 armd regt
2 fd regt 15 fd coy A coy 1 NG inf bn det ANGAU
7 inf bde 15 inf bde LOB
COPIES COMD file war diary (2)

INTREP 7. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 021200L

1 ENEMY

(a) Posns

25 Apr

At 919475 there is an unoccupied enemy biv area consisting of 1 large well constructed lean-to surrounded by 4 freshly dug weapon pits.

28 Apr

There are 8 freshly dug foxholes at 912444.

29 Apr

There are 4 huts capable of accommodating 20 men at 915487. Jap water bottles, mess tins, helmets and boots cut down for use as slippers were found in the area.

30 Apr

At 925438 there is a Jap biv area consisting of 3 huts, approx 1 week old, capable of accommodating 15 men and also a number of old huts. There are many tracks in the area which have not been used for some time.

In the vicinity of 927440, covering an area approx 500 yds long, there are 12 huts, each with accn for 20 men, and several air raid shelters.

An unoccupied enemy posn 200 yds in depth with accn for 100 men and sited on the bank of a creek with all round def was located at 907442. Posn was occupied on 28 Apr. 41 x 70 mm shells, Aust 3 in mortar secondary charges, quantities of Aust and Jap eqpt, water bottles and haversacks were found in the area. Kunda vines for guidance during night mov were erected throughout the posn.

2 TOPOGRAPHICAL

(a) Rds

30 Apr

The rd 927439 is 20 ft wide, corduroyed with drains on either side and a footpad running along the centre. The rd is dry and has not been used by MT for a considerable time.

(b) Creeks

30 Apr

Patrol reports KEKRO creek SOUTH to 917438 is 10 to 15 ft wide, six inches deep with banks 4 ft high.

(c) Gardens

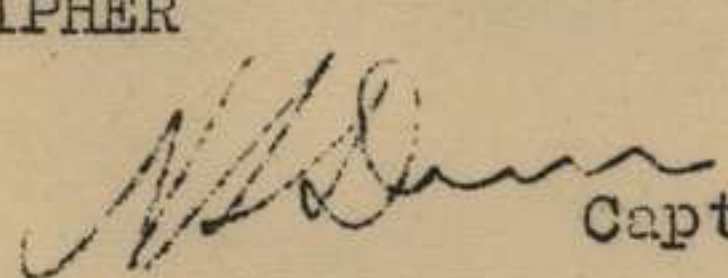
29 Apr

Garden area 913435 is overgrown and the area has been shelled. There are 2 disused Jap huts in the area.

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

Originator's instructions
Degree of Priority

DRHS.


Capt

MESSAGE FORM

FROM 15 inf bde TOO 021900L
TO 3 div
INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B sgn 2/4 arm regt
2 fd regt 15 fd coy det ANGAU29 inf bde 15 inf bde ICB
COPIES COMD file war diary (2)

INTREP 8. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 031200L

1 ENEMY

(a) Posns

30 Apr

A possible enemy biv area 48 hrs old and capable of accommodating two coys was located at 910488.

1 May

An enemy biv area at 893449 capable of accommodating 60/80 men consisted of foxholes only and had not been used for 4 weeks.

A patrol observed a large occupied enemy def posn at 947452 but was unable to estimate the str.

2 May

At 907427 a patrol located 2 pillboxes and 2 lean-tos approx 2 weeks old.

There are bombed areas 150 yds in diameter in the vicinity of 925454 and a further area 250 yds in diameter at 930454.

An unoccupied enemy posn sited on the EAST side of the track at 934435 consists of 2 pillboxes and is approx 1 week old. Fire lanes had been cut covering the approaches along the BUIN rd from the NW.

A Jap amn dump located at 915435 consisted of 60 75 mm shells stored in a pillbox and 3000 rounds of pt 256 amn in a hut. New defs which had probably been dug earlier in the morning were found in the area.

An old Jap posn of 30 foxholes and 30 shelters located at 871423 had not been used for at least 3 to 4 weeks. 200 yds SOUTH of the posn is hy swamp which is believed to extend to the sea.

(b) Dead

2 May

1 dead enemy found at 914433 was dressed in Aust clothes incl beret, but was without boots.

2 TOPOGRAPHICAL

(a) Tracks

2 May

Track leading EAST from 874427 is 2 ft wide and shows no signs of recent use.

(b) Rivers and Creeks

1 May

The SINDOU creek flows in a gen SW direction, is of an average width of 10 ft, 9 ins in depth increasing to 2 ft 6 at the ponds, banks 6 ft high.

A patrol reports the SINDOU creek and MOMUKO river to be the same stream.

2 May

There is an old demolished Jap bn at 943432. At the adjacent ford the river is 30 yds wide and approx 6 ins deep.

The MIWANO river crosses the main BUIN rd at 922442 at an angle of 170 degrees. Width 6 ft, very shallow with sloping WEST Bank 3 ft high. Rd here has a detour to the NORTH also crossing the river about 50 yds upstream. This northern detour is corduroyed and bridged. The br is

considered unsafe due to the decay of the timber. The southern arm of the rd has a gradual approach making the stream trafficable. A br is under constr.

The WARI river crosses BUIN rd at 924442 flowing SCUM at 220 degrees for 60 yds and then turning to 180 degrees. A lesser obstacle, it is crossed by a log ford.

(c) Gardens

1 May

A small overgrown garden at 894448, 70 yds long and 50 yds in width showed no signs of recent activity.

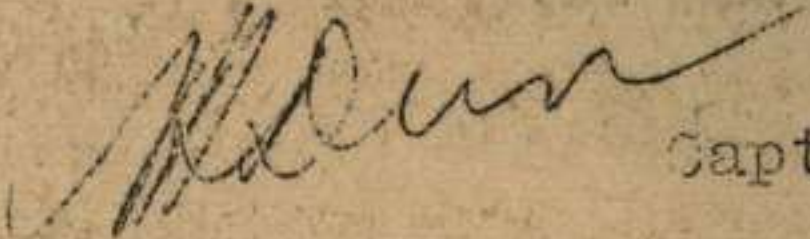
(d) Terrain

Terrain from 911442 to 922442 has been heavily bombed and shelled providing a visibility of 150 yds over waist-high undergrowth. From 922442, by secondary growth lines both sides of the rd.

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

Originator's instructions
Degree of priority

DRHS


Capt

MESSAGE FORM

FROM 15 inf bde TOO 05 / 0902L
 TO 3 div
 INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B sqn 2/4 armd regt
 2 fd regt 15 fd coy det ANGAU 29 inf bde 15 inf bde LOB
 COPIES COMD file war diary (2)

INTREP 9. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 041200L

1 ENEMY

(a) Posns

2 May

916434 2 recently reconditioned huts and 2 pillboxes on WEST bdy of overgrown garden covering the area. Closer investigation revealed that they were unoccupied, yet the cam on them was extremely fresh. 1 enemy killed there and considerable mov heard in the garden area.

3 May

A patrol on 28 Apr reported 3 new Jap huts 902434 with sawn saplings in vicinity and well worn foot pads running EAST - WEST. At this spot they contacted approx 20 enemy. On 3 May another patrol reports enemy str 20 in dug in posns between 902430 and 905433.

902449 - old def posn located consisting of 10 pillboxes and numerous weapon pits. Area surrounding posn had been heavily bombed but actual posn was untouched.

928428 - freshly dug pillbox located on SOUTH side of track.

925440 - 3 newly dug foxholes.

(b) Eqpt

28 Apr

Enemy contacted approx 902434 wore steel helmets with flap att at the rear falling to shoulders. Eqpt and dress new. 2 of the enemy were 6 ft in height and in good condition. All wore boots.

(c) Munitions

2 demolition blast charges were found in posn 800 yds fwd of SINDOU creek, one initiated by a type 97 hand grenade and the other by a 75 mm nose fuze improvised as a trip mechanism.

2 TOPOGRAPHICAL

(a) Crossings

VINEYS crossing 947485 now completed but still requires corduroying on approaches.

(b) Tracks

30 Apr

947485 - a well used track along which Jap sig wire had been laid was found approx 10 yds from and following the line of the backwater of the HONGORAI river. The backwater here had a sheer 20 ft bank. No water could be seen for whole area was covered by dense secondary growth to 120 yds in depth.

938444 - well worn track running due NORTH and SOUTH and it was estimated that a large party of enemy had moved SOUTH along this track within 24 hrs.

(c) Gardens

2 May

916434 - this garden was overgrown with 2 recently reconditioned huts and 2 pillboxes on the WEST side.

If liable to be intercepted or fall into enemy hands, this msg must be sent in CIPHER

Originator's instrs.
Degree of priority.

[Signature] Capt

DKHS.

MESSAGE FORM

FROM 15 inf bde TOO 06 0900 L
TO 3 div
INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B sqn 2/4 armcd
regt 2 fd regt 15 fd coy det ANGAU 29 inf bde
15 inf bde LOB
COPIES COMD file war diary (2)

INTREP 10. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 051200L

1 ENEMY

(a) Posns

29 Apr

10 to 12 old huts, many covered shelters and weapon pits at 923430. No signs of recent use.

30 Apr

Jap def posn at 907443 extending for approx 200 yds and 50 yds in depth consists of many 2-man weapon pits, some with overhead cover, but without connecting crawl trenches. Kunda vines connect many of the pits. Posn had been occupied within the last 4 days and numerous latrines had been left uncovered. The posn was capable of holding approx one coy. Aust and enemy eqpt was found in the area and fresh vegetables were found in lean tos.

2 May

Enemy biv area with accn for 20 tps found at 916439 together with 4 pillboxes. All huts were built off the ground.

Old Jap posn 872423 consisting of 30 shelters and 30 foxholes; no overhead cover; no tracks in vicinity. Not used for 3 to 4 weeks.

3 May

Small enemy posn capable of accommodating 6 to 8 men at 920453.

Old enemy posn consisting of 3 foxholes located at 923453.

2 new huts at 929452.

4 May

A freshly dug enemy def posn consisting of foxholes and capable of accommodating 8 men was located at 918465. Posn had been occupied on 3 May and footprints of approx 8 tps leading EAST along the track were not more than 12 hrs old. The posn had been accurately engaged by our 3 in mortars, some bombs having fallen within 10 yds of the posn.

(b) Huts

4 May

There are 5 deserted huts and 3 tracks leading down to the WEST bank of the HONGORAI ford at 943447.

(c) Amn

2 May

Found in a pit at 915436 were 75 new rounds of 75 mm.

2 TOPOGRAPHICAL

(a) Tracks

2 May

At approx 875430 a 3 ft wide track runs parallel to the MOMUKO river.

At 868422 the main track terminates in the swamp.

906460 well defined track 2 ft wide. Not recently used.

(b) Rivers and creeks

2 May

MOMUKO river at 873428 is 15 ft wide, 2 ft deep with banks 10 ft high, muddy bottom, not tkable.

Creek at 903443 2 ft wide, 4 ins deep, 3 ft banks, flows SW.

898436 3 ft wide, 6 ins deep, 4 ft banks, flows SE.

888436 7 ft wide, 18 ins deep, 18 in banks, flows SOUTH.

884440 12 ft wide, 3 ft deep, 5 ft banks; believed to be

SINDOU creek and MOMUKO river as same stream.

4 May

HONGORAI ford at 943447 is 4 ft wide. At this pt the river is 30 yds wide and 2 1/2 ft deep.

At 941425 a creek 5 ft wide, 2 ft deep flows in a southerly direction.

(c) Gardens

29 Apr

Garden area 923438 is 300 yds by 200 yds and has been freshly dug in places.

2 May

Garden at 914436 is 200 yds by 100 yds, well cultivated and had been deserted approx 2 days ago.

Clearing at 906468 is 30 yds by 20 yds with 2 very small gardens fenced in. Overgrown - no signs recent activity

Garden area 957498 overgrown. Few coconut, banana and paw paw trees.

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

Originator's instrs
Degree of Priority

ORLS

MAD
Capt

FROM 15 inf bde TOO 06 / 8 00L
TO 3 div
INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B sqn 2/4 arm'd regt
2 fd regt 15 fd coy det ANGAU 29 inf bde 15 inf bde LOB
COPIES COMD file war diary (2)

INTREP 11. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 061200L

1 ENEMY

(a) Posns
30 Apr

An old 75 mm gun posn occupied approx 5 days ago was found on the south side of the BUIN rd at 923441. The posn was well worn with numerous weapon pits in the vicinity.

1 May

An old gun posn believed to have been a 75 mm was located at 916456.

3 May

Several deserted Jap huts and 6 Jap graves were discovered at 954484.

4 May

Astride the BUIN rd at 928438 is an enemy posn capable of accommodating 150 tps. It is sited as an all round def locality with bunker and MG pits surrounded by foxhole protection and crawl trenches connecting all pits. The depth is at least 70 yds and the flanks extend for 125 yds on the north side of the rd and for 150 yds on the southern side. There were bunkers for the comd post and orderly room. Tins with wick and kerosene were used as lights in the dugouts; these were still burning when our tps overran the posn. Posn is wired by a single apron fence. Wire is new and not yet rusted. One type 94 75 mm gun was sited on the rd as a tk A weapon. The gunpit had overhead cover and the front and rear open.

(b) Eqpt

4 May

When the enemy fled from 928438 after the action on 4 May they abandoned large quantities of eqpt and personal effects: 5 OSMC mags, 2 Aust rifles, 1 pouch 303 amn, 1 type 94 75 mm gun, 2 type 38 MEIJI rifles, 2 cases JUKI amn, Aust and Jap grenades, 40 throwing grenades for tk A purposes, quantities of 75 mm rounds, packs containing Aust shirts and trousers some of which were brand new, Jap blankets, clothing, rations, rice, oatmeal, potatoes, quantities of well stocked med haversacks, new Jap eqpt, large quantities of documents. Cadmium cable strewn around the area was thought to be for use as trip wire in booby traps.

(c) Booby traps

4 May

75 mm shells used as booby traps were encountered but few details are available of the mechanism. It is known that the normal fuze is removed and a special one att. It is possible that the trap is exploded by means of the enemy pulling a cord when the target approaches.

(d) Tk A grenades

4 May

Found at the enemy posn 928438 were quantities of type 89 grenades which had the rear portions cut off and a wooden peg with a bark streamer tail att was inserted. It is believed to be a missile for throwing at tks.

(e) Dead

The members of the gun crew killed at 928438 were wearing their badges of rank on their uniforms. One was a 2nd Lt, one a sjt and the other a cpl. All were in fair condition but their clothing was badly worn despite the fact that some packs

contained new clothing. All carried fd dressings.

2 GEN

The following is an extract from a broadcast by the FELO unit to enemy tps on 3 May:

" Jap soldiers do you know that the war in Europe is almost over?. Yesterday 60 German and Italian divs surrendered unconditionally. Berlin has fallen, meanwhile the war fast approaches your homeland. If you continue with your futile resistance here when you are deserted by your High Comd, you must surely perish. We offer you a chance to live and work for Japan in the future. Walk down the track with your hands in the air and your weapons across your backs and we will look after you well. Your offrs have told you that you will be tortured if you come in. That is not true. It is told you only to ensure you fight on uselessly. We have waiting for you a good hot meal with fresh meat and plenty of cigarettes or anything else you desire. Be wise. Come in now. You will be treated well and honourably as are the thousands of your officers and men in our hands. Do not hesitate. "

If liable to be intercepted or fall into enemy hands, this msg must be sent in CIPHER

Originator's instructions
Degree of Priority

DRWS

[Signature]
Capt

MESSAGE FORM

FROM 15 inf bde TOO 08 0800L
TO 3 div
INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B sqn 2/4 armd regt
2 fd regt 15 fd coy det ANGAU 29 inf bde 15 inf bde IOB
COPIES COMD file war diary (2)

INTREP 12. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 071200L

1 ENEMY

(a) Posns

5 May

Extending from 926439 to 928443 is an old enemy biv area consisting of framework of 12 huts each capable of holding 20 men.

There are 5 old huts on the bank of the HONGORAI river at 943445 but no def posns were observed.

953482 - newly dug def posn overlooking HONGORAI river, estimated to hold 50 men. 8 huts adjacent to the 30 pits 2 man and 1 man types.

933481 - extensive Jap posn accommodating 100, cleared of large trees on a 20 ft high knoll with all round foxholes well cam. 5 new huts within the posn and a well used track leading of at 157 degrees. Posn was occupied on 4 May when a 57/60 Aust Inf Bn patrol suffered 3 killed when a contact was made.

967477 } at each of these pts weapon pits and a pillbox
968479 } accommodate one sec. Not occupied for over
964476 } 3 weeks.

(b) Tps

5 May

The enemy observed at 941442 by a patrol were dressed in khaki clothing and were wearing helmets. The average height of the enemy was approx 5 ft 10 ins and all were in good physical condition.

2 TOPOGRAPHICAL

(a) Rds and tracks

5 May

The track from 926439 which ends at 928443 is 4 ft wide, built up and drained on both sides.

Track runs approx NORTH and SOUTH at 940439 with yellow sig wire on the WEST side.

The BUIN rd at 935435 is 12 ft wide with large drains on either side; tkable and jeepable.

(b) Rivers and creeks

5 May

The creek at 942442 is 10 ft wide and 1 ft deep. Creek is probably a backwash from the HONGORAI river.

The HONGORAI river at 944445 is 35 yds wide, 2½ ft deep, swift flowing over a rocky bed. Banks 10 ft high. Ford is tkable.

At 944427 the river is 20 yds wide, 4 ft deep. WEST bank is vertical 5 to 8 ft high. EAST bank rocky and sandy with gradual slope and pit pit vegetation.

(c) Terrain

5 May

The area between 945423 and 944420 and to the edge of the HONGORAI river has been heavily bombed.

The area extending from 941429 SOUTH to 941426 and approx 200 yds in width is swampy of an average depth of 2 ft.

The EAST bank of the HONGORAI river at 944445 is covered with thick secondary growth. Vegetation vicinity 928438 is rain forest with undergrowth.

6 May Area 932431 rain forest with undergrowth; visibility 8 yds; and area 935435 visibility 6 yds.

(d) HONGORAI RIVER

Further infm is now available of the HONGORAI river in the RUMIKI area. From 950475 to 973491 the NORTH bank is almost continuous cliff face varying from 40 to 60-ft high whilst the SOUTH bank is flat except for a slight rise up to 20 ft at the crossing 967483.

At 957485, the NORTH bank is a 60 ft sheer drop to the river bed. It is 120 yds from bank to bank though the river itself is over 90 yds wide.

In detail:

(i) Crossings

954482 - width 90 yds, depth 2 ft, rocky bottom, NORTH bank steep, SOUTH bank flat. Could be made tkable with little engr work.

956483 - width 40 yds, depth 2 ft

964483 - width 40 yds, depth 3 ft.

967487 - width 60 yds, depth 3 ft, fast flowing, crossing marked by 6 large rocks in 2 rows of three across the river.

(ii) Gardens

No gardens on NORTH bank of HONGORAI river incl HORINU RUMIKI areas show any signs of recent use.

968482 - an overgrown banana garden 40 yds sq. There are some coconuts in a clearing 25 yds wide at 967482.

953476 - in the gen area on NORTH bank of the HONGORAI in sq 9547 there is a large semicircular valley approx 1/2 mile long which appears to be, possibly, a dry backwater of the main stream. It is approx 200 yds wide with sheer concave cliffs on either side. Hardly a tree exists in the valley which is covered with long grasses. There is at 953476 a new neatly laid out Jap garden consisting of numerous vegetable plots extending over 4 acres. Living quarters for the enemy working the garden are apparently against the cliff face on the NORTH side of the garden. Enemy observed in the area on 6 May carried hoes and marking tapes. On top of the SOUTH cliff was a large tree with a probable OP platform at the top. A well used track following the edge of the northern cliff had a new yellow sig wire running along it.

(e) POROREI RIVER

972479 - NORTH arm of the river is 15 yds wide, depth varying from 6 ins to 4 ft with a 100 ft cliff on both sides.

971478 - a track follows the river from 100 yds to the NORTH and swings WEST to cross the river at this pt where there is a log crossing. The track is well worn though not recently used.

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

Originator's instructions
Degree of Priority

D.K.W.S.

Capt

MESSAGE FORM

FROM 15 inf bde TOO 09 0845 L

TO 3 div

INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B sqn 2/4 armd regt
2 fd regt 15 fd coy det ANGAU 29 inf bde 15 inf bde LOB

COPIES COMD file war diary (2)

INTREP 13. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 081200L

1 ENEMY

(a) Posns
7 May

On the SOUTH of the track 20 yds EAST of the HONGORAI ford 943433 is a possible pillbox.

Enemy biv posn located 931438 consisting of 10 recently constructed pillboxes and capable of accommodating 100 tps; apparently occupied by enemy force on night 5/6 May prior to the attack on D Coy. 20 37 mm tk A AP shells, 1 strip JUKI amn and 2 coils 8 guage fencing wire found.

Vacated 75 mm gun posn found at 918453 with 100 empty shell cases not used for one week. Sec gun posn found at 922453. Both posns well cam with good fds of fire to the WEST and at least 10 weapon pits around each posn. Guns had been dismantled for mov as there were no signs of wheel tracks. No signs of our arty fire on the area.

2 TOPOGRAPHICAL

(a) Tracks
7 May

Track leading EAST from ford 943433 is approx 10 ft wide. Track leads NORTH from gardens 912428; well defined, 2 1/2 ft wide, follows higher ground. Considered track could possibly be made jeepable. Native states track leads to HIRU HIRU. Further similar track runs NE from gardens 904417 which native states also leads to HIRU HIRU.

(b) Rivers and creeks
7 May

HONGORAI river at ford 943433 is 40 yds wide, 2 ft deep, tkable, EAST bank is pit pit for 100 yds and thence tall forest without undergrowth. Tall trees on either side of the river are suitable for OPs.

(c) Gardens
7 May

There is a garden at 905416 and 907416. 2 gardens vicinity 913416 have not been cultivated by the Japs for over a month.

(d) Terrain
7 May

Vegetation between 944424 and 944427 to 1000 yds WEST of the river is rain forest with hy undergrowth.

Area 942426 is swamp with pit pit and banana growth; visibility 15 yds; not tkable.

Area sqs 9041 and 9042 is a series of small rises up to 8 ft high with swampy ground between them. Sq 9043 very swampy.

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

Originator's instructions
Degree of Priority

[Signature]
Capt

DRIS

MESSAGE FORM

FROM 15 inf bde TOO 10/1930L
O 3 div
INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B Sqn 2/4 armd regt
2 fd regt 15 fd coy det ANGAU 29 inf bde 15 inf bde LOB
COPIES COMD file war diary (2)

INTREP 14. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 091200L

1 ENEMY

(a) Posns

8 May

Old Jap biv site located at 950486 consisting of 6 huts and 12 foxholes with accn for at least one coy. Bodies of 9 dead Japs were found on bed in hut. 1 Aust Grenade, 3 Jap grenades, 1 carbine and 6 enemy rifles found in area.

944448 well est enemy posn on island on HONGORAI river. Solid huts accommodating 100 sp the idea that it is a Jap HQ. All pillboxes in area have comd fds of fire.

940438 enemy preparing posn, sounds of chopping and shouting heard.

931438 and 933438 extensive unoccupied enemy posns. At 933438 an old dismantled 37 mm tk A gun with small quantity of amm was found in a posn estimated to accommodate 100. Abandoned eqpt strewn around area. Believed to have been used night 5/6 May by the enemy force which attacked D Coy 24 Aust Inf Bn on 6 May.

932442 well prepared enemy posn, unknown str, consisting of pillboxes and foxholes; enemy occupying posn have 1 LMG, rifles and grenades.

(b) Cas

Enemy cas from 1 Apr to 8 May 45 - killed 211; wounded 21; PW 5.

2 TOPOGRAPHICAL

(a) Tracks

8 May

At 913408 track 18 ins wide runs NORTH and SOUTH, ill defined, not recently used. Native states track leads to AITARA.

At 943397 AITARA track is well defined with some 20 yds patches corduroyed; tkable. Sig line on WEST side of track not laid recently. Track reced 800 yds NORTH and 200 yds SOUTH from 943397 is in same condition. No tracks leading to EAST.

(b) Terrain

8 May

Area from 910416 to 911412 is very swampy; not tkable.

From 911412 to HONGORAI river at 934397 is swampy, thick undergrowth, visibility 5 to 10 yds; last 100 yds more open visibility 20 yds.

934397 swamp extending NORTH for 500 yds.

935405 to 940404 hy pit pit.

940404 to 943400 visibility 20 yds.

943400 swamp 200 yds in width, not tkable or jeepable.

935405 to 941406 hy undergrowth, bamboo, large timber.

941406 large re-entrant 25 ft deep.

944406 to junc of HONGORAI river and POROREI river bamboo and secondary growth; considered tkable.

Patrol along EAST bank of HONGORAI river from 943433 to 944447 reports country flat, sandy but firm, with secondary growth. A jeepable track could be made along bank of river. Pit growth for only 200 yds NORTH of 943433. River is fordable at almost all pts along route of patrol

(c) Gardens

8 May

Native garden 935416 60 yds by 50 yds with 6 huts in good repair. Gardens have not been recently cultivated.

(d) Rivers and creeks

8 May

HONGORAI river at 934397 is 90 yds wide, 3 ft deep, WEST bank 8 ft high, EAST bank flat with pit pit growth. At 935405 river is 60 yds wide, 2 ft deep, sandy bottom, WEST bank 20 ft high, EAST bank flat.

944406 is island 6 ft high 30 yds long in midstream, bamboo on NORTH end, grass 1 ft high on SOUTH end. From WEST bank of river to island is 25 yds and from island to EAST Bank of river is 20 yds. Depth of water 2 ft 6 ins.

At the junc 946414 the water in the HONGORAI river is 50 yds wide and in the POROREI 50 yds wide. Total width between banks 200 yds. WEST bank 8 ft high, EAST bank 4 ft. Bottom pebbly, depth 2 ft 6 ins, tkable with little work by bulldozer on WEST bank. Estimated speed of flow 5 mph.

HONGORAI river is generally 60 yds wide, water 30 yds wide, WEST bank 8 ft vertical drop with palm vegetation; EAST bank 25 yds of gentle sandy slope with pit pit growth.

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

Originator's instructions
Degree of Priority

MAA

Capt

DRAS

war diary

MESSAGE FORM

FROM 15 inf bde TOO 11 / 1 / 50 1

TO 3 div

INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B sqn 2/4 armd regt
2 fd regt 15 fd coy det ANGAU 29 inf bde 15 inf bde LOB

COPIES COMD file war diary (2)

INTREP 15. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 111200L

1 ENEMY

(a) Posns

Patrols have reported the enemy posn 953482 vacant on 4 May, occupied on 6 May and again vacant on 7 May.

9 May

At 945427 on bank 40 ft high is old jap posn 50 yds in diameter with accn for 30. Posn incl 7 dugouts.

12 partly demolished huts at 949428. Area heavily bombed.

Enemy posn under constr at 953428.

Small enemy posn 957488 with accn for 7, possibly occupied night 8/9 May.

10 May

Enemy posn on bank of river at 946419 unoccupied for 1 month. Kunda rails 3 ft high throughout posn.

(b) Vehs

10 May

At 955424 a Chevrolet 30 cwt truck is parked in a cut bay on the SOUTH side of the rd with hy foliage providing overhead cam. Truck appeared to be in good repair but the condition of the drive in suggested that it had not been used for some time.

(c) Tps

10 May

A patrol observed 2 enemy parties each of 30 men moving WEST along the rd at 955424. The parties were moving in single file on the SOUTH side of the rd with a 15 yd interval between the 2 parties. Tps were dressed in good clothes and some were wearing leather eqpt grenade pouches. They were joking and talking while on the move. Each party carried 2 TAISHO IMGs.

2 TOPOGRAPHICAL

(a) Rds and tracks

9 May

Track running NW SE at 950416 is well defined footpad 3 ft wide, not used for one month.

Track at 953424 is well defined, 3 ft wide.

10 May

Track running SW from 954424 to log crossing 944421 exists as shown on the map.

At 955424 the BUIN rd runs on a bearing of 300 degrees and is 10 ft wide with drainage pits on either side and showed signs of foot traffic.

(b) Rivers and creeks

9 May

The HONGORAI river at 946416 is 60 yds wide between banks, width of water 30 yds, 2 ft 6 ins deep, both banks vertical 4 ft high. River bed is sandy and tkable but not jeepable.

From 950417 to ford 957423 POROREI river is 50 yds wide, 2 ft deep, banks vertical 4 ft high extending for 20 yds on either side with pit pit growth. River is tkable.

(c) Crossings

10 May

Log crossings 944421 demolished by accurate bombing.

(d) Gardens

9 May

Garden at 942419 overgrown with secondary growth. Small enemy garden in centre not used for at least 3 weeks.

10 May

Garden 954423 is overgrown and is not used. Track system leads from garden to BUIN rd.

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

Originator's instructions
Degree of priority

DKLS

W.A.
Capt

RECEIVED
MAY 10 1954

1000

MESSAGE FORM

FROM 15 inf bde TOO 12 *1200L*

TO 3 div

INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B sqn 2/4 arm'd regt
2 fd regt 15 fd coy det ANGAU 29 inf bde 15 inf bde LOB

COPIES COMD file war diary (2)

INTREP 16. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 121200L

1 ENEMY
Posns
10 May

An enemy posn at 943445 dug on 10 May, has a well used track running EAST - WEST through the posn.

An enemy posn at 931443 has been freshly dug, cam, ferns freshly cut but not placed on pits. A track running EAST - WEST through the posn has not been used for 2 days.

Enemy posn at 941439 consists of 30 foxholes with cam 3 days old on the pits.

11 May

Jap posn 3 days old consisting of 5 foxholes and 6 leantos was located at 939439.

Posn 941437, 3 days old, with accn for 20 tps consists of 4 leantos.

Enemy posn at 948430 capable of accommodating 10 tps has been dug for 1 month.

Posn at 948421, 2 weeks old, consisting of 5 foxholes has been destroyed by bombing.

Posn 924452 capable of holding 40 men, not used for 6 days.

A vacated ambush posn for 8 men was located on the EAST bank of a creek at 934452. Posn had been occupied 12 hrs previously.

At 936452 is an enemy def posn consisting of 40 weapon pits and numerous leanto shelters. The area is a honeycomb of small tracks. There are many vacated foxholes along the track from 936452 to 934444.

Unoccupied enemy posn at 953476 consists of 9 huts with extensive defs and diggings under huts.

2 TOPOGRAPHICAL
(a) Rds and tracks

11 May

A well worn footpad runs EAST - WEST at 934431.

A 3 ft wide track running NORTH from 954429 shows signs of mov by a small enemy party 3 days ago.

Track from 947408 to 943420 had red sig cable running along it.

Track running on bearing of 220 degrees from 943417 is 2 ft wide, well defined but not recently used.

At 934452 a good track runs on a bearing of 304 degrees. Track reced for 300 yds in both directions is 2 ft wide and clearly defined.

Track at 940449 is 2 ft wide and runs on bearing of 209 degrees.

Track 940447, 1 ft wide on bearing of 130 degrees.

(b) Rivers and creeks

11 May

50 yds EAST of 934452 a small creek 6 ft wide, 1 ft deep, flows SOUTH.

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

Originator's instructions
Degree of Priority

[Signature]
Capt

DK

MESSAGE FORM

FROM 15 inf bde TOO 13/500 L
TO 3 div
INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B sqn 2/4 armd regt
2 fd regt 15 fd coy det ANGAU 29 inf bde 15 inf bde LLOB
COPIES COMD file war diary (2)

INTREP 17. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 131200L

1 ENEMY

(a) Posns
12 May

An enemy posn consisting of 4 weapon pits with vines connecting the pits was located at 935439.

Overgrown enemy def posn consisting of 6 foxholes with accn for 12 found at 934439.

At 931440 a patrol located a vacated enemy posn extending for 70 yds, consisting of 4 covered shelters and approx 40 foxholes with a possible accn for 60 tps. Posn vacated approx 2 days ago. Aust eqpt found incl 1 pt 303 rifle, pair boots and gaiters, haversack, water bottle and mosquito net.

(b) Tps
11 May

The patrol which observed the 7 enemy moving NORTH along the AITARA track reported that the Japs, who were well dressed and in good condition, were talking and joking and were not carrying out any protective precautions in their mov along the track. As the large parties of enemy observed moving along the BUIB rd between the HONGORAI and POROREI rivers on 10 May were adopting the same attitude, it would appear that the enemy in these areas are in excellent spirit, well fed and are completely unaware of the presence of our patrols in the area.

12 May

Acting on the infm supplied by the PW captured by 57/60 Inf Bn on 10 May, that an enemy ration party would be moving a along COMMANDO rd to the enemy fwd tps on 11 or 12 May, an ambush was est on the rd at 975468, and at 121145L 11 enemy moved NORTH along the rd. The patrol waited for the party to move into the ambush and then opened fire killing 9 of the 11. The enemy only fired 2 shots. One Jap was completely cut in half by fire from a Bren gun. The enemy were armed, carrying full eqpt, well dressed, in good condition and were all big men. These enemy may have been the ration party mentioned by the PW, or, as they were carrying full eqpt it is possible that they may have been rfts which PW stated were expected to arrive.

A patrol to 943409 observed 10 enemy sitting down eating lunch without sentries posted. The patrol could easily have successfully attacked the enemy but, as the patrol had been instructed not to reveal its presence in the area, the enemy was not disturbed.

A patrol which crossed the creek at 943427 moved along it towards the HONGORAI and killed 3 enemy who were observed sitting on the river bank. The patrol examined the bodies and obtained 3 rifles and 1 document.

A patrol in the area 936444 reported signs of intense enemy mov through hy vegetation.

A patrol located 7 enemy graves, estimated to be 4 weeks old, at 926433.

2 TOPOGRAPHICAL

(a) Rds and tracks

12 May

A well defined track, 2 ft wide was found at 926448, which showed signs of enemy mov in both directions over the last 24 hrs.

At 935461, a track 3 ft wide, running NORTH and SOUTH has a sig line running along the EAST side.

At 936439 a well worn track 18 ins to 2 ft wide runs on a bearing of 5 degrees. Signs of hy and continuous traffic were observed. Aust sig cable runs on WEST side of track.

(b) Rivers and creeks

12 May

Creek at 942461 runs on a bearing of 220 degrees, is 10 ft wide and 2 ft in depth.

At 948461 the HONGORAI river is 60 yds between banks, width of water 25 yds, EAST bank is vertical 8 ft high extending EAST for 20 yds and thence rises to 90 ft; WEST bank is vertical 6 ft high.

Creek at 951457 flows WEST, is 12 ft wide banks 40 ft high. Native reports it to KIPANO creek.

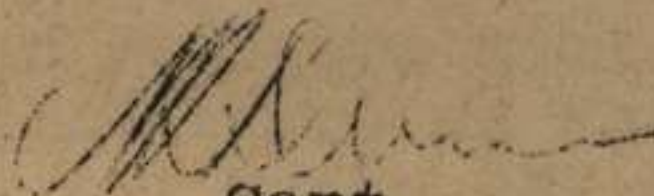
At 942446 the HONGORAI river is 20 yds wide, distance between banks 80 yds, 4 ft deep on the WEST side, WEST bank vertical 6 ft high, EAST bank flat. Area EAST of the river is rain forest, lt undergrowth, visibility 60 yds.

(c) Terrain

Vegetation at 936438 is rain forest with undergrowth which gradually thins out to scattered timber and secondary undergrowth.

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

Originator's instructions
Degree of Priority


Capt

MESSAGE FORM

FROM 15 inf bde TOO 14 14.00 L
TO 3 div
INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B sqn 2/4 armd regt
2 fd regt 15 fd coy det ANGAU 29 inf bde 15 inf bde LOB
COPIES COMD file war diary (2)

INTREP 18. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 141200L

1 ENEMY

(a) Posns

7 May

908442 a Jap biv area consisting of huts, accn 100, no defs observed, area has not been used for over a fortnight.

13 May

935441 no detailed recce has yet been possible though patrols estimate approx 50 enemy with grenade dischargers (possibly type 89) LMGs and rifles in this area.

(b) Munitions

7 May

905441 a booby trap consisting of 2 70 mm shells with pull type striker attachment and a length of wire across a faint track, which the native guide said was an old Jap track, was found.

13 May

968475 SOUTH of the river junc are new foxholes which are not considered to be a def posn; being funkholes only. This area showed signs of recent by bombing. - the HUDA river being dammed back by fallen trees.

2 TOPOGRAPHICAL

(a) Rds and tracks

7 May

Native guide reported a track running to HIRU HIRU from a track and pad junc at 899417 by an exceptionally large fig tree. Nearby was a garden about 125 yds by 70 yds. It had been cultivated to approx 1 month ago as the sweet potato crop was ready for eating. A Jap hut at the EAST end of the garden was almost demolished.

13 May

BUIN rd at 954420 has been bombed out of existence, a foot-pad round the crater rims only remaining of the well drained 10 to 12 ft rd to that pt.

Track ENE from log crossing 940418 to BUIN rd at 951423 has been confirmed - a well defined track passing over a 12 ft knoll at approx 947420 and skirting a small but deep swamp with dense pit pit growth at 950421.

(b) Crossings

13 May

POROREI river ford at 954420, WEST bank is a gradient of 1 in 3 to a height of 30 ft while the opposite bank is the same height almost a 1 in 1 gradient.

941447 MARTINS crossing is approached on the WEST side up a dry wash ringed by a 10 ft vertical bank thus forming a 100 yd clearing to the water's edge. The sloping EAST bank is 5 ft high and covered by thick undergrowth. No track was discernable on the EAST bank at this pt. Distance between banks 200 yds. The river is 60 yds wide at this pt and approx 3 ft deep.

959483 suitable tk crossing exists at this pt where HONGORAI river is 50 yds wide 18 ins deep with a gradual approach on the NORTH bank, and a gradual rise of 20 to 30 degrees on the SOUTH bank to a rd on the escarpment. 120 yds from the river on the NORTH side is a 7 ft bank on which bulldozer work is required.

971485 work is proceeding at CARRS crossing which is also considered tkable.

943410 tkable crossing with minor bulldozer work. Terrain on EAST side is tkable and a jeep track could be constructed. Tech recce of area by tk offr and engr offr on 14 May.

(c) Terrain

942410 a suitable bn biv site. From BUIN rd at 950434 to this pt could be made into a fair weather jeep track and all weather tk and tractor track with 9 to 12 hrs work with a bulldozer, 1 pnr pl and 50 inf tps. This work could not be seen or heard by any enemy EAST of the HONGORAI river.

Sqs 8941 8942 area consists of some overgrown gardens, many small creeks emanating from patches of overgrown swamps and generally flowing SOUTH and faint tracks linking the gardens f from EAST to WEST.

(d) Creeks

The following creeks, the names of which were given by native guides, were crossed by a patrol in these areas.

906457 NANDARNI creek - 4 ft wide, 6 ins deep, 4 ft banks, sandy bottom, surrounding ground boggy.

903417 OROKE creek - 4 ft wide, 9 ins deep.

910415 KIDO creek - similar to OROKE creek

912414 KULIA LULLAN creek - very small creek surrounded by thick tangled undergrowth and swamp. Within this swamp area the UMANDIC creek was crossed at 918403 and the DOTORA creek at 922401.

932415 KEARO creek - very small, crossing well defined track running EAST WEST.


(e) Gardens and villages

HALIKAPONI 927416 - an old village of 6 huts which had been occupied by the enemy. No recent use was noticeable.

953420 - garden old and heavily bombed.

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

Originator's instructions
Degree of Priority


Capt

10/15

FROM 15 inf bde

TOO 15 400 L

TO 3 div

INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B sqn 2/4 armd regt
2 fd regt 2/11 fd regt 15 fd coy det ANGAU 29 inf bde
15 inf bde LOB

COPIES COMD file war diary (2)

INTREP 19. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 151200L

1 ENEMY
Posns
14 May

An extensive enemy posn sited on a 7 ft high feature running NW - SE at 943431, has a frontage of 100 yds with cut fire lanes. 2 Japs were observed, one of whom was wearing Aust eqpt. A patrol observed enemy defs, 4 weapon pits and heard enemy talking vicinity 938442.

An old enemy def area located at 903444 consisted of foxholes and several pillboxes and was capable of accommodating 40 tps. Posn had not been occupied for at least 7 days. 9 old huts were in the area.

An occupied enemy posn with a 30 yds front and of an estimated str of 50 was located at 935443.

A patrol contacted a well prepared cam enemy posn of a str of 50 at 955436. The enemy were well clothed and in good condition. The posn is considered to be a possible HQ due to the posn where it is sited and the number of sig lines leading into the posn.

An old enemy posn found at 940441 had 30 sig cables running EAST, WEST and NORTH from the posn, all of which were cut by the patrol.

Posn with accn for 30 men was located on the SOUTH side of the TIGER rd at 948445 which was considered to have been occupied on night 12/13 May. Further posn, accn for 30, occupied on night 11/12 May, was found at 951443.

2 TOPOGRAPHICAL

(a) Rds and tracks

14 May

The BULM rd from 940430 to 943431 is in good condition with a natural surface, overgrown on edges, with a footpad down the centre.

TIGER rd at 945446 is only a footpad 2 ft in width, good solid ground, could be made jeepable; 955436 is 8 ft wide, solid dirt surface, well worn, jeepable.

(b) Rivers and creeks

14 May

Creek 6 ins deep crossed the TIGER rd at 955435, flows SOUTH for 200 yds.

At 928446 a creek 6 ft wide, 5 ft banks, flows on a bearing of 217 degrees.

Creek at 945428 5 ft wide, 1 ft deep.

(c) Gardens

14 May

Garden area at 942433 is 80 yds by 100 yds and has been recently cultivated for the growing of kau kau.

(d) Terrain

14 May

EAST from the HONGORAI river at 924390 to 968390 the vegetation is thick, visibility 15 yds, not jeepable or tkable. Terrain from 968380 WEST to the HONGORAI is very swampy and is not jeepable or tkable.

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

M. M. M.
Capt

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

DRLS

MESSAGE FORM

FROM 15 inf bde TOO 16 11430 L
TO 3 div
INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B sqn 2/4 armd regt
2/11 fd regt 2 fd regt 15 fd coy det ANGAU 29 inf bde
15 inf bde LOB
COPIES COMD file war diary (2)

INTREP 20. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 161200L

1 ENEMY

(a) Posns

15 May

An old enemy posn sited on an 8 ft feature at 943443 was capable of accommodating 50 men and consisted of 4 pillboxes and foxholes one week old.

70 yds fwd along the rd from creek at 943430 is a bomb crater 9 ft wide and 6 ft deep, where a tk obstacle is under constr. The enemy is in occupation of the are. EAST of the obstacle.

Acting on infm supplied by the PW captured by 58/59 Inf Bn on 11 May a patrol from that bn attacked and killed the 3 enemy in the sig hut at 932389. The posn, capable of holding 20 men, consisted of 1 hut on the left of the rd and 6 on the right. When killed, the 3 enemy had their packs on and were preparing to move. 1 37 mm gun and a quantity of amn was located 20 yds in from the right of the rd. The patrol attempted to render the gun US but the use of an iron bar. 1 JUKI in good condition 3 rifles, a tele which was connected to a line along the track and a quantity of documents were captured.

(b) Dead

15 May

A patrol found the bodies of 5 enemy at 968476 at least 2 days old. It is considered that they had probably been killed by bombing.

2 TOPOGRAPHICAL

(a) Tracks

15 May

At 941441 a well worn footpad runs along the axis of the river 15 yds from the WEST bank. Track had not been used for at least 3 days.

At 944443 a well worn track used on 14 May runs NW - SE.

3 ft wide well worn track at 945443 was used by a party of 20 enemy on 14 May. A new sig line runs along the NORTH side of the track.

From crossing 925385 to 899362 is a jeepable track 12 ft wide. Several small brs along the track require repair. Numerous old huts on both sides of the track.

A 2 ft wide track runs NW parallel with the coast 20 yds inland.

(b) Creeks

15 May

At 943430 a small creek 8 ft wide, 6 ins deep, banks 2 ft high, crosses the BUIN rd.

(c) Crossings

15 May

Crossing at 925385 is approx 2½ ft deep, fordable.

(d) Terrain

15 May

Swamp at 939439 extends for 50 yds. The terrain from

MESSAGE FORM

vicinity HONGORAI river mouth to crossing 925385 is pit pit for 100 yds WEST from the river and thence high jungle; visibility 40 yds.

At AITARA the distance from the sea to the timber edge is 40 yds and for a further 50 yds terrain is high jungle and thence becomes very thick with lawyer vine.

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

Originator's instructions
Degree of Priority

DKhd

M. J. Long Capt

FROM 15 inf bde TOO 18 170 L
 TO 3 div
 INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B sqn 2/4 arm'd regt
 2/11 fd regt 2 fd regt det ANGAU 15 fd coy 29 inf bde
 15 inf bde LOB
 COPIES COMD file war diary (2)

INTREP 21. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 181200L

1 ENEMY

(a) Posns

16 May

An unoccupied posn at 933436, capable of accommodating 75 men, is 50 yds in depth with an around def system. Posn at 945425 occupied by an estimated 30 enemy armed with 2 LMGs and rifles. Posn is on the reverse slope of a 50 ft ridge running NORTH - SOUTH.

17 May

At 945431 a posn with fds of fire in a westerly and NW direction is being constructed by 9 enemy.

Feature on EAST side of culvert 946429 dominates the approach along the rd from the WEST. Visibility is 100 yds.

(b) Tps

17 May

17 enemy observed moving SOUTH along the track at 956416 were stripped to the waist carrying towels and 1 in every 2 carried a rifle. All appeared to be in good condition.

2 TOPOGRAPHICAL

(a) Rds and tracks

16 May

At 947428 the BUIN rd is 12 ft wide, overgrown with a footpad down the centre. Area on NORTH side has been recently bombed and affords visibility for 100 yds.

At 946425 a track runs on bearing of 40 degrees and has been used by enemy parties during the last 3 days. 40 yds NORTH of 946425 a further track runs on the same bearing and has been used by approx 12 men in the last 3 days.

At 944426 a well worn track, 1 ft wide, runs on bearing of 340 degrees.

BUIN rd at 957417 has been heavily and accurately bombed but is still tkable. Track running EAST - WEST at 953415 showed footprints not more than 12 hrs old leading to the river.

(b) Rivers and creeks

16 May

Creek from 943427 to culvert 946429 is a tk obstacle.

POROREI ford at 953415 is 30 yds wide, 2 ft deep, EAST bank 8 ft high, WEST bank gradual slope. Ford is tkable and jeep-able, but the approaches are not.

Creek at 943428 is 8 ft wide, 2 ft deep, both banks 5 ft high.

HONGORAI river at 941419 is 50 yds wide, 18 ins deep, sloping banks, not tkable, good footcrossing.

(c) Terrain

Area from 951417 to 953417 is swamp, 3 ft deep and is 300 yds in width.

On the WEST bank of the POROREI river from 955419 to 952416 the vegetation consists of pit pit approx 7 to 10 ft high.

At 946426 the ground slopes gradually to a height of 7-8 ft.

The ground on the EAST bank of the creek at 944428 rises to a height of 20 ft.

Capt

MESSAGE FORM

FROM 15 inf bde TOO 20 1000L
TO 3 div
INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B sqn 2/4 armd regt
2/11 fd regt 2 fd regt det ANGAU 15 fd coy 29 inf bde
15 inf bde LOB
COPIES COMD file war diary (2)

INTREP 22. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 191200L

1 ENEMY

(a) Posns

18 May

On the EAST bank of the HONGORAI river astride the track at 940443 is an incomplete enemy posn consisting of approx 25 to 30 foxholes and 2 huts, one of which is 10 ft by 12 ft with no roof and built 2 ft above the ground. A sleeping bay next to the huts is 6 ft by 9 ft and 3 ft in depth. The posn extends for 80 yds EAST along the track and for 30 yds on the SOUTH side of the track and for 10 yds on the northern side. The preparation of the posn was commenced approx 1 week ago and there was no evidence of the posn having been occupied. It is considered that the posn may have been constructed for a HQ site or a stores dump.

A partly wiredhorseshoe shaped posn at 945431 is occupied by an estimated 30 enemy and is considered to be the flank of a large enemy posn. The pits on the eastern flank are connected by underground tunnels. 40 yds NORTH, a posn estimated to be capable of accommodating 40 men has been bombed, belled and vacated within the last 2 days.

A freshly dug def posn at 927448 consisting of 20 two man pits and 20 one man pits and with accn for 60 to 80 men is estimated to have been dug on 16 May but has not been occupied.

Enemy posn 945429 is estimated to be occupied by 30 tps.

15 enemy observed digging in ridge running NORTH - SOUTH at 945428.

(b) Tps

18 May

Enemy contacted at 943433 were in good physical condition wearing strong grey uniforms and were of an average height of 5 ft 7 ins. All were wearing full packs.

2 TOPOGRAPHICAL

(a) Rds and tracks

18 May

A newly worn footpad at 949437, 1 ft wide, was used by an estimated 10 enemy on 17 May.

At 951435 track is 5 ft wide, well worn and has been extensively used by large enemy parties.

At 943433 is a well worn track 18 ins wide.

At 958414 the AITARA track is 12 ft wide.

(b) Rivers and creeks

18 May

At 944436 creek runs on a bearing 159 degrees, is 1 ft deep, with banks 10 ft high.

At 949437 creek runs on a bearing of 155 degrees, is 18 ins deep, width water 6 ft and between banks 20 ft.

Creek at 946432 is 1 ft deep, 6 ft wide, 15 ft between banks, flows on bearing of 196 degrees.

(c) Gardens

18 May

Garden at 961408 is 100 yds in diameter and has been freshly cultivated.

3 GEN
18 May

A patrol which moved along a track to 945425 smelt the enemy in the vicinity, and on investigation observed 6 Japs lying in a fire posn only 5 yds on the EAST of the patrol and about to engage the main body. The patrol comd immediately engaged the enemy before they were able to fire on our patrol. The enemy fled having suffered 2 killed and 1 wounded. As the enemy were in readiness to fire from pt blank range the lightning action by the patrol comd undoubtedly saved the patrol from suffering hy cas. After the mortar fire on the enemy posn 974470 2 enemy dead were found blown to pieces by a direct hit from a mortar bomb.

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

Originator's instructions
Degree of Priority

[Handwritten Signature]
Capt

DKL

War Diary

MESSAGE FORM

FROM 15 inf bde TOO 22 0100L
TO 3 div
INFO 24 aust inf bn 57/60 aust inf bn 58/59 inf bn B Sqn 2/4
arand regt 2/11 fd regt 2 fd regt 15 fd coy D coy 1 PIB
det ANGLU 29 inf bde 15 inf bde LOB
COPIES JOMB file war diary (2)

INTREP 23. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 211200L

1. ENEMY

(a) Posns

19 May

2 freshly dug enemy posns 80 yds apart were located on the SOUTH side of the BUIN rd at 958416. Each posn consisted of 1 pillbox and 20 foxholes and were unoccupied during the period of the patrol's investigation.

20 May

Posn on AITARA river mouth at 889374 found vacated. No signs of enemy occupation for 4 days. On the eastern edge of a sandbar at the river mouth 3 75 mm booby traps with trip wires were observed.

(b) Tps

10 May

Of the 30 enemy observed by a patrol, moving along the BUIN rd at 952422, one was a well built man wearing what appeared to be an oblong white colour patch with a dark stripe down the centre and 2 stars on his left shoulder.

(c) Cas

Total cas inflicted on the enemy to 20 May - 353 killed, 37 wounded, 8 PW.

2. TOPOGRAPHICAL

(a) AITARA AREA

The beach at AITARA slopes gently for a distance of 15 yds where the water is 3 ft deep. Very lt surf; no sign of reefs or sandbars. Considered ldg craft could op at 898362. A belt of timber of an average width of 100 yds extends along the beach providing good dump areas. Jeeps could be driven along the beach and from ldg craft to AITARA track.

(b) Rds and tracks

20 May

The AITARA track is jeepable. New br required at 901363 where stream is 12 ft wide. Br at 904365 is in need of repair. New br required at 917384.

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

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

M. J. ...
Capt

D. B. S.

MESSAGE FORM

FROM 15 inf bde TOO 26 0900
TO 3 div
INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B sqn 2/4 arm'd regt
2/11 fd regt 2 fd regt 15 fd coy det ANGAU D coy 1 PIB
29 inf bde 15 inf bde LOB
COMMS COMD file war diary

INTREP 25. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 251200L

1. ENEMY

(a) Posns

24 May

4 new foxholes dug in the morning were found at 988443. Many slit trenches and foxholes vacated for at least 3 days were found at approx 950446 and 948444.

(b) Tps

23 May

The rear member of an enemy party of 7 observed moving WEST along a track at 970390 was leading a red retriever dog. The enemy carried rifles but no packs.

24 May

A native patrol observed 2 enemy shooting fish with rifles on the SUNIN river vicinity 999443.

(c) Cas

Total cas inflicted on the enemy to 24 May: 384 killed; 39 wounded; 13 PW.

(d) Booby traps

24 May

A total of 16 booby traps, each consisting of 2 81 mm mortar bombs, have been found in the area 948425.

2. TOPOGRAPHICAL

(a) Rds and tracks

24 May

All patrols to the OSO - USO rd during the day reported that, where observed, tks would not experience any difficulty in moving along the rd.

An unused footpad runs NW - SE at 952395. Track would not be visible from the air due to overhead cover. Another footpad was crossed by a patrol at 968382 which the native guides stated is a continuation of the footpad at 952395 and continues to the TAITAI track.

A track branches WEST from the BUIN rd at 974392 on the NORTH side of the TOMOI river and joins another track running NW - SE at approx 965390.

(b) Gardens

24 May

A recently reaped rice garden was located at 971409. Gardens at 967416, 972418, and 972416 are overgrown and have not been used for many months.

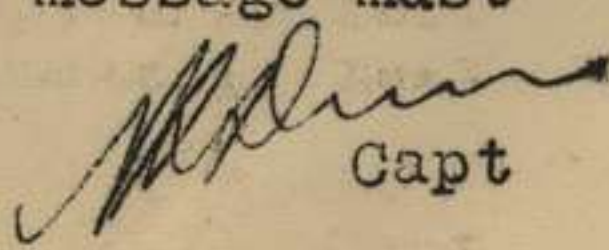
(c) Terrain

19 May

The undergrowth in the area 983444 is very thick and visibility is limited to approx 10 yds.

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

Originator's instructions
Degree of priority


Capt

DRLS.

MESSAGE FORM

FROM 15 inf bde
TO 3 div
INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf bn 58/59 inf bn B sqn 2/4 armd regt
2/11 fd regt 2 fd regt 15 fd coy det ANGAU D coy 1 PIB
29 inf bde 15 inf bde LOB
COPIES COMD file war diary (2)

INTREP 26. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 271200L

1 ENEMY
Posns
25 May

Enemy def posn 951428 was capable of accommodating at least 80 men and was vacated on approx 19 May. Consisted of 45 deep trenches lined with bamboo, cupboards and grass mats suggesting a possible HQ area. Quantities of .256 in amm with the projectile removed were found. Sig wires run EAST and WEST through the area.

Enemy posn 961438 is 100 yds in depth, extends for 300 yds, and has accn for 350. Considered posn was a possible staging area. Sig cable runs SE from the posn. 2 75 mm gun posns were found on the northern flank and 30 unexploded and 50 expended shells were found in a pit. The southern portion of the posn had been used by approx 200 men on 23 May.

26 May

Enemy posns 993450 extend on either side of the COMMANDO rd, are well cam and capable of accommodating 200 men. No fire lanes or tracks were visible. Bombing of posn had been extremely accurate.

6 huts, several leantos, extensive foxholes capable of accommodating 30/40 tps were found at 984435. There were no firelanes and posn had probably not been occupied for several days.

An old enemy posn sited on a 30 ft ridge at 951443 consists of 30 weapon pits and has accn for 30 men.

Enemy posn at 957421 had a frontage of 30 yds, depth 20 yds consists of approx 12 foxholes, accn for 25, and was vacated on approx 19 May. Odour prevalent indicated that some enemy had been killed by bombing and were buried under debris.

Along either side of the TIGER rd from 952443 to 947445 are scattered foxholes in good condition vacated approx 1 week ago.

Posn at 946442 consisted of 20 foxholes and a pit for a JUKI HMG and was capable of accommodating 30, vacated approx 20 May.

Posn 961435 consists of approx 10 2-man pits with log covering allowing full observation and activity, numerous weapon pits and is estimated to be capable of accommodating 30 men. Posn is in good condition and was vacated on approx 20 May.

2 TOPOGRAPHICAL

(a) Rds and tracks

25 May

A well defined track, 3 ft in width, runs from 961438 to 962433 to 964433. New sig cable runs along EAST side of track.

26 May

A well defined track, 2 ft in width, running NORTH - SOUTH at 951427 appears to have been used approx 7 days ago.

Track at 946410, 2 ft wide, appears to have been extensively used over a week ago.

A track running NE - SW at 958425 is 12 ft wide, overgrown. No sign of recent use.

The TIGER rd from the HONGORAI to the POROREI river could be made jeepable with the aid of a bulldozer.

(b) Rivers and creeks

26 May

At 958423 the SUNIN river is 20 ft wide, and 18 ins deep.

Creek at 961434 as shown on map, is 20 ft wide and 1 ft deep.

(c) Crossings

26 May

The log crossing at 959438 consists of 1 tree 15 ins in diameter placed from bank to bank across 25 ft of water. Water at this pt is 2 ft deep.

(d) Gardens

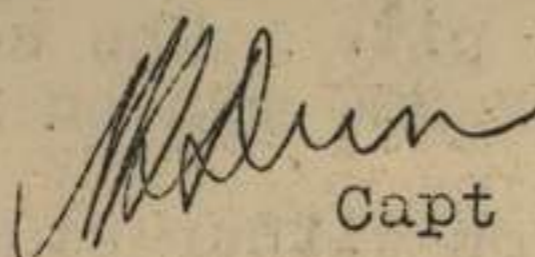
25 May

Garden at 959426 consists of coconuts and kau kau, is 200 yds in diameter and had been used on 22 May.

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

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

DRHS


Capt

war diary

MESSAGE FORM

FROM 15 inf bde

TOO 30 + 5 CO. 1

TO 3 div

INFO 24 inf bn 57/60 inf^{bn} 58/59 inf bn B sqn 2/4 armd regt
2/11 fd regt 2 fd regt 15 fd coy D coy 1 PIB det ANGAU
29 inf bde 15 inf bde LOB

COPIES COMD file war diary (2)

INTREP 28. CONFIDENTIAL. infm to 301200L

1 ENEMY

(a) Posns

28 May

An enemy posn was located on the EAST and WEST banks of the POROREI river at 959438 connected by sig wire. The posn on the WEST bank consisted of old and new huts and that on the EAST bank of many foxholes and new huts capable of accommodating 100 men. The area had been vacated for approx 1 week.

A village on the high ground at 961433 consisted of 11 huts unoccupied for a considerable time.

29 May

A large, unoccupied med area located at 984383 consisted of 25 huts in a dilapidated condition and 6 graves were found in the area.

Att as Trace Q (to 3 div only) is sketch of Jap def posn at 957417.

(b) Cas

Total cas inflicted on the enemy by the bde since the commencement of ops to 28 May are 421 killed, 44 wounded and 17 PW

(c) Eqpt

The following is a list of enemy eqpt captured or destroyed by units of the bde: 75 mm regt gun 2; 70 mm bn gun 1; 47 mm tk A gun 1; 37 mm tk A gun 2; HMG JUKI 1; LMGs 9 (incl 1 twin-barrelled); pistols 7; swords 16; rifles 138; clinometers 75 mm 1; landmines type 93 5; veh 3 ton 1.

(d) Shelling

A total of 1294 enemy shells have been fired on units of the bde since the commencement of ops. This total represents the counted shells only; and, in addition, there have been instances of hostile shelling in which units have not been able to give an estimate of the number of shells.

2 TOPOGRAPHICAL

(a) Rds and tracks

28 May

Track from 974429 to 980426 is 3 ft wide with thick secondary growth on either side. The track could be made jeepable and tkable with engr assistance but would require corduroy from the SUNIN river junc WEST for 200 yds.

29 May

At 989377 the MAMAGATA rd is 6 ft wide with a well worn 3 ft wide pad along the centre. The track would need widening before it could be used by tks or jeeps

The Jap C rd is 2 ft wide, well used, by undergrowth on either side, could be made tkable and jeepable to 963382 with the aid of a bulldozer and engr. Beyond this pt the ground is of a swampy nature. At 963381 there is a swampy depression extending for 200 yds with 20 ft banks at each end.

(b) Gardens

28 May

Gardens at 981426, 984422 and 974427 are overgrown and disused.

29 May

Gardens at 966442 are in good condition with kau kau and ripe bananas but have not been cultivated for at least 3 months.

3

GEN
27 May

In the 57/60 Inf Bn area from 1300L to 1700L, while attempting a registration on the arty wireless freq, the enemy came on the air jamming the freq and commenced jabbering in Jap fashion saying what appeared to be 'no bombs today' rptd several times followed by 'off'.

ARTY R CO-OP

In addition to invaluable close co-op work with sp weapons and inf mortar in registering targets accurately arty R aircraft have supplied much detail on enemy posns and topographical data which would normally have entailed extensive patrolling on the minimum of infm and the possibility of being unable to obtain layout of Jap defs at all. The att Trace P is a replica of one of numerous diagrammatic sketches supplied by arty R which will prove of immense value in the planning for future ops and patrolling.

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

Originator's instructions
Degree of priority

DKHS

[Handwritten Signature]

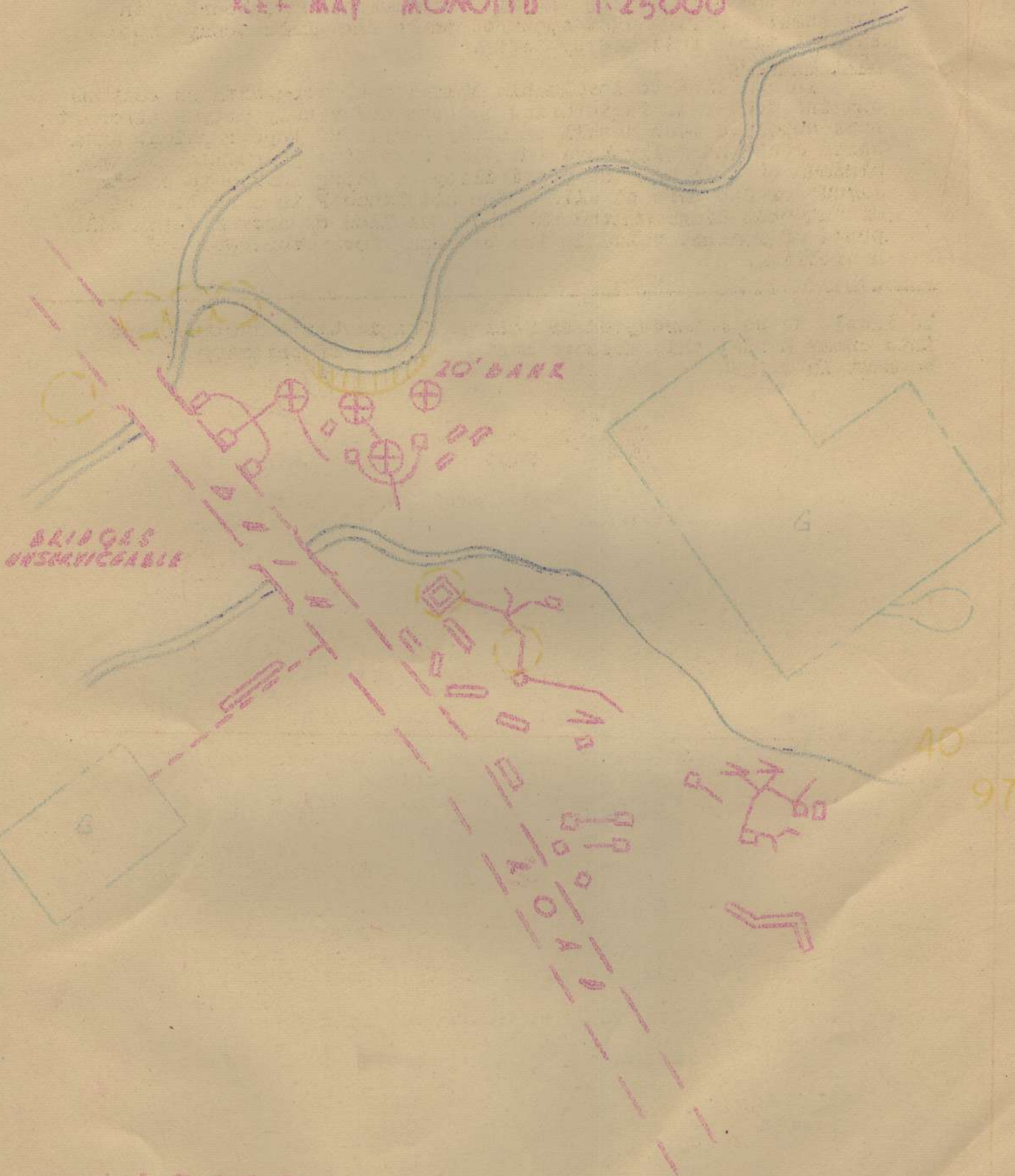
Capt

TRACE V' TO
15 AUST INF BDE
INT REPORT 28.

ENEMY DEFENCES

ARTY R — 28 MAY

REF MAP MONOITU 1:25000



— LEGEND —

- BUNKERS ⊕
- PIT-SLIT TRENCHES =
- CLAW TRENCH —
- LEAD TO ➤
- BOMBED AREA ⊙

INT SEC
15 AUST INF BDE

RESTRICTED

The information given in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the press or to any person not authorised to receive it.

Serial 14/45
Numbers 111 -

ROUTINE ORDERS PART I

by

BRIG H H HAMMER, DSO

COMMANDING 15 AUST INF BDE

HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde (AIF)
10 May 45

'GS'

Nil

'AQ'

111 PISTOLS - SAFEKEEPING

Pistols will, at all times, be kept in the personal custody of the member to whom they are on issue, or else deposited in the Q Store for safe custody. Pistols will NOT be left unattended in tents or other shelters.

Personnel issued with pistols will be charged under Army Act with offence of negligence if loss ensues from failure to observe this order.

112 SPEED LIMITS

Forward of 3-ton head and on all corduroyed tracks the speed limit of all vehicles is 4 miles per hour.

113 RESERVE RATIONS

A certificate stating reserve rations are intact and in good order and condition will be forwarded to reach this HQ by the thirtieth day of each month.

114 TRANSPORT AND NATIVES

Demands for transport and native labour will be lodged at this HQ daily by 1600 hrs.

115 CANTEEN

Number 4 Canteen Issuing Point opens TOKO 7 May 45. Supplies will be drawn as follows:

Tuesdays	0900	24 Aust Inf Bn
	1000	57/60 Aust Inf Bn
	1100	58/59 Aust Inf Bn
Wednesdays	1400	HQ 15 Aust Inf Bde
	1500	15 Aust Inf Bde Sig Sec
	1400	14 pl 2/1 Aust Gd Regt
	1400	266 Aust LAD

If units cannot draw supplies at above times, this HQ will be advised.

116 CAPTURED ENEMY EQUIPMENT

Any salvable captured enemy equipment will be advised to this HQ. The following particulars will be furnished

Location of equipment
Type
Quantity

117 POSTAL

Mail will be cleared from 24 and 58/59 Aust Inf Bns at 1000 hrs daily.

Mail closes FPO 160 at 1600 hrs daily.

Mail will be delivered to 24 and 58/59 Aust Inf Bns at approximately 1000 hrs daily.

As from 8 May 45 until further notice mail will be airdropped to 57/60 Aust Inf Bn.

118 RECOVERY OF PARACHUTES

When returning parachutes to Salvage or RSD, units will ensure that each parachute is folded and tied individually with the shroud lines inside and, whenever possible, placed in cornsacks or storepedoes.

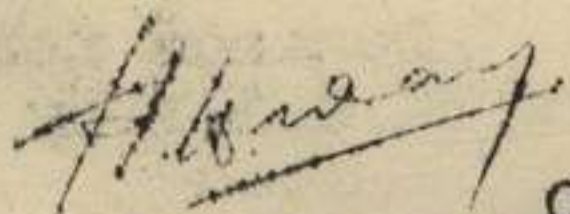
Parachutes will be dried before folding and will be kept under cover at all times whilst stored or in transit.

119 UNATTENDED VEHICLES

Attention is drawn to First Aust Army ASO 14/37 and 2 Aust Corps Routine Order A9/44.

Sub-para (c) of ASO 14/37 is repeated:

" A driver is responsible for the safe custody of his vehicle. If it is lost or damaged as the direct result of his neglect of duty or misconduct he may be required to make good the loss or portion thereof suffered by the Commonwealth. "


Capt
SO 15 Aust Inf Bde

	<u>Coupons</u>
If service is terminated prior to 30 Sep 45	112
If service is terminated between -	
1 Oct 45 and 31 Dec 45	84
1 Jan 46 and 31 Mar 46	56
1 Apr 46 and end of rationing year	28

123 LATRINES

Latrines will not be sited close to the road and will, where possible, have a screen erected or be sited so they are not in view of the road.

124 INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT

Attention is drawn to First Aust Army Routine Order 80.

W. H. King Capt
SC 15 Aust Inf Bde

NOTICE

FOUND

A wallet bearing initials AEF on road 200 yds SOUTH of SLATERS KNOLL

	<u>Coupons</u>
If service is terminated prior to 30 Sep 45	112
If service is terminated between -	
1 Oct 45 and 31 Dec 45	84
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SC 15 Aust Inf Bde

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