AWM52
Australian Military Forces, Army headquarters,
formation and unit diaries, 1939-1945

1/4/8
CORPS

2 Australian Corps
General Branch (2 Aust Corps 'G' Branch)

November 1942, appendices



1/4/8-0066

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES. MOST SECRET.

2 Aust Corps (AIF)
22 Jul 43.

Subject: War Diary. 9 Aust Div G. 3195
Period 10 Jul 42 - 10 Nov 42.

O i/c 2nd Ech.,
LHQ.

1. Attached is first copy of the personal reports, by Lt-Gen L.J. MORSHEAD, GOC 9 Aust Div to Gen T.A. BLAMEY C-in-C, Australian Military Forces, for period 10 Jul 42 to 10 Nov 42.

GS Coulson maj
for Brig.
GS 2 Aust Corps.

Encl.

Copy to A/Sec'd HQ. G Branch 2 Aust Corps Nov 42

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : GOC 10/7

OFFICER ONLY (.) PERSONAL FOR BRIG PULVER (.) FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) BEGINS (.) MOST SECRET (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM MORSHEAD (.) BEGINS (.)

ONE (.) ON 10 JULY 9 AUST DIV CARRIED OUT SUCCESSFUL ATTACK BETWEEN COAST AND RAILWAY NW OF EL ALAMEIN BOX PENETRATING 5½ MILES ON 2 MILE FRONT (.) THIS AREA DOMINATED EL ALAMEIN POSITION (.) SO FAR 1150 PRISONERS COUNTED INCLUDING 100 GERMANS AND CO AND HQ 7 BERSAGLERI REGT (.) CAPTURED CONSIDERABLE QUANTITY EQUIPMENT INCLUDING A TK GUNS BOFORS AND MUCH NEEDED MT (.) OUR CASUALTIES LIGHT (.)

TWO (.) THIS ATTACK COINCIDED WITH STRONG THRUST BY ENEMY AGAINST CENTRE EIGHTH ARMY POSITION (.)

THREE (.) OPERATION CARRIED OUT BY 26 AUST INF BDE GP/AND ALL DIVISIONAL UNITS AND SUPPORTED BY TWO SQUADRONS VALENTINE TANKS (.)

FOUR (.) FIRST OBJECTIVE HIGH GROUND 2½ MILES FROM PERIMETER WAS ATTACKED SILENTLY AT FIRST LIGHT AND COMPLETE SURPRISE SECURED (.) THEREAFTER ARTILLERY AND TANKS SUPPORTED ATTACK (.) 2/48 AND 2/24 BNS EMPLOYED (.) 2/23 BN IN RESERVE HAVING ARRIVED FROM AMIRIYA TWO HOURS BEFORE ZERO (.)

FIVE (.) TWO HOURS AFTER POSITION CAPTURED ENEMY BEGAN SERIES OF DIVE BOMBING AND MG ATTACKS MAINTAINING THEM FOR MOST OF THE DAY (.) ALTOGETHER ENEMY WERE VERY ACTIVE IN AIR WHEREAS PREVIOUSLY SURPRISINGLY QUIET (.)

SIX (.) SEVERAL COUNTER ATTACKS LAUNCHED BY ENEMY AND ALL BEATEN OFF (.) WE KNOCKED OUT 18 ENEMY TANKS BOTH GERMAN AND ITALIAN CAPTURING SEVERAL CREWS (.)

SEVEN (.) AT FIRST LIGHT 1 SOUTH AFRICAN DIVISION COOPERATED BY RAID SOUTH OF OUR OBJECTIVE (.)

EIGHT (.) GRATEFUL FOR YOUR MESSAGE M7623 WHICH WILL BE APPRECIATED BY ALL RANKS (.) IT REACHED ME DURING THE BATTLE (.) ENDS

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : GOC 037 11/7

OFFICER ONLY (.) MOST SECRET (.) PERSONAL FOR BRIG PULVER (.)
FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) BEGINS (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY
FROM MORSHEAD (.)
ONE (.) ENEMY LAUNCHED FURTHER COUNTER ATTACKS WITH TANKS AND
LORRIED INFANTRY AT LAST LIGHT 10 JULY (.) SUCCESSFULLY COUNTER
ATTACKED USING STICKY BOMBS AGAINST TANKS (.)
TWO (.) THIS MORNING 2/24 BN WITH ONE SQUADRON VALENTINE TANKS
ATTACKED AND CAPTURED IMPORTANT POSITION WEST OF TEL EL EISA
STATION INCREASING OUR WESTERN FRONT TO THREE MILES (.) CAPTURED
180 PRISONERS (.)
THREE (.) A COLUMN OF AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH DETACHMENTS OF ALL
ARMS RAIDED SOUTHWARDS TODAY CAPTURING 333 PRISONERS AND DESTROY-
ING SEVEN GUNS (.)
FOUR (.) OUR ESTIMATED CASUALTIES TO DATE 25 KILLED 150 WOUNDED
(.) ENDS

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : GOC 044 · 12 Jul

MOST SECRET (.) OFFICER ONLY (.) PERSONAL FOR BRIG PULVER (.)
FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) BEGINS (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY
FROM MORSHEAD (.)
ONE (.) ENEMY ATTACKED 26 AUST INF BDE ON AXIS EL ALAMEIN - EL DABA ROAD AT 1200 HRS 12 JULY (.) ATTACK DRIVEN OFF RAF GIVING PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE BOMBING SUPPORT (.) AT 1800 HRS ENEMY LAUNCHED FURTHER ATTACK FROM NNW THROUGH DRY SWAMP (.) AT LAST LIGHT THEY WITHDREW 1000 YARDS (.) AT 1930 HRS FURTHER ATTACK LAUNCHED FROM SOUTH AGAINST TEL EL EISA POSITION AND THIS ALSO HELD UP BY FIRE (.)
TWO (.) ENEMY CONSISTS OF 104, 200 AND 302 GERMAN LORRIED INF REGTS WITH 12 GERMAN TANKS AND 30 GUNS (.) TOTAL STRENGTH 4000 - 5000 (.) ALL THREE ATTACKS DIRECTED AGAINST 2/24 BN AND TWO COMPANIES 23 BN (.)
THREE (.) 20 PRISONERS CAPTURED TODAY (.)
FOUR (.) RECCE BY 9 AUST DIV CAV REVEALED NUMBER ENEMY TANKS KNOCKED OUT OR DISABLED NOW TOTAL 22 INCLUDING 10 GERMAN MARK 3 AND MK 4 OF LATEST DESIGN (.) ONE MK 13 BROUGHT IN (.) 5 PRISONERS CAPTURED FROM THESE TANKS (.)
FIVE (.) ON 11 JULY 4 AUST LT AA REGT BROUGHT DOWN ITS FIRST STUKA (.)
ENDS

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : GOC 0350 15/7

FOR BRIG PULVER (.) FOLLOWING FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.)
BEGINS (.) FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM MORSHEAD 1620 HRS 15 JULY (.)
ONE (.) EXCEPT FOR TWO ATTACKS WHICH OUR ARTILLERY PREVENTED
DEVELOPING WE HAD COMPARATIVELY QUIET DAY 13 JULY ENEMY'S
MAIN EFFORT BEING DIRECTED AGAINST SOUTH AFRICANS IN SOUTHERN
SECTOR EL ALAMEIN BOX (.) COVERED BY TANKS WHICH MAINTAINED
HEAVY FIRE ON FORWARD POSTS ENEMY ENGINEERS AND INFANTRY MADE
DETERMINED EFFORTS REMOVE MINEFIELD IN LATE AFTERNOON AND NIGHT
BUT FAILED (.) OUR ARTILLERY COOPERATED AND SOUTH AFRICANS
REPORTED THIS FIRE CAUSED GERMANS TO RUN AND SQUEAL (.)
C IN C AND MAJ GEN PIENAAR SENT MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATION
TO CRA 9 AUST DIV IN REMARKABLY PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE SHOOTING (.)
TWO (.) AT 1830 HRS 14 JULY enemy DIVE BOMBED OUR ARTILLERY AND
INFANTRY WITH 35 STUKAS FOLLOWED BY SIMILAR ATTACK 30 MINUTES
LATER BUT CASUALTIES AGAIN REMARKABLY FEW (.) ATTACK THEN
LAUNCHED WITH 26 TANKS AND 7 COYS LORRIED INFANTRY AGAINST TEL
EL EISA POSITION WHICH IS SOMEWHAT DETACHED FROM MAIN POSITION
AND HELD BY TWO COMPANIES ONE MILE APART (.) TANKS OVERRAN AND
SURROUNDED THESE COMPANIES WHICH FOUGHT THEIR WAY NORTH OF
RAILWAY LINE AFTER KNOCKING OUT FIVE GERMAN TANKS MK 3 AND 4 (.)
WE INTEND RECAPTURE (.) OUR POSITION OTHERSISE INTACT DESPITE
TEMPORARY PENETRATIONS BY TANKS (.) ALTOGETHER WE KNOCKED OUT
AT LEAST 8 GERMAN TANKS (.) CAPTURED 25 GERMANS (.) AMONG
PRISONERS WERE 13 OF AA REGT WHO WERE USED AS INFANTRY FOR
FIRST TIME (.) PRISONERS COMMENTED ON HEAVY CASUALTIES TO MEN
AND GUNS INFLICTED BY OUR ARTILLERY (.)
THREE (.) OUR TOTAL CASUALTIES TO DATE UNDER 300 (.)
FOUR (.) FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION 1 SOUTH AFRICAN DIV NOW UNDER
OPERATIONAL COMMAND 9 AUST DIV (.) ENDS

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : GOC 071 16/7

FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) BEGINS (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN
BLAMEY FROM MORSHEAD 2110 HRS 16 JULY (.)
ONE (.) 2/23 BN LESS TWO COMPANIES RECAPTURED TEL EL EISA
POSITION AT FIRST LIGHT TODAY TAKING 400 PRISONERS MOSTLY
ITALIANS (.) ENEMY THRN OPENED AND MAINTAINED EXTREMELY
HEAVY ARTILLERY FIRE ALSO MORTARS AND DIVE BOMBING (.)
POSITION UNTENABLE OUR CASUALTIES TOTALLING 100 AND WE
WITHDREW (.)
TWO (.) 4 AUST LT AA REGT HAVE NOW BROUGHT DOWN EIGHT PLANES
INCLUDING TWO ME 109

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : GOC 081 17/7

FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) BEGINS (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM MORSHEAD 1620 HRS 17 JULY (.)
ONE (.) TO RELIEVE PRESSURE AGAINST CENTRE EIGHTH ARMY 24 AUST INF BDE AT MIDNIGHT LAUNCHED ATTACK SOUTHWARDS FROM 26 BDE POSITION (.) BEFORE FIRST LIGHT 2/32 BN SEIZED FIRST OBJECTIVE A SANDY RIDGE FOUR KILOS SOUTH OF RAILWAY CAPTURING 250 PRISONERS (.) ONE COMPANY THIS BN LOST DIRECTION AND IS STILL OUT OF TOUCH (.)
TWO (.) SUPPORTED BY VALENTINES 2/43 BN EXPLOITED TO STONY RIDGE FIVE KILOS FURTHER SOUTH (.) CAPTURED 550 PRISONERS INCLUDING FIELD AND A TK GUNNERS (.) VERY STRONG CONCENTRATION OF ENCOUNTERED AND THEY COUNTER ATTACKED IMMEDIATELY WITH SEVENTEEN TANKS (.) 2/43 BN REMAINED ON POSITION ONE HOUR AND WAS SUBJECTED TO VERY HEAVY SHELLING FROM BOTH FLANKS (.) SOME 70 CASUALTIES RECEIVED AND AS PROVIDED IN OUR PLAN BN WITHDREW TO FIRST OBJECTIVE (.)
THREE (.) I SA DIV COOPERATED WITH STRONG EXPLOITING FORCE OPERATING ON OUR LEFT FLANK AND SUBSEQUENTLY GAVE EFFECTIVE PROTECTION DURING CONSOLIDATION (.)
FOUR (.) WE LOST 12 TANKS OF VARIOUS TYPES BUT MOST RECOVERABLE (.)
FIVE (.) ENEMY HAS MADE SEVERAL COUNTER ATTACKS WITH TANKS AND ALL BEATEN OFF (.) ARTILLERY FIRE BOTH SIDES VERY HEAVY (.) OUR CASUALTIES NOT UNDULY GREAT (.)
SIX (.) TOTAL PRISONERS CAPTURED TEL EL EISA YESTERDAY 601 (.) GRAND TOTAL CAPTURED BY 9 AUST DIV TO DATE 3788 (.) ENDS

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : GOC 097 18/7

FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) BEGINS (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM MORSHEAD 1850 HRS 18 JULY (:) AT 1700 HRS 17 JULY ENEMY MADE FURTHER SHARP COUNTER ATTACK WITH TANKS AND INFANTRY AGAINST 24 BDE (.) OUR CENTRE PUSHED BACK AND BDE EVENTUALLY WITHDREW 2000 YDS (.) DURING NIGHT 2/28 BN REGAINED POSITION (.) YESTERDAY OUR A TK GUNNERS KNOCKED OUT SIX TANKS AND 2/28 BN ANOTHER EARLY THIS MORNING MAKING OUR TOTAL TO DATE 41 (.) COMPARATIVELY QUIET TODAY BUT MUCH ENEMY MOVEMENT IN OUR DIRECTION (.) ENDS

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : GOC 0379 20/7

SECRET (.) FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM MORSHEAD 1925 HRS 20 JULY (.)

ONE (.) EXCEPT FOR ATTACK ON 24 BDE WHICH WAS DISPERSED BY ARTILLERY FIRE COMPARATIVELY QUIET YESTERDAY AND TODAY (.)

TWO (.) RE MISSING COY 2/32 BN (.) IN THE DARKNESS THEY ADVANCED WELL BEYOND THEIR OBJECTIVE (.) AT OUTSET CAPTURED 60 PRISONERS WHO WERE SENT BACK (.) AT DAYLIGHT MET WITH STIFF OPPOSITION AND ATTACKED BY TANKS (.) OUR PATROLS DISCOVERED SEVEN DEAD OF THIS COMPANY LYING IN SHALLOW PITS (.) ALL IDENTIFICATIONS HAD BEEN REMOVED (.)

THREE (.) OF THE PRISONERS CAPTURED BY 24 BDE ABOUT 600 WERE GUNNERS (.)

FOUR (.) IN A COMPANY RAID BY 2/28 BN LAST NIGHT ONE PLATOON MOVED TO WITHIN 20 YDS OF ENEMY TANK WITH OPENED FIRE WITH ONE GUN AND TWO MGS (.) AN ENGINEER CREPT FORWARD AND THREW A 73 GRENADE WHICH KNOCKED OUT TANK AND KILLED CREW OF FOUR (.)

FIVE (.) FOLLOWING IS EXTRACT FROM LETTER WRITTEN BY COMD 86 INF REGT CAPTURED BY US TO ONE OF HIS BN COMDS (.) BEGINS (.) DIV HAS RUNG UP THIS VERY MOMENT TO SAY THAT UNITS IN FRONT OF YOU ARE AUSTRALIANS - NOTABLE PATROLLERS (.) KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN (.) DON'T WITHDRAW YOUR PATROLS FURTHER IN THAN 100 METRES FROM THE STRONGPOINT OR YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF LEFT HIGH AND DRY WITH ONLY AN ALARM BELL FOR PROTECTION (.) ENDS

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : GOC 0131 22/7

MOST SECRET (.) FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) BEGINS (.)
PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM MORSHEAD 2359 HRS 22 JULY (.)
ONE (.) AT 1900 HRS 28 BN ADVANCED ON PORTION OF RIDGE SIX
KILOS SW OF FIRST OBJECTIVE CAPTURED BY 2/32 BN (.) SUPPORTED
BY 50 RTR WITH 43 VALENTINES AND 4 MATILDAS (.) THIS REGIMENT
FRESH FROM ENGLAND ARRIVED FORWARD DURING NIGHT 21/22 JULY (.)
LEADING INFANTRY AND SAPPERS CARRIED ON SECOND WAVE OF TANKS (.)
BN REACHED OBJECTIVE 2040 HRS AND ARE NOW CONSOLIDATING (.)
POSITION ISOLATED BUT COVERED BY OUR GUNS AND TANKS HARBOURING
WITHIN CLOSE CALL (.) DURING FIRST STAGE OF ATTACK CAPTURED 56
GERMANS AND 5 ITALIANS (.)
TWO (.) VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR KIND MESSAGE OF TODAY (.)
THREE (.) FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED TONIGHT FROM C IN C (.)
BEGINS (.) HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS YOU AND ALL TROOPS UNDER
YOUR COMMAND (.) YOUR TROOPS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ATTACKED AND
CONTAINED THE WHOLE OF 90 LT DIV LESS 288 FORCE AND TWO BNS (.)
YOUR VIGOROUS ACTION IS THE PRELUDE TO VICTORY (.) ENDS

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : GOC 0128 22/7

MOST SECRET (.) FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) BEGINS (.)
PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM MORSHEAD 1920 HRS 22 JULY (?)
24 AND 26 AUST INF BDES ATTACKED AT 0530 HRS TODAY (.)
AFTER VERY HEAVY FIGHTING 24 BDE CAPTURED ITS FIRST OBJECTIVE
AND HAS HELD IT AGAINST SEVERAL COUNTER ATTACKS (.) 26 BDE
CAPTURED ITS TWO OBJECTIVES THE FIRST A KNOLL 2 KILOS NEXT
NW OF ITS RIGHT FLANK THE SECOND TEL EL EISA POSITION SOUTH
OF RAILWAY (.) AS RESULT OF INTENSIVE FIRE OF ALL NATURES AND
AND STRONG COUNTER ATTACK WITHDREW FROM FIRST OBJECTIVE (.)
THIS IS THIRD TIME TEL EL EISA HAS BEEN CAPTURED (.) AGAIN
ENEMY HAS MAINTAINED VERY HEAVY FIRE ON THIS POSITION AND
COUNTER ATTACKED BUT WE STILL ARE HOLDING (.) TOTAL PRISONERS
CAPTURED TODAY 91 ALL GERMANS (.) ENDS

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO ; AUSFORCE

FROM : GOC 0445 28/7

MOST SECRET (.) OFFICER ONLY (.) PRIVATE FOR BRIG PULVER (.) FOLLOWING FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURBE (.) BEGINS (.) MOST SECRET (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM MORSHEAD 2345 HRS 28 JULY (?) ONE (.) ON NIGHT 26/27 JULY 30 CORPS CONSISTING OF 9 AUST DIV 1 SA DIV 69 INF BDE (OF 50 DIV) AND I ARMD DIV LAUNCHED ATTACK WITH OBJECT DECISIVE BREAK THROUGH (.) PLAN WAS (A) SA DIV TO CLEAR 600 YARD GAP IN ENEMY MINEFIELDS (B) 9 AUST DIV TO ATTACK SOUTHWARDS AND CAPTURE EASTERN END OF EL MITEIRIYA RIDGE WHICH RUNS EAST AND WEST AND EXPLOIT WESTWARDS (.) SA DIV TO MOP UP AREA BETWEEN EL ALAMEIN BOX AND OUR POSITION (.) (C) 69 BDE TO ATTACK WESTWARDS AND OCCUPY NORTH AND SOUTH POSITION WITH LEFT FLANK 1000 YDS SOUTH OF OUR LEFT FLANK (.) (D) 2 ARMD BDE WITH GRANTS TO PASS THROUGH 69 BDE POSITION AT 0700 HRS EXPLOIT AND TAKE UP DEFENSIVE POSITION IN SOUTH (.) 4 ARMD BDE THEN TO GO MUCH WIDER IF SITUATION PERMITTED (.)

TWO (.) IN BRIGHT MOONLIGHT 2/28 BN ADVANCED 3000 YDS AND REACHED OBJECTIVE AT 0110 HRS AS TIMED (.) CAPTURED 208 PRISONERS OF WHOM ALL BUT 12 WERE GERMANS (.) 900 YDS NORTH OF OBJECTIVE THEY CAME ACROSS NEWLY LAID MINEFIELD (.) EVIDENTLY ONLY ONE GAP COULD BE MADE AND PERSONNEL ON FOOT GOT THROUGH (.) ONE OF LEADING VEHICLES STRUCK MINE AND BURST INTO FLAMES WHEREUPON ENEMY OPENED AND SUSTAINED INTENSIVE A TK AND MG FIRE (.) VEHICLES IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WERE DESTROYED EITHER BY MINES OR A TK FIRE AND DESPITE SEVERAL LATER ATTEMPTS RUN GAUNTLET NONE GOT THROUGH (.) ONLY SUPPORTING WEAPONS TO REACH OBJECTIVE THREE OUT OF 12 A TK GUNS (.) ALL ATTEMPTS ESTABLISH LINE COMMUNICATION FAILED AND ONLY ONE RUNNER GOT BACK (.) EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS WERE ATTEMPTED TO GET COMMUNICATION (.) ONLY WIRELESS TRUCK TO GET THROUGH WAS FOOs AND IT WAS DESTROYED AND FOO KILLED (.) FIVE OPO's WENT FORWARD BUT UNABLE TO REACH POSITION (.) MATILDAS AND CARRIERS SENT UP WITH AMMUNITION AND WIRELESS SET WITHOUT SUCCESS (.) BDE SENT FORCES

TO DEAL WITH ENEMY MGs AND A TK GUNS (.) FIRST MESSAGE SENT BY KEY FROM COMPANY SET AND RECEIVED AT 0915 ASKED FOR HELP (.) TWO SQUADRONS VALENTINES WERE ORDERED FORWARD ELEVEN WERE KNOCKED OUT (.) ARTILLERY GAVE UNOBSERVED SUPPORT (.) ENEMY ATTACKED WITH TANKS AND LAST MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT 1000 HRS (.)

THREE (.) 69 BDE WAS DUE ON OBJECTIVE AT 0330 HRS (.) REPORTED AT 0545 HRS RIGHT BN WAS NEARING ITS OBJECTIVE WITH LEFT BN FURTHER BACK (.) MET WITH SHARP OPPOSITION AND DID NOT MOP UP (.) RESERVE BN WAS COMMITTED (.) WE HAD LIAISON PATROL WITH THEM BUT NO CONTACT WAS MADE WITH 2/28 BN (.) EVENTUALLY BDE WAS OVERWHELMED BY TANKS AND ONLY 150 OF THE BDE GOT BACK (.)

FOUR (.) BECAUSE 1 ARMD DIV WAS NOT SATISFIED THAT GAPS IN MINEFIELD WERE SUFFICIENTLY CLEARED COMD NOTIFIED ATTACK DELAYED UNTIL 0815 HRS (.) FURTHER POSTPONEMENTS FOLLOWED (.) FINALLY THEY MADE SOME EFFORT TO DEAL WITH ENEMY OVERRUN BY 69 BDE AND TO EXTRICATE THAT BDE BUT WAS TOO LATE FOR THEM AND US (.)

FIVE (.) 2/28 BN WAS COMMANDED BY T/LT COL McCARTER MC AN OUTSTANDING FIGHTER (.) POSITIVE THEY MADE VERY GALLANT STAND (.) LEARNED FROM Y SOURCE THAT ONE OF THE GERMAN BNS OPPOSING THEM REPORTED THEIR STREGTH 1 OFFR 2 NCOs AND 10 MEN (.) WEAPONS ONE LMG AND ONE HMG REMAINDER OF BN KILLED WOUNDED MISSING OR DISPERSED (.)

SIX (.) CASUALTIES 2/28 BN WOUNDED 2 AND 62 MISSING 20 AND 469 MACHINE GUNNERS WOUNDED 8 ORs MISSING 1 AND 22 ENGINEERS WOUNDED 1 AND 2 MISSING 1 AND 17 A TK GUNNERS WOUNDED 5 ORs MISSING 3 AND 55 (.)

SEVEN (.) STRENGTH 2/28 BN NOW 4 AND 200 MOSTLY HQ COY AND B ECHELON PLUS 4 AND 67 LOB (.) WILL REFORM EARLIEST POSSIBLE MEANTIME REPLACING WITH 2/3 PNR BN (.)

EIGHT (.) REINFORCEMENTS SUBJECT OF SEPARATE CABLE (.) ENDS

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : GOC 0463 31/7

FOR BRIG PULVER (.) FOLLOWING FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) BEGINS (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM GEN MORSHEAD (.) 1915 HRS 31 JULY (.) QUIET SINCE 28 JULY THOUGH ENEMY ARTILLERY MORE ACTIVE TODAY (.) YESTERDAY OUR CAVALRY OPERATING FORWARD OF GAP BETWEEN 24 AND 26 BDES CAPTURED 12 GERMANS AND 6 ITALIANS (.) INFANTRY HAVE MADE SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL DAYLIGHT SORTIES WITH CARRIERS AND PATROLLING BY NIGHT IS IN FULL SWING (.) 20 BDE RELIEVING 26 BDE (.) ENDS

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : GOC 0499 5/8

FOR BRIG PULVER (.) FOLLOWING FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.)
BEGINS (.) FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM GEN MORSHEAD 2045 HRS 5 AUG (.)
ONE (.) LAST NIGHT FIGHTING PATROL 2/15 BN ATTACKED GERMAN
POSITION (.) KILLED FIVE AT CLOSE QUARTERS CAPTURED ONE (.)
GERMANS NEWLY ARRIVED FROM CRETE (.) PATROL LED BY CAPT COBB
WHO WON MC IN RAIDS TOBRUCH (.) OUR WITHDRAWAL COVERED BY
ARTY AND MG FIRE WHEREUPON ENEMY PUT DOWN EXTENSIVE DF (.)
OUR CASUALTIES ONE KILLED TWO WOUNDED INCLUDING COBB WHO WAS
TWICE WOUNDED (.)
TWO (.) ENEMY REINFORCING AND STRENGTHENING HIS POSITION

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : GOC 0628 22/8

FOR BRIG PULVER (.) FOLLOWING FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.)
BEGINS (.) PERSONAL GEN BLAMEY FROM GEN MORSHEAD (.) ONE (.)
LATE YESTERDAY ENEMY DROPPED TWO SETS LEAFLETS OVER OUR
FORWARD POSTS (.) LEAFLETS MEASURED 6" x 8" AND TOP HALF
CONSISTED STENCIL OF OUR DIVISIONAL SIGN (.) MESSAGE ON ONE
SET READS (BEGINS) "AUSSIES! THE YANKEES ARE HAVING A JOLLY
GOOD TIME IN YOUR COUNTRY (.) AND YOU ? (.)" ENDS (.)
ON OTHER SET (.) BEGINS (.) "DIGGERS ! YOU ARE DEFENDING
ALAMEIN BOX ! WHAT ABOUT PORT DARWIN?" (.) ENDS (.) OPENING
BIDS FOR THESE LEAFLETS 50 P.T. EACH (.) ENEMY DROPPED MESSAGES
ALSO ON N.Z. AND INDIAN POSITIONS (.)
TWO (.) OUR PATROLLING CONTINUES TO BE VERY ACTIVE AND
AGGRESSIVE OTHERWISE PRESENT SITUATION QUIET

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : GOC 0710 31/8

FOR BRIG PULVER (.) FOLLOWING FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) BEGINS (.) PERSONAL GEN BLAMEY FROM GEN MORSHEAD (.) 1830 HRS 31 AUGUST (.) ENEMY COMMENCED EXPECTED OFFENSIVE IN SOUTH LAST NIGHT (.) IN NORTH HE DEMONSTRATED BY HEAVY ARTILLERY CONCENTRATIONS AND LARGE SCALE RAIDS AGAINST 20 AND 24 BDES WITH OBJECT ALSO SECURING PRISONERS (.) TWICE ATTACKED 2/43 BN WHICH OCCUPIES EXTENSIVE OUTPOST POSITION (.) ATTACKED ALSO 2/13 AND 2/17 BNS (.) ALL ATTACKS FAILED COMPLETELY BUT UNABLE ESTIMATE LOSSES (.) FIGHTING PATROLS FROM EACH OF OUR BNS CONCERNED CAPTURED FIVE RAIDERS ALL GERMANS (.) PRISONERS STATED VOLUNTEERS FOR THESE RAIDS NOT FORTHCOMING AND PARTIES HAD TO BE DETAILED (.) THEY FURTHER STATED ONE REASON FOR FAILURE WAS FEAR OF BEING CUT OFF BY OUR PATROLS (.) OUR CASUALTIES LIGHT (.) ENDS

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : MAIN 9 AUST DIV 0729 2/9

MOST SECRET (.) OFFR ONLY (.) FOR BRIG PULVER (.) FOLLOWING FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) BEGINS (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM GEN MORSHEAD (.) ONE (.) SUPPORTED BY WHOLE DIV ARTY, MED REGT AND SQUAD VALENTINES 2/15 BN RAIDED GERMAN POSITION 3000 YARDS WEST OF OUR FORWARD POSTS AT FIRST LIGHT YESTERDAY (.) ONE OBJECT WAS TO FORM AND MAINTAIN BRIDGEHEAD FOR STRONG HARDHITTING FORCE TO EMERGE AND CRACK ENEMY REAR AREAS AND L OF C RETURNING NOT BEFORE 1500 HRS (.) AT THIS TIME GERMAN MAIN FORCE EXPECTED LAUNCH OFFENSIVE IN SOUTH (.)

TWO (.) 2/15 BN REACHED OBJECTIVE BUT WERE HAMPERED BY MINEFIELDS (.) ENEMY HAD USUAL MARKED MINEFIELD COVERING HIS POSITION (.) FORWARD OF THAT HE HAD IRREGULAR SERIES OF CONCEALED FIELDS AND STILL FURTHER FORWARD INDISCRIMINATE MINED AREAS (.) ENGINEERS MADE AND CLEARLY MARKED THREE GAPS IN MAIN FIELD AND AS USUAL DID SPLENDID JOB (.) BUT THE ODD AND UNDETECTED MINES CAUSED UNEXPECTED LOSSES TO ESSENTIAL VEHICLES AND CARRIERS (.) LT COL OGLE IN CARRIER WAS BLOWN UP AND SUFFERED EXTENSIVE THOUGH NOT DANGEROUS INJURIES AS BN REACHED OBJECTIVE (.)

THREE (.) ON ACTUAL ASSAULT OPPOSITION NOT SERICUS CAPTURED 104 GERMANS (.) LATER AS POSITION BECAME KNOWN 15 BN WERE SUBJECTED TO INTENSE ARTY AND MORTAR FIRE ENEMY INF HAVING INDICATED AREA BY FIRING VEREY LIGHTS FROM FLANKS OF PENETRATION (.) AT 0900 HRS COMD ON THE SPOT DECIDED COULD NOT MAINTAIN BRIDGEHEAD AND ORDERED WITHDRAWAL (.)

FOUR (.) CASUALTIES TO ENEMY WERE HEAVY AND AT LEAST 150 KILLED THIS ESTIMATE REGARDED BY TPS AS UNDULY CONSERVATIVE (.)

FIVE (.) 15 BN CASUALTIES KILLED 3 AND 36 WOUNDED 5 AND 104 MISSING 1 AND 24 (.) OFFR MISSING CAPT BODE MC SEVERELY WOUNDED ONE OF THE BEST OFFRS IN DIVISION (.)

SIX (.) IT WAS THOROUGHLY PREPARED OPERATION AND WELL EXECUTED (.) THIS WAS 15 BN'S FIRST ATTACK AND THEY HAVE NO RESERVATIONS ABOUT FUTURE ATTACKS AGAINST GERMANS (.)

SEVEN (.) NEW SUBJECT (.) BEGINS (.) HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING REORGANISATION INF BN (.) PROPOSE FOREGO ONE RIFLE COY AND FORM SUPPORT COY WITH 8 A TK GUNS, 8 VICKERS, 6 MORTARS WHICH SHOULD BE REPLACED WITH SOMETHING AT LEAST COMPARABLE WITH THOSE OF ITALIANS AND GERMANS, AND CARRIERS (.) ENDS (.)

IMMEDIATE

2359 HRS 2/9/42.

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : TAC 9 AUST DIV 0837 20/9

FOR BRIG PULVER (.) FOLLOWING FOR LANDFORCES (.) BEGINS (.)

FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM GEN MORSHEAD (.)

ONE (.) 24 BDE HAVE ADVANCED THEIR POSITION SOUTHWARDS ON FRONT 7000 YARDS TO MAXIMUM DEPTH 2400 YARDS (.) 28 AND 32 BNS CARRIED OUT OPERATION WHICH WAS WELL PLANNED AND TODAY ENEMY REGISTERED ON FORMER LINE (.) 28 BN WHICH HAS BEEN IN LINE SINCE 9 SEPT IS NOW 670 STRONG AND IN EXCELLENT FETTLE (.)

TWO (.) PROPOSE SHORTLY MAKE BRIEF VISIT HQ AIF (.) ENDS

IMMEDIATE

(COPY).

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : TAC 9 AUST DIV 0262 25/10

OFFICER ONLY (.) MOST SECRET (.) FOR BRIG PULVER (.) FOLLOWING FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) BEGINS (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM GEN MORSHEAD 1250 HRS 25 OCT (.)

(1) EIGHTH ARMY LAUNCHED OFFENSIVE AT 2200 HRS 23 OCT (.) MAIN ATTACK IN NORTH BY 30 CORPS WITH OBJECT CAPTURING ENEMY DEFENCES AND GUN AREAS BETWEEN TEL EL EISA POSITION AND INCLUDING MITEIRIYA RIDGE AND FORMING BRIDGEHEAD FOR PASSAGE 10 ARMD CORPS (.) OPERATIONS OF 13 CORPS AND 7 ARMD DIV IN SOUTH ON SMALLER SCALE (.) 30 CORPS ATTACKED WITH 9 AUST DIV RIGHT 51 HIGHLAND DIV RIGHT CENTRE NZ DIV LEFT CENTRE 1 SA DIV LEFT 23RD ARMD (VALENTINES) (.)

(2) 30 CORPS FRONTAGE 14000 YARDS INCREASING TO 17000 AS FINAL OBJECTIVE (.) FRONTAGE 9 AUST DIV 3000 YARDS BECAUSE OF ENEMY STRENGTH OPEN FLANK ON NORTH MEASURING 8500 YARDS AND DEEPER PENETRATION (6600 YARDS) (.)

(3) 9 DIV ATTACKED WITH 26 BDE LESS 23 BN IN DIV RESERVE RIGHT AND 20 BDE (.) 24 BDE HOLDING TEL EL EISA AS FIRM BASE CARRIED OUT COMPREHENSIVE DIVERSION (.) 20 AND 26 BDES SUPPORTED BY 9 DIV ARTY REINFORCED BY SIX TPS 25 PDRS AND ONE MED REGT UNDER COMMAND (.) INSUFFICIENT GUNS FOR FULL BARRAGE SO CONCENTRATIONS ON KNOWN AREAS WHICH PROVED VERY EFFECTIVE (.)

(4) 26 BDE CAPTURED ITS OBJECTIVES BY 0315 HRS ACCORDING TO PLAN 24 BN TAKING THE FIRST AND 48 BN THE SECOND (.) 20 BDE CAPTURED FIRST OBJECTIVE ON TIME WITH 15 AND 17 BNS (.) 13 BN WITH 40 RTR WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR FINAL OBJECTIVE (.) TANKS UNABLE GET FORWARD IN TIME AND 13 BN PROCEEDED WITHOUT THEM (.) ENCOUNTERED HEAVY FIRE AND SUFFERED CASUALTIES AND WERE HELD UP 1500 YARDS FROM OBJECTIVE (.) THEY GAINED OBJECTIVE EARLY THIS MORNING (.)

(5) WHOLE OF ENEMY AREA EXTENSIVELY MINED AND SEVERAL SCATTERED MINEFIELDS IN NO MANS LAND (.) WE HAD TO CONTEND WITH NO FEWER THAN FIVE MAJOR MINEFIELDS ONE 1500 YARDS DEEP (.) MAKING AND MARKING OF GAPS THUS DELAYED 40 RTR WHO GAVE FULLEST SUPPORT ON JOINING 13 BN (.)

(6) ENEMY HELD FORWARD POSITIONS MORE LIGHTLY THAN HITHERTO HIS MAIN

STRENGTH BEING IN REAR (.) GENERALLY HE DID NOT STAND AND FIGHT TO THE DEGREE EXPECTED AND AS RESULT WE CAPTURED ONLY 399 PRISONERS OF WHOM 133 GERMANS BUT WE INFLICTED CONSIDERABLE CASUALTIES (.) AT FIRST LIGHT 24 OCT ENEMY COUNTER ATTACKED 48 BN WITH TANKS AND LORRIED INF AND WAS BEATEN OFF (.) LATER TWO SIMILAR ATTACKS AGAINST 13 BN WITH SAME RESULT (.) THIS MORNING FURTHER ATTACK MADE AGAINST 48 BN WAS ALSO DISPERSED (.) THESE ATTACKS CONSIST OF 15 TO 20 TANKS AND UP TO ONE INF BN WITH MODERATE ARTY SUPPORT (.) SEVERAL TANKS KNOCKED OUT (.)

(7) 24 BDE DIVERSION HIGHLY EFFECTIVE (.) INCLUDED FOUR HOURS BOMBARDMENT WITH 4.2, 81 MM AND 3 INCH MORTARS, DECEPTIVE TACTICS AND TWO RAIDS AND SUCCEEDED IN RETAINING ENEMY DEFENSIVE FIRE ON THEIR FRONT (.) RAID BY 43 BN VERY SUCCESSFUL AT LEAST 30 GERMANS KILLED AND 4 CAPTURED (.)

(8) RAF CARRYING OUT CONTINUOUS AND HEAVY BOMBING WHILE ENEMY ACTION VERY LIMITED (.)

(9) OUR CASUALTIES KILLED 5 OFFICERS 39 OTHER RANKS WOUNDED 32 AND 506 (.) ENDS

MOST IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : TAC 9 AUST DIV 0286 26/10

OFFICER ONLY (.) MOST SECRET (.) PERSONAL FOR BRIG PULVER (.)
FOLLOWING FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE BEGINS (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN
BLAMEY FROM GEN MORSHEAD 1825 HRS 26 OCT (.)
(1) AT 2130 HRS GERMAN RECCE PARTY COVERED BY FIGHTING PATROL
APPROACHED OUR NORTHERN FRONT AND WERE ENGAGED BY 48 BN (.) FIVE
PRISONERS CAPTURED INCLUDING COMDS 125 REGT AND II/125 AND POLE
SERVING WITH 115 LORRIED INF REGT (.) ALL OTHERS KILLED (.)
(2) AT 2400 HRS 26 BDE LESS 23 BN STILL IN RESERVE ADVANCED
NORTHWARDS ON FRONT 4000 YARDS TO DEPTH 2200 YARDS SUPPORTED BY
FIVE FD AND TWO MED REGTS (.) 48 BN ATTACKED THE NORTH OBJECTIVE
BEING PT 29 VERY IMPORTANT POSITION (.) ON COMPLETION THIS OPERATION
24 BN ATTACKED NORTH EAST (.) STIFF RESISTANCE ENCOUNTERED AND HARD
FIGHTING RESULTED (.) IT WAS DIFFICULT OPERATION VERY BOLDLY AND
GALLANTLY EXECUTED (.) ESTIMATED ENEMY KILLED AT LEAST 150 PROBABLY
MANY MORE (.) WE CAPTURED 251 OF WHOM 182 GERMANS (.) OUR CASUALTIES
KILLED 3 OFFICERS 46 ORS WOUNDED 20 AND 210 (.)
(3) 13 BN WERE ATTACKED AT FIRST LIGHT THIS MORNING (.) ENEMY
WITHDREW AT 1000 HRS HAVING SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES (.)
(4) ENEMY HAS CONCENTRATED STRONG FORCE INCLUDING 70 TANKS VICINITY
PT 29 CAPTURED THIS MORNING AND ATTACK AWAITED (.) INDICATIONS ALSO
OF ATTACK WITH 30/40 TANKS ABOUT TO DEVELOP AGAINST 20 BDE (.)
(5) TOTAL PRISONERS TO DATE CAPTURED BY (A) 30 CORPS 1662 INCL
629 GERMANS (B) 9 AUST DIV 653 incl 317 GERMANS (.)
(6) OUR CASUALTIES SINCE 23 OCT KILLED 9 OFFICERS 102 ORS WOUNDED
52 AND 668 (.) ENDS

MOST IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : TAC 9 AUST DIV 0303 27/10

FOR LT COL HURLEY (.) FOLLOWING FOR LANDFORCES (.) BEGINS (.)M
PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM GEN MORSHEAD 2220 HRS 27 OCT (.)
(1) ENEMY ATTACKED 13 BN AT 0400 HRS TODAY AND WAS DRIVEN BACK BY FIRST LIGHT (.) IN THIS ACTION TWO OF HIS TANKS WERE BLOWN UP ON OUR HAWKINS MINES (.) STRONG FIGHTING PATROL QUICKLY SENT OUT BY 13 BN CAPTURED 27 GERMANS AND COUNTED 30 DEAD IN SMALL AREA (.) OUR TOTAL PRISONERS NOW 731 (.) ELSEWHERE ON DIV FRONT GERMANS PATROLLED IN STRENGTH AND SUFFERED CASUALTIES (.)
(2) ENEMY CONTINUED SHELL OUR WESTERN FRONT THROUGHOUT THE DAY PARTICULARLY PT 29 (.) FOLLOWING HEAVY CONCENTRATION HE ADVANCED AGAINST WHOLE OF OUR WESTERN FRONT WITH TANKS AND ARMD CARS AND INF (.) HE WAS STOPPED CLOSE TO OUR LINE AND WITHDREW (.)
(3) THIS AFTERNOON 24 BN CAPTURED ONE 88 MM GUN ONE 50 MM AND THREE 37 MM A TK GUNS FOUR BREDAS SIX SPANDAUS AND ONE THREE TON CAS (.) IN YESTERDAY MORNING'S BATTLE 48 BN CAPTURED MK 14 TANK COMPLETE WITH CREW (.) SINCE BEGINNING OPERATIONS CONSIDERABLE QUANTITY ENEMY WEAPONS CAPTURED (.)
(4) 1 ARMD DIV EMERGED DURING NIGHT AND ITS MOTOR BRIGADE HAS HAD SOME SUCCESSFUL ENCOUNTERS (.) ENEMY AIRCRAFT MORE ACTIVE BUT STILL ON A MUCH LESSER SCALE THAN OURS (.)
(5) 152 HIGHLAND BDE RELIEVING 20 AUST INF BDE TONIGHT AND ON COMPLETION 20 BDE WILL RELIEVE 26 BDE (.)
(6) OUR CASUALTIES TO 0600 HRS TODAY 69 OFFRS 939 ORS OF WHOM 18 AND 132 KILLED (.) ENDS

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : TAC 9 AUST DIV 0310 28/10

FOR LT COL HURLEY (.) FOLLOWING FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.)
BEGINS (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM GEN MORSHEAD (.)
(1) GERMAN LO WITH TWO MEN APPROACHED 48 BN AT PT 29 IN A JEEP LAST LIGHT LAST NIGHT (.) OFFICER AND ONE MAN CAPTURED SECOND MAN KILLED (.) LO HAD BEEN INFORMED WE HAD BEEN FORCED OFF PT 29 AND OUR WESTERN FRONT DRIVEN IN (.)
(2) CONTINUING HIS THRUSTS AGAINST 9 AUST DIV ENEMY AGAIN ATTACKED 48 BN AT PT 29 AT 2330 HRS AND AS RESULT OUR HEAVY ARTY AND SMALL ARMS FIRE WENT TO GROUND AND LATER ATTEMPTED INFILTRATION TACTICS (.) AFTER BEING REINFORCED ENEMY RENEWED ATTACK AT 0200 HRS AND VIGOROUS ENGAGEMENT FOLLOWED (.) BECAUSE OF INVISIBILITY THROUGH DUST AND SMOKE CO 48 BN CALLED OFF OUR ARTY FOR TEN MINUTES DURING WHICH ENEMY CAME FORWARD AND OFFERED GOOD TARGET IN BRIGHT MOONLIGHT WITH RESULT HE SUFFERED CONSIDERABLE LOSSES WHICH PATROLS SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED (.) ENEMY THEN FELL BACK (.) THIS ACTION DELAYED RELIEF OF 48 BN BY 17 BN WHICH HAD TO SIDE SLIP NORTHWARDS (.)
(3) FOLLOWING INTENSIVE BOMBARDMENT ENEMY LAUNCHED FURTHER ATTACK WITH INF AND TANKS AGAINST 17 BN AT PT 29 AT 1000 HRS TODAY (.) HE APPROACHED CLOSE TO OUR FDLS BUT DID NOT QUITE REACH THEM AND AFTER INCURRING MANY CASUALTIES HE WITHDREW (.)
(4) DESPITE CONTINUOUS FIGHTING SINCE COMMENCEMENT THESE OPERATIONS MEN ARE IN REMARKABLY GOOD FORM (.) GUNNERS TOO HAVE EXCELLED THEMSELVES (.) THE DIVISION HAS NEVER FOUGHT BETTER (.)
(5) DIV HQ SHELLED DURING NIGHT AND BOMBED EARLY THIS MORNING (.)
(6) AT 2200 HRS THE DIVISION WILL LAUNCH FULL SCALE ATTACK NORTHWARDS

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : TAC 9 AUST DIV 0326 29/10

SECRET (.) FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) BEGINS (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM GEN MORSHEAD 2205 HRS 29 OCT (.)

(1) (A) AT 2200 HRS 28 OCT 9 AUST DIV LAUNCHED ATTACK WITH OBJECT CAPTURING AREA NORTH OF PT 29 TO SEA APPROXIMATELY 5000 BY 8000 YDS AND INCLUDING FDL FACING 24 BDE STILL HOLDING TEL EL EISA POSITION (.)

(B) DIV HAD FOLLOWING UNDER COMMAND

NZ AND 51 DIV ARTY AND 4 RHA

78 AND 146 FD REGTS, 7, 64 and 69 MED REGTS (.)

TOTAL GUNS 360 (.)

THREE A TK BTYS (.)

23 ARMD BDE LESS TWO REGTS GIVING US 40 AND 46 RTR AND ONE REGT SP GUNS (.)

(C) FIRST PHASE SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT BY 20 BDE WITH 15 BN ATTACKING NORTH FROM PT 29 TO DEPTH OF 4000 YARDS OF WHICH 17 BN TOOK OVER 1000 YARDS (.) CAPTURED 80 ITALIANS WHO STATED THEIR GERMAN COMRADES COULD NOT STAND UP TO OUR ARTY AND RAN AWAY (.) 13 BN ATTACKED EASTWARDS (.) ENCOUNTERED TWO MINEFIELDS 350 AND 100 YARDS DEEP (.) AFTER BRISK FIGHTING AGAINST GERMANS OBJECTIVE GAINED AND QUICKLY CONSOLIDATED (.) AFTERWARDS SUBJECTED TO HEAVY SHELLING (.) (D) SECOND PHASE ALLOTTED 26 BDE (.) PLAN WAS 23 BN WITH 46 RTR ADVANCE NE TO AREA BETWEEN RAILWAY AND MAIN ROAD AND SECURE FORMING UP POISTION FOR 48 BN WHO WOULD MOVE SE AND TAKE ENEMY FORWARD DEFENCES IN REAR (.) 24 BN SUBSEQUENTLY TO PASS THROUGH 13 BN AND CAPTURE STRONG POSTS SOUTH OF RAILWAY (.) (E) AFTER PROCEEDING 600 YARDS 23 BN AND TKS ENCOUNTERED MINEFIELD AND NUMBER OF 50 MM A TK GUNS (.) TKS INCURRED CONSIDERABLE LOSSES (.) INF PROCEEDED WITH TKS AND SOON MET WITH STRONG RESISTANCE (.) HARD FIGHTING FOLLOWED AND FINALLY OVER 100 GERMANS CAPTURED BUT DELAY WAS SUCH THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE COMPLETE OPERATION BEFORE FIRST LIGHT AND WE DID NOT PROCEED FURTHER (.) MEANTIME 9 DIV COMMANDO PL CONTINUING ON LINE of 15 BN ADVANCE REACHED RAILWAY THEIR OBJECTIVE BEING LOCATED HQ THERE (.) THEY CAPTURED ONE GERMAN AND DIVERTED TWO TRUCKS FILLED WITH ITALIAN WOUNDED TO 15 BN (.) (F) PRISONERS CAPTURED GERMANS 3 OFFRS 165 ORS ITALIAN 3 AND 85 (.) TOTAL TO DATE GERMAN 10 AND 590 ITALIAN

24 AND 415 (.) (G) OUR CASUALTIES KILLED AND MISSING 5 AND 49 WOUNDED 23 AND 245 (.) REGRET ADVISE LT COL TURNER 13 BN DIED OF WOUNDS RECEIVED 24 OCT (.) LT COL MAGNO 15 BN SERIOUSLY WOUNDED LAST NIGHT ARM AMPUTATED LT COL COLVIN SEVERE CONCUSSION RESULT DIRECT HIT ON HIS HQ TODAY HIS STAFF ALL CASUALTIES (.)
(2) ENEMY NEWCOMERS TO DESERT FINDING DIRECTION DIFFICULT (.) YESTERDAY GERMAN CORPORAL COOK WITH KITCHEN STRAYED INTO PT 29 AREA AND TODAY GERMAN STRETCHER BEARERS BROUGHT WOUNDED AUSTRALIAN CAPTAIN TO OUR LINES BY MISTAKE (.)
(3) AT 0715 HRS TODAY 3/400 INF ADVANCED AGAINST 23 BN AND WERE REPULSED (.) TK AND INF ATTACK ON 15 BN COMMENCING AT 1445 HRSALSO DEFEATED (.) OTHERWISE COMPARATIVELY QUIET DAY (.) ACCORDING TO PRISONERS AND INTERCEPTS ENEMY HAS SUFFERED SEVERE LOSSES AND IS FORCED TO AMALGAMATE UNITS (.) HIS PANZER DIVS HAVE NOT YET MADE CONCERTED ATTACK NOR HAVE OURS (.) FURTHER BOMBING ATTACKS TODAY ON TAC 9 AUST DIV AND SOME SHELLING LAST NIGHT CASUALTIES LIGHT (.)
ENDS

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : TAC 9 AUST DIV 0349 31/10

FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) BEGINS (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM GEN MORSHEAD 0245 HRS 31 OCT (.)

(1) ATTACKS ON 20 BDE AFTERNOON 29 OCT WAS BY THREE BNS SUPPORTED BY 20/30 TANKS SP GUNS AND USUAL ARTY (.) KEEPING OUT OF RANGE OF OUR A TK GUNS TANKS COVERED INF ADVANCE BY FIRE (.) LATER SEVERAL MK 4 TANKS CAME FWD AND KNOCKED OUT FOUR OF OUR 6 PDRS WHILE OUR A TK GUNNERS KNOCKED OUT THREE TANKS ONE OF WHICH BURNED OUT (.) ENEMY WITHDREW IN MT WHICH CAME FWD FOR THE PURPOSE AND AFTERWARDS SOME 40 STRETCHER PARTIES WERE SEEN EVACUATING WOUNDED UNTIL DARK (.) PRISONERS ADMITTED SEVERE CASUALTIES AND STATED FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO CAPTURE PT 29 AND 15 BN POSN WOULD BE MADE DURING NIGHT (.) THE ATTACKS EVENTUATED NO FEWER THAN FOUR ATTEMPTS BEING MADE THE LAST ALMOST REACHING OUR FWD POSTS (.) AGAIN HY CASUALTIES INFLICTED CHIEFLY BY ARTY (.) DESPITE BIG FRONTAGES AND DEPLETED STRENGTHS 15 AND 17 BNS HAVE NEVER BEEN AT ALL DETERRED (.) THEY HAVE FOUGHT SPLENDIDLY ARE IN WONDERFUL SPIRIT AND KNOW THEY HAVE THE MEASURE OF THE GERMAN (.) THE ENEMY IS ALLOWING HIMSELF TO BE DEFEATED IN DETAIL (.)

(2) AS RESULT OF 23 BN NOT BEING ABLE TO GET FWD IN OPERATION 28/29 OCT 15 BN WERE IN EXPOSED POSN WITH ENEMY ON THREE SIDES BUT ENEMY TO THE EAST WITHDREW AND 15 BN REFUSED NORTHERN FLANK (.) ON FOLLOWING NIGHT 23 BN ADVANCED 1000 YDS AND DURING DUST STORM 30 OCT MADE FURTHER ADVANCE AND OCCUPIED TEXT BOOK POSN LINKING WITH 15 AND 13 BNS (.) 23 BN ACTION ON 28/29 OCT WAS VERY FINE EFFORT (.) THEY WERE OUTNUMBERED ENEMY'S POSN UNUSUALLY STRONG AND IN ADDITION KILLING NEARLY 100 GERMANS CAPTURED 160 (.) ALSO CAPTURED FOUR BRAUN HV GUNS AND FOUR 50 MM A TK GUNS (.) DIV HAS CAPTURED THREE 88 MM GUNS ALSO CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MT WHICH UNITS ARE SLOW TO REPORT (.)

(3) LAST NIGHT GERMAN TRUCK CARRYING 88 MM AMN TWO OFFRS AND THREE ORS ENTERED 15 BN AREA AND WAS DESTROYED BY SA FIRE (.) THREE GERMAN MEDICAL OFFRS WITH TRUCK AND EQUIPMENT CAME INTO 17 BN AREA AND WERE CAPTURED (.)

(4) AT 2200 HRS 30 OCT WE RENEWED OPERATIONS COMMENCED TWO NIGHTS AGO, HAVING SAME ARTY UNDER COMD (.) AS RESULT OF TWO EXPERIENCES IN PRESENT OPERATIONS WE ARE NOT USING TANKS IN THE ATTACK AS CONSIDER ADVANTAGES CHIEF OF WHICH IS EFFECT ON ENEMY MORALE ARE OUTWIEGHED BY DISADVANTAGES'(.) TANKS THEREFORE BEING KEPT IN RESERVE (.) 32 BN HAVE TAKEN FIRST OBJECTIVE ON MAIN RD AND AIREADY 68 PRISONERS INCLUDING 41 GERMANS ARE IN DIV CAGE WITH OTHERS ON THE WAY (.) 24 AND 48 BNS ARE NOW ATTACKING ENEMY'S STRONG POSN BETWEEN RD AND RAILWAY IN REAR AND ARE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS (.) ENDS

MOST IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : TAC 9 AUST DIV 0402 3/11

FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) BEGINS (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM GEN MORSHEAD 2340 HRS 2 NOV (.)

(1) OPERATIONS 31 OCT (.) (A) 24 AND 48 BNS CAPTURED FIRST AND SECOND OBJECTIVES ACCORDING TO PLAN AND WITH NORMAL LOSSES ENEMY'S POSITION BEING 3000 YDS IN DEPTH BETWEEN ROAD AND RAILWAY (.) DURING HALT ON SECOND OBJECTIVE PRIOR TO CONTINUING ATTACK NORTH AND SOUTH BOTH BNS WERE SUBJECTED TO HY MG AND MORTAR FIRE ALSO RIFLE GRENADES OF NEW AND VERY EFFECTIVE TYPE (.) CASUALTIES SO HY THAT BNS GRADUALLY WITHDREW AND FINALLY OCCUPIED POSN ON ROAD RIDGE NEAR START LINE (.) MEANTIME PIONEER BN HAD PASSED THROUGH 32 BN ATTACKED NORTHWARDS AND GAINED POSN DESIGNED TO CUT ENEMY OFF (.) (B) DIFFICULTY EXPERIENCED IN GETTING VEHICLES ACROSS RAILWAY EMBANKMENT 12 FEET HIGH (.) BULLDOZER TAKEN FWD FOR MAKING OF GAP DESTROYED BY MINE (.) ENGINEERS WORKED VERY HARD BUT GAP NOT COMPLETED UNTIL NEARLY FIRST LIGHT AND BECAUSE OF CONGESTION MANY VEHICLES HAD TO BE SENT BACK BEFORE DAWN WITH RESULT SUPPORTING WEAPONS DID NOT REACH PIONEERS (.) ENEMY QUICKLY DISCOVERED GAP AND MAINTAINED HY FIRE ON IT (.) (C) 40 RTR MOVED FWD AT FIRST LIGHT AND EXCEPT FOR ONE SQN WAS IMMOBILISED IN LARGE MINEFIELD FOR CONSIDERABLE PERIOD AND LOST SEVERAL TANKS ON MINES AND FROM GUNFIRE (.) (D) DESPITE THREAT OF BEING CUT OFF GERMANS STOOD FIRM AND FOUGHT STOUTLY (.) FIRST COUNTER ATTACKS CAME FROM EAST AND WEST AT FIRST LIGHT EACH COY STRONG AND WERE DEFEATED (.) FOLLOWING RECCE IN STRENGTH ENEMY LATER ATTACKED PIONEERS WITH TANKS AND FORCED THEM BACK ON OUR MAIN POSN (.) THEN ATTACKED OUR FLANK AND WAS MET BY OUR TANKS WHICH KNOCKED OUT FIVE WHEREUPON ENEMY WITHDREW (.) AT 1600 HRS BOMBARDED 26 BDE POSN FOR 30 MINUTES AND THEN ADVANCED WITH INF AND TANKS FROM NW BETWEEN RD AND RY (.) AFTER BEING BEATEN OFF ENEMY LAUNCHED A FRESH ATTACK WITH 18 MK 111 TANKS AND INF (.) INF WERE SOON STOPPED WHILE TANKS CAME ON ENGAGED OUR TANKS AND DROVE THEM OFF, THEN REMAINED IN THE AREA UNTIL LAST LIGHT COVERING HIS ADVANCED TPS (.) DURING DAY 40 RTR LOST 31 TANKS SOME RECOVERABLE (.) (E) PRISONERS CAPTURED GERMANS 481 ITALIANS 124 (.) (F) BECAUSE OF THEIR REDUCED STRENGTHS AND CERTAINTY OF FURTHER ATTACKS NEXT DAY 24 AND 48 BNS WERE RELIEVED DURING NIGHT BY 28 AND 43 BNS

HOLDING TEL EL EISA (.) THIS RELIEF WAS DIFFICULT OPERATION AT SHORT NOTICE AND WAS CARRIED OUT WITH GREATEST EXPEDITION (.)

(2) OPERATIONS 1 NOV (.)

(A) ONE OF THE MOST DETERMINED ATTACKS EVER MADE AGAINST 9 AUST DIV WAS LAUNCHED AT 1215 HRS (.) IT WAS BY INF AND TANKS AGAINST 24 BDE AND CAME FROM THREE DIRECTIONS NE NORTH AND NW (.) THE ISSUE WAS NOT DECIDED UNTIL NIGHT AND IT WAS NOT UNTIL MIDNIGHT THAT IT ACTUALLY CEASED (.) OUR TANKS WHICH NUMBERED ONLY FIVE RUNNERS LATER INCREASED TO ELEVEN WERE NOT USED (.) ENEMY'S ARTY FIRE WAS HEAVY THROUGHOUT BUT NOT SO HEAVY AS OURS (.) LATE IN THE AFTERNOON THREE MK 111 TANKS TOOK UP POSN BETWEEN 24 BDE AND ENEMY'S EASTERN DEFENCES AND KEPT UP STEADY FIRE ESPECIALLY ON OUR A TK GUNS (.) AT SAME TIME ENEMY MANNED OUR DERELICT VALENTINES AND OPENED FIRE WITH 2 PDRS (.) OUR MED GUNS EFFECTIVELY DEALT WITH THIS PARTY (.) DURING THE DAY WE HAD 12 A TK GUNS KNOCKED OUT (.) 24 BDE MADE STAUNCH STAND, HELD THEIR GROUND, AND INFLICTED SEVERE CASUALTIES (.) BECAUSE OF OPERATIONS ON OUR LEFT FLANK TO TAKE PLACE THAT NIGHT IT WAS VITAL FOR US TO STAND FIRM (.) (B) OUR CASUALTIES SINCE 30 OCT KILLED 11 OFFRS 142 ORS WOUNDED 43 AND 548 (.) DIRECT HIT ON COMMAND POST 24 BDE RESULTED IN THREE OFFRS KILLED AND FOUR WOUNDED (.) BRIG GODFREY SERIOUSLY WOUNDED WOUNDED IN STOMACH LT COL RISSON ALSO WOUNDED (.) EVANS NOW COMMANDING BDE AND GEHRMANN TEMPORARILY CRE (.) OTHER SENIOR OFFRS WOUNDED SINCE 30 OCT LT COLS BALFE WEIR AND HAMMER LAST WOUNDED SLIGHTLY (.) (C) WE HAVE HAD EXCELLENT AND CONTINUOUS SUPPORT FROM RAF FLIGHTS OF 18 BOSTONS BEING ORDER OF THE DAY (.) ENEMY BOMBERS HAVE MADE NUMBER OF ATTACKS ON US BUT IN LESSER DEGREE THAN OURS (.)

(3) BEFORE PRESENT OPERATIONS COMMENCED ENEMY WAS HOLDING DEFENCES WITH ITALIAN UNITS SANDWICHED BETWEEN GERMANS ALTHOUGH IN THE NORTH MOSTLY GERMANS (.) 90 LT DIV WAS IN RESERVE BUT WAS SOON MOVED TO OUR FRONT (.) IN OPENING ATTACK 9 AUST DIV WAS OPPOSED BY PART OF 115 REGT OF 15 PANZER DIV AND PART OF 125 REGT (.) 155 REGT 90 LT DIV DID THE ATTACKING AGAINST PT 29 AND SUFFERED SO HEAVILY HAD TO BE WITHDRAWN TO REST AND REORGANISE (.) IN THIS LAST ACTION 361 REGT 90 TL DIV ATTACKED US AND 155 REGT HAD TO BE SENT UP TO REINFORCE THEM (.) PIONEER BN OF 90 LT 580 RECCE BN AND KIEL GP ARE IN NORTH (.) ALL GERMAN

INF COMMITTED EXCEPT TWO PARACHUTE BDES IN RUWEISAT AREA (.)
(4) OPERATIONS 2 NOV (.) AT 0105 HRS 151 AND 152 BDES UNDER COMMAND NZ DIV AND MOARI BN ATTACKED ON FRONTAGE 4000 YDS WITH RIGHT FLANK ON PT 29 TO DEPTH OF 4000 YDS WITH OBJECT FORMING ANOTHER BRIDGEHEAD FOR 10 ARMD CORPS (.) ATTACK SUCCESSFUL AND THIS TIME OUR ARMOUR HAS GONE FORTH (.) TANK BATTLE FOUGHT ALL DAY RESULTING IN TOTAL 46 DEFINITE AND 61 PROBABLE ENEMY TANKS KNOCKED OUT (.) ARMD CARS ALSO DESTROYED LARGE NUMBERS ENEMY MT (.) THESE OPERATIONS RELIEVED PRESSURE ON US AND EXCEPT FOR ARTY FIRE AND STUKAS WE HAVE HAD QUIET DAY (.)
(5) COMD EIGHTH ARMY SENT ME FOLLOWING NOTE TODAY (.) BEGINS (.)
I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE MAGNIFICIENT WORK YOUR DIVISION HAS DONE ON THE RIGHT OF THE LINE (.) YOUR MEN ARE ABSOLUTELY SPLENDID AND THE PART THEY HAVE PLAYED IN THIS BATTLE IS BEYOND ALL PRAISE (.)
PLEASE TELL THE DIVISION THAT I AM DELIGHTED WITH THE WAY THEY HAVE FOUGHT (.) ENDS

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : TAC 9 AUST DIV 0413 3/11

FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM GEN MORSHEAD 2305 HRS 3 NOV (.)

(1) LAST NIGHT 24 BDE SENT OUT FIGHTING PATROLS FROM EACH BN 2 OFFRS 40 ORS (.) CONSIDERED LIKELY ENEMY MIGHT BE WITHDRAWING BUT SOON DISCOVERED THIS WAS NOT SO ON OUR FRONTS (.) AFTER WILLING HAND TO HAND FIGHTING WE INFLICTED MANY CASUALTIES SOME WITH BAYONETS CAPTURED 22 GERMANS AND OURSELVES HAD 32 CASUALTIES INCLUDING THREE OFFRS KILLED (.) PRISONERS INCLUDED CLERK, BOOTMAKER AND DRIVER OF 90 LIGHT DIV WHO WITH 60 OTHERS HAD BEEN RUSHED FORWARD FROM REAR HQ (.)

(2) AT FIRST LIGHT 20 BDE SENT OUT CARRIER PATROLS AND MADE CONTACT WITH OUR ARMD CARS (.) FIRED ON BY BTY 88 MM GUNS, CAME BACK AND TOOK OUT FOO MED REGT (.) FOUND THAT ENEMY INF HAD TAKEN UP NEW LINE PROTECTING APPROACH NORTHWARDS TO MAIN ROAD (.) AT FIRST LIGHT 24 BDE DESTROYED TWO AMMUNITION TRUCKS WITH A TK GUNS(.)

(3) PATROLS 24 BDE IN EARLY AFTERNOON DISCOVERED ONE 88 MM AND TWO 20 MM GUNS COMPLETE AND ABANDONED (.) THEY HAD BEEN FIRING ON US FROM THE EAST (.)

(4) DURING AFTERNOON BECAME KNOWN ENEMY RETIRING BUT HOLDING COASTAL SECTOR UNTIL THE LAST (.) 9 AUST DIV CAV AND 24 BDE TOOK APPROPRIATE ACTION AND ENGINEERS CLEARING ROADS OF MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS (.) WE ARE NOT TAKING IMMEDIATE PART IN PURSUIT BUT HAVING REST AND REORGANISING (.) 1200 REINFORCEMENTS DUE FORWARD 5 NOV (.) 151 INF BD PLACED UNDER COMMAND (.)

(5) THE STAGE IS NOW SET

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : TAC 9 AUST DIV 0429 4/11

FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM GEN MORSHEAD 2235 HRS 4 NOV 42 (.)

(1) DURING NIGHT ENEMY WITHDREW FROM COASTAL AREA NORTH OF OUR POSITION (.) WE FOLLOWED UP AND CAPTURED 20 PRISONERS MUCH EQUIPMENT THREE TEN TON LORRIES AND MANY A TK GUNS OF ALL CALIBRES (.) SURVEY OF AREA ADEQUATELY CONFIRMED SEVERE LOSSES INFLICTED BY 24 AND 48 BNS IN THEIR ATTACK EASTWARDS AND EFFECTIVENESS OUR ARTY (.) ELSEWHERE WE HAVE BURIED GREAT NUMBER OF GERMANS AND STILL MANY TO BURY (.)

(2) 9 AUST DIV CAVALRY AND CARRIER PATROLS HAVE MAINTAINED TOUCH WITH ENEMY THROUGHOUT THE DAY (.) CAVALRY LOST TWO TANKS ON MINES (.) ENEMY HOLDING IN STRENGTH TELL EL SALHABI AREA EAST OF SIDI RAHMAN AND SHELLED OUR POSITION ALL DAY (.) WE HAVE ADVANCED OUR LEFT FLANK AND TONIGHT 24 BDE MOVED FORWARD 1000 YARDS (.) WHILE WE ARE HOLDING ENEMY ON THE RIGHT ACTION ON LARGE SCALE IS DEVELOPING ON THE LEFT (.)

(3) WE HAVE CLEARED COASTAL AND MAIN ROADS AND OLD MATRUH ROAD FORWARD TO OUR FDL's (.) ENCOUNTERED SEVEN MINEFIELDS ON COASTAL ROAD (.) WHOLE AREA LAVISHLY MINED (.)

(4) DIRECT HIT TODAY ON 43 BN HQ DURING CONFERENCE RESULTING IN IO PIONEER OFFR AND A TK SGT KILLED AND SIX OFFICERS WOUNDED (.) THIS MORNING DIRECT HIT ON LT COL WAIN'S DUGOUT HE WAS EVACUATED WITH CONCUSSION (.) 13 BN COMMAND POST ALSO HIT FIVE ORS CASUALTIES ONE KILLED

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : TAC 9 AUST DIV 0445 5/11

FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE (.) PERSONAL FOR GEN BLAMEY FROM GEN MORSHEAD 2220 HRS 5 NOV 42 (.)

(1) ON 20 BDE FRONT LAST NIGHT EXCHANGE OF SMALL ARMS AND MORTAR FIRE RATHER MORE THAN USUAL UNTIL MIDNIGHT WHEN ENEMY CEASED FIRE AND ON 24 BDE FRONT UNTIL 0300 HRS (.) AT FIRST LIGHT MOBILE COY 15 BN PUSHED FORWARD TO SIDI RAHMAN AND CAPTURED 155 GERMANS WHO HAD DALLIED TOO LONG ON 24 BDE FRONT (.) 24 BDE PATROLS MOVED FORWARD AND CLEARED AREA OF SEVERAL SMALL POCKETS (.) OUR TOTAL PRISONERS FOR THE MORNING 182 INCLUDING 5 GROUND STAFF GERMAN AIR FORCE (.) TOTAL PRISONERS SINCE 23 OCT 1885 OF WHICH 1286 GERMANS (.)

(2) 9 AUST DIV CAV PUSHED FORWARD AND SECURED DABA AND LANDING GROUNDS TO SOUTH AND EN ROUTE (.) MEANTIME 51 HIGHLAND DIV FROM TELL EL AQQAQIR AND 151 BDE FROM TEL EL EISA AREA WITH 7 AUST FD REGT, 11 AUST AA BTY, 9 AUST A TK BTY ANB 7 AUST FD COY UNDER COMMAND WERE DIRECTED ON DABA AREA (.) ON THEIR ARRIVAL 9 AUST DIV CAV MOVED INTO RESERVE (.) RAAF QUICKLY FOLLOWED UP CAV ADVANCE (.)

(3) 9 AUST DIV BEING CONCENTRATED ON BEACH BETWEEN SIDI RAHMAN AND TEL EL EISA FOR REST

IMMEDIATE

(COPY)

TO : AUSFORCE

FROM : MAIN 9 AUST DIV 0125 10/11

OFFR ONLY (.) MOST SECRET (.) PRIVATE FOR BRIG PULVER (.)

FOLLOWING FOR LANDFORCES MELBOURNE BEGINS (.) MOST SECRET (.)

OFFR ONLY (.) FROM GEN MORSHEAD (.)

(1) CASUALTIES SINCE 23 OCT KILLED AND DIED OF WOUNDS 51 OFFICERS 469 ORS WOUNDED 126 AND 1822 (.)

(2) CASUALTIES BY ARMS (.)

INF	145	and	1745
RAA	12	and	170
RAE	7	and	109
Pioneers	6	and	117
MG	3	and	71
Medical	2	and	40
Cav	1	and	19
Others	1	and	20 (.)

(3) UNITS WITH OVER 200 CASUALTIES (.)

24 Bn	20	and	322
48 Bn	20	and	306
13 Bn	23	and	263
17 Bn	13	and	217
23 Bn	16	and	186 (.)

(4) FOREGOING EXCLUDES MISSING 8 AND 210 (.) UNITS CHIEFLY CONCERNED 32 BN 2 AND 53, PIONEERS 3 AND 46, 43 BN Nil AND 39 (.)

IMMEDIATE

E.4/PO'H.

Australian Military Forces

N.S.W. L. of C. AREA

Eastern Command

Address your reply to Headquarters, Eastern Command, Paddington, and quote Number hereunder

Ops. V.024

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
TELEPHONE FO 455
MS 17-152
Date 24 JAN
T.O.R. 2085 hrs.
E.C. REGISTRY NUMBER
406 G.S. REG 1326

Victoria Barracks,
Paddington, N.S.W.
22nd January, 1943.
22 JAN 1943

H.Q.,
2 Aust. Corps,
HOME FORCES.

DEMOLITIONS : NORTHERN RIVERS AREA, N.S.W.

Further to this H.Q. 244804 of 5 Dec 1942, your advice concerning the suggestion that a bridge at FAIRY HILL should not be prepared for demolition is awaited.

2. Further investigations of the bridges shown in your list indicate that Bridge No. 9, crossing PULGAMBAR CK., is in the same category as that near FAIRY HILL. As the demolition of the bridge would not create an effective obstacle, your approval is requested to the omission of this bridge from the list.

(A. C. FEWTRELL) Major General,
G.O.C., N.S.W. L. of C. Area.

RECEIVED
24 JAN 43
JAUSE, CORPS

Inv

GENERAL STAFF
MS 15/4 58
File
Date 1911
Time
Copies

S E C+R E T

2 Aust Corps,
Jan 43.

G 2184

Subject: Denial of Resources to the Enemy.

3 Aust Div
CE
DA & QMG
A
Q

1. Attached herewith for informations is copy of First Aust Army G (O) 781 of 17 Jan 43.

	Copy No.	Action	Initials
G.O.C.			
B.G.S.			
Ops.			
S.D.			
Int.			
B.B.			

Encl.

BGS,
2 Aust Corps.

SECRET

Subject :- Denial of resources to the enemy

HQ First Aust Army (AIF)
17 Jan 43
G(o) 731

MS 15/1 27
18/1
0900
1.

2 Aust Corps —
1 US Corps
York Force
3 Aust Armd Div

Copy :- CE
G(I)
G(SD)
DA & QMG
A
Q

1. Reference LHQ SM 23381 of 1 Dec 42 forwarded to 2 Aust Corps and 5 Aust Div under cover of First Aust Army G(o) 642 of 6 Dec 42.

2. LHQ was asked for clarification of SM 23381, and the subtended reply has now been received :-

" With reference to your G(Ops) 704 of 4th January the interpretation of LHQ SM 23381 of 1st December supplied to Second Aust Army applies equally to First Aust Army.

The interpretation supplied to Second Army was that the planning, preparation and execution of all demolitions should be undertaken by the L of C Area Commander, but that the order for such demolition might be given by an Army or Corps Commander.

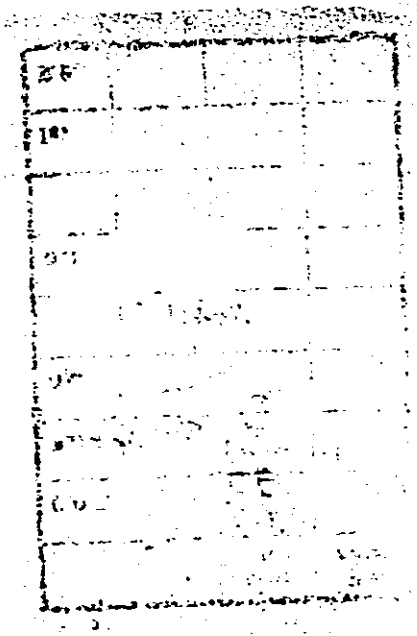
The situation envisaged is one in which invasion has actually taken place. The question of whether or not denial is implemented is contingent on whether the enemy is to be fought and defeated on the spot or whether military withdrawal is to take place. On this point the field commander is the sole authority and therefore the proper person to give the order for the execution of denial. It is not intended, however, to unduly restrict the L of C Commander in circumstances in which it is obvious to him that denial should be carried out by obliging him to refer to the field commander. "

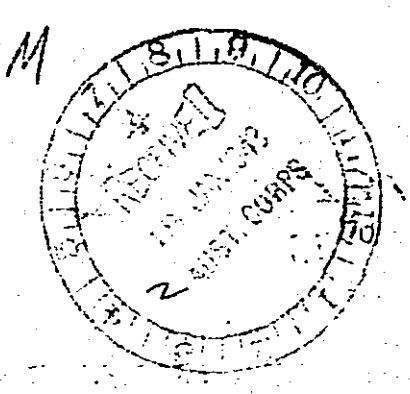
3. Copies of SM 23381 for 1 US Corps, and of SM 23381 and First Aust Army G(o) 295 of 2 Aug 42 for 3 Aust Armd Div, are forwarded herewith. Acknowledgment of receipt is requested.

		Copy to	For Action
G.O.C.		3 Div CE	
B.G.S.	Rud	DA+QMG A Q	
Ops.			Ops
	18-1-43		
S.D.			
Int.			
R.R.			

J A Pickering Lt Col
for Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

GS
Where is the "Aok" & attachment as in para 4




RECEIVED
2 CORPS

TELEPHONES— B5277 MFB.SJ

Australian Military Forces

Please quote this number when replying.

	/	21

Address H.Q.
2 (S.Q.) L.of C. Sub-Area,
KELVIN GROVE

Date 12 Jan 43

SECRET

GENERAL STAFF
File WPS/157-/56
Date 13/1
Time 1655
Copies 1

H.Q.,
Q'land L.of C. Area.

D E M O L I T I O N S

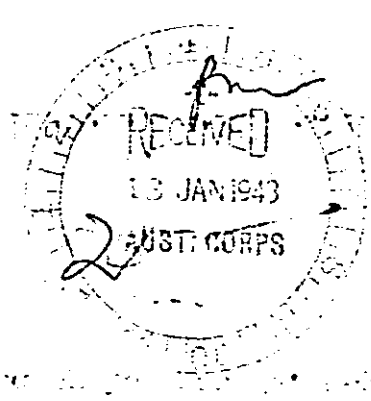
-/- 1. With reference to 2 Aust Corps memo. No. G2078 of 31 Dec 42 herewith please find report and appendices covering Demolition Recce of Area, N.S.W. BORDER - BRISBANE, prepared by 10 Aust Fd. Coy.

Col.
(J. CRAVEN)
COMD. 2 (S.Q.) L.of C. Sub-Area.

Copy to:
B.G.S. 2 Aust Corps - for information
C.E. 2 Aust Corps - for information

B

14-1-43.


RECEIVED
13 JAN 1943
AUST. CORPS

5

Encl 8

GENERAL STAFF
File M/5. 55.
Date 21/12
Time
Copies

SECRET.

2 Aust Corps
31 Dec 42

Subject: Demolitions.

HQ 2 Sub Area Q'land L of C Area.
Copy to HQ Q'land L of C Area.
" " CE 2 Aust Corps.

1. Forwarded herewith direct at request of GSO 1, Q'land L of C Area, are detailed report and appendices covering demolition recce of area NSW BORDER - BRISBANE, made by 10 Aust Fd Coy.

2. Details of the structures and proposed methods of demolition are shown in the appendices.

3. The report and appendices have NOT been considered in detail by CE 2 Aust Corps or CRE Corps Tps.

4. As these appendices are the only copies available it is requested that they be returned to this HQ when Q'land L of C Area have finished with them.

BGS,
2 Aust Corps.

G CE/GS.JH
CET 151

5

GENERAL STAFF
SECRET
File 11/5 Sub 1
GR Branch, 54
2 AUST CORPS. 23/12/42
Time 1 pm
22 DEC 42
HQ 1 AUST CORPS

SUBJECT : DEMOLITIONS.

TO : 'G' Branch.

1. Ref G 1801 of 25 NOV, G 1895 of 10 DEC and 3 Aust Div G 26/57 of 13 DEC.

2. The preparation of demolitions in 3 Aust Div Sector was discussed by Capt SUTHERLAND, IORE, with CRE 3 Aust Div, Lt-Col SYMONS, on 19 DEC.

3. The situation has changed substantially as 15 Aust Fd Coy together with RAE HQ and 2 Coys from RAE 2 Aust Corps have now come under comd LHQ.

4. Col SYMONS said that 3 Aust Div's position was :-
(a) Primary role - def of BRISBANE.
(b) MARY RIVER was too far north for FDL with present tps.
(c) Div could not move either north nor deploy in localities of initial concentrations in wet weather owing to lack of comns.
(d) First requirements were to make the necessary improvements in comns following which trg and preparation of demolitions could be carried out.
(e) Div Engrs were engaged on works programme including employment of 600 inf pers per day which would occupy DEC. Works would occupy also part of JAN and a few jobs might extend into FEB.
(f) Div was undertaking inf trg with assault boats in period 4-9 JAN and this would entail engr assistance.
(g) Bde Gp exercises, largely combined ops, were scheduled for period 20-30 JAN and these wd require participation of engrs.
(h) Engrs had not received sufficient tactical trg and it was desired to complete trg as soon as practicable. Trg should include preparation for demolition of limited No of structures.
(i) Principal structures across MARY RIVER listed by HQ 2 Aust Corps for first priority in preparations for demolition were of reinforced concrete. These require the use of pneumatic drills but RAE 3 Aust Div has only a portion of its WE of drills and cannot therefore commence the preparation of these structures unless the Rd programme is halted.
(j) Owing to reduced number of engr pers available, CRE desires for next couple of months to confine demolition preparations to 3 structures which will provide his tps with varied trg. After completion of roads and trg, CRE would be prepared to undertake additional demolition preparations.

5. The prospect of arranging for preparation of demolitions will be further lessened if 4 Aust Fd Coy is also taken off Div's OOB.

6. I ation's views are acceptable from t

7. I 3 Aust Div could be informed in reply t th the preparation of the first p taken in hand as soon as the tech- n c in view of the reduced engr strength a ed until 1 FEB 43.

	Copy to	For Action
G.O.C.	24/12.	
B.G.S.		
Ops.		Ops
	23/12.	
S.		
Int.		
A/B.		

C.W. Sutherland. Capt
for (H. Bachtold) Brig.
CE 2 AUST CORPS.

G CE/GS.JH
CET 151

54

GENERAL STAFF
S E C R E T
File
CE Branch, 23/12
2 AUST CORPS. 1045
Time
22 DEC 42
Copies

SUBJECT : DEMOLITIONS.

TO : 'G' Branch.

1. Ref G 1801 of 25 NOV, G 1895 of 10 DEC and 3 Aust Div G 26/57 of 13 DEC.

2. The preparation of demolitions in 3 Aust Div Sector was discussed by Capt SUTHERLAND, IORE, with CRE 3 Aust Div, Lt-Col SYMONS, on 19 DEC.

3. The situation has changed substantially as 15 Aust Fd Coy together with RAE HQ and 2 Coys from RAE 2 Aust Corps have now come under comd IHQ.

4. Col SYMONS said that 3 Aust Div's position was :-
(a) Primary role - def of BRISBANE.
(b) MARY RIVER was too far north for FDL with present tps.
(c) Div could not move either north nor deploy in localities of initial concentrations in wet weather owing to lack of comns.
(d) First requirements were to make the necessary improvements in comns following which trg and preparation of demolitions could be carried out.
(e) Div Engrs were engaged on works programme including employment of 600 inf pers per day which would occupy DEC. Works would occupy also part of JAN and a few jobs might extend into FEB.
(f) Div was undertaking inf trg with assault boats in period 4-9 JAN and this would entail engr assistance.
(g) Bde Gp exercises, largely combined ops, were scheduled for period 20-30 JAN and these wd require participation of engrs.
(h) Engrs had not received sufficient tactical trg and it was desired to complete trg as soon as practicable. Trg should include preparation for demolition of limited No of structures.
(i) Principal structures across MARY RIVER listed by HQ 2 Aust Corps for first priority in preparations for demolition were of reinforced concrete. These require the use of pneumatic drills but RAE 3 Aust Div has only a portion of its WE of drills and cannot therefore commence the preparation of these structures unless the Rd programme is halted.
(j) Owing to reduced number of engr pers available, CRE desires for next couple of months to confine demolition preparations to 3 structures which will provide his tps with varied trg. After completion of roads and trg, CRE would be prepared to undertake additional demolition preparations.

5. The prospect of arranging for preparation of demolitions will be further lessened if 4 Aust Fd Coy is also taken off Div's OOB.

6. It is considered that the formation's views are acceptable from the engineer point of view.

7. If the foregoing is approved, 3 Aust Div could be informed in reply to G 26/57 that commencement with the preparation of the first priority demolitions should be taken in hand as soon as the technical details are finalised but in view of the reduced engr strength available, a start may be deferred until 1 FEB 43.

C.W. Sutherland. Capt
for (H. Bachtold) Brig.
CE 2 AUST CORPS.

Serial No. OFFICE DA
Group
In Reply

Secret

Australian Military Forces

GENERAL STAFF
TELEPHONE
File M/S
Date 20/12
Please quote this number when Replying
Time
Copies 1

Address A Gp. H.Q. VDC.
Box 136,
GRAFTON.
19 Dec.42.

2934

H.Q. 3 L. of C. Sub-area.
H.Q. 2 Aust. Corps.

3 L. of C. OP. INS. NO.1.
REF. PARA 3: PLAN OF DEMOLITIONS.

1. Attached, copies of plans of demolitions as submitted by 1 and 2 Bns. VDC.

2. Plans for demolitions in new 22 Bn. VDC area will be submitted early in the coming week.

A.Glasbrook for Col.
H.F.White. Comd. A Gp.
(In absence of Gp Comd.)

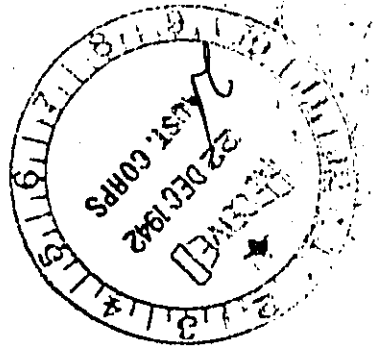
Copy. H.Q. VDC (with attachments)
File.

G

	Copy to	Action
G.O.C.		CE.
B.G.S.		
Ops.		Ops.
		CE.
S.D.		
Int.		
A.B.		

		Serial No.
	No. of Groups **GR.**	OFFICE DATE STAMP

Date	In Reply to Number



Australian Military Forces

GENTELEPHONE
File 11/5 — 22/11
Please quote this Number when Replying 1430
SE Time 42 11
Copies
Address 2 Bn. VDC.
Box 89,
GRAFTON.

COPY.

SECRET.

2 Nov.42.

H.Q.
A Group V.D.C.

2 Bn. V.D.C. DEMOLITION PLAN.
Reference Op. Ins. No. 6, 14 Oct.42.
Paras 2 and 5.

Reference Map Strat 4 m. - 1 in. (2nd Edition)
Sheets GRAFTON and MACLEAN.

1. It is assumed that for the present there will NOT be any enemy attack from the WEST.

2. Demolitions are classified as:

(i)	Immediate	Appendix "A".
(ii)	Defensive	Appendix "B".

Note:- A number of demolitions, Punt removals, Road Blocks are considered helpful by Coy. Commanders within their own tactical areas. These do not affect the movement of the Bn. or the Field Army, and particulars are retained at Bn. H.Q.

3. The CLARENCE RIVER BRIDGE (Road and Rail) is not included in "defensive demolitions", but is left for higher authority. It can be made useless for a day or two by lifting bascule span, cutting off current, and removing any essential part of the emergency lifting gear.

R.B. WITHERS. Lieut."
For E.A. Woodward. Lt.Col.
C.O. 2 Bn. V.D.C.

Australian Military Forces

G/ TELEPHONE TAPE
1145 — 22/12
Please quote this Number when Replying
Time 1420
Copies 1
Address

COPY

APPENDIX "A".

Task.	Map Location.	Priority.		
Bridges.		Enemy at Woolgoolga	Yamba	Woodburn.
(a) MORORO Reinforced concrete on piles, lift span 648 ft.	639359	Nil	Nil	1
(b) OYSTER CHANNEL Reinforced concrete on piles 397' 6"	646352	Nil	1	2
(c) PALMERS CHANNEL Timber beams on piles (see SPORTSMANS CREEK below)	641351	Nil	1	2
(d) SPORTSMANS CREEK at LAWRENCE. Timber easily demolished by blowing off piles.	623345	Nil	2	1

Note:- All these waterways will stop all vehicles and A.F.V's. Demolition chambers in the abutments of the concrete bridges would blow out the approaches and break up the end spans: they would be very difficult to repair.

Australian Military Forces

GENERAL STAFF
TELEPHONE
File 1/1/8 22/14
Date 14-30
Please quote this Number when Replying
Copies 1

Address

COPY.

APPENDIX "B"

Task.	Map Location.	Priority.
1. BRIDGES.		
(a) ROMIAKA Reinforced concrete on piles. 70'	644353	1
(b) SHARK CREEK Reinforced concrete bowstring type on piles 151'	632343	2
(c) COLDSTREAM RIVER Timber: blow off piles.	626336	3
(d) McFARLANES. Composite wood and iron, lift span, access to WOODFORD ISLAND.	633347	6
(e) SWAN CREEK Timber.	610324	4
(f) COLDSTREAM at TUCABIA. Timber.	621325	5

Note: see "Note" to APPENDIX "A".

2. ROAD BLOCKS.			
(a) Mt. LOFTY 019	Map	520286	Higher authority.
(b) BROADMEADOWS 016	"	541330	" "

Note: No other demolitions are useful if forward area is lost: rivers are fordable in normal seasons.

Australian Military Forces

TELEPHONE

Please quote this Number when Replying

Address

APPENDIX "B" (Continued).

	Map Location.	Priority.
3. PUNTS.		
(a) HARWOOD. 30 vehicles.	638352	1
(b) ASHBY 4 vehicles (small)	633349	3
(c) LAWRENCE 4 vehicles (large)	624345	2

Note: Punts are on fixed lines and can be sunk, or towed, or allowed to draft away. We can cross the river at any point with heavy equipment if we retain possession of C.S.R. Coy's can barges and towage.

4. WHARVES.

Demolitions not recommended.

(i) Unnecessary if adequate preparation is made for channel at river mouth, mines, naval or aerial.

(ii) Task too great for Field Forces.

(iii) Deepwater close to bank allows improvised landings.

(iv) Wharves if intact, will be used by enemy if allowed (vide (i) above), and will make definite targets for our Air Force.

Australian Military Forces

TELEPHONE
File 11/5
Date 22/12
Please quote this Number when Replying 1/4/10
SEC | 42 | 1622
Copies

COPY.

SECRET. 4.

Address Box 216 Lismore.
October 1942.

"A" Gp.

V.P's DEMOLITION PLAN.
REF. Gp. COMD. VERBALLY.

Detailed estimate of quantity of explosive required for hasty demolition of V.P's in 1 Bn. and 22 Bn. (prospective) areas as under:-

Town.	Bridges.	Kind of charge.	lbs.
Lismore	Robert White	(Cutting piles Girders	370
	Terania Creek	(bracing (wood)	370
	Main	Ctg. Steel Casions & Wd.Gdrs.	600
	Simes	Ctg. Piles Gdrs. & Brcg.Wood.	200
		Total for Lismore	1540
Murwillumbah	Murwillumbah	Ctg. Piles Girders & Bracing (Wood)	600
	Banora Point.	Ctg. Deck & Piers (steel & concrete)	1000
	Terranora.	Ctg. Deck & Piers (steel & concrete)	1000
		Total for Murwillumbah	2600
Brunswick	Brunswick	Ctg. Deck & Piers (steel & concrete)	1000
		Total for Brunswick Hds.	1000
Byron Bay.	Jetty	Ctg. Piles & Girders and bracing (wood)	1000
		Total for Byron Bay	1000
Ballina	Double Bridges	Ctg. Piles, Girders & Bracing wood	750
	North Creek	Ctg. Piles, Girders & Bracing wood	200
		Total for Ballina.	950
Casino	Irving Bridge	Ctg. Piers Girders & Bracing concrete and wood	600
	Railway	Ctg. Piers steel girders & truss. Total	1000
			1600

Australian Military Forces

TELEPHONE

Please quote this Number when Replying

		Address	
Town.	Bridges.	Kind of Charge.	lbs.
Coraki	Bungawalbyn.	Cutting piles girders and bracing wood.	370
	South Arm	Ctg. piles, girders and bracing wood.	370
		Total for Coraki.	740
Kyogle	Railway	Cutting Piers steel girders and truss	1000
	Cedar Point	Cutting deck and Piers concrete and steel	500
	Wiangerie	Cutting Piers steel girders and truss	1000
		Total for Kyogle	2500

T. DWYER. Lt.Col.
C.O. 1 Bn. VDC.

M/S 15/1/43

~~768~~

G 1934

SECRET.

2 Aust Corps
8 Dec 42

Subject: Denial of Resources to the Enemy.

3 Aust Div
CE
AQ

1. Attached hereto is copy of LHQ-SM 23381 of 1 Dec 42 together with relevant extract of SM 13978 of 30 Jul 42.

BGS,
2 Aust Corps.

E.4/POW. Australian Military Forces

Eastern Command

N.S.W. L. of C. AREA

H.Q. TELEPHONE— M/S Sundries No 18.

Please quote this Number when replying

S.10	1	717

Address Victoria Barracks, PADDINGTON.

Date 5 DEC 1942 December, 1942.

H.Q.,
2 Aust. Corps,
HOME FORCES

DEMOLITIONS - NORTHERN RIVERS AREA, N.S.W.

Reference your G.1502 of 22 Oct 42 and 0335 of 25 Nov on the abovementioned matter: the following information is submitted concerning demolition plans for the area.

2. BRIDGES: Plans of demolition of bridges are being prepared by the Departments of Main Roads and Railways, in whom the control of bridges is vested. The stage of the work is shown in the following schedule :-

No.	Strat Map.	Map Ref.	LOCATION	Progress
1	Tweed Heads	675,497	Road bridge crossing Tweed River at BARNEYS PT.	Plans being prepared.
2	"	657,485	Road bridge crossing Tweed River at MURWILLUMBAH.	do.
3	"	653,482	Road bridge crossing Tweed River at BYANGUM.	Plans prepared.
4	"	644,407	Road bridge crossing Richmond River at CORAKI.	Plans being prepared.
5	"	618,421	Road bridge crossing Richmond River at CASINO.	Plans prepared.
6	"	618,421	Railway bridge crossing Richmond River at CASINO.	Plans being prepared.
7	Warwick	L7	Road bridge over Richmond River near FAIRY HILL (DR.1046)	See footnote.
8	Grafton	605,320	Railway bridge crossing Clarence River at GRAFTON. (Includes Rd. Bridge)	Plans prepared.
9	"	578,350	Road bridge crossing Pulgambar Creek.	Plans prepared.

NOTE. The bridge at FAIRY HILL is a low level bridge, the destruction of which would present no effective obstacle. It is not proposed, therefore, to proceed with plans for its destruction.

3. At the present time some clarification is required concerning the best method of preparing the bridges for demolition. A conference of officers of the bodies concerned is to be held early next week and a further communication will then be addressed to you.

4. DEMOLITION OF JETTY AT BYRON BAY: The Jetty at BYRON BAY has been prepared for demolition. Plans will be obtained and forwarded to your H.Q.

C.E. to note

(A. C. FEWTRELL) Major General,
G.O.C., N.S.W. L. of C. Area.

	Copy to	For Action
G.O.C.	CE	Done 15/12
B.G.S.	Ptd	
Op.	AFHQ.	
	d/f	
S.O.		
A.A.		
A.B.		

Make not a comfort
Plan by any
means Ptd.

H.Q. AUST. [illegible]

15:-:49

~~TOP SECRET~~ SECRET

7/12

Subject :- Denial of Resources to the enemy

T.O. 1100 hrs.

HQ 4 First Aust Army
6 Dec 42

G(o)642

7055

2 Aust Corps (4) —
5 Aust Div

Copy :- CE (less attachment)
G(SD)
G(I)
DA & QMG
A
Q

—— 1. Attached hereto is copy of LHQ SM 23381 of 1 Dec 42.

	Copy to:	For Action
G.O.C.	5/1	
B.G.G.	30 Bde	
Cos.		6 Fd
S.D.		

To see him

SM13978

Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

COPY SECRET

ALLIED LAND FORCES IN SW PACIFIC AREA

LHQ

First Aust Army
Second Aust Army
3 Aust Corps
Qld L of C Area
NSW L of C Area
Vic L of C Area
SA L of C Area
WA L of C Area
Tas Force
NT Force
NG Force

1st Dec 1942

SM 23381

Copies for information to -

GHQ; ADV LHQ; CGS; AG; QMG; MGO; CNS; CAS;
Allied Air Forces; Allied Naval Forces (2);
USASOS (2); DG Security; War Diary (2); File.

DENIAL OF RESOURCES TO THE ENEMY

Owing to confusion which has arisen in at least one instance, it has been decided that the fulfilling of the Army's responsibility as laid down in SM13978 of 30 Jul 42 shall be the function of Comds of L of C Areas, who will be responsible directly to LHQ.

Close liaison will be maintained, however, with Comds First and Second Aust Army and 3 Aust Corps, according to the area, in regard to decisions as to what resources should be prepared for denial and when denial is to actually take place.

Attention is drawn to SM13978 of 30 Jul 42, para 4(iii).

(Sgd) R.E.BOOKER Col GS

for Lieutenant-General,
Chief of the General Staff.

c.

7

Australian Military Forces

TELEPHONE

G CE/RL.FD.

Please quote this Number when Replying

CET	130	

Date 26/11
Time 14/15

Address CE 2 Aust Corps
26 Nov 42.

SUBJECT : Recce of Area NSW - Q'land Border to PINE RIVER and GREATER BRISBANE Area.

TO : G Branch

1. Ref your G1766 of 21 Nov 42 and further to our CET 918 of 22 Nov.

2. Recce party under Lieut J.F.CUMMINGS 10 Aust Fd Coy commenced detailed recce of above area 24 Nov 42.

3. Advice will be fwded to G when recce is to commence of areas NOT covered by preliminary recce on 23 Nov, so that a GSO may RV with the party.

for (H.Bachtold) Brig
CE 2 Aust Corps. AOD.

(B)

Army Form G. 2123.

Serial No.

CALL AND INSTRUC-TIONS.	IN	No. of Groups GR. MS/45	OFFICE DAT Adio
	OUT		

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

FROM	Originator's Number	Date	In Reply to

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS.

SIGNED

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CYPHER.

SIGNED

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER

SECRET

G1801

2 Aust Corps,
25 Nov 42.

Subject: Demolition Plans - 2 Aust Corps Area.

First Aust Army:
Copy: CE.

1. With reference to First Aust Army G (O) 513 of 19 Oct, and further to 2 Aust Corps G 1533 of 24 Oct, it is advised that the preliminary recce of the area south of the PINE RIVER has been completed, and the detailed recce is now in progress. It is considered that this will be completed within a fortnight.

2. The necessary instructions have been issued to 3 Aust Div for the preparation of demolitions in the A1 priority area on the MARY RIVER in the vicinity of MARYBOROUGH. This work has already commenced.

Goc.

Maj-Gen,
Administering Cond 2 Aust Corps.

TELEPHONE—

G CE/RL.FD.

m/s

Australian Military Forces—Eastern Command.

Please quote this Number when replying.

CET	918	

Address CE 2 Aust Corps

Date 22 Nov 42.

SUBJECT : Recce of Area NSW - QUEENSLAND Border to PINE RIVER encl GREATER BRISBANE Area.

TO : G Branch

1. Ref your G1766 of 21 Nov 42, it is advised that preliminary recce of this area will be carried out by LT. COL. J. CONNAN, CRE 2 Aust Corps Tps, commencing 22 Nov 42.

2. CRE will contact General Staff 1200 hrs 22 Nov to pick up the GSO referred to in a/m memo.

for (H.Bachtold) Brig
CE 2 Aust Corps.

4 Sy.

C1766

2 Aust Corps,
21 Nov 42.

Subject: Recce of area NSW - QUEENSLAND border to PINE RIVER excl GREATER BRISBANE area.

CE:

1. I am directed to advise that action be taken forthwith to carry out the necessary planning and recces for that portion of the Corps area extending from the NSW - QUEENSLAND border to the PINE RIVER, excl GREATER BRISBANE area.

2. The necessary planning and recces will be carried out by the General Staff and the Corps Engrs in conjunction. It is requested that arrangements be made for the engr recce party to commence this work at the earliest possible date. One GSO who will have a complete knowledge of the Op plans in this area, will be made available to accompany the recce party as is considered necessary.

3. It is requested that the details of the engr recce party be advised to the General Staff as early as possible.

Ref. 24/11/42

Rec'd 25/11

Rec'd 26 Nov

for BGS,
2 Aust Corps.

CE

H.Q. 2 AUST. C...
M/S 43
19/11/1000
1.

HQ 3 Aust Div
15 Nov 42
G26/51

2 Aust Corps

DEMOLITION PLANS - 2 AUST CORPS AREA

1. Herewith in duplicate in separate folders are demolition plans for Priority areas B1, B2, B3, B4, C1, C2, C4 and D1 of the area allotted to 3 AUST DIV vide 2 Aust Corps Demolition Instn No 1; these, with zones A1, A2 and A3 previously submitted, complete this area and cover also the centre section now allotted to 3 AUST DIV.

2. In the front of each folder is a plan, scale 1/1,000,000, showing in red the area to which the folder refers.

3. As directed in 2 AUST CORPS Demolition Instn No 2, enumeration serially of the whole plan has been left for allocation by 2 Aust Corps, and to preserve uniformity, it will be appreciated if the ultimate enumeration allotted is advised to this HQ.

4. As in previous priorities submitted, all demolitions are considered only as "Engineer" i.e. No allowance has been anticipated for the covering by fire of any of the charges.

The plan has been based on the broad principle of delaying the advance of an enemy from the North, and obstructing lateral roads from the coast inland, in order to deny an enemy, landing along the coast, easy access to the main North-South comns.

5. The necessity of an early direction from 2 Aust Corps as to the preparation of reinforced concrete structures and the permissable extent of drilling into piers etc. is stressed, since a last minute cutting charge on Reinforced Concrete is unreliable and requires an amount of explosives quite disproportionate with the results to be expected.

	Copy	For
S.M.O.		
[illegible]		
Ops.	Returned ACK	CE CE
S.O.		
[illegible]		

6. Attention is directed to the existance of Railway tunnels - outside - but adjacent to the Northern boundary of Corps responsibility.

It is submitted that the destruction of these may be of prime importance to this Corps.

24/11/42

J.W. Wilton Lt Col for. Brig
Adm Comd 3 Aust Div

Australian Military Forces

249 / 42.

TELEPHONE

Date

hrs.

Copies

Please quote this Number when Replying

G 1533

Address 2 Aust Corps,
24 Oct 42.

Subject: Demolition Plans - 2 Aust Corps Area.

First Aust Army.
Copy to:
CE.

1 With reference to First Aust Army G (O) 513 of 19 Oct, it is advised that the necessary action is being taken to prepare demolition plans for the area South of PINE RIVER.

2 Action is also being taken to commence the work of preparing demolitions in the area North of PINE RIVER as engr resources permit.

Maj-Gen,
Administering Comd,
2 Aust Corps.

(B)

Australian Military Forces

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
TELEPHONE
Date
T.O.R. hrs.
Please quote this Number when Replying
S. REGISTRY

G1502

Address 2 Aust Corps.
22 Oct 42.

Subject:- Demolitions- Northern Rivers Area,NSW.

NSW L of C Area.
Copy to:
CE
First Aust Army.
HQ A GP VDC, NSW.

1. In view of the Role given to the VDC within the 2 Aust Corps area of responsibility in New South Wales, and the work proceeding in the co-ordination of the VDC, Plans, it is necessary that 2 Aust Corps and Comd, A GP VDC, NSW should know the exact position with regard to demolitions in this area.

2. It is requested that a demolition plan for this area showing all works completed, in hand and projected up to the present time, be forwarded to 2 Aust Corps as early as possible. If a copy could also be sent to HQ A GP VDC, it would be most helpful.

		to	Action
C.G.S.	3.		
B.G.S.			
A.A. & Q.M.G.			
D.A.			
E.D.			

It would be very much appreciated if these plans could be forwarded at an early date

Maj-Gen,
Administering Comd 2 Aust Corps.

(B)

SECRET

Subject :- Demolitions Plans - 2 Aust Corps area

HQ First Aust Army
19 Oct 42

G(o) 513

1

2 Aust Corps ✓

299/1/41
20/10
1100

Copy :CE

1. With ref to your G1368 of 5 Oct, it is noted that no demolition plan has been prepared for the area south of PINE RIVER, but your statement that the limited engr resources of 2 Aust Corps are insufficient to permit of these plans being prepared is not understood since this work can be done by quite a small party.

2. It would appear from para 9 of your letter that you do not regard arrangements for the execution of demolitions to be of value in the tng of fd coys. This view is not accepted by the Army Comd who considers that such work is of considerable tng value.

3. I am therefore directed to request that action be taken without delay to put in hand the necessary planning and recces for the demolition scheme in the area south of PINE RIVER, and to commence the work of preparing demolitions in the area north of the PINE RIVER in accordance with the existing plan as rapidly as the available engr resources permit.

Jamesgrahe Reece
Lt Col

N.J. Moore
Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

Secret 29/11/42 [illegible]

Directive over —

		Copy to	For Action
G.O.C.		CE	→
B.G.S.			
Ops.			
S.D.			
Int.			
B.B.			

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
249/1/40
1000
HQ First Aust Army
G.S. REGISTRY

G(o) 512

Subject :- DEMOLITION OF LANDING GROUNDS

AOC Eastern Area AAF

Copy : 2 Aust Corps —

1. Ref our G(o) 451 of 22 Sep. QLD L of C advise that the work asked for in para 2 is complete.

J.H. Pilcher
Lt Col
for Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

	Co.	
G.O.C.	CE	18/10.
B.G.S.		
Ops.		
S.D.		
Int.		
R.E.		

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
349 | 1 | 89.
Date 15/10
T.O.R. 1520 hrs.
HQ First Aust Army
G.S. R 091.42Y

G(o) 503

Subject :- Demolition Plan in QLD L of C Area

√2 Aust Corps

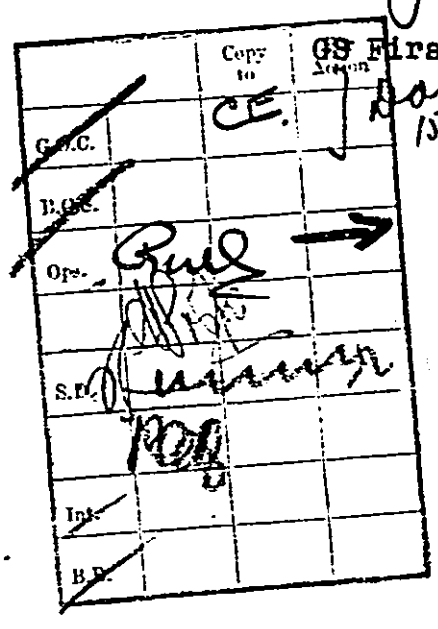
Copy : QLD L of C Area
CE

1. The situation as expressed in your G1379 regarding the shortage of engr offrs is confirmed by the CE at these HQ.

2. Your request to be relieved of the responsibility of providing another offr is granted.

J.F. Boase

Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.



Australian Military Forces

G 1459

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
TELEPHONE
Date
T.O. Please quote this Number when Replying
Copies
G.S. REGISTRY
Address 2 Aust Corps

15 Oct 42

Subject:- Demolition of Landing Grounds.

First Aust Army.

1. Ref First Aust Army G (O) 430 of 17 Sep 42, advice has been received from CE, L of C Area, that mined charges have been removed from all aerodromes in NSW L of C Areas, incl 2 Aust Corps Area of responsibility in that state.

2. This action was completed 7 Sep 42.

RJR
Maj-Gen
Administering Command, 2 Aust Corps
A.O.D

(B)

	Copy to	For Action
G.O.C.		
B.G.S.		
Ops.		
S.D.	Copy	
Int.		
A.D.		

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
749 1 37
Date 12/10 TELEPHONE
T.O.C. 6915

Australian Military Forces
Eastern Command

G CE/RL.J

Please quote this Number when replying
CET 533.

Address CE Branch,
Date 2 AUST CORPS.

// OCT 42.

SUBJECT : DEMOLITION OF LANDING GROUNDS.

TO : HQ 2 Aust Corps.

1. Ref First Aust Army G(O) 430 of 17 SEP and 2 Aust Corps G 1300 of 24 SEP, advice has been received from CE NSW L of C Area that mined charges have been removed from all aerodromes in NSW L of C Area, incl 2 Aust Corps Area of responsibility in that state.

2. This action was completed 7 SEP 42.

for. (H. Bachtold) Brig.
CE 2 AUST CORPS.

5

AUST. CORPS
24/9/42.
Date
T.O.R.
G.S. R

SECRET

G 1372

2 Aust Corps
6 Oct 42.

Subject: Demolition Plan in Q'ld L of C Area.

First Aust Army:

Copy to: Q'ld L of C Area
CE

1. Ref First Aust Army G (O) 292 of 1 Aug 42, and G (O) 367 of 28 Aug 42.

2. Up to the present time, it has been possible to provide only one of the two Engr Officers directed to be made available by 2 Aust Corps, to assist Q'ld L of C Area in preparation of demolition plans.

3. It is respectfully submitted that at this juncture, the current activities of Corps Tps Engrs are of greater importance to the Corps and Army as a whole, that the scorched earth policy of Greater BRISBANE area, and it is suggested that if an additional offr is considered indispensable, he might be obtained from L of C Sources, from another State, as the withdrawal of still another experienced offr from Corps resources would have a most serious effect on the efficiency of the Coy or HQ providing the same.

4. It is therefore requested that this formation be relieved of the responsibility of providing the additional offr referred to above.

Maj-Gen,
Administering Comd 2 Aust Corps.

(B)

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
249 / 25
SECRET.
G.S.

1368

Subject: Demolition Plans - 2 Aust Corps Area.

2 Aust Corps,
5 Oct 42.

First Aust Army:

Copy to:
CE (less att)

1. Ref First Aust Army Op Instn 4015 of 3 Jul 42, and 2 Aust Corps Demolition Instn No 1 of 23 Aug 42.

2. Herewith in complete Demolition Plans in respect of priorities A1, A2, and A3, within the area for which 3 Aust Div is responsible under 2 Aust Corps Demolition Instn No 1.

Further data will be submitted by 1 Nov.

3. The above plans comprise:-

(a) A Master Plan - Scale 1 : 1,000,000 showing locations of proposed demolitions,

(b) Abstracts of demolition recce,

(c) Scale drawings of objects for demolition.

4. In the case of ZONES A2 and A3, the plans have been amplified by the addition of actual photographs of bridges, bridge members etc.

5. In folder A2, (at the end of the folder) is a "Detail Sheet" of suggested methods of charging various bridge members.

6. Folder A1 will also be found to contain "Appendix B" for portion of the Divisional Area. Corresponding data for the remainder of the area will follow with the remainder of the plan.

7. All demolitions submitted are regarded as purely "engineer demolitions" i.e. NO reliance has been placed on their being covered with fire, and the anticipated delay these would impose, has been considered only on the merits of the obstacle itself. Further, although in the early stages, consideration was given to the then location of 3 Aust Div and its possible role, the move of the Div rendered the siting of tactical demolitions north of GYMPIE of doubtful value.

8. With regard to the area so th of PINE RIVER for which 32 US Div was made responsible under the above Op Instn, it is regretted that no demolition plan has yet been prepared owing to the move of this formation, nor do the now limited resources of this Corps permit of these plans being prepared.

9. I regret having to report that with the exce tion of the booms at BUNDABERG and MARYBOROUGH, the resources within the Corps do not permit of any arrangements for execution being made, if the fd coys are to be trained in their primary role of fd engineering.

Maj-Gen,
Administering Comd, 2 Aust Corps.

DRAFT.

SECRET.

Subject: Demolition Plans - 2 Aust Corps Area.

2 Aust Corps,
Oct 42.

First Aust Army:

Copy: CE (two cys)

1. Ref First Aust Army Op Instn 4015 of 3 Jul 42, and 2 Aust Corps Demolition Instn No 1 of 23 Aug 42.

2. Herewith complete Demolition Plans in respect of priorities A1, A2 and A3, within the area for which 3 Aust Div is responsible under 2 Aust Corps Demolition Plan No 1. Further data will be furnished by [illegible] Div.

3. The above plans comprise:-

(a) A Master Plan - Scale 1 : 1,000,000 showing locations of proposed demolitions.

(b) Abstracts of demolition recce

(c) Scale drawings of objects for demolition.

4. In the case of ZONES A2 and A3, the plans have been amplified by the addtion of actual photographs of bridges, bridge members etc.

5. In folder A2, (at the end of the folder) is a "Detail Sheet" of suggested methods of charging various bridge members.

6. Folder A1 will also be found to contain 'Appendix B' for portion of the Divisional Area. Corresponding data for the remainder of the area will follow with the remainder of the plan.

7. All demolitions submitted are regarded as purely "engineer demolitions" i.e. NO reliance has been placed on their covering fire, and the anticipated delay these would impose has been considered only on the merits of the obstacle itself. Further, although in the early stages consideration was given to the then location of 3 Aust Div, and its possible role, the move of the Div rendered the siting of tactical demolitions north of GYMPIE of doubtful value.

8. With regard to the area south of PINE RIVER for which 32 US Div was made responsible under the above Op Instn, it is regretted that no demolition plan has yet been prepared, owing to the move of this formation, nor do the now limited resources of this Corps permit of these plans being prepared ~~for some time.~~

9. Regards having to exchange Utah with the exception of the boundary BUNDABERG - MARYBOROUGH the [illegible]

9. The delay in rendering this report is regretted, but has been occasioned by the moves of the formations under comd 2 Aust Corps.

10. As this HQ has no copy of the attached report, it would be appreciated if the original or copy thereof, could be returned to this HQ in due course.

Maj-Gen,
Administering Comd 2 Aust Corps.

Corps are to be trained in their primary role of fd engineering

BGS
G2(o)
G2(a)
G2(o)

CE

GENERAL STAFF — 3 DIV.
In Reply Quote G.....371/1.....

SECRET
HQ 3 Aust Div
Oct 42

H.Q. 2 /
249 / 21
Date 6/10
T.O.
G

2 Aust Corps

DEMOLITION PLANS - 2 AUST CORPS AREA

1 Herewith demolition plans in respect of priority areas A1, A2 and A3 of 2 Aust Corps area of responsibility.

These plans comprise:-

(a) A master plan - Scale 1 : 1,000,000 showing locations of proposed demolitions.

(b) Abstracts of demolition recce.

(c) Scale drawings of objects for demolition.

2 In the case of ZONES A2 and A3, the plans have been amplified by the addition of actual photographs of bridges, bridge members etc.

3 In folder A2 (at the end of the folder) is a "Detail Sheet" of suggested methods of charging various bridge members.

4 Folder A1 will also be found to contain "Appendix B" for portion of the Divisional Area. Corresponding data for the remainder of the area will follow with the remainder of the plan, and, pending the completion of this, it is requested that the serial numbering of demolitions be held over in order that a proper and unbroken sequence may be observed with the whole plan.

5 The necessity of destroying all possible crossings over the R BURNETT is stressed.
The destruction of bridges in the town of BUNDABERG alone would serve little purpose since a better and more direct route with river crossings is available a short distance upstream.
These crossings are regarded as priority A2, although the localities are NOT included in the Corps A2 ZONE.

6 The value of the BURRUM R line as an obstacle is emphasised.

7 All demolitions submitted are regarded as purely "engineer demolitions" i.e. NO reliance has been placed on their covering with fire and the anticipated delay these would impose has been considered only on the merits of the obstacle itself. Further, although in the early stages consideration was given to the then location of 3 Aust Div, and its possible role, the move of the div rendered the siting of tactical demolitions north of GYMPIE of doubtful value.

8 The delay in rendering of this report is regretted. It was due to causes already known to 2 Aust Corps. It might be added however, that during the reconnaissance it was considered essential to collect all relevant data in the area covered.
This delayed preparation of this preliminary plan a little but will expedite the final rendering of the complete plan. It is hoped to render complete plans of the Corps area north of the line BURRUM - GYMPIE - NOOSA HEADS within 10 days.
The reconnaissance of the area south of this line is being carried out now by three separate officer parties.

9 Ack.

A.C.K.
1530
4/10

C.B. Barker. Brig
Adm Comd 3 Aust Div

S E.C RET

2 Aust Corps
G 1300 24 Sep 42.

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
249 1 83
Date 24/9
T.O.R. 1640
G.S.

Subject: Demolition of Landing Grounds.

3 Aust Div
32 U S Div
1 Aust Hot Bde

Copy to:
CE.

1 Ref 2 Aust Corps Demolition Instruction No 1 of 23 Aug 42, para 13.

2 Subtended for info are extracts from the following:-

(a) LHQ 00857 of 12 Sep 42.

"(i) It has been decided that in future the demolition by explosives of landing grounds will NOT be included in the policy of denial of resources to the enemy. Any preparatory works in progress will be discontinued immediately.

(ii) Experience has shown that a mine or bomb crater can be quickly and easily repaired, so that unless a mined runway can be kept under protective fire, the demolition is of momentary value only. If a landing ground can be kept under protective fire, there is little advantage in destroying it.

(iii) Generally, it is considered that the comparatively small advantage to be gained over the enemy does NOT justify the expenditure of the labour, plant and material involved in the preparation and execution of the demolition of landing grounds by explosives."

(b) First Aust Army G (O) 430 of 17 Sep 42.

(iii) Because of the likelihood of deterioration, charges already placed below aerodrome runways will be withdrawn. Where chambers have been built these will be left intact."

3. Acknowledge.

J A Pickering Lt Col
for BGS,
2 Aust Corps.

	Copy to	For Action
G.O.S.		
B.G.S.		
Ops.		
S.D.		
Int.		
E.B.		

J.H. 24 Sep.

Army Form C-2130
(Pads of 100)
Revised March 1942—G.W.D. & S.—10m. Pads

MESSAGE FORM

299 / 32
Special No.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN [illegible]

OUT [illegible]

No. of Groups 18 OFFICE DATE STAMP
GR. 1040 hrs.
G.S. [illegible]

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO CE

FROM C Bch

Originator's Number	Date	In Reply to Number
0169	24	

Following from 3 Corps Rcn Regt G-10714
of 25/11 Corps Priorities A1 and
A2 Inch. outside Achems of all ours
north of HANIBAUR Line be funded
by 1st Oct by requisition
return Corps 1st Aug 24 Oct 42

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN * (except) by any means, wireless.

Signature [illegible]

* Originator may delete "except" and insert "including."

This message must be sent IN CYPHER if liable to interception or to fall into enemy hands.

Signature

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority

Time of Origin 1830

T.H.I.

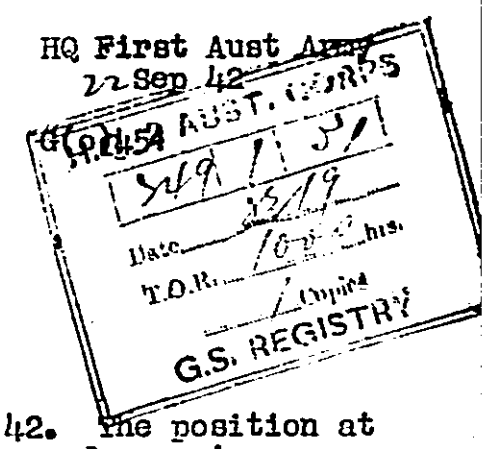
T.O.R.

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

System In	Time In	Reader	Sender	System Out	Time Out	Reader	Sender	System Out	Time Out	Reader	Sender

Subject :- Demolition of Landing Grounds

HQ First Aust Army
22 Sep 42



AOC Eastern Area AAF

Copy : 2 Aust Corps ✓
QLD L of C Area

1. Your 8164 of 17 Sep 42. The position at BUNDABERG and MARYBOROUGH aerodromes is as follows :-

(a) BUNDABERG - all tunnels are completed, but some are in soft ground and should be timbered. Out of 255 holes for camouflet charges 145 have been driven.

(b) MARYBOROUGH - 17 tunnels each 136 feet are 30% complete. 2 tunnels each 125 feet are 40% complete. One tunnel 36 feet is 100% complete.

2. In view of the risk of subsidence of the surface, QLD L of C area are being asked to timber those tunnels at BUNDABERG aerodrome that are in soft ground.

Yours sincerely
Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

G.O.C.			
D.G.S.			
Ops.			
A.D.			
C.E.			
Int.			
M.C.			

Army Form C 2130
(Pads of 100)
Reprinted August, 1942—2,000.

MESSAGE FORM

B.C.S. CE

Serial No. 26

Ops. KAO

S.D. 71

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY)

Originator's Number 01405

Date 6/11/44

T.O.R. 0900

In Reply to Number

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS. IN

OUT

TO

FROM

Message 0145 from 2 Corps to 2 Armd Div info Advanced HQ 1st Allied Airborne Army H 2 all of 17 Sqn RCAF to 2 Canadian Wing of 23 and 126 Wings Fighter Bomber all as detailed in Exhibit C Brereton all as at 0001 hrs 6/11/44 with outline scheme of MAYBOOK will be issued by 1000 hrs 6/11/44 42 balance at equipment complete by 1731 hrs 6/11/44

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS.

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CYPHER.

SIGNED

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN 0020

T.H.I. 0025

T.O.R. (B)

SENT

SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	HEADER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	HEADER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	HEADER	SENDER
F	0147	6/11/44	2 A 66								

Army Form C.2123
(Pads of 100)
Reprinted May, 1943—A.W. 25,000

G.O.C.

MESSAGE FORM

Serial No.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.		No of Groups	OFFICE DATE STAMP
	IN	GR.	
	OUT	Date T.O.R. hrs.	

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO 32 U S div

FROM 2 aust corps

Originator's Number	Date	In Reply to Number
SD 355	19	32 ADS 64

G 1128	addressed	first	aust	army	reads
quote	att	hereto	is	2	austcorps
demolition	instn	no	1	together	with
appendixes	unquote.				

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS.

SIGNED

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CYPHER

SIGNED

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN
1500

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

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SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER

Army Form G.2122
(Pads of 100)
Reprinted March, 1942 — s.w. 25m pads.

MESSAGE FORM

Serial No.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN

OUT

No. of Groups GR 25

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
2409 / 1

OFFICE DATE STAMP

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY)

TO 3 austdiv

FROM 2 aust corps

Originator's Number SD 354 Date Copies 19

In Reply to Number 0 1399

Date
T.O.R. hrs.
G.S. REGISTRY

G1128	addressed	first	aust	army	reads
quote	att	hereto	is	2	austcorps
demolition	instn	no	1	together	with
appendices	unquote				

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT **AS WRITTEN** BY ANY MEANS* (EXCEPT) WIRELESS

SIGNATURE

* ORIGINATOR MAY DELETE "EXCEPT" AND INSERT "INCLUDING."

THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT **IN CYPHER** IF LIABLE TO INTERCEPTION OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS.

SIGNATURE

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN
1500

T.H.I.

T.O.R. 61

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SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER

Army Form C.2130
(Pads of 100)
Revised March 1942 - G.W.O. & S.—16m. Pads

MESSAGE FORM

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
Serial No. 30
No. of Groups
OFFICE DATE STAMP
Date 19/11/45
T.O.R. 1130 hrs.
Copies 1
G.S. REGISTRY

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN GWJ. Z

OUT

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY)

TO 2 Aust Corps

FROM 2 Aust Div | Originator's Number 01399 | Date 19 | In Reply to Number O 145

[illegible]	Could	subject	matter	2	[illegible]
Capt	G1128	of	28	Copies For Action	
admired	please				
				G.O.C.	
				B.G.S.	
	Copy of memorandum			Ops	
	Maj Capt Kelly				

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means: (*except) (wireless)
*Originator may delete "except" and insert "including."
Signature

This message must be sent IN CYPHER if liable to interception or to fall into enemy hands.
Originator's instructions (Degree of priority)
S.P.
Signature
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Time of origin 1010

T.H.I. 1155

T.O.R.

System In	Time In	Reader	Sender	System Out	Time Out	Reader	Sender	System Out	Time Out	Reader	Sender
F	1110	JPO	GWJ								

Army Form C.2123
(Paris of 10s)
Revised March 1942—(A.W.G. & S.—1st Pads)

MESSAGE FORM

H.Q. 2 AUST.

Serial No. 18

OFFICE DATE STAMP

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.	IN	G.C.	Copy to	For Action	Date 19 No. of Groups GR.
	OUT	R.C.			T.O.R. hrs.

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO

FROM

Originator's Number	Date	In Reply to Number
	19	

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SIGNATURE

* ORIGINATOR MAY DELETE "EXCEPT" AND INSERT "INCLUDING."

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SIGNATURE

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS. DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

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SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER

Army Form G.2128
(Pads of 100)
Reprinted March, 1942 — s.w. 25m pads.

MESSAGE FORM

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS

Serial No.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN W911

No. of Groups GR. 34

OFFICE DATE STAMP

OUT

Date

T.O.R. hrs.

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO 3 austdiv, 32 U 3 div, rptd CE.

Copies G.S. REGISTRY

FROM 2 aust corps

Originator's Number 0 145

Date 17

In Reply to Number

ref	2	austcorps	G 1128	of	23
aug	para	7	(.)	advice	required
immediately	as	to	probable	date	of
despatch	of	required	information		

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS: *(EXCEPT) (EITHER)

Rad. Macarthur Brisbane 1604

SIGNATURE

* ORIGINATOR MAY DELETE "EXCEPT" AND INSERT "INCLUDING."

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SIGNATURE

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY

Important

TIME OF ORIGIN 1700

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

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SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
dfg 1 24
1/9
Date 0900
T.O. HQ First Aust Army
1 11 Sep 42
G(c) 1403

Subject :- Demolition Policy - Northern NSW

2 Aust Corps -

Copy :- CE

1. The att copy of NSW L of C Area memo 9393 dated 8 Sep 42 is fwded for infm and action, vide para 8 (c) of First Aust Army Op Instn 15.

2. NSW L of C Area have been requested to arrange for completion of the works.

Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

	Copy to	
G.O.C.	CE	✓
B.G.S.		
Ops.		
		Ops
Adm.		
	pdh	
Int.		
R.E.		

Q Instr. HQ.

B/

COPY

SECRET

H.Q. N.S.W. L.OF C. AREA

Vic. Bks. PADDINGTON

8 Sep 42

9393

First Aust Army

DEMOLITION POLICY : NORTHERN N.S.W.

Ref. Memo. G(o) 268 dated 23 Jul 42 from H.Q. First Aust. Army, drawing attention to the position of engineer works in Northern N.S.W. between the new inter-army boundary and the Q'ld. border: the following information is submitted :-

2. PROGRESS OF WORKS REFERRED TO IS AS FOLLOWS :-

(a) ROADS ON WHICH WORK IS IN HAND.

(1) Grafton - Casino. Improvement of standard of road to A.1 standard. Road completed excepting for minor work. This work would have been completed but for removal of plant to Q'ld works.

(11) Grafton - Glen Innes. Strengthening of structures and provision of passing places. Work approx. 45% completed. Progress will be delayed because of transfer of portion of plant.

(b) CAMPS

Three camps are nearing completion, namely TENTERFIELD, GLEN INNES and CASINO. These are to be completed as Training Centres

(c) DEMOLITIONS.

(1) Bridges. The preparation of the under-mentioned demolitions have not yet been commenced but will be required.

No.	Strat Map.	Map Ref.	Location.
1	Tweed Heads.	675,497	Road bridge crossing Tweed River at BARNEYS PT.
2	"	657,485	Road bridge crossing Tweed River at MURWILLUMBAH.
3	"	653,482	Road bridge crossing Tweed River at BYANGUM.
4	"	644,407	Road bridge crossing Richmond River at CORAKI.
5	"	618,421	Road bridge crossing Richmond River at CASINO.
6	"	618,421	Railway bridge crossing Richmond River at CASINO.
7	Warwick	L7	Road bridge over Richmond Rd. near FAIRY HILL(DR.1046

No.	Strat Map.	Map Ref.	Location.
8	Grafton	605,320	Railway bridge crossing Clarence River at GRAFTON. (Includes Rd. Bridge).
9	"	578,350	Road bridge crossing Fulgambar Creek.

(11) Road Blocks. The undermentioned road mines have been prepared by the Dept. of Main Roads.

No.	Strat Map.	Map Ref.	Location.
001	Warwick	J4	SH. 9 near MT. LINDESAY
002	Tweed Heads	649,473	MR.142 west of UKI
004	"	636,462	MR.142
005	"	633,463	MR.141
006	"	624,453	MR.141 near CAWONGLA
007	Warwick	K4	MR.140 west of GREVILLIA
008	"	K5	MR.140 east of GREVILLIA
009	"	15	MR.361 east of CAPEEN MTN
011	"	J8	SH. 16 east of MALLANGANE
012	"	18	SH. 16 near TABULUM
013	Grafton	523,405	SH. 16 east of TENTER'FLD
014	"	522,404	SH. 16 east of TENTER'FLD
015	Warwick	19	MR.150 south of SH.16
016	Grafton	533,304	SH. 12 near BROADMEADOWS
017	"	527,515	SH. 12 near MITCHELL RVR.
018	"	525,517	SH. 12 near MITCHELL RVR.

Stump type road blocks also prepared by the Dept. of Main Roads are as follows, No. 003 being complete and No. 010 being practically complete.

No.	Strat Map.	Map Ref.	Location.
003	Tweed Heads	643,473	TERRAGON-TYALGUM Road
010	Grafton	514,406	SH. 9 north of TENTER'FLD

(111) Jetty & Aerodrome. The preparation for the demolition of the BYRON BAY Jetty and EVANS HEAD Aerodrome have been completed.

3. Of the works outlined the only ones on which work is still in progress are the GRAFTON-GLEN INNES Rd., the three Camps and the preparation of bridges for demolition.

4. Consideration has been given to the question of the responsibilities for the execution of the works being handed over to C.E., N.S.W. L. of C. Area. The proposal is satisfactory to this H.Q. and on receipt of advice indicating your concurrence all necessary arrangements will be made with the Civil Authorities concerned to have the completion of the works supervised by this H.Q.

(Sgd) A.C.FEWTRELL

Major-General,
G.O.C., H.Q. N.S.W. L. of C.Area.

	G CE/RL/TM	Copy for Action
G.O.C.		
G.		
[illegible]	[illegible]	
Int.		
B.B.		

Australian Military Forces

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
749 / 83 TELEPHONE
T.O.R. 1015 919
Please quote this Number when Replying
G.S. H 459 R / 22

Address 2 AUST CORPS
8 SEP 42

SUBJECT : INDUSTRIAL DEMOLITONS

TO : 'G' 2 AUST CORPS.

1. Ref First Aust Army G(C) 367 of 28 Aug 42, this subject was discussed between Lt-Col HASSET and SORE, and it was agreed that, due to the shortage of Engineer Officers in RAE 2 Aust Corps, 3 Aust Div should be requested to provide the first Officer.

2. Three reinforcement Officers are expected to reach 2 Aust Corps in the very near future, and at that stage it is expected the second Officer required could be provided from Corps Troops.

3. Capt G.B.H.SUTHERLAND, IORE 2 Aust Corps has already contacted L of C in connection with above subject, and can put the 3 Div Officer into the picture prior to his reporting to L of C if so desired.

9 SEP 1942

for (H. Bachtold) Brig
CE 2 AUST CORPS

Capt E. PREWITT of 4 Fd Coy, 3 Aust Div reported to GM L of C Area for above duties on 12 Sep 42.

13 Sep 42.

(B)

Army Form C 2121
(Adapted, [illegible])
(Pads of 1.A.)
Reprinted March, 1942—e.w. 10m pads.

MESSAGE FORM

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
Serial No. 249 / 2 / 3
Date
No. of Groups 6R.
T.O.R. hrs.
Copies
G.S. REGISTRY
OFFICE DATE STAMP

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS. IN

OUT

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO 3 Aust Div rptd CE

FROM 2 Aust Corps | Originator's Number G. 112 | Date 8 | In Reply to Number

(Write horizontally)

experienced	engr	offr	preferably	from
10	aust	fd	coy	required
for	loan	to	QLD	L
of	C	area	to	advise
on	demolition	policy	GREATER	BRISBANE
[redacted]	and	scorched	earth	policy
(.)	probable	time	required	ons
to	two	months	(.)	please
advise	date	of	reporting	

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means: (except) ( ) wireless

Signature

* Originator may delete "except" and insert "including."

This message must be sent IN CYPHER if liable to interception or to fall into enemy hands.

Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority: IMPORTANT

Time of Origin: 2035

T.H.I.

T.O.R.

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System In	Time In	Reader	Sender	System Out	Time Out	Reader	Sender	System Out	Time Out	Reader	Sender

G 119.

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
249 / 21
SECRET
TO: HQ 2 Aust Corps
8 Sep 42
G.S.R.

Subject:- Demolition of Aerodromes.

First Aust Army.

Copy to:- CE.

1. Ref First Aust Army O.791 of 24 Aug 42.

2. On 26 Aug 42 CE 2 Aust Corps requested CE, Main Roads Commission, BRISBANE, to arrange that work be stopped on preparation for demolition of runways at BUNDABERG and MARYBOROUGH Aerodromes.

3. Subtended is an extract from the reply to this request from the Acting Secretary, QUEENSLAND Main Roads Commission, dated 2 Sep 42:-

> "With reference to your letter CET/S/1 of 26th August, in connection with demolition works at Maryborough and Bundaberg Aerodromes, I have to advise that instructions have been issued for the cessation of all demolition perparations.
>
> "Similar instructions have been issued in regard to demolition preparations at the Rockhampton Aerodrome which was not mentioned in your letter. Please advise if this is correct."

4. As ROCKHAMPTON is not included in the area for which this formation is responsible this matter is referred to you.

for Maj-Gen
GOC, 2 Aust Corps

		Copy to	For Action
G.O.C.			
B.G.S.			
Ops.			
S.D.			
Int.			
B.B.			

B1.

WTP 8 Sep

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
249 / 20
Date
T.O.R.
G.S. REGISTRY

G 1123

2 Aust Corps.
1 A.A.
~~Aug~~ 42.

Subject: Demolitions.

First Aust Army.

... 1. Attached hereto is 2 Aust Corps Demolition Instruction No 1, together with Appendices.

Lt.-Gen.
Comdr., 2 Aust Corps.

Encl.

TELEPHONE—

G01/YH

Secret 9/327/42

Australian Military Forces—~~Northern Command~~

HQ Qld L of C Area

Please quote this Number when replying.

		07707

Address

Date 5 Sep 42

5 SEP 42 AUST. CORPS
29 1 19
Date 8/9
T.O.R. 1620 hrs.
1 Copies
G.S. REGISTRY

HQ 2 Aust Corps

INDUSTRIAL DEMOLITIONS

1. Reference First Aust Army G(0)367 of 28 Aug 42.

2. It is requested that the Engr Offr mentioned in para 3 of this memo be provided as soon as possible.

G.O.C.
B.G.S.
Ops. AQ(1)
S.T.

Lt-Col
G.S. Q'land L. of C. Area

Copy - First Aust Army

COPY/PR

QUEENSLAND MAIN ROADS COMMISSION

HRH/BF
22A/7/9/10/11

BRISBANE 2nd September 1942.

Dear Sir:

DEMOLITION OF AERODROMES

With reference to your letter CET/S/1 of 26th August, in connection with demolition works at Maryborough and Bundaberg Aerodromes, I have to advise that instructions have been issued for the cessation of all demolition preparations.

Similar instructions have been issued in regard to demolition preparations at the Rockhampton Aerodrome which was not mentioned in your letter. Please advise if this is correct.

For the safety of aircraft, the covers designed will be placed over all shafts which have been excavated, but no further excavation, timbering, bore holes and ditches will be proceeded with.

Attached hereto are reports received from the three aerodromes concerned, setting out the work effected up to date. Further reports will be provided when covers are completed and check measurements are taken.

The total expenditure on each of the three aerodromes will be provided as soon as all work is cleared up and all surplus materials are checked and stored.

Yours faithfully,

(sgd) Leo. J. Feenaghty for

ACTG. SECRETARY

The Chief Engineer,
2nd Australian Corps.

G.CE/RL.PR

Australian Military Forces

H.Q.
249 / 18
Date 8/9 TELEPHONE
Time 1620 hrs.
1 copies
Please quote this Number when Replying
G.S. [illegible]
CET 206

Address 2 Aust Corps

7 Sep 42

SUBJECT : PREPARATION OF AERODROMES FOR DEMOLITION

TO : 'G' 2 AUST CORPS

1. Ref First Aust Army signal 0791 of 24 Aug, copy of which was passed to CE for action, attached file is forwarded for information as to action taken.

2. File includes copies of this branch memo CET S1 of 26 Aug to MRC BRISBANE, and of MRC memo in reply 22A/7/9/10/11 of 2 Sep plus reports on the stage of completion at

(i) BUNDABERG
(ii) ROCKHAMPTON
(iii) MARYBOROUGH

3. In the case of ROCKHAMPTON it will be noted that work has ceased, though NOT included in this HQ memo CET S1. Confirmation of this action is required.

H Bachtold.

(H. Bachtold) Brig
CE 2 AUST CORPS

		Copy to	For Action
G.O.C.			
B.G.S.			
Ops.	JKP.		
	[illegible]		
S.D.	[illegible]		(8)
Int.			
B.B.			

COPY/PR

QUEENSLAND MAIN ROADS COMMISSION

HRH/BF
22A/7/10

BRISBANE 2nd September 1942

Dear Sir:

BUNDABERG R.A.A.F. STATION
DEMOLITION PREPARATIONS.

The demolition preparations requisitioned under 4009/41-42 as per E.S.B. plan 2243 were as follows :-

(1) Construct 13 tunnels
(2) Timbering of tunnels
(3) Construct 235 Bore Holes
(Plan 2243 shows 255 holes)

E.S.B. plan 2243 showed provision for demolition of three runways but as only one runway is existing, 6 tunnels were put in hand.

The Chief Engineer, 1st Australian Corps, requested that tunnels be taken to within 25 feet of the far edge of the runways in lieu of the measurements shown in plan.

The positio of this work at present is that the six shafts and tunnelling have been completed, including the timbering. Covers for the shafts are being made and put into place.

Approximately 120 bore holes have been put in and the necessary 2" G.I. pipe inserted.

Yours faithfully,

(sgd) Leo J. Feenaghty
for
ACTG SECRETARY.

The Chief Engineer
2nd Australian Corps

COPY/PR

QUEENSLAND MAIN ROADS COMMISSION

HRH/BF BRISBANE 2nd September 1942

22A/7/9/

Dear Sir:

ROCKHAMPTON AERODROME
DEMOLITION PREPARATIONS.

Demolition preparations requisitioned under 4008/41-42 as per E.S.B. Plan 2242 were as follows :-

(1) Construct 32 tunnels
(2) Timbering of tunnels
(3) Construct 215 Bore Holes
(Plan shows 12 tunnels)

The Chief Engineer, 1st Australian Corps, requested that tunnels be extended to within 25 feet of far edge of runway in lieu of measurements shown on plan.

The position regarding this work at present is being ascertained from the job and the information will be forwarded to you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

(sgd) Leo J. Feenaghty
for
ACTING SECRETARY

The Chief Engineer,
2nd Australian Corps

COPY/PR

QUEENSLAND MAIN ROADS COMMISSION

HRH/BF
22A/7/11

BRISBANE - 2nd September 1942

Dear Sir:

MARYBOROUGH R.A.A.F. STATION
DEMOLITION PREPARATIONS

The demolition preparations requisitioned under 4010/41 42 as per E.S.B. plan 2241 were as follows :-

Construct 21 tunnels. (Plan shows only 20)

The Chief Engineer, 1st Australian Corps, requested that tunnels be extended to within 25 feet of the far edge of the run-ways in lieu of the measurement shown on plan.

The position regarding this work at present is that all shafts are completed except for covers which are being prepared.

Excavation of tunnels at the 27th August, was as follows :

1	Excavation	78'	Timbered	73'
2	"	68'	"	66'
3	"	36'	"	36
4	"	78	"	77
5	"	60	"	55
6	"	62	"	58
7	"	41	"	35
8	"	76	"	70
9	"	58	"	55
10	"	28	"	18
11	"	69	"	66
12	"	40	"	36
13	"	66	"	62
14	"	64	"	59
15	"	59	"	59
16	"	50	"	48
17	"	53	"	51
18	"	32	"	26
19	"	48	"	44
20	"	31	"	29

A further amount of workhas been done sime the 27th August and further information will be supply as soon as check measurements have been taken on the job.

Yours faithfully,

(sgd) Leo. J. Feenaghty for

ACTING SECRETARY

COPY/PR

G.CE/RL.PR

CET S/1

S E C R E T

2 Aust Corps

26 Aug 42

SUBJECT : DEMOLITION OF AERODROMES

TO : CHIEF ENGINEER, MAIN RDS COMMISSION, BRISBANE

1. It is understood that aerodromes at BUNDABERG and MARYBOROUGH are being prepared for demolition by your Dept.

2. It is NOT known to this HQ whether work is still proceeding at these dromes, or what exact arrangements had been made between Brigadier Main of 1 Aust Corps and your Dept, but in accordance with instructions now to hand from First Aust Army it is requested that work be stopped on preparation of runways of all aerodromes.

3. A report would be appreciated on the stage reached in the preparations on the above two dromes.

(sgd) R.M. LITTLE Major

for

(H. Bachtold) Brig
CE 2 AUST CORPS

Subject :- Industrial Demolitions

SECRET

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
249 | 1 | 16
Date 20/8
T.O.R. 1700 hrs
HQ First Aust Army
G.S. 28 Aug 42

G(o) 367

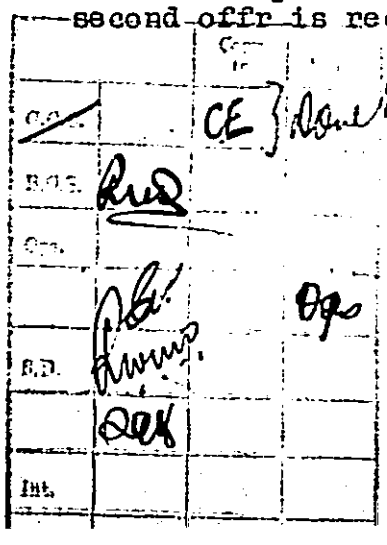
2 Aust Corps ✓

Copy : QLD L of C Area
CE

1. Your G 1035 of 18 Aug. Our Op Instn No 15 of 3 Jul allots the responsibility for preparing industrial demolitions (incl "power" and "scorched earth" demolitions) throughout QUEENSLAND to QLD L of C Area. It is not considered desirable to give this responsibility to fd formations as to do so might have the effect of tying them down to certain areas.

2. It is agreed that this planning is urgent and will involve a great deal of work. QLD L of C are using VDC to prepare plans. It is proposed that engr assistance be given to QLD L of C so that plans can be checked on the site and so that VDC dets can be visited for the purpose of helping them with their investigations.

3. In addition to the offr who is being found by 2 Aust Corps, vide our G(o) 292 of 2 Aug, to help QLD L of C Area, and who will probably be fully occupied with the operational demolition plan for the BRISBANE area, 2 Aust Corps will be prepared to find one other engr offr to assist QLD L of C with the industrial demolition plan. QLD L of C will advise 2 Aust Corps when this second offr is required.



B1

F.H. Berryman Maj Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

CE for action please
CGen

Army Form C.2123
(Pads of 100)
Reprinted Jan., 1941.

MESSAGE FORM.

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.	IN CIPHER MESSAGE	
	OUT	

I.Q. 2 AUST. ...PS
249 | 1 | 15
Date 2 | No. of Groups | Serial No. 4 1
T.O.R. 1425 | OFFICE DATE STAMP R 92
1 Copies
G.S. REGISTRY

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO 2 AUST CORPS 5 AUST DIV 41 US DIV RPTD QLD L OF C AREA NSW L OF C AREA

FROM	Originator's Number.	Date.	In Reply to Number.
FIRST AUST ARMY	0. 791	24	

Ref 15 of First Aust Army jul operational instruction
instructions take no action pending further
aerodromes for demolition to prepare
mined charges

Copy to: For Action
B.C. Rud
Ops ✓
Int.
E.B.

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS.
SIGNED

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CYPHER.
S.D.
SIGNED

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
IMMEDIATE

TIME OF ORIGIN.
1045
T.H.I. 1100
T.O.R. 1258

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

SYSTEM IN.	TIME IN.	READER	SENDER.	SYSTEM OUT.	TIME OUT.	READER	SENDER.	SYSTEM OUT.	TIME OUT.	READER	SENDER.

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St 5091 A. H. PETTIFER, ACTING GOVT. PRINTER.

Army Form C.2120
(Pads of 100)
Reprinted May, 1942—a.w. 16,000

MESSAGE FORM

HQ: 2 AUST. CORPS

Serial No. Ln 62

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN 0 Z XO1 L1

OUT

249 / No. of Groups

Date 23/8 GR.

T.O.R. 20 44hrs

OFFICE DATE STAMP
AUG 1942

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.) L opies
G.S. REGISTRY

TO 2 Aust Corps Rptd NSW 2 of

FROM	Originator's Number	Date	In Reply to Number
First Aust Army	0769	23	—

SECRET O Ref G16432 O Corps NSW 1 of 6 O
2 Aust Corps Advise NSW 1 of 6 first Sheet
additional alternative Situations worked O
Rptd — to first Aust Army

Copy to

G.H.Q.

CL Dan

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS: C / O.C.S.

If cipher is to be intercepted or fall into enemy hands, this message must be sent IN CYPHER

Originator's instructions
Degree of priority

Time of origin 1617

Signed

Copy ON B/B. 1

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

System In	Time In	Reader	Sender	System Out	Time Out	Reader	Sender	System Out	Time Out	Reader	Sender
4	1654	SEPT									

T.H.I. 1632

T.O.R. 19/

Army Form C.2123
(Adapted, Large)
(Pads of 100)
Reprinted March 1943—s.w. 10m pads.

(1)

MESSAGE FORM

CALL AND INSTRUCTIONS.

IN ZIP Z XO2

OUT

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
24/Nil/13.
Date 23/8 Serial No. 5
No. of Groups
T.O.R. G.M.T.
6 Copies
G.S. REGISTRY AUG 1942

(ABOVE THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

TO First Aust Army Rptd 2 Aust Corps

FROM NSW L of C Area | Originator's Number G164320 | Date 22/8 | In Reply to Number –

(Write horizontally)

E(O)268	of	we	Jul	addsd	5
NSW	L	of	C	Copy	10
to	1	Aust	Corps	O	15
Para	six	repeat	six	agreed	20
O	Present	demolition	programme	complete	25
except	Rd	and	rail	brs	30
O	Advise	if	preparation	these	35
and	any	extra	demolitions	required	40
					45
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					115
					120
					125
					130

	Copy to	For Action
		24/8
G.O.C.		CL Asst
B.G.S.		
Ops.		
A.D.		
Int		
B.B.		✓

Remind

B.B.

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS: *(EXCEPT) ( ) WIRELESS

SIGNATURE

* ORIGINATOR MAY DELETE "EXCEPT" AND INSERT "INCLUDING."

THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CYPHER IF LIABLE TO INTERCEPTION OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS.

SIGNATURE

ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

TIME OF ORIGIN —

T.H.I. 1640

T.O.R.

(BELOW THIS LINE IS FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.)

SYSTEM IN	TIME IN	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER	SYSTEM OUT	TIME OUT	READER	SENDER
F	0055	[illegible]									

B.

TELEPHONE—

Australian Military Forces—Eastern Command.

Please quote this Number when replying.

G 1035 *Address* 2 Aust Corps
Date 18 Aug 42

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
Secret 12
2 Aust Corps
Aug 42
T.O.R. hrs.
Copies
CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Denial of Resources to the Enemy

First Aust Army

Copy to:
Qld L of C Area
CE

1 It is considered that satisfactory implementation of the "Scorched Earth" Policy referred to in LHQ SM 13798 is beyond the resources of this HQ.

2 Considerable work and organisation is required to institute "Scorched Earth" which, because of its urgent nature, should be proceeded with immediately. The small staff of this HQ responsible for directing and co-ordinating the policy would not be able to devote the time required to produce urgently the best result. Also control between other Services and State Authorities could be managed more effectively by the larger Staff of a higher Formation.

3 It is recommended that a Committee be formed to deal with all matters affecting the institution of "Scorched Earth". This Committee to be organised as follows:-

(a) Army Representatives

First Aust Army	-	Representative to be the senior offr and President of the Committee.
Qld L of C Area	-	For "Power" demolitions and possible roles for VDC.
2 Aust Corps	-	For liaison purposes and co-ordination of op demolitions with "Scorched Earth" Policy.

(b) Navy Representatives

(c) Air Force Representatives

(d) Representatives from State Authorities

4 This HQ is, of course, anxious to co-operate and assist as much as possible and is prepared, if required, to accept full responsibility for the institution of the "Scorched Earth" policy. It is felt however, that the adoption of the above proposal will produce more satisfactory results in a shorter space of time.

J. Scott McCon.
Lt-Gen,
2 Aust Corps.

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
Dfg | L | 11A
Date 1948
T.O.R. — hrs.
Code
G.S. REGISTRY

G 1655

Subject: Denial of Resources to the Enemy.

First Aust Army

Copy to:
Qld L of C Area
CE

1 It is considered that satisfactory implementation of the "Scorched Earth" Policy referred to in HQ 5F 13793 is beyond the resources of this HQ.

2 Considerable work and organisation is required to institute "Scorched Earth" which, because of its urgent nature, should be proceeded with immediately. The small staff of this HQ responsible for directing and co-ordinating the policy would not be able to devote the time required to produce urgently the best result. Also control between other Services and State Authorities could be managed more effectively by the larger Staff of a higher Formation.

3 It is recommended that a Committee be formed to deal with all matters affecting the institution of "Scorched Earth". This Committee to be organised as follows:-

(a) Army Representatives

First Aust Army	-	Representative to be the senior offr and President of the Committee.
Qld L of C Area	-	For "Power" demolitions and possible roles for VDC.
2 Aust Corps	-	For liaison purposes and co-ordination of op demolitions with "Scorched Earth" Policy.

(b) Navy Representatives

(c) Air Force Representatives

(d) Representatives from State Authorities

4 This HQ is, of course, anxious to co-operate and assist as much as possible and is prepared, if required, to accept full responsibility for the institution of the "Scorched Earth" policy. It is felt, however, that the adoption of the above proposal will produce more satisfactory results in a shorter space of time.

Lt-Gen,
2 Aust Corps.

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
349 / 1 / 11 SECRET
Date 1578
T.O.R. 30 HQ First Aust Army
14 Aug 42
1 Copies:
G.S. REGISTRY 28

Subject :- Operational Demolitions

2 Aust Corps

Copy : CE

1. It is understood that 1 Aust Corps handed over to you their demolition plan in the form of schedules of demolitions showing priorities and supported by their drawing CE/6 dated 7 Jun 42.

2. In a forthcoming amendment to First Aust Army Op Instn No 15 the area in which 2 Aust Corps is to be responsible for operational demolitions is defined as from incl general line ROUND HILL HEAD - BUILYAN to excl TWEED RIVER ESTUARY, but excl GREATER BRISBANE Area. It is expected that responsibility for preparing demolitions south of the NSW - QLD border will be undertaken by NSW L of C, though 2 Aust Corps will retain responsibility for their execution.

3. It is desired that 2 Aust Corps examine the plan prepared by 1 Aust Corps and revise the priorities allotted, in the light of new boundaries, altered dispositions of tps and altered roles vide First Aust Army Op Instn No 18. Since this revision will probably not involve a visit to the ground it is thought that revised priorities could be submitted within a few days, and it would be appreciated if an effort could be made to do this.

	Corps	Same
G.O.C.		
B.G.S.		
Ops.	CE	Ops.
S.D.		
	DDOS	
Int.		
R.E.		

for Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

B1

TELEPHONES—

Australian Military Forces.

Please quote this Number when replying.

1 MB	1942	20

Address H.Q. 1 Aust. Mot. Bde.
Date 12. Aug. 1942.

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
249 | 1 | 10
Date 15/8
T.O.R. 0920 hrs.
1 Copies
G.S. REGISTRY

SECRET.

2 AUST. CORPS.

RECCE FOR FD. DEMOLITIONS.

Reference the above, herewith is forwarded copy of recce completed for proposed Fd. Demolitions in this area.

Two copies of report have been forwarded to FIRST AUST ARMY.

J.W. Munro Brig.
Comd. 1 Aust. Mot. Bde.

B.

1 Aust Corps

SECRET.
Copy No

17 Jul 42.

B.C.
5 Aust. Motor Regt.
11 Aust. Mot. Regt. (2)
16 Aust. Mot. Regt.
File
First Aust. Army (2)
1 Aust. Corps. (9)

REPORT ON RECCE.

15 & 16 Jul. 42.

On 15 and 16 Jul. 42 an Engineers Recce was carried out by the A/B.M Capt. P.H. Outridge, and Engineer Officer att 1 Aust. Motor Bde. Lieut. D.C.Maclurcan 2/14th A. Fd Coy A.I.F.

Routes reconnoitred were-

(a) WOOLOOGA to BOOMPA, via MT. JOSEPH RD.
(b) BOOMPA to GAYNDAH , via BIGGENDEN and COULSTOUN LAKES.
(c) GAYNDAH, IDERAWAY. MT. LAWLESS.
(d) GAYNDAH, BAN BANN SPRINGS, BOOUBYJAN.
(e) BOOUBYJAN, via DAIEMARINE to MT. JOSEPH.
(f) MT. JOSEPH RD. JCN, BROOWENA, ARAMARA, GIGOOMGAN.

Mr. Mant at GIGOOMGAN gave valuable infm regarding rds in this area.

—

SITES SELECTED FOR FD DEMOLITIONS.

(a) WOOLOOGA to BOOMPA - 8 sites were selected for hasty fd demolitions.
(b) BOOMPA to GAYNDAH - 4 sites were selected for hasty demolitions in the fd.
(c) GAYNDAH to MT. LAWLESS - No sites were selected.
(d) BAN BANN SPRINGS to BOOUBYJAN - 4 sites were selected.
(e) BOOUBYJAN to MT. JOSEPH 3 sites were selected for demolitions.
(f) MT. JOSEPH RD. JCN , BROOWENA, ARAMARA, to GIGOOMGAN- only one site was selected but numerious opportunities offer for creating effective blocks by the -ing of timber in this area.

—

The rd from Mt. JOSEPH to TIARO according to Mr. Mant, appears to be the only rd connecting MARYBOROUGH -GYMPIE RD with the MT. JOSEPH RD between MARYBOROUGH & BIGGENDEN RD in the North and MAINA Ck Rd in the South.

For further details of location of sites and details of rds, see Appx " A " to " F " att.

CONCLUSION: It is considered that recce parties from units which it is anticipated will be working in this area, should reconnoitre in detail the sites set out in Appx " A " to " F " and marked on map (Appx) "G"). Notes on Demolitions and Pro - forma for recce, Appx "H".

All data should then be submitted to the Eng.Offr. att 1 Aust. Motor Bde. for preparation of tables, and details of charges necessary to effectively carr. out the demolitions.

H Wormald Lieut for Capt.
A/B.M 1 Aust. Mot. Bde.

Copies to CE
"
DCI
Mclay

APPENDIX "A"

SECRET.

COPY No.....

HASTY FD. DEMOLITIONS recommended for consideration in event of enemy moving North or South along WOOLOOGA - BOOMPA RD.

17 Jul. 1942.

REPORT ON RECCE.

APPENDIX "A"

Serial No	ROUTE	Map Ref.	Nature of Demolition	APPROX DISTANCE FROM KNOWN PT.	REMARKS.
1	WOOLOOGA-GYMPIE (STRAT) BOOMPA	4 mls to 1" 2nd Ed. 554768	WIDE BAY CK (local name DEADMAN BRIDGE	WOOLOOGA 2.1 mls	Photographed (No.25) 3 concrete piers 2 pile piers. Suggested cut 3 piers. 2 spans, 1 abbut.
2	do.	MARYBOROUGH (strat) 2nd Ed. 546775	BRIDGE	5.6 mls.	Blow centre pier. 2 spans Trees handy fo preparing block and fd. of fire for coveri -ing block.
3	do.	MARYBOROUGH 546777	BRIDGE (Running Ck.)	7.1 mls.	Cut centre pier. 2 spans Blind approach. (Photo No.26.)
4	do.	543783	BRIDGE	11.0	South MORODIAN STN. Cut 2 piers(concrete) and central span. 1 Abbut steep banks 20' Screened approach. (Photo No.27.)
5	do.	543786	BRIDGE (CALCOA CK)	13.2	Bridge North MORODIAN Stn Bad state repair probably class 5. 30' steep banks Blow North Abbut, pier and span. (Photo No.28)
6	do.	536800	BRIDGE SPRING CK.	23.1	Blow 1 pier, 1 Abbut, 1 span.
7	do.	53128115	BRIDGE under construction SANDY CK.	32.8	Blow 2 piers. 2 Spans.
8	do	53058121	BRIDGE EEL.CK.	33.5	Blow 2 spans.

In addition to above the following general notes are recorded and points for road blocks suggested-.

Serial No.	ROUTE	Map. Ref.	Nature of Demol.	Approx. Distance from known pt. (from WOOLOOGA)	Remarks.
9.	WOOLOOGA-BOOLPA	(Strat) GEMPIE 551769		3.0	Gully with trees handy for falling in gully.
10	do			3.0 to 8.9	Country hilly with forest.
11	do	MAREBOROUGH 545779		8.9	As for Serial No.9
12	do	544792		17.6 to 20.8	Valley with trees comparatively narrow.
	do	538797		20.8	As for Serial No.9
14	do			20.9	Valley opens out. Ringbarked country Black soil ridges.
15	do			28.8	Timber thicker; undulating country.
16	do			30.0 to 34.8	Forest numerious sites for timber rd blocks.
17	do			34.8 to 36.8	Ringbarked country. Undulating.
18	do				Forest from BOOLPA to Lake side.

S E .

COPY No.....

REPORT ON RECCE.

Appx " B "

Recommended for consideration in allotment of tasks to V.D.C on Tps withdrawing from BOOMPA towards GAYNDAH.

Serial No.	ROUTE	Map Ref.	Nature of Demolition	Approx Distance from known pt.	Remarks.
19	BOOMPA - GAYNDAH	MARYBOROUGH 476816	BRIDGE BARAMBAH	From GAYNDAH 5.4 mls	Reinforced concrete bridge. Cut 3 piers. 1 Abbut 4 spans.
20	do	469815	CUTTING	1.3	Cutting overlooking BURNETT RIVER To be blocked and mines and barbed wire. Bank to be brought down.
21	do	468815	BRIDGE	0.3	Wooden bridge. Steep banks 50' Blow Abbut Cut 2 spans, 3 piers.
22	do	467816	BRIDGE BURNETT RIVER	0.0	Big undertaking. Damage as much as time permits. Really a task fo Engrs.
23	In addition the following notes are made.-				
	BOOMPA - GAYNDAH				Good defence area. Narrowed Valley for 4 mls on BIGGENDEN -COULSTOUN LAKES RD.
24	do				GOOROOBA-BURNETTOWN-WHETHERON Areas Open undulating country suitable op. of Tanks.

REPORT ON RECCE.

APPX " E ".

Enemy Fd Demolitions to be considered in event of withdrawl from MT JOSEPH area to BOOUBYJAN.

Serial No	ROUTE	MAP REF	NATURE OF DEMOL.	APPROX. DISTANCE FROM KNOWN PT.	REMARKS.
32	BOOUBYJAN DADEMARINE CK-MT. JOSEPH.	865762	Defile side cutting		Sidecutting in defile. Blow leg supporting roadway. Fell timber on top side and bring down bank on top side. Crater across ck. on North Bank requires recce to flank on North Considered this together with Serial 33 of Appx."E" be priority tasks of V.D.C in event of withdrawl this area.
33	do	507783			Same as for Serial 32 above.
34	do	513788	Sidecutting		Blow side cutting on east of top of [illegible] range. Timber block above and booby traps on West side.
35	do				Excellent area for defence and for ambush. Narrow Valley occasional defiles. Numerous fords. Floods complete block of this route, from BOOUBYJAN to t top of range at Serial No. 34.

REPORT ON RECCE.

APPX ".F."

MT. JOSEPH RD JCN.
BROOWEENA- ARAWARA- GICOOMGAN.

Serial No	ROUTE MAP REF	NATURE OF DEFECT.	APPROX. DISTANCE FROM KNOWN PT.	REMARKS.
36	536815	BRIDGE BOOMPA CK	From BOOMPA	Hidden approach. Slow Abbut. and pier.
37				BOOMPA RD. Xing to BROOWEENA ARAWARA to TEEBAR CK forest Excellent sites for timber rd Blocks and ambush-TEEBAR CK to MT. Joseph rd JCN. Open country Red soil.
38	538799 to 574802			Mr. Hunt of GICOOMGAN advised rd GLENBAR to TIARO Not much used. Considered good. Main road to GLENBAR then break 4 miles unattended P.E.I. recently spent £1200 from there to TIARO. Improved access to timber from TIARO end.

SECRET.
COPY NO.....

REPORT ON RECCE.

Appx "C".

Serial No	ROUTE	Map Ref.	Nature of Demol	Approx distance from Known pt.	REMARKS.
25					No sites for hasty fd. demolitions on this area. Railway Br. at MT. LAWLESS on 1 Aust. Corps list for demolition. No other Bridges on BURNETT River in this locality.
26		474837	RiverX-ing YENDA		Not recced but should be considered a as task for V.D.C.

REPORT ON RECCE.

SECRET.

Appx"D"

GAYNDAH- BAN BAN SPRING -BOOUGYJAN. Should be considered for hasty fd demol. in event of tps withdrawing from GAYNDAH or BIGGENDEN area towards MIRGON. or GOOMERI.

27	GAYNDAH BOOUHYJAN	495898	BRIDGE GROVERS CK.	From BAN BAN Jcn. 6.4 mls	2 spans over water and piers to be blown
28	do	495779	BRIDGE BOONARA CK	18.6	Blow span and Abbut.
29	do	504776	BOONARA CK		Well hidden Bridge. Blow entirely
			ADDITIONAL NOTES.		
30		494793		11.8	Small cutting twisty road. Site for rd block of fallen timber Suggested site for V.D.C Block and task.
31					Excellent defence area. South of Anear bridge referred to in Ser No. 29

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
319 / 8
SECRET
Date 3/8
Title G(o)
HQ First Aust Army
1 Aug 42
G(o)292

Subject :- Demolition plan in QLD L of C Area

1 Aust Corps
2 Aust Corps
5 Aust Div
QLD L of C Area

Copy : CE

1. First Aust Army Op Instn No 15, dated 3 Jul, stated that First Aust Army would find engr assistance needed by QLD L of C Area for preparing their demolition plan. A request has now been received from QLD L of C Area for engr assistance in recce as a preliminary to determining what engr units will be needed for the actual work of preparation.

2. 1 Aust Corps, 2 Aust Corps and 5 Aust Div will each provide one engr offr to assist QLD L of C Area to draw up a plan. It is understood that not all these offrs will be wanted at the one time. QLD L of C should deal directly with 1 and 2 Aust Corps and 5 Aust Div in this matter.

3. It is emphasised that every effort must be made to have this demolition plan prepared without delay so that work can be started.

4. Under an amendment to First Aust Army Op Instn No 15, which is being issued in the near future, the area within which QLD L of C is responsible for preparing operational demolitions is restricted to the Greater BRISBANE area.

		Copy to	For Action
G.O.C.		CE	✓
B.G.S.			
Ops.			
	✓		
S.D.			
Int.			
B.B.			

H.Berryman Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

DRAFT JDS.

G 2 Ops.

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
X49 1 2
G.S. REGISTRY

DEMOLITIONS.

Ref AHQ SM 7823. Demolition Policy and First Army.

When advice from First Army asking substance:-

"Are we to assume that a further direction in respect of 'Scorched Earth' as such will be issued shortly, vide para 6 of above memo from AHQ. We intend planning action in accordance with this memo but:-

(a) State civil organization ready to play and both State and Municipal authorities involved.

(b) L of C can develop - a pity this cannot go on.

Hold this for four days until we get an instn from First Army, or else write.

R.W.T.

From L of C. (1) Destn Pol. 1
(2) " Power.

CR OPS

Demarkation

Ref A HQ SM 7823 Demarkation Policy & Fourth Army ——— When advise from Fourth Army action substantiate.

"Are we to assume that a further increase in respect of "Screened Courts" as such will be issued. Shortly vide para 6 of above memo from A HQ. We intend planning action in accordance with this memo link:-

(a) State Civil Organ ready to hand over State & municipal authorities involved

(b) Lots of Com demarcation -

A duty that this cannot go on.

Need this for 4 days when we ask an instruction Fourth Army or else write

Reg

Copy JMH.

S10.1.623

SECRET.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

(Chief of the General Staff)

HQ 2 AUST. CORPS
Copy to CE 249 1/1 A 3
Date
T.O.R. hrs.
Copies
REGISTRY

SM.7823.

General Headquarters,
Victoria Barracks.
MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

1st Army
2nd Army
3rd Corps
Northern Territory Force.
New Guinea Force.
1st Armoured Division.
19 Infantry Brigade.

Queensland-L. of C. Area.
New South Wales L of C Area.
Victoria. L. of C Area.
Tasmania. L. of C Area.
South Australia L of C Area.
Western Australia L of C Area.
New Guinea-L. of C Area.

DEMOLITION POLICY

1. The following principles are promulgated for guidance of all concerned.

Demolitions will be divisable into two classes:-

(a) Operational
(b) Industrial.

2. Operational demolitions are the function of commanders of field formation who will make such preparations as are necessary to delay the enemy and to deny facilities to him in the event of withdrawal.

3. Industrial demolitions could be of such an extensive character and would require such materialand time, that to carry out a scorched earth policy as popularly envisaged would be impossible.

Industrial demolitions are therefore to be considered in two priorities:--

(a) Power
(b) Scorched Earth.

4. "Power" installations are to be regarded as first priority. These include main power stations, stand-by plants, oil fuel installations and some secondary installations.

5. The order for an execution of "power" demolitions is the responsibility of Commanders of field formations, but the preparations for and execution of the demolitions should be delegated to Commanders L. of C. Areas.

Commanders L. of C. Areas will organise V.D.C. detachments in the works concerned. They will consist of key men from the respective plants who will receive military training and training in bomb disposal matters. Their duties, in addition to preparation for demolition, will include plant maintenance, in event of damage by bombs etc. Such detachments should be within the normal V.D.C. organization.

The Training of these detachments will be the responsibility of Comds field formations, but where the delegation of preparations has been made to Comds L. of C. Areas, training should also be delegated.

6. A more complete denial or "Scorched earth" policy will be of second priority to be commenced only when arrangements are satisfactorily completed for first priority denials.

In the meantime, information in this respect should be collated through civil sources.

7. Acknowledge.

Copy CE 765

(Sgd.) G.A. Vasey Maj.-Gen.
for Lieutenant-General,
Chief of the General Staff.

Copies to:

C. in C.
C.G.S.
Lt.-Gen. Adm.
A.G.
Q.M.G.
M.G.O.
D.M.O & P.
D.S.D.
D.M.T.
D.M.I.

D.A.F.V.
M.G.R.A.
E. in C.
S.O. in C.
U.S.A.F.I.A.
Sec. Army.
" Navy
" Air
" Home Security.
" War Diary.

SECRET

H.Q. 29-1-17

HQ First Aust Army
5 Sep 42
Copies

Subject :- Denial of Resources to the Enemy

— 2 Aust Corps (3)
5 Aust Div
41 US Inf Div

Copy : QLD L of C Area
CSO

1. Ref SM 13978 issued under the HQ G(o) 295 of 2 Aug 42 the following additional instructions are issued in amplification of para 2 of Appx A.

Destruction of permanent telephone lines.

2. The destruction of telephone lines may be done most efficiently by :

(a) Cutting down poles particularly at junction of routes.

(b) Straining and breaking wires at frequent intervals along routes which are no longer required for comm within our own formations.

3. Carefully planned instructions must be issued by CO Div Sigs or senior signal officer present to ensure that :

(a) Lines are not prematurely destroyed to the detriment of our own comms.

(b) Lines are always broken between our rearmost troops using the line and the enemy, to prevent the enemy from overhearing by teeing in.

G.O.C.		HQ
B.G.S.		CSO
Ops.		CE
S.D.		
Int.		
A.A.		

J.V. Berryman
Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
249 / 1 / 25
Date 17/9. SECRET
T.O.R. 0900 hrs.
Copies
HQ First Aust Army
G.S. REGISTRY
17 Sep 42

G(o) 430

Subject :- Demolition of landing grounds

2 Aust Corps (4)
1 US Corps (4)
5 Aust Div
TORRES STRAIT Force
QLD L of C Area } less attachment
NSW L of C Area }

22.H.2019.

Copies : HQ RAE First Aust Army Tps
AOC NE Area AAF
AOC Eastern Area AAF
G(o)
G(I)
G(SD)
A
Q
CE

1. Herewith Adv LHQ memo 00857 of 12 Sep 42 for infm and action.

2. Para 8 (d) of First Aust Army Op Instn 15 (as amended by Amendment No 1 of 25 Aug 42) is CANCELLED, together with all parts of Appx A to that Op Instn that conflict with Adv LHQ memo 00857.

3. Because of the likelihood of deterioration, charges already placed below aerodrome runways will be withdrawn. Where chambers have been built these will be left intact.

4. Authorities previously responsible for preparation for demolition of aerodromes within First Aust Army area will report to this HQ progress in the removal of charges.

Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

	Copy to	For action
G.O.C.	Original CE ✓	Copies sent
B.G.R.		
Ops.		✓
		→
S.D.		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		

B

SECRET

ALLIED LAND FORCES IN SW PACIFIC AREA

Adv LHQ

00857

12 Sep 42

First Aust Army
Second Aust Army
3 Aust Corps
NG Force
NT Force
Tas Force
Q'land L of C Area
NSW L of C Area
Vic L of C Area
SA L of C Area
WA L of C Area

Copies for information to -

LHQ (CGS (5), LGA, AG, QMG, MGO, E-in-C)
Adv LHQ (C-in-C, DCGS, BGS (O), BGS (I), Col GS (SD & Tng),D/E-in-C DA & QMG (2))
GHQ SWPA
AAF
ANF
USASOS
DG, Security
War Diary (2)
File

DEMOLITION OF LANDING GROUNDS

1. It has been decided that in future the demolition by explosives of landing grounds will NOT be included in the policy of denial of resources to the enemy. Any preparatory works in progress will be discontinued immediately.

2. Experience has shown that a mine or bomb crater can be quickly and easily repaired, so that unless a mined runway can be kept under protective fire, the demolition is of momentary value only. If a landing ground can be kept under protective fire, there is little advantage in destroying it.

Generally, it is considered that the comparatively small advantage to be gained over the enemy does NOT justify the expenditure of the labour, plant and material involved in the preparation and execution of the demolition of landing grounds by explosives.

3. This instruction supersedes all directions on this subject in previous correspondence, and in particular the relative paragraphs in SM 1494 of 24 Jan 42, SM 9105 of 24 May 42, SM 10018 of 9 Jun 42 and SM 13978 of 30 Jul 42.

4. Acknowledge.

ACK
10/0
18/9

(Sgd) G.A.VASEY
Major-General
Deputy Chief of the General Staff

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
49 ~~768~~ 1 ~~39~~ 9
5/8
1000 SECRET
4
G.S. REGISTRY

HQ First Aust Army
2 Aug 42

G(o) 295

1 Aust Corps (4)
2 Aust Corps (4)
5 Aust Div

Copy : QLD L of C Area)
NSW L of C Area) less attachment
CE
G(SD)
G(I)
DA & QMG
A
Q

1. Att hereto as Appx "A" is a copy of SM 13978 of 30 Jul 42, covering a directive on the subject of "Denial of Resources to the Enemy".

2. Of the four secret memoranda referred to in para 2 of SM 13978, relevant extracts of SM 1494, SM 10018 and SM 7823 were appended to First Aust Army Op Instn No 15 of 3 Jul, and SM 9105 was distributed from this HQ under cover of G(o) 105 of 29 May.

3. SM 13978 is to be read in conjunction with First Aust Army Op Instn No 15 of 3 Jul.

ACK

H.H. Bergman Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

1500
4/c Maj Evans

Copies to.
AQ
CE
C20.
GH
1 clerk

G.

SECRET

MO5/AM.

ALLIED LAND FORCES IN S.W.PACIFIC AREA.

L.H.Q.

S.M. 13978. 30th July, 1942.

First Aust Army
Second Aust Army
3 Aust Corps
Q'land. L. of C. Area
N.S.W. L. of C. Area
Vic. L. of C. Area
S.A. L. of C. Area
W.A. L. of C. Area
Tasmania Force
N.T. Force
New Guinea Force

Copies for information to -

C.G.S.; L.G.A.; A.G.; Q.M.G.; M.G.O.; C.N.S.; C.A.S.; G.H.Q., S.W.P.Area (2); Allied Air Forces (2); Allied Naval Forces (2); U.S.A.F.I.A. (2); D.G. Security; War Diary (2); File.

DENIAL OF RESOURCES TO THE ENEMY.

1. A directive for guidance in the formulation of detailed plans for denial of resources to the enemy is forwarded herewith.

2. The abovementioned directive should be read in conjunction with the following :-

Op Instr 15 S.M. 1494 of 24 Jan. 42 (Policy in connection with protection and denial of R.A.A.F. establishments, aerodromes and seaplane bases).

Op Instr 15 S.M. 7823 of 14 May 42 (Demolition policy) and Engineer in Chief's Instruction No. 4 (Demolition of Petroleum products).

S.M. 9105 of 24 May 42 (Preparation of Demolitions)

Op Instr 15 S.M. 10018 of 9 Jun. 42 (Demolition of Landing Grounds).

3. The following S.Ms are cancelled :-

S.M. 16945 of 23 Dec. 41 (Destruction of Petroleum Products).

S.M. 2875 of 16 Feb. 42 (Demolition of Aerodromes)

S.M. 5389 of 23 Mar. 42 (Demolition of Oil and Petrol Tanks).

4. Acknowledge.

(Sgd) G.A.VASEY Maj-Gen
for Lieutenant-General,
Chief of the General Staff.

SECRET

DENIAL OF RESOURCES TO THE ENEMY

DIRECTIVE FOR GUIDANCE IN THE FORMULATION OF DETAILED PLANS.

POLICY

Denial policy will be implemented under one of two categories, according to circumstances :-

(i) In cities, towns and localities from which the evacuation of the civil population has been ordered and from which the military forces are about to withdraw, a TOTAL denial policy will be implemented, i.e., the complete and total removal or destruction of everything likely to maintain or assist the enemy in his operations.

(ii) In cities, towns and localities in which the civil population is instructed to remain during enemy attack or occupation, a PARTIAL denial policy will be implemented, i.e. certain essential services to enable the population to live will be left intact, together with food supplies. All other services, utilities, vehicles, materials and everything likely to be of assistance to the enemy in his operations will be removed to a safe area or totally destroyed. A reasonable proportion of bulk supplies of food stuffs and clothing, blankets, etc., will be distributed to the inhabitants for concealment and future use, any remaining being removed from the area, or destroyed "in situ".

POWERS

2. The necessary legal power to implement a denial policy has been conferred by amendment to Regulation 32 of the National Security (General) Regulations. This has been delegated to each G.O.C. Army Corps and Division, and Commander Lines of Communication Area under sub-regulations (1) and (2) of that Regulation.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

3. Methods to be employed in implementing the denial policy will be in accordance with the following principles :-

(i) A denial or "Scorched Earth" policy requires a tremendous amount of organization and work to implement it. Consequently the first step in implementing this policy should be to destroy all forms of power. This includes main plants and subsidiary or emergency plants in factories and all stocks of oil fuel. To be effective, subsequent steps must be selective and applied thoroughly at all key points from which the enemy can derive benefit that he most needs and has the greatest difficulty in replacing. Examples are shown in Appendix A attached.

(ii) Plans must be made beforehand and should provide for:-

(a) Total removal where possible

(b) Removal of component parts, so that no interchange of parts can be effected

(c) Sinking in rivers or sea

(d) Demolitions by fire

(e) Demolitions by explosives. This is the most expensive in material and preparation time and will only be employed when other methods are not possible.

(iii) Denial plans should aim at total destruction for an indefinite period and should not be compromised by any desire to recover resources intact when the enemy withdraws. He will almost certainly himself destroy anything of value in his retreat.

(iv) In emergency, personnel responsible for the actual denial must take individual action to prevent resources falling into enemy hands.

RESPONSIBILITY

4. Military

(i) The army is responsible for -

(a) The general policy for denial of both civil and military resources

(b) Preparations for denial of military facilities

(c) Selection of civil facilities to be denied to the enemy and supervision and approval of plans for denial to these facilities

(d) Assistance to other Services as regards skilled personnel and explosives

(e) Co-operation with the RAAF in the denial of RAAF and Civil Aviation establishments as set out in para 6 below.

(f) Preparation for demolition of wireless and broadcasting stations

(g) Orders regarding the execution of each phase or portion of all denial plans both Service and civil.

(h) Actual denial (destruction or demolition) of military and civil facilities.

(ii) An authority to each GOC Army, Corps, Division and Commander L of C Area under Regulation 32 of the National Security (General) Regulations has been signed by the Minister, and they will accordingly have legal power by means of Orders under that regulation to enforce a denial policy.

(iii) As set out in SM 7823 of 14th May 1942, the order for and execution of "power" demolitions is the responsibility of GOC Army, Corps or Divisions but the preparations for and execution of the demolitions should be delegated to Commanders L of C Areas. Operational demolitions are the sole function of the GOC Army, Corps or Divisions.

(iv) It will be the responsibility of each Commander, as above, to prepare and issue the appropriate orders in legal form to the extent for which each is responsible both for the preparatory work in the initial stages(eg measures for control, collection, removal or preparation for destruction) and for the actual removal, distribution or destruction of things (other than vessels when denial has actually to be implemented.

(v) Commanders L of C Areas will work in close co-operation with the State authorities in the planning of denial schemes, forming the link between the State authorities and the GOC Army, Corps or Divisions.

5. Naval Forces -

(i) Naval authorities are responsible for denial of -

(a) All Naval and shipping facilities, equipment, etc

(b) All moored shipping, whether at wharves or in the stream

(c) All small craft in conjunction with the Military authorities, particularly in inland waterways

District Naval Officers and certain Naval Officers-in-Charge are authorised under National Security (General) Regulation 45D and the Immobilization of Vessels Order of 20th March 1942 to implement and effect a denial policy in respect to vessels of all types.

(ii) In all cases actual demolition or destruction will not be carried out without orders from the Military authorities except in extreme emergency to prevent material falling into enemy hands.

6. AIR FORCES

The division of responsibility between the Army and the Air Force for the denial of RAAF and Civil Aviation facilities, equipment, etc, remains as already laid down and set out hereunder. This division of responsibility is subject to variation where mutual arrangements are made to meet local requirements -

Army Responsibilities

(i) The preparation of demolitions of landing grounds. These may be undertaken by the civil administration or by the Department of the Interior under the direction of the Department of the Army.

(ii) The execution of demolitions of landing grounds on advice by the RAAF that they are no longer required for operations and on RAAF request to carry out the demolition. In any emergency in which it appears that enemy occupation of an aerodrome will take place, and in the absence of RAAF advice, the local Military Commander will be responsible for ensuring that demolition is carried out.

RAAF Responsibilities

(i) The demolition of installations and equipment such as Air Radio stations, RDF, and W/T installations, aircraft, fuel, ammunition, repair facilities, etc.

(ii) The provision, maintenance and control of obstacles on the aerodromes, except at isolated localities where mutual arrangements will be made with the Army.

7. United States Forces

The United States Forces are responsible for the denial of their own facilities, equipment, etc.

8. Civil

The Civil authorities including managers of munition factories are responsible for -

(a) Provision of information regarding installations which must be denied to the enemy

(b) Plans and preparations for removal or destruction of civil facilities. These plans are to be submitted to the military authorities for approval (vide paragraph 4 (i) (c) above).

(c) Actual removal of civil facilities, particularly machine tools and munitions manufacturing plant, to a safer area insofar as this is possible. The military authorities are responsible for the destruction of facilities which cannot be removed (vide para 4(i) (g) above).

(d) Co-operation with the military authorities in every way to ensure the success of the general plan.

9. Liaison

There must be a clear understanding between the Military and civil authorities as to their respective responsibilities for actually carrying out the necessary work and to ensure complete denial when orders for action are issued.

10. Close liaison will be maintained by the Army with RAN, RAAF and United States Forces to ensure that the necessary action so far as their own Service is concerned is within their capacity.

EXECUTION

11. Time will be a vital factor in making adequate preparations. It will be essential to concentrate on areas in the following priority -

(i) Coastal areas which cannot be adequately protected by troops and which are now directly endangered, e.g., North West Australia and North Queensland.

(ii) Similar areas which are less immediately threatened

(iii) Coastal areas which are protected by covering forces

(iv) Inland areas according to their accessibility.

12. The degree of decentralization of plans in each of the above groups should be progressively restricted. For example, in group (i), not only should plans be prepared with the greatest rapidity, but all concerned should be notified of the action required of them in the execution of the denial plans. In the other groups, knowledge of plans should be limited for the present in order not to cause unnecessary alarm.

APPENDIX "A"

Installations, facilities, etc., which should be denied to the enemy :-

1. Naval, Army and Air Force installations, aerodromes, facilities and equipment.

2. Wireless, cable, telegraph stations and telephone exchanges.

3. Petrol and Oil stocks, installation and pumping equipment as well as wells and refineries.

4. Stocks of coal, raw materials, gunny bags, drums, clothing materials, boots, leather, food stocks, and alcoholic liquors. Water supplies and minimum stocks of essential foodstuffs should be left for local inhabitants but latter should, as far as possible, be distributed to the population before withdrawal to avoid bulk supplies falling into the enemy's hands.

5. Harbour facilities, especially bunkering equipment and ship repairing facilities, sources of power to work them and fresh water.

6. Transport facilities, especially road and rail bridges, locomotive repair shops, and all engines and rolling stock, sea and river vessels which cannot be removed.

7. Mine workings and machinery for getting, transporting and refining ores required by the enemy, especially wolfram, lead, zinc, nickel, cobalt, copper, manganese, bauxite, chrome, silver, gold, iron ore and engineering stores therewith.

8. Special attention should be paid to the denial of bicycles motor vehicles, petrol, oil and producer gas units.

9. In dry areas, particularly North west Australia, Northern Territory and Central Australia, the denial of water will provide a most powerful weapon. Most complete plans are necessary to ensure demolition of pumping machinery and bores or the contamination of stocks of water before final withdrawal of local personnel.

10. Wireless installed in motor cars should be removed and when cars are parked, key and distribution point should also be removed.

First Army

APPENDIX "B"

SCORCHED EARTH POLICY

By Statutory Rules, 1942, No.105 (Gazetted 9th March, 1942) Regulation 32 of the National Security (General) Regulations was amended to provide full power to effect a scorched earth policy.

On 7th May 1942 an authority to each Commander L. of C. Area under the amended regulation was signed by the Minister; and, on 20th May, a similar authority to each G.O.C. Army Corps and Division was signed by the Minister.

Regulation 32 as amended is attached and should be carefully studied. Attention is specially directed to the following points:-

Sub-Regulation (1) Each G.O.C. Army Corps and Division and each commander L. of C. Area is, by virtue of authorities, referred to in the last preceding paragraphs, an authorised person.

Para. (c) enables the necessary preparatory work to be undertaken or directed (e.g., control, collection, preparation for destruction of animals or things) as well as enabling the actual removal of animals or things to be ordered. Note, however, that the animals or things must be of a kind considered to be useful to the enemy in the event of enemy occupation.

Note that the word "thing" is defined in sub-regulation (7) to include "a building, structure, installation, works, aerodrome, road railway, mine, reservoir or substance," apart from the ordinary dictionary definition of "thing".

Para. (f) of sub-regulation (1) is designed primarily for use in circumstances where there is a reasonable prospect that the animals and things specified in the order can be removed before the expiration of the time specified in the order (e.g., in the case of planned evacuation of the area). The power to destroy animals or things is limited by this paragraph to cases where removal cannot reasonably be carried out before the time expires.

Para. (g) deals with destruction only.

Sub-regulation (2) is a machinery provision as to the various incidental provisions which can be included in Orders made under sub-regulation (1). It does not limit but increases the powers conferred by sub-regulation (1).

In this regard note especially para (g) enabling the Minister or an authorised person to authorise any other person or authority to take any action or give any directions necessary for the purpose of the order. By use of this paragraph a G.O.C. Army Corps, or Division or a Commander L. of C. Area may make a general Order, and authorise different persons or authorities in different areas to give the necessary detailed instructions for its implementation.

Para. (h) by providing that an Order may contain necessary incidental and supplementary provisions also extends the powers conferred by sub-regulation (1) e.g., it would cover the distribution of necessaries to civilians who were not being evacuated from an area to which a denial policy has to be enforced.

Sub-regulation (5) confers the necessary power, if an Order is made requiring the doing of an act or thing by a specified time, to take such action and to give such direction to secure compliance with the Order, as the G.O.C. Army Corps or Division or Commander L. of C. Area considers necessary. He need not wait until the specified time when, e.g., a person has been ordered to remove things by 0500 hours on the 7th, and at 1100 hours on 6th has taken no or no sufficient steps to do so. Military personnel can be used or other reliable civilians can be given directions to take the necessary action.

Forwarding of copies of Orders. Seven copies of each Order made under Regulation 32 must be forwarded to L.H.Q., immediately it is made. The memorandum forwarding the copies must be despatched the same day as the Order is signed.

Methods available are :-

Newspaper advertisement, press statements, wireless broadcasts, posters, dodgers, letters, etc.

Security consideration may debar the use of a method such as a wireless broadcast, in some circumstances but in that event one of the alternative methods must be used.

Power not to be abused. The granting of such wide power involves a corresponding responsibility to see that they are not abused, and if power to issue directions is conferred on other persons and authorities their activities must be policed.

Evacuation of areas.

"(1) The Minister, or any person authorized by the Minister to act under this regulation, may, if it appears to him to be necessary or expedient so to do in the interests of the defence of the Commonwealth or the efficient prosecution of the war, or for maintaining supplies and services essential to the life of the community, make, with respect to an order -

(a) prohibiting any person or class of persons from departing from that area without the permission of an authority or person specified in the order;

(b) directing that after the time specified in the order, a person other than a person of a class so specified shall not be in that area without the permission of an authority or person so specified;

(c) authorizing any person or class of persons to depart from that area subject to any conditions specified in the order;

(d) directing any person or class of persons to depart from that area in accordance with any instructions contained in the order or issued in pursuance of the order;

(e) providing for the control, collection, removal or preparation for destruction of any animals or things in that area which, in his opinion, would be useful to the e. in the event of the area being occupied by an enemy;

(f) directing that such animals or things or classes of animals or things in that area as are specified in the order shall, by the time so specified, be removed from that area, or if they cannot reasonably be so removed before that time, be destroyed or rendered useless so far as practicable and that, after that time, animals or things so specified shall not be brought into the area except with the permission of the authority or person specified in the order; or

(g) directing the destruction of any animals or things, in accordance with any instructions contained in the order or issued in pursuance of the order.

(2) Without affecting the generality of the last preceding sub-regulation, any order made under that sub-regulation ;-

(a) may make different provision with respect to different classes of persons, animals or things;

(b) may provide for exempting any person, animal or things, from the operation of any of the provisions of the order;

(c) may prescribe the routes by which persons, animals or things, or any particular classes of persons, animals or things, are to depart or be removed from the area;

(d) may prescribe different times as the times by or at which different classes of persons, animals or things in the area are to depart or be removed therefrom;

(e) may prescribe the places to which persons are to proceed or animals or things are to be taken;

(f) may make different provision in relation to different parts of he area;

(g) may authorize any person or authority to take any action or give any directions necessary for the purposes of the order; and

(h) may contain such incidental and supplementary provisions as appear to the Minister or person making the order to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of the order."

"(3) If the Minister is satisfied with respect to any area, that it is necessary that special steps should be taken to provide in that area accommodation for abnormal numbers of persons who have come or are likely to come into the area in consequence of, or in apprehension of attacks by an enemy, he may, by order, designate that area as an area in which persons may be billeted and, without prejudice to the following provisions of this regulation, provide for the billeting of persons in that area; and so long as the order is in force with respect to any area, any person thereto authorized by the Minister may give directions with respect to any premises in the area requiring the occupier of the premises to furnish lodging therein for such number of persons, and during such period, as is specified in the directions, and the occupier of the premises shall furnish lodging accordingly.

(4) Where lodging is furnished by any person in accordance with sub-regulation (3) of this regulation payment in respect thereof shall be made to him by such person, and at such rate, as are prescribed by an order made by the Minister.

(5) Where an order is made under this regulation requiring the doing of any act or thing by a specified time the Minister or person by whom the order was made may, while the order is in force, take such action and give such directions as he considers to be necessary for the purpose of carrying out or giving effect to the order.

(6) When any order has been made in pursuance of sub-regulation (1) of this regulation directing, with respect to any area, that after the time specified in the order a person other than a person of a class specified in the order shall not be in that area without the permission of an authority or person specified in the order, a person other than a person in that class shall not, after the time so specified, enter that area, or go on board any ship, aircraft or vehicle for the purpose of proceeding to that area, unless he has first obtained the permission of the authority or person specified in the order so to do.

(7) For the purposes of this regulation "thing" includes a building, structure, installation, works, aerodrome, road, railway, mine, reservoir, or substance."

H.Q., N.S.W., L. OF C.
SECRET
S2/1/112
AREA REGISTRY

SECRET

ALLIED LAND FORCES IN [illegible] AREA

S.M. 1001/2

L.H.Q.

9 Jun. 42

HQ, AUS [illegible]
2/9/1 85
18/6
105
1
[illegible]

FIRST AUST ARMY
SECOND AUST ARMY
3 CORPS
H.Q. N.T. FORCE
H.Q. N.G. FORCE

Copies for information to -

Q'ld. L. of C. Area	C.C.S. (9)	[illegible]	
N.S.W. " "	L.G.A.	D.M.I.	
Vic. " "	A.G.	[illegible]	
S.A. " "	Q.M.G.		
W.A. " "	N.C.O. (6)		
Tas. Force	Allied Air Forces (2)		
	War Diary (2)		
	File.		

DEMOLITION OF LANDING GROUNDS

Reference SM.1494 of 24 Jan. 42, delete para. 6 and substitute new para as follows :-

6. Demolition of Landing Grounds:

(a) Commanders of field forces are responsible for determining which aerodromes are to be prepared for demolition.

Their decisions should be based on :-

(i) Advice of Air Officer commanding area concerned.

(ii) Tactical location.

(iii) Ease of landing on adjoining areas.

(iv) Value of delay likely to be imposed on the enemy, since undefended demolitions cannot enforce serious delay and may not be worth the effort and materials involved.

(b) Demolitions will only be executed on the request of the Air Officer commanding the Area concerned, or in emergency, by the Senior Local Army Authority, when it becomes apparent that the aerodrome can no longer be prevented from falling into enemy hands.

(c) For the present no further aerodrome demolitions will be prepared in N.S.W., south of the latitude of PORT MACQUARIE, nor in VICTORIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA and TASMANIA.

Acknowledge.

[illegible]
Lieutenant-General.
20 June 42.

G III(O).
Arrange with CE for
(a) Secure waiting of Services
of present proposal
of demolition of
COOMA NARRABRI
WAGGA
MASCOT
HORSHAM
Advise of action
19
(8)

RECEIVED
11 JUN 1942
HQ. [illegible]
AREA REGISTRY
SECRET.

SECRET

Copy to CE
CE to provide input in para 2.

Subject: - Preparation of Demolitions GV 3 [illegible]

HQ First Aust Army
29 May 42

G(O) 105

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
2HQ / 4
Date 30/5
T.O.R. 0.0. hrs.
1 Copies
G.S. REGISTRY

1 Aust Corps
2 Aust Corps
5 Aust Div

Copies to: Qld L of C Area)
NSW L of C Area) less attachment
CE)
G(SD)
G(i)
DA & QMG
Q

1. Fwded herewith is copy of GHQ SM 9105 of 24 May 42.

2. Immediate action will be taken to implement the policy set out therein and progress reports will be fwded to this HQ by 15 Jun 42.

3. South of the Tropic of Capricorn the prepared demolitions of ry bridges, rd bridges and oil installations will NOT be charged. If for a special reason it is desired to leave any other demolition charged, application for approval together with full details will be submitted to this HQ.

4. ACK.

ACK.
11.45 Hrs.
31/5 Date

F.H. Berryman Maj-Gen.
GS First Aust Army.

Copy to ~~C.E.R.A.~~;
C.E.
~~G.S.O.~~
~~copy~~

COPY

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

(Chief of the General Staff)

General Headquarters
Victoria Barracks.
MELBOURNE S.C.1.
24 May 1942

SM 9105

First Aust Army
Second Aust Army
3 Aust Corps
Queensland L of C Area
NSW L of C Area
Victoria L of C Area
South Australia L of C Area
Western Australia L of C Area
Tasmania L of C Area
N.T.Force

PREPARATION OF DEMOLITIONS

With reference to S.M.1494 of 24 Jan 42 (Demolition of Aerodromes), S.M.2927 of 16 Feb 42 (Scorched earth policy) and S.M. 7823 of 14 May 42 (Demolition policy), it is considered that the strategical situation is such that sufficient warning will be available regarding a threat of landing attack to most areas on the mainland of Australia to permit final preparations for demolitions being undertaken after receipt of that warning.

2. In view of this and on account of the danger from subversive activities to prepared demolitions, the demands for protective personnel at such demolitions, and the deterioration of charges in situ, it has been decided, as a matter of general policy, that charges of explosive will NOT be laid until such time as the threat of enemy action renders it necessary.

3. Charges already laid will be withdrawn and stored in readiness for use with the exception of charges which are required for immediate use, (see para 5 below).

4. Preparations for demolitions, where necessary, will remain or continue to be made as far as possible in readiness for the placing of explosive charges.

5. Demolition charges will not be placed in prepared demolitions in the area south of the Tropic of CAPRICORN, until there has been a decided deterioration in the general situation. In other parts of the mainland, the decision as to when demolition charges will be placed in position will rest with Army etc. Comds.

6. Ack.

(Sgd) G.A.VASEY Maj-Gen
for Lieutenant-General,
Chief of the General Staff

Copies for information : -

C.G.S. (9) Allied Air Forces (2)
L.G.A. War Diary (2)
A.G. File
Q.M.G.
M.G.O.

		Copy to	For Action
G.O.C.			
B.G.S.			
Ops.			
S.D.			
Int.			

TELEPHONE:
CENTRAL 7185.
EXT. 6101.

H.Q. 2 DIST. CORPS
349 / 2
Date 2/1/45
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
G.S. REGISTRY
SECRET

MILITARY BOARD
(CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF)

Quote in Reply S.M. 1492

ARMY HEADQUARTERS,
VICTORIA BARRACKS,
Melbourne, S.C.1,

21st Jan.42.

H.Q. Home Forces
E. Cord.
2 M.D.
6 M.D.

POLICY IN CONNECTION WITH PROTECTION AND DENIAL OF R.A.A.F. ESTABLISHMENTS, AERODROMES AND SEAPLANE BASES.

I am directed to forward the following conclusions from a joint Army and Air Report on the protection and denial of R.A.A.F. installations in order to clarify the respective responsibilities of the two Services and to provide a basis for detailed arrangements on the part of the Army.

2. The policy outlined below is issued in advance of formal approval, in order that requirements may be calculated and preparations commenced where necessary.

Early steps should be taken to adjust Command plans which diverge in any respect.

3. Although a general division of responsibility has been arrived at it will be realised that mutual assistance between the two Services will be necessary in implementing the detailed plans, particularly at isolated localities, owing to the lack of manpower and facilities in one or the other Service.

4. DEFINITION OF RESPONSIBILITY

The following general division of responsibility is recommended as a basis for combined planning subject to variation to meet local requirements :-

(a) The Army to be responsible for:-

(i) Tactical protection including Area A.A.defence of the general areas occupied by R.A.A.F. Establishments beyond the perimeter of the aerodrome.

(ii) Tactical and local protection at localities where Air Force personnel are insufficient to cope with the local defence requirements.

(iii) The preparation of demolitions of landing grounds. These may be undertaken by the civil administration or by the Department of the Interior under the direction of the Department of the Army.

(iv) The execution of demolitions of landing grounds on advice by the R.A.A.F. that they are no longer required for operations and on R.A.A.F. request to

carry out the demolition. In emergency and in the absence of R.A.A.F. advice the local military commander will be responsible for ensuring that demolition is carried out.

(b) The R.A.A.F. to be responsible for:-

(i) Local protection of installations and areas within the perimeter of the aerodromes including anti-sabotage and local small arms A.A. defence;

(ii) The demolition of installations such as fuel, ammunition, repair facilities, W/T installations, etc.

(iii) The provision, maintenance and control of obstacles on the aerodromes, except at isolated localities where mutual arrangements will be made with the Army.

5. THE EXTENT OF TACTICAL PROTECTION WHICH CAN BE AFFORDED WITHIN THE RESOURCES OF THE ARMY.

(a) R.A.A.F. Stations and A.O.B's. can be classified under two main groups:-

(i) Those which are situated within the area of operations of the A.M.F. or at which adequate detachments of V.D.C. have been raised.

(ii) Those in isolated locations outside the area of operations of the A.M.F. or the V.D.C.

(b) With regard to 5 (a) (i) Command and Local Planning Committees should make the necessary mutual arrangements. It should be noted that at localities where the only military personnel are V.D.C. no protection is available until the V.D.C. is called up for service on mobilization.

(c) In the case of those R.A.A.F. Establishments within coastal Covering Force Sectors which are used primarily for seaward operations and which, in the event of a landing, may have to be evacuated at an early stage, the local Army and Air Commanders should prepare a combined local defence plan under the control of the local Army Commander.

(d) In the case of main operational aerodromes which must be maintained as long as possible for air co-operation with the Army in the field, specially organized mobile companies should be allotted whose primary role will be the tactical protection of these main operational aerodromes. No increase can be made to provide these companies, which should be detailed from existing units on the Order of Battle. Command Planning Committees and Local Defence Committees will determine the order of priority of main operational aerodromes to be protected by these mobile companies.

(e) Further instructions will be issued regarding certain isolated aerodromes, A.O.B's. or alighting areas which are outside the sphere of operations of Army formations and at which insufficient protective personnel is available.

6. DEMOLITION OF LANDING GROUNDS

(a) It is considered that demolition plans should now be prepared for all R.A.A.F. stations and A.O.B's. and other main landing grounds within the above limit and in the order of priority listed in

Appendix "A" attached.

(b) In view of the period required to complete preparation for demolition, I am to request that all preparatory work which can be completed without interrupting the surface should now be commenced.

(c) A technical instruction dealing with preparation of aerodromes for demolition is being issued separately.

(d) No action will be taken regarding demolition of other aerodromes not listed above, as they are not of sufficient potential value to warrant demolition. Obstructions within the limits of paragraph 6 (a) above will be available.

7. OBSTACLES

(a) The control of obstacles must be directed by the Air Force Commander to meet air operational requirements.

Working parties for placing and removing obstacles should be provided either by the R.A.A.F. where the permament R.A.A.F. establishment permits, or by the Army. Local or Command Planning Committees should determine this by mutual arrangement.

In cases where neither Army nor Air Force personnel are available, arrangements should be made by the Department of Air with the local Civil Administration.

(b) Instructions have been issued by the Department of Air for the preparation of obstacles at all R.A.A.F. stations and A.O.B's. within 50 miles of the coastline of AUSTRALIA.

8. REPAIR OF AERODROMES.

Repair of aerodromes is a R.A.A.F. responsibility.

9. Please acknowledge receipt of this communication on the attached form, and forward by return of post.

Colonel,
Director of Military Operations and Plans.

Copies for information :-

N.Comd.
E.Comd.
S.Comd.(3 M.D.)
S.Comd. (4 M.D.)
S.Comd. (6 M.D.)
D.C.A.S.
Q.M.G.
M.G.O.
D.M.O.& P.
D.D.P.
M.O.1.
M.O.2.
D.E.-in-C.
D.M.I.
C.O.I.C.
War Diary
File

RECEIVED 27 JAN 1942 AIR COMMAND NORTHERN TERRITORY

APPENDIX "A"

DEMOLITION OF LANDING GROUNDS.

List of Landing Grounds to be prepared for demolition in the following order of priority :-

Priority	Command or District	Locality of Aerodrome	Remarks
1	8 M.D.	Lae	
	"	Salamua	
	"	Malabang	
1	7 M.D.	Darwin	
	"	R.A.A.F.	
	"	Darwin Civil Station	
	"	Batchelor	
	"	Millingimbi	
1	Northern Command	Townsville	
	"	Cairns	
	"	Cooktown	
	"	Coen	
	"	Horn Island	
1.	Eastern Command	Nabiac ✓ Maitland	
	"	Evans Head ✓	
	"	Bankstown	
	"	Mascot	
	"	Richmond	
	"	Williamtown	
	"	Nowra	
	"	Coffs Harbour ✓	
	"	Newcastle (Civil)	
1	Western Command	Wyndham	
	"	Drysdale	
	"	Derby	
	"	Broome	
2	8 M.D.	Wewak	
	"	Alexis Hafen	
	"	Madang	
	"	Bulolo	
	"	Wau	
2	7 M.D.	Groote Eylandt	
2	Northern Command	Bundaberg	
	"	Rockhampton	
	"	Mackay	
	"	Bowen	
2	Eastern Command	Moruya	
	"	Nabiac	
	"	Canberra	
2	Southern Command		
	3 M.D.	Bairnsdale	
	"	Malacootta	
	"	Yanakie	
	"	Warrnambool	
	"	Sale	
2	6 M.D.	King Island	
	"	Flinders Island	

Priority	Command or District	Locality of Aerodrome	Remarks
3	8 M.D.	Cape Gloucester	
3	Northern Command	Archerfield	
	"	Amberley	
	"	Maryborough	
	"	Lowood	
3	Eastern Command	Camden	
3	Southern Command 3 M.D.	Point Cook	
	"	Laverton	
3	Southern Command 4 M.D.	Ceduna	
	"	Kingscote	
	"	Port Lincoln	
	"	Parafield	
	"	Mt.Gambier	
3	6 M.D.	Western Junction	
	"	Cambridge (Civil)	
3	Western Command	Port Hedland	
	"	Carnarvon	
	"	Geraldton	
	"	Busselton	
	"	Albany	
	"	Esperance	
	"	Pearce	
	"	Rottnest Island	
	"	Maylands (Civil)	
4	Papua and New Guinea	All civil aerodromes not included above and within 20 miles of the coast	
4	Southern Command 4 M.D.	Mallala	
4	"	Port Pirie	

General Note

No action to be taken with regard to demolition of all other R.A.A.F. Stations and Civil Aerodromes not listed above, as they are not of sufficient potential value to warrant demolition in view of limitation of supply of explosives.

COPY. G.GA.

Copy c/c 21.

H.Q. 2 AUST. CORPS
249 / M1
Date S10.1.628
T.O.R. hrs.
Copies
G.S. REGISTRY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.
(Chief of the General Staff.)

SECRET.

General Headquarters,
Victoria Barracks.
Melbourne, S.C.1.
24 May, 1942.

S.M. 9105

First Aust Army
Second Aust Army
3 Aust Corps
Queensland L of C Area
N.S.W. " "
Vic. " "
South Aus. " "
West. Aus. " "
Tasmania " "
N. T. Force.

PREPARATION OF DEMOLITIONS.

With reference to S.M. 1494 of 24 Jan 42 (Demolition of Aerodromes) S.M. 2927 of 16 Feb '42 (Scorched earth policy) and S.M. 7823 of 14 May 42 (Demolition policy), it is considered that the strategical situation is such that sufficient warning will be available regarding a threat of landing attack to most areas on the mainland of Australia to permit final preparations for demolitions being undertaken after receipt of that warning.

2. In view of this and on account of the danger from subversive activities to prepared demolitions, the demands for protective personnel at such demolitions, and the deterioration of charges in situ, it has been decided, as a matter of general policy, that charges of explosive will NOT be laid until such time as the threat of enemy action renders it necessary.

3. Charges already laid will be withdrawn and stored in readiness for use with the exception of charges which are required for immediate use (see para 5 below).

4. Preparations for demolitions, where necessary, will remain or continue to be made as far as possible in readiness for the placing of explosive charges.

5. Demolition charges will not be placed in prepared demolitions in the area south of the Tropic of CAPRICORN, until there has been a decided deterioration in the general situation. In other parts of the mainland, the decision as to when demolition charges will be placed in position will rest with Army etc. Comds.

6. Ack.

G.A. Vasey
Maj-General.
Lieut.-General.
Chief of the General Staff.

Copies for information :-

C.G.S. (9)
L.G.A.
A.G.
Q.M.G.
M.G.O.
Allied Air Forces (2)
War Diary (2)
File.