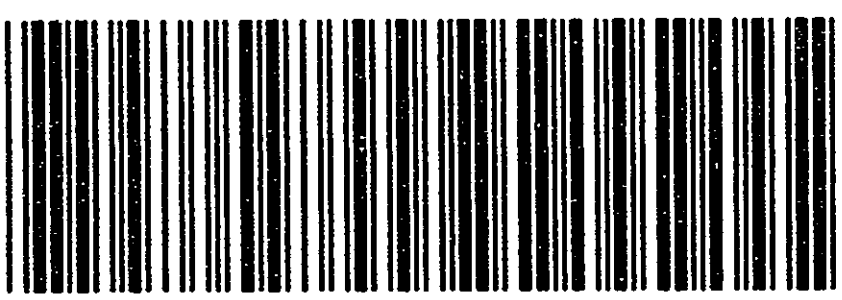
AWM52
Australian Military Forces, Army headquarters, formation and unit diaries, 1939-1945

1/4/8
CORPS

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

December 1943



1/4/8-0202

Unit ..HQ 2 Aust Corps (AIF).. WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. Date and Time: From 1 Dec 43 ..... to ..31st Dec 43....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices Diaries.
FINSCHHAFEN	1 Dec		Due to requirements of AA Searchlights at FINSCHHAFEN and in view of the move of 2/4 Aust Hy AA Bty to that area, N G Force was asked to move 84 Aust Mob AA Searchlight Bty less C Med Tp from BUNA to FINSCH. AIR OPERATIONS. Strikes in the NEW BRITAIN area included attacks by 30 Mitchells and 8 Marauders on stores and dumps and bivouac areas in the vicinity of BORGEN BAY. Bombing was carried out and columns of smoke were visible for 35 miles. Direct hits were obtained on a group of 20/30 damaged barges. 54 tons of bombs were dropped. Seven Bostons carried out a barge sweep at a minimum altitude from CAPE CAUSSRE to BORGEN BAY, and a further seven Bostons bombed and strafed the coastal area from BORGEN BAY to TAMUNIAI IS. Direct hits were obtained on KAKOPO village. In all 6½ tons of bombs were dropped. During the night 30 Nov-1 Dec one Liberator on recce sighted a convoy of four merchant vessels escorted by two destroyers at a posn 02 50'S 150 55'E on a course of 300 deg. At 2135 hrs 30 Nov the convoy was attacked by a second Liberator which dropped six 1000 lb bombs at 60ft intervals, and obtained two direct hits on a 9000/12000 ton merchant vessel, which resulted in a large explosion and towering red flames. The vessel was claimed as sunk. A further Liberator on armed recce in the REIN BAY area at 2327 hrs 30 Nov dropped six 1000 lb bombs on two barges with unobserved results. 44 Liberators escorted by 36 Thunderbolts attacked dumps and dispersal areas at WEWAK. Observations of results disclosed many large fires and several explosions in target area. Enemy aircraft intercepted and 9 were destroyed. Three Liberators were reported as lost.	
	2		C Coy PIB has been in operations continuously since 4 Sep 43, and has recently been subjected to arty and mortar fire. As it is considered this unit is in need of a rest, N G Force was asked to relieve this unit by A Coy now at LAE. It is proposed C Coy be sent into KULUMPU-HUBE district, to enlist the local natives into ANGAU parties.	

Unit: Adv HQ 2 Aust Corps (AIF) WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Date and Time: From ..... to .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices Diaries.
FINSCH.	2 Dec		This HQ issued instructions regarding the control of malaria in operations. Copy of instruction attached as Appx 506.	Appx 506.
			Students to attend the Senior Staff School (Aust) Course No 5 and Junior Staff School (Aust) Course No 6 were notified by N G Force. These included Maj L D King, to attend the former, Maj C H Locke and Capt L G Faulks the latter, all officers of this HQ.	
			Air Operations. In direct support 9 Aust Div, 9 Mitchells and 10 Marauders bombed enemy occupied areas, barge off-loading point and dumps in vicinity of SOWI RIVER mouth. 29 tons of bombs were dropped.	
			In the New Britain area, 58 Mitchells accurately bombed and strafed targets in the BORGEN BAY area.	
			During the night one Liberator on recce bombed a 500/1000 ton merchant vessel, at a posn just east of GARDVE IS. One red and two white flashes were seen indicating hits but observation of damaged was obscured by weather.	
	3		Air Operations. In the 9 Aust Div area, 11 Bostons accurately bombed probable dump areas at MASAWENG RIVER mouth, HUBIKA and WANDOKAI and strafed the coastal track from MASAWENG RIVER to WANDOKAI. Fires were started, and several huts destroyed. 4 tons of bombs were dropped.	
			For the fourth day in succession, 40 Liberators 20 Mitchells and 7 Marauders attacked supply dumps and bivouac areas in vicinity of No 2 Strip, CAPE GLOUCESTER. One AA posn was destroyed. During the night 11 Beauforts bombed dump areas in the vicinity AUGEN and AUREK RIVERS, GASMATA. Four Thunderbolts intercepted 24 enemy aircraft over WEWAK, destroyed four without loss.	
	4		GHQ desires to develop a new strip in the area between SIKI and BUSOM rivers,	

Unit: Adv HQ 2 Aust Corps (AIF)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Date and Time: From ..... to .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices Diaries.
	4		.. by working day and night. 9 Aust Div advises that this is not practicable owing to existing operational conditions. Warning order was issued to move 1 Aust Tk Bn Gp less two sqns from BUNA to FINSCH. No move before 8 Dec. On completion of this move, the entire Tk Bn Gp less one sqn at MILNE BAY will be in the FINSCH area. The 50 additional jeeps requested by 9 Aust Div and forty 3 ton trucks, are to be made available by N G Force, to be moved to FINSCH. HQ 2 Aust Corps Office Instruction No 2 - Preparation of Correspondence.	Appx 507.
			Air Operations. In the 9 Aust Div area, 12 Bostons bombed and strafed the coastal track and villages from BLUCHER POINT to WANDOKAI and a suspected dump area on the south bank of the SANGI river mouth. Explosions and black smoke were seen. 19 Mitchells accurately bombed NANDA village and SIO ISLAND. 31 Mitchells bombed and strafed the coastal area from REIN BAY to ROTTOCK BAY. A number of barges were strafed and many building destroyed. One AA Posn was destroyed and fires started. Two squadrons Liberators bombed AA positions and dumps in the CAPE GLOUCESTER area, and one squadron bombed secondary targets in REIN BAY and ROTTOCK BAY. Clouds prevented observation of result. Eight Kittihawks on fighter sweep HANSA BAY strafed on lugger and several barges in GOGOHUR BAY. The lugger is reported sunk and the barges beached and burning. 16 Kittihawks bombed No 3 bridge on the BOGADJIM ROAD. The bridge was reported destroyed.	
	5		9 Aust Div was requested to submit details of tank actions in the FINSCH area, together with lessons learnt, for transmission to AHQ INDIA. N G Force advises that they will be responsible for the issues of controlled stores at 4 AOD BUNA, as from 1200 hrs 6 Dec.	

Unit: Adv HQ 2 Aust Corps (AIF)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (4)

Date and Time: From ..... to .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices Diaries.
FINSCH	5		2 Aust Corps is to control issues from 44 POD in the FINSCH area. This depot is to be stocked with 30 days stores. 43 POD at LAE is to hold 60 days stock for 9 Aust Div. As 44 POD has no holdings of controlled stores as yet, N G F was requested to allow this HQ to continue to issue controlled stores to 9 Aust Div. This was subsequently agreed to. To provide labour for the construction of the new Corps HQ in FINSCH area, N G Force agreed to move 2/23 Fd Pk Coy to that area. Advise was received that 28 officers from GHQ NEW DELHI are to move to 9 Aust Div for attachment for a period of 13 weeks. All officers will serve a period of four weeks with forward Inf Bns, after which time they will concentrate on the arm or service in which they are interested. 21 Officers are also to go to 7 Aust Div.	
	6		Due to the progress northwards of operations in the FINSCH area, and the necessity for moving field guns north together with affiliated lt aa searchlights, N G Force was asked to move 2/2 Aust Lt AA Bty (part of 2/5 Aust Comp AA Regt) to FINSCH for protection of the harbour area. Maj-Gen BERRYMAN requested Lt-Gen MORSHEAD by signal to make available 15 AAMCU for use in the FINSCH area and to move this unit from MORESBY to LAE for immediate onward movement. This unit is required to assist in malaria control. Air Operations. In support of 9 Aust Div 9 Bostons successfully bombed and strafed enemy occupied areas North of KAILAGIDU POINT. 12 Mitchells bombed dump areas at KAKONA and KILIGIA. Bombing was excellent. Four Lightnings strafed a fual dump at LAKONA which resulted in smoke and flames from the target area. New Britain. Rabaul - during the night 28 Beauforts attacked shipping in BLANCHE BAY, and dispersal areas at LAKUNAI. Bombing was excellent. In torpedo attacks on the shipping one 7000/10300 ton tanker were fired on, received a direct hit, and was left burning.	

Unit: Adv HQ 2 Aust Corps (AIF)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Date and Time: From ..... to .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices Diaries.
	6		One Beaufort is reported overdue, belived crashed in the sea. 42 Liberators bombed dump areas in vicinity of CAPE GLOUCESTER. Bombing was accurate, 168 tons of bombs being dropped. 50 Mitchells bombed the coastal area at BORGEN BAY. Results were obscured by cloud. 18 Mitchells bombed dumps in vicinity of AWAWE but results were not ascertained.	
	7		Approval was received for move of A Coy PIB from LAE to FINSCHHAFEN. Unit was placed under command 2 Aust Corps. Air Operations. Eleven Bostons bombed and strafed villages and the coastal track from WANDOKAI to NUZEN. Nine tons were dropped, and 23 strafing passes made. One column of smoke was observed from NUZEN and villages of AGO and WALINGAI are reported heavily damaged. Four Thunderbolts were intercepted over WEWAK by eighteen to twenty enemy aircraft. Two enemy aircraft were definitely destroyed, and are probably destroyed. Our losses were nil. Airacobras bombed and destroyed No 5 bridge on the BOGADJIM ROAD. 41 Liberators bombed AA posns and dumps in the vicinity No 2 Strip, CAPE GLOUCESTER. Bombing was heavy and concentrated, 149 tons being dropped. Coastal area in vicinity BORGEN BAY and east to KOKOPO was bombed and strafed by 51 Mitchells.	
	8		Amendment No 3 to NGF Op Instn No 103 was received. This amendment placed 5 Aust Div under command 2 Aust Corps for all purposes from incl 12 Dec 43, and separated FINSCH Base Sub Area from 9 Aust Div as from the same time. FINSCH Base Sub Area passed to command N G Force. A letter was sent to 5 Aust Div defining their responsibilities in the LAE area. Copy attd as Appx 515. 2 Aust Corps Location Statement In support 9 Aust Div, 10 Marauders bombed dump areas at WANDOKAI. Heavy cloud made bombing difficult and observation impossible.	Appx 508

Unit: Adv HQ 2 Aust Corps (AIF) WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Date and Time: From ..... to .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices Diaries.
	8		15 tons of bombs were dropped. 11 MITCHELLS accurately bombed a bivouac and supply area East of KALASA. 13 tons of bombs were dropped. New Britain - Six Bostons carried out a barge sweep from CAPE PEIRC to CAPE AINTO at minimum altitude. New Ireland- 26 Beauforts bombed and strafed the strips, dumps and dispersal areas at BORPOP, bombs falling in the target areas, starting large fires visible for 30 miles. 21 tons of bombs and 1100 rds were expended.	
	9		Approval for move of 15 AMCU from MORESBY to FINSCHHAFEN was received. Air Operations. Huon Peninsula. 9 Bostons bombed and strafed coastal track from MASAWENG RIVER to WANDOKAI. 10 Mitchells bombed a barge off-loading point and dumps at HUBIKA. A number of buildings were destroyed, 15 tons of bombs being dropped. New Britain. 33 Mitchells bombed and strafed dumps and occupied areas in vicinity BORGEN BAY. Results were unobserved. 18 Mitchells carried out a bombing mission on dumps and AA positions from CAPE RAOULE to REIN BAY. Bombing was reported as excellent.	
	10		Maps - LANGEMAK BAY Air Operations. Bogadjim Area. 8 Mitchells and 9 Marauders bombed bridges 7 and 8 on the BOGADJIM ROAD. 24 tons of bombs were dropped. 22 Mitchells bombed supply and bivouac areas in vicinity YOKOPI, several large explosions were seen in the target area. 33 tons of bombs were dropped. 13 Liberators bombed AA posn and dumps at CAPE GLOUCESTER but no results observed.	Appx 509
	11		One officer and 68 ORs of HQ 2 Aust Corps left BUNA for FINSCH. Party is to be employed in building the new HQ at KATIKA.	

Unit: AAv HQ 2 Aust Corps (AIP)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Date and Time: From ..... to .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices Diaries.
	11		CCRA recommended and BGS agreed that 2/14 Aust Fd Regt should move to FINSCH equipped with 24 25 pr mk II guns. CCRA considered it unlikely that it would be unnecessary for all regiments in the area to use 25 pr shorts at the same time. If they are required for 2/14 Aust Fd Regt, they could be borrowed from either 2/6 or 2/12 Fd Regts.	
			2 Aust Corps Location Statement	Appx 510
			Order of Battle 2 Aust Corps	511
			Air Operations. Huon Peninsula. In support of 9 Aust Div eight Marauders and nine Mitchells bombed suspected dump areas in vicinity of HUBIKA. The dump at 168134 was accurately bombed, 12 tons of bombs falling in the target area. On 10 Dec one BEAUFORT sighted and attacked a suspected submarine at posn 06 48'S 150 25'E. Bombs were observed to fall within 20 ft of target and later a large disturbance and patch of oil was observed on the surface. Submarine is believed damaged, and possibly destroyed.	
			27 Mitchells bombed the coastal area in vicinity of BORGEN BAY. Several fires were seen, but results generally were unobserved.	
	12		Air Operations. 8 Kittyhawks on a fighter sweep in the GUSAP area encountered 9 enemy bombers and 15 fighters. In the ensuing engament, two enemy fighters and one bomber were definitely destroyed without loss to our aircraft.	
			37 Kittyhawks bombed and strafed GASHATA strip. 8½ tons were dropped, and 1400 rds expended on strafing. Direct hits were observed in the centre of the target causing a cloud of smoke visible for 20 miles.	
	13		HQ Force approved the move of 84 AASL Bty less medium troop and plus wkshop	

Unit: Adv HQ 2 Aust Corps (AIF) WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Date and Time: From ..... to .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices Diaries.
	13		troop and plus workshop section from BUNA to FINSCHHAFEN Unit under cond 2 Aust Corps. Approval was also received for the move of 2/2 Aust Lt AA Bty with wkshops and Sig Sec from BUNA to FINSCHHAFEN. Unit under cond 2 Aust Corps.	
			Itinerary of visit of Maj Gen HERRING GOC 2 Aust Corps to 9 Div.	Appx 512.
			Air Operations. Huon Peninsula. Four Airacobras carried out a very successful barge sweep along the coastal area from FORTIFICATION PT to SAIDOR. Three Type A and seven other barges of various types were strafed and believed destroyed. The bridge over the YUPNA RIVER south of WEWAK POINT was also bombed and destroyed. Bogadjim Road. 36 Bostons bombed and strafed the BOGADJIM RD and dumps at DAUMOINA, OLD YAULA, and AIYAU villages. 17 tons of bombs were dropped, and the area thoroughly strafed but results were unobserved.	
			New Britain. 36 Liberators and 24 Mitchells bombed dumps and enemy occupied areas at RING RING and LINDENHAFEN PLANTATIONS. Fires were started, and one large explosion resulting. The large explosion was thought be to an ammunition dump. 143 tons of bombs were dropped.	
			12 enemy fighters when attempting to intercept our bombs over GASMATA were engaged by our fighter escort. One enemy fighter was shot down without loss to our aircraft.	
	14		Notes on Corps Commanders visit to 9 Aust Div 9-13 Dec and Liaison Officers report.	Appx 513.
			Air Operations. Huon Peninsula. In a barge sweep from SAIDOR to FORTIFICATION PT, 5 Thunderbolts strafed one barge at LAPSIUS PT and another near and an enemy dump in vicinity of NOM PLANTATION. Enemy occupied areas and dumps in the ARAWE area and adjacent islands were thoroughly bombed and strafed by 100 Liberators, 60 Mitchells, 71 Bostons, 418 tons of bombs were dropped.	

Unit: Adv HQ 2 Aust Corps (AIF)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Date and Time: From ..... to .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices Diaries.
	14		Bombing was continuous throughout the day. All target areas were covered in smoke, and many explosions and fires were seen. At GASMATA 9 Marauders and 32 Mitchells bombed the strip and dispersal areas at approx 0845 hrs. 60 tons of bombs were dropped. No observations were possible due to smoke.	
	15		Air Operations. ARAWE. 5 Mitchells in close support of our landing force accufately bombed and strafed ALAMUT PLANTATION on radio call from ground troops. At Cape Gloucester, 46 Liberators attacked targets near No 1 and 2 strips. 187 tons were dropped, and several grounded aircraft probably destroyed. Four Lightings intercepted and destroyed one enemy aircraft in the COMMODORE BAY area. Two enemy aircraft were destroyed by AA when attempting to dive bomb our troops. During the night 13/14 30 Beauforts bombed strips and dispersal areas at LAKUNAI. Fires, thought to be aircraft burning were seen. Smoke from target area was visible for 70 miles. 24 tons of bombs were dropped.	
	16		Warning Order Adv HQ 2 Aust Corps	Appx 514.
			Air Operations. In support 9 Aust Div 10 Mitchells bomed dumpand bivouac area at SIO. Bombing was excellent, and columns of smoke were seen rising from the target, from 50 miles away. 9 Marauders also attacked a bivouac area and dump at KALANOA, the majority of bombs falling in the target area. In all 28 tons of bombs were dropped. Villages and dump areas from DORF PT to CAPE GLOUCESTER were bombed by 38 Liberators. 121 tons of bmbs were dropped, and 1315 rounds expended. Several fires were observed.	
			Arawe. 19 Mitchells carried out supply dropping missions to ground troops 6 Bostons conducted an armed recce from 50 to 1000 ft of tracks in this area from MIELELEK to DIDMOP to [illegible]I thence to PULIN RIVER mouth but no targets or troops movements were observed.	
			32 Lightnings intercepted enemy force of 30-35 aircraft. 9 were definitely destroyed and two were probably destroyed without loss.	

Unit: Adv HQ 2 Aust Corps (AIF)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Date and Time: From ..... to .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices Diaries.
	16		A further 6 enemy aircraft were destroyed during an interception over FINSCH. One Liberator sank a 2000 ton merchant vessel at posn 01 20S-14µ 50E.	
	17		2 Aust Corps Location Statement No 11	Appx 516.
			Air Operations. Cape Gloucester. 22 Liberators bombed AA positions and dumps in vicinity No 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER. 10 Mitchells bombed dumps at TARGET HILL near BORGEN BAY.	
			Huon Peninsula. 9 Mitchells bombed the secondary target at MADANG. results were not observed. 8 Thunderbolts intercepted an enemy formation approaching ARAWE, destroying 7 bombers and 2 fighters without loss.	
	18		15 AMCU arrived FINSCHHAFEN.	
			Air Operations. Huon Peninsula. 11 Bostons bombed dump area at [illegible]. 6 tons of bombs were dropped and 44 strafing passes made. A further 12 Bostons bombed and strafed area SOUTH of SALAMAUA dropping 5 tons of bombs no results were observed. Cape Gloucester. 25 Liberators supported by 34 Mitchells and 12 marauders bombed dumps 2 miles East of No 1 Strip.	
			167 tons were dropped, and bombing reported accurate. At BORGEN BAY, 25 Mitchells carried out a bombing and strafing mission on stores, personnel, and dumps along the coast, dropping 26 tons of bombs.	
			Cape Hoskins. 37 Liberators bombed the strip and dispersal areas. 127 tons were accurately dropped, rendering the strip unserviceable.	
			16 Lightnings intercepted 25 fighters moving SE near CAPE RAOULT. 3 of the enemy aircraft were destroyed. One plane was lost in combat, another by collision with one of our own aircraft, one pilot being rescued in a small craft in vicinity of SIAUL RIVER.	
	19		Gen Sir Thomas BLAMEY visited the Corps Coml en route to DUMPU and [illegible] SUM.	

Unit: Adv HQ 2 Aust Corps (AIF)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Date and Time: From ..... to .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices Diaries.
	19		The C-in-C lunched with the Corps Comd at 1230 hrs and left at 1400 hrs for DUMPU. C-in-C proposed to arrive at FINSCHHAFEN on the morning of 20 Dec and 9 Aust Div were asked to make a boat available at DREDGE HARBOUR for his onward movement to HQ 9 Aust Div. Advice was received from [illegible] that half of the shore battalion of 532 Regt 2 ESB which was at LAE and under command adv HQ USASOS would pass to command 2 Aust Corps on 23 Dec. Air Operations. Huon Peninsula. 12 Bostons in support 9 Aust Div [illegible] and strafed bivouac areas at 516126, and coastal track from KALADIA to NUMEN. Bombing was reported excellent. 10 Mitchells bombed and strafed barge off loading point and suspected dump area at river mouth just south of NUMEN. Six Airacobras conducted a barge sweep along RAI coast. 3 serviceable barges on the beach North of VIKKE PT and another in JIO lagoon were strafed. Madang. 24 Mitchells and 9 Marauders bombed the runway and dispersal areas. Bombing was excellent, the majority of bombs falling in the centre of the runway, and amongst aircraft in dispersal areas. 43 tons of bombs were dropped. Arawe. 21 Bostons bombed tracks from the SIOIL to the PULIE river mouth, thence up PULIE river to 8½ tons of bombs were dropped. Cape Gloucester. Heavy bombing was carried out throughout the day. Dumps, bivouac areas, supply areas were bombed continuously by 157 sorties by 108 Liberators 46 Mitchells and 9 Marauders, resulting in many explosions and fires on the target area. 413 tons of bombs were dropped all told. Gasmata. 7 Beauforts bombed dump areas, resulting in three fires.	
	20		NGF were requested to allot one extra line Sec to 2 Aust Corps. 2 Aust Corps Sigs had only one section instead of three and it was only 70% strength owing to illness Air Operations. In support of 9 Aust Div, 12 Mitchells bombed dump areas	

Unit: Adv HQ 2 Aust Corps (AIP)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Date and Time: From ..... to .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices Diaries.
	20		over HUBIKA and WARSO, and five Marauders bombed a suspected battalion area near WALINGAI. 25½ tons of bombs were dropped, and two large explosions seen in the target areas resulting in columns of smoke rising to 1000 ft. Alexishafen. 34 Mitchells bombed the strips and dispersal areas with 26 tons of bombs, which fell amongst grounded aircraft, resulting in many explosions and fires. One Mitchell was shot down by AA fire. Cape Gloucester. 38 Liberators and 10 Mitchells again bombed targets in the SAG SAG area. 95 tons were dropped, resulting in explosions and small fires. Borgen Bay. 22 Liberators and 24 Mitchells bombed dumps along the coast of BORGEN BAY from SILIMATI POINT to NATAMO. 111 tons of bombs were dropped, and some large fires seen. Arawe. 31 Bostons conducted barge sweeps along the coast East of ARAWE. One coastal gun is reported destroyed, and one probably destroyed. Huts were left burning. 18 tons of bombs were dropped. Rabaul. 18 Beauforts bombed dispersal areas and strips at VUNAKANAU. One large fire was visible.	
	21		2 Aust Corps Location Statement Anticipate that Adv HQ 2 Aust Corps will open REDHERRING area.	Appx 517 518
			Air Operations. Huon Peninsula. 11 Bostons bombed and strafed enemy occupied areas near WANDOKAI, WALI GAI and AGO. Madang. 24 Mitchells bombed dumps in MADANG area. 21 tons were dropped, destroying some buildings, and starting fires. One Mitchell was shot down by AA fire.	

Unit: Adv HQ 2 Aust Corps (AIF)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Date and Time: From ..... to .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices Diaries.
	21		Cape Gloucester. 54 Liberators 25 Bostons and 10 mitchells attacked targets from DORF PT to CAPE GLOUCESTER. 172 tons of bombs were dropped, targets heavily strafed, but results generally unobserved. 24 Mitchells attacked TARGET HILL near SILINATI PT dropping 21 tons of bombs. Gun positions in the area were blanketed by bomb bursts. During the night harassing raids were carried out, a total of 80 one hundred pound bombs being dropped at intervals throughout the night. Six Airacobras conducted a barge sweep from BORGEN BAY to CAPE RAOUAT. One large two masted boat was strafed and left buring and one barge damaged. 14 Lightnings whilst on fighter sweep approx 10 miles east of ARAWE intercepted approx 8/10 enemy bombers and 12/15 fighters. Eight bombers and two fighters were definitely destroyed, and two probably destroyed, without loss to our aircraft.	
	22		NGF allotted 20 Aust Line Sec to assist 2 Aust Corps in FINSCHHAFEN area. To move on completion of line SALAMAUA - LAE. Section to remain under comd 19 L of C Sigs. Air Operations. Huon Peninsula. 12 Bostons and 8 Marauders bombed and strafed targets between HUBIKA and MADOKAI, in support of 9 Aust Div. Targets were well covered by bomb bursts, and explosions seen. Cape Gloucester. 78 Liberators 35 Bostons and 10 Mitchells bombed and strafed 13 separate targets in the area. 254 tons of bombs were dropped, but results generally unobserved. 12 Bostons bombed enemy occupied areas at SILINATI PT and 6 Airacobras in a barge sweep from BORGEN BAY to REIN BEIN strafed buildings and barges, two barges being left burning and one damaged.	

Unit: Adv HQ 2 Aust Corps (AIF)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Date and Time: From ..... to .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices Diaries.
	22		Four Squadrons of Lightings were intercepted by a strong force over WEWAK and BORAM. 16 enemy fighters were definitely destroyed, two probably destroyed. Our losses were three Lightnings destroyed, and five damaged.	
	23		Advice was received from N G F that move of 2/14 Aust Fd Regt from AUSTRALIA would be completed and that on arrival at FINSCHHAFEN, the regt would relieve 2/6 Aust Fd Regt, who were to return to AUSTRALIA. Copy message att as Appx	519.
			2 Aust Corps O O No 3.	520.
			Maps - SANANTIKI	521.
			Future Moves - 5 Aust Div.	522.
			Huon Peninsula. 24 Bostons conducted a bombing and strafing mission on barge hideouts at NASBARIWA. 10 tons were dropped, and three barges were reported believed destroyed, three damaged by strafing.	
			Alexishafen. 12 Mitchells and 9 Marauders bombed dispersal areas and dumps. Fires were caused, probably destroying 2 or 3 grounded aircraft. 31 tons of bombs were dropped.	
			Wewak. 21 Mitchells bombed strips and township at WEWAK. 12 tons were dropped, heavy black smoke obscuring the area. Our fighters intercepted nine to eleven enemy fighters over BORAM destroying one without loss.	
			Cape Gloucester. 61 Libdrators bombed targets, dropping 156 tons, the majority of which fell in the target areas. Small fires were the only results observed. Six Airacobras in a barge sweep on the SW coast of NEW BRITAIN destroyed two type A barges.	
	24		Maps - MAPE RIVER.	523.

Unit: Adv HQ 2 Aust Corps (AIF)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Date and Time: From ..... to .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices Diaries.
	24		Air Operations. Huon Peninsula. 20 Bostons bombed barge hideouts at MAIBARIWA. Three barges were reported strafed and damaged. 9 Thunderbolts conducted a search for 23 barges, reported earlier in the day, but without success. Cape Gloucester. Targets from SAG SAG to GILIMATA Pt were again attacked by a heavy concentration of aircraft. Sorties totalled 103 Liberators, 47 Mitchells, 7 Marauders, and 34 Bostons, in all dropping 243 tons of bombs. Damage was impossible to assess owing to target areas being covered in smoke, and dust from the bombing. 6 Bostons accurately bombed and strafed village of SAUREN, destroying huts. 12 Mitchells conducted a barge sweep from BORBEN BAY to CAPE KIRCHOFF, dropping 11 tons of bombs.	
	25		Subdivision HQ 2 Aust Corps.	Appx 524.
			Air Operations. Cape Gloucester. Targets from SAG SAG to BORBEN BAY were bombed and strafed by 61 Liberators, 72 Mitchells, 8 Marauders and 39 Bostons. 255 tons of bombs were dropped, resulting in numerous fires. Arawe. 19 Bostons bombed and strafed enemy occupied areas from the MOUTH of the PULIE RIVER to DIDIOR, dropping 6 tons of bombs. No results observed. Rabaul. 9 Beauforts bombed the strips and dispersal areas at LAKUAI. 8½ tons of bombs were dropped resulting in fires in the target area, and at RABAUL township. One Beaufort crash landed at base, and was destroyed.	
	26		Air Operations. Cape Gloucester. Targets in support of ground troops near GILIMATI PT were bombed and strafed, before and after the landing operations, by 106 Liberators, 116 Mitchells, and 32 Bostons, 386 tons of bombs being dropped. 200,000 rounds were expended in strafing. Bombing in all cases was excellent, and ground forces report air co-operations as excellent. One Liberator crash landed at base, and was damaged, but crew are reported safe. Enemy forces totalling approx 25/30 bombers and 50/60 fighters were intercepted over this area. In the ensuing engagement, 59 enemy aircraft were definitely destroyed, with 4 probables, our losses being 2 Lightnings, 2 Thunderbolts destroyed, 5 Thunderbolts still unaccounted for.	

Unit: Adv HQ 2 Aust Corps (AIF)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Date and Time: From ..... to .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices Diaries.
	26		Rabaul. Over the period 23/24 Dec 36 Liberators with fighter escort attacked, the strip dispersal areas and shipping in the harbour. 58 enemy fighters were destroyed during these attacks, with the loss of 7 of our aircraft. Kavieng. For four nights in succession, 5/6 Catalinas bombed enemy installations and strips at KAVIENG. A number of grounded enemy aircraft are reported destroyed.	
	27		Air Operations. Huon Peninsula. 18 Mitchells and 12 Bostons bombed and strafed targets in the vicinity of MALINGAI and KANOMI, in close support of 9 Aust Div. 29 tons of bombs were dropped, several grass fires being observed. Madang. 12 Mitchells and 10 Marauders bombed the strip and dispersal areas. 31 tons of bombs were dropped, and bombs observed to fall on runway, and in dispersal areas, resulting in a number of fires. Cape Gloucester. 12 Bostons bombed and strafed trucks along the coast North of airstrips. 10 tons of bombs were dropped, and one direct hit seen on an ammunition dump. Amwe. 9 Bostons accurately bombed DIDMPO Village, dropping 7 tons of bombs. 32 Thunderbolts and 16 Kittyhawks intercepted a force of 74 enemy fighters, and bombers. 30 enemy aircraft were destroyed, and one probably destroyed, without loss to our aircraft. Between 23 and 25 Dec, 10 barge sweeps on the North and South coasts of NEW BRITAIN were carried out, resulting in 14 barges in vicinity of CAPE HOSKINGS being strafed and badly damaged, and several canoes containing Japs strafed.	
	28		2 Aust Corps Mvt Instn No 1	525.

Unit: Adv HQ 2 Aust Corps (AIF)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Date and Time: From ..... to .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices Diaries.
	28		Cape Hoskins. 17 Liberators bombed the runway and dispersal area, dropping 45 tons of bombs, rendering the runway unserviceable, and causing three large explosions and fires. Cape Gloucester. 19 Bostons bombed the tracks along the coastal area North of No 1 and 2 strips. Three MG positions were reported silenced. 8 tons were dropped. 6 Mitchells conducted a barge sweep along the South West coast of NEW BRITAIN, and sank two type A barges. 12 Mitchells bombed the coastal area from BOLLOCK BAY to RIEBECK BAY, with unobserved results. Alexishafen. 25 Liberators bombed the strips and dispersals areas dropping 52 tons of bombs, the majority of which fell in the target area. Several AA positions were silenced. Madang. 19 Mitchells bombed and strafed the strips and dispersal areas dropping 15 tons of bombs. Several fires were started, and some explosions caused. Huon Peninsula. 12 Mitchells carried out a barge sweep from BOGADJIM to SAIDOR, two barges were sunk, and a number of huts destroyed. 11 tons of bombs were dropped.	
	29		Air Operations. 53 Liberators and 35 Mitchells and 9 Marauders, bombed and strafed targets and ground strips at CAPE GLOUCESTER. 194 tons of bmbs were dropped. 23 Mitchells bombed and strafed targets in the coastal area BORGEN BAY. 5 Liberators attacked enemy occupied areas at SIO.	

Unit: Adv HQ 2 Aust Corps (AIP)

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Date and Time: From ..... to .....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices Diaries.
	30		2 Aust Corps O O No 3 Air Operations. Huon Peninsula. 12 Mitchells bombed and strafed barge hide-outs at NAMBARIWA, one squadron Airacobras conducted a barge sweep along RAI coast, strafing 6 barges, with unobserved results. Alexishafen. 27 Liberators bombed AA positions and occupied areas, dropping 64 tons of bombs. Several large fires resulted, and AA positions destroyed. Cape Gloucester. 22 Bostons bombed and strafed troop concentrations, expending 30,000 rounds and dropping 9 tons of bombs. A further 12 Bostons bombed and strafed enemy occupied areas near SAG SAG dropping 5 tons of bombs.	526.
	31		Air Operations. Alexishafen. 36 Liberators bombed enemy occupied areas and dumps. 98 tons of bombs were dropped, resulting in large fires and explosions which were visible for 15 minutes after the aircraft left the target, despite heavy clouds and rain. One of our aircraft hit by AA fire, crash landed at DUMPU. Madang. 31 Liberators attacked dumps and runway at MADANG and BILIAU villages. Several fuel fires were seen. Aircraft were met with heavy AA fire, which damaged 7 aircraft. 63 tons of bombs were dropped. Bogadjim. 9 Marauders and 10 Mitchells bombed the Plantation. 26 tons of bombs were dropped, results being generally unobserved. Borgen Bay. 23 Bostons bombed and strafed enemy occupied areas, with unobserved results. An enemy force of fighters and bombers was intercepted by Kittyhawks and Thunderbolts near ARAWE. Eight enemy bombers and four fighters were destroyed, and two fighters probably destroyed, without loss to our aircraft. Sitreps 1-21 Dec 43 attached as Appx 505.	505.

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Ops to 10 Dec 43

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 75

(Information from 2000L/22 Dec to 2000L/23 Dec 43)

OPERATIONS

1. AIR - OWN

(a) HUON PENINSULA. Twenty-four Bostons carried out a bombing and strafing mission on barge hide-outs at MAMBARIWA. 10 tons of bombs were dropped in target areas and many strafing passes made. Three barges were reported destroyed and three damaged by strafing.

(b) ALEXISHAFEN. Twelve Mitchells and nine Marauders bombed dispersal areas and dumps. All bombs were seen to fall in the target areas causing fires and probably destroying two or three grounded aircraft. 31 tons of bombs were dropped.

(c) CAPE GLOUCESTER. Sixty-one Liberators bombdd targets in CAPE GLOUCESTER area. 155 tons of bombs were dropped, the majority of which fell in the target areas. Some small fires were the only results observed.

Six Airacobras in a barge sweep on the SW coast of NEW BRITAIN destroyed two Type A barges.

(d) WEWAK. Twenty-one Mitchells bombed strips and township at WEWAK. 12 tons of bombs were dropped and heavy black smoke obscured the area. Our fighters intercepted 9 to 11 enemy fighters over BORAM and destroyed one enemy aircraft without loss to themselves.

2. SEA - OWN

(a) REISS POINT. On night 22/23 Dec the PT boats sank two Type A and two Type B barges off REISS POINT. In addition two Type A barges were destroyed as they made the beach at this Point. All barges were moving on a northerly course empty.

(b) SCHARNHORST POINT. Off SCHARNHORST POINT the PT boats also sank one Type A barge and damaged three Type A barges, which were moving South loaded. Our craft were subjected to heavy fire from the shore. While the PT boats were in this vicinity signals were sighted passing from the coast to TUAM Islands.

3. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series).

It now seems certain that the enemy activity which flared up from 6 to 13 Dec and has since gradually died down was nothing more than a reconnaissance in force and that the enemy has withdrawn from the advanced positions which he reached between the KESAWAI area and EVAPIA R.

On 22 Dec in 25 Bde sector a patrol from B Coy PIB reached 482697 without meeting any enemy. Otherwise there has been some regrouping only. Bde HQ is located at 610567, and 2/25 Bn at 598590 with one company at 545624. At last light 2/33 Bn occupied the area 621573 with companies at 630585 and 621586, and 2/31 Bn was at 590597 with one company at 568624 and one platoon covering the area 592603 to 604594, with standing patrols at 599603 and 602595. 2/6 Cnv (Commando) Sqn was at 619636.

In 21 Bde sector our artillery harassed the enemy during the day.

Tac R along the BOGADJIM Road on 22 Dec shows that no attempt has been made to rebuild the bridges washed away by recent floods, but that the landslides over the road near MANZANRAI (564818) have been cleared. There were signs of foot traffic along the road and some MT tracks were observed between MABELUBU (574849) and MANZANRAI.

PART I (Contd)

3. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY (Contd)

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps MASAWENG R WEST and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25000).

On 22 Dec 20 Aust Inf Bde advanced more than 2000 yds beyond HUBIKA. 2/13 Bn again led and the coastal column after crossing deep and nearly perpendicular ravines at 554862 and 550866 reached and occupied the high spur at 549866 without opposition. These ravines make the track impassable to vehicles without considerable engineering work and jeep head is still at HUBIKA. Between these obstacles, however, the route is fair going. Meanwhile the inland column moved forward over very difficult country about 1000 yards SW of the track and saw no movement. At last light the battalion was disposed as follows: Bn HQ 550865, A Coy 551862, B Coy from 549866 to 546866, and C and D Coys from 543850 to 546856. 2/15 Bn moved up behind 2/13 Bn. Its dispositions were: Bn HQ at 557854, A Coy at 556857, B Coy at 555851, C Coy at 563844, and D Coy at 557860. There was no change in the dispositions of 2/17 Bn.

Further south in 4 Bde sector a patrol from 37/52 Bn through the general area 5662 saw no movement. A patrol from C Coy along the north bank of MASAWENG R to 544810 did not contact the enemy. PI patrols south of MASAWENG R from 572804 to AIMALAO and then to 515783 and 534807 also made no contact.

24 Aust Inf Bde took over the defence of the GUSIKA, WAREO and LANGEMAK BAY areas. Dispositions of 2/28 Bn were: Bn HQ 553718, A Coy 548717, B Coy on the 2200 feature in the area 5672, C Coy 555721, and D Coy from BAZULUO to 555726 and 555728. A Coy 2/32 Bn moved to SATELIEO and the 3200 feature in 5366. 2/43 Bn was in brigade reserve with A Coy at 618681, B Coy 621675. Dispositions of the remainder of the battalion were unchanged.

HQ 26 Aust Inf Bde, 2/23 Bn less D Coy and 2/24 Bn less A and B Coys were concentrated near GUSIKA. D Coy 2/23 Bn was at WAREO with A and B Coys 2/24 Bn occupying the 2200 feature at 5774. 2/48 Bn bivouacked south of KATIKA village.

Tac R reports state that no further development of the enemy positions at WANDOKAI are apparent.

The night 22/23 Dec was uneventful and there is nothing to report.

Signed at 2345 hrs.

Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 74

(Information from 2000L/21 Dec to 2000L/22 Dec 43)

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY:

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps FORTIFICATION POINT and MASAWENG R WEST 1/25,000)

After only a day's pause for consolidation and regrouping the advance up the coast has been resumed and HUBIKA (562848) has been captured.

On 21 Dec 20 Aust Inf Bde passed through 4 Aust Inf Bde and pushed forward rapidly. 2/13 Bn led in two columns:

/one A and B Coys with MMG platoon on the right along the comparatively easy going of the coastal track, C and D Coys on the left over the steep and difficult country of the lower slopes of FORTIFICATION HILL. Little opposition was met: two enemy were killed in a 40 ft deep gorge at 569847 and a tree-top sniper near HUBIKA was shot down. By 1640 hrs our troops had reached HUBIKA and occupied the village. The tanks kept well up behind the forward infantry and at last light 10 tanks were in the outskirts of HUBIKA, but it is reported that the ravine just west of the village is at present impassable to jeeps or tanks. B Coy however pushed across and established itself on the west bank. 40 to 50 dead Japs were found in the creek bed at 561848, having apparently been killed by our artillery fire, and one PW was captured. At last light the dispositions of 2/13 Bn were as follows: Bn HQ 563848, A Coy 562848, B Coy 560849, C Coy 563842, D Coy 566841. 2/15 Bn also moved up during the day and at last light was disposed as follows: Bn HQ 576844, A Coy 573848, B Coy 579838, C Coy 575846, D Coy 574843, with

/of two platoons 2/2 MG Bn also in the area. 2/17 Bn moved forward to the MASAWENG R area and its dispositions at last light were: Bn HQ 585804, A Coy 586802, B Coy 584803, C Coy 588790, D Coy 583805. Tactical HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde was established at 587802. In 4 Bde area a patrol from 37/52 Bn killed one enemy at 547807 and captured a quantity of enemy equipment. A total of 9 fresh graves were found at 547810 and 543810 respectively. B Coy 37/52 Bn moved to higher ground at 575823 and the detached platoon of C Coy rejoined the company at 564809.

There was some reorganisation in 24 Bde area. A Coy 2/32 Bn moved to SATELBERG and B Coy less one platoon to 610718 with one platoon at 616721.

In 26 Bde sector, 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn collected 200 natives including children in the area 5178 and 5278. They were taken to WAREO. Natives report that the enemy left SANGA R area on 18 Dec. 2/26 Bn relieved 2/23 Bn in the WAREO-BAZULUO area.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series).

A patrol from 2/2 Pnr Bn found an enemy position, strength estimated at one platoon, at 675660. A patrol from 2/25 Bn found an enemy position at 527743. B Coy PIB moved to 532642.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 21/22 Dec the PT boats sank two loaded enemy barges moving south at a point one mile south of WALINGAI. The PT boats also attacked three 120 ft barges 6 miles SE of SAKAR ISLAND. These barges were heavily armed and armour-plated. Shore batteries in the vicinity of DORF POINT (5 miles SW of CAPE GLOUCESTER- opened fire on our craft at a distance of 10,000 yards. One enemy aircraft also attacked the PT boats.

3. AIR - OWR (23 Dec)
(a) HUON PENINSULA.
Twelve Bostons and eight Marauders bombed and strafed targets between HUBIKA and WANDOKAI in support of 9 Aust Div. Targets were well covered by bomb bursts and strafing and several explosions were seen. 14 tons of bombs were dropped.
(b) CAPE GLOUCESTER AREA. (ref map WESTERN NEW BRITAIN 4 miles to 1 inch).
Seventy-eight Liberators, thirty-five Bostons and ten Mitchells bombed and strafed thirteen separate targets in the CAPE GLOUCESTER area. 254 tons of bombs were dropped. Results generally were not observed.
During night 21/22 Dec continued harassing raids over this area were made by Liberators. A total of 80 100 lb bombs was dropped at intervals throughout the night.
Twelve Bostons accurately bombed and strafed enemy occupied areas near SILIMATI POINT (XX7492), dropping 4½ tons of bombs.
Six Airacobras in a barge sweep from BONGEN BAY to REIN BAY strafed buildings and barges. Two barges were left burning and one damaged.
(c) INTERCEPTION. Four Squadrons of Lightnings escorting our bombers in attacks on WEWAK and DORAH were intercepted by a strong force of enemy fighters. In the ensuing engagements sixteen enemy fighters were shot down. Our losses were three Lightnings destroyed and five damaged.

PART II

4. ENEMY DEFENCES: (ref maps MASAWENG R WEST and MLUCHER POINT 1/25,000)
(a) Tac/R reports of 21 Dec state that the entire WANDOKAI area appears to be strongly defended, and that there are hastily prepared positions on the western banks of all creek crossings between HUBIKA and WANDOKAI. In particular there are eight small posts astride the coastal track about 5586, four more about 5287 and 5387 and a bunker with some diggings at 917880 in the eastern outskirts of WANDOKAI. It is also stated that there is much track activity with some defensive positions on the kunai terraces in the area.
(b) There appears to be little activity around SIALUM, but Tac/R of 20 Dec reports newly constructed bunkers and field works (possibly for beach defence) at KANSARUA (474961) and on the shore 1000 yards to north as well as newly established ammunition and supply dumps in this area.
Comment. Enemy instructions have recently laid emphasis on the preparation of dummy defences and the use of deception. It seems possible therefore that some of the field works seen may prove to be dummy positions.

5. ENEMY OOB
A PW captured at HUBIKA on 21 Dec belonged to 2 Coy 79 Regt. He stated that on 16 Dec, the strength of his Company was 40. He added that I Bn was ordered to concentrate at WANDOKI, following the route LAKONA - HUBIKA and thence inland. II and III Bns were to follow but did not pass through HUBIKA. 80 Regt passed through HUBIKA northward on the coastal track. PW believed a stand would be made at WANDOKAI.
Comment. This PW provides further evidence of the move to the coast of 80 Regt after its defeat in the inland sector north of WAREO.
The suggested stand at WANDOKAI is considered likely in view of the suitability of the terrain. The defile at 519881 is particularly narrow and the steep sided ridge running inland to the south offers facilities for defence. The Tac/R reports in para 4 above also support this possibility.

6. ENEMY CD: BOGADJIM-SAIDOR.
A Jap PW of 80 Regt, captured near BONGA at the end of Sep 43, has stated that in July there were four batteries each consisting of seven or eight guns disposed along the coast between BOGADJIM and SAIDOR. The gun crews were stated to be SNLP members. PW was uncertain whether the guns were naval or army type, but from his description they would probably be the 12 cm guns with which it is known SNLPs have sometimes been equipped. Little is known of this gun which is probably a modified naval type.

SECRET

PART II Contd

6. ENEMY CD: BOGADJIM-SAIDOR (Contd)

PW also stated that at each battery position from BOGADJIM to SAIDOR there were usually four large tents set up about 1000 metres from the guns. These were for gun crews and each would accommodate about 30 troops.

In SAIDOR he stated there were six guns with a further seven in the outskirts of the village. All guns were manned by YOKOSUKA SNLP.

Comment: The only SNLP troops known to be forward of MADANG are the remnants, mainly from SASEBO 5, which suffered heavy casualties at LAE and which are in the forward area opposing 9 Aust Div. It is quite likely however that there are other SNLPs along the coast as suggested by the PW. It has been realised for some time that the gun positions sited along the coast were in excess of the fire power available from identified artillery units. It was also clear that the crews to man coast defences would have to be provided from other than already identified units.

signed at 1205 hrs

Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 73

(Information from 2030L/20 Dec to 2030L/21 Dec 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps FORTIFICATION POINT and MASAWENG R West 1/25000).

At 1600 hrs 20 Dec 4 Aust Inf Bde occupied FORTIFICATION HILL, the high 800 ft feature at 569823, and thus brought to a successful conclusion a definite phase in the advance up the coast. This advance has been steady and sustained since the Brigade first crossed KALUENG R on 3 Dec. With the support of tanks and of concentrated artillery fire the infantry has overcome the tenacious resistance of the enemy and has captured a long series of well-defended positions held by stubborn rearguards. On 20 Dec 29/46 Bn, which captured the defile at 584818 on 19 Dec, consolidated its position and patrolled forward to the swamp at 586830 opposite FORTIFICATION POINT, without making contact with the enemy. At last light the Battalion was disposed as follows: D Coy 586822, A Coy 584816, C Coy 583809, B Coy 582820. Five dead Japs were found in C Coy's position. On the left flank 37/52 Bn climbed the steep slopes of FORTIFICATION HILL during the day and at 1600 hrs seized the crest without opposition, encountering only a few stragglers. At last light the Battalion was disposed: B Coy at 583824, A Coy at 572824, Bn HQ and D Coy at 572804 and C Coy less a platoon at 564809 with one platoon at 569821. 22 Bn did not change its dispositions during the day. A considerable number of enemy were seen moving NE at 584810. They were engaged by our artillery and MMGs, and many casualties are believed to have been inflicted. Further south a patrol from 9 Aust Div Carrier Coy captured one Jap at 597762 and a PIB patrol killed one at 594757.

In the BONGA-WAREO track area some re-grouping has taken place. On 20 Dec 2/23 Bn moved to WAREO and A Coy 2/32 Bn moved to 597716.

In 26 Bde sector our patrols were active. Extensive patrolling both NE and NW of WAREO found no enemy.

During the day our artillery fired 1418 rounds in support of 4 Aust Inf Bde and also shelled suspected dump areas and enemy who were seen moving at various points.

5 AUST DIV

On 20 Dec two enemy were captured near NADZAB. These Japs, together with those recently discovered at LUMBAIP, were stragglers from the original force at LAE.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps KUMBARUM, 1/25000 series and URIGINA 1 inch to 1 mile series).

On 20 Dec 25 Bde patrols were active but made no contact. In 21 Bde sector following a successful air strike, a patrol from 2/16 Bn raided an enemy position (about 692631) on SHAGGY Ridge and inflicted casualties. A patrol from 2/2 Cav(Cdo Bde) Sqn reported URIGINA (384854) clear of enemy.

2. AIR - OWN (21 Dec)

(a) HUON PENINSULA. Between 1130 hrs and 1155 hrs eleven Bostons bombed and strafed enemy occupied areas near WANDOKAI, WALINGAI and AGO. Bombing was reported inaccurate. 1½ tons were dropped.

(b) MADANG. Twenty-four Mitchells bombed dumps in MADANG area. 21 tons of bombs were dropped, destroying some buildings and starting fires. One Mitchell was shot down by AA fire.

SECRET

PART I (Contd)

2. AIR - OWN (Contd)

(c) CAPE GLOUCESTER (ref map WESTERN NEW BRITAIN, 4 miles to 1 inch).

Fifty-four Liberators, twenty-five Bostons and ten Mitchells attacked targets from DORF POINT (XM5694) to CAPE GLOUCESTER. 172 tons of bombs were dropped and targets were heavily strafed but results generally were not observed. Twenty-four Mitchells attacked TARGET HILL near SILINATI POINT (XM7492), dropping 21 tons of bombs. Gun positions in the area were blanketed by bomb bursts.

(d) INTERCEPTION

Fourteen Lightnings whilst on a fighter sweep about 10 miles east of ARAWE intercepted some eight to ten enemy bombers and twelve to fifteen fighters. Eight bombers and two fighters were destroyed without loss to our aircraft.

PART II

3. CAPTURED ENEMY WEAPONS

The following table shows:

(a) the total number of enemy weapons of each type that have been reported captured or destroyed in the 9 Aust Div area from 8 Oct to 19 Dec,
(b) the estimated number brought into the area,, and
(c) the difference, representing an estimate of those that remain:

Type of Weapon	Total Reported captured or destroyed	Estimated No brought into area	No left still available
75mm Guns	10	20	10
70mm Guns	5	14	9
37mm QF Guns	7	12	5
20mm AA Guns	3	6	3
13mm AA Guns	17	22	5
81mm Mortars	10	18(?)	8(?)
Lt Mortars	19	72(?)	53(?)
HMGs	18	56	38
LMGs	91	252	161

A tentative allocation of 75mm Guns, 70mm Guns, 37mm QF Guns and LMGs to the principal units is as follows:

	75mm Guns	70mm Guns	37mm QF Guns	LMGs
79 Regt	2	2	3	34
80 Regt	2	2	2	23
238 Regt	-	1	2	34
26 Fd Arty Regt	6	-	-	-
Total	10	5	7	91

Signed at 1110 hrs.

Lt-col
GS

Explanatory Notes to the Table of Captured Weapons

(a) Estimated number of weapons brought into area and consequently number remaining in area are subject to revision when more detailed information can be obtained.
(b) In instances where "several" LMGs have been reported, "several" has been interpreted as "two". The total (91) shown as captured or destroyed is therefore probably too low.

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 72

(Information from 2000L/19 Dec to 2000L/20 Dec 43)

PART I
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY:

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps MASAWENG R AND KULUNGTUFU, 1 inch to 1 mile series and MASAWENG R WEST AND FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000 series).

On 19 Dec 4 Aust Inf Bde advanced a further 1300 yds along the coast. At 0730 hrs 29/46 Bn resumed its drive forward with C Coy leading, and at 1500 hrs our troops supported by artillery, MMGs and tanks attacked a strong enemy position in the defile at 584818. The enemy resisted stubbornly for three hours with all available weapons and even employed a 75 mm gun over open sights. The position however was finally captured and at 1800 hrs C Coy had pushed forward to 586823. In the encounter one 75 mm gun and six LMGs were captured, and one 37 mm AT gun was found buried. B Coy, which had moved over the high ground to the west of the track relieved C Coy at 586823 and C Coy then dropped back into reserve at 581819. In the meantime A and D Coys had crossed the MASAWENG R at 0730 hrs and advanced to 586819. On the left flank C and D Coys 37/52 Bn occupied without opposition the high ground at 563809 and 573808 respectively. Bn HQ and B Coy moved to MASAWENG R at 571804 and A Coy advanced to 570800. A patrol from A Coy 22 Bn to the creek at 578795 saw no movement. A PIB patrol moved from 610770 SW along the track to 587750, then north to the SOWI R, NW to 573770 and SW to 565765. One enemy was killed at 580763 and 28 enemy dead with much abandoned equipment were found along the track between 570769 and 565765. These Japs appeared to have died from starvation.

In 20 Bde sector 2/13 Bn and 2/15 Bn moved forward to a position south of MASAWENG R and at last light were disposed as follows:- 2/13 Bn: HQ 588797, A Coy 583805, B Coy 587801, C Coy 585803, D Coy 583798. 2/15 Bn: HQ 588797, A Coy 587798, B Coy 593790, C Coy 588798, D Coy 588795. The Divisional Carrier Coy advanced to 600772.

In 26 Bde area the standing patrol from 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn moved from ZAGAHEMI to KINGFARINGNAU (418793). They saw three enemy positions SW of ZAGAHEMI and an enemy foraging party 1000 yards to the south. A patrol from the Squadron left MERIKEO for HOMPUA (475814) and a four-day patrol set out for MASAWENG R area. B Coy 2/23 Bn moved from BAZULUO towards LAKONA. 2/23 Bn patrols from WAREO to 557723 and 558730 saw no movement. A patrol from 2/24 Bn moved through 567736 to SOWI R at 563740, then down the river to 563746 and on to 567747, but saw no movement. Other patrols in the area 5674 and 5775 also made no contact with the enemy. C Coy PIB moved from KULUNGTUFU towards YUNZAING (395746).

During the day our artillery fired 780 rounds in support of 4 Bde and also shelled a suspected enemy position near FORTIFICATION POINT.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series).

On 19 Dec 2/33 Bn found an enemy post held by an estimated two platoons on the 5800 feature (560678). Our troops engaged the enemy who withdrew. At last light 2/33 Bn was disposed with one company at 562675 and two companies at 566684. It was reported on 19 Dec that a five-day patrol from 2/25 Bn had reached 502718 and saw an enemy party at 499725. B Coy PIB at 480660 patrolled north to the SOLU R. A patrol from 21 Bde reached 673660 without contacting any enemy.

2. AIR-OWN (20 Dec 43)

(a) HUON PENINSULA: (ref maps 1/25,000 series).

In support of 9 Aust Div twelve Mitchells bombed enemy dumps in wooded areas 561849 to 566848 and 567848 to 568848 and also at WANDOKAI.

Five Marauders accurately bombed a suspected battalion area near KANGARUA (474961). 25½ tons of bombs were dropped and two large explosions seen in the target areas with columns of smoke rising to 1000 ft.

(b) CAPE GLOUCESTER. Thirty-eight Liberators and ten Mitchells again bombed targets in the CAPE GLOUCESTER and SAG SAG areas. 95 tons of bombs were dropped. Some explosions and a large number of small fires were seen.

(c) BORGEN BAY. (ref map WESTERN NEW BRITAIN, 4 miles to 1 inch).

Twenty-two Liberators and twenty-four Mitchells bombed dumps along the coast of BORGEN BAY from SILIMATI POINT (XM7492) to MATAMO (XM7487). 111 tons of bombs were dropped and some large fires seen.

(d) ARAWE. Thirty-one Bostons conducted barge sweeps and bombing and strafing missions along the coast east of ARAWE. One coastal gun is reported destroyed and one probably destroyed. A number of huts were left burning. 18 tons of bombs were dropped.

(e) RABAUL. During the early morning eighteen Beauforts bombed dispersal areas and strips at VUNAKANAU. All bombs were seen to hit the target area. 15 tons of bombs were dropped.

(f) ALEXISHAFEN. Thirty-four Mitchells bombed the strips and dispersal areas with 26 tons of bombs. Bombs were seen to fall amongst grounded aircraft and caused many explosions and fires. One Mitchell was shot down by AA fire.

3. AIR - ENEMY.

FINSCHHAFEN

(a) At 0400 hrs 18 Dec one enemy aircraft dropped six bombs in the sea off SCARLET BEACH.

(b) At 0340 hrs 19 Dec one enemy aircraft dropped 5 bombs along the coast south of LAKONA causing slight casualties.

(c) At 0430 hrs 19 Dec three enemy aircraft dropped bombs in the sea off SCARLET BEACH.

PART II

4. ENEMY INTENTIONS: 12 Nov 43.

The following extracts are taken from the LAKONA Garrison Unit "Defence Plan" dated 12 Nov 43 and clearly show that the commander's main preoccupation at that time was the likelihood of an allied landing to cut his L of C.

"The LAKONA Garrison Unit will maintain the important defensive positions south of MASAWENG R and will make every effort to determine the enemy's plan to land.

"We are striving not only to destroy beforehand enemy plans and to eliminate enemy torpedo boats, which fire at will, but we are endeavouring to maintain this place as a stronghold against an enemy landing and to preserve it as a key point from which the main force of the div can attack or counter-attack".

There follow instructions for the establishment of coast watching posts to observe and report all movements of enemy ships and aircraft from which a deduction as to the enemy plan to land may be made. Guns and MGs were to be sited for beach defence and each Defence Unit was also ordered to construct dummy positions and to take other measures of deception so as to make the enemy think that a landing would be difficult.

ATIS Spot Report 176)

Signed at 2 1 4 0 hrs

V. L. Lamb-Jones.

Lt-col
GS

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 71

(Information from 2000L/18 Dec to 2000L/19 Dec 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN & ENEMY:

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps MASAWENG R WEST and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25000).

On 18 Dec 4 Aust Inf Bde continued its advance up the coast and in the afternoon forced a crossing of MASAWENG R. At 0900 hrs B and D Coys 29/46 Bn supported by artillery attacked and captured the enemy positions at the creek from 585803 to 586804. The two companies then continued to move forward, mopping up stragglers. In the meantime C Coy advanced from 588799 and at 1330 hrs occupied the south bank of MASAWENG R near the mouth, while B Coy pushed across difficult country and reached the river at 580807. At 1500 hrs the battalion succeeded in crossing the river and secured the beach to the north. At last light the dispositions were: C Coy at 584810, B Coy in the huts at 575810, D Coy at 584804, A Coy at 578806 and Bn HQ at 583807. Up till 1330 hrs three 75mm guns, one 37mm gun, two flame throwers, one 81mm mortar, one HMG and many other items of equipment had been captured, but the count of enemy dead in the sector had not been completed.

Further south the enemy withdrew during the night from 580793 and in the morning A Coy 22 Bn and D Coy 37/52 Bn occupied the position. B Coy 22 Bn patrolled the south bank of SANGA R to 581784 and then crossed to the north bank and went back to 586789. They discovered one LMG and a small mortar in a former enemy bivouac area at 585786. At last light C Coy with eight tanks was at 585800, B Coy at 588796, A Coy at 580792, and Bn HQ at 588792. During the day 37/52 Bn moved to the high ground between SANGA R and MASAWENG R and at last light D Coy was at 583800, C Coy at 579797, A Coy at 576796, B Coy at 583797 and Bn HQ at 585794.

In 20 Bde sector the Bde HQ moved forward to 613768 and 2/17 Bn was disposed as follows: Bn HQ at 592786, A Coy at 593783, B Coy at 595786, C Coy at 592775 and D Coy at 587783. A PIB patrol to 585755 found 3 dead Japs and some 75mm ammunition but saw no movement.

On the left in the 26 Bde sector 2/4 Cav(Commando) Sqn transferred its HQ to MERIKEO (477730) and patrols to 476737 and 488733 saw no movement. The OP south of ZAGAHEMI reported that 12 Japs are holding a position on the track south of the village. A 2/23 Bn patrol NE from BASULUO to the garden at 542734 found no enemy. D Coy 2/24 Bn moved to 566727 and a patrol from the battalion made contact with the PIB patrol at 589758.

5 AUST DIV

(ref map SOANA 1 inch to 1 mile).

One Jap, who escaped from the AMGAI patrol on 17 Dec, was captured in the LIMBAIK area (600669) on 18 Dec.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps DISIPU, MT OTTO and URIGINA 1 inch to 1 mile).

On 18 Dec further extensive patrolling in the KESAWAI area and towards SOLU R was carried out without contact being made with the enemy. 2/6 Cav(Commando) Sqn is now established on the 5500 feature (6363) and is carrying out local patrols.

2. SEA - OWN

(a) REIGS POINT

On night 18/19 Dec our PT boats sank six Type B barges and destroyed two 80-100 ft barges and one Type B barge on the beach at REIGS POINT. All these barges were moving north empty.

(b) WALINGAI

Off WALINGAI our PT boats sank one loaded Type B barge south bound.

PART I (Contd)

3. AIR - OWN

(a) MYON PENINSULA. In the morning twelve Bostons in support of 9 Aust Div bombed and strafed a bivouac area at 346126 (ref map SIALUM - 1/25,000), and also strafed from a minimum altitude the coastal track from KELANOA to NUZEM, starting six grass fires. Two bombs were also dropped on the edge of the lake at 319137 causing a small explosion and a column of black smoke. 5 tons of bombs were dropped.

Ten Mitchells also in support of 9 Aust Div bombed and strafed a barge off-loading point and suspected dump area at river mouth just south of NUZEM. 6 tons of bombs were dropped.

Six Airacobras conducted barge sweeps along the RAI coast between 1715 and 1835 hrs 18 Dec and again from 0730 to 0900 hrs 19 Dec. During the first sweep camp fires at PESCHEL PT were strafed and our aircraft later intercepted and shot down an enemy bomber.

(b) MADANG. At 0930 hrs twenty-four Mitchells and nine Marauders bombed the runway and dispersal areas. Forty-three tons of bombs were dropped. Our aircraft were engaged by heavy and accurate AA fire and six aircraft were holed.

(c) CAPE GLOUCESTER. From 0900 hrs till 1607 hrs one hundred and two Liberators, forty-six Mitchells and nine Marauders concentrated on targets in the area. Most of the 413 tons of bombs fell in the target area. Many explosions were seen and the whole of the target area was covered in clouds of smoke.

(d) DELAYED REPORTS. On 16 and 17 Dec seven Beaufighters and two Bostons made barge sweeps along the north and south coasts of NEW BRITAIN. Four barges were bombed and destroyed. One Beaufighter was reported overdue.

4. AIR - ENEMY

During night 18/19 Dec there was some enemy air activity over the 9 Aust Div area, but no details are yet available.

PART II

5. ENEMY MOVES

On 14 Dec, 3 barges (1 .. 80 ft long and 2 50 ft long) two miles west of SAIDOR heading for BOGADJIM were strafed by our aircraft. The large barge was crowded with personnel and the smaller ones contained personnel and stores. Several Japs were killed.

COMMENT:

The above westward movement of personnel is unusual. Details are lacking, but the move may be connected with the evacuation of wounded. The reference to stores in the smaller barges, however, suggests otherwise, and one remote possibility is that the move is a continuation of the "rearward movement" of HQ 20 Div referred to in 2 Aust Corps Int Report No 68 para 3(c).

Signed at 2215 hrs.

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 70

(Information from 2000L/17 Dec to 2000L/18 Dec 43)

OPERATIONS

1. AIR - OWN (18 Dec)

(a) HUON PENINSULA. About 0900 hrs eleven Bostons bombed and strafed a dump area at KANOMI. Bombing was accurate and one explosion and a column of black smoke was seen. 6 tons of bombs were dropped and forty-four strafing passes were made.

A further twelve Bostons bombed and strafed the area south of WALINGAI dropping 5 tons of bombs, but no results were observed.

(b) CAPE GLOUCESTER. Twenty-five Liberators supported by thirty-four Mitchells and twelve Marauders accurately bombed dumps about two miles east of No 1 strip. 167 tons of bombs were dropped.

(c) BORGEN BAY. Twenty-five Mitchells carried out a bombing and strafing mission on stores, personnel and dumps along the coast of BORGEN BAY. Twenty-six tons of bombs were dropped.

(d) CAPE HOSKINS. Thirty-seven Liberators bombed the strip and dispersal areas at CAPE HOSKINS. All crews reported bombs in the target area and that the strip was made unserviceable. 127 tons of bombs were dropped.

(e) INTERCEPTION. (ref strat maps NEW BRITAIN, 4 miles to 1 inch).

At 1120 hrs an enemy force of twenty-five fighters flying SE were intercepted by sixteen Lightnings near CAPE RAOULT (XN2796) and three were shot down. One of our planes was lost in combat and another by collision with one of our own aircraft.

2. LAND-OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG AND FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000)

On 17 Dec 4 Aust Inf Bde advanced north from LAKONA across SANGA R. At 0900 hrs A Coy 29/46 Bn supported by a heavy artillery concentration on enemy posts on the north bank crossed the rive at 590792 and attacked these positions. After sharp fighting the enemy were driven out and one HMG and several LMGs were captured. On the left flank D Coy also crossed the river at 587792 but at 1515 hrs both companies after advancing to 588800 were shelled by a 75 mm gun from 585804. The gun was silenced by our counter-battery fire. Enemy were later discovered near the creek at 586803 and 585801. 17 enemy are known to have been killed in this sector during the day. At last light the dispositions of 29/46 Bn were, A Coy 587801, D Coy 586799, C Coy 588799 and B Coy with Bn HQ at 588795.

Meanwhile at 0700 hrs B Coy 22 Bn moved west along the south bank of SANGA R to 587788 against opposition. At 0800 hrs C Coy supported by HMGs cleared the pocket at 593790 on the coast near CAPE SIGIDA. The enemy had till then been resisting strongly at this point. 34 enemy dead were counted and others were seen to fall over the cliff face into the sea. Our troops captured one 81 mm mortar, six small mortars, one HMG and many rifles. A Coy moved west from 592790 and ambushed and killed 7 enemy at 584793. They later encountered strong enemy opposition at 582792. At 1700 hrs D Coy 37/52 Bn moved up to support A Coy 22 Bn and after heavy fighting both companies were in close contact with the enemy at 583794 at last light. HQ 22 Bn were then at 586792 with C Coy at LAKONA, D Coy at 588792 and B Coy at 587788. B Coy 37/52 Bn moved to 581778 and upon sighting small enemy parties in the garden at 580779 engaged them with mortar fire. At last light C Coy 37/52 Bn was at 588784, A Coy at 587778 and Bn HQ at 593780. One platoon from 2/2 MG Bn with SMGs killed 13 enemy in a cave in the cliff at LAKONA without loss to themselves.

2. LAND-OWN AND ENEMY Contd.

In 20 Bde area a 2/13 Bn patrol from 600771 to the NW saw no movement. B Coy 2/15 Bn moved to 599787 and 2/17 Bn also moved forward, but left a standing patrol at the track junction 587747. At last light HQ 2/17 Bn and D Coy were at 599777, C Coy at 592778 and A and B Coys at 607776 and 610772 respectively.

In 24 Bde sector a patrol from 2/32 Bn moved to 570728 and found that this area had apparently been the site of a large Japanese HQ. There were also indications that horses or mules had been used in the vicinity.

On 17 Dec an advanced party of 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn reached MERIKED (478730).

5 AUST DIV

(ref map BOANA 1 inch to 1 mile).

On 17 Dec an ANGAU patrol killed 4 enemy near LUMBAIP (600669). One escaped without equipment.

7 AUST DIV

(ref map URIGINA, 1 inch to 1 mile).

A two-day patrol from 2/25 Bn to SOLU R reported on 17 Dec that no enemy had been seen.

Comment - The route taken by the patrol and the point at which it reached the SOLU R are not reported. It is thought however that the patrol probably moved along the main track to KOROPA (464732). If this is so it appears that the enemy has withdrawn from KESAWAI I (483690) where they were reported to be dug in on 12 Dec. Such a withdrawal is consistent with Tac/R reports on 16 Dec. (See 2 Aust Corps Int Report 69).

Signed at 2105 hrs

E. Ramsay-Jones.
Lt-col
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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 69

(Information from 2000L/16 Dec to 2000L/17 Dec 43)

PAGE 1

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATTELBERG and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000).

In the coastal sector heavy and prolonged fighting took place around LAKONA during 16 Dec. At 0750 hrs a patrol from 22 Bn to the west found an enemy position at 591791 and remained in contact until 1225 hrs, when A Coy with mortar and MMG support drove the enemy back after a bitter engagement. B Coy then advanced to 592790 to support A Coy, which was still in close contact with the enemy at last light. Meanwhile D Coy maintained pressure on the enemy, who had been cut off at 594791, but the enemy resisted tenaciously till late afternoon. Our tanks were unable to cross the flooded creek at 596787 until 1730 hrs, but then moved forward/supported an attack by C Coy on the position. The enemy, who resisted desperately, were dug in on a series of small ridges which the tanks and infantry had to reduce one by one in the face of intense MG fire. In a stubborn fight at least 30 enemy were killed and the remainder were slowly driven back and finally jumped over the cliff face on to the rocks below, where at last light the remnants were being engaged with grenades and small arms fire. During the day 37/52 Bn moved west to occupy the high ground in area 5878 overlooking SANGA R, and at last light were disposed C Coy at 592778, A Coy 589771, D Coy 587784 and B Coy at 585777. 29/46 Bn remained in Bde reserve at 598785. Further south a PIB patrol ambushed and wiped out a party of 12 Japs moving west at 577758 and captured 2 LMGs and some rifles. The same patrol observed 18 Japs with full packs and rifles also moving west at 581759. Several small enemy parties, which were seen moving north with full packs at the mouth MASAWENG R, were shelled by our artillery, and later casualties were observed being carried to an enemy medical post at 581815.

In 20 Bde area B Coy 2/15 Bn moved forward from COCONUT Beach to 608777. A patrol from 2/13 Bn west to 59 Easting Grid saw no movement but captured a 20mm twin-barrel AA gun and ammunition at 605758. D Coy 2/13 Bn relieved C Coy 37/52 Bn at 600772.

In 26 Bde sector C and D Coys 2/24 Bn supported by artillery and mortars forced the enemy to withdraw from a position at 571735 and then advanced along a razorback ridge to the village at 575740. A patrol from 2/23 Bn covered a wide area north of WAREO to 74 Northing Grid but saw no movement.

During the day our artillery fired 2500 rounds in support of 4 Bde and in addition engaged enemy guns at 584807 and 590793.

At first light 17 Dec 29/46 Bn after an artillery concentration moved up to SANGA R at 589791 and it is reported that A Coy forced a crossing at 589793.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

The R patrols on 16 Dec found that enemy activity in the KESAWAI area was on a small scale, and it is considered possible that there are fewer enemy in this area than was at first believed. Air reconnaissance during the day stated that there was no movement on the 5800 feature at 5667, which had been previously reported occupied by the enemy. A patrol from 2/2 Pnr Bn through GUSAP saw no enemy. Active patrolling by 25 Bde was continued, but no contact was made. A patrol from 2/2 Cav (Commando)Sqn reported that the villages URIGINA No 1 (384853) and No 2 (384839) were not occupied by the enemy.

PART I (Contd)

2. AIR - OWN

(a) CAPE GLOUCESTER. Twenty-two Liberators bombed A" positions and dumps near No 2 strip at CAPE GLOUCESTER. Clouds obscured observation of results but bombs were reported to have fallen in the target area.

Ten Mitchells bombed and strafed enemy occupied areas and dumps at TARGET HILL on the western extremity of BORGEN BAY.

(b) HUON PENINSULA. Nine Mitchells accurately bombed enemy dump areas at HAMBARIWA.

A further twenty-nine Mitchells unable to locate targets owing to weather returned to base.

(c) INTERCEPTION.

Eight Thunderbolts intercepted an enemy formation approaching ARAWE and destroyed seven bombers and two fighters without loss.

Sixteen Lightnings on fighter patrol in the CAPE GLOUCESTER area destroyed one enemy fighter as it was taking off from No 2 strip.

(d) DELAYED REPORTS. (ref strat maps NEW IRELAND and NEW BRITAIN 4 miles to 1 inch).

During the period 13 - 15 Dec Beaufighters and Bostons carried out seven early morning barge sweeps along the north and south coasts and also strafed strips and dispersal areas at BORPOP (YB 5376). Twenty-four aircraft were involved. Three camouflaged barges at VALOKA (near Cape HOSKINS, XO 9997) were strafed and badly damaged.

ENEMY II

3. ENEMY DEFENCES. (ref map FORTIFICATION POINT, 1/25000).

Tac R reports state that there are signs of considerable movement through the garden at 571809 and that the track from LAKONA to HUBIKA appears to be much used. There are no signs, however, of any new defences south of FORTIFICATION Point, but a track not previously seen runs from 583819 to 570822. Track activity was also seen near HAMBARIWA, KELAHOA, KANOMI and WALINGAI.

4. ENEMY OOB.

It is reported that III Bn 115 Regt and part of 14 Fd Arty Regt have been identified at ARAWE on 15 Dec.

COMMENT: It is known that elements of 51 Div were left in NEW BRITAIN, when the main force moved to NEW GUINEA. A captured map shows that I Bn 14 Fd Arty Regt was located near TULIVU at the beginning of June 43. However, both 115 Regt and 14 Fd Arty Regt were certainly at LAE and SALAMAUA from June to Sep 43, and both suffered very heavy casualties. It appears, therefore, that these units have been reformed form the remnants who escaped together with considerable drafts from their depots.

Signed at 2215 hrs.

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GS.

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 68

(Information from 2000L/15 Dec to 2000L/16 Dec 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

2 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG AND FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000).

After heavy fighting throughout 15 Dec 4 Aust Inf Bde captured the village of LAKONA in the late afternoon. C and D Coys 22 Bn with artillery support attacked a strongpost at 595789 held by about 70 of the enemy, and after severe fighting pushed them back to near CAPE SIBIDA (594791). At 1700 hrs C Coy occupied LAKONA and D Coy reached 595790. In the meantime A Coy from 590784 moved north along the creek against enemy opposition and pushed through to its mouth at 592791, where they completed the enclosure of the enemy at CAPE SIBIDA. Some enemy, attempting to withdraw across the sandbar of SANGA R, were engaged by A Coy and by artillery fire and suffered heavy casualties. Further south A Coy 37/52 Bn supported by mortars and MMGs at first light attacked about 50 enemy dug in at 595773 and after a fierce engagement in which 20 enemy were killed, the position was taken at 1000 hrs. After mopping up A Coy moved forward to 589771. D Coy with MMGs joined B Coy on the high ground astride the track at 592777 and patrols to the west observed small parties of enemy moving north on the track at 584777 and 582770. These were engaged by our artillery. Fighting patrols from C Coy eliminated the enemy pocket at 595777, killing 12 Japs. After being relieved by 2/15 Bn, the 29/46 Bn moved into Bde reserve at 600784. Considerable numbers of enemy moving north on the track at 586824 were shelled by our artillery. At 1800 hrs 20 enemy moving south in the defile at 585817 were also shelled and many casualties are believed to have been inflicted. Heavy rain during the day caused flooding of most of the creeks and our tanks were unable to cross the creek at 596787.

In 20 Bde area, 2/15 Bn less one Coy relieved 29/46 Bn near KILIGIA BEACH, while B Coy is protecting COCONUT BEACH (616763). A patrol from 2/13 Bn south of SOWI R to 59 Easting Grid saw no movement. C and D Coys 2/17 Bn moved to 615753 and 610755 respectively. A platoon ambush party at the track junction 587747 saw no movement but found two dead Japs.

In 25 Bde sector, D Coy 2/24 Bn moving NE along the track reached 569735 and an enemy position was found on the narrow saddle at 571736. The enemy was subjected to artillery and mortar fire. Patrols from 2/23 Bn north of WAREO to 73 Northing Grid saw no movement.

During the day our artillery engaged enemy moving at 585793, a suspected troop concentration at 584817 and enemy positions at 575742 and 576740. Our mortars also fired on enemy at 585773 and 591773. At 2000 hrs an enemy gun at 590793 shelled KILIGIA, but was silenced by our counter-battery fire. During night 15/16 Dec our guns harassed enemy in the defile at 585817 between the steep hillside and the sea.

At first light 16 Dec the enemy was still holding CAPE SIBIDA, but our troops were attacking in this area as a preliminary to the main advance up the coast.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series).

On 15 Dec, one Coy 2/2 Pioneer Bn occupied HERALD HILL (646600). 2/27 Bn relieved 2/14 Bn and was disposed with one Coy at TOM'S POST (743627), one Coy less one platoon near KUMBARUM, one platoon at SAM'S POST (784578) and the remainder of the battalion in reserve. 2/25 Bn found 164 weapon pits in the area 5265. At 1140 hrs Tac/R of the BOGADJIM RD showed that bridges 1 to 13 inclusive had been washed away by flood waters and that the road near NANZANRAI (560819) was blocked by landslides in about 15 places.

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY Contd

It was completely washed away at many other points. Air reconnaissance during the day also showed a small enemy party digging in on the 5800 feature at 5667, and they were accurately shelled by our artillery. Reconnaissance of the enemy L of C through KETOBA (448765) showed that this track was still being heavily used.

2. AIR - OWN (16 Dec)

(a) HUON PENINSULA. In support of 9 Aust Div ten Mitchells accurately bombed a dump and bivouac area at SIO.

Nine Marauders also attacked a bivouac area and dump at KELANOA, the majority of bombs falling in the target area. In all a total of 28 tons of bombs were dropped on the targets.

(b) CAPE GLOUCESTER (ref strut maps NEW BRITAIN, 4 miles to 1 inch). Villages and dump areas from DORF POINT (XM5694) to CAPE GLOUCESTER were bombed and strafed by thirty-eight Liberators. 121 tons of bombs were dropped and 1315 rounds expended. Target areas were covered in dust and smoke and several fires were observed.

Six unidentified aircraft were seen , but no interception was attempted.

Final reports of four other squadrons of Liberators on the same target are not yet available.

(c) ARAWE. Nineteen Mitchells successfully carried out supply-dropping missions to ground troops at ARAWE.

(d) INTERCEPTION. Thirty-two Lightnings in two groups of 16 intercepted an enemy force of 9 medium bombers and 20 to 25 fighters moving towards ARAWE. In the ensuing engagement 9 enemy aircraft were shot down without loss to our aircraft.

A preliminary report indicates that 6 more enemy aircraft were destroyed during an interception over FINSCHHAFEN, but no details are yet available.

(e) DELAYED REPORT.

RABAUL. During night 14/15 Dec fourteen Beauforts bombed the strips and dispersal areas at VUNAKANAU and TOBERA. 13 tons of bombs and 450 lbs of incendiaries were dropped but clouds prevented observation of results. A further ten aircraft failed to reach the target due to weather. One aircraft failed to return and is presumed lost.

PART II

3. ENEMY OOB

(a) A captured 79 Regt OO dated 11 Nov '43 states that CO 20 Tpt Regiment would attach the FURUKAWA battalion to his command and that this force was to be the KANOMI defence unit with main body at KANOMI and a detachment at AGO.

Comment. The FURUKAWA Bn is probably the reformed I Bn 80 Regt.

The use of the 20 Tpt Regt in a coast defence role shows that that as early as 11 Nov the enemy was nervous about his exposed ocean flank. It was previously known that I Bn 80 Regt had this task, but the use of 20 Tpt Regt in addition is remarkable, especially in view of the heavy supply requirements.

(b) 9 Aust Div report that "other documents" show that the QF Gun Coy of 79 Regt had three guns on 13 Nov and that on the previous day it was to move one of them to KANOMI, one to LAKONA and was apparently to leave one on the BONGA-WAREO track.

Comment. This latter may have been the 37 mm gun captured on 14 Dec at 600785.

(c) A captured diary containg the statement that 20 Div was to withdraw to LAKONA by 10 Dec and to proceed to the rear. It appears from the use of the character for "Transport" that the Div HQ were not required to move on foot.

Signed at 1120 hrs

Lt-col
GS

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 67

(Information from 2000L/14 Dec to 2000L/15 Dec 43)

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000).

On 14 Dec a slight advance against increased resistance was made in the coastal sector and our troops are now less than 200 yds from LAKONA. D Coy 22 Bn launched an attack against the enemy on the west bank of the creek at 596787 which was held by about 50 enemy. Five Japs were killed and the remainder driven back. The Coy then advanced along the coast to 595789 where a strong enemy position was encountered along the west bank of another creek. C Coy then moved up to 595788 in support of D Coy. Meanwhile A Coy made a bayonet attack against the enemy dug in at 595786, captured the position and by last light had advanced west to 590784. B Coy cleared an enemy pocket at 600785 killing 20 Japs, and capturing one 37mm gun and several LMGs. The rearguard coy of 37/52 Bn, after being subjected to enemy MG and mortar during night 13/14 Dec at 600772, attacked 50 Japs, killed 9 and drove the rest towards the west. The Coy then advanced to 598772 and found further enemy positions at 597773. A patrol found strong positions at 594772 and 595777 which were held by at least 200 of the enemy. B Coy advanced to a point astride the track 592777. At 1530 hrs a party of about 80 enemy were observed moving north on the track at 593768 (?) but no contact was made with B Coy. D Coy at last light, was at 598778. 29/46 Bn moved into the Bde reserve at 607779. At 0915 hrs and again at 1300 hrs, enemy mortars near 589760 harassed the area 597774. Our arty then heavily engaged the suspected position. Considerable enemy movement was seen near the mouth MASAWENG R and parties crossing the river in both directions were shelled. 2/13 Bn took over responsibility for the defence of KILIGIA beach. A patrol was 2/17 Bn moving towards the track junction 587747 reached 595750 by last light.

In 26 Bde sector C Coy 2/24 Bn made two further attempts to outflank the enemy position at 567733 but were held up by the precipice. Two platoons supported by mortars then made a frontal attack. The enemy were dug in on a razor back 10 yds wide. Our troops advanced by fire and movement and after an hour's hard fighting drove the enemy back with numerous casualties. At last light A Coy was at 564728, B Coy at 563727, C Coy at 567734 and D Coy at 565732. A 2/25 Bn patrol found the enemy still at 541733. A long range patrol from 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn reached MOLOLO (392793 ref map 1 inch to 1 mile) without sighting any enemy. The patrol set out for ZAGAHEMI 432848 at 0630 hrs 15 Dec. It was reported that our carrier lines were attacked by hostile natives with spears at a village 391788 but no details are available.

Our arty supported 4 Bde and shelled targets at LAKONA at 589781, 573733, 589768 and enemy movement across the mouths of the SAMGA R at 588792 and the MASAWENG R at 584808. Early on 15 Dec 2/4 Bn advanced against opposition towards LAKONA. The enemy were still occupying a postion on the creek bed at 595773, and 37/52 Bn were moving forward to attack it. During the night 14/15 Dec enemy guns north of FORTIFICATION Pt fired shells into the sea off the beach at 610775 and 75mm guns at 589793 shelled 600785 until neutralised by our counter-battery fire.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 14 Dec patrolling activity was continued, but the main enemy strength was not discovered. A patrol from 2/2 Pnr Bn moved from MUNGO (865630) to GURIA (882596) and reported the area clear of enemy.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 13/14 Dec our PT boats sank one 30 to 40 ft barge in MARIEN Hbr. It is now ascertained that the nine barges sunk or destroyed on night 12/13 Dec were all fully loaded.

3. AIR - OWN

(a) ARAWE. At 0717 hrs, in close support of the allied landing this morning at ARAWE, 5 Mitchells accurately bombed and strafed AMALUT Plantation on radio call from ground troops. Aircraft reported method of denoting ground targets was very successful.

(b) CAPE GLOUCESTER. At approx 1430 hrs 23 Liberators attacked targets in vicinity of No 1 and No 2 strips. 95 tons of bombs were dropped and target area covered in bomb bursts. Three grounded enemy aircraft were probably destroyed.

There was no interception. No reports are yet to hand of the attack by a further four squadrons of Liberators on the same target.

(c) INTERCEPTION. Four Lightnings intercepted and destroyed one enemy aircraft at 1115 hrs between COMMODORE Bay and MONTAGUE Hbr. Enemy aircraft appeared to be of a new type.

One enemy force approaching ARAWE was driven away by our aircraft without engaging.

A second force of 30 Zekes and 12 Bettys was driven off when intercepted by 4 Lightnings at 1300 hrs between ARAWE and FINSCHHAFEN. There were no losses by either side.

During the landing at ARAWE, 20/25 enemy dive-bombers attacked landing craft and beachheads. Two enemy aircraft were definitely destroyed by our AA and one probably destroyed.

Four Lightnings sighted four enemy aircraft near TALASEA but did not engage, and later reported a probable aircraft-carrier in SIMPSON Hbr.

(d) SIGHTINGS. One Liberator on armed recco sighted nine merchant vessels at position 02.40S, 140.50E. Two 1,000-lb bombs were dropped near a 5500/7000-ton vessel with no apparent damage. Five enemy aircraft attempted interception over the convoy, but were driven off without loss.

(e) DELAYED REPORTS. During night 13/14 Dec 30 Beauforts accurately bombed strips and dispersal areas at LAKUNAI. Bombing was reported as excellent and several large fires and many small fires, thought to be burning aircraft, were observed. One large explosion was seen at NW end of strip. Smoke from target area was visible for 70 miles. A total of 24 tons of bombs was dropped.

Signed at 2225 hrs.

Lt-col
GS.

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2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 66

(Information from 2000L/13 Dec to 2000L/14 Dec 43)

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

2 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000).

On 13 Dec the 4 Aust Inf Bde advance NW along the coastal track brought our foremost elements to within 300 yards of LAKONA. In the morning, D Coy 22 In drove the enemy from 606784 and advanced to 601785 where about one platoon of the enemy was encountered. Ten enemy were killed and D Coy then by-passed the position and advanced to the creek at 598787. Here the enemy were strongly holding the west bank, so were heavily shelled. A Coy advanced west from 603782 and found an enemy pocket at 598783. This position was by-passed and at 1630 hrs the company reached 596783, and then moved forward in an attempt to cut the track at 593785. B Coy attacked the enemy by-passed at 598783 and after a sharp encounter, in which eight enemy were killed, captured the position. The company, supported by tanks, then attacked the enemy at 601785, and this post was also taken. In the meantime C Coy had advanced to 596787 in support of D Coy. Further south, A and C Coys 37/52 Bn drove an enemy party off the high ground at 600772 and occupied the feature. After being relieved by 2/13 Bn, the remainder of 37/52 Bn moved forward and at last light B Coy was at 606782 and D Coy at 607779.

In 30 Bde sector 2/13 Bn moved north from GUSIKA and relieved 37/52 Bn south of SOVI R. At last light, the battalion was occupying positions in the area 6076. A patrol from 2/17 Bn west in 5974 saw no enemy movement.

In 26 Bde sector, the enemy held on to the knoll on the razor-back ridge at 567733. Reconnaissance by 2/24 Bn failed to find a way to outflank the position owing to the precipitous nature of the country. The enemy position was subjected to artillery and mortar fire throughout the day. 2/25 Bn patrols to 534727 and 554728 saw no movement.

During the day our artillery fired 1150 rounds in support of the 4 Bde advance and shelled targets at LAKONA, 592790, the track junction at 589793, and a bivouac area at 586787. Enemy moving on the track at 568735 were also shelled.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series).

On 13 Dec there was no material change in the situation in this area. Fighting patrols from 25 Bde maintained contact with the enemy near KESAWAI and normal patrol activity was carried out in the 3de sector.

Tac/R A/C at 1500 hrs reported that small enemy parties were seen on the 5800 feature in 5667.

Further details of the enemy attack on the two forward companies of 2/25 Bn are now available. Between 0100 hrs and 0545 hrs 13 Dec the enemy, estimated strength 400, made three determined attacks on our positions, but were repulsed. Enemy casualties were estimated at 100. Our casualties, previously reported as heavy, are now reported as five killed and seventeen wounded. The two companies were to move to the east bank of the EVAPIA R after last light.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 12/13 Dec our PT boats sank three type A, two type B and one 80/100 ft barges, off KEISS POINT. In addition, three type A barges were destroyed when they attempted to beach. It is not known whether the barges were loaded.

3. AIR - OWN

(a) ARAWE. Enemy occupied area and dumps in vicinity of CAPE MERKUS, PILELO IS, KUMBUN I3, ARAWE IS and along the isthmus known as AMALUT PLANTATION were throughly bombed and strafed by Liberators, Mitchells and Bostons between the hours of 0800 and 0900, 1000 to 1100, 1245 to 1400 and again at 1500L. In all seventy-one Bostons, sixty Mitchells and one hundred Liberators engaged in the attack and a total of 418 tons of bombs were dropped. The bombers were escorted by about 22 squadrons of fighter aircraft.

Bombing was extremely accurate the whole of the target areas being covered by bomb bursts resulting in clouds of smoke and dust. Several explosions were observed and columns of smoke from the target area were visible for 20 miles. A number of huts were destroyed and several fires seen. There was no enemy interception and all our planes returned undamaged.

(b) GASMATA. At approximately 0845 hrs nine Marauders and thirty-two Mitchells bombed the strip and dispersal areas at GASMATA. Two squadrons reported accurate bombing, the remainder of bombs falling in wooded area NW of target.

No observation was possible as target was covered by smoke. A total of sixty tons of bombs was dropped.

(c) HUON PENINSULA. In a barge sweep from SAIDOR to FORTIFICATION POINT, five Thunderbolts strafed one barge at LEPSIUS POINT and another near NEMAU and an enemy dump in vicinity of HOM PLANTATION.

DELAYED REPORTS. During the afternoon of 12 Dec, thirty-seven Kittyhawks accurately bombed and strafed GASMATA strip. 8½ tons of bombs were dropped and 1420 rounds expended on strafing. Direct hits were observed in the centre of the target causing a cloud of smoke visible for 20 miles.

4. AIR - ENEMY

FINSCHHAFEN. At 0625 hrs 14 Dec one enemy aircraft dropped three bombs in the sea off SCARLET BEACH. No. damage or casualties are reported.

Signed at 2210 hrs

S.H. Ford
Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 65

(Information from 2000L/12 Dec to 2000L/13 Dec 43)

OPERATIONS

1. LAND-OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25000).

Further details of the advance by 4 Aust Inf Bde on 12 Dec in the coastal sector are now available. At first light A Coy 22 Bn pushed north from SOWI R and encountered enemy positions at 608778. The company, however, by-passed these positions and in an outflanking march reached 603782. D Coy then moved up, captured the position at 608778 and tried to advance along the track to 606783 but found an enemy stronghold estimated to be held by one company with HMGs and LMGs along the creek from 605784 to 604783. Meanwhile B and C Coys had moved up and at last light were at 606783 and 608778 respectively. Early in the day the tanks advanced with the infantry, but were held up at 608774, as the track was blocked by fallen timber. The tanks then moved to the west through the kunai and reached B Coy at 606783. Further south a 29/46 Bn patrol moved from 607770 to 601772 without seeing any movement. The battalion took over protection of the KILIGIA beachhead with A Coy at 608776 and D Coy at 608774. C Coy moved forward during the day to 613767 and B Coy to 608768. A Coy 37/52 Bn crossed SOWI R and occupied a position astride the track running along the north bank at 603766. B Coy moved to 600763 and patrolled the area 5976 south of SOWI R without seeing any movement. In this area a large enemy ammunition dump in the kunai containing a considerable quantity of ammunition, mines and prepared demolition charges was discovered.

On 12 Dec there was a general move forward by 20 Aust Inf Bde. 2/15 Bn moved to the area 6175 with A Coy at 614753, B Coy at 621751, C Coy at 618753 and D Coy at 610752. 2/17 Bn patrolled west in the area 5974 and reported it clear of Japs, but an abandoned position in the garden at 601745 was found to contain a number of enemy dead.

In 24 and 26 Bdes' sectors a patrol north to 73 northing grid saw no movement. More equipment, ammunition and mines were captured at an abandoned position at 581720. A Coy 2/24 Bn moved SW from 565728 and attacked the enemy at the track junction 564727. After heavy fighting lasting six hours in difficult country against an enemy deeply dug-in and resisting tenaciously, the position was captured at 1540 hrs and contact was made with C Coy at 563727; at least twenty-five enemy dead were counted and much equipment was captured. C Coy pushed through A Coy and advanced NE along the track to 565732 where a further enemy rearguard post was found at last light. A patrol from 2/23 Bn on the track north of WAREO clashed with small enemy parties at 548732, 541731 and 537726 and six enemy in all were killed. Our artillery strongly supported the advance in the coastal sector and during the day fired 1100 rounds on various targets, including LAKONA, 593789, 589793 and 586787 and also enemy moving along the track at 577742 and 568735.

The advance along the coast by 22 Bn continued at first light on 13 Dec but no details are available. Our artillery harassed enemy positions at 585786 and shelled dumps at 592790 and 589793.

It is reported that from 30 Nov to 11 Dec 343 enemy dead have been counted in the 9 Aust Div area and that the total from the original landing on 22 Sep is now 2356.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series).

On 12 Dec enemy artillery shelled 2/14 Bn area without causing damage or casualties. One company 2/2 Pnr Bn occupied the 2600 feature at 672610 with a small party at 648600.

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY (Contd)

7 AUST DIV (Contd)
A patrol from 2/25 Bn moving to 505665 killed four and wounded two of the enemy. The patrol advanced further to 496674 where enemy were found to be dug in. Our troops attacked vigorously and it is believed that considerable casualties were inflicted. Another patrol to 507668 was attacked by the enemy supported by mortar fire and was forced to withdraw, but patrols along the RAMU R towards KESAWAI report no enemy seen. One troop of 2/6 Cav(Commando) Sqn has moved to 5500 feature at 635631. However, at 0115 hrs 13 Dec enemy attacked forward companies of 2/25 Bn and forced them to withdraw to 5365. A preliminary report states that the enemy attacked in considerable strength and that our casualties were heavy. Our artillery engaged a number of enemy targets. Tac R aircraft at 0900 hrs discovered that bridges 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11 on the BOGADJIM Rd had been washed away by heavy floods and that the road between bridges 1 and 2 were under water.

2. AIR - OWN (13 Dec)

(a) NEW BRITAIN - LINDENHAFEN PLANTATION. Thirty-seven Liberators and twenty-four Mitchells, unable to get through to their primary targets at CAPE HOSKINS owing to weather, bombed dumps and enemy occupied areas at RING RING and LINDENHAFEN Plantations. Bombing was accurate and many large fires and one large explosion was caused. 143 tons of bombs were dropped.

(b) BOGADJIM ROAD. (ref map 2037 MADANG 4 miles to 1 inch). Between 0845 and 0945 hrs thirty-six Bostons bombed and strafed the BOGADJIM Rd and dumps at DAUMOINA, OLD YAULA, KWATO and AIYAU (WO5991) villages. 17 tons of bombs were dropped and the area was strafed but results were not observed.

(c) HUON PENINSULA. (ref map 2037 MADANG 4 miles to 1 inch). Between 0905 and 1000 hrs four Airacobras carried out a barge sweep along the coast from FORTIFICATION POINT to SAIDOR. Three Type A and seven other barges of various types were strafed and believed destroyed. The bridge over the YUPNA R (WP8857) south of WEBER POINT (WP8760) was also bombed and destroyed.

(d) INTERCEPTION. Twelve enemy fighters, when attempting to intercept our bombers over GASMATA, were engaged by the fighter escort. One enemy fighter was shot down without loss to our aircraft.

Signed at 1215 hrs.

W. L. Anderson
Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 63

(Information from 2000L/11 Dec to 2000L/12 Dec 43)

PART 1

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATTELBERG and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000).

On 11 Dec 4 Aust Inf Bde made limited progress along the coast against crumbling opposition and mopped up enemy parties in the KILIDIA area. Patrols were also pushed well north beyond the SOWI R. On the left flank in this sector our troops advanced to the high ground north of TUNOM R.

In 29/46 Bn area twenty-six enemy dead, as a result of the previous day's action, were counted. 22 Bn moved forward during the day and A Coy with one troop of tanks gained a bridgehead over the SOWI R at 608774. The remainder of the Battalion was then disposed B Coy at 612763, B Coy 613758 and C Coy at 618755. A patrol from A Coy then moved north and reached the Cape at 609783. From here the patrol went 300 yards west without seeing any Japs. Enemy troops occupying the high ground at 600773, were unable to impede either the construction of a crossing over the SOWI R or the unloading of supplies and ammunition from barges on COCONUT Beach (616764). Meanwhile 37/52 Bn crossed the TUNOM R and seized the high ground on the north with A Coy at 607757, B Coy 609761, D Coy 605760 and C Coy 604755. Early in the morning A Coy ambushed 10 Japs and killed 5. Further south A and B Coys 2/17 Bn relieved C and D Coys 37/52 Bn, opposing the enemy at 603750 and 602747.

In 24 and 26 Bde sectors C Coy 2/32 Bn moved forward to 582728 and a patrol to the NE reported that there were many abandoned enemy positions at 584737. A patrol from 2/23 Bn to the track junction at 562733 found about twenty enemy with three LMGs. Two were killed and one wounded without loss to our troops and the enemy withdrew to the north. At 1530 hrs A Coy 2/24 Bn attacked the enemy position at 565728 from the south, penetrated his defences and inflicted casualties besides capturing some equipment. The position was occupied and at last light A Coy was at 566728, C and D Coys at 563728 and B Coy at FIOR. At 1900 hrs an enemy party withdrawing from the east were attacked by A Coy and destroyed. No details of this action are available.

During the day our artillery shelled enemy positions at 603773, 605770 and 601755, a suspected enemy OP at 601735 and enemy moving at 566739. The/R reports state that on 11 Dec there was increased track activity on the Kunai spur between SOWI R and SANGA R, and that the bed of SANGA R is being used as a track. A late report stated that on 12 Dec Bde is continuing to make good progress against scattered opposition. In the early afternoon forward troops of 2/3 Bn reached 605785. Our tanks are being delayed by mud across the track, but the engineers are clearing these behind the forward infantry. The beach at 608775 is reported to be suitable for landing craft.

7 AUST DIV

(ref map 1 inch to 1 mile series).

On 11 Dec in 21 Bde sector 2/2 Bn moved to the LAKES area (685562). Our positions in the Bde area were shelled intermittently throughout the day. In 25 Bde sector our artillery shelled enemy defences near KESAWAI and supported the active patrol activity of 2/25 Bn. One patrol ambushed a party of Japs at 503678 and inflicted six casualties. Other patrols operating along the RAMU R towards KESAWAI made no contact. A patrol from 2/2 Cav (Commando) Sqn to KULAU (319078) reported that the village was occupied by about 100 enemy with an HMG in position for AA defence. The Sqn is now concentrated at FAITA (162617) with standing patrols at all likely river crossings and patrols forward to MIK (320915) and along the RAMU R.

PART I Contd

1.

2. SEA - ENI

On night 11/12 Dec our PT boats sank three Type A barges one-quarter mile north of the SAMBA R. One 70-ft enemy barge armed with a 20 mm gun escaped. Our craft were subjected to heavy fire from the shore by one 75 mm gun, four 20 mm guns and LMGs.

3. AIR - OWN

(a) INTERCEPTION. On 12 Dec eight Kittyhawks on a fighter sweep in the GUSAP area encountered nine enemy bombers and fifteen fighters. In the ensuing engagement two enemy fighters and one bomber were destroyed without loss to our aircraft.

(b) DELAYED REPORTS. On 10 Dec thirteen Liberators bombed AA positions and dumps at CAPE GLOUCESTER, but clouds made detailed observation difficult. Fourteen Liberators unable to locate the primary targets at CAPE GLOUCESTER accurately bombed barge hideouts and dumps at MAMBARIWA. One barge was destroyed and a number of fires started.

On 11 Dec twenty-seven Mitchells bombed the coastal area near BORGEN BAY. Several fires were seen as a result of the bombing, but results generally were not observed.

4. AIR - ENEMY

DUMPU area. At 0520 hrs 12 Dec one enemy aircraft dropped four bombs on 25 Bde area but caused neither damage nor casualties.

PART 2

5. ENEMY OOB

(a) A captured map showed I Bn 80 Regt in a coastal defence role in the KANOMI area. It was thought that this regt was possibly in this area, having been reformed after the SALAMAUA and LAE fighting. As it is certain that portion at least of II Bn 79 Regt was withdrawn from its coast defence role in the HUBIKA-LAKONA area, I Bn 80 Regt may have been moved south to meet the new threat to the enemy coastal positions by our drive north from GUSIKA. A captured document shows 7 Coy 26 Fd Arty Regt to be at KANOMI. This coy was also in LAE.

(9 Aust Div Int Sum No 25, dated 6 Dec)

Comment: It is quite possible " I Depot Bn" has been incorporated in the reformed I Bn 80 Regt.

(b) A document taken from a dead Jap states that the relief of 20 Engr Regt by 33 Indep Engr Regt was completed on 26 Nov.

(From 9 Aust Div Int Sum No 25, dated 6 Dec).

Signed at 1720 hrs

Lt-col
GS.

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 63

(Information from 2000L/10 Dec to 2000L/11 Dec 43)

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000).

During 10 Dec in the coastal sector 4 Bde has advanced another 1000 yards and has captured KILIGIA (610773). In the morning A and B Coys 29/46 Bn supported by tanks moved north from the COCONUTS (about 6176) and by 1300 hrs had secured a bridgehead over an unnamed creek at 613767. At 1500 hrs A Coy with tank and artillery support attacked northward during a torrential downpour and after overcoming some enemy opposition captured KILIGIA. Scattered enemy remnants made an attempt at resistance but withdrew on the approach of our tanks. The SOWI R was reached at 609773. In the meantime B Coy moved west to the high ground at 609769 without any signs of enemy activity being apparent on the ridge. A Coy 37/52 Bn moved across the TUKOM R at 606756 and established itself astride the track running along the north bank. The remaining companies of the battalion were in contact with about one platoon of the enemy strongly dug-in at 604750 with HMGs and LMGs on the flanks at 602752 and 600746. These positions were engaged with mortar and artillery fire. A and B Coys 22 Bn cleared out the enemy pocket at 613757. It is estimated that one company of the enemy with deep dug-outs in the cliff faces had occupied this strongly developed position and in all the enemy lost 75 killed. Two HMGs and several LMGs were captured. The enemy, who were seen digging at 605770 and 603773, were shelled. Heavy rain fell during the day and materially hampered movement on the tracks. The good landing beach at 616763, which was captured 9 Dec, is now in use as a forward supply point.

In 24 and 26 Bde sectors the patrol from 2/32 Bn which was yesterday held up at 566727 made contact with the 2/24 Bn patrol at 568728 at 1015 hrs 10 Dec. The 2/32 Bn patrol is still in contact with the enemy astride the track at 566727. D Coy 2/32 Bn moved to 576722. A Coy 2/24 Bn attempted to outflank the enemy position at 564728 to the south, but were unsuccessful owing to the difficult terrain. The enemy are reported to be occupying all practicable approaches to the position from the east and west. The enemy posts were harassed throughout the day by mortar and shell fire. Except for one Jap at 548731, 2/23 Bn patrols north of WAREO saw no enemy. The long range patrol from 2/4 Cav (Cdo) Sqn, which moved to JOANGENG (358756, ref map KULUNGTUNG 1 inch to 1 mile) on 7 Dec, has returned to PASEO (383778). They found no enemy there, but natives report that a party of Japanese, including five officers, moved NE through the village on 7 Dec. On 10 Dec adv HQ 9 Aust Div moved to 633725. HQ 20 Aust Inf Bde is now at 621740 and 2/15 Bn is in the area 6273.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series).

During 10 Dec our patrols forward of the EVAPIA R made contact with Japanese patrolling from their main position on the ridge at 5169, but no material moves by the enemy have yet been disclosed. A party from 2/25 Bn which is now established on the EVAPIA R ambushed an enemy party at 505674 and inflicted 20 casualties and two companies are operating forward in the general areas 5265 and 5267. B Coy PIR at 610562 patrolled the north bank of the RAMU R to 500605 without making contact with the enemy. Enemy guns shelled a number of positions in 21 Bde area, but caused no damage. At 0045 hrs 11 Dec the enemy attacked 2/16 Bn standing patrol at 687606. Our troops launched a counter-attack with bayonets and the enemy were driven off. Casualties on both sides were light. A Tac R report of 10 Dec indicates that the BOGADJIM - YAULA Rd is clear with all bridges

PART I (Contd) SECRET

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY (Contd)

7 AUST DIV (Contd)
intact. Five bridges, which had been damaged or demolished, have been completely reconstructed.

5 AUST DIV
An AIGAU report (reliability unknown) states that there is a patrol of 15 Japanese at NOGOBI village (location unknown but presumed to be north of WAMTOAT). The report adds that the enemy patrol is using three mission natives as guides and that they have been engaged in espionage on behalf of the Japanese. The report is being investigated.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 10/11 Dec our PT boats sank two Type A barges and possibly damaged three more about one-quarter mile north of WALIINGAI. The damaged barges made for the beach near this point. At the time of the attack the barges were moving empty on a northerly course. Our craft were engaged by heavy 40mm fire from the shore.

3. AIR - OWN (10 Dec)

(a) HUON PENINSULA. In support of 9 Aust Div eight Maraudors and nine Mitchells bombed suspected dump areas near HUBIKA. The dump at 168134 (ref HUBIKA photomap) was accurately bombed, 12 tons of bombs falling in the target area. The bombing of the plantation at HUBIKA, however, was inaccurate and the majority of bombs fell in the water adjacent to the target.

(b) SIGHTINGS. On 10 Dec one Beaufort sighted and attacked a suspected submarine at 06.48 S, 150.25 E. Bombs were seen to fall within 20 feet of the target and later a large disturbance and patch of oil were observed on the surface. The submarine is believed damaged and possibly destroyed.

Signed at 1210 hrs.

Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 61

(Information from 2000L/8 Dec to 2000L/9 Dec 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATTELBERG and FORTIFICATIONSPOINT 1/25000).

In 4 Bde sector further progress has been made despite increasingly stubborn resistance by enemy rearguards. It now appears that at last light 7 Dec the forward troops had reached 615758 - not 615762 as previously reported. Early on 8 Dec D Coy 29/46 Bn made contact with a strong enemy position at 615759 and was temporarily held up. With artillery and mortar support, however, the company attacked in the afternoon and drove the enemy from this position, inflicting severe casualties. One 75mm gun, one HMG, several LMGs and other equipment were captured. Fighting patrols from C Coy surprised a large enemy party at 613758 and killed twenty-five. At last light 29/46 Bn less C Coy was at 616760 with C Coy at 609751. 37/52 Bn also pushed forward and occupied positions about 6074 on the high ground to the SW of 29/46 Bn, while D Coy of this battalion forced a crossing of the TUNGA R at 601751. In this advance the precipitous nature of the valley made progress difficult and slow. A little further west enemy were seen to be digging in at 601748 and 599750 and were heavily shelled. In addition our guns fired upon a party of about sixty enemy moving north from the COCONUTS about 6176 and it is believed that casualties were inflicted. During the day 22 Bn was relieved by 2/13 Bn and moved into brigade reserve at 618751.

In 24 Bde sector 2/32 Bn supported by artillery and mortar concentrations made simultaneous and converging attacks from the north and south on the enemy position on the 1800 hill at 579719 and stormed the feature. At last light the battalion was disposed as follows - A Coy 579719, B Coy 579717, C Coy 578715 and D Coy 579716.

Further to the west, in 26 Bde sector, A and B Coys 2/24 Bn moved along the track NE from WAREO, but met a strong enemy position covering the track junction at 564726. This position was then shelled and engaged with mortar fire. At last light about fifty enemy moving SW down the track were ambushed and many were killed. Meanwhile D Coy, moving west from WAREO, found the enemy at 537719. B Coy 2/23 Bn then moved forward in support and the two companies in a combined assault captured the position. In the sharp fighting near KUANKO from 4 to 7 Dec more than eighty enemy have now been counted.

(NOTE: It now appears that the 2/23 Bn captured WAREO at 0915 hrs 8 Dec - not, as stated in Int Report No 60, at 2000 hrs 7 Dec. The battalion began to move forward at first light on 8 Dec and was supported in its attack by mortar and MMG fire.)

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 8 Dec enemy patrol activity was on a greatly increased scale on our left flank and a thrust in strength has also developed against KESAWAI (482690) necessitating a general withdrawal of our screening troops. Simultaneously the enemy has attacked SE towards the 25 Bde front and has made some progress.

On 8 Dec on the extreme left a patrol from 2/2 Cav (Commando) Sqn found enemy at AMINIK (402020) and ULILAI (345072), neither of which was formerly occupied by the enemy.

PART I (Contd)

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY (Contd)

Early in the day th enemy attacked our OP at 454775, but were driven off with casualties. Duri.g the morning, however, the enemy gained control of our L of C to ISARIBA (452747) and cut off one of our patrols in that area. At 2005 hrs 8 Dec HQ 2/6 Cav (Commando) Sqn at MESAWAI was surrounded, but fought its way out and withdrew SE towards the EVAPIA R. Further east a PIB standing patrol about 5567 was attacked in force at first light and withdrew after inflicting losses on the enemy. The enemy has also begun to prepare defences on the ridge about 5169, and Tac R reports this morning indicate that there at least 300 Japanese engaged in this work.

During 8 Dec the forward areas held by 21 Bde were shelled by the enemy with guns believed to be of greater calibre than the 75mm type previously employed in this sector.

2. AIR - OWN (9 Dec)

(a) IRON PENINSULA. Early in the morning nine Bostons bombed and strafed the coastal track from MASAWENG R mouth to WAGOKAI village. A number of buildings were destroyed and bombs were observed to fall in the target areas. Ten Mitchells bombed a barge offloading point and dumps at MUBIKA. Fifteen tons of bombs were dropped.

(b) DORERE BAY. Thirty-three Mitchells bombed and strafed dumps and bivouac areas in DORERE Bay from a minimum altitude. Results were not observed.

(c) CAPE RAOULT - REIN BAY. Fifteen Mitchells carried out a bombing and strafing mission on dumps, bivouac areas and AA positions from Cape RAOULT to REIN Bay.

DELAYED REPORTS - NEW GUINEA AREA.

(a) On 6 Dec twenty-one Kittyhawks bombed and strafed targets on WEWAI Island **near Cape** HOSKINS. 47 bombs were dropped and 7,000 rds of ammunition were expended. One barge was strafed and burnt and several huts were destroyed.

(b) On 7 Dec fifty Kittyhawks accurately bombed dump areas near NASAFA. Several fires were started.

PART II

3. ENEMY OOB

Rifle tabs taken from enemy killed during night 6/7 Dec at KETOBA (ref WILSIMA sheet 1 inch to 1 mile, 446766) belonged to 239 Regt. This is further evidence that some part at least of this regiment has been committed on the 7 Aust Div front. The first indication that part of 239 Regt was in the area was obtained on 16 Nov, when two similar tabs were found on Japanese rifles captured at AMINK (ref NAGASIN sheet 1 inch to 1 mile, 400022) (See 2 Aust Corps Int Report No 48)

From this last identification it seems likely that the present strong thrust towards MESAWAI and the EVAPIA R is being made by 239 Regt.

Signed at 1330hrs.

Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 60

(Information from 2000L/7 Dec to 2000L/8 Dec 43)

PART 1
OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OTL AND ENEMY

2 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000)

On 7 Dec 4 Aust Inf Bde continued its steady advance in the coastal sector. 5 Coy 29/45 Bn pushed forward against opposition against snipers and small enemy posts to 513757 where they were held up by fire from an enemy position at 517757. The enemy here were heavily shelled and finally driven out by A Coy, which attacked from the SW. D Coy passed through A Coy and moved to 513762 where they were in close contact at last light. A Coy were then at 517755, C Coy at 517760 and C Coy at 513752. The tank advance was delayed by powerfully built-up mines buried on the track and difficult to locate and one tank was badly damaged. To-day further progress was made against persistent and stubborn opposition and several enemy positions held in some strength were discovered on the line of FUNOM R.

In the 24 Bde sector 2/32 Bn with artillery and mortar support pressed hard on the enemy on the 1600 feature (579715) and at 1600 hrs our troops were holding the eastern slope in close contact with the enemy on the western slope. At last light C Coy was at 580719 with A Coy at 580715 and C Coy at 580717. Earlier a patrol from C Coy to the track junction at 576715 engaged an enemy post on the high ground to the north and inflicted casualties. This morning 2/32 Bn again attacked and seized the whole of the 1600 feature. The enemy was forced to withdraw and the battalion is now patrolling to the west.

In the 26 Bde sector 2/23 Bn mopped up the enemy position at 554712, killing 12 Japs and capturing some equipment. 2/24 Bn reorganised on PEAK HILL and our forward patrols intercepted several enemy parties moving north towards WAREO. At one point 24 enemy were killed without loss to our troops. Later C and D Coys moved west to the track KWAIMEKO-WAREO but found enemy holding the southern approaches to WAREO in strength. At last light A Coy was at 562713, C Coy at 563715 and D Coy at 563715. At 2000 hrs 2/23 Bn made a night attack and captured WAREO. At first light 8 Dec 2/24 Bn advanced through WAREO to the NW astride the track and despite stubborn delaying actions forced its way forward to 562728 where it is now in close contact with a strong enemy rearguard. A 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn patrol found an enemy position on the knoll at 512704 just south of HILL. The position was then shelled by our artillery and this morning the Squadron occupied the village and a patrol pushed forward and engaged the enemy in front of WAREO (553719). Meanwhile on 7 Dec the long range patrol from the Squadron towards KWEMETUPU reached JOANSEN (358756, ref map KWEMETUPU, 1 inch to 1 mile). No signs of recent enemy occupation were found.

During the day our artillery fired 2,400 rounds in support of our forward troops.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series)

On 7 Dec there was more activity on 7 Div front than has been apparent for some time. Enemy artillery shelled 2/14 Bn area and destroyed an ammunition dump. Our guns replied and engaged these enemy positions. A patrol from 2/27 Bn followed the track north of 739691 (ref map PAIPA, 1/25,000 series) through very difficult country. A reconnaissance patrol from 2/6 Cav (Commando) Sqn at 433860 was ambushed by the enemy and withdrew after suffering some casualties. An enemy patrol sprung one of our booby traps at 455775 and immediately fled, leaving arms and equipment. At first light 8 Dec about 50 enemy attacked forward elements of A Coy 2/1 Bn in the area 5569, but no details are available. Later, enemy were reported to be digging in on the ridge about 5169. This ridge is reported to dominate the RAU 2 valley as far as the PARIA R.

2. SEA - OMI

On night 7/8 Dec our PT boats sank one type L barge 9 miles SE of KEISS POINT, and destroyed one type A barge on the beach. The enemy returned our fire. At the time of the attack the barges were moving north and appeared to be unloaded.

3. AIR - OMI

(a) HUON PENINSULA. At 1130 hrs ten Marauders bombed dump areas east of WANDOKAI village. The target was difficult to locate owing to low heavy cloud and our aircraft were forced to make bombing runs at low altitude. Accurate observation was not possible. Fifteen tons of bombs were dropped.

At 1105 hrs eleven Mitchells accurately bombed a bivouac and supply area east of LAEA. One fire was observed as the aircraft left the target. Thirteen tons of bombs were dropped.

(b) NEW BRITAIN (per strat maps, 4 miles to 1 inch)

Six Bostons carried out a barge sweep from CAPE PEMO (XH0245) to CAPE AINTO (XH1423) from a minimum altitude. Bombing was reported to be accurate and several probably stores buildings and the village of KUM HU (XH3021) were strafed.

(c) NEW IRELAND. During night 6/7 Dec twenty-six Fourforts bombed and strafed the strips, dumps and disposal areas at KAVIENG (152.50 E, 03.50 S). All bombs were seen to fall in the target areas and large fires were started. Two explosions were seen and the village of KAVIENG is reported to have been completely gutted by fire. Twenty-one tons of bombs were dropped and 1100 rounds were expended.

4. ENEMY OOI

A PW belonging to 6 Coy of 3 Bn 25 Fd Arty Regt has given some information which appears, so far as it can be checked, to be fairly accurate. At the same time details are treated with reserve if for no other reason than that they have been volunteered by a PW.

(1) MOVEMENTS. PW stated that 7 Bn guns were brought from MADANG by barges. All three guns with 6 Coy were destroyed, but one was obtained from 9 Coy, which in turn secured a gun from 2 Bn.

He confirmed that 1 Bn remained at ERIMA and that remnants of 7 Coy, which had been at LAE (where its guns were lost) were now at GIO.

(Comment; A later location is given in 2 Aust Corps Int Report No 97, para 4 (3)).

(ii) ORGANISATION. A PW stated that there two kinds of organisation, namely "HO" and "OTSU". In the "HO" Regt each battery has four type 91 (Sic) 75 mm mountain guns and uses pack horses. The "OTSU" Regt has only three guns per battery and no horses. 25 Fd Arty Regt is such a regiment.

He said that shortage in line batteries was filled by HQ Signal soldiers.

Of 150 men in PW's battery, forty to forty-five most of whom were ill and were left at MADANG and 50 were killed at SISI, leaving about 50 effectives.

(iii) EQUIPMENT. Besides the three guns mentioned there were 20 rifles per battery for protection and 10 rifles with the ammunition train. Officers and NCO's carried pistols. Gunners were NOT used as infantry.

Signed at 2100 hrs

[signature]
Lt-col
GS

SECRET

4 AUST CORPS ARTILLERY REPORT No 59

(Information from 2000L/4 Dec to 2000L/7 Dec 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. [illegible] - CUT A.2.N.R.U.

PART DEV

[illegible] (Ref Topo Sheet [illegible] 1/25000)

On 7 Dec [illegible] 4 Aust I [illegible] prepare. B Coy 2/6 [illegible] 618746, but were held up by [illegible] 617747. Meanwhile C Coy [illegible] to [illegible] 616747, and [illegible]. This [illegible] 617752. By [illegible] withdrawal in this sector was [illegible] at 617747 [illegible] 7 Aust Bn, [illegible] and ready for [illegible], was [illegible]. At [illegible] time C Coy advanced to 616747 [illegible] 615747. A Coy then leapfrogged [illegible] Coy and [illegible] 617754. Thick jungle in this [illegible] difficult. Numerous creek crossings [illegible] which were therefore [illegible] Coy's [illegible], although one troop [illegible] 615745. At 1300 hrs A Coy 22 Bn cleared the [illegible] 613753. 37/53 Bn continued to provide [illegible] Coy moved to 606742. Here 20 Japs [illegible] and all-round track were ambushed and 10 [illegible], 1 [illegible], one killed without loss to our troops. At [illegible] 7 Bde C Coy 2/6 Bn commenced to move to 611742 [illegible] Coy 37/[illegible] advanced towards 607750.

In the [illegible] A and C Coys 2/32 Bn made an encircling movement to attack [illegible] at 581718 to the north, but [illegible] was protected by a minor escarpment. The enemy's position, however, was [illegible] out the day by artillery and mortar fire and by our snipers.

In [illegible] 2/15 Bn with [illegible] artillery [illegible] and [illegible] at 594707 and A Coy [illegible] to create of 50 deep fox holes. A patrol to the west [illegible] at 579715, [illegible].

In the [illegible] 2/33 Bn compelled the enemy to retire from [illegible], a position which had been under constant artillery, mortar and [illegible] previous three days. An enemy position [illegible] by artillery and mortars [illegible]. 2/[illegible] two-pronged flanking movement [illegible] forward from [illegible] PEAK Hill (592714) [illegible]. At 1700 hrs A Coy moved SE down the track and [illegible] of the enemy position NW of NUANKO, killing [illegible]. The enemy remained astride the track and was still in [illegible] at last light. At 2000 hrs a party of enemy, [illegible] to move [illegible] near NUANKO, was engaged by A Coy and [illegible]. Both [illegible] killed. During the night B Coy [illegible] PEAK Hill and C Coy was at 589713. At [illegible] B Coy the track NUANKO to PEAK Hill was cleared of enemy [illegible] Japs [illegible] were killed and [illegible] captured. One Coy 2/33 [illegible] and the Coy 2/33 [illegible] reported to be moving towards NUANKO.

Gp Capt [illegible] that there was considerable track activity [illegible] in the vicinity of [illegible] and MUSIOKA [illegible] at present heavy use.

ARTY DEV (Ref Map Sheet 1 [illegible] 1 mile)

On 6 Dec [illegible] artillery shelled 2/14 Bn and 2/15 Bn areas. Our guns [illegible] at enemy positions in the area 6963.

PART I (Contd)

2. SEA - OPNS (ref strat maps 4 miles to 1 inch)

(a) [illegible] Dec our PT boats on patrol [illegible] one mile east of PULIE R mouth (ZH 5028). [illegible] escorted to be escorted [illegible] escorted by gunboats [illegible].

(b) [illegible] Our coastal patrol craft attacked four [illegible] in DUNGA Bay (ZH 4). Two were sunk [illegible]. [illegible] were loaded [illegible].

3. AIR - OPNS

(a) [illegible] On 5 Dec large enemy bombers [illegible] VIS [illegible] escorted by [illegible] from TAKOCKI to HUNTH. [illegible] Our fighters, [illegible] by [illegible] were [illegible]. On behalf of those [illegible] from TAKOCKI [illegible] of MIG and VALIMBAI [illegible].

(b) [illegible] On 7 Dec [illegible] [illegible] out [illegible] by [illegible] by [illegible] to [illegible] aircraft. [illegible] were definitely [illegible] and [illegible]. One [illegible] was [illegible].

(c) [illegible] On 7 Dec [illegible] Air cover [illegible] [illegible] on [illegible].

(d) CAPE [illegible]. On 7 Dec [illegible] Liberators [illegible] [illegible] in vicinity of [illegible]. [illegible] were [illegible] and 149 [illegible].

(e) [illegible] On 7 Dec [illegible] in vicinity of 3000 [illegible] was bombed and strafed by forty-[illegible]. One [illegible] was left sinking, but no [illegible] were observed.

(f) [illegible] (ref strat maps 4 miles to 1 inch)

On 6 Dec [illegible] carried out [illegible] from [illegible] to LIDDIMAREN (ZH 6436) and [illegible] Pt (ZH1299) to Cape [illegible] from [illegible] altitude. [illegible] were dropped and 5600 rounds [illegible]. One 40/60-ton [illegible] was destroyed by a direct hit and another 20-ft [illegible] left badly [illegible].

4. AIR - ENEMY

PIROSCAFFI [illegible]. At 1945 hrs 6 Dec two enemy aircraft attacked [illegible]. One [illegible] aircraft which took evasive action. Four bombs were dropped clear of [illegible] and caused neither [illegible] casualties.

I.O.B. II

5. ENEMY STRENGTH

It is reported by 9 Aust Div Int Sqn that a captured document gives the casualties sustained by II [illegible] 79 Regt from 13 to 31 Oct and the following :-

	Killed	Wounded	Total
Officers	7	5	12
ORs	123	230	353
	130	235	365

Another document states that the strength of this battalion (incl Hy Coy [illegible] Gun Pl) on 1 Nov was

Officers	17
ORs	478

PART II (Contd)

5. ENEMY STRENGTH (Contd)

Comment: According to a summary of captured documents from 9 Aust Div received at this HQ on 27 Oct the strength of II Bn 7) Regt on arrival in the BATEL.ERG-POTGA area on 13 Oct was 1042 all ranks. It thus appears that total casualties from sickness from 15 Oct to 15 Nov plus battle casualties from 1 to 15 Nov were 196 all ranks. If, however, all these casualties the average weekly wastage per week would be 3.7%. On the other hand it is known that the battalion was in contact during the period 1 to 15 Nov. It is clear, therefore, that some battle casualties have not been reported.

6. ENEMY DISPOSITIONS. (ref 2 Aust Corps Int Rept No.57, para 4)

A captured map shows that the defence of MUNDA (not VANDEGAI as previously reported) was included in the tasks assigned to II Bn 7) Regt. [illegible] apparently caused by the enemy using the coast road.

Signed at 2235 hrs.

E. Landsborough

Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 58

(Information from 2000L/5 Dec to 2000L/6 Dec 43)

PART 1

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(Ref maps SHEL HAM and FORTIFICATION POINT 1/25,000)

At 0730 hrs 5 Dec, 4 Bde began an attack northwards in the coastal sector. After a heavy artillery concentration 29/46 Bn supported by tanks attacked strong enemy positions consisting of bunkers and foxholes protected by mines fields at 623739. After heavy fighting, in which the tanks helped to reduce the bunkers, the advance continued to 622741, where a second enemy position covering the north bank of the creek was encountered. This position was attacked and the enemy driven off. The Bn then resumed the advance against opposition from snipers and small enemy pockets. During this advance an enemy pocket at 619736, which had been by-passed, was later mopped up by A Coy 29/46 Bn. At last light B Coy was dug in along the creek at 619743 with A Coy at the track junction 619743 and the Bn line with two Coys at 622739. One of our tanks with damaged tracks and one bulldozer were temporarily put out of action by mines. As a flank guard for the advance up the coast C Coy 57/52 Bn moved to 603735 and then patrolled north and west. This morning (6 Dec) 29/46 Bn resumed the advance against opposition.

In 24 Bde area at first light 5 Dec A and B Coys 2/32 Bn attacked an enemy position at 569715 and after a brief fight drove the enemy out with casualties. Fighting patrols from 2/43 Bn killed some of the retreating enemy. The advance west continued to 563715 where an enemy position was located and then shelled.

In 26 Bde sector the enemy still occupies the high ground north of KUANKO but on 5 Dec made no further attack on 2/23 Bn. Our snipers inflicted several casualties on the enemy, and enemy positions were shelled during the day. A Coy 2/24 Bn advanced west through dangerously precipitous country to 553709. The 2/4 Coy (Commando) Sqn patrol towards KULUNGTUFU reached PASSO (36377 ref 1 inch to 1 mile series) on 5 Dec.

During the day our artillery fired 3,600 rounds in support of the forward troops. An enemy position at 594707 was also harassed.

Tac/R reports state that there are seven MGs in pits at 586795, and that the coastal track north from MASAWENG R is very well worn.

7 AUST DIV

On 5 Dec a 21 Bde patrol reported that slight damage to the road was caused by the air strike. They reported that Bridge 3 which was partly demolished in the previous day's raid had been completely repaired and the road reconstructed.

2. SEA - NIL

On night 4/5 Dec our PT boats sighted five bundles, each of 200 bags, containing rice, soya, flour and meat extract, and three rafts with bombs, believed to contain ammunition, suspended below. It is believed that this was the deck cargo of a submarine. The whole was destroyed.

3. AIR - ENY

HUON PENINSULA

In support of 9 Aust Div, nine Lightnings successfully bombed and strafed enemy occupied areas north of KAMLAKIDU POINT. Four strafing passes were made and 27 bombs totalling 4 tons were dropped on the target area.

At 0815 hrs twelve Mitchells bombed dump areas at LAKONA and KILIGIA. Bombing was excellent but heavy smoke obscured observation of results. Four Lightnings as part of the fighter escort strafed a fuel dump at LAKONA.

3. AIR - CON Contd
NE[illegible]

[illegible]AUL - During the night 4/5 Dec twenty-eight Beauforts attacked shipping in [illegible]AMBOE Bay and dumps and dispersal areas at LAKUNAI. 19 tons of bombs were dropped in the target area, resulting in fires visible for twenty-five miles.

In torpedo attacks on the shipping one 7,000/10,000 ton tanker received a direct hit and was left burning. Three other torpedoes were fired but results were not observed.

[illegible] - Forty-two Liberators bombed dump areas in vicinity of [illegible]. Result was accurate and 150 tons of bombs were dropped but observation of results was obscured by smoke and cloud.

[illegible] - Thirty Mitchells bombed the coastal area at [illegible]. Some huts were observed destroyed but results generally were obscured by cloud.

[illegible] - Eleven Mitchells bombed dumps in vicinity of [illegible] but results could not be ascertained.

4. AIR - BOMB
FINSCHHAFEN
At 2020 hrs 5 Dec an enemy aircraft dropped six bombs NE of [illegible] causing slight damage and casualties. At 2110 hrs another plane dropped one bomb in the sea off FINSCHHAFEN.
LAE
At 2100 hrs 5 Dec one enemy aircraft dropped six bombs south of [illegible] strip but caused neither damage nor casualties.

Signed at 2200 hrs

[signature]
Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 57

(Information from 2000L/4 Dec to 2000L/5 Dec 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG and FORTIFICATION Pt 1/25000)

On 4 Dec D Coy 22 Bn found extensive enemy positions consisting of bunkers and foxholes from 618739 to 624739. In addition four rows of tank-attack mines were discovered across the track at 622739. The enemy positions were heavily shelled by our arty. The track crossing over the KUMINI R. was completed by 1200 hrs and one troop of tanks advanced to the north bank. At 0730 hrs today 20/45 Bn with tank support attacked north up the coast road. Fighting was reported to be in progress at 622741.

In the 24 Bde area on 4 Dec B and D Coys 2/43 Bn outflanked enemy positions at 589717 to the south and by 1330 hrs had secured a position astride the track at 590716. At 1545 hrs an enemy party approaching from the west was ambushed, several being killed and the remainder dispersed and then subjected to mortar fire. Enemy fire at 579715 fired 40 shells into the area around 582714 without causing casualties. They were then neutralized by our counter battery fire. The enemy position at 589717 was also shelled.

In 23 Bde area C Coy moved north from NONGORA through dense jungle with the object of cutting the track in rear of the enemy position at 584707, and at last light had reached 582712 while D Coy had advanced to 586701. The enemy position at 584707 was shelled by arty, mortar and MG fire throughout the day.

In 25 Bde area the enemy still maintained pressure on our positions at KUAJOO but three attempts by them to attack from the north were broken up by arty fire. A patrol to 517690 encountered an enemy patrol and killed three without loss. Pl Sgt reported that there are enemy at 515597 and that a 4-ft wide track in that area is well used. Two patrol from 2/4 Cav(Commando) Sqn to HILL 1250 reached 595745 (ref 1" to 1 mile series).

During the day our arty shelled enemy forward troops and shelled enemy at YAMEO in the LAWOOK dump area (5174) and at KILINGIA. The enemy at 579715 and others at 620752 were also shelled.

2. AIR - OWN

Direct support for 9 Aust Div: Between 0300 hrs and 0630 hrs six Beaufighters successfully bombed enemy occupied areas north of KAELAGIDU Pt. Twenty-six strafing passes were made and three tons of bombs dropped.

MOGADJI Road: Ten Mitchells and eight Marauders bombed bridges on the MOGADJI Rd with good success. Only one bridge is reported to have received direct hits but bombs fell in wooded areas in close proximity to other two sites. 24 tons of bombs were dropped.

WEST KIRIWINA: Forty Liberators bombed dump and AA positions in vicinity of Cape GLOUCESTER. Many fires were started and heavy smoke obscured the target area. One non reported direct hits on an AA position.

3. AIR - ENEMY

At 2050 hrs 4 Dec one enemy aircraft bombed the area north of the strip (6453) causing some casualties but no damage.

At 2105 hrs one aircraft dropped six bombs in the sea off KOLEM (646571) causing neither damage nor casualties.

PART II

4. KEY OOD

Operation Orders of 2 Bn 79 Regt to prevent allied landings were captured in the LAKONA area on 29 Nov 43. The orders cover the period 12 to 20 Nov and contain the following :-

(a) 12 Nov 43

(i) Main strength 2 Bn was to take up a position from near the south bank of the MASAWENG R to WAIDOKAI and to garrison LAKONA.
A Guard Unit at KAIOKI was to control a line along the small stream east of WAO.

(ii) 5 Coy with 4th gun, 4.2 gun and one W/T Set ; Sec attached was stationed at LAKONA.

(iii) 6 Coy was to act as MASAWENG Defence Unit with part on the north bank and main strength on the south bank. Task: to prevent landing or land attack.

(iv) 7 Coy with 4th gun was to take up the LAKONA Defence Unit with main strength on the north bank of the MASAWENG and a detachment in the vicinity of LAKONA village. The Company task included the protection of the anchorage point.

(v) 8 Coy with attached one 4" Section was to be the WAIDOKAI Defence Unit with part of the force at WAIDOKAI, and the main body at a village about 2 miles further south. Task included protection of the anchorage point.

(vi) Machine guns were to be established on the points of the Cape at the mouth of LAKONA, south of the MASAWENG R., and south of WAIDOKAI. Provision was also made for coastal patrols.

(vii) The Battalion Gun Platoon was to take up a position in the vicinity of the Cape on the south side of the MASAWENG R with the specific task of destroying allied torpedo boats.

(viii) "Other Units" were to take up positions at the mouth and north of the mouth of the MASAWENG R to a line about 1 mile to seaward.

(b) 14 Nov 43

(i) Three men of the Regt Det Coy were to come under command 2 Bn.

(ii) The Men Coy attached to LAKONA Defence Unit were to proceed to KAIOKI where they were to come under command 7 Coy 25 Fd Arty Regt.

(iii) 2 MG Coy Comd was to despatch one platoon (2 guns) to WAIDOKAI Defence Unit Comd who was to send one section to MASAWENG area. The platoon to LAKONA Defence Unit. The remainder of the company was to clear the jungle track from KAIOKI point to MASAWENG Defence Unit.

Comment: The force was in position by 20 Nov 43 but it is understood by 9 Aust Div that at least part was withdrawn following the failure of the enemy's attack along the coastal strip on 22 Nov.

(c) Administration Notes include the following instructions :-

"Ammunition will be obtained from WAIDOKAI. When communication with Division is by drops, make the drops rather than many small drops."

Signed at 2214 hrs.

Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 56

(Information from 2000L/3 Dec to 2000L/4 Dec 43)

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1/25,000 NEW SERIES)

At 1000 hrs 3 Dec 22 Bn in the coastal sector advanced across the KALUEKE R and secured a bridgehead to enable the construction of a jeep and tank crossing. D Coy moving astride the track encountered about 50 enemy at 623739. Our troops with artillery support drive the enemy out with casualties. B Coy advanced to 614734 and C Coy to 609737 while A Coy gave close protection to the engineer party at 624734. Enemy estimated at two platoons were shelled at 619737. At 1915 hrs an enemy 75 mm gun from near 618744 fired 30 shells into the USIKA area.

Along the KUMA-WAMO track C Coy 2/43 Bn supported by artillery and mortars attacked the southern flank of the enemy position at 591716 and captured the position after a sharp fight. Further progress west however was held up by enemy strongly holding a position at 589716 with HMGs, LMGs and at least one field gun. The enemy were heavily shelled. At 1600 hrs the enemy fired 10 shells straight down the track. During night 3/4 Dec the enemy employed some mortar and small arms fire.

On 3 Dec in 20 Bde area a 2/13 Bn patrol from HONGORA along the track MS to the end of the track at 589706 saw no movement. A patrol from HONGORA to the north found a strong enemy position at 584717 and an attempt to outflank the position on the west was held up by heavy enemy fire. The patrol remained in contact and the position was subjected to artillery and mortar fire. At 2015 hrs the enemy FT of HONGORA opened fire with HMGs and LMGs but these were outclassed by accurate mortar fire.

In 26 Bde sector an enemy force attempting to outflank 2/23 Bn position at KUANDO to the east were driven back by our fighting patrols. At 1300 hrs the enemy brought down heavy fire on our positions from the north and east, and made several attempts to approach our perimeter. These were all defeated by mortar and MG fire. At 2050 hrs the enemy formed up to attack from the north but were disorganised by a heavy artillery and mortar concentration and no attack developed. This enemy force is still reported to be maintaining pressure on our positions. A three day patrol from 2/4 Cav (Def Cmds) 3 Bn to KULUNGUNU reached 479715 (ref map 1 inch to 1 mile) on 3 Dec.

During the day our artillery fired 3,000 rounds in support of the operations on all sectors. Enemy dump areas at 620750 and 603775 were shelled. In the night the artillery harassed the enemy at 620745, 619745 and WARED.

Tac/R reports indicate that there/is no of the continued /are use of the track AMBO-KILIGIA and that there is much truck activity at the suspected dump areas 606775 and 592790.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 3/4 Dec our MTBs made contact with a possible submarine in the bay south east of LEPSIUS POINT. The MTB fired one torpedo which exploded but no debris or oil was seen. Four barges were sighted and one large barge was sunk by gun fire and two others possibly sunk by torpedoes. This action took place under heavy fire from the shore. It is considered that the locality may be a landing point for submarines.

A number of li[illegible] were on the beach at VALINGAI.

3. SEA - ENEMY
At 2030 hrs 3 Dec two barges believed to be enemy were sighted moving south off GUSIKO but later withdrew northward.

4. AIR - OWN
NEW BRITAIN
Thirty-one Mitchells bombed and strafed the coastal area from REIN BAY to ROTTOCK BAY. A number of barges were strafed and many buildings destroyed. One AA position was destroyed and some fires started. Two squadrons of Liberators bombed AA positions and dumps in the CAPE GLOUCESTER area, and one squadron, unable to locate primary target owing to weather, bombed secondary targets in REIN BAY and ROTTOCK BAY. Clouds over the target area prevented observation of result.
Three squadrons of Mitchells and four squadrons of Liberators failed to locate targets owing to weather conditions and returned to base.
MAIGA BAY
Eight Kittyhawks on a fighter sweep strafed one barge and several barges in DOREMUR BAY (approx 04° 25' south 145°10' east). The barge is reported sunk and the barges were seen beached and burning.
LOGADJIM
Sixteen Kittyhawks bombed number three bridge on the LOGADJIM road. The bridge was reported destroyed.
HUON PENINSULA
Between 0825 hrs and 0845 hrs twelve aircraft bombed and strafed the coastal track and villages from LUCKER POINT to MANDOKAI and a suspected dump area on the south bank of the SAIGA R mouth. Some explosions and a small pall of black smoke were seen.
Nineteen Mitchells unable to get through to primary targets on LOGADJIM road accordingly bombed NADA village and SIO Is. Fires covered the plantation at SIO Is and a large column of black smoke was observed in the village area.

Page 2

5. ORGANISATION TECHNICAL INTEL
A document captured in the FINSCHHAFEN area includes a "report on investigation of personnel organisation of Int Gun Coy". The report is probably about 3 years old but as it refers to the Regimental Gun Coy of 80 Regiment, the details are of interest.

TABLE OF ORGANISATION

	Capt	2/Lieut	PC	WO	SM	Sgt	Cpl	Pte	Total
Permanent pers	1	2		1	1	10		141	156
Present pers	1		1	2	1	3	2	82	92

"Permanent Pers" includes 5 Transport Service and 3 Medical personnel.
A list dated Dec '42 for the same unit contains 135 names.

6. JAPANESE PRESSED RATION ( ) for one meal.
This consists of a brown tarod paper package similar to sisalkraft containing the following foods pressed into tablets:

(a)	Pressed rice and wheat kernels	21 cakes	6½ ozs
(b)	Bean paste	1 cake	⅓ oz
(c)	Pressed fish	3 cakes	½ oz
(d)	Pressed sugar	5 cakes	2/6 oz
	Net Weight Total		7 5/6 ozs
	Gross Weight		9½ ozs

Method of using - The rice cakes may be placed in water and allowed to soak until a paste-like consistency is obtained. The supplementary foods are then mixed with the rice. The rice cakes may also be eaten dry and are quite palatable in this form.

Signed at 2218 hrs

for Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE RECORD No 55

(Information from 2000Z/2 Dec to 2000Z/3 Dec 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

2 AUST IDV

(ref maps 1/25000 KIWI SERIES)

On 2 Dec C Coy 2/43 Bn supported by two tanks resumed the advance west along the WARRO track against opposition on the high ground at 597715. The infantry drove the enemy from the feature and secured the track junction596716. C Coy then advanced to 593717 but were held up by heavy fire from another high feature 594718. The tanks advanced but one tank became bogged and the other had its tracks damaged by five hits with a 75mm gun at close range. At last light the Coy was still in close contact with the enemy at 593717 and had formed a perimeter around the tanks.

In 20 Bde sector a 2/13 Bn patrol found enemy dug in at 569714 and the position was then heavily shelled. A Coy 2/15 Bn drove the enemy from 586704 and captured a number of rifles and some equipment. They then advanced a short distance north and at last light were in contact with about 50 enemy.

In 26 Bde area, 2/23 Bn resumed the advance towards WAREO from 553712 but encountered heavy LMG fire from a strongly defended position on the southern slopes of PEAK Hill (553713). An attempt to outflank the position was unsuccessful owing to the precipitous nature of the country. The position was then heavily shelled. In the afternoon the enemy in strength attacked C Coy from the high ground north of KUAMKO and in a fierce fight secured some high ground to the east of our position. At 1000 hrs C Coy counter-attacked but were unable to dislodge the enemy. The enemy then attacked frontally and from both flanks, and the Coy was forced to retire to the main Bn position at KUJIKO.

Our artillery brought down heavy defensive fire on the 2/23 Bn front during the day and on night 2/3 Dec harassed the enemy at WARRO, 597716 and 625738.

2. SEA - OWN

On night 2/3 Dec our PT boats on patrol observed lights on the shore in the vicinity MILLER Point on BAI coast west of SAIDOR.

3. AIR - OWN (ref maps 1 inch to 1 mile series):

MASAWENG River to WANDOKAI

On 3 Dec between 0645 hrs and 0900 hrs eleven Bostons accurately bombed probable dump areas at MASAWENG River mouth, KUBIKA and WANDOKAI and strafed the coastal track from MASAWENG River to WANDOKAI. A number of fires were started and several huts destroyed.

CAPE GLOUCESTER

For the fourth day in succession forty Liberators, twenty Mitchells and seven Marauders attacked supply dumps and bivouac areas in vicinity of No 2 strip. Bombing was accurate and smoke from bomb bursts and fires blanketed the target area. One AA position was destroyed.

GASMATA.

During night 1/2 Dec eleven Beauforts bombed dump areas in the vicinity of ANGEN and ANWEK Rivers. One large explosion and some fires were caused.

WEWAK.

Enemy losses as a result of the attack on WEWAK on 1 Dec have been estimated as eighteen enemy aircraft definitely destroyed, two probably destroyed and sixteen damaged. Four Thunderbolts were intercepted by twenty-four enemy aircraft over WEWAK today. Four of the enemy aircraft were shot down but our losses were nil.

PART I (Contd)

3. AIR - OWN (Contd)

SIGHTINGS

At approx 1000 hrs 1 Dec at position 03.00'S 149.00'E, one Liberator on recce made four strafing passes on one motor launch and twenty lifeboats loaded with Japs. Casualties were undetermined but are believed high.

At 1030 hrs 1 Dec one Liberator on recce sighted fourteen large lifeboats containing an undetermined number of occupants at 02.30'S 148.25'E. No attack was made.

4. AIR - ENEMY

At 1850 hrs 2 Dec one enemy aircraft dropped one bomb near an MTB on patrol about 15 miles south of LONG Island. The aircraft was driven off by A. fire from the boat.

PART II

5. ENEMY PROPAGANDA.

The following is a translation of a letter dated 22 Nov left at SATELBERG by the retreating Japs and addressed to "Australian Soldiers." It is judged that the letter was probably written by a Jap NCO, but the text is in line with the usual propaganda which the enemy has followed for many months past.

"We were not successful in our attack against enemy North of SONG River due to heavy enemy firepower and subsequently had to withdraw. Our (Jap) firepower is not strong enough.

The Jap Army is really strong but at present we have no firepower and therefore have lost this battle.

Just wait and see. Hundreds and thousands of Jap soldier comrades have died and we will avenge them. We will definitely recapture FINSCH and LAE.

You Australian soldiers have been fooled by Roosevelt. Think it over! The Jap Army will soon take NEW GUINEA and AUSTRALIA. NEW GUINEA is a stepping stone to ASUSTRALIA for JAPAN in the South Seas. Do you know that more than 250/30 American planes were destroyed at RABAUL? Many Jap planes will soon come."

6. ENEMY OOB

(a) Organization of Medium Machine Gun Coy:-

An application for replacements made on 23 Apr 45 by Capt KAWAMURA Kenzo OC 19 Fd Machine Gun Coy, provides details of strengths of this type of unit. Standard strength is stated to be as follows:

Capt	1
1/Lieut (2/Lieut (	3
WO	1
Sjt Maj	1
NCO	15
OR	132
Intend	1
Medical NCO	1
Medical OR	2
Total	157

Note: At the date mentioned, the Coy was short 1 officer, 1 NCO, and 40 ORs. The request, however, was for 2 officers and 1 NCO over establishment.

PART II (Contd).

6. BUNA OOB (Contd)

(b) INOUYE "Mixed Battalion"

Further to references to this unit contained in 2 Aust Corps Intelligence Reports 46 and 50 the following further particulars have now been translated (strengths as at 13 Nov are shown in parenthesis):

INOUYE Unit (presumably 10 Coy 80 Regt) Capt INOUYE Sakae (75)
No 1 Platoon 2/Lieut YOSHIDA Minoru
No 2 Platoon WO KOBAYASHI Masaji
KUMAGAI Unit (probably 2 Coy 238 Regt) 1/Lieut KUMAGAI Jitaro (112)
No 1 Platoon 2/Lieut KASIZUKA Kikuo
No 2 Platoon PO KOSEKI Fujio
No 3 Platoon Sjt Maj TANAKA Shimichi
No 4 Platoon 2/Lieut HANDA Junichi
AKIYAMA Unit (HG Platoon 80 or 236 Regt) 2/Lieut AKIYAMA Takao (17)
KUBOTA Unit (probably 2 Bn Gun Pl 238 Regt) 2/Lieut KUBOTA Kenturo (20)
OKANO Unit (probably Coy 102 Regt) 1/Lieut OKANO Munegoro (59)
No 1 Platoon PO NISHINUMA Shoro
No 2 Platoon PO TAKAZAKI Masayoshi
No 3 Platoon PO YOSHINO Yoshimi
SigSec (6)
Medical (2)

Total strength - 291.

Of the 291 mentioned, 39 were in hospital making the effective strength 252 with an additional 40 men carrying provisions.

Signed at 2207 hrs.

S H Ford Lieut
for Lt-col
GS

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 54

(Information from 2000L/1 Dec to 2000L/2 Dec 43)

PART 1

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps 1/25,000 NEW SERIES)

On 1 Dec our forces continued to advance west along the BONGA-WAREO track and the enemy were driven from a commanding feature. Further west our troops advancing north captured KUANKO and were approaching WAREO against strong opposition.

At 0900 hrs B Coy 2/43 Bn with tank support continued to advance westwards along the BONGA-WAREO track, and the enemy was driven from the commanding ground at 599715. Fighting patrols were sent out to mop up the adjacent area. One patrol captured an enemy post at 602714 killing four Japs. An enemy gun, believed to be 75 mm, at 594716 fired 23 shells into the area around 605715 but was neutralised by our counter battery fire. Near the coast at 1600 hrs thirty enemy were observed on the track at 610714 moving north carrying packs.

(Comment: Tac/R reports of 30 Nov indicated that there were defensive positions in the area 607)

In 20 Bde sector A Coy 2/15 Bn supported by artillery, MMGs and mortars attacked and drove the enemy from positions on the ridge at about 565702, and at last light were still in close contact with the enemy at 566704.

In 26 Bde area 2/23 Bn advanced 1½ miles up the steep track from 560701 towards WAREO against stiff opposition, and KUANKO was occupied at 1215 hrs. Strong opposition was met 300 yds north of KUANKO from enemy in dug in positions and our forward troops were still in close contact at last light. A Coy was at 557706, C Coy at 553712 and the battalion less two companies at KUANKO. A patrol from 2/24 Bn to 516574 made contact with a 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn patrol without seeing any enemy movement. 2/4 Cav (Commando) Sqn patrols to KORENG and the track junction at 516574 also saw no movement.

Our artillery supported the advance in all sectors and engaged enemy guns at 594716. During night 1/2 Dec the artillery harassed the enemy near NONGARA.

7 AUST DIV

(ref maps MT KULARI and URI INA 1 inch to 1 mile)

Tac /R reports of 27 Nov indicate that the DOGADJIM-YAULA road has been repaired and there is recent heavy use by MT as far as OLD YAULA (565661). The route to the supply camp at 561772 was not so heavily used but there appeared to be heavy foot traffic to the head of the MINTJIM R. There is a well used track 8-10 feet wide from OLD YAULA to 577654 and 523648 which then branches to URI and MATALOI No 1. There appears to be an extensive clearing and new defensive positions on the ridge from 529642 to 522650 with many trenches and fox holes.

2. AIR-OWN

Direct support for 9 Aust Div: At about 0830 hrs 2 Dec nine Mitchells and ten Marauders bombed enemy positions, barge off-loading points and dumps in vicinity of SOWI R mouth. The targets were well covered and bombing was accurate. A number of barges were sighted in shore at 623754 and 609777. 29 tons of bombs were dropped.

NEW BRITAIN: Preliminary reports of the strike on BORGEN BAY on 2 Dec by fifty-eight Mitchells indicate that targets were accurately bombed and strafed but no details have yet been received.

2. AIR - OPS Contd.

WEWAK: On 1 Dec forty-four Liberators escorted by thirty-six Thunderbolts attacked dump and dispersal areas at WEWAK. Many large fires were started and several explosions occurred in the target area. Enemy aircraft intercepted and nine were destroyed. Three Liberators are reported lost.

ATTACK ON MERCHANT VESSEL: At 2356 hrs 1 Dec one Liberator on reconnaissance bombed a 500/1000 ton merchant vessel at a position just east of BAROE Island. One red and two white flashes were seen indicating hits but observation of damage was obscured by weather.

Signed at 2145 hrs

Lt-col
GS

War Diary

SECRET

2 AUST CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 53

(Information from 2000L/30 Nov to 2000L/1 Dec 43)

PART I

OPERATIONS

1. LAND - OWN AND ENEMY

9 AUST DIV

(ref maps SATELBERG & FORTIFICATION Point 1/25000 OLD SERIES)

The main fighting during 30 Nov took place in the 26 Bde sector north of the suspension bridge at 573710. The enemy here attempted to prevent our crossing but were encircled and killed to a man. In the CNGA area our troops pushed further west along the WAREO track.

On 30 Nov a 2/2 Bn patrol moved forward from 656735, crossed the KALUENG River, and went further up the coastal track until it was fired upon by enemy MGs, LMGs and mortars at 649751. The position was then shelled. D Coy later advanced to 647744. A 2/43 Bn patrol from 636732 to 631731 found many enemy dead in the area, but did not make contact. At 1600 hrs A and C Coys with tank support advanced west against enemy opposition and at nightfall formed a close perimeter at 632731. During the day D Coy moved forward from reserve to 637732.

In 20 Bde sector C Coy 2/15 Bn crossed the SONG R at 629699 and drove the enemy from a position at 627703. A and C Coys then passed through, advanced NW against interspersed opposition and by last light had reached a position near a village at 609717 (probably NOKARA, but certainty was impossible because of the mist).

In 26 Bde area C Coy 2/23 Bn followed by A and D Coys moved north up a steep slope and cut the WAREO track about 500 yards NE of the suspension bridge at 573710. D Coy then attacked SW down the track against the rear of the enemy position just north of the bridge. C Coy on the south bank supported the attack with mortar and MMG fire. It is believed that the whole enemy force in this position were destroyed and it is reported that at least 50 enemy were killed. Our casualties were slight. At nightfall the battalion formed a perimeter camp at about 550714 in close contact with the enemy.

Our artillery supported the attacks in all sectors during the day. During night 30 Nov/1 Dec our guns harassed the enemy at GUBIKA, the LAGOON in 6476, WAREO and KUANKO.

Tac/R reports show that the track NE from WAREO along the ridge to coast at 642777 is being heavily used. In addition a suspected barge offloading point and dump area is believed to be at 636788.

7 AUST DIV (ref URIGINA 1 mile to 1 inch)

On 30 Nov a 2/2 Cav (Commando) Sqn patrol captured an enemy position at the track junction (451664). The patrol later withdrew but had to fight its way out. Some losses were inflicted on the enemy but our casualties were few.

2. SEA - OWN (Ref strat map SAG SAG 4 miles to 1 inch)

On night 30 Nov/1 Dec our light surface craft on patrol to GRASS Point (XN5276) sighted a fast enemy motor boat, possibly a patrol boat. Fire was exchanged and the enemy then took cover at SAG SAG. From here our craft were engaged by gunfire from a coast defence battery.

3. AIR - OWN

BORGEN Bay. About 0900 hrs thirty Mitchells and eight Marauders attacked stores, dumps and bivouac areas in BORGEN Bay. Bombing was accurate and fires are reported in the dump areas. 54 tons of bombs were dropped and direct hits were obtained on a group of 20/30 damaged barges. Seven Bostons carried out a barge sweep from Cape GAUSSRE to ORIEN Bay. Villages in the area were bombed and strafed and many buildings were destroyed.

PART I (Contd)

3. AIR - OMI (Contd)

BORGEN Bay (Contd)
A further seven Bostons bombed and strafed the coastal area from BORGEN Bay to TAMUNIAI Island. Direct hits were obtained on KAKOFO village. In all 6½ tons of bombs were dropped.

SIGHTINGS.
During night 30 Nov/1 Dec one Liberator on reconnaissance sighted a convoy of four merchant vessels escorted by two destroyers at a position 02 50' S 150 55' E on a course of 300 degrees. At 2135 hrs 30 Nov the convoy was attacked by a second Liberator which dropped six 1000 lb bombs at 60 feet intervals and obtained two direct hits on a 9000/12000-ton merchant vessel. The vessel is claimed as sunk. AA from the escorting destroyers was light and inaccurate.
A further Liberator on armed reconnaissance in the REIN Bay area at 2327 hrs 30 Nov dropped six 1000 lb bombs on 2 barges with unobserved results.

ALEXISHAFEN. On 30 Nov Twenty-seven Liberators, unable to bomb primary targets at Cape GLOUCESTER due to weather, attacked dump areas west and NW of the 1 strip at ALEXISHAFEN. Many fires were started and explosions were seen as aircraft were leaving the target area. 47 tons of bombs were dropped.

PART II

4. ENEMY ORGANIZATION
Documents captured on 22 Nov 43 in the SONG R area give the following sub-unit organizations. It should be noted that the organization given for 8 Coy is dated 22 May 43, whereas that for 9 Coy is for 13 Nov 43.
(a) Organization, 8 Coy, dated 22 May 43.

Coy Comd : 1/Lieut KASHIHARA, Shigeo (Toshio)

	1 Pl		2 Pl		3 Pl	
	2/Lieut TOKIWA Misao		P/O TAGAMI Hobera		P/O ODA Shiozo	
1 Sec	12	men	1 Sec 13	men	1 Sec	13 men
2 Sec	11	"	2 Sec 12	"	2 Sec	11 "
3 Sec	12	"	3 Sec 11	"	3 Sec	11 "
4 Sec	13	"	4 Sec 12	"	4 Sec	13 "
Special duties	4	"	Special duties	4 "	Special duties	4 "
Total	52		Total 52		Total	52

HQ Squad : WO MORITA Yuki, Sjt Maj NISHIO & 22 men.

Total all ranks 184

Comment: Personalities mentioned identify this as 8 Coy 80 Regt.

(b) Organization, 9 Coy, dated 13 Nov 43.

Coy Comd : 1/Lieut IWA Tsuraki

	1 Pl		2 Pl		Unspecified
	2/Lieut TSURUMARU		Sjt ASHIDATE Tokuji		
1 Sec	9	men	1 Sec 9	men	20 men
2 Sec	9	"	2 Sec 9	"	
3 Sec	10	"	3 Sec 8	"	
Total	28		Total 26		

Total all ranks 77.

Comment: The personalities mentioned cannot be identified from information available at this HQ, but it is known that the Coy Comd of 9 Coy 79 Regt was killed in the fighting near SCARLET beach and 1/Lieut IWA may have taken his place.

PART II (Contd)

4. ENEMY ORGANIZATION (Contd)

(b) Comment: (Contd)
TSURUMU (whose name was written in pencil on the document after 1/Lieut KOGANO Yoshimi had been crossed out) is identified with 79 Regt.

PART III

TOPOGRAPHICAL

5. TRACKS MASA - KUNZSHZANG
(ref KULUNGTUNU 1 Inch to 1 mile map)

Attached as appendix A is a sketch map showing tracks, rivers and villages in the above area plotted from photographic run 319Y taken 6 Nov 43. The photographs show a village at 393797 which has been accepted as MASA to conform with the 1 inch to 1 mile map. It is most likely, however, that MASA is incorrectly shown on the map as estimates of the time taken to walk from GAIENG to MASA vary between 5 and 9 hours whereas the distance between the two villages according to the 1 inch to 1 mile map is 1½ miles. It appears probable that MASA is NE of Mt DESENONA with GAIENG correctly shown on the 1 inch to 1 mile map.

Signed at 2225 hrs.

Lt-col
GS

GAIENG TO KWENZENZANG

FROM MOSAIC OF AIR PHOTOS
RUN Nº 319 Y 6 NOV 43
REF MAP KULUNGTUFU 1" TO 1 MILE

